

**From:** AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** October-19-20 4:19 PM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Ontario Proposes New Blue Box Regulations, Modified Stage 2 Restrictions Expanded to York Region, Halloween Guidance

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October 19, 2020

## **AMO Policy Update – Ontario Proposes New Blue Box Regulations, Modified Stage 2 Restrictions Expanded to York Region, and Halloween Guidance**

### **Draft Blue Box Regulation Released**

Today the Ontario government [announced](#) the proposed producer responsibility regulation of the Blue Box program. The [proposed regulation](#) under the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016* would make producers responsible for the Blue Box Program, including meeting regulated outcomes for providing collection services, managing Blue Box materials, and meeting diversion targets to address plastic waste, and recover resources for use in the economy.

If passed, the regulation would expand the list of materials accepted in the Blue Box including paper and plastic cups, wraps, foils, trays and bags and other single use items, and expand Blue Box services to more communities, including smaller, rural and remote areas.

This is welcome news for municipal governments and has been the result of over a decade of advocacy in support of full producer responsibility. Producers are in the best position to finance and operate this program as they make the decisions on the type of material and design of their packages and products. If passed, the costs of the program would transition away from municipal taxpayers to producers and result in an estimated savings of \$135 million annually for municipalities.

The draft regulation will be posted for a 45-day consultation period on the Environmental Registry, with comments due on December 3, 2020. AMO is hosting a

webinar on November 4, 2020 for municipal waste management staff to discuss the regulation in detail. To register, click [here](#).

## York Region Entering Modified Stage 2

As of 12:01 a.m. this morning, York Region joined Ottawa, Peel, and Toronto public health regions in a [modified Stage 2](#) for a period of 28 days as a result of including higher than average rates of COVID-19 transmission. Modified Stage 2 measures include:

- limiting team sports to training sessions (no games or scrimmages);
- reducing limits for all social gatherings and organized public events to a maximum of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors while maintaining physical distancing ;
- prohibiting indoor dining in restaurants and bars, and personal care; and
- closing businesses where it is difficult to adhere to public health measures, including indoor gyms and fitness centres, cinemas and casinos, among others.

Schools, child care centres, and places of worship will remain open and must continue to follow the public health measures in effect. A complete list of modified stage 2 measures can be found [here](#).

## Halloween Guidance: Trick-or-Treating

Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, issued a [statement](#) today detailing public health advice to limit COVID-19 transmission this Halloween. Given the high transmission of COVID-19 in the modified Stage 2 public health unit regions of Ottawa, Peel, Toronto and York Region, traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating is **not recommended**. Individuals should consider alternative ways to celebrate.

For other areas of the province, the statement [suggests measures](#) to make Halloween safer while enjoying the holiday. Dr. Williams advises residents to check with their local municipality or public health unit for additional advice or restrictions, and urges Ontarians not travel outside of their neighbourhoods to celebrate Halloween.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

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**Kelly Lush**

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**From:** AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** October-21-20 3:54 PM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – COVID-19 Liability Protection, Municipal Elections Act; An Ontario Digital Identity; Public Health Orders; Child Care

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October 21, 2020

## **AMO Policy Update – COVID-19 Liability Protection, Municipal Elections Act; An Ontario Digital Identity; Public Health Orders; and Child Care**

### ***Bill 218 - Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act***

Attorney General Doug Downey introduced [Bill 218 - Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act](#). If passed, the legislation will provide targeted liability protection for health and long-term care, non-profit and private sector workers, volunteers, and organizations that make an honest effort to follow public health guidelines and laws related to limiting the exposure of Ontarians to COVID-19. Bill 218 will also maintain the right of Ontarians to take legal action against those who willfully, or with gross negligence, endanger others. Municipal governments, workers, and by-laws that are aimed at protecting public health are referenced in the Bill, as AMO has advocated for. Similar legislation is in place in British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

The Bill includes changes to the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#), proposing to remove the option to use ranked ballots for municipal elections, moving all municipal governments to First-Past-The-Post. This will impact a number of municipal governments that were contemplating the change and one already using ranked ballots. The rationale for this proposed legislative change is not known.

In addition, the nomination date for municipal elections will also be changed from the fourth Friday in July to the second Friday in September in the year of the election and there are proposed changes to the timelines leading up to municipal elections (see Section 42 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*). AMO advises that municipal clerks

review the proposed changes for implications for their electoral planning processes. The rationale for this change is unclear and may have the effect of discouraging broader participation in municipal elections.

## Ontario Onwards Action Plan

The Ontario government launched its new Action Plan, [Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government](#) to make government services simpler, more accessible, and convenient. The plan has over 30 projects including developing a digital identity, based on digital wallet technology, by the end of 2021.

Creating a digital identity for Ontarians was identified by AMO and LAS as a key step in helping municipalities move towards more digital government service delivery especially as better quality high-speed internet and broadband access is expanded to unserved and underserved areas. More details are expected on these projects in the coming months.

## Emergency Order Changes

Ontario extended most orders under the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act, 2020 \(ROA\)](#) by 30 days until November 21, 2020, with exemptions for consumer electricity prices and access to personal health information through electronic health records.

The Province also amended emergency orders for modified Stage 2 regions (Toronto, Ottawa, York, and Peel Regions) to allow classes teaching or training dancers provided conditions are met. Regulations for [Stage 2](#) and [Stage 3](#) areas have been amended also to remove restrictions on in-person instruction for fire departments, similar to police training.

## Provincial Investment for Schools and Child Care

This week, the government announced that it will invest \$550 million to build and upgrade schools in 2020-21. The initiative will add 870 new licensed child care spaces into the schools. The government has reconfirmed their commitment to create up to 30,000 new child care spaces over five years, including up to 10,000 spaces in new schools. AMO has advocated for effective child care as a critical service for investment in the COVID-19 recovery.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

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**From:** AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** October-22-20 10:01 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** AMO WatchFile - October 22, 2020

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October 22, 2020

### **In This Issue**

- Is flooding a local issue?
- Blue Box draft regulation posted - Webinar November 4.
- ROMA 2021 Virtual Conference registration open.
- There is still time to register for the October 28 Land Use Planning Workshop.
- Lighting retrofits are saving municipalities money!
- Introducing the new and improved EPT!
- Group Buying Program Webinars - Zamboni, Tech supplies.
- Investments 101 Training now available.
- Careers with Burlington, Cobourg, Kitchener and Toronto Transit Commission.

### **AMO Matters**

The AMO discussion paper "[Come Hell or High Water: Flooding, Climate Change and Municipal Responses](#)" is now available. This paper explores how the global issue of climate change and changing weather patterns impact municipal policies and strategies as it relates to flooding, high water, and erosion. The document reflects AMO members' experiences with flooding and what solutions they would like to see advocated for.

### **Provincial Matters**

The Province has [posted](#) the [draft Blue Box regulation](#) for consultation until December 3. AMO staff are hosting a webinar on November 4 from 10 am -12 pm to discuss our response and what this means for your municipality. [Register for the webinar](#).

### **Eye on Events**

[Registration](#) is now open for [ROMA: Connecting Rural Ontario](#), January 25-26, 2021. Do not miss this opportunity to connect with colleagues and the province, and learn from experts on important and timely rural issues.

Back by popular demand, Land Use Planning: Beyond the Basics is coming to you

virtually. This training provides insight and tools to support your central role in implementing and managing the land use policy framework. [Registration details](#).

## **LAS**

We've reached a milestone! Beside completing 65 LED retrofit projects, municipalities are collectively saving over \$1 million in annual energy/maintenance costs through the [LAS Facility Lighting Service](#). Contact [Christian Tham](#) to find out how your municipality can be part of the savings.

We're excited for the launch of our new and improved [Energy Planning Tool](#)! Over the summer we've rebuilt EPT from the ground up, adding lots of new features and making it more user friendly. [Join us for a webinar on October 28](#) at 10 am to see this software in action and learn more.

The [Municipal Group Buying Program](#) helps municipalities save time and money on the products and services they use every day. Join our webinar series to hear about [Zamboni on November 4](#) and [CDW on November 18](#). For video archives of past events check out our [Webinars/Presentations Page](#).

## **ONE Investment**

Online Investments 101 Training is available now. To register [click here](#). Learn about fundamentals of investing under the Legal List and Prudent Investor Standard.

## **Careers**

[Financial Analyst, Budgets & Policies - City of Burlington](#). Department: Finance. Employment Status: Contract (20 months). Job Number: FN-138-20. Posting Close Date: October 30, 2020. To apply, please visit [Burlington Career Opportunities](#) and click on "View Jobs". Please note that applications are only accepted online.

[Manager, Parks - Town of Cobourg](#). Position status: Full-time Permanent. Interested applicants should forward their resume in confidence no later than November 6, 2020 at 4 pm to the attention of the Human Resources Department at [careers@cobourg.ca](mailto:careers@cobourg.ca). Please quote competition #20-25. NOTE: due to COVID-19 restrictions the interviews and the selection process may be delayed.

[Assistant City Solicitor \(Development & Planning\) - City of Kitchener](#). Reports to the City Solicitor. To explore this opportunity further, please contact Kristen Manning at [kristen.manning@odgersberndtson.com](mailto:kristen.manning@odgersberndtson.com) or submit your resume and letter of interest online to [Odgers Berndtson Opportunities](#) by November 16, 2020.

[Inaugural Chief, Diversity & Culture - Toronto Transit Commission \(TTC\)](#). The Chief, Diversity & Culture is a member of the senior executive team — at the decision-making table to help drive the TTC forward as a direct report to the CEO. Interested applicants can submit their resume to [Odgers Berndtson Opportunities](#). Odgers Berndtson is partnering with BIPOC Executive Search to strengthen the diversity of the candidate pool. Applicants from the BIPOC community may wish to send their resume to Jason Murray at [jmurray@bipocsearch.com](mailto:jmurray@bipocsearch.com).

## About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

## AMO Contacts

[AMO Watch File](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#) Tel: 416.729.5425

[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)

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**From:** [AMO Communications](#)  
**To:** [Kelly Lush](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Build Ontario, Red Tape, and Off-Peak Deliveries  
**Date:** October-23-20 4:30:46 PM

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## AMO Policy Update



October 23, 2020

# AMO Policy Update – New Legislation Expedites Provincial Infrastructure, Reduces Red Tape, and Allows Off-Peak Deliveries

The Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Caroline Mulroney, announced legislation Thursday, the [Ontario Rebuilding and Recovery Act, 2020](#), extending a range of measures to build provincial infrastructure faster by reducing planning and administrative time to construction and providing a “backstop” if agreements cannot be reached. Measures include:

- **Transit:** Expanding designations for major provincial transit projects streamlining project management and accelerating development as under the *Building Transit Faster Act*. The legislation also amends the *Transit Oriented Communities Act* to exempt Hearings of Necessity under the *Expropriations Act* for provincial transit projects and allows the government to pursue new types of commercial arrangements.
- **Highways:** Amends the *Public Service Works on Highways Act* to require utility owners to relocate infrastructure in the highway corridor, facilitating faster construction.
- **Long-Term Care:** The announcement signals the potential use of Minister's Zoning Orders (MZO) to facilitate the building of long-term care residences.
- **Broadband:** Expansion of broadband to unserved and underserved areas and incentivizing private sector investments.
- **Municipal Tools:** Intention to consult municipalities on additional tools and powers required to expedite critical local infrastructure projects.
- **Skills Development:** Leveraging recent apprenticeship system investments to build a workforce pipeline in the skilled trades.

In announcing the initiative, the government noted the powers were meant as a “backstop” and it would work with municipal governments to move infrastructure projects forward. AMO supports the commitment to work in partnership. The creation

of new long-term care beds, as well as other forms of housing as development, are priorities AMO has long supported. To move forward effectively, AMO advocates that the Province work with municipal Councils and staff to address local interests and garner municipal support before a MZO is issued or other “backstop” powers are used for projects.

## Reducing Red Tape and Off-Peak Deliveries

Removing constraints for local governments and businesses is the subject of two Bills introduced recently by the Honourable Prabmeet Sakaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. [Bill 213, Better for People, Smarter for Business Act](#) includes many changes to current laws such as amendments to inter-city passenger transportation services, electronic reporting for municipal wastewater utilities, smart metering, grandfathering infrastructure projects, ground water permits requiring municipal council approval, amongst others. AMO staff are currently analyzing sections of this Omnibus Bill for municipal impacts and will provide an update shortly.

Bill 213 also proposes to exempt publicly assisted universities from municipal development charges affecting five communities in Ontario. Recognizing that university campuses provide broad economic and other benefits to communities, AMO is concerned that the move erodes the principle that "growth pays for growth" and municipal discretion to grant exemptions.

Associate Minister Sakaria's second piece of legislation, [Bill 215, Main Street Recovery Act](#), changes the way municipal noise by-laws regulate commercial deliveries, aiming to make it easier and faster to get goods to companies and individuals. The Act builds on changes in some municipalities and provincial pandemic orders allowing off-peak deliveries and comes as online ordering in response to social distancing requirements becomes more widespread. If passed, municipalities will have the ability to designate times and zones where deliveries are limited. The Bill also increases fines for unlicensed passenger transportation services.

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