

## Kelly Lush

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** January 9, 2025 10:01 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - January 9, 2025



January 09, 2025

- Get access to MIDAS!
- *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 Act* consultation.
- Implementation date of excess soil landfill restriction changed.
- Book your AMO 2025 Conference Hotel!
- See you next week at the ROMA 2025 Annual Conference.
- AMO Education - Workshops addressing and supporting your leadership.
- Blog: An Electric Road Trip.
- Municipal Series: Net Zero Planning and Low Carbon Initiatives.
- IPAC Emerging Leaders Conference.
- Save the date: Scotiabank 2025 Affordable Housing Summit.
- 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 and identify multiple year trends. For access, municipal elected officials and municipal staff can email [MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca](mailto:MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca).

### Provincial Matters

The province is currently consulting on regulations related to the sale and transfer of dogs in Ontario, record-keeping requirements and potential exceptions to puppy mill prohibitions (*PAWS Act*).  
[Comments due February 1.](#)

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.

### Education Opportunities

Mark your calendar for **January 14 at 10:00am** to book your 2025 AMO Conference hotel room. [Here is where you will want to click](#) for all the information you need and links to conference hotels.

There is still time to register online for this years ROMA Annual Conference online. You have until January 13 one minute before midnight to take advantage of registration savings. After this, all registration will be onsite where higher rates apply. [Register here](#). Check out this years [amazing program here](#).

AMO has assembled an array of workshops focused on supporting and strengthening your role as a local leader. From asset management planning, land use planning, indigenous-municipal relations, navigating conflict, communications through local crisis, strategic thinking, planning and communication,

understanding anti-semitism and islamophobia and so much more. AMO is also offering registration discounts. [Check it all out here](#).

## **LAS**

Our staff love to visit with municipalities to discuss their challenges and opportunities. [Read our latest blog](#) about the fall road trip experience of one of our Municipal Program Specialists.

Have you made a commitment to net zero and don't know where to start? Join the IESO's guest speaker, our very own Christian Tham, in the next Municipal Series webinar on January 31. Christian will lay out practical steps to take and provide real life examples to help you on your low carbon journey. [Click here for more information and to register](#).

## **Municipal Wire\***

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada is hosting a [professional development event](#) for early-to-mid career public servants in Toronto on January 24.

Join industry experts in meaningful discussions on February 19th to tackle housing-related challenges at regional and national levels. Please reach out to [Scotiabank's events team](#) for additional information.

## **Careers**

[Program Administrator \(Workforce Development\) - AMO](#). Closing date: January 31.

[Assistant Deputy Minister, Commercial Transportation Safety and Enforcement - Ministry of Transportation](#). Closing date: January 17.

[Assistant Deputy Minister, Transit - Ministry of Transportation](#). Closing date: January 17.

[Senior Economic Development Officer - County of Simcoe](#). Closing date: January 9.

[Health Care Manager - Ministry of the Solicitor General](#). Closing date: January 20.

[General Manager, Human Resources - City of Guelph](#). Closing date: February 3.

[Chief Administrative Officer - Township of Norwich](#). Closing date: January 10.

[Hosting Project Lead - Township of Ignace](#). Closing date: January 31.

[Director, Life Stabilization - City of London](#). Closing date: January 28.

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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**

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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

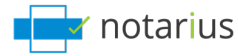
[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

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



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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** January 9, 2025 11:04 AM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Reports on Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis, Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility



# **AMO Policy Update – New Reports on Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis, Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility**

## **AMO Launches Groundbreaking Homelessness Study**

### [News Release](#)

Today the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) released a comprehensive report titled “[Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis](#)” that reveals the unprecedented and growing toll of homelessness on individuals, families, communities, and governments. It outlines the risk of inaction and shows there is a reasonable path forward.

The study was conducted by HelpSeeker Technologies, in partnership with AMO, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA).

The study’s findings indicate that Ontario is at a tipping point in its homelessness crisis. More than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2024, a number that has grown by more than 25 per cent since 2022. Without significant intervention, homelessness in Ontario could double in the next decade, and reach nearly 300,000 people in an economic downturn. The crisis stems from decades of underinvestment in deeply affordable housing, income support and mental health and addictions treatment, combined with escalating economic pressures on communities.

The report proposes a fundamentally new approach that focuses on long-term housing solutions over temporary emergency measures and enforcement. AMO urges provincial and federal governments to take

significant, long-term action on affordable housing, mental health and addictions services, and income supports to fix homelessness and improve communities' economic foundations and quality of life.

You can find a communications toolkit, including AMO's backgrounder, a customizable news release, and social media cards on the [AMO website](#).

## **Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility Study**

On January 8, AMO's business services arm (LAS) released a [feasibility study](#) that explores the opportunity and considerations for managing water and wastewater under a municipally-led Municipal Services Corporation. This work was supported by an expert panel and will be featured in the upcoming 2025 ROMA Conference programming in late January.

The study complements the AMO-MFOA water and wastewater [backgrounder](#), which provided a fact-base on the opportunities and challenges of this model. AMO believes that Municipal Service Corporations can be a valuable organizational and governance tool, particularly for small-to-medium-sized municipalities lacking the tax base to support costly infrastructure renewal and expansion. For these communities, Municipal Service Corporations offer a potentially helpful mechanism to increase administrative and technical capacity and financial sustainability for water and wastewater infrastructure. However, it's crucial that these corporations be planned openly, thoughtfully, and carefully under municipalities' leadership.

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

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** January 15, 2025 5:06 PM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Submission



## **AMO Policy Update – AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Submission**

AMO has released its 2025 [pre-budget submission](#) highlighting how municipalities are focused on providing the things that matter most to Ontarians, including:

- building more homes to support growth and make housing more affordable;
- dealing with homelessness and the drug crisis to improve quality of life for everyone; and,
- providing important core municipal services like policing and transit while keeping property tax growth to a minimum in the face of ongoing cost of living challenges.

But delivering on these priorities is impossible with the current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements. For over a year, AMO and more than 160 member councils have been calling on the province for [a joint Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#) with no engagement to date. The impact of a broken provincial-municipal fiscal framework is apparent in our communities, with implications for housing affordability, cost of living, and public safety.

Municipalities urgently need the province to reset fiscal fundamentals. To address the growing threats to quality of life across Ontario, AMO urges the provincial government to make concrete commitments in these key areas:

1. Infrastructure funding for housing and the economy

2. Reduced provincial reliance on municipal subsidies
3. Fixing broken provincial systems to address homelessness

AMO will provide a presentation outlining this year's pre-budget submission on the plenary stage at the 2025 ROMA Conference.

## **AMO Supports Changes to Brownfields Rules to Reduce Barriers to Development**

AMO submitted [comments](#) to a recent Environmental Registry posting regarding provincial rules for Brownfields development in support of changes to regulatory requirements for brownfields projects to reduce the need for Records of Site Condition (RSC) in certain cases.

The proposal will eliminate the need for RSCs where there are no legislative requirements and where proposals are low-risk, meaning they would have been filed with a Phase-One Environmental Phase Assessment (EPA). This means that no potentially contaminating activities or areas of potential environmental concern were identified for that property.

AMO supports a risk-based approach to environmental safety requirements. Ontario's ambitious target to build 1.5 million new homes over the next ten years to house a growing population requires close public and private sector cooperation. Brownfields offer valuable properties that can be repurposed in communities for new residential or other uses. Changes to reduce red tape and improve development timelines while ensuring strong environmental protections can help deliver needed development more quickly and affordably.

## **AMO's Response to the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021***

AMO recently sent a [letter](#) to Minister Kusendova-Bashta in response to consultations on the *Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2024*.

The proposed changes included improved access to dementia care, consistent with AMO's longstanding asks to expand emotion-focused care. However, the Bill's enforcement and liability provisions raise potential impacts of new individual liability provisions on long-term care staff recruitment, on liability for long-term care home Board members, and the removal of the reduction of penalties from municipal and other non-profit homes. AMO members are committed to their roles on the Boards of long-term care homes and to the safety of residents in municipal long-term care homes. We strongly encourage the provincial government to reconsider these changes.

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

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**Sent:** January 16, 2025 10:01 AM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - January 16, 2025

<<https://d31hzlkh6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20250116/fa/6e/57/51/f05a8c68a8684198298aa6ba.png>>

January 16, 2025

- Municipal property taxes on The Agenda.
- New resources added to GBV Resources Toolkit.
- Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 Act consultation.
- Implementation date of excess soil landfill restriction changed.
- Book your AMO 2025 Conference Hotel!
- AMO Education - Workshops addressing and supporting your leadership.
- Enhance your road data in 2025.
- Designing for Digital Inclusion: Creating Welcoming Online Spaces for All.
- Municipal Series: Net Zero Planning and Low Carbon Initiatives.
- IPAC Emerging Leaders Conference.
- Save the date: Scotiabank 2025 Affordable Housing Summit.
- Careers.

### AMO Matters

AMO Director of Policy and Government Relations, Lindsay Jones, spoke to TVO's Steve Paikin <<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/l6lpc2>> about pressures on municipal property taxes and the need for a new provincial-municipal fiscal framework.

Check out the new resources on privacy and information sharing from the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario in AMO's toolkit of Gender-Based Violence Resources for Municipal Elected Officials <<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/1ympc2>> .

### Provincial Matters

The province is currently consulting on regulations related to the sale and transfer of dogs in Ontario, record-keeping requirements and potential exceptions to puppy mill prohibitions (PAWS Act). Comments due February 1 <<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/hrnpc2>> .

Ontario has made amendments to Ontario Regulation 406/19

<<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/xjopc2>> 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

The Canada Water Agency is accepting applications for initiatives

<<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/dcppc2>> that improve Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health under the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative. Applications can be submitted for eligible projects until February 13, 2025. Municipalities are eligible.

#### Education Opportunities

You can now book your accommodations for the 2025 AMO Conference in Ottawa August 17-20. Here is where you will want to click <<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/t4ppc2>> for all the information you need and links to conference hotels. Registration will open soon!

AMO has assembled an array of workshops focused on supporting and strengthening your role as a local leader. From asset management planning, land use planning, indigenous-municipal relations, navigating conflict, communications through local crisis, strategic thinking, planning and communication, understanding anti-semitism and islamophobia and so much more. AMO is also offering registration discounts. Check it all out here

<<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/9wqpc2>> .

#### LAS

Make 2025 the year of data! Get a study done through the LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment Service <<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/pprpc2>> so you can make repair decisions based on high-quality, objective data. Contact Tanner

<<mailto:tswatt@amo.on.ca?subject=Road%20and%20Sidewalk%20Assessment>> to learn more.

Join our barrier-free website builder service partner GHD on January 30

<<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/5hspc2>> for an engaging discussion on designing inclusive municipal websites. Discover solutions for breaking down digital barriers, meeting accessibility standards, and fostering welcoming online spaces for all residents to engage with their community.

Have you made a commitment to net zero and don't know where to start? Join the IESO's guest speaker, our very own Christian Tham, in the next Municipal Series webinar on January 31. Christian will lay out practical steps to take and provide real life examples to help you on your low carbon journey. Click here for more information and to register

<<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/latpc2>> .

#### Municipal Wire\*

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada is hosting a professional development event <<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/12tpc2>> for early-to-mid career public servants in Toronto on January 24.

Join industry experts in meaningful discussions on February 19th to tackle housing-related challenges at regional and national levels. Please reach out to Scotiabank's events team

<<mailto:scotiabankevents@events.scotiabank.com?subject=Scotiabank%202025%20Affordable%20Housing%20Summit>> for additional information.

## Careers

Program Administrator (Workforce Development) - AMO

<<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/hvupc2>> . Closing Date: January 31.

Program Supervisor, Emergency Management - County of Simcoe

<<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/xnvpc2>> . Closing Date: January 20.

Chief Administrative Officer - United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

<<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/dgwpc2>> . Closing Date: February 6, 2025.

Senior Accounting Analyst/Executive Assistant - Town of Wasaga Beach

<<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/t8wpc2>> . Closing Date: January 30, 2025.

Executive Director of Pollution Control/ Deputy City Engineer - City of Windsor.

<<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/90xpc2>> Closing Date: January 30, 2025.

Manager, Property Tax Analysis - DMA Inc <<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/ptypc2>> .

Closing Date: February 13, 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 <<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ppb5ph/tg76y1rc/5lzpc2>> on Twitter!

## AMO Contacts

AMO Watchfile <<mailto:AMOWatchFileTeam@amo.on.ca?subject=AMO%20WatchFile>> Tel:

416.971.9856 Conferences/Events <<mailto:Events@amo.on.ca>> Policy and Funding Programs

<<mailto:iostrowski@amo.on.ca?subject=AMO%20policy%20inquiry>>

LAS Local Authority Services <<mailto:LAS@las.on.ca>> MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario <<mailto:mepco@mepco.ca?subject=MEPCO>>

ONE Investment <<mailto:ONE@oneinvestment.ca?subject=ONE%20Investment%20-%20request%20for%20information>>

Media Inquiries <<mailto:lambie@redbrick.ca?subject=Media%20Inquiry>>

Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions <<mailto:amo@amo.on.ca>>

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<<https://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20250116/df/84/6a/0f/ac5431689553fba9b1d922d0.jpg>>  
<<https://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20250116/4c/3d/31/d7/1d6c3b3e5dce803ab6044275.png>>  
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**From:** AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>  
**Sent:** January 17, 2025 9:19 AM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** Just Announced: AMCTO-Mitacs Municipal Innovation Internship Program

AMCTO partners with Mitacs on all-new internship program for Ontario municipalities

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## Municipal Innovation Internship Program

Developing the next generation of municipal innovators

January 17, 2025

### **New AMCTO-Mitacs Municipal Innovation Internship Program Promotes Talent Development in Ontario**

**January 17, 2025 - Mississauga, ON** - The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and Mitacs have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding toward the formation of a new internship program for Ontario municipalities.

Once implemented, the AMCTO-Mitacs Municipal Innovation Internship Program (MIIP) will provide students interested in local government with immersive hands-on research experience, while supporting workforce development in the municipal sector. The MIIP will provide a cost-effective resource to assist research and innovation projects in advancing the modernization of municipal programs and services.

“Through this partnership, we will connect municipalities in Ontario with the talent that can help them address some of their most pressing challenges, and create increased connections between the post-secondary population and municipal governments to assist with broader recruitment challenges within the sector,” said Paul Shipway, 2024-2025 AMCTO President.

“Mitacs has a long history of working with government and post-secondary institutions to provide talent that supports innovation and research-driven initiatives within the broader public service,” said Dr. Stephen Lucas, CEO, Mitacs. “We’re proud to partner with AMCTO to develop the next generation of municipal innovators through this new offering.”

Mitacs has committed up to \$300,000 towards the MIIP, which represents 50% of funding for up to 20 part-time, eight-month (January to August) internship positions, with the other 50% coming from host municipalities. Eligible interns will be identified by post-secondary institutions seeking to partner with municipalities in innovation and/or research projects.

With the strong alignment between the MIIP and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Workforce Development Project Roadmap, AMO has committed \$15,000 to assist with the development, implementation, and administration of the MIIP.

Details related to the program's application process, eligibility, and cost will be available early in 2025. Municipal internship applications are expected to open in the spring of 2025.

For more information, please contact [amcto@amcto.com](mailto:amcto@amcto.com).

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## **About AMCTO**

The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) represents excellence in local government, management, and leadership. Since 1938, we have provided education, accreditation, leadership, and management expertise for Ontario municipal professionals. With 2,200+ members working in municipalities across the province, we are Ontario's largest association of local government professionals and the premier organization for professional development in the sector.

Known as 'The Municipal Experts', AMCTO offers a breadth of expertise and knowledge through year-round education and professional development programming, and through our members across a range of municipal operation areas and legislative issues. We are proud to be recognized as an influential voice for local government professionals regarding key management and legislative issues affecting the sector.

## **About Mitacs**

As Canada's innovation organization, Mitacs connects businesses and researchers with unrivaled access to talent, financial support, and the partnerships needed to turn ideas into impactful innovations. Through unique collaborations, Mitacs is driving productivity and positioning Canada as a global innovation leader.

Mitacs is funded by the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, the Government of British Columbia, Research Manitoba, the Government of New Brunswick, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Government of Nova Scotia, the Government of Ontario, Innovation PEI, the Government of Quebec, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the Government of Yukon.



**AMCTO | The Municipal Experts**

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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** January 19, 2025 10:23 AM  
**To:** info@huronkinloss.com  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends on It



## **AMO Policy Update - Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends on It**

Today, as elected officials from across Ontario gather at the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario will be launching a public affairs campaign in advance of a potential provincial election.

AMO's campaign, [Vote like your quality of life depends on it](#), seeks to ensure that voters know what provincial support municipalities need to deliver the quality of life they expect. It also seeks to ensure that provincial parties know what commitments are needed to appeal to people who live, work, and invest in Ontario's communities.

The non-partisan campaign focuses on three areas where provincial partnership can improve quality of life and community well-being:

- curbing reliance on municipal property taxes to fund provincial responsibilities;
- investing in local infrastructure to build housing; and,
- tackling homelessness.

You can find the [news release](#) and a [full communications toolkit](#) on the AMO website, with a template news release, key messages on the three priority areas and template social media cards.



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

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**From:** AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>  
**Sent:** January 21, 2025 11:03 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** Just Announced: AMCTO Signs a Strategic Alliance with ICMA

Announcing a new partnership to support our members

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## Association Partnerships

Developing connections to create value and support for members

January 21, 2025

## Announcing a New Strategic Alliance with ICMA

**January 21, 2025 - Mississauga, ON** - The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) is pleased to announce the recent signing of a strategic alliance agreement with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

“With nearly 50% of AMCTO members occupying senior management positions within their municipality, it is important that the Association continue to seek partnerships with respected organizations like ICMA that will provide both current and aspiring leaders with knowledge and tools that will assist with their professional growth” stated Paul Shipway, 2024-2025 AMCTO President.

This new agreement supports AMCTO's strategic goal of being an association that is built on the shared experiences and knowledge of municipal professionals.

ICMA is the leading organization of local government professionals dedicated to creating and sustaining thriving communities throughout the world. ICMA has over 14,000 members who are chief administrative officers and their staff who manage the day-to-day operations of local governments in the US and over 33 countries.

“A key element of ICMA’s global strategy is to develop strategic alliances with organizations like AMCTO that are aligned with ICMA’s mission to advance professional local government through leadership, management, innovation, and ethics” said Isabelle Bully-Omictin, ICMA’s Managing Director, Global Engagement. “This new strategic alliance with AMCTO will provide great benefit to both our associations.”

This partnership with AMCTO supports ICMA’s [global engagement strategy](#), as ICMA seeks to strengthen its relationships around the world and expand its global network so that local government leaders around the world can exchange practices and tools and contribute to continuous knowledge exchange and learning.

As part of the new AMCTO/ICMA strategic alliance agreement, both organizations agree to collaborate in the following areas:

- Content development, such as articles and speaking engagements
- Conference attendance and participation
- Promotion of SheLeadsGov, encouraging gender balance and professional development for women in local government
- Advertising and recognition

## About ICMA

ICMA advances professional local government management worldwide through leadership, management, innovation, and ethics. ICMA provides member support; publications; data and information; peer and results-oriented assistance; and training and professional development to more than 14,000 city, town, and county experts and other individuals and organizations throughout the world. The management decisions made by ICMA's members affect millions of individuals living in thousands of communities, from small villages and towns to large metropolitan areas. ICMA gathers more data on local government than any organization except the federal government, spanning a broad spectrum from economic development to local government innovation. [Learn more about ICMA.](#)

To learn more about this and other AMCTO partnerships, please visit our [strategic partners page](#).



AMCTO | The Municipal Experts

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## Kelly Lush

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** January 23, 2025 10:01 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - January 23, 2025



January 23, 2025

- Municipal property taxes on *The Agenda*.
- NEW Health and Safety Water Stream fund - webinar.
- *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 Act* consultation.
- Call for applications - Great Lakes water quality initiatives.
- Book your AMO 2025 Conference Hotel!
- AMO Education - Workshops addressing and supporting your leadership.
- Stable and predictable natural gas pricing.
- Introducing the *All Risk Municipal Grant*.
- Blog: Risk Trends to Follow in 2025.
- LAS ASE Service Summer Intake now open!
- Municipal Series: Net Zero Planning and Low Carbon Initiatives.
- Are you ready to take the next step in your municipal career?
- New AMCTO-Mitacs Municipal Innovation Program.
- IPAC Emerging Leaders Conference.
- Save the date: Scotiabank 2025 Affordable Housing Summit.
- Careers.

### AMO Matters

AMO Director of Policy and Government Relations, Lindsay Jones, spoke to [TVO's Steve Paikin](#) about pressures on municipal property taxes and the need for a new provincial-municipal fiscal framework.

### Provincial Matters

Apply for Ontario's new Health and Safety Water Stream fund to help municipalities and First Nations build, repair and expand aging water infrastructure. [Register for the February 5](#) informational webinar.

The province is currently consulting on regulations related to the sale and transfer of dogs in Ontario, record-keeping requirements and potential exceptions to puppy mill prohibitions (*PAWS Act*). [Comments due February 1](#).

### Federal Matters

The Canada Water Agency is [accepting applications for initiatives](#) that improve Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health under the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative. Applications can be submitted for eligible projects until February 13, 2025. Municipalities are eligible.

### Education Opportunities

You can now book your accommodations for the 2025 AMO Conference in Ottawa August 17-20. [Here is where you will want to click](#) for all the information you need and links to conference hotels. Registration will open soon!

AMO has assembled an array of workshops focused on supporting and strengthening your role as a local leader. From asset management planning, land use planning, indigenous-municipal relations, navigating conflict, communications through local crisis, strategic thinking, planning and communication, understanding anti-semitism and islamophobia and so much more. AMO is also offering registration discounts. [Check it all out here.](#)

## **LAS**

LAS offers a [Natural Gas Program](#) that provides stable and predictable annual commodity pricing for municipal accounts through professional management and competitive supply arrangements. Over the last five years, a typical LAS client has saved more than 10% on their commodity costs.

Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency - LAS and IPE are proud to introduce the [All Risk Municipal Grant](#). This initiative recognizes and supports innovative risk management practices within Ontario municipalities.

In 2024, we identified key risk trends. As we enter 2025, the [risk landscape continues to shift](#), driven by technological advancements, changing workforce dynamics, environmental challenges, and growing regulatory pressures.

LAS is looking for 2-3 municipalities to join our [Automated Speed Enforcement Service](#) by beginning of the summer. If you are interested or for more information, contact [Tanner Watt](#).

Have you made a commitment to net zero and don't know where to start? Join the IESO's guest speaker, our very own Christian Tham, in the next Municipal Series webinar on January 31. Christian will lay out practical steps to take and provide real life examples to help you on your low carbon journey. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

## **Municipal Wire\***

The Ontario Municipal Administrators Association (OMAA) A is here to support your journey to becoming a CAO. Join us for an [Aspiring CAO Event](#) or explore our [educational resources](#) including the CAO Profile and certificate program with York University to help you build confidence and competence. Leadership awaits-you bring the ambition, we'll provide the roadmap.

AMCTO is partnering with Mitacs to establish a [new municipal internship program](#). AMO is pleased to support the implementation of this program as part of our Municipal Workforce Development Project.

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada is hosting a [professional development event](#) for early-to-mid career public servants in Toronto on January 24.

Join industry experts in meaningful discussions on February 19th to tackle housing-related challenges at regional and national levels. Please reach out to [Scotiabank's events team](#) for additional information.

## **Careers**

[Executive Director of Operations/ Deputy City Engineer - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: February 21, 2025.

[Executive Director, Transit Windsor - City of Windsor](#). Closing Date: January 28, 2025.

[Manager of Planning Policy - Oxford County](#). Closing Date: February 3, 2025.

[Analyst, Corporate - Peel Regional Police](#). Closing Date: February 2, 2025.

[Engineering Technician II, Outside. County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: February 16, 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!

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## AMO Contacts

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[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

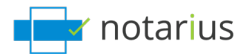
[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[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:** January 24, 2025 9:03 AM  
**To:** Kelly Lush  
**Subject:** Advocacy Update: AMCTO at the 2025 ROMA Conference

Recap of conference highlights and our delegation meetings

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## Advocacy Update

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

January 24, 2025

## AMCTO at the 2025 ROMA Conference

This week, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) held its annual general meeting from January 19 to 21 in Toronto. We were proud to represent our members' interests in meetings with provincial representatives, attend educational panels and discussions, and connect with our members and other participants at the conference tradeshow.

### Conference Highlights

The inauguration of U.S. President Trump, the possibility of tariffs on Canada and the future of U.S.-Canada relations hung over the conference with speeches from Premier Ford and the Opposition leaders highlighting the importance of standing up against these threats. Many



municipal leaders were interested in understanding how they can support a “Team Canada” approach to new economic policy coming out of the United States.

Many leaders also took the opportunity to discuss the possibility of an early provincial election call. While it seems more likely with Premier Ford indicating he needs a new and bigger mandate to address the Trump administration's policies, the Government did not make large-scale announcements for municipalities. The Minister of Rural Affairs, Lisa Thompson, did release the new *Enabling Opportunity: Ontario's Rural Economic Development Strategy*, along with enhancements to the Rural Economic Development (RED) Program, which is doubling to \$20 million over two years and is now called the Rural Ontario Development Program (RODP). In addition, the Minister of Infrastructure, Kinga Surma, announced that as of February 12, the Province will begin accepting applications for the \$175 million *Health and Safety Water Stream of the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP)*. The program ensures communities across the province have access to safe drinking water and reliable wastewater services.

During the conference, there was some discussion related to *Bill 241, Municipal Accountability Act*, which brings new measures to the existing code of conduct framework. As we continue to review this bill, members are invited to *share their feedback* to help inform a potential submission to Standing Committee and the Regulatory Registry.

## *Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends On It Campaign*

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) launched its first public relations strategy to inform the next Provincial election: *Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends On It*. A foundational aspect of this campaign is AMO's call for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review — a deep dive look at who does what and who pays for what — as part of the provincial-municipal fiscal framework. As an Association, we were proud to join AMO in the initial call for a review, along with over 150 municipalities. This new campaign now builds on their recently released *study on homelessness* in Ontario.

## *Delegations*

AMCTO President Paul Shipway and staff advanced advocacy interests in delegations with the NDP, Liberal and Green parties. Notable commitments from the NDP and Liberals included a review of the provincial-municipal fiscal framework in the form of “new deals” if they were to form the next government. We also received commitments that should the NDP or Liberals form government, legislative changes to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA) and the *Municipal Elections Act* (MEA) would be on the table. These are both acts in need of modernization — something we have continued to highlight through our own substantive reviews, submissions, and member toolkits.

Finally, we continued to raise our significant concerns about strong mayor powers and their impact to the overall culture and sustainability of local government administration. Through our research and feedback from members, the implementation of these powers has led to reduced transparency, increased organizational uncertainty for municipal staff, and has contributed to the existing challenges local governments face in recruiting and retaining employees.

There is an opportune moment and a provincial interest in helping municipalities be more responsive to today's challenges and opportunities and we will continue to advocate for a more supportive municipal-provincial relationship.

## Access our Member Toolkits & Show Your Support

MFIPPA

MEA

STRONG MAYOR

## Ministers Forum

During the famous 'bear pit' session, ministers were asked about these and other topics:

- **Property assessment and tax system review** — a review that is underway and that the Government wants to ensure they get right, with fairness at its heart.
- **Frozen Conservation Authority fees** — the Government says it will not reverse its decision on the freezing of fees given they want to ensure that building permits are issued quickly so housing can be built.
- **AMO's Social and Economic Prosperity Review** — the Government reiterated existing investments in infrastructure and housing.
- **Policing costs for smaller municipalities with their own forces and increasing budgets** — the Government indicated the Ontario Provincial Police billing model will be looked at and that they are considering options such as municipal grants.
- **Joint and Several Liability** — the Government acknowledged past work of an AMO advisory group and stated their focus will continue to be on risk management and data collection.

## Next Steps

With our MEA recommendations, we want to ensure that the Minister of Education, Jill Dunlop, supports any measures that are brought forward that may impact school board elections and seek

her support to implement an existing Provincial Professional Activity (PA) Day on municipal and school board election day.

While we were not able to secure a delegation with her at ROMA, we did have a **positive meeting with Minister Calandra** on this topic in the fall. Our team will be following up to request a meeting with Minister Dunlop as soon as possible.

For more information or questions related to our advocacy initiatives or to get involved, please **contact us**.

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