

Government Relations Strategy

1.0 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OBJECTIVES:

- Highlight key City of Hamilton priorities and needs:
 - Transit
 - Infrastructure
 - Housing
 - US Steel Lands
- Develop positive relationships with political decision makers and become a trusted partner of government
- Maintain and enhance relationships within the civil service
- Promote the City’s accomplishments and increase visibility of the City’s leadership at Queen’s Park and Parliament Hill
- Undertake a contact program with elected and non-elected officials across government
- Participate in policy development of interest to the City of Hamilton

2.0 FISCAL OUTLOOK/PRIORITIES:

Provincial Government

- The deficit is projected to be \$8.5B for the current fiscal year, \$4.8B for 2016-17, with a goal to balance in 2017-18.
- Priorities as outlined through mandate letters to cabinet ministers:
 - Growing the economy and helping to create good jobs
 - Strategic investments in the talent and skills of our people
 - Building of modern infrastructure, transit and a seamless transportation network
 - Creating a dynamic business climate that thrives on innovation, creativity and partnerships to foster greater prosperity
- The province has announced a \$130B infrastructure spending plan over the next 10 years, including \$16B for transit funding in the GTHA

Federal Government

- There is a projected budget surplus of \$1.4B for the current fiscal year, then \$1.7B in 2016-17, eventually rising to \$4.8B in 2019-20
- The budget announced a new public transit fund of \$750M over two years beginning in 2017-18. The fund will increase to \$1B a year after that
- Previously announced is the New Building Canada Fund which is a \$14-billion Fund intended to support projects that promote economic growth, job creation and productivity

3.0 STRATEGY AND TACTICS:

Relationship Enhancement and Development, Intelligence gathering capacity and support

- Outreach and liaise with MPPs and MPs representing Hamilton– ensure that their staff are well briefed on matters of interest to the City of Hamilton
- Gather intelligence at both the political and bureaucratic levels
- Engage local MPP’s and MPs as champions to work with the City as an advocate within their respective caucus and Cabinet, arm them with the messages that they need to effectively advocate for the City with their government colleagues
- Outreach and liaise with key government ministries
- Communicate key City of Hamilton priorities and how that aligns with provincial and federal priorities

4.0 MONITORING:

- Budgets
- Monitor activities at Queen’s Park and Parliament Hill – legislation, policy changes, changes within the civil service etc.
- Speech from the Throne. This speech will provide more detail on a new government’s plan for the next Legislative session

5.0 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES:

- Key areas of advocacy:
 - Transit
 - Infrastructure
 - Housing
 - US Steel Lands
- Other areas of advocacy include:
 - Addressing the additional social services and housing responsibilities managed by the City of Hamilton
 - Poverty
 - Additional revenue tools for municipalities
 - Economic development opportunities
 - The City’s two long term care facilities (Macassa Lodge and Wentworth Lodge)
 - funding of emergency medical services