

Kelly Lush

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: November 28, 2024 10:01 AM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AMO Watchfile - November 28, 2024



November 28, 2024

- Municipal Access Agreement Light Template webinar.
- Cyber Security Ontario launches Tabletop Exercise in a Box.
- ERO Posting on changes to electricity system connection infrastructure.
- Integrated Energy Resource Plan Consultation.
- Health Canada webinars on the overdose crisis.
- Intake announcement - Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- ROMA Program - Check out the *Rural Routes* programming.
- ROMA Pre-conference workshop January 18 - Two Keys to Municipal Success.
- AMO is here to support your leadership - 2025 Workshops.
- Canoe - your municipal sector partner.
- Blog: Turning the Tables on Food Waste.
- *HSC's 2025 Regeneration Forum: Levelling Up - Transforming Housing*.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO and Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) are [hosting a webinar](#) on December 3 to introduce a template to help small/medium municipalities negotiate broadband projects with Internet Service Providers.

Provincial Matters

Developed by Ontario's Cyber Security Centre of Excellence, [Tabletop Exercise \(TTX\) in a Box](#) is a free and on-demand tool designed for broader public sector organizations.

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

Health Canada is holding two 1.5 hour webinars at 1pm on December 3 and 10 about community-level responses to the overdose crisis. Email opioidresponse-interventionopioides@hc-sc.gc.ca to reserve your spot.

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

The 2025 ROMA Conference program is jammed full of top-notch sessions. Sessions are designed from the rural perspective, highlighting solutions and innovation for rural communities. Check out the program [here](#). [Register for the ROMA Conference today](#).

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. Register [here](#).

AMO continues to advance its education programming. [Here is a list](#) of what is on the calendar so far for 2025. Watch for new workshops including strategic asset management, equity, inclusion and innovation in municipalities, unlocking opportunity through human rights based planning and more.

LAS

The [Canoe Procurement Group](#) was built by municipalities for municipalities. As a not-for profit, they are your key buying partner offering products you use everyday - from Aggregates to Zambonis. Take a minute to see how Canoe will work for you. [Contact Sarah](#) today.

Municipal leaders are juggling a myriad of pressing issues. Amidst these, food waste management might seem like just another item on a long list of concerns. However, it's a critical issue that intersects with many broader municipal priorities. Read more [here](#).

Municipal Wire*

[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.

Careers

[Building Engineer/Architect - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: December 12, 2024

[Fire Chief / Chief Building Official - Township of Dubreuilville](#). Closing Date: December 18, 2024

[Municipal Integrity Commissioner - County of Prince Edward](#). Closing Date: December 9, 2024

[Manager, Communications & Public Relations - City of Thunder Bay](#). Closing Date: December 22, 2024

[Manager, Strategic Project Management Office - Ontario Securities Commission](#). Closing Date: December 6, 2024

[Chief Administrative Officer - City of Greater Sudbury](#). Closing Date: December 20, 2024.

[Fleet Data Analyst - Town of Oakville](#). Closing Date: December 9, 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!

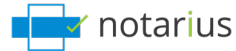
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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: November 29, 2024 4:16 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AMO Policy Update – OPP Billing, Bills



AMO Policy Update – OPP Billing, Bills

AMO and municipalities across Ontario have loudly advocated for provincial action to address the unmanageable increase in Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) costs for next year. AMO is proud to have worked closely with the government to address these concerns raised by municipalities. Today, the provincial government proposed more than \$77 million in 2025 to provide municipal budget relief and invest in Ontario’s communities.

The majority of Ontario's municipalities proudly partner with the Ontario Provincial Police to keep their communities safe. Ontarians already pay the highest policing costs in the country, and these additional costs were beyond municipal fiscal capacity to absorb. While AMO appreciates the provincial action to address this specific issue, a broader solution to the weakening foundations of municipal fiscal sustainability is critically needed. AMO continues to call on the province for a comprehensive review of the municipal-provincial fiscal framework that helps provide the services that Ontarians rely on every day, including policing.

AMO looks forward to continuing to work closely with the provincial government as they look forward to reviewing the OPP billing model to ensure it continues to meet the needs of communities across the province.

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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: December 5, 2024 10:02 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: AMO Watchfile - December 5, 2024



December 05, 2024

- AMO President Robin Jones provides highlights from Board meeting.
- ERO Posting on changes to electricity system connection infrastructure.
- Integrated Energy Resource Plan Consultation.
- Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) with new funding.
- Health Canada webinars on the overdose crisis.
- Intake announcement - Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- ROMA Program - Check out the *Rural Routes* programming.
- ROMA Pre-conference workshop January 18 - Two Keys to Municipal Success.
- AMO is here to support your leadership - 2025 Workshops.
- The NWMO announces future site for Canada's deep geological repository.
- Webinar on risk management for Battery Energy Storage Systems.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO President Robin Jones [provides highlights](#) from the November 29 Board meeting, including an update on AMO's provincial election strategy and continued advocacy for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review.

Provincial Matters

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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

Municipalities with populations 30,000 and under can now access the CRIS expert-matching service to get funded expert advice on how to build climate-resilient infrastructure plans and projects. Apply [here](#).

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Municipal Wire*

The [Nuclear Waste Management Organization](#) has selected Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) and the Township of Ignace as the host communities for the future site for Canada's deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel.

Energy Storage Canada and Marsh are hosting [a webinar](#) on risk identification and management for battery energy storage system (BESS) projects on December 9, 10:00 am.

Careers

[Director, Laboratory Services Branch - Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks](#). Closing Date: December 20, 2024.

[Municipal Planner - City of Temiskaming Shores](#). Closing Date: December 29, 2024.

[Administrator, Pioneer Ridge - City of Thunder Bay](#). Closing Date: December 27, 2024.

[Chief Administrative Officer - City of Greater Sudbury](#). Closing Date: December 20, 2024.

About AMO

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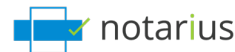
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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: December 5, 2024 4:57 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Submission, Advocacy on Water, Recent Bills and Building Officials



AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Submission, Advocacy on Water, Recent Bills and Building Officials

AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Submission Preview

AMO understands that the provincial-municipal fiscal framework is broken. Municipalities across Ontario are facing immense pressure this budget season, largely created by growing costs in areas of provincial jurisdiction. For almost a year, AMO has been calling for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. Unfortunately, the provincial government has not come to the table. However, we know the problem remains and we are evolving our strategy.

AMO sent a [letter](#) to all elected AMO members, CAOs, and Treasurers highlighting the key elements of our upcoming 2025 pre-budget submission. That submission will be released in mid-January and will call for provincial action in three key areas that would support municipal fiscal sustainability and improve quality of life for Ontarians:

- Long-term and predictable provincial investments in municipal infrastructure
- Reducing the province's reliance on municipal property taxes to fund health and social services
- Addressing the root causes of homelessness, building off an ambitious research project on homelessness that AMO and key partners will release in January

We know our sector is strongest when speaking with one unified voice. AMO will be following up in the coming weeks with a variety of communications tools to support member's participation in ROMA delegations, and advance municipal fiscal sustainability and homelessness priorities.

\$1 Billion Loan Program for Water Systems

The province recently [announced](#) a new Infrastructure Ontario financing program for water infrastructure projects that enable the construction of more homes.

This program will complement the existing provincial infrastructure funding programs that AMO has advocated for to achieve the province's ambitious

goal of 1.5 million new homes by 2031. This new financial tool for municipalities offers the following features:

- Flexible borrowing terms with deferred interest payments during construction
- Longer debenture repayment terms of up to 40 years
- More flexible repayment terms, and
- Lower administration costs

Applications will be open in early December and more details are available in a short [newsletter](#).

Omnibus Red Tape Reduction Bill

Bill 227, Cutting Red Tape, Building Ontario Act, 2024 was [introduced](#) on November 20 and includes a broad range of proposals from most ministries. Those impacting municipalities the most include:

- A new allowance for minor errors on forms and changes to prevent delays in decision-making could help reduce the Landlord and Tenant Board backlog
- Providing credit agencies access to Landlord and Tenant Board orders related to missed payments, which could help landlords make more informed decisions about prospective tenants

- Recent regulatory changes in support of Ontario One Call streamlined the dedicated locator model for broadband projects, potentially speeding up implementation and reducing costs. In response to feedback from our sector, some municipal underground infrastructure owners can now conduct their own locates instead of the broadband project owner. The province is seeking input on implementing these changes
- Proposals to streamline the release of Ontario Heritage Trust lands without heritage value and the approval process for brownfield development could help unlock more land for development. AMO has long advocated for the province to review its own processes and approvals to enable development and welcomes these efficiencies

Many other proposals are housekeeping amendments or have no direct impact on the municipal sector.

The bill was fast-tracked, bypassing public hearings. AMO will be commenting on some elements of the bill posted to the Environmental Registry.

Environmental Bill

Bill 228, Resource Management and Safety Act, 2024, was [introduced](#) on November 25 including a range of environmental proposals along with a proposal to help attract more surveyors to the profession in support of building safe and affordable housing options.

AMO will comment on elements of the Bill posted in various Environmental Registry proposals, focusing on:

- Changes that could impact municipalities' activities in wildland fire management and require new resources. AMO will advocate for the province to absorb any new costs
- Commending the province for taking action on climate change with its proposal for commercial carbon storage projects. AMO will support the proposed municipal role in decision-making for these projects
- Support for protecting communities from the hazards of deteriorating oil and gas wells

Support for Removing Barriers for Qualified Building Officials

AMO supported the government's proposal to streamline the process for qualified Manitoba building officials to work in Northern Ontario in its Environmental Registry [comments](#). AMO also continued to advocate for measures that will attract and retain building officials to address the shortage across the province.

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

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: December 6, 2024 11:43 AM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Gender-Based Violence Toolkit



AMO Policy Update – Gender-Based Violence Toolkit

AMO Releases Toolkit of Gender-Based Violence Resources for Municipal Elected Officials

Today is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. To mark this day, AMO is proud to launch a toolkit of [Gender-Based Violence Resources for Elected Officials](#). Municipalities play a multifaceted role in addressing gender-based violence through their roles in public safety, community outreach, resource planning, and service delivery.

In 2023, AMO joined over 90 of our members in recognizing that gender-based and intimate partner violence is an epidemic in Ontario that requires urgent and coordinated government action. We also recognize the disproportionate rates of intimate partner violence experienced by Indigenous women and the multiple barriers Indigenous women face when seeking help. By making this declaration, AMO recognizes that municipal governments are key partners in responding to issues of intimate partner violence, gender-based violence, and violence against Indigenous women and girls.

We have heard from many of our members that since making their declarations, they have grown, expanded, and initiated new responses to intimate partner violence and gender-based violence. This toolkit includes resources from organizations working in communities across the province and provides valuable resources to support elected officials in responding to gender-based violence in their communities.

In 2025, AMO will continue to provide members with opportunities to learn more about how their communities can address gender-based violence. Look out for more education opportunities coming soon in the new year.

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

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: December 12, 2024 12:23 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Homelessness Encampments Legislation



AMO Policy Update – Homelessness Encampments Legislation

Later today, the government will table bills to introduce the *Safer Municipalities Act* and the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act* that focus on increasing enforcement around encampments and public drug use. AMO will be closely reviewing the legislation when it is tabled.

The province also announced other measures intended to assist municipalities to address homelessness encampments:

- \$75.5 million in provincial and federal funding for housing and homelessness supports, including \$5.5 million to increase the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB), \$20 million for emergency shelters and temporary accommodation, and \$50 million for ready-to-build affordable housing projects.
- Additional requirements for municipal service managers to report back to the province on the number of individuals moved from encampments into new accommodations and to submit spending plans for Homelessness Prevention Program funding for MMAH approval.

AMO has called for provincial guidance that clarifies municipal enforcement powers around encampments. The lack of shared understanding of municipal authorities across municipal Councils, police services, and community members has led to divisive local confrontations and undermined effective responses to encampments.

Enforcement alone will not effectively address encampments. Only serious investments and coordinated action on transitional, supportive and

community housing, mental health, addictions and social services, and income supports can address the impacts of decades of provincial policy.

“AMO shares the province’s perspective that the 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario must be addressed. Municipalities appreciate every dollar that the province puts towards homelessness. But more is needed. Only provincial investments in housing, health and social services can truly address encampments.” Robin Jones, AMO President and Mayor of Westport

“Encampments are not a justice or policing issue, they are a social safety net issue. The 1400 homeless encampments in Ontario today are the result of decades of provincial under investments in income security, mental health and addictions services, and deeply affordable housing. Provincial leadership and resources are needed to solve this crisis that is undermining Ontario’s prosperity and quality of life.” Brian Rosborough, AMO Executive Director

More information about AMO’s position is found in [Homelessness Encampments in Ontario: A Municipal Perspective](#).

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To: Kelly Lush
Subject: AMO Watchfile - December 12, 2024



December 12, 2024

- Get access to MIDAS!
- Integrated Energy Resource Plan Consultation.
- Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) registration now open.
- Intake announcement - Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- ROMA Program - So many great concurrent sessions!
- ROMA Pre-conference workshop January 18 - Two Keys to Municipal Success.
- AMO is here to support your leadership - 2025 Workshops.
- Now available - On-demand municipal investment training.
- Blog: LAS' 2024 Year End Message.
- Plan your purchases with Canoe.
- Careers.

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 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

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Do you want to enhance your understanding of municipal investments? [This new on-demand training](#) for municipal finance staff will review the *Municipal Act* investment rules/regulation, discuss current municipal finance challenges, and overview the available investment options for the municipal sector.

LAS

One of the broad themes for 2024 was learning how the municipal sector, and LAS specifically, can help solve big problems. [Read more about LAS activities and outcomes](#) for 2024 and our future areas of focus.

The [Canoe Procurement Group](#) makes it easy to get budget pricing for your future purchases. Let our procurement experts do the work for you. [Contact Sarah](#) to learn more.

Careers

[Regional Directors, \(Central Region and West Region\)](#) - Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. Closing Date: December 20, 2024.

[Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment - City of Hamilton](#). Closing Date: January 15, 2025

[Growth Management Services Coordinator - King Township](#). Closing Date: January 3, 2025.

[Manager, Cybersecurity and Risk - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: December 20, 2024.

[Fire Inspector - City of Kingston](#). Closing Date: January 2, 2025.

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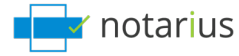
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From: AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>
Sent: December 13, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: Advocacy Update: Province Proposes Changes to Municipal Code of Conduct Regime

Updates on our advocacy initiatives

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Advocacy Update

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

December 13, 2024

Advocacy Update: Province Proposes Changes to Municipal Code of Conduct Regime

Yesterday, Minister Paul Calandra introduced *Bill 241, Municipal Accountability Act, 2024* to strengthen municipal governance and accountability. The bill would amend the *Municipal Act* and *City of Toronto Act* establishing a new, standardized municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework.

Members will recall in 2021, the Province undertook consultations to strengthen municipal codes of conduct following several high-profile workplace violence investigations against sitting councillors, such as at the City of Ottawa with then-Councillor, Rick Chiarelli. However, the

Province delayed action despite increasing pressures from municipal associations, municipal councils and advocacy group, [Women of Ontario Say No](#).

Within [our submission](#) to the consultation, we provided 11 recommendations to improve the current political accountability framework, including a broader range of penalties to manage egregious council member conduct and additional code standards developed in consultation with the sector.

On the final day of the legislative session before recessing until March 3, 2025, the Province put forward this legislation. If passed, the bill and forthcoming regulations would, among other things:

- Standardize both the municipal code of conduct with mandatory training for members, as well as integrity commissioner investigation processes including reporting requirements.
- Establish a role for the Integrity Commissioner (IC) of Ontario in municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner matters, such as advising on IC appointments, training local commissioners and conducting inquiries.
- Introduce a mechanism for members of council and certain local boards to be removed and disqualified for four years for serious code violations.

The bill also points to the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario (and anyone under their instruction) maintaining confidentiality in all matters with exceptions for disclosure of information. A new framework, which would include accompanying regulations, would be in place for the next term of council in 2026.

At first glance, the bill addresses some of our concerns and allows for our recommendations related to code standards and training, among others. We appreciate the Province's response to these recommendations. However, there may be duplication in the need for inquiries, with Integrity Commissioners continuing to serve largely in an advisory capacity, leaving the ultimate decision-making with local councils. Other than recommending removal in the most serious of cases, which must meet four specified criteria, penalties and/or sanctions remain limited. Moreover, the process maintains a lack of independent oversight and may in fact, lead to inconsistency in accountability across municipalities.

The bill has been referred to Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy, with the legislature on winter break. In the meantime, we will further review the proposed changes and impacts to our members whose workplace environment could be affected. It is our belief that our members and municipal staff should also be consulted on these matters and involved in terms of implementation. Stay tuned for further analysis to come.

Should you wish to provide feedback on the bill, a corresponding registry posting is available for comment until **February 10, 2025**: [Proposed amendments to the Municipal Act, 2001, and the City of Toronto Act, 2006 to standardize and strengthen the municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework](#).

Members are also welcome to submit their comments and/or a copy of their organization's formal response to the registry posting to our [policy and government relations team](#).



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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: December 16, 2024 3:28 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AMO Policy Update - Pre-Budget Key Messages for Use at ROMA Delegations, Conservation Authority Fees, Energy Supply and Distribution Plans, Environmental Bill



AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Key Messages for Use at ROMA Delegations, Conservation Authority Fees, Energy Supply and Distribution Plans, Environmental Bill

Pre-Budget Key Messages for Use at ROMA Delegations

Ontario’s municipalities are strongest when they speak with one voice, highlighting issues that are important to communities across the province and consistently asking for the same fix from the province.

The 2025 ROMA Conference provides an important opportunity to link local examples to what municipalities are saying province-wide on key priorities. AMO asks that you consider incorporating AMO’s [pre-budget key messages](#) into your conversations with Ministers at ROMA. Messages focus on the need for:

- new ways to fund housing-enabling infrastructure
- the province to reduce its reliance on municipal tax dollars, to help municipalities to focus on rising costs of core municipal responsibilities like policing

- the province to make significant and comprehensive investments in income support, mental health and addictions services as well as community and supportive housing to address homelessness

In addition to these key priorities, we know that many ROMA members plan to raise concerns with *Provincial Offences Act* administration. Recently, AMO wrote to Minister Downey calling for a third-party review of the system to address ongoing challenges. You may wish to consider key messages from the [letter](#) as part of a consistent, sector-wide ask.

Conservation Authority Fee Freeze

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry recently provided direction to Conservation Authorities that it will be freezing conservation authority fees for another year, until the end of 2025. The freeze was originally put in place on January 1, 2023 to help the province build 1.5 million homes by 2031. This will mark the third year that the freeze is being extended.

Conservation Authorities provide key services that benefit municipalities by protecting residents, safeguarding infrastructure, and enhancing the overall quality of life within the community. AMO will continue to advocate for:

- The ability of conservation authorities to set fees that accurately reflect the value of their services. These fees should be transparent, defensible, and publicly available.
- A fee structure that establishes a reliable, long-term funding model for conservation authorities. This would mitigate potential financial risks for municipalities while addressing concerns about strained staffing capacity within these crucial environmental organizations.

Province Expanding Energy Procurements

The Minister of Energy and Electrification [has announced](#) direction to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to increase energy procurements by:

- Expanding the amount of new electricity generation infrastructure being procured under the Second Long-Term Procurement (LT2) by 50%. IESO will award contracts annually between 2026 and 2029

- Developing options for additional procurements to:
 - Get “long-lead resources” such as hydroelectric and long-duration energy storage, and
 - Re-contract existing and get new small-scale electricity generation such as small solar installations

AMO anticipates that this expanded approach to energy procurement will lead to an increase in requests for municipal approvals on proposed energy projects within their communities. AMO continues to collaborate with the IESO and the province to ensure municipalities have the necessary support to make informed decisions on energy projects. This includes AMO’s development of a municipal toolkit, which will be launched in the New Year.

OEB New Connections for Housing Development

AMO [provided comments](#) to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on proposed changes to the Distribution System Code. These changes aim to lower the upfront costs for homebuyers in new developments by directing electricity companies to recover the costs of building new ‘last mile’ power lines over a longer period. This could spread costs across a larger pool of residents, making housing more affordable. AMO continues to advocate for a solution that ensures the cost and risk shift away from homebuyers without burdening municipalities or local distribution corporations.

Response to Environmental Bill

AMO [provided comments](#) on Environmental Registry postings related to Bill 228, Resource Management and Safety Act, 2024. Comments addressed a range of environmental proposals, including:

- Advocacy for the province to absorb any new costs associated with a new wildland fire modernization framework
- Support for the province’s plan to reduce oil and gas well hazards, and
- Support for the province’s efforts to mitigate climate change through the development of a commercial carbon storage framework.

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

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Kelly Lush

From: AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>
Sent: December 17, 2024 12:06 PM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: AMCTO Legislative Express

Year-End Review/Look Ahead to 2025

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



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Legislative Express

Learn about legislation updates affecting Ontario municipalities

December 17, 2024

In this issue...

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

Introduction & Highlights

Just as the province's 2024 legislative session opened with municipalities in mind, so has it ended. And we have been here for every minute of it – gathering input from our members, meeting with the province, and bringing policy expertise to proposed legislation. Time was certainly of the essence this past fall as several bills moved quickly through the legislative process in a shortened sitting. Our end of the year Legislative Express highlights several of AMCTO's 2024 advocacy priorities including continued momentum towards reform of the *Municipal Freedom of Information*

and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) and the *Municipal Elections Act* (MEA), and continued opportunities to reduce administrative and operational burdens.

Reflecting on 2024

Notable advocacy to the Province included appearing before the *Standing Committee on Justice Policy* to call for legislation that would bring standards for artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity, as well as consider municipal differences in digital maturity, capacity and resources, and full modernization of MFIPPA. With the legislation receiving Royal Assent, and regulations to come forward, it will be important for the sector to remain engaged and aware of the impacts to municipalities. Another key accomplishment for AMCTO was our candid discussion with Minister Calandra on the MEA, housing and municipal governance.

While we gained traction on some of our key policy areas, we also saw increasing provincial encroachment into municipal jurisdiction and decision-making with respect to authority over bike lanes and requiring provincial approval to work with the federal government for supervised consumption sites and safer supply service. Such overreach increases administrative and cost burdens on municipalities and staff. Now more than ever, the sector along with the Province needs to review and clarify the provincial-municipal relationship, respective roles and responsibilities, as well as fiscal framework.

Finally, after a long wait, the Government brought forward three pieces of legislation affecting municipalities - the *Municipal Accountability Act*, *Peel Transition Implementation Act* and *Safer Municipalities Act*. With respect to Peel, the Province made public its *plan to transfer* jurisdiction and responsibility for regional roads and stormwater infrastructure to the local municipalities, effective July 1, 2026, or as determined by the Minister. We will monitor this work closely, especially given that the Province has suggested similar changes may be considered for other municipalities in Ontario.

Have Your Say: Reporting Burden Cost Template

As we approach the end of the year, there are a number of reports that municipalities are required to complete for the Province. We have developed a tool to help the sector quantify the time, staff and other costs associated with reporting imposed on municipalities. Refer to our discussion forum post below to review, test and provide your suggestions to improve the tool by **January 31, 2025**.

HELP FINALIZE THE TEMPLATE

Ongoing Consultations

The provincial legislature is on break until March 3, 2025, but there are still several consultations that require your municipal expertise:

- **Bill 238: *Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2024*** - this bill would make changes to the coordination and capacity of emergency management. **Review our chart identifying proposed changes** and **provide your input** by January 13, 2025 to help inform our response.
- **Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund** - the fund increased for 2025-2026, with the Province consulting municipalities on key priorities and reporting requirements in winter 2025. **We are seeking your feedback** from now until January 24, 2025 to help inform a submission advocating for municipal financial sustainability.
- **2025 Provincial Pre-Budget Consultations** - let the Province know what is important to you and your organization to consider for next year's budget. **Participate by February 3, 2025.**

Looking Ahead to 2025

With municipal issues at the forefront of the provincial policy agenda, we look forward to continuing our advocacy in the new year, starting with our pre-budget submission, offering input into various consultations; and connecting with municipal leaders and partners at the ROMA Conference in January. In particular at ROMA we hope to meet with the Minister of Education to discuss education-related MEA recommendations that will improve delivery of municipal and school board elections.

We know that the question on everyone's mind is whether there will be a provincial election (and perhaps even a federal one). There has been much speculation that the Ford Government will call an early election. There are certainly signs that one may be coming. In preparation, we have started to develop our local government priorities that outline our recommendations to the political parties vying to form the next government.

Thank you to those members who have provided input and supported our advocacy efforts this year. Whether it was sharing your experience on our discussion forum, emailing comments on a regulatory posting, or seeking support from your council, know that these seemingly separate efforts come together to make an impact. The collective action we have taken this year is a testament to the true strength of our Association. Let's keep the municipal momentum going in 2025!

Policy Spotlight

Municipal Code of Conduct Legislation

On December 12, the Ford Government introduced **Bill 241, Municipal Accountability Act** to establish a new, standardized municipal code of conduct and integrity commissioner framework. As an Association, we appreciate that the Province has responded to several of **our recommendations**. The proposed bill is a good first step, long overdue, towards enhancing accountability and protecting the safety of the public, members of council and municipal staff.

The bill has already been referred to Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy. Much of the details regarding implementation will likely come through regulations and we will monitor for opportunities to provide input related to administration, training and enforcement of this new framework.

In addition to our **previous advocacy update**, we have prepared the following line by line chart outlining our initial impressions of the proposed amendments. Should you wish to provide your perspective on the proposed bill, comments can be **sent by email to our advocacy team**.

[DOWNLOAD CHART & PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK](#)

Policy Updates

Climate Ready Canada Initiative - Climate Ready Infrastructure Service is a new program aimed at supporting local government infrastructure projects. Its goal is to support infrastructure owners and decision-makers in developing projects that build resilience and contribute to Canada's path to net-zero emissions.

[READ MORE](#)

OMERS Reviewer Appointed - The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has ordered a review of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System which manages and provides pension services to municipal employees, municipal council members and Metrolinx employees.

[READ MORE](#)

Seniors Community Grant Program Applications Now Open - These grants provide municipalities and non-profit organizations with \$1,000 to \$25,000 for local projects that help older adults live independently, ensure their safety and security, connect them to their community, and help them achieve greater financial security and social connections.

[READ MORE](#)

[READ MORE](#)

Water Infrastructure Loan Program Now Open - Infrastructure Ontario began accepting applications for the Housing-Enabling Water Infrastructure lending stream, under Infrastructure Ontario's Loan Program.

Human Rights Artificial Intelligence (AI) Assessment Tool - The Law Commission of Ontario with the Ontario Human Rights Commission has released a co-developed assessment tool "to identify, assess, minimize or avoid discrimination and uphold human rights obligations throughout the lifecycle of an AI system."

[READ MORE](#)

First Ontario Ombudsman Decision Regarding Open Meetings and Strong Mayor Powers - The Ontario Ombudsman has weighed in on what is likely the first decision from an independent accountability officer on the accountability and transparency provisions of strong mayor authorities since the *Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022* came into effect.

[READ MORE](#)

Bills & Lawmaking

Bills Passed & Government Bills:

Bill 242, *Safer Municipalities Act, 2024* - (First Reading Ordered for Second Reading). The bill intends to protect community safety by providing municipalities and police with new resources and enforcement tools to address homeless encampments and illegal drug use in parks and public spaces.

[READ MORE](#)

Bill 229, *Working for Workers Six Act, 2024* - (Third Reading Vote). The proposed legislation amends various statutes, including the *Employment Standards Act* and *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, with respect to employment, labour and other matters.

[READ MORE](#)

Bill 228, *Resource Management and Safety Act, 2024* - (Second Reading Ordered referred to Standing Committee on the Interior). The bill proposes changes that amends the *Forest Fires Prevention Act* and other legislation with requirements for municipalities.

[READ MORE](#)

Bill 227, *Cutting Red Tape, Building Ontario Act, 2024* - (Royal Assent Received). The bill includes legislative amendments from

[READ MORE](#)

the Province's Fall Red Tape Reduction Package with over 60 new burden reduction initiatives intended to improve services, keep costs down and rebuild Ontario's economy.

Bill 223, *Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act, 2024* - (Royal Assent Received). The bill amends several pieces of legislation and enacts others such as the *Community Care and Recovery Act, 2024*, imposing limits on municipalities and local boards apply for exemption to decriminalize, supervised consumption sites and safer supply services.

[READ MORE](#)

Bill 216, *Building Ontario For You Act (Budget Measures), 2024* - (Royal Assent Received). 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* - (Royal Assent Received). 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 EVs and reduce costs for last mile connections.

[READ MORE](#)

Bill 212, *Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act, 2024* - (Royal Assent Received). 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* - (Royal Assent Received). 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](#)

Private Members Bills:

Bill 236, *Captive Wildlife Protection Act* - (First Reading Ordered for Second Reading). Liberal MPP Lucille Collard tabled the bill to create basic standards and a licensing requirement for

[READ MORE](#)

individuals and “roadside zoos” that keep exotic animals in captivity.

Bill 230, *Housing Equity and Rental Transparency Act, 2024* - (First Reading Ordered for Second Reading). Introduced by Stephanie Bowman of the Ontario Liberal Party, the bill makes amendments to the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*.

[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* and the *City of Toronto Act* with respect to conduct of councillors and members of local boards.

[READ MORE](#)

Bill 173, *Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, 2024* - (Second Reading Ordered referred to Standing Committee on Justice Policy). Brought forward by members of the NDP, the bill enacts the *Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, 2024*. The act requires the Government to recognize that intimate partner violence is an epidemic in Ontario.

[READ MORE](#)

Resources

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.

[ACCESS TOOLS & RESOURCES](#)

For the latest legislative and policy news and announcements, don't forget to subscribe to our [policy blog!](#)



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Municipal Monitor

Q4 2024 Edition Now Available!

They say change is the only constant and the Q4 2024 issue of *Municipal Monitor* is all about change. Read about AMCTO's advocacy for modernizing the *Municipal Elections Act*. Learn about the challenges in the evolving role of Ontario's CAOs, and how Bill 194 is confronting a growing cybersecurity threat. Find out how the Community Wellbeing Dashboard aids in assessing the needs of rural Ontarians. All this and much more in the latest *Municipal Monitor*!

[Read Online Now!](#)

Cover Story

Modernized, Harmonized, Streamlined AMCTO's Advocacy on the *Municipal Elections Act*



The health of a democracy is found beyond the electoral process and election rules, but process matters. For municipal and school board elections, the process is defined by rules, requirements and protocols set out not only in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, but in two other acts: *The Assessment Act, 1990* and the *Education Act, 1990*...

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Feature Story

Harder Than Ever

Every year since 2016, StrategyCorp has surveyed chief administrative officers (CAOs) and city managers across Ontario to glean the insights of senior administrators on the...

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Feature Story

Enhancing Digital Security and Trust

At the time of the following interview on October 10, Bill 194, *Enhancing Digital Security and Trust Act, 2024*, had completed Second Reading and was...

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Feature Story

Improving Access to Rural Data for Decision-Making

The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) has a long history of working with communities promoting rural economic development and leadership...

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A Special Message From Intact Public Entities

Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants – Funding Practical Climate Adaptation Solutions

A banner with a background image of a field and water under a blue sky. The text is centered and reads: "Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants" in large teal font, with a circular logo to the left. Below it, in dark blue font, is "Apply to fund your climate adaptation project by January 31, 2025." At the bottom, the Intact Public Entities logo is shown twice, consisting of the word "intact" in a red bracket followed by "public entities" in a smaller font.

 **Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants**

**Apply to fund your climate adaptation project by
January 31, 2025.**

[intact] **[intact]** public entities

Society is at a pivotal time with climate change being the defining issue of the century. Together with you, we've been on the front lines helping communities recover from the devastating and increasing impacts of extreme weather. In 2015, we sponsored the creation of the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation inside the Faculty of the

Environment at the University of Waterloo, to support science-based research and implementation of practical solutions to help communities be more resilient.

To accelerate the implementation of these proven solutions, in 2022 we launched the Municipal Climate Resilience Grants program investing \$1 million to fund locally driven projects. Now, we are doubling down on climate adaptation by investing \$2 million over two years to support even more community-based adaptation action.

Municipalities are at the forefront of flood and wildfire risk management. The grants program prioritizes initiatives that implement proven adaptation solutions such as those identified by the Intact Centre. To be eligible, projects should target communities and residents that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and have concrete indicators of success, with the potential to be scaled across other communities.

Municipalities play a critical role in protecting communities from resulting severe weather events. A Municipal Climate Resiliency Grant can help, and we are sharing our expertise to support you in creating a strong application for your community climate project with a webinar January 14th – [register now](#).

Application deadline is January 31st, 2025

Apply Now



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www.amcto.com

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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: December 19, 2024 10:02 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: AMO Watchfile - December 19, 2024



December 19, 2024

*Everyone at AMO wishes you, your friends and family,
and your community a happy and safe holiday season!*

- Toronto joining AMO in 2025.
- AMO's Healthy Democracy Forum report released.
- AMO Holiday office closure.
- Implementation date of excess soil landfill restriction changed.
- Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS) registration now open.
- We are a month away from ROMA 2025 Conference!
- ROMA pre-conference workshop January 18 - *Two Keys to Municipal Success*.
- Asset Management workshop at ROMA Conference - Sunday January 19.
- Interested in hearing about the ROMA Board of Directors strategic work?
- Take advantage! AMO Education discount registration rates.
- Upgrades for a brighter 2025!
- Apply for the Invasive Species Action Fund.
- Municipal flood resilience in action training.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

On December 17th, Toronto City Council approved the renewal of the City's membership in AMO beginning in 2025. Toronto becomes a member of AMO on January 1st. The AMO Board welcomed the decision, which builds on a strong record of collaboration between AMO and Toronto and creates a stronger collective voice for municipal government to advance good public policy in Ontario.

AMO's inaugural Healthy Democracy Forum on October 19 and 20, 2024 welcomed 154 participants for three comprehensive conversations about diverse representation, youth engagement, and accelerating local democratic engagement in your communities. You can now access our [Forum Report Back](#) to go along with speeches and presentations from two remarkable days.

Please note the AMO office will be closed from December 25, 2024 through January 1, 2025. The office will reopen on January 2, 2025. The next issue of the Watchfile will be on January 9.

Provincial Matters

Ontario has made [amendments to Ontario Regulation 406/19](#) to change the in-effect date of a provision to restrict landfilling cleaner excess soil, from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2027.

Federal Matters

Municipalities with populations 30,000 and under can now access the CRIS expert-matching service to get free expert advice on how to build climate-resilient infrastructure plans and projects. Apply [here](#).

Education Opportunities

The ROMA *Rural Routes* Conference will be a remarkable event. The 2025 Conference program is jammed full of top-notch sessions. Sessions are designed from the rural perspective, highlighting solutions and innovation for rural communities. Check out the program [here](#). [Register for the ROMA Conference today](#).

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. Register [here](#).

Beyond the Numbers: Building a Brave Culture for Asset Management Success - don't miss this free workshop delivered by Christina Benty and focused on sharpening your strategic asset management decision making and planning skills. More [information on content available here](#).

Meet with your ROMA Board members Zone representative on [Sunday January 19](#) to engage in the key advocacy issues in focus for the Board over 2025. You can [find your zone here](#).

AMO continues to advance its education programming and for a limited time, we are offering [half price registration](#). Take advantage of this offer, in the meantime, [here is a list](#) of what is on the calendar so far for 2025. Watch for new workshops including strategic asset management, equity, inclusion and innovation in municipalities, unlocking opportunity through human rights based planning and more.

LAS

Thinking of LED upgrades in 2025? Check out our [LAS Facility Lighting Service](#) - Your complete turn-key solution for all your municipal lighting needs - both inside and out! [Contact us](#) today for your free proposal.

Municipal Wire*

The call for applications to the Invasive Species Action Fund is open. These funds support municipal action on critical invasive species. Visit our [website](#) to learn more and apply.

Enhance municipal flood preparedness and implementation with expert-led virtual training from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Intact Centre, focused on the [Municipal Flood Risk Check-Up](#). [Register here](#).

Careers

[Program Administrator \(Workforce Development\) - Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#).

Closing Date: January 31, 2025.

[Director of Finance and Administration - Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board](#). Closing Date: January 10, 2025.

[Request for Proposals for the provision of Assertive Street Outreach Services - County of Simcoe](#).

Closing Date: January 31, 2025.

[Director of Municipal Infrastructure - Municipality of Brighton](#). Closing Date: January 12, 2025.

[Commissioner, Transportation & Infrastructure Services - City of Kingston](#). Closing Date: January 19, 2025.

[Director, Legal Services & City Solicitor - City of Kingston](#). Closing Date: January 19, 2025.

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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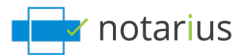
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