

Kelly Lush

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: October 3, 2024 10:01 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: AMO Watchfile - October 3, 2024



October 03, 2024

In This Issue

- Apply for the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant.
- Call for proposals on gender-based violence.
- Webinar: Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund.
- ROMA 2025 Annual Conference - *Rural Routes*.
- ROMA 2025 *Rural Routes*: Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.
- Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official - October workshop.
- Foundations in Land Use Planning & Advanced Land Use Planning - October virtual workshops.
- Blog: Increasing Flood Events Pose Challenges.
- Lighting upgrades for 2025 - we've got you covered!
- From energy treasure hunt to real energy savings!
- Registration open for the Western Ontario Municipal Conference.
- *Municipal Contributions to Canada's Protected Areas Target* report.
- Careers.

Provincial Matters

Ontario has announced an additional \$5 million through an application-based program to help increase emergency preparedness. Municipalities under 100,000 are eligible to apply. [Applications are due October 31, 2024.](#)

The Ontario government is launching a [call for proposals](#) for new community-based projects that prevent and address gender-based violence. The deadline for proposals is October 11, 2024 at 5pm.

Did you miss the [Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund](#) webinar? [View the video](#) and learn how to apply for the Ontario government's new \$200-million fund.

Education Opportunities

The ROMA Board of Directors is pleased to announce the launch of the 2025 Conference. Register by **October 31** to access early bird rates. For full registration and hotel information, [click here](#).

Don't be disappointed! Book your trade show booth today to ensure your participation in the 2025 ROMA Conference. Limited spaces available. Download the [exhibitor package](#) or [sponsorship package](#) today.

Municipal leadership is often a pin cushion for our culture's broader issues. Conflict and misunderstanding is a big part of many municipal leaders current realities. This workshop provides an opportunity to transform conflict into collaboration. The [Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official October workshop](#) teaches skills in building collaborative relationships and negotiating difficult

ones in your role as an elected municipal official.

[Foundations in Land Use Planning](#) familiarizes participants with legislation, processes, and provides real life examples to give a deep understanding and insight into important planning matters. From a strategic perspective, [Advance Land Use Planning](#) analyzes case studies and real life examples through instructor lead instruction and group discussion.

LAS

Climate change is driving a significant rise in the frequency and intensity of floods. [Read our blog](#) to understand how extreme weather conditions are affecting residents in your community, and what you can do to help with these homeowner responsibilities.

The [LAS Facility Lighting Service](#) provides a complete turn-key solution for your lighting upgrades, both indoors and out. [Contact us](#) today for a free budget proposal for your 2025 budget.

The Town of Hanover's staff identified significant energy savings opportunities through an [Energy Workshop and Treasure Hunt](#) at their P&H Centre. They are now putting this into practice by upgrading their lights with the [LAS Facility Lighting Service](#). Want to see these savings at your municipal facility? [Contact Christian](#) for details about our ET workshops.

Municipal Wire*

WOWC is holding its annual [Western Ontario Municipal Conference](#) in Chatham-Kent on October 25, 2024. Explore and collaborate on a wide range of topics affecting our municipalities.

Ontario Nature presents their report, [Municipal Contributions to Canada's Protected Areas Target: A Review of Wise Practices in Ontario](#). Join the [webinar](#) that will share municipal achievements in biodiversity conservation.

Careers

[Commissioner, Corporate Services - Town of Oakville](#). Closing Date: October 30, 2024.

[Asset Management Technician - City of Cambridge](#). Closing Date: October 14, 2024.

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

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October 10, 2024

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- Get access to MIDAS!
- Ontario investing in transportation for rural communities - apply today!
- Apply for the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant.
- Webinar: Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund.
- Join us at the AMO Healthy Democracy Forum.
- ROMA 2025 Annual Conference - *Rural Routes*.
- ROMA 2025 *Rural Routes*: Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.
- Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official - October workshop.
- Foundations in Planning & Advanced Land Use Planning - October virtual workshops.
- Lighting upgrades for 2025 - we've got you covered!
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AMO Matters

MIDAS - the [Municipal Information & Data Analysis System](#) - provides access to the Financial Information Returns (FIRs) data to all Ontario municipalities. MIDAS converts FIR data into meaningful reports. For access, municipal elected officials and municipal staff can email MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca.

Provincial Matters

The province is investing \$5M annually to help smaller communities build safe and reliable transit services through the new Ontario Transit Investment Fund (OTIF). Municipalities [can apply for OTIF funding](#) on an ongoing basis, with programs expected to begin in 2025.

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Education Opportunities

On October 19-20 AMO will be joined by a coalition of experts, municipal and community leaders and many more to examine and develop strategies and tools to strengthen understanding and engagement with municipal government and our democratic processes. Read more about AMO's [Healthy Democracy Project](#). The [Forum](#) is in partnership with Toronto Metropolitan University.

Register for the ROMA 2025 Annual Conference by **October 31** to access early bird rates. For full registration and hotel information, [click here](#).

Don't be disappointed! Book your trade show booth today to ensure your participation in the 2025 ROMA Conference. Limited spaces available. Download the [exhibitor package](#) or [sponsorship package](#) today.

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Careers

[Program Analyst - Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#). Closing Date: October 21, 2024.

[Developer - PeopleSoft - Peel Regional Police](#). Closing Date: October 14, 2024.

[Chief Administrative Officer - Township of Lake of Bays](#). Closing Date: November 22, 2024.

[Director, Watershed Science and Engineering - Rideau Valley Conservation Authority](#). Closing Date: October 25, 2024.

[Supervisor, Parks Maintenance - City of Brampton](#). Closing Date: October 15, 2024.

About AMO

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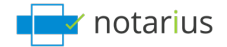
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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: October 17, 2024 10:02 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: AMO Watchfile - October 17, 2024



October 17, 2024

In This Issue

- Get access to MIDAS!
- Ontario investing in transportation for rural communities.
- Apply for the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant Funding.
- Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund - October 29 deadline.
- Funding Available: Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative.
- ERO posting on Electricity Energy Efficiency Framework.
- ERO posting on Additional Residential Units Regulation.
- IESO and MNR Webinar on LT2 Procurement and Project Siting.
- ROMA 2025 Annual Conference - *Rural Routes*.
- ROMA 2025 *Rural Routes*: Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.
- Foundations in Planning & Advanced Land Use Planning - October virtual workshops.
- Open mic session - Ask Canoe Anything!
- LAS winter webinars.
- Geothermal Drilling and Aquifer Protection Leading Practices Guide.
- Registration open for Western Ontario Municipal Conference.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

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Provincial Matters

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Ontario has announced an additional \$5 million through an application-based program to help increase emergency preparedness. CEPG offers funding for equipment and services to strengthen local emergency readiness. Municipalities under 100,000 are eligible to apply. [Applications are due October 31, 2024](#).

The Ontario government's [Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund](#) will revitalize existing infrastructure and support new construction across the province. Apply by October 29, 2024 for repair and rehabilitation projects.

[Application intake](#) is open until December 3 for organizations including municipalities to support underrepresented groups in starting or growing their own agri-food business.

The Ministry of Energy is [seeking comments](#) on a proposed energy efficiency framework to improve energy affordability and expand efficiency programs offered by local distribution corporations.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is [seeking comments](#) on a proposed regulation that would override municipal by-laws to remove barriers to building additional residential units.

The IESO and Ministry of Natural Resources are hosting a webinar on October 22 to provide clarity on project siting and updates on the LT2 RFP. [Registration is now open.](#)

Education Opportunities

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LAS

Looking to learn more about the [Canoe Procurement Group](#)? Join the 'Ask Canoe Anything' open mic webinar on October 30 at 11am to have all your questions answered. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

LAS has a few more webinars for the remainder of 2024. Visit our [website](#) to learn more and to register.

Municipal Wire*

On October 22 at 11am the Ontario Geothermal Association (OGA) will present leading practices to support municipal understanding of drilling processes for geo-exchange low carbon energy systems and protection of local aquifers and water supply systems. [Register here.](#)

WOWC is holding its annual [Western Ontario Municipal Conference](#) in Chatham-Kent on October 25, 2024. Explore and collaborate on a wide range of topics affecting our municipalities.

Careers

[Program Analyst - Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#). Closing Date: October 21, 2024.

[Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk - Township of Hornepayne](#). Closing Date: Nov 10, 2024.

[Chief Operating Officer - Kenora District Services Board](#). Closing Date: November 8, 2024

[Manager, Public and Government Relations - Peel Regional Police](#). Closing Date: October 27, 2024

[Planner II - County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: October 25, 2024.

[Community Planning Project Manager - County of Wellington](#). Closing Date: October 20, 2024.

[Manager, Building Inspections - City of Markham](#). Closing Date: October 31, 2024.

About AMO

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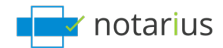
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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: October 21, 2024 6:05 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Advocacy on Transportation, Energy and Housing Policy



AMO Policy Update - Advocacy on Transportation, Energy and Housing Policy

Responding to *Bill 212: Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act*

The Minister of Transportation tabled [Bill 212: Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act](#) that proposes a series of changes to:

- Expedite highway construction for Highway 413, Bradford Bypass, Garden City Skyway Bridge (and future potential priority highway projects) including accelerating property acquisitions and facilitating 24/7 construction, among other measures
- Create a faster environmental assessment process for Highway 413 and the extensions of Highways 410 and 427, and exempt certain nearby early works
- Require municipalities to receive approval from the province before installing new bike lanes that would result in the removal of lanes for traffic
- Freeze fees for driver testing
- Make a Tow Zone Pilot permanent on four sections of 400-series highways in the GTA
- Provide the Minister of Infrastructure with the ability to use an expedited expropriations process for establishing easements that internet service providers require to install and build new broadband infrastructure

AMO will submit comments and seek to speak at Standing Committee to relay the challenges some of the Bill's components create for municipalities. As a start, AMO recently [outlined](#) that municipal expertise is best positioned to make decisions on bike lanes and local transportation planning, and these proposed changes are an overreach into municipal jurisdiction.

In addition to the Bill, the government announced related [proposals](#) including plans to consult with municipalities on a new pothole fund for the 2025 construction season. This fund would help small municipalities maintain their roads, which are often difficult to fund due to limited tax bases. AMO will collaborate with the province on the development and rollout of this new fund.

Ontario Announces New Electricity Distribution Funding Legislation

The Minister of Energy and Electrification [has announced](#) plans to introduce legislation that would allow the province to regulate electricity distribution infrastructure costs for new homes and businesses. The Minister has also directed the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to implement recommendations from its [Housing Connections Report Back](#) to the Minister which was recently made public.

This proposal would allow distributors to spread the costs of new infrastructure over 40 years instead of 25. It would also require the OEB to review the current practice of collecting upfront costs from early connectors within the first five years and convene a table with municipalities, utilities, and builders to explore ways to reduce the costs of new connections.

This direction aligns with AMO's June [submission to the OEB](#), which advocated for a series of principles to guide funding model changes. In particular, it advances the principle of fairness by ensuring that the upfront costs of new electricity infrastructure are balanced between existing and new residents.

Advancing Advocacy on Energy Procurements

AMO has [sent the IESO comments](#) to support the design of the upcoming [LT2 Procurement](#) process. Submissions for LT2 projects are expected to be open from December 2024 to Fall 2025, and municipalities are likely to be contacted by proponents seeking municipal support during this time.

Our advocacy stresses the importance of ensuring municipalities have support to make sound local decisions on energy projects and encouraging

energy builders to engage early and often with municipalities. This includes calling on the IESO to ensure LT2 is clear on requirements for project location (including incentives for siting on Crown land and in northern communities), agricultural protection, and Indigenous participation.

AMO has also called for community benefit agreements (CBAs) to become a standard part of energy procurements. This would ensure municipalities receive revenue to offset costs to service energy project sites, and to hire experts to support local energy approvals including energy or legal consultants.

Improving Ontario's Housing Data

Questions and concerns persist on how housing targets are being measured. AMO has worked closely with the province, municipalities and the CMHC to improve data to maximize municipal Building Faster Fund allocations this year. In a recent [letter to Minister Calandra](#), we urged the province to fix 2024 allocations and commit to implementing advice from the sector on how to improve housing data.

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Kelly Lush

From: AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>
Sent: October 22, 2024 10:02 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: Advocacy Update: Strong Mayor Powers Member Toolkit

Dive into our all-new research and strong mayors authorities scan

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Advocacy Update

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

October 22, 2024

Advocacy Update: Strong Mayor Powers Member Toolkit

We are excited to present an all-new resource for members: our strong mayor powers toolkit with the first iteration of key findings from primary research conducted among our members across the province.

With the help of municipal staff across strong mayor municipalities, we were able to monitor and assess how mayors, and municipalities, have used and implemented strong mayor powers, and its affect on municipal staff and communities. Thanks to a 74% response rate, further supported by publicly available information, we were able to identify key findings in strong mayor legislation interpretation, approach and practices, particularly with respect to impacts to municipal senior leaders and staff.

Our strong mayor powers toolkit and authorities scan:

- Provides members with information to compare strong mayor power use and practice across the province
- Allows us to better understand the impacts to municipal governance, structures and staff and continue to support municipalities who are transitioning or may be added to strong mayor systems
- Invites discussion and continued conversation toward developing better legislative solutions that meet government objectives

Data is primarily compared across population groupings in relation to powers associated with municipal administration, accountability and transparency in decision-making, budget and committees. Highlights from the research indicates mayors' retention, use and implementation of the powers afforded to them are:

- Creating an operational and administrative burden on municipal staff to support the interpretation and implementation of powers;
- Blurring the lines of political and administrative authority, particularly between the mayor and chief administrative officer;
- Creating inconsistencies and at times, a lack of accountability and transparency in decision-making; and
- Leaving staff employment, well-being and effectiveness at the discretion of the mayor.

At times, the powers appear to have streamlined governance and decision-making, but they have also put municipal service and administration at risk with uncertainty and changes to organizational structure and staffing. We have long held the position that there remain opportunities to strengthen municipal administration through clarifying the roles and responsibilities between chief administrative officers (CAOs) and mayors (or head of councils) to distinguish between administrative and political responsibilities. It is with this and the data in mind, that **we reaffirm our opposition to strong mayor powers related to the CAO and staff.**

ACCESS TOOLKIT

Only time will tell what kind of outcome mayoral decisions will have on municipal financial sustainability, budget decisions, organizational structure and staffing. With various provisions and limitations of powers yet to be tested, we are continuing to monitor the impact of strong mayor powers on municipal governance structure, staff and relationships, and will update the toolkit as more information becomes available.

What remains clear is that guidance and clarity in legislation and regulation is still needed, along with improved accountability and transparency frameworks, strong local relationships, effective municipal operations, and a reduced administrative burden on municipal leaders and staff. It is important to consider opportunities to leverage benefits of the strong mayor model while mitigating risks.

For more information, please contact advocacy@amcto.com



AMCTO | The Municipal Experts

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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Watchfile <amo@amo.on.ca>
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October 24, 2024

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- Applications open for AMO's 2025 Youth Fellowship Program!
- Ontario investing in transportation for rural communities - apply today!
- Community Emergency Preparedness Grant.
- Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund - October 29 deadline.
- Funding available: Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative.
- ERO posting on Electricity Energy Efficiency Framework.
- ERO posting on Additional Residential Units Regulation.
- Intake announcement - Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- Applications open for Codes Acceleration Fund.
- New fire weather projections app.
- ROMA 2025 Annual Conference - *Rural Routes*.
- ROMA 2025 *Rural Routes*: Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.
- Open mic session - Ask Canoe Anything!
- Registration open for Western Ontario Municipal Conference.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO is seeking applicants for its 2025 Youth Fellowship Program. Please share this opportunity with students and youth interested in local government, governance, and the health of our democracy. Through this Fellowship, participants learn about municipal governance and policy while gaining exposure to real-time issues facing Ontario's municipalities. [Applications](#) are due October 29.

Provincial Matters

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The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is [seeking comments](#) on a proposed regulation that would override municipal by-laws to remove barriers to building additional residential units.

Federal Matters

The \$6 billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund launches with \$1 billion for direct municipal and Indigenous infrastructure projects supporting housing-enabling infrastructure. Visit the [CHIF website](#) for [application details](#) and upcoming webinars.

The [Codes Acceleration Fund](#) (CAF) is open to projects geared towards accelerating the adoption and implementation of the higher tiers of the national model energy codes or other mandatory energy regulations. Approximately \$30M in funding available.

The [Canadian Centre for Climate Services](#) launched a new [online app](#) that projects future fire weather conditions. [Register here](#) by November 1 for the November 6 webinar.

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Careers

[Senior Advisor, Regional & Community Engagement - The Independent Electricity System Operator](#).
Closing Date: November 18, 2024.

[Analyst, Recreation Planning - City of Brampton](#). Closing Date: Oct 28, 2024.

[Infrastructure Supervisor - Municipality of Redlake](#). Closing Date: November 24, 2024.

[Municipal Planner - Municipality of Redlake](#). Closing Date: November 24, 2024.

[Integrity Commissioner - Legislative Assembly of Ontario](#). Closing Date: November 20, 2024.

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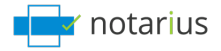
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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: October 28, 2024 6:10 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Advancing Housing Initiatives, Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future and Sustainable OPP Costs



AMO Policy Update - Advancing Housing Initiatives, Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future and Sustainable OPP Costs

AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing

On October 1st and 2nd, AMO held a gathering of over 200 municipal, Indigenous, and sector leaders to share understandings, insights, and actions to advance and grow Ontario’s community and supportive housing system.

Municipalities fund more than \$1 billion in social housing per year, yet the need for deeply affordable housing continues to rise across the province. The scale of this need surpasses the fiscal capacity of municipalities to address it.

Housing is a top priority in AMO’s call to the province for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. The stability and sustainability of municipal governments are critical to ensuring that important municipal services continue to support the quality of life of residents and the economic and social prosperity of communities.

AMO is working hard to drive change across Ontario, and we are pleased that so many municipalities joined us at this important event and in our work.

Learn more about the key outcomes of the Knowledge Exchange through reading the [summary of proceedings](#).

Provincial Vision for Ontario's Energy Future, and Introduction of Bill 214, *The Affordable Energy Act*

Last week the Minister of Energy and Electrification released [Ontario's Affordable Energy Future](#), which set out a vision for meeting rising electricity demand while keeping costs down and reducing emissions. Electricity demand is expected to increase by 75% by 2050. Key elements of this vision are:

- Meeting 2030 emissions targets by investing in a mix of energy sources including nuclear, hydro, renewables, natural gas and storage solutions
- Developing an integrated energy resource plan to coordinate planning across all energy partners, including municipalities
- Modernizing local distribution corporation (LDC) funding models to support grid upgrades
- Expanding energy efficiency programs to help people save money on their energy bills
- Exporting electricity

To begin implementing this energy vision, the province [has introduced](#) Bill 214, *The Affordable Energy Act*. This legislation provides a framework for advancing key priorities such as developing an integrated energy plan, prioritizing nuclear generation, and expanding energy efficiency plans.

The province's vision responds to AMO's recent calls for a provincial energy plan that commits to decarbonization and sets out a path for meeting Ontario's growing energy needs. AMO will continue to advocate for these commitments and a plan that ensures residents and businesses have access to clean, reliable and affordable energy.

AMO Advances Advocacy on Additional Residential Units

AMO [submitted comments](#) to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on a [proposed regulation](#) that seeks to remove barriers to Additional Residential Units (ARUs) by limiting some local zoning by-law requirements for ARUs, such as maximum lot coverage, etc. AMO supports removing barriers to building new housing so long as municipalities have the appropriate tools and flexibility to responsibly manage local growth. At the same time, we remain

concerned about the cumulative impact of continued changes to Ontario's land use planning framework. AMO's comments call on the province to provide certainty so municipalities and builders can focus on delivering new housing instead of catching up to policy changes.

OPP Billing

AMO has heard ongoing concerns from members related to sizeable increases on their bills from the Ontario Provincial Police. We understand that the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Ontario Provincial Police have heard these concerns and are interested in working with municipalities to mitigate their concerns. AMO will continue to work with the provincial government and share additional information as it becomes available.

Province's 2024 Housing Forum

Last Friday, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing brought together community partners and municipal representatives to discuss how Ontario can best continue to work closely with its partners to remove barriers and get more homes built faster. The forum included presentations and discussion components on:

1. Housing-enabling infrastructure, focusing on municipal service corporations and private communal sewage systems. AMO and its members were strong on the critical need for provincial and federal funding to build housing-enabling infrastructure and highlighted key insights from [AMO and MFOA's Water & Wastewater Municipal Services Corporations Backgrounder](#).
2. An update on factory-built (modular) housing indicating that the province is developing a "Factory-Built and Innovative Housing Strategy."

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