

*Request for Decision      United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria Council*

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, December 5, 2014				Report Date	Wednesday, December-03-14			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

## OGRA/ROMA Conference and Council Training Policy - Report #05/12/14/1408

### **Subject:**

Attendance of members of Council at the OGRA/ROMA Conference in Toronto.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That should there be a willing member of Council that they be approved for attendance at the OGRA/ROMA Conference. The Ontario Good Roads Association and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association do considerable work for small and rural municipalities. Having a voice or at least a better understanding of their activities for the year would be a benefit to HCM.

**WHEREAS** active participation and attendance at local government conferences geared to similar sized municipalities would only benefit the municipality;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** assuming that at least one member of Council is willing to attend the OGRA/ROMA conference that the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby agree to pay expenses as per Council policy.

### **BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Active participation in conferences geared to similar communities can only benefit our operations. It was discussed by the previous Council that perhaps attendance at the ROMA conference would be a better use of funds than the AMO conference which often focuses on issues important to larger communities. This year the conference runs from Sunday, February 22 to Wednesday, February 25 at the Royal York in Toronto.

It is expected that with attendance at any conference or training that a report be submitted following detailing issues which will affect our community.

The conference agenda is attached. A decision should be made quickly as there is usually a challenge with accommodations close to the venue with available slots filling up quickly.

### **Options/Discussion:**

First there needs to be a willingness of at least one council member to attend. Council then needs to determine whether or not this would be a beneficial use of resources. Funds have been

budgeted for increased Council training and conference attendance in this the first year of the new term.

**Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:**

Once travel, accommodation and registration are considered costs would likely be near \$2,000.

**Policy Impact:**

As per municipal policy.

**Others Consulted:**

[http://www.eco.on.ca/index.php/en\\_US/pubs/annual-reports-and-supplements/2014-managing-new-challenges](http://www.eco.on.ca/index.php/en_US/pubs/annual-reports-and-supplements/2014-managing-new-challenges)

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk
Melinda Reith, Municipal Clerk