

## REPORT

### Council

**Meeting Date: May 26, 2025**

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**FROM:** Corporate Strategy and Government Relations Department

**DATE:** May 13, 2025

**SUBJECT:** 2025 Priority Intergovernmental Requests

**LOCATION:** Town Hall

**WARD:** Town-wide

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the 2025 priority intergovernmental requests identified in Appendix A of the report dated May 13, 2025, from the Corporate Strategy and Government Relations Department be approved.

#### **KEY FACTS:**

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The town prepares a list of priority intergovernmental requests annually to focus and align its advocacy efforts with the town's vision, growth targets and evolving community needs.
- Staff prepare briefing materials to accompany these requests and support Members of Council in advocacy discussions with other levels of governments, including through intergovernmental forums, networks and associations.
- Leadership and staff have reviewed and updated the list to reflect strategic priorities, emerging issues, completed initiatives, and long-term planning across departments.
- The 2025 update introduces a more targeted and responsive approach, with each request aligned to a single federal or provincial ministry wherever possible and categorized by type to support effective engagement and tracking.
- The update comes amid significant political, economic, and policy uncertainty—including new federal and provincial governments and growing international trade pressures. The town's Tariff Task Force and refreshed Priority Intergovernmental Requests list help ensure the town remains responsive, aligned, and well-positioned to advocate for its priorities.

**BACKGROUND:**

Since 2022, as part of efforts to better align with the town's vision, a more systematic approach to focus and align the town's intergovernmental requests to the town's priorities has been taken. Staff last reported to Council on priority intergovernmental requests in [May 2024](#).

In advance of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference from May 29–June 1, 2025, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference from August 17–20, 2025, staff have updated the priority intergovernmental requests list in preparation for these events. The list reflects several priority requests, with alignment to the town's vision and strategic priorities and changes to the broader landscape impacting Oakville. This report provides an update of the town's current requests to other levels of government.

**COMMENT/OPTIONS:**

Based on consultation with the town's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and staff, an updated list of priority intergovernmental requests by area of strategic priority is included in Appendix A.

This year's update comes amid significant uncertainty, with rapid political, economic, and policy transitions underway at all levels of government. Provincially, a newly re-elected government has returned with a renewed mandate and ambitious agenda, centred around economic resilience, infrastructure building, housing and development reform, internal trade liberalization, and major investments in energy and healthcare. Federally, a new Prime Minister has a minority parliament with a new Cabinet and speech from the throne expected within weeks, with distinct implications for municipal priorities.

Internationally too, Ontario is contending with escalating trade threats and economic disruption, most notably from the United States tariffs and annexation rhetoric under President Donald Trump. These are developments that provincial leaders have identified as major risks to key Ontario industries and economic stability, and for which the federal government is preparing to enter into comprehensive negotiations with the United States regarding a new economic and security relationship. Related to this and in response to a Mayoral Direction, the town has also convened a cross-departmental Tariff Task Force to look at how tariffs are affecting Oakville, to assess risk exposure and identify measures to mitigate impacts on the local economy. The task force first reported to Council in [March](#).

In this context, the town's updated list of priority intergovernmental requests reflects a more targeted and responsive approach. Each request is now aligned to a single federal or provincial ministry wherever possible, allowing for clearer role clarity, communication, and responsiveness. Requests have also been categorized by type to support internal tracking and to facilitate more effective engagement with

government partners. As other levels of government adjust their focus and priorities, this structure helps ensure that Oakville's intergovernmental efforts remain aligned, strategic, and adaptable.

The updated list of 2025 priority intergovernmental requests in Appendix A reflects changes in the internal and external landscape, including shifting community needs, completed initiatives, emerging issues, policy developments, and long-term planning in departments and commissions. A total of 38 requests are identified in Appendix A, organized by Council's four strategic priorities, with the following highlights:

- 19 Growth Management requests
- 11 Environmental Sustainability requests
- 7 Accountable Government requests; and
- 1 Community Belonging request.

The list also includes four new requests—to regulate e-scooters at the provincial level, to approve Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 70, to align Transit-Oriented Communities Proposal with OPA 70, and to adopt Oakville's housing start methodology as a standard. Staff note two completed requests related to extending the deadline for updating the municipal heritage register, and provincial agreements for Automated Speed Enforcement.

While the full list of requests is extensive and reflects a broad range of municipal priorities, several stand out as particularly significant for Oakville based on local growth pressures, economic opportunity, infrastructure needs, and longstanding town objectives. These requests to other levels of government include:

- **Supporting growth and community wellbeing:** including building a new courthouse, building new schools in North Oakville, and expanding Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.
- **Strengthening infrastructure and mobility:** including constructing Royal Windsor Drive interchange, reinstating construction of the Kerr Street grade separation, expanding bus rapid transit, and providing transit service funding.
- **Promoting local autonomy and economic opportunity:** including acquiring the Bronte Harbour lands, regulating the use of e-scooters, and joining the Ontario Auto Mayors to advance auto sector priorities.

This list provides the foundation for the town's intergovernmental engagement over the coming year and reflects a focused and proactive approach to advancing the town's vision of a vibrant and livable community for all. Staff will continue to monitor developments, update Council on emerging issues, and refine the list and next steps as needed to ensure the town's advocacy remains timely, focused, and responsive to changing conditions.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

**(A) PUBLIC**

The priority intergovernmental requests list reflects issues important to the town that help advance the town's vision and strategic priorities. The issues are identified through ongoing monitoring, issues presented at Council and feedback from residents, including the 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey.

**(B) FINANCIAL**

Advancing the priority intergovernmental requests outlined in this report may have impacts on financial decision-making, including considerations related to long-range financial forecasts, the annual budgeting process and the 10-year capital budgeting process.

**(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS**

The priority intergovernmental requests may influence every department across the organization. Departmental work plans and budgets will reflect strategic directions established by Council, including those that lead to the identification of activities requiring enhanced priority intergovernmental requests, with results to be reported through annual departmental business plans and the budgeting process.

**(D) COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

This report addresses all the strategic priorities in Council's long-term strategy: Growth Management, Community Belonging, Environmental Sustainability and Accountable Government.

**(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION**

The priority intergovernmental requests collectively address a number of initiatives that will help the town and community adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, including advancements related to parkland, electric buses, green development standards, rainwater management, the effective management of conservation areas and use of gas-powered equipment.

**APPENDICES:**

Appendix A – 2025 Priority Intergovernmental Requests by Strategic Priority

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