

November 28, 2018

Report To: Administration & Finance Executive Committee - (Mayor & Council)

From: Doug Brown, CAO

**SUBJECT: Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) - Annual Conference – January 27, 28 & 29, 2019**

Traditionally, the Mayor, two members of Council, and the CAO have attended the ROMA Conference scheduled during the last week in January of each year. The Town's main purpose of attending the ROMA conference was to bring community issues, concerns and challenges to the appropriate provincial government ministries for awareness and assistance. Secondary, it was also an opportunity for additional training and development of Council members. (Please refer to the attached draft 2019 ROMA Conference agenda for your reference).

In order to meet with Ministries, there is a delegation request process that must be adhered to. The deadline for submitting delegation requests for the 2019 ROMA conference is December 10, 2018. There is never a guarantee that the Town's official delegation requests will be granted. A similar exercise takes place for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for its annual conference scheduled mid-August of each year and the Town has also been sending a delegation of 4 members to this conference.

The political landscape in the Rainy River District has recently changed, with our local MP, The Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs, Minister of Energy, & Northern Development and Mines suggesting that Council should meet directly with him to discuss local issues and challenges, at his office in Fort Frances on a regular basis. It is his opinion that the 15-minute delegation "dog and pony show" with the individual ministries doesn't provide sufficient results and is costly to the municipality. He has indicated that it is his job to ensure our issues are addressed by him throughout the year and that adequate responses to the issues are achieved in a timely fashion.

Presently, administration has already pre-registered 4 members for the ROMA conference and booked the hotel rooms. From a financial standpoint, the Town will be subject to cancellation charges in amount of **\$ 868 plus potential Conference fees**. The impact to the Town of the provincial government moving towards balancing a provincial budget is not fully obvious at the time of the preparation of this report.

At this time, a decision on whether or not to attend the 2019 ROMA conference is required. If the decision of Council is that the Town will attend the Conference, then Council will then be polled to determine what are some of issues, concerns and challenges to be addressed. In addition, Council will by resolution select two members they wish to attend the conference. The selection of the two Council members will be addressed during the COW portion of Council meeting where the recommendation of the A&F Executive Committee will be discussed.

The Administration & Finance Executive Committee recommends the following with respect to the 2019 ROMA Conference;

1)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Brown".

Doug Brown, CAO

**Council approval of this report will** ensure the following:

1)

2018NovemberROMAconference

The ROMA Conference returns to the Sheraton Centre, downtown Toronto, January 27 – 29, 2019.

Rural Matters 2019 will be a full educational conference, with access to industry experts, provincial representatives, and product and service providers.

## Sunday, January 27:

1:00 – 6:00 pm: Exhibit Hall Open  
1:00 – 2:15 pm: Concurrent Sessions  
2:45 – 4:30 pm: Plenary Stage Programming  
4:30 – 6:00 pm: Welcome Reception

## Monday, January 28:

7:30 am – 3:00 pm: Exhibit Hall Open  
7:30 – 8:15 am: Breakfast  
8:30 – 10:00 am: Plenary Stage Programming  
10:30 – 11:45 am: Concurrent Sessions  
11:45 am – 12:45 pm: Learning Lunches  
1:15 – 2:30 pm: Concurrent Sessions  
3:00 – 5:00 pm: Plenary Stage Programming

## Tuesday, January 29:

7:30 – 8:15 am: Learning Breakfasts  
8:30 – 11:45 am: Plenary Stage Programming

## Plenary Stage Programming includes:

- Opening Keynote Speaker: Lance Secretan
- Cannabis Update: Regulations and Implementation
- Michael J. Smither Question Box
- Closing Keynote Speaker: Peter Kenyon, Founder and Director, Bank of I.D.E.A.S.

## Concurrent Sessions Topics include:

- Conflict of Interest
- Alternate Funding Sources and Revenue Streams
- Asset Management Plans
- Government Relations
- Planning
- Communications without Local Media
- Affordable Housing
- Economic Revitalization through Food Tourism
- Transit for Large Geographical Areas
- Small Servicing Innovations
- Bill 68
- Building Code

## Plenary Stage Speakers



Lance Secretan



Peter Kenyon