

Kelly Lush

From: AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>
Sent: August 29, 2023 2:02 PM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: Advocacy Update: Assessment Cycle

Updates on our advocacy initiatives

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Advocacy Update

Learn more about our work as we advocate on behalf of AMCTO members

August 29, 2023

Update on our Assessment Cycle Advocacy

As you are aware, we joined the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the private sector in calling for a return to the assessment cycle **earlier this year** and **again more recently**.

On August 16, the Ontario government filed **Regulation 261/23** under the *Assessment Act* to extend the current assessment cycle through to the end of the 2024 taxation year. This means that valuations from 2016 will continue at least for another year. In addition, we have been advised that the Province will undertake a review of the property taxation and assessment system with a professed “aim to focus on fairness, affordability and business competitiveness” and “exploring modernized administrative tools to support municipalities.”

While we are disappointed that the reinstatement is delayed, we welcome a review of the system which has been in place since the mid-1990s. Last week at the 2023 Association of Municipalities

of Ontario (AMO) Conference, when asked about the delay in reassessment, Finance Minister Bethlenfalvy said that the Government wants to take the time to get the next assessment cycle right and ensure that there are modernized transparency tools to support ratepayers.

We remain cautious about what the Province's intentions are with its review and how it will be conducted and we will continue to monitor this development. In the meantime, we welcome your comments, concerns, or recommendations on property taxation and the assessment system to help inform future advocacy in this area. To get involved, we encourage you to volunteer as part of our Roster of Municipal Advisors – this is a great way to provide support in a more informal way and to have your voice heard.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](#)

We also continue to collect your most problematic reporting requirements. We hope that through our [renewed advocacy strategy](#), we will see more specific and timely actions from the Province to reduce the municipal reporting burden.

[SUBMIT YOUR CONCERNS](#)

For more information or to discuss further, [please contact us](#).



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2680 Skymark Avenue, Suite 610, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 5L6

Tel: (905) 602-4294

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Sent: August 29, 2023 10:00 AM
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August 29, 2023

AMCTO at the 2023 AMO Conference

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) held its annual general meeting and conference from August 20-23 in London, Ontario, where we were proud to exhibit at the conference tradeshow and represent our members' interests in delegation meetings.

President Stephen O'Brien and staff participated in five delegation meetings over the course of the conference, including with the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, the Ministry of Red Tape Reduction, and with members of the NDP, Liberal and Green caucuses.

[Delegation with Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery](#)

Following up on our conversation with Minister Rasheed during the **2023 ROMA conference**, we met with Parliamentary Assistants Riddell and Sabawy, to continue our advocacy asks for a comprehensive review of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990 (MFIPPA)*. This was the first time we have delegated with the Ministry since our **Board-approved MFIPPA recommendations in June**. We provided an overview of the key themes and some of the items we expect to raise in our forthcoming submission to the Minister.

Delegation with Ministry of Red Tape Reduction

As part of our **renewed advocacy strategy to reduce the municipal reporting burden**, we met with Parliamentary Assistant Oosterhoff to re-introduce the municipal reporting burden and talk about our upcoming work in this area. If members have not already done so, **please respond to our call for burdensome reports today** so that we can provide the ministry with some practical examples and potential solutions for the most troublesome reports and processes.

Delegations with Opposition Parties

Continuing to build our relationships with the opposition parties, we met with the NDP, Liberal and Green caucuses to discuss how we can work together to advance the issues that matter most to our members. These productive meetings included discussions around our forthcoming submission on *MFIPPA*, our work reviewing the *Municipal Elections Act*, the municipal reporting burden, our concerns about the role of staff within the new strong mayor environment and the continued lack of clarity regarding Bill 23. This includes measures impacting development charges and making municipalities whole.

Announcements Tied to AMCTO Advocacy

During Premier Ford's speech to delegates, he announced the **Building Faster Fund** – an initiative that assigns new housing targets to 21 additional municipalities and incentivizes building more homes faster with a \$1.2 billion performance fund over three years. With this new program, the Government also announced their plans to extend strong mayor powers to 21 municipalities that sign a housing pledge. All pledges must be signed by October 15, 2023, with subsequent strong mayor powers to begin on October 31, 2023.

While the new Building Faster Fund is welcome, the available funding is a drop in the bucket compared to municipalities' infrastructure needs. This funding is also tied to building homes — the responsibility of builders and developers, not municipalities. AMCTO will monitor whether this initiative is connected to the Province's commitment to make municipalities whole. We also

flagged to the Ministry of Red Tape Reduction that the Province should consider streamlining any potential reporting requirements resulting from this new program to avoid burdensome reporting.

We continue to support our members and municipalities in the transition to strong mayors and will continue to reach out to prospective strong mayor municipalities who may wish to participate in information sharing meetings and to contribute to a shared resource space. If your municipality is part of the group to whom this authority will be extended and you have not received an invitation, [please reach out to us by email](#) to get connected with our group and to access available resources.

During his speech to delegates, Minister Clark highlighted that by September 11, the Province would appoint the long-awaited facilitators who will review service alignment in Durham, Halton, Niagara, York and Waterloo Regions and the County of Simcoe. He also announced his intention to introduce a fall bill that will clarify the definition of affordability for legislation changes brought forward by Bill 23 and that will be in alignment with the new Provincial Policy Statement. [As you will recall, AMCTO and other municipal associations](#) were vocal in our concerns about the broad and unresolved issue of what affordable and attainable housing means in the context of changes to development charges among other concerns. We will provide a further update on this once the bill has been introduced.

During the popular 'Bear Pit' session, the Government faced tough questions about their intentions on a range of topics. Of particular note, when asked about the Government's willingness to look into tools to ensure that developers move forward on approved projects, Minister Clark said he is "all ears" for municipalities' suggestions. Minister Clark also faced a question on the Government's lack of action on strengthening municipal codes of conduct that was met with a standing ovation from the crowd. In response, Minister Clark identified that poor behaviour from members of council is a "bigger problem" than codes of conduct and more must be considered particularly given that there have been several members of council, clerks and chief administrative officers who have resigned their positions.

Finance Minister Bethlanfalvy also faced some tough questions. When asked about the delay in reassessment, he said that the Government wants to take the time to get the next assessment cycle right and ensure that there are modernized transparency tools to support ratepayers. Also, in response to a question on revenue tools, he confirmed that the Government would not be introducing any new taxes.

Moving Forward

The AMO conference provided us with an important platform to continue to advance our advocacy priorities. We will be following up with the government and opposition officials to continue these conversations and advocate on our members' behalf.

For additional takeaways from the AMO conference, check out our [latest blog post](#).

For more information or details about how to get involved in our advocacy efforts, please [contact us](#).



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August 31, 2023

In This Issue

- Municipal Information & Data Analysis System (MIDAS).
- Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant.
- Release of public information service.
- Municipal Cybersecurity 101 forum.
- FOI program automation: Save time and money with AMO's new partner.
- Cyber incident management in partnership with ISA Cybersecurity.
- Use Canoe pricing in your 2024 budget.
- Identify energy savings with energy treasure hunt.
- Training for elected officials on Boards of Health.
- Careers: Elgin County, Kitchener and Oakville.

AMO Matters

AMO is pleased to launch a refresh of the Municipal Information & Data Analysis System (MIDAS). MIDAS is a web-based tool that provides access to the Financial Information Returns (FIRs) to all Ontario municipalities. The FIR is the main data collection tool used by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to collect financial and statistical information on municipalities. Ontario municipal elected officials and staff can contact MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca for access.

Provincial Matters

The Ontario government is providing one-time grants of up to \$10,000 to ensure community spaces remain safe and secure from hate-motivated incidents. Applications are open for 2023-2024. The deadline is September 12, 2023.

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) is Ontario's public safety regulator. TSSA releases public information (e.g., licence statuses or devices at a location) per its privacy codes. Click here to request a release.

Eye on Events

It's back! AMO and MISA ON's joint Municipal Cybersecurity 101 Forum returns this fall in time for Cybersecurity Month. Join us virtually on October 12 from 10am to 2pm to learn more about building a cyber resilient municipality. [Register today](#).

AMO is pleased to partner with Vayle to offer a cost-effective digital platform to streamline FOI program management, reduce costs, and mitigate compliance risks. [Join us on September 14](#) at 12pm where we will provide a deeper dive into the latest digital offering.

LAS

[ISA Cybersecurity](#) was pleased to meet everyone in the exhibit hall at the 2023 AMO Conference. To learn more about the ISA Cybersecurity partnership with LAS, please contact [Shannon Devane](#).

Are you planning to buy equipment in 2024? The [Canoe Procurement Group](#) provides quick and easy quotes for your budget. If you're ready to purchase, save the time of running your own RFP and buy direct from pre-approved vendors. Contact [Sarah](#) to learn more.

Town of Whitby recently completed an [LAS energy workshop & treasure hunt](#) at their Brooklin Community Centre, identifying tremendous energy savings opportunities. Join others planning the same and book your workshop for this fall. Contact [Christian Tham](#) today!

Municipal Wire*

alPHa is offering two courses on Board of Health Governance and Social Determinants of Health for elected officials on Boards of Health. Pricing and more information are available [here](#).

Careers

[Chief Administrative Officer - Elgin County](#). Responsible for the strategic leadership and efficient delivery of all administrative and operational services. Please apply [via email](#) with a covering letter and resume by September 28.

[Chief of Staff - City of Kitchener](#). Lead a 4-person team responsible for supporting the Mayor and members of City Council in their community leadership roles. [Apply online](#) by September 6.

[Coordinator, Strategic Communications and Community Relations - City of Kitchener](#). Play a key role in constituency and community relations and communications. [Apply online](#) by September 15.

[Director, Culture and Entertainment - City of Kitchener](#). Oversee the development and implementation of strategic plans to support arts and artists, and attract major entertainment events. [Apply online](#) by September 13.

[Supervisor, Stores - Town of Oakville](#). Provide the planning, analysis, materials management, organization, and distribution of required goods and services. [Apply online](#) by September 5.

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!

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September 7, 2023

In This Issue

- The Future of Municipal Liability and Risk Management.
- Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant.
- Release of public information service.
- Register for the October Risk Management Symposium.
- Municipal Cybersecurity 101 forum.
- FOI program automation: Save time and money with AMO's new partner.
- Canoe Webinars are Back!
- Blog: Experience as a Business Development Intern at LAS.
- Register for OMSSA's 2023 Forum.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO and the province came together to form a Technical Working Group to provide an inter-governmental dialogue on municipal insurance costs, coverage and liability issues. [Read the report](#) summarizing the group's findings.

Provincial Matters

The Ontario government is providing one-time grants of up to \$10,000 to ensure community spaces remain safe and secure from hate-motivated incidents. [Applications are open for 2023-2024](#). The deadline is September 12, 2023.

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Eye on Events

LAS and Intact Public Entities are returning to an in-person [Risk Management Symposium](#) October 4- 5, 2023. This year's theme of *Navigating the Road to Resilience* will discuss critical municipal risk issues such as climate change and data

management. It will also include an interactive cyber security event.

It's back! AMO and MISA ON's joint Municipal Cybersecurity 101 Forum returns this fall in time for Cybersecurity Month. Join us virtually on October 12 from 10am to 2pm to learn more about building a cyber resilient municipality. [Register today](#).

AMO is pleased to partner with Vayle to offer a cost-effective digital platform to streamline FOI program management, reduce costs, and mitigate compliance risks. [Join us on September 14](#) at 12pm where we will provide a deeper dive into the latest digital offering.

LAS

[Canoe Procurement Group](#) webinars are back! Join us for [Canoe 101](#) on September 28, [Job Order Contracting](#) on October 11, and [Fuel Management](#) on October 26. Follow the links or [visit LAS Events](#) to register.

LAS regularly hires intern students to help out. Our summer intern's co-op term ended last week and he is now back to school. [Read about his experience](#) working with the LAS team and some of the things he was able to complete during his time here.

Municipal Wire*

Join the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) on September 26 and 27 and explore the planning and delivery of social services nationally and globally to better understand and address common challenges. [Register today](#).

Careers

[Director, Business Modernization and Digital Delivery Branch - Ministry of Finance](#). Provide strategic leadership and operational direction for the development and oversight of business modernization planning. [Apply online](#) by September 12.

[Executive Assistant / Deputy Clerk - Town of Deep River](#). Responsible for assisting with the provision of Council/Committee services as well as support in the day-to-day operations. Apply to hr@deeperiver.ca by September 22.

[Deputy Treasurer/ HR Coordinator - Town of Deep River](#). Responsible for overseeing aspects of the Finance Department. Apply to hr@deeperiver.ca by September 22.

[Environmental Health & Safety Field Representative - City of Toronto](#). Responsible for the on-site implementation, supervision, and continual improvement of programs related to health, safety, and quality management systems. [Apply online](#) by September 20.

[Fire Chief - City of Sarnia](#). Providing vision, direction, and oversight for Sarnia Fire Rescue as the service continues to evolve, grow and adapt. Apply to hr@sarnia.ca by October 1.

[Director of Public Works - Township of Cavan Monaghan](#). Supervise and manage all operations and administration of the public works department. Apply to hr@cavanmonaghan.net by September 20.

Manager Asset Management Office - Niagara Region. Responsible for executing the Corporate Asset Management Strategy. Apply online by September 12.

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September 14, 2023

In This Issue

- New Baseline Waste & Recycling Report released.
- The Future of Municipal Liability and Risk Management.
- Fire Chief responsibility to Council.
- Release of public information service.
- AMO 2023: Give us your feedback on your conference experience.
- Register for the AMO-LAS Energy Symposium.
- Councillor training is not just for new councillors!
- Municipal Cybersecurity 101 forum.
- FOI program automation: Save time and money with AMO's new partner.
- 4S Webinar: Double rebates from WSIB for Municipal Health & Safety Programs.
- LAS now has an Instagram account!
- Gravel Road Assessments available through LAS.
- Learn with Canoe webinars.
- SaveOnEnergy Energy Management and Efficient Electrification webinars.
- Careers: BPS, Newmarket, Muskoka District, Oro-Medonte and Toronto.

AMO Matters

AMO's [Baseline Waste & Recycling Report](#) reviews Ontario's current circular economy efforts. With only 10 years of disposal capacity remaining in Ontario, new waste diversion policy is required.

AMO and the province came together to form a Technical Working Group to provide an inter-governmental dialogue on municipal insurance costs, coverage and liability issues. [Read *The Future of Municipal Liability and Risk Management* report](#) summarizing the group's findings.

Provincial Matters

The Office of the Fire Marshal released [an interpretation](#) of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act* regarding fire chiefs' roles and responsibilities with respect to reporting

to municipal council.

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority ([TSSA](#)) is Ontario's public safety regulator. TSSA releases public information (e.g., licence statuses or devices at a location) per its privacy codes. [Click here](#) to request a release.

Eye on Events

Complete the [2023 AMO conference survey](#) to provide feedback on the program content and your conference experience. Let us know what worked well and how we can improve the conference for AMO 2024.

AMO and Local Authority Services (LAS) are pleased to be hosting the 2023 Municipal Energy Symposium on November 2-3 at the Novotel Centre Toronto. [Register now](#). Space is limited.

AMO's Councillor Training provides the knowledge and insights to support you as a local leader. AMO's training explores the key areas related to your role as a local leader including: conflict of interest, code of conduct, insight into legislation and policy, finance and strategic planning, asset management - and more! [Register today](#) for October 20 training.

It's back! AMO and MISA ON's joint Municipal Cybersecurity 101 Forum returns this fall in time for Cybersecurity Month. Join us virtually on October 12 from 10am to 2pm to learn more about building a cyber resilient municipality. [Register today](#).

AMO is pleased to partner with Vayle to offer a cost-effective digital platform to streamline FOI program management, reduce costs, and mitigate compliance risks. [Join us on September 14](#) at 12pm where we will provide a deeper dive into the latest digital offering.

AMO's Health and Safety Program Management partner, [4S Consulting](#), is hosting a webinar on September 19 at 8:30am ET on the double rebate offering from WSIB for municipal health and safety programs. [Register and learn more](#) on how to create sustainable health and safety programs.

LAS

You can find us on Twitter and LinkedIn, but now we've added Instagram as another social media platform where you can get LAS updates. Our tag is [@LAS Ontario](#).

The [LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service](#) has expanded to include gravel roads! Get an accurate condition rating and guidance on how to keep them in good shape. [Contact Tanner](#) for a no-obligation quote.

The [Canoe Procurement Group](#) fall webinar series is starting soon! Join us on September 28 for [Canoe 101](#), October 11 for [Job Order Contracting with Gordian](#), and October 26 for [Fuel Management with Gilbarco](#). Register using the links or visit our [events page](#).

SaveOnEnergy is offering free training webinars for municipal energy/facility managers and directors. Learn how to integrate energy management principles,

identify savings, and reduce cost in your municipal facilities. [Register for these webinars](#) today.

Careers

[Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Specialist - Brantford Police Service](#). Responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating diversity and inclusion initiatives. [Apply online](#) by September 15.

[Manager, Revenue - Town of Newmarket](#). Responsible for the operations, performance, and functions of the property tax, accounts receivable, cash management and other corporate revenue. [Apply online](#) by September 21.

[Director, Human Services - District Municipality of Muskoka](#). Responsible for leading the implementation, evaluation, change management, and reporting processes of integrated Human Services delivery. [Apply online](#) by September 27.

[Director, Development Services - Township of Oro-Medonte](#). Prepare and implement the department's operating and capital budgets; and manage the Environmental Initiative portfolio. Apply to omdirectords@oro-medonte.ca by October 6th.

[Manager, Transportation Operations & Maintenance - City of Toronto](#). Lead and manage all aspects of road operations, to ensure the cost-effective and environmentally friendly delivery of operating and capital programs. [Apply online](#) by September 18.

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September 21, 2023

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- The Future of Municipal Liability and Risk Management.
- Release of public information service.
- AMO-LAS Energy Symposium program release.
- Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official training.
- Land Use Planning: Register for the foundations or deeper dive.
- The Risk Management Symposium is now virtual.
- Municipal Cybersecurity 101 forum.
- SaveOnEnergy Energy Management and Efficient Electrification webinars.
- Ontario Nature's Wetland Conservation and Offsetting webinar.
- Sewer Safety Week will take place September 18 - 22.
- OTC Webinar: Administrative Penalty Systems and ASE.
- Careers: Elliot Lake, Simcoe County, Deep River and Blandford-Blenheim.

AMO Matters

AMO's [Baseline Waste & Recycling Report](#) reviews Ontario's current circular economy efforts. With only 10 years of disposal capacity remaining in Ontario, new waste diversion policy is required.

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Eye on Events

View the full program for the AMO and Local Authority Services (LAS) Municipal Energy Symposium on November 2-3 at the Novotel Centre Toronto. [View the program and register now](#). Space is limited.

Don't miss AMO's in-demand *Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official* training. This two half day training is an opportunity to gain skills in building collaborative relationships and negotiating difficult ones in your role as an elected municipal official. [Register for the October 18 - 19 training today](#).

Whether you are looking for better understanding of legislation and planning processes, or are ready to dive into strategic decision making, these sessions will prepare you in your not always easy role of an elected official. Register for the [Foundations](#) or [Advanced](#) land use training fall opportunities.

The virtual [Risk Management Symposium](#) on October 4 explores risk exposure and considerations related to current pressing issues such as, climate resiliency and the natural assets initiative, cyber security, and more.

It's back! AMO and MISA ON's joint Municipal Cybersecurity 101 Forum returns this fall in time for Cybersecurity Month. Join us virtually on October 12, 10am - 2pm to learn more about building a cyber resilient municipality. [Register today](#).

LAS

SaveOnEnergy is offering free training webinars for municipal energy/facility managers and directors. Learn how to integrate energy management principles, identify savings, and reduce cost in your municipal facilities. [Register](#) today.

Municipal Wire*

Wetland Conservation and Offsetting: Leading Policy Standards and Examples is a webinar for municipal and conservation authority planning and environment staff. Host: Ontario Nature. October 17, 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. [Register here!](#)

Sewer Safety Week will take place September 18-22. A reminder to always call Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 for a free sewer safety inspection. To learn more, visit enbridgegas.com/sewersafety.

The [Ontario Traffic Council](#) is hosting an informative webinar all about Administrative Penalties (APS). Join OTC on September 28, 9-11am as they give an overview of APS and review their recently released APS Guideline. Don't wait - [click here to register](#).

Careers

[Deputy Treasurer - City of Elliot Lake](#). Assisting with the general management of the treasury department. Apply to la@tdobbie.com by September 30.

[Planning Information Analyst - County of Simcoe](#). Supports departmental data and analytic needs. [Apply online](#) by October 3

[Director of Finance/Treasurer - Town of Deep River](#). Provide support, guidance, &

advice to Department Heads, Committees, Council, and local boards on financial matters. Apply to hr@depriver.ca by October 13.

Chief Administrative Officer - Township of Blandford-Blenheim. Provide exceptional leadership and strategic direction to the municipal organization. Apply to rmordue@blandfordblenheim.ca by October 19.

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