



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH - WEST OXFORD

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Thursday, June 2, 2016

Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Attn: Chairperson Ronald Holdman
200 University Avenue
Suite 801
Toronto, ON
M5H 3C6

Dear Board of Directors:

The Council of the Township of South-West Oxford duly moved and carried the following resolution at the regular council meeting held on May 17, 2016:

Resolved that staff be directed to write a letter to ROMA indicating the Township's opposition to the division of the Conferences and that this be sent to all municipalities in Ontario, AMO and Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman.

Council has expressed concern that two separate conferences...only weeks apart...will have a negative impact on resources without a significant improvement in results. Provincial Ministers and support staff, Members of Provincial Parliament, Council members, municipal staff, vendors as well those sponsoring the conferences will see a doubling of costs as there is now an expectation to appear at two separate events.

The previous partnership provided diversity of content while streamlining costs between two important groups. Council does not see what efficiencies are to be gained by splitting the conferences. There has always been the opportunity to address Rural Ontario issues at the combined conference. It is questionable whether a separate conference will offer rural municipalities a clearer voice when dealing with the Province or other agencies or provide better educational opportunities to members. Diversity in a conference offers a great deal to the participants to bring back to their communities.

Council is hopeful that the ROMA Board of Directors will reconsider and reunite with OGRA for future conferences.

Yours truly,

Mary Ellen Greb, CAO