



# INFORMATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Government Relations Sub-Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	June 23, 2015
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Government Relations Update Report (CM15010) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Mike Kirkopoulos Director, Communications & Intergovernmental Affairs 905-546-2424, Extension 2261  Kwab Ako-Adjei Policy & Public Affairs Advisor 905-546-2424, Extension 2548
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## Council Direction:

Not applicable.

## Information:

There are a number of consultations and reviews currently underway at the provincial level which may have an impact on municipal planning, policy development and revenue generation. At the appropriate time, staff will bring recommendations forward for Council approval.

Below are highlights of some of the reviews and consultations that are occurring.

### Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review:

- A review of four land use planning documents: the Greenbelt Act, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area, Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
- A report will be forthcoming to seek Council approval on the City's position related to these documents.

### Bill 73 (Smart Growth for Our Communities Act)

- Bill 73 aims to address the way municipalities plan and pay for development.

- Bill 73 would make legislative changes to the Development Charges Act and Planning Act.
- Working groups have been created and have been tasked with reporting back with recommendations to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing.
  - The consultant who advises the City on development charges matters is a member of the various working groups.
- Bill 73 is expected to pass in the fall, with the new regulations taking effect in 2016.
- A report will be forthcoming to seek Council approval on the City's position.

**Review of Municipal Legislations:**

- **Municipal Act**
  - The review of the Act aims to determine if municipalities have the necessary tools and powers to administer their duties.
- **Municipal Elections Act Review**
  - Items being reviewed include: general application of the Act, ranked ballots, campaign finance, third party advertising, accessibility and enforcement
- **Municipal Conflict of Interest Act**
  - The aim of the review, as outlined by the Province, is to consider accountability, conflict of interest, compliance and transparency in local decision making.

**Update on Government Relations Priorities:**

**Transit:**

- Recent announcement by the province confirmed a major transit investment for Hamilton, including an LRT, new GO station at Confederation, and a higher-order pedestrian corridor.
- Discussions continue on a maintenance and storage facility for HSR buses.

**Infrastructure:**

- The Federal Government announced the New Building Canada Fund in 2014; it is a \$14B Fund.
  - Requests for funding are to be submitted to the Provincial Government who will determine projects to submit.
  - The first intake of the program was for smaller communities.

- The application process for the next intake has yet to be announced by the Province.
- The Provincial Government has announced infrastructure spending of \$130B over the next 10 years.
  - This amount combines all infrastructure spending across ministries.
  - Included in that amount is the \$31.5B for transportation and infrastructure investment (approximately \$16B for GTHA and \$15B for the rest of the province)
  - \$11.9B is expected to be spent for fiscal year 2015-16 including investments in roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, etc.

**Housing:**

- Staff continues to advocate to the Province for additional revenue to address underfunding in this area.
- Aside for the need for additional funding from the Provincial and Federal Governments, the City is exploring the need for various policy tools to address housing issues; these tools include the ability to implement inclusionary zoning.
- The Province has also launched consultations for a renewed Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy.
  - A staff report with recommendations will be brought forward for Council approval.

**US Steel Lands**

- The Mayor's Office in partnership with the City Manager's Office is leading efforts to arrange meetings with the Provincial and Federal Governments to discuss items including pension and economic development issues.