



Sent via Email: kari.hanselman@eastferris.ca

May 16, 2024

Kari Hanselman
Clerk
Municipality of East Ferris
25 Taillefer Road
Corbeil, ON P0H 1K0

RE: Regarding the ROMA OGRA Council Resolution

Dear Ms. Hanselman:

Thank you for the resolution regarding matters related to a combined ROMA-OGRA annual conference dated February 27, 2024.

In 2017, the ROMA Board of Directors recognized the need to provide an opportunity for Ontario's rural municipal elected officials to convene on governance and capacity matters specific to their responsibilities. In 2018, ROMA held its first stand-alone conference with close to 900 participants, including Ontario's cabinet ministers and their PA's.

The conference has since grown significantly. The 2024 conference drew just under 2,000 participants, including all of Ontario's cabinet and their senior staff members. We have received positive feedback from the provincial government and ROMA members, emphasizing the value and support for the conference.

In 2019, the ROMA Board of Directors and the OGRA Executive Committee decided not to hold a joint conference but agreed that there are matters the organizations can work together on. The ROMA Board passed a motion in April 2024 to support OGRA on its road safety initiative in rural communities.

Recognizing the challenges many municipalities face in supporting professional development budgets for council members, the ROMA Board has kept registration rates below market to help offset conference attendance costs.

The ROMA Board continues to work towards supporting rural opportunities and providing access to resources beyond the conference through research, advocacy work, Teeny Tiny Summits, and collaboration with AMO on policy and advocacy matters.

Thank you for your correspondence. Please feel free to reach out to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robin Jones".

Mayor Robin Jones, Village of Westport
Chair, ROMA