



April 29, 2019

Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Attention: June Caul
Mayor



Dear Mayor Caul:

At the 2019 Ontario Good Roads Association conference a resolution was passed at the Annual General Meeting requesting that OGRA approach the Rural Ontario Municipal Association to establish a working relationship to organize an annual Combined Conference.

I sent a letter to ROMA Chair, Allan Thompson on February 28, 2019. A copy of the letter and resolution are attached. OGRA has now received a response from ROMA stating that they are not prepared to enter into discussions with OGRA. The response from ROMA is also attached.

The OGRA Board of Directors fully understands why Ontario municipalities are better served by ROMA's and OGRA's collaboration in delivering a conference. OGRA feels that our collective members benefit financially. By extension the municipal sector sees the strength of having its representative organizations working together.

OGRA remains prepared to have discussions with ROMA concerning recombining our conferences however if our shared members want to see a return to one combined event, they must also have those discussions directly with ROMA.

OGRA knows that as an organization our best and most meaningful work is still ahead of us and we look forward to the challenge of providing exceptional value to our members.

Yours truly,

Rick Kester,
President



February 28, 2019

Rural Ontario Municipal Association
200 University Avenue
Suite 801
Toronto, ON M5H 3C6

Attention: Allan Thompson, Chair

Dear Allan:

It was very nice talking with you at our 125th Ontario Good Roads Association Conference. As you may be aware at the OGRA Annual General Meeting a resolution was tabled by Mayor Steve Salonin, Municipality of Markstay-Warren. In his covering email he stated the resolution was approved by the "area mayors". The Municipality of Markstay-Warren is located just east of Sudbury.

A copy of the full resolution is attached. The operative clause reads as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the OGRA Board approach the ROMA Board to establish a working relationship to organizing an Annual ROMA/OGRA Combined conference.

The resolution was put to the floor at the AGM. Two delegates spoke in support and the resolution was passed.

Members of our OGRA Board would like to arrange to meet with you and your colleagues on ROMA to explore this issue further in order to achieve a new agreement for a combined conference to better serve each of our members.

Please let us know when you would be available to discuss this further.

Yours truly,

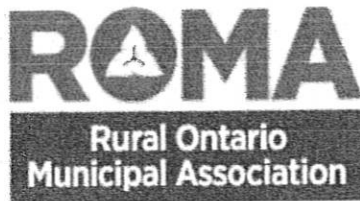
Rick A. Kester,
President

Resolution

WHEREAS since the separation of the ROMA / OGRA annual combined conference in 2017 attending both events separately are becoming costly and unattainable to smaller communities.

AND WHEREAS the previous combined ROMA / OGRA Annual Conference provided the opportunity of member municipalities to participate and benefit from both organizations in an efficient and cost-effective manner to better serve their constituents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the OGRA Board approach the ROMA Board to establish a working relationship to organizing an Annual ROMA/OGRA Combined conference.



Mr. Rick A. Kester
President
Ontario Good Roads Association
1525 Cornwall Road, Unit 22
Oakville ON L6J 0B2

March 22, 2019

Dear Mr. Kester:

Re: OGRA resolution on the working relationship between OGRA and ROMA.

Thank you for your letter of February 28, 2019, and the attached OGRA resolution.

The resolution was the subject of considerable discussion at a recent meeting of the ROMA Board. On Behalf of the ROMA Board, let me begin by saying the intention of the resolution is fully and greatly appreciated. We believe it reflects a long and productive working relationship between our organizations in the service of our respective constituencies. The Board welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with OGRA in areas of shared interest and common purpose, and we look forward to those discussions in the future.

The decision in 2016 by the ROMA Board to offer its own conference, in the service of Ontario's rural municipalities, was not taken lightly. It followed many meetings on how a renewed partnership might be established. The final decision reflected the ROMA Board's commitment and responsibility to ensure that the unique needs and voices of rural Ontario are clearly, fully, and powerfully expressed. ROMA is a political organization and its objectives include public policy advocacy for the entire spectrum of municipal services delivered by rural municipal governments. That breadth of issues, and the political nature of ROMA's relationship with the Government of Ontario, are now reflected in our conference programming.

The ROMA conferences in 2017, 2018 and 2019 have allowed ROMA to better meet the needs of its constituents and have strengthened ROMA's influence and ability to advocate on behalf of the municipalities it serves. The ROMA Board believes it has a responsibility to maintain this momentum.

Consequently, the Board is not prepared to enter into discussions with OGRA for the purpose of combining our respective conferences at this time.

Thank you again for your letter. Please accept the ROMA Board's best wishes for the continued success of OGRA.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Thompson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Allan Thompson
Chair, ROMA

cc. ROMA Board