



REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: April 27, 2026

FROM: Corporate Strategy and Government Relations Department

DATE: April 14, 2026

SUBJECT: 2026 Priority Intergovernmental Requests

LOCATION: Town-Wide

WARD: Town-wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the 2026 priority intergovernmental requests identified in Appendix A of the report dated April 14, 2026, 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 government, including through intergovernmental forums, networks, and associations.
- Staff have reviewed and updated the list to reflect strategic priorities, emerging issues, completed initiatives, and long-term planning across departments.
- The 2026 update continues with a more targeted and responsive approach, where each request is aligned to a single federal or provincial ministry wherever possible and is categorized by request type to support effective engagement and tracking.
- The update comes amid shifting political, economic, and policy landscapes where federal and provincial levels of government are updating their budgets and there continues to be growing international trade pressures. The Town's

Priority Intergovernmental Requests list helps 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 2025.

In advance of and in preparation for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference from June 4–7, 2026, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference from August 16–19, 2026, staff have updated the priority intergovernmental requests list. 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:

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, the government returned from its winter break on March 23, 2026, continuing its mandate and ambitious agenda, centered around economic resilience, infrastructure building, housing and development reform, internal trade liberalization, and major investments in energy and healthcare. Federally, the Government of Canada released *Budget 2025: Canada Strong*, on November 4, 2025. The 2025 federal budget emphasized the importance of building a resilient Canadian economy in the face of uncertainty from tariffs and other international pressures.

Ontario is continuing to contend with United States tariffs and a rapidly shifting trade landscape. The Town's Tariff Task Force has been regularly meeting to understand how tariffs are affecting Oakville, to assess risk exposure, and identify measures to mitigate impacts on the local economy.

In this context, the Town's updated list of priority intergovernmental requests reflects the same targeted and responsive approach from 2025. Each request is 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 2026 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 37 requests are identified in Appendix A, organized by Council's four strategic priorities, with the following highlights:

- 15 Growth Management requests
- 12 Environmental Sustainability requests
- 8 Accountable Government requests
- 2 Community Belonging requests

The list also includes three new requests since 2025—to conduct the long-delayed property tax assessment in Ontario, to reestablish an official climate change action plan and greenhouse gas reduction targets provincially, and to provide clear direction to the Town in engaging with Indigenous Nations. Staff note three completed requests related to support for the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital Expansion, building a new courthouse, and building new schools in North Oakville.

In previous years, the Town advocated for changes to the building code to include green building standards to support climate mitigation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Due to recent provincial changes to the building code requirements, staff have updated this request to advocate for a mandatory energy labelling program rather than additional regulation in the building code.

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 requests to advance planning in Midtown.
- **Strengthening infrastructure and mobility:** including constructing Royal Windsor Drive interchange, reinstating construction of the Kerr Street grade separation, regulating the use of e-scooters, expanding bus rapid transit, and providing transit service funding.
- **Promoting local autonomy and economic opportunity:** including acquiring the Bronte Harbour lands and supporting 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 2026 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 reestablishing provincial greenhouse gas reduction targets, advancements related to parkland, electric buses, energy efficient housing, the effective management of conservation areas, and use of gas-powered equipment.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – 2026 Priority Intergovernmental Requests by Strategic Priority

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