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2007-2008**

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Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs

MINISTRY OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs (MIA) is a policy-oriented ministry that provides strategic advice and tactical support to the Premier, the Minister and Cabinet on intergovernmental issues across Canada and relevant international issues around the world.

The ministry is organized in four areas: Canadian Intergovernmental Relations, Intergovernmental Policy Coordination, International Relations and Protocol, and Communications.

Canadian Intergovernmental Relations and Intergovernmental Policy Coordination both provide the Premier and Minister with advice and support to assist in bilateral dealings with the Prime Minister and other governments, as well as in multi-lateral forums such as First Ministers' Meetings, the Council of the Federation and other key federal-provincial-territorial and provincial-territorial meetings. This work focuses on policy analysis, intergovernmental negotiations, and strategy to support the delivery of the government's key priorities. It involves working together with other Ontario ministries and other Canadian jurisdictions.

The Office of International Relations and Protocol (OIRP) leads the conduct of Ontario's relations with foreign jurisdictions, and co-ordinates official government events and ceremonies. It provides advice and service to the Premier, the Minister, other ministers and the Lieutenant Governor. OIRP works to advance Ontario's international objectives, which are principally economic, by building and supporting Ontario's relations with foreign jurisdictions, Foreign Affairs Canada and Canadian foreign missions, the diplomatic and consular corps, and non-government organizations with international activities.

The Communications Branch provides communications counsel and support to the Minister and Deputy Minister. Working in close cooperation with the ministry's other areas, the branch identifies communications challenges and opportunities, develops strategies to address them, and delivers a broad range of products and services.

MINISTRY KEY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES

Canada's federal structure means that many social and economic issues that concern provincial governments have an intergovernmental dimension. The Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs (MIA) plays a key role in supporting Ontario's efforts to deliver results on three of these priorities -- success for students, better health,

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and jobs and prosperity.

To address these priorities, MIA will continue its constructive approach to intergovernmental relations. The ministry will work closely with the Premier's Office, Cabinet Office and other ministries to build and strengthen productive relations with the federal government, provinces and territories, our U.S. neighbours and other international jurisdictions.

- MIA will support the Minister in her dealings and negotiations with the federal government and other governments.
- MIA will provide strategic advice to the Premier as he works with Canada's other premiers in the Council of the Federation to increase cooperation among provinces and territories and improve services to Ontarians and all Canadians.
- MIA will continue to lead the development and communication of Ontario's position on "fairness" and fiscal arrangements and national institutions such as the Senate.
- MIA will identify and coordinate priorities and policies to guide Ontario ministries in their initiatives with the federal government and other provinces and territories.
- MIA will coordinate the implementation and expansion of the Ontario-Quebec cooperation initiatives signed in 2006.
- MIA will work to raise Ontario's profile in the international community and promote the province to key trading partners.
- MIA will support the Premier, the Minister, other ministers and the Lieutenant-Governor in their interactions with foreign government leaders and their representatives.
- MIA will pursue an active "cross-border" agenda with the United States that addresses key common issues.

Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs Organization Chart 2007-08 ([click for PDF](#))

LEGISLATION

The Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for the following legislation:

- *Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs Act*

AGENCIES, BOARDS and COMMISSIONS (ABCs)

- No agencies, boards or commissions report to the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs.

RELEVANT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance Measures	Target 07-08	Most Recent Result
Percentage Satisfaction of Clients (PO/CO/MO) with MIA support	74%	95% (2005-06)
Percentage Satisfaction of Key Ministry Partners with MIA Support	74%	86% (2005-06)
Percentage Consular Corps Satisfaction with MIA Services	74%	95% (2005-06)

MINISTRY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Table 1: Ministry Planned Expenditures 2007/08 (\$)

Operating	9,262,599
Capital	0
TOTAL	9,262,599

Table 2: Ministry Planned Expenditures by Program Name 2007/08 (\$)

Ministry Administration	2,291,199
Intergovernmental Relations	6,971,400

TOTAL

9,262,599

Appendix I: Annual Reports**2005-06 ANNUAL REPORT**

The following is a brief description of select activities and events between April 2005 and March 2006 that reflect the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs important role in contributing to Ontario's intergovernmental and international priorities.

Ontario's Fairness - Fiscal Imbalance Campaign

In spring 2005, Premier McGuinty and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Marie Bountrogianni launched a campaign for fairness for the people of Ontario. The focus was on identifying unfair federal transfers to Ontario in key areas such as postsecondary education, health care and infrastructure. This funding supports Ontario's colleges, universities, hospitals and clinics, and helps maintain the province's roads, public transit and water systems. The campaign also highlighted concerns about broader fiscal issues across Canada such as the fiscal imbalance and the federal Equalization program.

The campaign included speeches and media interviews by both Premier McGuinty and Minister Bountrogianni, news releases, meetings with stakeholders, and a dedicated website.

Minister Bountrogianni captured the essence of the campaign in a speech -- "This fiscal imbalance undermines all provinces' abilities to invest in key areas that promote prosperity and competitiveness: education, health care and infrastructure."

Ontario saw some initial success shortly after the campaign launched. In May 2005, Premier McGuinty reached an agreement with the Prime Minister that committed the federal government to provide more funding and support to Ontario in several areas, including immigration, job training, postsecondary education and infrastructure.

Over the course of the year, as the campaign picked up momentum, the premier and the minister were successful in raising awareness about the issue throughout the province and attracting support from a broad group of stakeholders.

60th Anniversary of Victory In Europe Day

Ontario veterans were honoured in a celebration at Toronto's Exhibition Place on May 8, 2005 to mark the 60th

anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, 1945 -- the end of the Second World War in Europe and the beginning of a period of peace for Canadians.

The event, which featured a victory parade, a ceremony to remember and thank veterans, and displays and entertainment, was planned and organized by the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs in cooperation with the Government of Canada and the City of Toronto. More than 5,000 people attended. Speakers included Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, James K. Bartleman.

Premier McGuinty said of the event and the veterans attending, "It's a chance to show our appreciation. It's an occasion to celebrate their contributions. It's an opportunity to tell them that we have listened, that we will remember, that we will never forget."

Summer 2005 Council of the Federation Meeting

Premiers attended the 2005 Council of the Federation (COF) summer meeting from August 10 - 12 in Banff to focus on ways to enhance Canada's economic competitiveness and strengthen the country's social fabric. The meeting was an opportunity to work cooperatively on several issues of national importance.

Premiers made progress on a number of key issues including postsecondary education and skills training, transportation and energy. The COF also addressed other issues, including the fiscal imbalance, Canada - U.S. relations, international markets, and a national pharmaceutical strategy.

Acting on the direction of the COF, Premier Dalton McGuinty and Quebec Premier Jean Charest will meet with provincial education, labour market and finance ministers, in October 2005, to discuss best practices and discuss funding issues. Premiers McGuinty and Charest will also host a summit on postsecondary education and skills training early in 2006 to engage stakeholders and further advance the national dialogue on these issues.

Premier's Trade and Investment Mission to China

In November 2005, Premier Dalton McGuinty travelled to China to build stronger economic ties and promote friendship with the people of China. The 12-day trade mission included more than 125 Ontarians representing businesses, universities and colleges, municipalities, agricultural organizations and medical research institutions. The delegation visited Shanghai, Suzhou, Nanjing and Hong Kong. The trip was planned and organized by the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade.

Premier McGuinty said, "Our trade mission will focus on creating investment opportunities in sectors critical to Ontario's prosperity, such as the automotive industry, information technology, financial services, education, life sciences and the environment."

During the mission, delegation members signed more than 30 agreements with their Chinese counterparts.

First Ministers' Meeting

The Prime Minister and Canada's premiers held a First Ministers' Meeting (FMM) with national Aboriginal leaders in November 2005 in Kelowna, British Columbia to discuss ways to improve the quality of life for the country's Aboriginal people. Key agenda items were health, education, housing, relationships, and enhancing economic opportunities.

At the meeting's conclusion, First Ministers and Aboriginal leaders announced a 10-year commitment to close the gap in the quality of life between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians. The commitment is to be accompanied by federal funding directed toward education, health, housing and economic opportunities.

First Ministers and Aboriginal leaders agreed that measuring progress is critical to closing the gap and agreed to assess progress in education, housing and health through a set of broad indicators.

Competing for Tomorrow Summit

On behalf of the Council of the Federation, Premier Dalton McGuinty and Quebec Premier Jean Charest hosted *Competing For Tomorrow* – a national stakeholder summit on postsecondary education and skills on February 24, 2006 in Ottawa. The summit was planned and organized by the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Competing For Tomorrow brought together a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including student, college, university, business and labour representatives, to examine key issues and challenges they are facing in postsecondary education and skills training. Premiers recognize that our people are our most important competitive advantage and that governments, educational institutions and the private sector must work together to develop and implement a plan for higher education for Canadians.

The discussions at *Competing For Tomorrow* guided the COF in developing a pan-Canadian strategy for postsecondary education and skills training that was release at the summer 2006 COF meeting in St. John's.

Table 1: Ministry Expenditures 2005-06

	Ministry Actual Expenditures (\$) 2005 / 06
Operating	7,629,689
Capital	0

Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2006)	70	
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2006-07 ANNUAL REPORT

The following is a brief description of select activities and events between April 2006 and March 2007 that reflect the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs important role in contributing to Ontario's intergovernmental and international priorities.

Ontario's Fairness - Fiscal Imbalance Campaign

Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Marie Bountrogianni launched the second year of Ontario's ongoing fairness campaign in spring 2006 with speeches, newspaper articles and news releases, and a re-vamped website.

They were clear in outlining the principles that were guiding Ontario: new fiscal arrangements between the federal government and the provinces must be transparent; federal transfers must be delivered to provinces on a per capita basis; and the country needs one clear, well-defined Equalization program.

Throughout the year, awareness and support continued to increase. Newspapers ran editorials supporting Ontario's position. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario and more than 120 individual Ontario municipalities passed resolutions in support. Stakeholders representing business, labour and the public sector spoke out in favour of Ontario's demands.

Ontario's fairness campaign achieved many of its goals when the federal government presented its budget in March 2007. The federal government committed to provide Ontario with equal per capita cash through the Canada Social Transfer; provide funding to honour the unmet provisions of the 2005 Canada-Ontario Agreement – an agreement that was meant to address some of Ontario's fairness concerns; and introduce a fiscal capacity cap on payments to provinces receiving Equalization.

Following the federal budget, Premier McGuinty said, "These important steps toward fairness are real victories for the people of Ontario. They were made possible because we stood up for Ontario and because Ontarians across the province stood united behind our campaign."

Ontario - Quebec Cooperation Agreement

MIA led the planning and development of the Ontario - Quebec Cooperation Agreement that was signed by Premier Dalton McGuinty and Quebec Premier Jean Charest in June 2006. The protocol signals that Ontario and Quebec are committed to working together on shared priorities and building a higher quality of life for their citizens. As part of the protocol, Ontario and Quebec Cabinet Ministers signed a central agreement on Francophone Affairs and eight.

sector-specific agreements focusing on: transportation, natural resources, forest protection, health care, culture, tourism, emergency management and the environment.

At the signing, Premier McGuinty said, "We are strengthening our relationship with Quebec and paving the way for improvements in key areas that will provide long-term benefits for the people of both provinces."

A Strong Ontario for a Strong Canada Summit

In June 2006, Premier Dalton McGuinty and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Marie Bountrogianni brought together 200 leaders from across the province for *A Strong Ontario For A Strong Canada* – a one-day summit on strengthening Ontario's future and Canada's fiscal arrangements. Part of an ongoing dialogue about fairness and the fiscal imbalance, the summit was an opportunity for a range of Ontario's leaders, stakeholders and citizens to share their views on how Canada's fiscal arrangements could better ensure our future prosperity.

Participants represented all the province's regions, political orientations, and sectors, including business, health care, education, agriculture, municipal governments, community groups and the academic world. They heard from a panel of experts who shared their knowledge and views and then took part in small group discussions where they discussed Canada's fiscal arrangements and options for reforming them.

At the end of the summit, Premier McGuinty said, "I'm encouraged by the support we received today from so many community and business leaders. It's another indication that we're moving in the right direction with respect to addressing the fiscal imbalance."

Summer 2006 Council of the Federation Meeting

Canada's premiers attended the Council of the Federation (COF) summer meeting from July 26 - 28 in St. John's to discuss the fiscal imbalance and other issues. The meeting provided another opportunity for Ontario to reiterate its concerns about fairness and equitable treatment in Canada's fiscal arrangements.

Premiers also explored ways to advanced key priorities such as postsecondary education, transportation infrastructure, international and internal trade, and energy. They released *Competing For Tomorrow* – the COF's strategy for postsecondary education and skills training in Canada, that was produced following the summit of the

same name that was hosted by Premier Dalton McGuinty and Quebec Premier Jean Charest in February 2006. Premiers also discussed the diverse economic challenges and opportunities facing provinces and territories and as well as issues and initiatives affecting Canadians' health and well-being.

Ontario and Baden-Wuerttemberg Renew Friendship

In October 2006 Ontario signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for cooperation with the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. The MOU signalled the intent of both jurisdictions to further expand the close relationship that has existed between them for many years. Both jurisdictions have committed to share best practices and expertise, and strengthen economic and educational ties.

At the signing ceremony, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Marie Bountrogianni said, "Enhancing the collaboration between our two governments will help us make better use of the resources available to build a higher quality of life for our citizens."

The MOU focuses on exchanges in the fields of education, immigration and integration policies, culture, and cooperation in environmental issues and science, as well as an intensification of cooperation in research and development between the universities and institutions of both jurisdictions.

Premier's Business Missions to India and Pakistan

In January 2007, Premier Dalton McGuinty visited India and Pakistan to boost trade and investment and build opportunity for Ontario's businesses and organizations. The trips were planned and organized by the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade.

The mission to India (January 14 - 21) included stops in Punjab, Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai. The mission to Pakistan (January 22 - 26) included stops in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

Before the missions, Premier McGuinty said, "Ontario's diversity is one of our province's greatest strengths – we speak every language and understand every market. These business missions to India and Pakistan will help us build relationships with our international friends and partners to build a stronger, more prosperous Ontario."

The Ontario delegation included more than 100 members, representing more than 85 businesses, universities, colleges and other organizations. They signed dozens of business and cooperation agreements.

Table 2: Ministry Expenditures 2006-07

	Ministry Interim Expenditures (\$) 2006/07
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Operating	9,432,544	
Capital	0	
Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2007)	70	

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Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs Organization Chart 2007-08

