

## Kelly Lush

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** October 31, 2024 10:02 AM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - October 31, 2024



October 31, 2024

### In This Issue

- Ontario investing in transportation for rural communities - apply today!
- Community Emergency Preparedness Grant.
- Funding available: Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative.
- ERO posting on Electricity Energy Efficiency Framework.
- Intake announcement - Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- Applications open for Codes Acceleration Fund.
- New fire weather projections app.
- ROMA 2025 Annual Conference - *Rural Routes* - Keynote Chantal Hébert.
- ROMA 2025 *Rural Routes*: Exhibit hall 50% sold out.
- Plan your professional development for 2025 with AMO Education Workshops.
- Blog: LAS Commodity Programs Updates.
- Is your team trauma-informed?
- Careers.

### 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.

CEPG offers funding for equipment and services up to \$50,000 to strengthen local emergency readiness. Municipalities under 100,000 are eligible to apply. [Applications are due](#) October 31, 2024.

[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.

### 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.

### **Education Opportunities**

ROMA is excited to announce Chantal Hébert as the 2025 opening keynote speaker at its Annual Conference who will examine and provide insight into the implications of the current political landscape for rural municipal leaders. [Register for the ROMA Conference today.](#)

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.

Our workshops are custom designed for municipal leaders focusing on the issues, skills and tactics that you need as a community leader and decision maker. To help you plan your time and budget for 2025, registration is now open for a number of our in-demand workshops. You can [click here](#) to scroll through our current offerings.

### **LAS**

The LAS Electricity and Natural Gas Procurement Programs provide Ontario municipalities with predictable commodity costs. [Read here](#) to learn more.

### **Municipal Wire\***

Enhance your services with practical, trauma-informed strategies. Foster safety, resilience, and responsiveness in your team and community by integrating trauma-informed practice into your work. [Learn more about this virtual training.](#)

### **Careers**

[City Manager - City of St. Thomas.](#) Closing Date: November 11, 2024

[Chief Administrative Officer - City of Orillia.](#) Closing Date: November 11, 2024

[Chief Administrative Officer - Township of The Archipelago.](#) Closing Date: November 15, 2024

[General Manager, Community and Corporate Services - City of Barrie.](#) Closing Date: November 17, 2024.

[Truck and Coach/Automotive Technician Apprentice - City of Thunder Bay.](#) Closing Date: November 21, 2024

[Program Manager, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Region of Durham.](#) Closing Date: November 10, 2024

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### **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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### **AMO Contacts**

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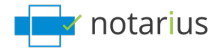
[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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

[ONE Investment](#)

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

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

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**Kelly Lush**

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**From:** AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>  
**Sent:** November 6, 2024 10:05 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** AMCTO Legislative Express

*Fall legislative and policy updates*

View this email [in your browser](#).



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## Legislative Express

Learn about legislation updates affecting Ontario municipalities

November 6, 2024

### In this issue...

- [Introductions and Highlights](#)
- [Policy Spotlight](#)
- [Policy Updates](#)
- [Bills and Lawmaking](#)
- [Resources](#)

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## Introduction & Highlights

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After an extended summer break, the Ontario legislature returned on October 21<sup>st</sup>, coinciding with Local Government Week - a fitting start to the fall session to have the provincial representatives return with municipalities in mind. We had been eagerly awaiting the legislature's return with expectations that the Province will follow through on a number of municipal priorities including

municipal code of conduct/harassment legislation and Bill 194, *Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act*.

When it comes to Bill 194, throughout the spring session and again at the AMO Conference in August, we made it known to the Province that municipalities experience different challenges, and as such there needs to be extensive consultation with municipalities to bring forward concerns and perspectives of municipal members as regulations and other tools are being developed with respect to artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity.

Here are a few other legislative developments and opportunities we're following closely this fall:

- The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing received the Provincial Integrity Commissioner's (IC's) recommendations to improve accountability for municipal council member conduct. While the IC's report is not public, news sources provided the details where recommendations include: a single, standardized code of conduct for all municipalities, required training, a central database of completed inquiries, and a system to assist smaller municipalities with costs, among others. The Minister advised that legislation will be drafted and presented as soon as possible. In September, we **wrote to the Integrity Commissioner** to remind him of the recommendations we made during the 2021 Provincial Consultation.
- Bill 194 was referred to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy where time allocation was applied - meaning that there will only be two days of hearings, set for November 14 & 15, 2024. At this point, submissions and presentations to the Committee will be considered, and there may be an opportunity **to reiterate comments and concerns** of members related to the Bill's proposals and the importance of modernizing the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)*.
- Recommendations and details about changes to service delivery in Peel Region, specifically services being downloaded to local municipalities, is anticipated to come forward, with changes potentially applying to other regions as well.

For the latest legislative and policy news and announcements, don't forget to subscribe to our **policy blog!**

## **Ontario Fall Economic Statement**

Last week, the Minister of Finance released the **Fall Economic Statement**. Among progress and recently announced programs and funding for municipalities, it most notably included an increase to the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). Municipal advocates have been calling on the Province to increase and index the unconditional fund that supports small, rural, and northern municipalities. While the Province has yet to index the fund to inflation, it will increase by \$100 million over the next two years. Additionally, the Province will begin consultations with municipalities about their priorities and the implementation of a reporting framework. Should you

have any comments or suggestions with respect to OMPF reporting that AMCTO can bring forward, please [contact our advocacy team](#).

While we have seen more funding for municipalities when it comes to infrastructure, recreation, emergency services, and transportation, these fall short of addressing the increasing demand and complexity of other legislatively-required services such as freedom of information and municipal elections. Municipalities require legislative policy solutions and amendments that equip and empower them to respond to modern challenges. As we advocate for our members during the Province's 2025 budget consultation and a potential early election, these will be top of mind.

### ***Municipal Elections Act (MEA) Modernization***

One way we continue to push municipal issues to the forefront of the Provincial agenda is through council resolutions and letters to the Province. Thank you to the municipalities (56 and counting) that have put forward council resolutions and municipal leaders who sent letters supporting our call for modernization of the *Municipal Elections Act (MEA)*. Your support is appreciated and has helped us bring together more voices in support of amending the legislation. We recommended to the ministry that updates should be made by spring 2025 at the latest. To help strengthen the case that municipalities agree on the need for change and drive the Province to action, check out the resources available in our *MEA* Modernization toolkit.

[ACCESS THE TOOLKIT](#)

### ***New Resource: Clerk's Legislative & Regulatory Responsibilities***

It goes without saying that while clerks play a central role in municipal elections administration, the legislative and regulatory responsibilities of the clerk extend far beyond elections into dozens of areas of municipal service. This was most recently highlighted during our fall Municipal Clerks Forum, showcasing that municipal clerks across the province serve as leaders in various capacities. That is why earlier this fall, we released our Clerk's Legislative and Regulatory Responsibilities Resource to support members in understanding their legislative and regulatory duties. This resource provides a comprehensive overview of what clerks in Ontario are required to do under various statutes, along with identifying the circumstances where other governments or organizations are required to provide clerks with information.

Treasurers, we are initiating a similar resource for you which we hope to release early in the new year. Stay tuned for more details to come!

[LEARN MORE](#)

### ***Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Customer Service Standards Consultation***

Recognizing the important role and responsibility municipalities have in ensuring services are accessible to all customers, we also hear about the corresponding challenges in implementing and complying with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*, namely regarding website accessibility. The Province's Customer Service Standards Development Committee reviewed the provincial regulations on customer service standards and has **launched a consultation** on its initial recommendations report that focuses on improving Ontario's existing accessibility standards to further reduce and prevent accessibility barriers in customer service.

We are considering providing a submission but want to hear from you - review our member discussion forum and guiding questions linked below. Our team will be collecting feedback from now until **Friday, November 29**.

**PROVIDE YOUR INPUT**

## Policy Spotlight

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Last month, we presented 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 and chief administrative officers (CAOs) across the province.

Strong mayor powers are undoubtedly changing political-administrative relationships within municipalities, impacting senior leaders and staff. With this in turn putting good local governance at risk, we continue to oppose strong mayor powers related to the CAO and staff, and call on the Province to work towards better legislative solutions to meet local governance objectives. The solution lies in strengthening municipal administration. Thank you to the municipalities who participated in our survey. It is only with your input that we can truly shed light on the impacts to municipal services, staff and communities.

Our 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

**ACCESS TOOLKIT**

## Policy Updates

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### **Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario Releases Report on Addressing Misinformation and Disinformation Threats -**

There is a new report from Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer, Greg Essensa, on misinformation and disinformation threats to election administration in Ontario.

[READ MORE](#)

### **Lottery Licensing Update to Youth Amateur Sport Eligibility -**

Effective October 7, 2024, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) updated the age requirement for eligible youth amateur sport organizations who wish to apply for a charitable lottery licence.

[READ MORE](#)

### **Province Introduces *Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act***

- Minister of Transportation, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria introduced Bill 212 which aims to reduce traffic congestion and make commuting easier. Among other changes, the proposed legislation would allow the Province to insert itself into municipal decision-making regarding new bike lanes.

[READ MORE](#)

### **Ombudsman's New Guide for Municipalities -**

Ombudsman Ontario released a new municipal resource *Codes of Conduct and Integrity Commissioners: Guide for Municipalities*. The guide, which intends to prevent future complaints and promote consistent standards across the province, combines and condenses existing resources into a single handbook.

[READ MORE](#)

### **Lottery Licensing Update to Split the Pot 50/50 Raffles -**

Effective September 20, 2024, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario updated the 50/50 framework to permit charities to split the 50% prize pot between multiple winners.

[READ MORE](#)

**New *Line Fences Act* Guidebook** - Measures aimed at reducing red tape with the stated goal of building more housing were introduced in Bill 185, *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024* in April and the bill received Royal Assent in June.

[READ MORE](#)

**Updated Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) Code of Procedure** - The updated Code for appeals under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)* and the

[READ MORE](#)



*Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)* intends to provide provisions to secure the most fair, just, and expeditious determination on the merits of every Appeal, came into effect Monday, September 9, 2024.

## Bills & Lawmaking

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### *Bills Passed & Government Bills:*

**Bill 216, *Building Ontario For You Act (Budget Measures), 2024*** - (Second Reading Debated) The Bill will implement budget measures outlined in the fall economic outlook, amending several statutes including the *Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation Act*, and *Municipal Act*, among others.

[READ MORE](#)

**Bill 214, *Affordable Energy Act, 2024*** - (Second Reading Debated) The Bill proposes amendments to *Electricity Act*, *Ontario Energy Board Act*, and *Energy Consumer Protection Act* to implement an integrated energy plan, prioritize zero-emissions nuclear energy, expand the energy efficiency program, supporting the adoption of electronic vehicles (EVs) and reduce costs for last mile connections.

[READ MORE](#)

**Bill 212, *Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act, 2024*** - (Second Reading Debated) The Bill intends to build highway and infrastructure faster to reduce traffic making various amendments to environmental assessment processes, *Building Broadband Faster Act* as well as municipal bike lanes.

[READ MORE](#)

**Bill 197, *Safer Roads and Communities Act, 2024*** - (Referred to Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy) The Bill makes various amendments to the *Highway Traffic Act* related to targeting high-risk driving, fighting vehicle theft, enforcing commercial vehicle safety and travelling safely.

[READ MORE](#)

**Bill 194, *Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act, 2024*** - (Referred to Standing Committee on Justice Policy) The proposed *Act* addresses cyber security and artificial intelligence systems at public sector entities within the meaning of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and*

[READ MORE](#)

*Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)*, children's aid societies and school boards.

**Bill 190, *Working for Workers Five Act, 2024*** - (Royal Assent Received) An Act to amend various statutes including the *Employment Standards Act* and *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, with respect to employment and labour and other matters.

[READ MORE](#)

*Private Members Bills:*

**Bill 219, *No Free Ride for Fossil Fuels Act, 2024*** - (First Reading Ordered for Second Reading) Introduced by the Green Party, the Bill proposes to amend the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* with respect to fees and charges imposed on gas services and activities.

[READ MORE](#)

**Bill 207, *Municipal Accountability and Integrity Act, 2024*** - (First Reading Ordered for Second Reading) Introduced by Jeff Burch of the New Democratic Party (NDP), the Bill proposes to amend the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* with respect to conduct of councillors and members of local boards.

[READ MORE](#)

**Bill 204, *Homelessness Task Force Act, 2024*** - (First Reading Ordered for Second Reading) Introduced by the NDP, the proposed Act requires the Minister to establish a Homelessness Task Force comprised of members, appointed by the Minister, from specified groups.

[READ MORE](#)

## Resources

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**Advocacy & Policy Resources for Members** - As an AMCTO member, you have access to additional policy tools and resources available on our website. Sign in to view the latest reports, guides, research papers and more.

[READ MORE](#)



AMCTO | The Municipal Experts

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## Kelly Lush

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** November 7, 2024 10:02 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - November 7, 2024



November 07, 2024

- ERO posting on changes to excess soils regulations.
- ERO posting on proposed changes to energy legislation.
- Emergency Treatment Fund - Deadline November 8.
- Applications open for Codes Acceleration Fund.
- ROMA 2025 Annual Conference - *Rural Routes* - Request delegation meetings.
- ROMA 2025 *Rural Routes*: ROMA Exhibit Hall is close to sold out!
- Register for a discounted AMO Workshop at the ROMA Conference.
- Plan your professional development for 2025 with AMO Education Workshops.
- Outdoor Ice: Managing Risk Related to Skating Rinks webinar.
- New Where to Recycle map.
- OAITH Wrapped in Courage Campaign
- Early rate pricing for HSC's 2025 Regeneration Forum.
- Webinar for municipalities on LT2 energy procurements.
- Food waste: Initiatives Leading Change Symposium.
- Careers.

### Provincial Matters

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is [seeking comments](#) on proposed changes to excess soil management to remove barriers for the reuse of soil. Comments are due November 21.

The Ministry of Energy and Electrification is seeking comments on [proposed legislative amendments](#) to related to integrated energy planning and affordability measures. Comments are due November 22.

### Federal Matters

The [Call for Proposals for the Emergency Treatment Fund](#) is open until November 8. Proposals should address urgent needs related to the overdose crisis in individual communities.

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.

### Education Opportunities

Municipal officials can now request delegation meetings through MMAH for the ROMA Conference. [Details on how to request a delegation meeting is here.](#)

Book your trade show booth today to connect with over 1,500 rural municipal leaders at the 2025 ROMA Conference. Limited spaces available. Download the [exhibitor package](#) or [sponsorship package](#) today.

AMO's [Two Keys to Municipal Success: Sustainability & Engagement](#) workshop is a specially designed session focusing on strategies for planning your organizations financial sustainability and how to successfully communicate to and engage your community on your plan and efforts. Take advantage of the discounted rate to engage with colleagues from across the province. Session offered at the ROMA Conference on Saturday, January 18 from 2:00pm-5:00pm onsite.

To help you plan your time and budget for 2025, registration is now open for a number of AMO Education's in-demand workshops, including: [Foundations in Planning](#) February 13 and [Advanced Land Use Planning](#) March 6, [Indigenous Community Awareness](#) February 19, [Navigating Conflict](#) March 19, and [Disability Inclusion](#) March 27. View all workshop opportunities at [AMO Education](#).

### **LAS**

On November 12, 11:00 AM our special guest, ORFA's Director Training, Research and Development, Terry Piche, will explore and discuss outdoor ice risks including skating rinks, skating trails and more. [Register here](#).

### **Municipal Wire\***

Add this new Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority '[Where to Recycle](#)' map to your municipalities' websites and communications materials. Get answers to your questions at this [FAQ](#).

The [campaign](#) from the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses educates community and elected officials about violence against women and the services needed. Make a proclamation on November 25.

HSC's 2025 [Regeneration Forum: Levelling Up - New Approaches to Transform Housing](#) is showcasing strategies to sustain and grow the community housing sector. Dive into finance, scale, and development on February 27-28 in Toronto.

The IESO is [hosting a webinar](#) on November 13 for municipalities and Indigenous communities to provide information, answer questions, and solicit input on the upcoming LT2 procurements.

Join Ontario Food Collaborative's [virtual symposium](#) on November 21, 2024, to explore impactful food waste solutions, practical tips, and the true costs of waste with industry experts.

### **Careers**

[Procurement & Resource Planning Specialist - Municipality of Red Lake](#). Closing Date: November 30, 2024.

[Deputy Chief, EMS Professional Standards - City of Thunder Bay](#). Closing Date: November 20, 2024.

[Truck and Coach/Automotive Technician - City of Thunder Bay](#). Closing Date: November 21, 2024.

[Manager, IT Service Delivery - Peel Regional Police](#). Closing Date: November 17, 2024.

[Utility Operator Level II/III - Municipality of Souris-Glenwood](#). Closing Date: November 15, 2024.

[Manager of Infrastructure Services - Town of Cochrane](#). Closing Date: November 22, 2024.

[Treasurer - Town of Cochrane](#). Closing Date: November 22, 2024.

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### **About AMO**

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**Kelly Lush**

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** November 7, 2024 4:56 PM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Encampments and Opioid Crisis



## **AMO Policy Update - Encampments and Opioid Crisis**

### **Comprehensive Provincial Approach Needed to Make Tangible Progress on Homeless Encampments and the Opioid Crisis**

Municipalities across Ontario understand the need for urgent action to address both the rising number of homeless encampments and the opioid crisis. There are more than 1400 encampments across the province. We can do better for our most vulnerable Ontarians and our broader communities.

Decades of isolated policy decisions made by successive provincial governments have compounded problems. More people are facing income insecurity. Health care and mental health demands are not being met. Help with addiction is hard to get. Affordable housing is desperately needed everywhere.

We need provincial action that is going to help the Ontarians who are struggling today and also tackle the root causes of homelessness so the crisis does not continue to grow.

Earlier this year, AMO released two policy papers calling for provincial action on the [opioid crisis](#) and [homeless encampments](#). AMO engaged with municipal members, police, paramedics, and mental

health and addictions and housing experts over the course of months to identify the suite of actions needed.

This is a complex problem that won't be solved by simple, short-term solutions. We need a comprehensive approach, including:

- Provincial guidance that supports an appropriate and consistent approach to encampments across the province;
- Improvements to the income security system that leave too many living in poverty, and more than 1 million people in Ontario using food banks last year;
- Significant investments in deeply affordable housing and supportive housing;
- Long-term, sustainable, and substantial investment in prevention programs;
- Expanding access to voluntary and evidence-based treatment with same-day access and scaling up 24/7 crisis centres; and,
- Ensuring local say on the harm reduction approaches needed within local communities.

The current Ontario government did not create this crisis, but it has the resources and the wherewithal to take the comprehensive actions needed to solve it. Municipalities are ready to work together with the provincial government to tackle this systemic problem.

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*This policy update is also available on [AMO's Website](#).*

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**Sent:** November 14, 2024 10:02 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - November 14, 2024



November 14, 2024

- OEB Bulletin for re: new connections.
- Human Rights Impact Assessment for AI Tools.
- ERO posting on changes to excess soils regulations.
- ERO posting on proposed changes to energy legislation.
- Applications open for Codes Acceleration Fund.
- ROMA Conference: Rural Routes – Program Updates.
- Request Your Delegation Meeting at 2025 ROMA Conference by Deadline November 27 5:00pm.
- Tips to how to best prepare for your provincial delegation meetings at the ROMA Conference.
- ROMA 2025 *Rural Routes*: ROMA Exhibit Hall is almost sold out!
- Foundations in Planning & Advanced Land Use Planning – Winter Workshops.
- Indigenous Community Awareness – February 2025 Workshop.
- ROMA Pre-conference Workshop January 18 - Two Keys to Municipal Success.
- NEW Workshop! Apathy to Action: Building Resilient Communities through Managing Assets.
- NEW Workshop! Equity, Inclusion and Innovation in Municipalities, March 25.
- Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official - March 2025 Workshop.
- Disability Inclusion Virtual Workshop – March 27.
- Managing Communications through Crisis – April 2025 Workshop .
- Canoe webinar: Leveraging Stakeholder Relationships for Procurement Success.
- Lighting upgrades in 2025? Talk to LAS!
- New Where to Recycle map.
- OAITH Wrapped in Courage Campaign.
- HSC's 2025 Regeneration Forum: Levelling Up – Transforming Housing.
- Food waste: Initiatives Leading Change Symposium.
- AdvantAge Annual Seniors' Housing Forum.
- Careers.

### Provincial Matters

The Ontario Energy Board has [issued a bulletin](#) to electricity distributors providing guidance and expectations for meeting obligations to ensure new connections are timely.

The Law Commission of Ontario, and Ontario Human Rights Commission have developed [an assessment toolkit](#) to help organizations implementing AI systems ensure systems are designed to avoid discrimination and encourage compliance with human rights requirements.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is [seeking comments](#) on proposed changes to excess soil management to remove barriers for the reuse of soil. Comments are due November 21.

The Ministry of Energy and Electrification is seeking comments on [proposed legislative amendments](#) to

related to integrated energy planning and affordability measures. Comments are due November 22.

### **Federal Matters**

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.

### **Education Opportunities**

ROMA is pleased to share the 2025 conference concurrent sessions. Sessions are designed from the rural perspective, highlighting solutions and innovation for rural communities. [Register for the ROMA Conference today.](#)

MMAH is now accepting requests for delegations at the ROMA Conference. [Details on how to request a delegation meeting is here.](#)

AMO has developed a guide for municipal officials to request, prepare for and attend delegation meetings with provincial officials. Download the guide [here.](#)

The ROMA conference exhibit hall connects with over 1,500 attendees from rural Ontario municipalities. With the exhibit hall almost sold out, book your trade show booth today. Download the [exhibitor package](#) today.

[Foundations in Land Use Planning](#) familiarizes participants with legislation, land use planning 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 through instructor lead instruction and group discussion.

The OFIFC and AMO workshop provides historical and current insight and knowledge into the damage brought to Indigenous communities. This workshop builds understanding and insight that is critical to developing strong, productive, and meaningful relationships between municipalities and Indigenous leaders and communities. Through a self-paced learning module and live virtual component, this workshop will provide knowledge and tools to utilize in moving improved and stronger Indigenous-municipal relations forward in Ontario. [Register today](#) for the February 19 workshop.

AMO's [Two Keys to Municipal Success: Sustainability & Engagement](#) workshop explores strategies for planning your organizations financial sustainability and how to successfully communicate to and engage your community on your plan and efforts.

Asset management is about making informed, evidence-based decisions that help you allocate limited resources effectively and prioritize infrastructure investments. The [Apathy to Action: Building Resilient Communities through Managing Assets](#) interactive workshop offers municipally elected officials the opportunity to explore how asset management not only fulfills legislative requirements but also enhances decision-making and strengthens service delivery.

The [Equity, Inclusion and Innovation in Municipalities workshop](#) examines the importance and opportunities in embedding equity, inclusion and innovation within municipal decision-making processes, policies, and innovations. Explore practical strategies to create a more inclusive and equitable leadership approach and municipal organization.

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.

AMO Education has partnered with the Abilities Centre to deliver a workshop designed to enhance your understanding and approach to inclusion. Register for this important [Disability Inclusion Workshop.](#)

Your community elected you to provide sound and confident leadership in the best interest of your community. During a crisis, this approach to leadership is critical. AMO's workshop on [Managing Communications through Crisis](#) provides insight and tools to support in being this leader.

### **LAS**

The [Canoe Procurement Group](#) is hosting a [member-only](#) webinar on November 26 at 11am EST. Join Procurement Manager Stephanie Dion and Contract Manager Tony DeSciscio to explore how building trust and engaging stakeholders can enhance your procurement team's role. [Register here](#).

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.

### **Municipal Wire\***

Add this new Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority '[Where to Recycle](#)' map to your municipalities' websites and communications materials. Get answers to your questions at this [FAQ](#).

The [campaign](#) from the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses educates community and elected officials about violence against women and the services needed. Make a proclamation on November 25.

[HSC's 2025 Regeneration Forum: Levelling Up – New Approaches to Transform Housing](#) is showcasing strategies to sustain and grow the community housing sector. Dive into finance, scale, and development on February 27-28 in Toronto.

Join Ontario Food Collaborative's [virtual symposium](#) on November 21, 2024, to explore impactful food waste solutions, practical tips, and the true costs of waste with industry experts.

Expanding Living Options for Seniors will be held virtually on November 22 from 8:45 am – 2:30 pm. The event shares transformative solutions in seniors' supportive housing and care. Register [here](#).

### **Careers**

[Chief Administrative Officer - Municipality of Red Lake](#). Closing Date: December 12

[Administrative Assistant to the Director - City of Vaughan](#). Closing Date: November 25.

[General Manager of Operations - County of Brant](#). Closing Date: December 2

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### **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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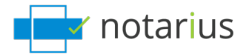
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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** November 19, 2024 6:46 PM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – NDP Motion on Municipal Fiscal Sustainability, Mental Health and Addictions, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure



## **AMO Policy Update – NDP Motion on Municipal Fiscal Sustainability, Mental Health and Addictions, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure**

### **NDP Motion Calling for a New Deal with Ontario’s Municipalities**

Yesterday, the NDP [tabled a motion](#) calling on the provincial government to reach a new deal with Ontario municipalities to address downloaded provincial costs in areas such as housing and healthcare.

AMO welcomes this acknowledgement that the current provincial-municipal fiscal framework does not support sustainable communities or the quality of life of their residents. AMO has been calling for a [Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#) to update our fiscal relationship. Municipalities need a provincial partner that will:

- **Sustainably invest in public infrastructure** to support growth, improve transportation, and prepare for the impacts of climate change.
- **Reduce the province's continued reliance on municipal revenues** to fund provincial programs, like health and social services, so municipal tax dollars can go toward supporting thriving communities.

- **Take action on the root causes of homelessness** through investments in mental health and addictions programming and improved income security that allows people to keep a roof over their heads.

## **Response to Provincial Bike Lanes Legislation**

Yesterday, AMO's Executive Director Brian Rosborough presented [remarks](#) to the legislature highlighting concerns with Bill 212, *the Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act*.

AMO views the provincial proposal to remove and block bike lands in specific locations as misguided and an ineffective way of addressing congestion. The development of a balanced transportation network that includes a broad mix of roads, cycling paths, sidewalks, and public transit options is an exercise best left to municipalities, based on their in-depth understanding of municipal infrastructure, community needs, and long-term growth plans.

AMO also submitted written [comments](#) to the Committee calling on the province to abandon the proposal.

## **Bill 223, *Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act***

Minister Kerzner tabled [Bill 223, \*Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act\*](#), which includes previously announced changes to supervised consumption sites in Ontario. The legislation would:

- Prohibit any supervised consumption site from operating within 200 metres of a school, childcare centre, or EarlyON centre. This change would close 10 sites currently operating in Ontario.
- It would also require municipalities to seek provincial approval before requesting federal approval or renewal of supervised consumption site or funding for safer supply programs. This means that supervised consumption sites not currently impacted by the 200m limit could be impacted once provincial approval for renewal is required.
- Municipalities would also require provincial approval to publicly support, including through by-laws or resolutions, any other organization seeking to open a supervised consumption site or safer supply program.

As outlined in AMO's July Report, [The Opioid Crisis: a Municipal Perspective](#), tackling a problem as complex as the opioid crisis requires a comprehensive approach, including harm reduction supports that make sense for local communities. Municipalities – in collaboration with health, police, and other partners – are best positioned to decide whether supervised consumption sites are right for their communities.

## **Ontario Expanding Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel**

As employers of first responders, municipalities are faced with the financial obligations associated with work-related mental health injuries. AMO was pleased to see a \$32 million investment through a new Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel program and the creation of an Anti-Stigma Strategy for first responders and public safety personnel.

The program will include a web portal to access core services, access to a 24/7 call-line and other trauma-informed mental health services. Grants for employers will also be provided to help subsidize the costs of these additional programs and services. A call for applications, inviting organizations to apply for funding under the grant, will be rolled out in early 2025.

## **Proposed Integrated Energy Plan for Ontario**

AMO [presented to the legislature](#) in support of Bill 214, *Affordable Energy Act*, that makes progress on a plan to grow clean and affordable electricity capacity in Ontario. Key priorities include:

- Urging to the province to commit to a 2050 net-zero emissions target;
- Endorsing community benefit agreements between municipalities and energy proponents as part of procurement processes related to generation, storage and transmission projects;
- Ensuring the costs and risks of new last mile energy infrastructure are not transferred to municipalities or local distribution corporations.

AMO also [submitted comments](#) supporting enhanced funding to municipalities and local distribution corporations (LDCs) to implement local energy efficiency measures.



## Cyber Security and MFIPPA

AMO [submitted comments](#) to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy on Bill 194, *Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act*. The bill proposes changes that would establish a cyber security framework for broader public sector entities including municipalities, school boards, and hospitals.

AMO highlighted the need to balance strong data and privacy protection with the flexibility needed to allow municipalities to put systems in place, and act quickly when cyber-threats are identified. AMO also commented on the long-standing need to update MFIPPA, particularly around frivolous and vexatious requests.

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*This policy update is also available on [AMO's Website](#).*

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## Kelly Lush

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** November 21, 2024 10:02 AM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - November 21, 2024



November 21, 2024

- Human Rights AI Impact Assessment tools.
- OMAFA webinar on land-use siting for energy projects.
- ERO posting on changes to excess soils regulations.
- ERO posting on proposed changes to energy legislation.
- ERO Posting on changes to electricity system connection infrastructure.
- Integrated Energy Resource Plan Consultation.
- Intake announcement - Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- ROMA Conference: *Rural Routes* - Program updates.
- ROMA Conference: *Rural Routes* - Request your delegation meetings.
- ROMA Pre-conference workshop January 18 - Two Keys to Municipal Success.
- ROMA Conference: *Rural Routes* - Exhibit Hall is almost sold out!
- Foundations in Planning & Advanced Land Use Planning - winter workshops.
- Indigenous Community Awareness, February 2025 workshop.
- NEW! Apathy to Action: Building Resilient Communities through Managing Assets workshop.
- NEW! Equity, Inclusion and Innovation in Municipalities, March 25 workshop.
- Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official, March 2025 workshop.
- Disability Inclusion, March 27 virtual workshop .
- Managing Communications through Crisis, April 2025 workshop.
- Canoe webinar: Leveraging Stakeholder Relationships for Procurement Success.
- Use Canoe for easy budget pricing.
- Plan for your 2025 road need study now.
- Blog: Fortifying Your Municipality Against Cyber Threats.
- Enbridge Gas Integrated Resource Planning webinars - Register TODAY!
- New Where to Recycle map.
- OAITH Wrapped in Courage campaign.
- HSC's 2025 Regeneration Forum: *Levelling Up - Transforming Housing*.
- AdvantAge Annual Seniors' Housing Forum.
- Careers and RFP.

### Provincial Matters

The Law Commission of Ontario and Ontario Human Rights Commission have developed an [assessment toolkit](#) to help organizations implementing AI systems ensure systems are designed to avoid discrimination and encourage compliance with human rights requirements.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agri-Business are hosting [a webinar](#) with the IESO on November 21 to provide information and answer questions about renewable energy project siting.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is [seeking comments](#) on proposed changes to

excess soil management to remove barriers for the reuse of soil. Comments are due November 21.

The Ministry of Energy and Electrification is [seeking comments](#) on proposed legislative amendments to related to integrated energy planning and affordability measures. Comments are due November 22.

The Ministry of Energy and Electrification is [seeking comments](#) on proposed regulatory changes that will shift the cost and risk burden of funding new distribution infrastructure from first-movers. Comments are due December 7.

The Ministry of Energy and Electrification is [seeking comments](#) to inform the development of a provincial energy plan to guide the transition to a clean, reliable, affordable energy supply. Comments are due December 13.

### **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.

### **Education Opportunities**

ROMA is pleased to share the 2025 conference [concurrent sessions](#). Sessions are designed from the rural perspective, highlighting solutions and innovation for rural communities. [Register for the ROMA Conference today](#).

MMAH is now accepting requests for delegations at the ROMA Conference. [Details on how to request a delegation meeting is here](#).

AMO's [Two Keys to Municipal Success: Sustainability & Engagement](#) workshop explores strategies for planning your organizations financial sustainability and how to successfully communicate to and engage your community on your plan and efforts.

The ROMA conference exhibit hall connects with over 1,500 attendees from rural Ontario municipalities. With the exhibit hall almost sold out, book your trade show booth today. Download the [exhibitor package](#) today.

[Foundations in Land Use Planning](#) familiarizes participants with legislation, land use planning 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 through instructor lead instruction and group discussion.

The OFIFC and AMO workshop provides historical and current insight and knowledge into the damage brought to Indigenous communities. This workshop builds understanding and insight that is critical to developing strong, productive, and meaningful relationships between municipalities and Indigenous leaders and communities. Through a self-paced learning module and live virtual component, this workshop will provide knowledge and tools to utilize in moving improved and stronger Indigenous-municipal relations forward in Ontario. [Register today](#) for the February 19 workshop.

Asset management is about making informed, evidence-based decisions that help you allocate limited resources effectively and prioritize infrastructure investments. The [Apathy to Action: Building Resilient Communities through Managing Assets](#) interactive workshop offers municipally elected officials the opportunity to explore how asset management not only fulfills legislative requirements but also enhances decision-making and strengthens service delivery.

The [Equity, Inclusion and Innovation in Municipalities workshop](#) examines the importance and opportunities in embedding equity, inclusion and innovation within municipal decision-making processes, policies, and innovations. Explore practical strategies to create a more inclusive and equitable leadership approach and municipal organization.

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.

AMO Education has partnered with the Abilities Centre to deliver a workshop designed to enhance your understanding and approach to inclusion. Register for this important [Disability Inclusion Workshop](#).

Your community elected you to provide sound and confident leadership in the best interest of your community. During a crisis, this approach to leadership is critical. AMO's workshop on [Managing Communications through Crisis](#) provides insight and tools to support in being this leader.

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Planning your 2025 budget? The [Canoe Procurement Group](#) makes it easy to get pricing for the goods and services you plan to purchase next year. Provide Council with accurate numbers and avoid unpleasant surprises when the time comes to buy. [Contact Sarah](#) to learn more.

Is a [Road or Sidewalk Assessment](#) part of your 2025 plan? [Contact Tanner](#) to learn more and get a no-obligation quote for a high-quality service with LAS partner Streetscan. Get better data to make better decisions.

According to the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security, [ransomware is the most disruptive form of cybercrime](#) currently impacting North America. These cyber-attacks not only disrupt services but can also lead to significant financial losses and an erosion of public trust.

## **Municipal Wire\***

Enbridge Gas' Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) webinars will provide an overview of what IRP is, their system planning process, stakeholder engagement process and the latest on their pilot project. Register [region](#).

Add this new Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority '[Where to Recycle](#)' map to your municipalities' websites and communications materials. Get answers to your questions at this [FAQ](#).

The *Wrapped in Courage* [campaign](#) from the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses educates community and elected officials about violence against women and the services needed. Make a proclamation on November 25.

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Expanding Living Options for Seniors will be held virtually on November 22 from 8:45 am - 2:30 pm. The event shares transformative solutions in seniors' supportive housing and care. Register [here](#).

## **Careers and RFPs**

[Request for Proposals for the provision of Assertive Street Outreach Services - County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: December 16, 2024.

[Director of Operations and Development - Town of Tillsonburg](#). Closing Date: November 29, 2024.

[Foreperson, District Parks - City of Brampton](#). Closing Date: November 25, 2024

[Town Manager/Clerk - Township of Black River-Matheson](#). Closing Date: November 30, 2024.

[Director of Public Services - Township of Black River-Matheson](#). Closing Date: November 30, 2024.

[Treasurer - Township of Black River-Matheson](#). Closing Date: November 30, 2024.

[Senior Project Manager - Ministry of Transportation](#). Closing Date: December 10, 2024.

[Director of Public Works - Oxford County](#). Closing Date: December 15, 2024.

[Manager of Public Works - Township of Lanark Highlands](#). Closing Date: November 29, 2024.

[Public Works Operations Supervisor - Township of Lanark Highlands](#). Closing Date: November 29, 2024.

[Waste Collection Program Co-Ordinator - City of Greater Sudbury](#). Closing Date: December 10, 2024.

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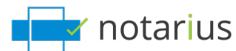
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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** November 22, 2024 1:36 PM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – 2024 Housing Targets in Ontario



## AMO Policy Update – 2024 Housing Targets in Ontario

Ontario is in a housing crisis and municipalities are doing everything in their power to increase housing supply and affordability while working towards the province’s ambitious target of building 1.5 million homes over 10 years. This year’s housing starts are predicted to be lower than provincial government targets and many may blame municipalities. AMO knows this is not true and has [defended against](#) reports or associations that have blamed municipal approval timelines and development charges as key issues in explaining declining housing starts.

As 2024 numbers are finalized, it will be important to remember that Ontario’s housing market is complex and under pressure from unanticipated population growth, interest rates, labour shortages and inflation that has outstripped wages. AMO has produced a [resource](#) to help lay out myth from reality to show that the solution to the housing affordability crisis will be found through collaboration between the province, municipalities, the development industry, and through industry innovation.

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*This policy update is also available on [AMO's Website](#).*

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**Kelly Lush**

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**From:** AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>  
**Sent:** November 22, 2024 10:03 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** Advocacy Update: AMCTO at Queen's Park and Recent Submissions

Updates on our advocacy initiatives

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## Advocacy Update

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

November 22, 2024

### Advocacy Update: AMCTO at Queen's Park & Recent Submissions

AMCTO has had a busy few weeks with visits to Queen's Park to discuss advocacy priorities on behalf of members. We delegated before the Standing Committee on Justice Policy as the only municipal representative regarding *Bill 194, Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act, 2024*. We also met with Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra, regarding our submission on the *Municipal Elections Act (MEA)* and discussed key issues like housing, municipal finance and strong mayor powers.

Our team has also been reviewing Provincial policies that continue to put municipalities' decision-making powers at risk and create unnecessary administrative burden for staff. Read more on this below.

## Presentation at Standing Committee

AMCTO was the only municipal representative invited to speak before the committee. On November 15, Executive Director, David Arbuckle spoke on behalf of the Association to reinforce the need to modernize legislation and provide recommendations where we see opportunities for improvement.

As members will recall, [we submitted comments](#) to the Government's regulatory posting on *Bill 194, Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act, 2024*. In addition to making recommendations related to the Bill, David spoke about the need to future-proof the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)*. As we noted in our [MFIPPA submission earlier this year](#), the legislation is over 30 years old, has not been comprehensively reviewed and regulations still contain outdated technology references (i.e. CD-ROMs). We had also flagged that the legislation was not equipped to manage changes to technology like artificial intelligence (AI) which is a key item within Bill 194.

While the Bill is a good first step towards enhancing digital security and establishing trust across public sector institutions, David highlighted:

- The interconnectedness between cybersecurity, AI, and privacy protection, and the need to modernize *MFIPPA* to reflect this connection.
- The differences in municipal digital maturity, capacity, and resources that need to be considered in the development of regulations.
- Municipalities and their staff will need adequate guidance and resources to support the implementation of requirements.
- The legislation should contain more information about responsible use and trustworthy AI principles.
- Regulations should be developed in collaboration with affected stakeholders including municipalities.

David also expressed that subject to collaborative consultation and having supportive resources in place, AMCTO supports extending similar proposed provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)* to *MFIPPA*. However, in its current form, *MFIPPA* is onerous, lacks clarity, creates additional unnecessary work, and is not equipped to consider important technology trends. Local government administrators need a modern *MFIPPA* before adding new provisions to an old *Act*.

The transcript of the committee proceedings will be available on the [Ontario Legislative Assembly website](#) soon.

There are still opportunities for municipal councils to endorse our recommendations. For a template resolution please see our [member toolkit](#), and don't forget to copy us in your correspondence to the minister.

## Meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

We were pleased to meet with Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra, on November 18 to continue to advocate for changes to the *MEA* ahead of the 2026 municipal and school board elections.

We were happy to hear that the Minister was receptive to making changes to the *MEA* and agreed with us that it needs a comprehensive review. While no timelines were provided, we remain hopeful that some amendments to the *Act* can be made in time for the 2026 elections. We have emphasized to the ministry since the release of our [submission in April](#) that changes to the *Act* would ideally come by spring 2025 to avoid significant impacts to elections planning that is already well underway.

We also took the opportunity to reinforce our concerns about the [impacts of strong mayor powers](#) on municipal professionals and organizational culture, specifically related to the role of the chief administrative officer (CAO), department heads, and organizational structure, as well as our concerns about the continued health and sustainability of local government administration.

There are still opportunities for municipal councils to endorse our *MEA* recommendations or for clerks to submit a letter to the ministry about their concerns with the legislation. Members can access these templates in [our toolkit](#).

## Other Submissions

We are concerned about the increasing encroachment of the Province on matters of local decision-making through policy initiatives that also place more administrative and cost burdens on municipalities and their staff.

As a result, we [submitted comments to the Government's proposal](#) related to bike lanes. While AMCTO does not traditionally comment on these matters, we believe the Provincial overreach and intrusion into local decision-making warranted a formal response.

We may make a similar submission related to schedule 4 of the new [Bill 223, Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act, 2024](#) which prevents municipalities from working with the federal government on safe consumption sites and requires applications to the Province for approvals for such sites.

We note that the sector continues to wait for the Province to act on areas where municipalities and their staff have requested support and resources. We will keep you, our members, informed of the Government's response and our next steps on these and other matters, and continue to advocate for the interests of the municipal profession and those dedicated to serving their communities.

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

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