

Mayors From Ontario's Largest Cities Challenge Parties to Work Together

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LACK OF COLLABORATION IN PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE PREVENTING IMPORTANT MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION

Ottawa, ON – During the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in Ottawa, mayors from Ontario's 26 largest cities met with leaders of the Government and Opposition to discuss their frustration at the lack of collaboration in the Ontario Legislature.

In their meetings with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Linda Jeffrey, PC Leader Tim Hudak and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, the mayors encouraged them to come together to find common ground and get bills passed that affect municipalities through the legislature.

"Our cities are facing some big challenges that need to be dealt with, like gridlock, predictable funding for infrastructure projects and soaring emergency services costs that are unsustainable," said Mayor Hazel McCallion, Chair of the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO). "We understand the nature of minority governments, but our message to all the parties was the same – find a way to make it work for Ontarians!"

The annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference brings together municipal leaders and staff from across Ontario. This year, over 1,600 delegates attended the conference held at the Ottawa Convention Centre from August 18-21 during which municipal leaders met with government and opposition members, participated in plenary and keynote sessions and heard the Premier and leaders of the opposition.

LUMCO mayors represent 80% of Ontario's population and advocate with the other levels of government on issues that affect large urban communities in Ontario. The group consists of 26 mayors who represent cities of over 100,000 or more people. Hazel McCallion, Mayor of Mississauga, is the Chair of LUMCO.

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