



Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 4:02 p.m.

MS Teams

1. Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting 08-2025

Chair: Councillor Kristen Oliver

2. Members

Mayor Ken Boshcoff
Councillor Shelby Ch'ng
Councillor Kristen Oliver
Councillor Dominic Pasqualino

3. Officials

John Collin, City Manager
Krista Power, Director of Legislative Services & City Clerk
Leanne Lavoie, Executive Administrator

4. Resource Persons

Larry Joy, Policy Assistant to the Mayor
Jamie Taylor, CEO – CEDC
Michelle Williams, Manager – Communications & Public Relations

5. Guests

Summer Spade
Andrew Wilson
Kamryn Woloschuk

6. Disclosures of Interest

The Chair, Councillor Kristen Oliver declared a conflict of interest relative to item 10. Letter of Support - Thunder Bay Port as her employer is involved in one of the recommended projects.

7. Agenda Approval

MOVED BY: Councillor Shelby Ch'ng

SECONDED BY: Councillor Dominic Pasqualino

WITH RESPECT to the October 15, 2025 meeting of the Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee, we recommend that the agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

8. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting 07-2025 of the Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee, held on September 10, 2025, to be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Councillor Dominic Pasqualino

SECONDED BY: Councillor Shelby Ch'ng

THAT the Minutes of Meeting 07-2025 Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee, held on September 10, 2025, be confirmed.

CARRIED

9. Presentation/Deputation

9.1 Bills 5 and C-5

Correspondence from Sarah Nelson, dated July 28, 2025 requesting to provide a deputation relative to opposition to Bills 5 and C-5.

Andrew Wilson, Kamryn Woloschuk and Summer Spade provided a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of 'Kill Bill 5', a coalition of groups and individuals in the Northwestern Ontario region seeking to repeal Bill 5, the *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act*.

There was discussion relative to municipalities' duty to uphold Indigenous

rights and to consult with the Indigenous community. It was noted that the City of Thunder has affirmed that they will always consider treaty rights and will continue to do so. The City's commitment to their duty to consult was also acknowledged. It was noted that it may be an appropriate time for the City to reaffirm its commitment.

MOVED BY: Councillor Shelby Ch'ng

SECONDED BY: Councillor Dominic Pasqualino

WITH RESPECT to the deputation from members of the coalition 'Kill Bill 5' at the October 15, 2025 Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting, we recommend that the City's duty and responsibility to consult be referred to Administration for review;

AND THAT the potential of reaffirming the City's commitment in response to the challenges around Bill 5 be considered;

AND THAT Administration report back with a recommendation to the Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee at a future meeting.

CARRIED

10. Letter of Support - Thunder Bay Port

The Chair, Councillor Kristen Oliver declared a conflict and refrained from discussion relative to Letter of Support - Thunder Bay Port.

At the request of the Chair, Councillor Shelby Ch'ng assumed the Chair.

Correspondence from Hannah Bowlby, Chair - Ontario Marine Council and Maguessa Morel-Laforce, Executive Director - Ontario Marine Council to Hon. Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, dated August 21, 2025 requesting that the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway marine solutions and connections be considered in the scope of the feasibility study on establishing an East-West economic and energy corridor, for information.

Correspondence from Roger Souckey, Chair - Thunder Bay CEDC Board of Directors to Hon. Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, dated September 26, 2025 requesting that the Port of Thunder Bay be included in the scope of the feasibility study on establishing the East-West Canadian Energy Corridor, for information.

CEO – CEDC Jamie Taylor provided information relative to the above noted correspondence, and advised that the Port of Thunder Bay should be identified as a potential port in the proposed East-West Canadian Energy Corridor as there is adequate port capacity.

It was determined that the Mayor would send a letter to the Ministry of Infrastructure, with assistance from CEDC. The letter will be distributed to Council, for information.

Councillor Kristen Oliver resumed the Chair.

11. AMO's Response to the Planned Automated Speed Enforcement Ban

AMO Policy Update, received September 26, 2025, outlining AMO's response to the planned province-wide ban on municipal automated speed enforcement cameras, for information.

The Chair shared concerns about the above-noted ban and pointed out the benefits of speed enforcement cameras, including improved safety.

It was determined that Thunder Bay does not currently have automated speed enforcement cameras, therefore does not have data to support a recommendation.

12. Support of H.E.R. Elect Respect Campaign

Correspondence from Kerry Costello, Town Clerk - Town of Smiths Falls, dated October 8, 2025 containing a resolution supporting the Elect Respect Campaign, and calling on other elected officials, organizations and community members to sign the online Elect Respect pledge, for information.

Director of Legislative Services & City Clerk Krista Power provided an overview of the H.E.R. Elect Respect Campaign, a growing movement of leaders and citizens who are committed to respectful debate and communication. Over 100 elected officials have taken the individual pledge so far, as well as 29 municipalities.

It was noted that the pledge could potentially be included with the candidate package for the upcoming municipal election.

13. Outstanding Items

Memorandum from Executive Administrator Leanne Lavoie, dated October 10, 2025 providing the Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee Outstanding Items List, for information.

14. New Business

14.1 Rural Community Immigration Pilot

Correspondence from Meredith Armstrong, Chair - Ontario's North Economic Development Consortium to Hon. Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, dated October 8, 2025 advocating for Immigration Pilots for Northern Ontario communities.

CEO – CEDC Jamie Taylor provided an overview of the importance of northern immigration programs for achieving growth objectives in Thunder Bay. It was noted that northern communities that are part of the current program are coming together to advocate for continuation and expansion of rural community immigration pilot programs. Concern about international student caps for northern post-secondary institutions was also noted.

MOVED BY: Councillor Shelby Ch'ng

SECONDED BY: Councillor Dominic Pasqualino

WITH RESPECT to the Rural Community Immigration Pilot, we recommend advocating to the Ministry of Immigration to request that the Federal Government:

- Provide sufficient and sustained immigration allocations under the Rural Community Immigration Pilot to match local labour force needs in the City of Thunder Bay;
- Reconsider international student caps for rural and northern post-secondary institutions which serve as important pipelines for future skilled workers in rural and northern communities;
- Invest in long-term settlement and retention supports, recognizing the essential role of municipalities and community organizations in helping newcomers successfully integrate and remain in northern regions;

AND THAT if approved by City Council, a copy of this resolution be provided to The Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship; The Honourable Patty Hajdu, MP Thunder Bay - Superior North, and Marcus Powlowski, MP Thunder Bay-Rainy River;

CARRIED

The above noted resolution will be presented to City Council at the November 4, 2025 meeting, for Council's information and input.

15. Next Meeting

The next regular Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.