RECOMMENDATION
THAT Council receives report MYR 20-01 as information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding any delegations and feedback from various Ministers and Ministries at ROMA Conference in Toronto (January 19-21).

CONSULTATION
As a result of the effort to expand access to knowledge and information for Town Council and local stakeholders, this report is intended to provide material on activities that transpired at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference that may have an impact on the Town of Tillsonburg. This type of report will further satisfy mandates as reinforced in the Community Strategic Plan to provide for a more accessible and open governance model.

DISCUSSION
The Town, as represented by the Mayor and CAO, were successful in being received as a delegation to four Ministries with important connections to current municipal priorities. There were three common elements in all the presentations as follows;

- Continue with Elimination of Red Tape
- Continue the Premier's positive message to enhance the communication and engagement between Provincial Ministries … Positive Trend since 2019
- Continue to invest in local economic development initiatives and attract new business
  - Ministry of Transportation
    - Appreciation for 2019-2020 KHCL funding and identify existing application for similar funds in 2020/21 to further renew shared infrastructure.
- Demonstrate support for recently released Southwestern Ontario Master Transportation Plan (Draft - attached) that includes local leadership and operational launch of April 1, 2020.
- Request support for SWODF application as submitted to assist in mitigating financial pressures on servicing Van Norman Innovation Park caused in part by previous Ministry.
- The discussions with Parliamentary Assistant Thanigasalam were well received and our delegation took the time to recognize the regional Ministry officials who continue to do great work in partnership with Tillsonburg’s operational department.
- The Southwestern Ontario Master Transportation Plan (Draft) is now an available public document and opportunity for additional comments are encouraged.

- Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
  - Storm Water Management Environmental Compliance Assessment Return Timelines continue to be excessive (6-9+ months) despite Province efforts to reduce “red tape”. The slow MOECP turnaround times are not only hindering residential development within Tillsonburg, but also our own Industrial Park.
  - Asked about the status of proposed Municipal Class EA amendments (as submitted by Municipal Engineers Association in September), as these amendments have direct benefitting impacts to the Public Works Salt Storage project. Tillsonburg asks where the Ministry is in reviewing these amendments and to support these amendments which will offer a more reasonable and cost effective process to approve a new salt storage shed at our Public Works Yard.
  - Our delegation received positive response from Minister Yurek (response attached) as supported by additional commitments from both Policy and Operational representatives to remain connected on any next steps.

- Ministry of Infrastructure
  - Endorse the continuation of OCIF formula-based funding beyond 2020 as critical to helping municipalities bridge the growing infrastructure deficit.
  - Presented a well-documented case study for OCIF (Cultural/Recreational) Funding Stream (Application #2019 10-1-1418664599).
  - The Project will improve the access and quality of the Town’s indoor aquatic & health club infrastructure at our multipurpose recreation/community centre.
  - 2,500sqf of renovations, small-scale AODA improvements
& 2,925sqf of additions will increase functionality & usage, reduce operating costs & implement life-cycle maintenance consistent with the Town’s asset management plan.

- The facility receives over 1,000,000 visits per year and serves a regional user base of 80,000-100,000 but the capital repairs are largely paid for by the approximately 17,000 taxpayers of Tillsonburg.

- **While the overall program is underfunded nationally, the presentation as a local solution to regional pressures was received well by Ministry officials in attendance.**

  - Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
    - In meetings with both Minister Fedeli and Minister Sarkaria, the Town had the opportunity to reinforce the positive relationships that have developed with the Ministers over the past number of months.
    - Tillsonburg was able to highlight the contributions made by our corporate team in assisting a restructuring of the goals and objectives of the South Western Ontario Development Fund (SWODF).

  - **Minister(s) recognized local input into SWODF formula amendments and confirmed that municipal serviced industrial land is a key component of the program.**
  - **Confirmation that Application has been received and that any feedback will be received within 60 day time frame.**

**FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE**
Whereas the material contained in this report is a summary of information only, there is no direct impact on the finances of the Town of Tillsonburg as would require approval by Municipal Council or direction from corporate staff.

**ATTACHMENTS**
Appendix A – MOECP - Minister Yurek (1/29/20)
Appendix B – MTO – Southwest Regional Transportation Plan

**APPROVALS**

**Author: Mayor**
Molnar

**Date:**
2/10/20