



Township of Southgate
Conference, Workshop/Seminar & Training Policy #2

Council and Staff Education Evaluation Report
Council, Training, Seminars & Professional Development/Self Study

Participant's Name:		Councillor Barbara Dobreen	
Course/Workshop/Conference: AMO Virtual 2021 AGM and Conference		Overall Evaluation:	
		Excellent	Good x Average Poor
Association/Institution Provider: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)		Name of Instructor: Many Speakers, Plenary Sessions and one Delegation	
Dates Attended: (if online, indicate online)		August 16, 17 and 18, 2021	
Purpose of Attending: The conference is an opportunity to hear about current and emerging issues, legislation and actions taken by Ontario municipalities to address local concerns.			
Please summarize the contents and the main points of the course: (Attach additional pages if necessary) See attached list of sessions and brief outline/take-aways of plenary sessions, key note speakers, workshops and minister forums attended.			
Will you use this information in your role? If yes, explain how: Some of the information was useful. Unfortunately, virtual conferences lack the additional networking benefit where we can interact and learn directly from other municipal leaders.			
Do you recommend that other Council Members/Staff attend this course? If so, who and why?: Certainly attending conferences is always of benefit to stay informed and up to date on trends throughout our Province and learn about initiatives taken elsewhere that might be considered/explored in Southgate. Even participating using more stable internet I experienced audio delays ... connectivity also depends on the speaker's connection as well. One thing that was easier was getting from room to room in a timely fashion; especially when attending a Minister Delegation and being able to reconnect to a concurrent session already in progress. The pre-recorded sessions are also available to listen to at any time over the course of 30 days so you can go back and listen if you missed anything.			
Should similar course material be presented in house? If yes, by whom?			
Signature:	<i>Barbara Dobreen (electronically submitted)</i>		Date: August 24, 2021

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – August 15-18, 2021
Summary of Sessions Attended – Councillor Dobreen

Virtual Pre-Recorded Study Tours: Revitalizing London's Core, Greenway Wastewater Treatment Centre, 100 Kellogg Lane, Covent Garden Market, Bostwick Community Centre, YMCA and Library, RBC Place London Convention Centre

Monday, August 16th

Keynote speaker Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Environmental, Cultural, and Human Rights Advocate provided an overview of her public speaking tours prior to and recently about climate change and what that means for communities as a whole, not just indigenous people.

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/speech/1000728/minister-steve-clarks-speech-at-the-2021-association-of-municipalities-of-ontario-conference>

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URxsDmpqXy0>

Concurrent Sessions

Conservation Authorities 2.0 – No the Sky isn't Falling - From rumours to reality.

Chaired by Lynn Dollin, Mayor of Innisfil, the Panel spoke about changes that have been announced and those that are anticipated.

Hassaan Basit, President and Chief Executive Officer, Conservation Halton - What drove the changes -- Consistency, transparency, accountability. Get the municipalities to understand how the funds are being used and how it matches up with their needs. Governance of boards, terms, oversight. What can be streamlined or harmonized? His perspective is that the mandatory vs. non-mandatory relates to provincial vs local priorities but the non-mandatory continues to be important in the ability to deliver the mandatory.

Michelle Sergi, Commissioner of Planning and Development Services, Niagara Region - Mandatory vs. Non-Mandatory Activities – process to address accountability and transparency. No two CA's are alike. Mandatory include natural hazards and anything associated with it. Non-Mandatory – CA services provided at the request of municipalities; programs and services that relate to the overall mandate. Eg If you are relying on the CA to provide National Heritage planning review because you don't have the ability to provide the service yourself. While it isn't mandatory, it also isn't optional under the Planning act. Use the expertise of the CA to assist in this regard. *Advice to municipalities* – look internally at the services you currently rely on the CA to provide. Look at the process to determine which non-mandatory services would be a requirement of the municipality and therefore something you wish the CA to continue to provide. Through this review, it has become abundantly clear how the Provincial funding for the mandatory services has been cut with the difference being born by the municipality.

Lunch Break and Caucus Meetings - County Caucus with Dr. Ian Arra, Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Arra provided an overview of its successes and the importance of partnering with the municipalities and the private sector within the region for the delivery of public health and preventive medicine, especially during the pandemic.

Delegation with **Minister of Infrastructure-Honourable Kinga Surma** see Delegation brief. She also spoke on Wednesday (see note).

Exploring the Economic, Social, and Environmental Benefits of Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation

Climate change has been described as a generational issue. Global warming and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be slowed and reversed. This session showcased work that local governments, builders, and others are doing to integrate economic, social development and environmental benefits into climate change projects.

- PACE Atlantic CIC – An island that is essentially a sandbar where the ocean and the land impacts them on so many levels. The Switch Program offers home retrofits, financial subsidies, attracts private capital while creating jobs to achieve Green House Gas reduction.
- Element5 Co. - Prefabrication of homes and commercial buildings that are built off-site using cross laminated timber as an environmentally friendly alternative to concrete. Managing forests properly and using wood for buildings is a systematic way to remove greenhouse gas emissions. New factory in St. Thomas, ON.
- Clean Air Partnership -Transportation sector is growing the % of Ontario's GHG emissions. Not one single solution will achieve GHG emission targets. Electric vehicles are not a silver bullet solution. Hurdles include charging infrastructure and EV readiness in new developments; lifecycle costing; upfront purchase price.

Federal Gas Tax / Canada Community-Building Fund announcing the winner City of London for its infrastructure initiative "Organic Rank & Cycle" System that converts heat generated from the waste water treatment to electricity that benefits the community directly.

Intact Public Entities – Formerly Frank Cowan Company - Higher rates/more restrictive terms; less competition; Claims drive premiums. Focus on mitigating risks – trips and falls, motor vehicle accidents, building permit/inspections; document well; improve performance of small claims; adopt a total cost to risk approach. Cyber Market – extremely hard to manage. Come up to minimum security standards: multi factor authentication; utilization of a privileged access management tool.

Jean Souliere – Bus Patrol – life saving traffic enforcement technology at no cost to the municipality. Artificial intelligence/cloud technology. Education is important. Prevent vehicles from passing school buses. Join the bus patrol.

Plenary Speakers

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
The Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier

1st Ministers' Forum: Strengthening Community Well-being with Health, Social Services and Education

Always a highlight of municipal conferences. With the pre-submission of questions, it greatly reduced the elected official's time at the microphone allowing for more questions being addressed by the Ministers present. Questions included:

- Affordable Child Care initiatives – will Ontario have a bilateral agreement in place by the end of 2021? Commitment to make child care more accessible and affordable.
- Lessons learned through the pandemic that will help shape public health going forward?
- Continuing mitigation funding through 2022 for public health units across Ontario.
- Affordable Housing –Open to working with municipalities and campuses to look at housing alternatives.
- Vaccine Passports – Ontario Chamber of Commerce is calling on them. Federal Government is launching a national vaccine passport and Ontario will work with them.
- Mandatory vaccination for health care workers. Many hospitals are requiring proof of vaccination or valid reason why not as well as education on how to mitigate the spread.
- Opioid deaths have exceeded deaths associated with Covid. It is a public health crisis. Government is interested in continuing continuum of care for mental health and addictions/
- Virtual Healthcare –One of the few good things that came out of the pandemic. There is a high degree of

satisfaction and it will continue and be expanded. People will have access to their own medical records.

- Child care funding – shared cost will see municipalities increase costs.
- Community Paramedicine is successful and needs to be protected and rolled out to all communities.
- LTC changes – expansion of care – hiring 27,000 new hires; expansion/addition of beds and redevelopment of existing beds; accountability and transparency and enforcement across all LTC.

Tuesday, August 17th

Women's Leadership Forum, sponsored by Bruce Power

- The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, OC OOnt, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
- The Honourable Jean Augustine PC CM OOnt CBE
- Elizabeth May OC, Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands

Through the pandemic, these influential leaders heard about courage, community building, coping skills, collaboration and working toward a common cause; trust and confidence in science with evidenced based policy issues; how we are interconnected across the planet. Learned that silos and inequities still exist. Precarious workers from healthcare workers to grocery store clerks to delivery personnel were the front line workers that allowed others to work safely from home.

Jean Augustine: See leadership and community membership as the ability to take the concerns of community forward; widen the circle and bring people from the margins into the discussion. Leadership at all levels need to collaborate/cooperate to ensure no one is left behind. It is quite possible to accomplish a great deal especially when who gets the credit isn't important.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell – Seeing cracks in our democracy. Municipal level of government is so very important and is often forgotten. Municipal government is closest to the people where they can make the most difference. For young women who want to get into politics, she recommends starting at the local level. Make a difference in your own community/region first. That is where real things happen. Break down the silos of decision making.

Elizabeth May – Our children's future is hanging by a thread. 30 years since the climate change action plan was signed. We have to be serious about the climate crisis just as we addressed the pandemic. The time for procrastination is over.

Keynote Speaker: André Picard - Award-winning National Health Writer and Author

Municipalities have an underappreciated roll. Covid 19 has shone a spotlight on our strengths and weaknesses and how we can pivot quickly when it matters. Be nimble and act quickly. It was clear that municipal/not for profit LTC homes did much better than the for-profit homes. If the province builds more LTC homes, municipalities should demand a bigger piece of the pie because they deliver better care.

Families have a new found appreciation for municipal services during the pandemic; walkability; green space. Public toilets – really important. Need to be a priority and accessible. People should not have to access a local restaurant simply to use a toilet when out on a walk in your community.

Elders matter and should live in the community as long and as safely as possible. Digital health – progress has been made and embraced as a result of the pandemic. Both patients and practitioners like it and we need to ensure it is here to stay. Unfortunately, it is least available in rural areas because of poor internet connections yet it is where it is needed the most. Building a national network of highspeed internet needs to be a priority, just like when they built the railway. Inequality is rampant and the pandemic made those gaps larger. Take a look more closely at poverty, racism. We can't afford to the old way of doing things. Don't waste the lessons learned as a result of this pandemic.

Cannabis 2021: Cannabis Growing in Municipalities – Opportunities and Challenges

Number of pressing issues around large growing operations and designated medical cannabis grows. Balancing enforcement and access with Cannabis. A person authorized for medical cannabis could be growing legally upwards of 500 plants. The 4 plants per household is for personal recreational use. The size of medical authorization makes it difficult to determine if it's a criminal grow op vs. a personal medically authorized grow operation.

Town of Pelham – Just prior to election, passed an interim bylaw to restrict cannabis growing and retail operations. Established an advisory committee of members of the public. Staff researched what other jurisdictions were doing. Retained a planning consultant to develop an official plan and zoning bylaw amendment, as well as an odorous industry nuisance bylaw; Dark skies bylaw to mitigate the lighting from cannabis greenhouses. Producers are filing appeals to Superior Court and Land Tribunals and the Normal Farm Practices Board. Defending the municipal position has been costly. Designated growers operate under different rules. Very divisive issue and very emotional. Planners and elected officials need to be open to all opinions. Municipal powers and enforcement is limited when licensing is federally granted. Growers are making improvements to operations to mitigate odour issues.

University of Guelph - Research shows rapid cannabis growing expansion in the rural country side; lighting and odour (overwhelmingly) nuisances impact neighbours; still a research gap even though it has been 3 years since legalization. Municipal Focus – Left with the bulk of the impact of the legalization and cost of enforcement. Through their research, they plan to develop a tool kit for municipalities by 2022 and a good neighbour policy. sepp@uoguelph.ca

Lunch Break and Women's Networking Session – For those considering politics

Cherish every day; it flies by. You will never know if you don't try. "Make a difference today". Do what's in your heart. What people think of you doesn't define who you are. Do the best you can everyday. Find a positive spin on things. Remain positive. Be supportive of others. Be open to having women reach out and chat about how they can get involved. Value your priorities and aspirations above others. Realize that your own opinion and views of yourself are more important than the opinion others have of you. Be true to your values and ethics. If you are always looking in your rearview mirror, you will never move forward.

Broadband Connectivity in Ontario is the Goal – How municipalities can prepare and manage liability

Now a necessity, regardless of where you live or your economic background. Lack of connectivity had put rural residents and marginalized people at a disadvantage to access to school, work, information, healthcare, etc. Speeds and capacity of the networks have been strained with the increased access during the pandemic. Covid has highlighted the gaps and the communities that are underserved have been at the greatest disadvantage. There is a digital divide between urban and rural communities.

Andrea Horwath – Leader of Ontario NDP

Recognized municipalities for their dedication and tireless efforts during the pandemic and their work with public health and their communities. Touched on housing, mental health and addictions crisis.

2nd Ministers' Forum: Economic Recovery and Growth in Ontario

Transitional and supportive housing to address homelessness and addictions – many questions, but often not really answered. Questions included:

- Consultation on supportive housing. System is difficult to navigate with 4 ministries and 20 programs involved. Need an integrated/collaborative system.
- Municipal finance and property assessment – MPAC and reassessment – provide stability to every municipality. Streamline and make it efficient.

- Municipal Insurance Costs and Settlements – Insurance issues are not just joint and several. Real problem is some municipalities are facing up to 50% year over year. Limited number of providers. The answer to getting costs out of the system isn't as simple as addressing joint and several liability. Flooding and other claims are affecting the costs.
- Labour shortage in all sectors – what can be done to lessen the red tape to allow immigrants to enter the workforce. Need to connect the talent with the jobs.
- MFIPPA – cost of FOI requests. Number of frivolous requests and repeat requesters. Give Ontarians the information they need when they need it. There is indeed a harassment level of some requests toward the front-line staff challenged to fill the FOI request. But we still need to protect the privacy of individuals at the same time. Recognize the digital first but not a digital only platform.
- Financial impacts of Covid – provincial offences courts; significant backlog. Early dispute resolutions are being conducted.
- Digital and Data strategy/standards – we simply cannot be an off-line government in an on-line world. Digital ID coming forward in the Fall.
- Economic Recovery – local labour market shortages. Funds to retrain people who lost their jobs. Skill trade jobs and skilled workers coming on line. The challenge is still filling the jobs that are available.
- Additional expense due to Covid – commitment to “get the funds that you need to weather the storm”. Record breaking investments will continue to help in the recovery.
- Libraries play a significant role in the community – strained budgets – technology for the virtual access and staffing - Any relief to Ontario libraries?
- Energy reduction in new housing builds – any provincial funding? A house built today is 50% more efficient than one built in 2005. Incentives for builders. We are a leader already.
- Cannabis tax revenues – fair share of federal tax to local municipalities to protect our communities and our children.
- Making DST permanent – how are the discussions going with Quebec and New York. The private members bill was brought forward ... feedback is super positive but no answer on where the discussions are currently.

The Perfect Pitch, sponsored by BAI Communications, Bell Canada, ROCK Networks, and Rogers

Rural communities deserve the same connectivity as urban centers. 50/10 currently. A few years from now it will be much more. Rural customers pay more and get less. And the service isn't available to 100% of the community. Longevity and speed is critical.

Wednesday, August 18th

Keynote Speaker: Anthony McLean – The Intersection of Mental Health and Anti-Racism

Issues of diversity, bias, inclusivity, and mental health are not new. Change the world through dialogue. We all have some unconscious stereotypes/assumptions that we make about people we don't know. Create communities where everyone belongs! Take the time to listen to others with Empathy. Don't minimize what someone is going through; refrain from giving advice; imagine what they are feeling; don't make it about yourself. Increase internships, leadership programs, recruitment, sponsorships/mentorships, succession plans, diverse representation ... how can we partner with the community to amplify the voices.

Steven Del Duca, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party

Returning to our old ways of doing things isn't good enough anymore. Build a new normal that works for everyone. The way government ranks success is out of date and needs to be recalibrated. Measure what really matters. Focus on real progress in every part of Ontario. Pass on real and genuine opportunities to the next generation.

Path to Economic Recovery Panel

The most up-to-date thinking and intelligence on how business and economic recovery will unfold in Ontario.

Enbridge – natural gas is a market ready option. Renewable energy is not limited to wind and solar. RMG production potential is significant. Reliable, sustainable and affordable solutions.

Business Closures – Some of the longest lock downs in the country, if not in the world. Bedroom communities saw an explosion in real estate. With growth, municipalities need to consider offering more social services. Lockdowns were too haphazard and lasted too long for too many retailers. Small non-essential retailers did pivot and spent \$\$ to make their businesses safe yet they were locked down anyway and many won't recover.

Ontario growth rate and economy is lagging behind other provinces; taken on massive debt; deficits to be carried indefinitely. Make sure the basics are in place. Make sure the foundations are solid for the next generation. Women with kids make up 40% of the purchasing power of the family unit. Make sure the purchasing power hasn't failed.

Not worrying about the debt is not wise. Improve the social safety net. "We'll spare no expense to protect people" yet Ontario is dramatically underspending their budgets. We don't create the jobs; we set the conditions. Focus on reducing red tape; ensuring infrastructure is sound and in place; reduce energy costs; attract economic investment.

Regional considerations (North vs. South of the French River) – investment in broadband, labour (retraining/reskilling), retaining electric vehicle production in Ontario. To build the next middle class, make sure all social employment (health, early education, etc.) are good jobs. 1 in 4 Ontarians will be over 65 and more will leave the employment sector than will enter. Improve wages and working conditions to build the economy.

Ontario Chamber of Commerce – Municipalities are not permitted to run deficits and therefore must rely on tax increases, service cuts and/or dipping into reserves to maintain fiscal stability. Minister responded that they continue to have the conversation about allowing municipalities to run a deficit. If municipalities run deficits it will cost more to cover the debt/expense.

Break with CIBC – Round table. CIBC Senior Economist Andrew Grantham

Answered questions about his presentation and the economic outlook for Ontario municipalities. Tourism recovery may be delayed slightly. A labour shortage exists in the hospitality/tourism sector and has an impact on growth and inflation. Companies are having to give wage incentives to come back on board.

Housing market – Start of the year, people were buying bigger homes to fit the home office into; people taking advantage of extremely low interest rates; some cooling over the last few months. Limited supply drives the price up. Housing starts has been strong and will limit the future price increases that we have seen over the last year. As things open up, we may see a reverse migration back to the GTA from the more rural/cottage regions? Return to the office timeline is unknown. A hybrid model may evolve leaving some GTA commercial space becoming available.

The Time is Now to Transform Long-Term Care

Many in the long-term care sector are advocating for a less institutional feel and a move towards embracing emotional models of care. A person-centered model (the Butterfly Home) – making the environment comfortable/safe feeling. Providing this type of care increases job satisfaction; reduces sick time; decrease in anti-psychotics and unintended weightloss; increase in an emotional well-being, joy, happiness, engagement and connection between those that work and those that live in the Butterfly Home. Keeping people in their

rooms unless clinically required should be avoided. Emotion based care is still possible even during a pandemic.

Happily Ever After – Moira – Embrace the philosophies of care; ensure the spirit of the regulation is met while finding alternatives to the toxic/traditional style of homes. Freedom of movement to go outside for fresh air. You don't need to wait until policy catches up to emotional based care. The environment is key. White walls and toilets and walls of glass are not recommended for those with dementia. It creates fear and aggression. Colour and texture and a home that feels familiar is comforting. Multiple studies that smaller homes, like Greenhouse, have better outcomes for both the works and the residents.

Campuses of Care – Supports seniors to age in place. Live independently; small level of care to those that need it with an increased level of care as needed and LTC. Progressive aging in place. Keeps seniors in the community. Seniors helping seniors. Supports spouses to remain together. Helps to normalize their life and keep them in the community that is familiar. Emotional intelligence is needed to provide better levels of care. The outcomes of seeing happier residents becomes obvious. Be courageous to change the culture of LTC.

Other ways of living well – Boomers are turning their attention to living well. Stay healthy, strong and connected in order to age well and avoid extra care down the road. Home share program connects older adults with younger people who rent a room and provide light housekeeping and other chores. Home-Share (Golden Girls in Port Perry). Coping for care-caregivers of an aging parent. Sometimes an aging person doesn't need help with personal care but may need help with home maintenance.

Humanize the people that live in the home. Leaders should sit in the space and consider the 5 senses. Is there too much noise? Smell? Create the change ... consider where you would want to live in the future if you couldn't stay in your own home?

Lunch Break – Youth Networking Session – Ideas to increase youth engagement. Go out into the schools and the community... don't wait for them to come to you. Enthusiastic leadership ... and a commitment to follow-through from one council to the next. Consider having a Youth advisor/liaison to Council (non-elected) to offer a youth perspective. Encourage a younger demographic and diversity to run in the next election. Just because you are different doesn't mean your voice doesn't matter or that you don't deserve to be at the table.

Concurrent Session – Ontario's Energy Future: Transformation, Innovation and Emerging Trends in the Energy Sector - This panel explored technologies driving change in Ontario's energy sector.

PUC Services Inc.

With more people working and schooling from home there is a need to Minimize outages. Reliable power is critical but residents don't want their cost to go up. Aging infrastructure and the need to reduce the carbon footprint need to be addressed. Systems need to be renewed. Need to be creative. Critical that cost be a consideration.

Sault Ste Marie Smart Grid Benefits – reducing the cost for the taxpayer while reducing the carbon footprint. Decreases energy consumption; improves reliability. Also introduced a Customer Energy Management program (lithium-ion battery storage) – Applications at hospital, John Rhodes Community Centre, Wastewater Treatment Plant. Generates meaningful savings with no capital cost to the Sault. 10 year ROI. Carbon footprint of battery banks - net benefit - significantly less than that which it saves. Rebuild/Maintenance over 20 years.

Nothing currently available that fully gives the flexibility that gas-fired plants offer at the low cost that gas offers. Plans for when Ontario becomes fully electrified? This will increase demand and we need to plan to have more resources available. Partnering with an energy company offered lease revenues and no responsibility for the

asset they are shareholders of. Local benefits of the energy project – investment stays in the community; creates employment; attracts provincial and federal dollars; more choice on supply and reduces GHG; back up power if the grid goes down;

Major changes and rapid adoption of new technology. Distributed Energy Resources (DER) that consume, store or generate electrons. Combined with renewables (solar) and marriage of storage with those assets. Need for local utilities to put solutions in place quickly.

EV adoption is making their way into residential development. The demand from the charger is equivalent to the energy needed for the entire home. Developments haven't been designed to accommodate the increased load (triple) in the neighbourhood when everyone plugs in their EV at non-peak time. Need for load management software to stagger the demand. Rolling storage – vehicle to home? Storage will create opportunities to take advantage of existing systems. But storage doesn't produce energy and we will need to look to create more energy to meet demand.

Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario

Caring for the land, the water, and for each other. Each of us are stewards of our communities.

Ontario Greens are for a green and caring recovery from the pandemic. Building communities that work for everyone; that are attainable and affordable; are inclusive; less sprawl; 15 minute communities ... work and thrive.

The Hon. Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure

No stranger to the portfolio. Build Ontario and how together we will make Ontario healthier. Investing in aging infrastructure; ending hallway healthcare; modern standards; increase LTC capacity. Improve/expand transit. Canada Infrastructure Program. Leave no household behind on highspeed broadband.

3rd Ministers' Forum: Looking Ahead on the Environment, Infrastructure and Resource Development Post-COVID – Questions included:

- Covid has seen increased construction costs ... Infrastructure Ontario is looking closely at the rising costs.
- Full producer responsibility for blue box ... what will be done to protect the public interest during the black out period.
- Hydro One uses GIS to set the delivery rate – arbitrary – medium vs rural density. Energy poverty was a reality back in 2015. Ontario Energy board will be looking at the rate application to ensure a fair system is in place and ensure reliability, attainable and sustainable system is in place for all including agriculture.
- Dangerous driving. Automated Speed Enforcement? Moving Ontarians More Safely Act (MOMS).
- Rural Strategy/Lens to evaluate all policies and programs. It is still important and has not been set aside. Rural mental health for farmers; Rural Economic Development program; support for the processing sector; digital main street program; expanding broadband in rural Ontario. Lisa Thompson started with OMAFFRA and will continue to use a rural lens in assessing how to best support rural municipalities and small towns.
- Regulations to CA Act not yet enacted or communicated. Final implementation is only 16 months away with a municipal election is in that timeframe. Will the deadline be moved to accommodate?
- Climate Change and Renewable Energy Framework/sources – 94% of Ontario Energy is emissions free. 25% comes from hydro/electric. 60% is nuclear. 15% wind/solar backed up by gas to ensure reliability. A solid energy mix which is a good position to be in. Future electrification is coming down the pipe. Main pillars – reliable, affordable, sustainable, choice.
- Waste Disposal Cites – burning garbage to produce energy? GFL leader in generating energy from

waste. Involves multiple ministries.

- Flagging issues with the duty to consult for years. Municipalities do not have the expertise as the Crown, and in fact are not the Crown, in the duty to consult. Indigenous “issues” should be opportunities. Minister Indigenous Affairs was edgy and placed it back in municipal laps to accept some of the responsibility and be part of the consultation. Don’t play pin the tail on the donkey with “duty to consult”. Must be treated by all levels of government as an opportunity. Encouraged us all to take responsibility; to not live in silos and join together to ensure that moving forward we create the conditions of economic prosperity for all. The Duty to Consult is often as simple as informing the indigenous community of the project and involve them.
- Highspeed and broadband connectivity – remote schooling and work expedited projects. Working group through AMO to work with municipalities. 700,000 homes have been connected. Just over 300,000 homes still don’t have access to highspeed internet. Affordability is still a concern.
- Transportation – intercommunity bus sector (deregulate the sector to allow for as many parties as possible in the system) so people can be as connected as possible. Interregional plans -
- Agra Food Sector – what other initiatives are planned to help our farmers and our rural communities? Processing and value ad sectors have been affected through the pandemic. Ministries of health, labour, agriculture worked together to ensure a safe environment in both on farm and in processing facilities. Research will drive innovation, investment and efficiencies. Labour – municipalities are partnering with colleges to ensure the education is in place for skilled workforce. Working together ... good things will grow in Ontario.

Woodland Cultural Centre- Mohawk Institute Residential School

This was a very thought-provoking and heart wrenching virtual tour of The Mohawk Institute Residential School that served as the first and longest running boarding school in Canada. It gave us a glimpse into the horrors and abuse First Nation children endured in the quest to remove the “Indian from the child” and assimilate them into European Christian society.