

Kelly Lush

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: July 31, 2025 10:01 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: AMO Watchfile - July 31, 2025



July 31, 2025

In This Issue:

- Get access to MIDAS!
- Provincial consultations on electricity transmission planning.
- Rural Ontario Development Program opens for applications.
- Nominations for 2025 Excellence in Agriculture award.
- Applications now open for EASE Grant - apply by August 14th.
- Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund: Apply by August 15.
- Don't miss this year's pre-conference workshops at AMO 2025.
- AMO Guide to Delegation Meetings 2025: Be prepared for your ministerial delegations.
- Registration for AMO's Second Annual Healthy Democracy Forum is open.
- AMO fall education workshops.
- Training - Foundations for a Municipal Investment Strategy.
- Help to protect your residents.
- All Risk Municipal Grant announcement.
- Municipal website usability checklist.
- Blog: What are Group Benefits – really?
- New guidance for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) safety.
- 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 identifies multiple year trends. For access, municipal elected officials and municipal staff can email MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca.

Provincial Matters

The provincial government is soliciting feedback on electricity transmission projects including the [Greenstone](#) Line, [Windsor to Lakeshore](#) Line, [Bowmanville to GTA](#) Line, [Orangeville to Barrie](#) Line, and [Barrie to Sudbury](#) Lines.

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Federal Matters

The Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund provides grants for projects aimed at reducing homelessness. Find out about the process to apply and learn about the latest solutions. [Sign up here](#).

Education Opportunities

This year's AMO Conference includes an impressive slate of preconference workshops. These workshops will support your decision making from asset management, procurement practices and insights as well as maintaining your wellbeing as you lead your local communities. [See more here](#).

AMO's [Guide to Delegation Meetings](#) outlines best practices to help AMO members get the most out of your delegation meetings. You will find advice on the full delegation process, from submitting your request for a delegation, preparing, participating and following-up after your successful meeting.

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We are pleased to be hosting the second annual AMO Healthy Democracy Forum October 18-19 at the [Westin Harbour Castle Hotel](#) in Toronto. This year's discussions will focus on strategies to encourage and increase voter turn out, candidate attraction and retention as well as promoting civility and confronting harassment in Ontario's municipalities. For more information and to register [click here](#).

LAS

Now's the time to enhance your understanding of municipal investments. This [new on-demand training](#), which is perfect for municipal finance staff, will review the *Municipal Act* investment regulation, discuss current municipal finance challenges, and overview investment options available to the municipal sector.

Most residential property owners don't know they are responsible for the maintenance of the buried water and sewer lines that run from the municipal connection to the exterior of their home. You can help them save money and time. [Visit our program partner SLWC](#) at the AMO Conference, booth #205 to learn how.

Our three All Risk Municipal Grant winners will be announced on August 18 at the AMO Conference. Each will receive \$10,000 to support their innovative risk management solution. [Stay tuned for more details](#).

What does a usable website look like? Our Barrier-free Website Builder partner is offering a valuable [Usability Checklist](#). It has a tiered level of opportunities for municipal staff – from making quick wins to completing larger tasks that can completely transform residents' and staff website experience.

If a municipality were shopping for a new group benefits insurance company or wanted to compare rates, the process isn't a simple 24-hour turnaround. [Read our blog](#) to learn more, and if you have any questions, you could also visit our program partner at the AMO Conference, booth #201.

Municipal Wire*

Energy Storage Canada and the Energy Safety Response Group have [published new guidance](#) answering common questions and myths about BESS systems. This resource can help municipalities considering hosting projects under the LT2 energy procurement.

Careers

[Director of Community Development](#) - City of Temiskaming Shores. Closing Date: August 18th, 2025.

[Economic Development Officer](#) - County of Simcoe. Closing Date: August 8, 2025.

[Planning Program Supervisor, Growth Policy & Analysis](#) - County of Simcoe. Closing Date: August 8, 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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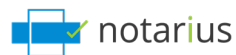
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Kelly Lush

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August 07, 2025

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Municipal Wire*

AMO is pleased to support OPPI in developing a [series of free workshops](#), offered both in person and virtually, to address the shortage of planners in Ontario. Registration will open late August, so stay tuned.

NRCan's RETScreen Division is offering a [free one-year trial licence](#) to new users who would like to download &/or link to EnergyStar Portfolio Manager (ESPM) data. Email retscreen@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca to subscribe. PLUS, for a limited time, free technical support for connecting RETScreen to ESPM is available by emailing Stephen Dixon at sdixon@knowenergy.com.

Energy Storage Canada and the Energy Safety Response Group have [published new guidance](#) answering common questions and myths about BESS systems. This resource can help municipalities considering hosting projects under the LT2 energy procurement.

Careers

[Planning/Zoning Coordinator and Assistant Secretary Treasurer](#) - King Township. Closing Date: August 18, 2025.

[Asset Management Specialist](#) - Township of St. Clair. Closing Date: August 13, 2025.

[Advisor Strategic Support & Issues Management](#) - City of Toronto. Closing Date: August 22, 2025.

About AMO

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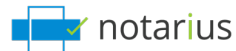
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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: August 14, 2025 11:02 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: Correction: Revised link - AMO Watchfile - August 14, 2025



August 14, 2025

We are re-issuing this week's Watchfile with a corrected link to the [Elect Respect Campaign](#) Guest Column. We apologize for the inconvenience.

In This Issue:

- Get access to MIDAS!
- Elect Respect Initiative Focuses on Core Democratic Values.
- Supply Ontario's updated Vendor of Record (VOR) program.
- Ontario Community Environment Fund: Apply by Sept 24.
- Trade-Impacted Communities Program.
- Provincial consultations on electricity transmission planning.
- Rural Ontario Development Program opens for applications.
- Nominations for 2025 Excellence in Agriculture award.
- Applications closing for EASE Grant - apply by 5pm today.
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- Registration for AMO's Second Annual Healthy Democracy Forum is open.
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- LAS Program Partners Exhibiting at the AMO Conference.
- Announcement of All Risk Municipal Grant winners.
- Blog: From Trouble Tickets to Town Halls.
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Guest Column*

Many elected officials are taking a stand against harassment and toxic behaviour. Learn about [Elect Respect](#), a grassroots initiative calling for a renewed commitment to respect in democracy.

Provincial Matters

Unlock streamlined and cost-effective procurement with [Supply Ontario's Enterprise-wide VOR Program](#). Ontario municipalities have access to pre-qualified vendors for cost-effective goods and services under standardized terms, conditions, and pricing.

The Ontario government is providing almost \$3 million through the [Ontario Community Environment Fund](#) to support community-based projects that support and restore the environment.

The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade is [accepting applications for project funding](#) that responds to US trade disruption.

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LAS

LAS partners with private sector businesses to deliver the programs and services that help Ontario municipalities work better. [Visit them at the AMO Conference](#) Sunday afternoon and all-day Monday. We look forward to seeing you there.

Stay tuned for the announcement of the three selected recipients of the [LAS IPE All Risk Municipal Grant](#) at the AMO Conference on Monday, August 18.

In a digital municipality, constituents increasingly expect their local government to provide better, more accessible services. [Read how your municipality can deliver exceptional value](#) to your community by adopting an all-in-one CRM solution.

Municipal Wire*

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Careers

[Director of Finance/Treasurer](#) - Loyalist Township. Closing Date: August 31, 2025.

[Planner/Aménageur](#) - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing/Ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement. Closing Date: August 29, 2025.

[Director of Public Works and Environmental Services](#) - City of Quinte West. Closing Date: September 7, 2025.

[Town Clerk](#) - Town of Innisfil. Closing Date: August 18, 2025.

[General Manager of Corporate Services/Legal](#) - Township of Ramara. Closing Date: September 12, 2025.

[Executive Director of Pollution Control/Deputy City Engineer](#) - City of Windsor. Closing Date: September 12, 2025.

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Kelly Lush

From: AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>
Sent: August 15, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: Advocacy Update: Protecting Administrative Leaders and Staff

Read our recommendations related to *Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act*

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Advocacy Update

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

August 15, 2025

Protecting Municipal Administrative Leaders & Staff

As a follow-up to our [presentation to the Standing Committee](#) on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy on *Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act*, we have provided a written submission with detailed recommendations for improvements to the Act.

While we welcome the Act and feel it is a step in the right direction, further improvements must be made to better protect the safety and well-being of municipal professionals. Our recommendations highlight the need for a new framework that enhances staff protections and includes an independent mechanism for conducting investigations and applying sanctions.

- Create an independent mechanism to investigate instances of harassment and incivility, and to apply sanctions as appropriate.

- Ensure proper safeguards are in place to protect municipal staff, including whistle-blower protection.
- Remove all employment matters from strong mayor powers, such as the ability to hire and dismiss municipal chief administrative officers and division heads, and the ability to reorganize municipal structures.

Other recommendations to improve the framework put forward in the Act include:

- Work in collaboration with the municipal sector, including municipal staff associations like AMCTO, and local integrity commissioners, to develop a code of conduct with additional minimum standards.
- Ensure that municipal codes of conduct work with existing legislative employment standards and other interrelated policies.
- Work with the municipal sector to ensure that mandatory education and training meet the needs of local communities.
- Require members of council to confirm their commitment to codes of conduct on an annual basis and mandate penalties if a member does not participate in education/training, and/or confirms their commitment to their code.
- Develop and deliver training for local integrity commissioners in collaboration with experts in the municipal accountability and transparency framework.
- Create a roster of qualified integrity commissioners and consider other options for preserving the independence of the role.
- Further clarify the complaints process, including the ability of local integrity commissioners to dismiss frivolous requests.
- Provide a wider range of remedial penalties to discourage misconduct that may not meet the threshold for removal.
- Develop a standard operating procedure for inquiries conducted by the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario.
- Remove the threshold for unanimous council support for removing a member of council. Consider a 2/3 majority.

Our submission also contains several considerations for implementation, as we know that you, our members, will ultimately be responsible for operationalizing many of the changes that come with this legislation. We've also highlighted several gray areas in the legislation that should be reviewed and addressed by the Province.

READ OUR FULL SUBMISSION

Thank you to those members, including our Policy and Government Relations Committee, for providing your comments and feedback to help inform this submission. As always, please feel free to **contact us** with any additional ideas or questions you may have.

As an Association, we will continue to advocate for protections for municipal staff and look forward to following this bill and the development of corresponding regulations.



AMCTO | The Municipal Experts

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To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AMO Watchfile - August 21, 2025



August 21, 2025

In This Issue:

- AMO 2025 was a resounding success!
- AMO's first-ever Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan.
- New investments in the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program.
- 2025 PJ Marshall Municipal Innovation Award winners.
- Supply Ontario's updated Vendor of Record (VOR) program.
- Ontario Community Environment Fund: Apply by Sept 24.
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- Ontario Professional Planners Institute launches free workshop series.
- New guidance for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) safety.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO welcomed over 3,000 attendees to the host city of Ottawa for three days of education, delegation meetings and networking opportunities. Thank you to our generous host, the City of Ottawa, sponsors, exhibitors and all who attended for making AMO 2025 a great success.

AMO launched its first-ever [Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan](#) at the AMO Conference. This plan represents AMO's next major, concrete step towards reconciliation and reflects AMO's commitment to fostering relationships, listening, learning, and honouring Indigenous Peoples' rights.

At the 2025 AMO Conference, Premier Ford announced a [funding boost to the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program](#), which is a big step towards responding to AMO's call for municipal stimulus funding. Municipal infrastructure funding will help build more homes, grow the economy, and create job opportunities.

The [City of Kitchener](#) accepted the Peter J. Marshall Municipal Innovation Award at the 2025 AMO Conference in Ottawa on Aug. 19. This award is for its nationally acclaimed City Hall Service Centre.

[Middlesex County](#) accepted the Peter J. Marshall Municipal Innovation Award at the 2025 AMO Conference in Ottawa on Aug. 19. The award is for the CARE First Deployment Initiatives led by Middlesex-London Paramedic Service (MLPS).

The [Town of Collingwood](#) accepted the Peter J. Marshall Municipal Innovation Award at the 2025 AMO Conference in Ottawa on Aug. 19. The award is for the town's rapid accessory dwelling unit program.

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Subject matter experts will guide you through risks, opportunities and your responsibilities in a number of fall education workshops - planning matters, indigenous community competency, managing communications in crisis and planning for cybersecurity - elected municipal officials are answerable to. [Check out the line up](#) and register today.

LAS

Congratulations to the All Risk Municipal Grant Winners - Town of Midland, County of Huron and Town of Shelbourne. The LAS team awarded these grants in partnership with Intact Public Entities at the 2025 AMO conference.

Municipal Wire*

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Careers

[Supervisor, Facilities Management](#) - Peel Regional Police. Closing Date: September 5, 2025.

[Director of Long-Term Care Services](#) - City of Greater Sudbury. Closing Date: September 12, 2025.

[Senior Policy Analyst/Analyste principal des politiques; analyste principale des politiques](#) - Ministry of Finance/Ministère des Finances. Closing Date: September 12, 2025.

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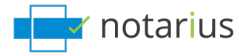
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From: AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>
Sent: August 21, 2025 4:48 PM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: Advocacy Update: AMCTO at the 2025 AMO Conference

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

August 21, 2025

AMCTO at the 2025 AMO Conference

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) held its annual general meeting and conference from August 17-20, 2025, in Ottawa where we were proud to represent our members' interests in delegation meetings, attend plenary and concurrent sessions, and have the chance to connect with municipal professionals and elected officials across the province, including at the conference tradeshow.

Delegations

AMCTO President Danielle Manton advanced our advocacy interests in delegation meetings with the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement, and the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

This was our first opportunity to meet with the Honourable Stephen Crawford since he took on the role of Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement in March.

As you may recall, *at AMO last year*, the Ministry committed to a comprehensive review of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA) within a year. At our delegation this year, we sought an update on this important initiative and called on the Minister to launch a comprehensive review of MFIPPA this fall.

We highlighted the urgency of a comprehensive review of MFIPPA, especially in light of pending changes to Ontario's privacy framework through Bill 194. We emphasized that municipal staff need modern legislation to ensure they have the tools to promote good governance in their communities.

Minister Crawford and his team committed to reviewing the legislation. We reiterated our dedication to support the government with this initiative and will continue to persist in advocating for this thorough review and update of the legislation.

Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

This was also our first time meeting with the Honourable Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. We asked the Minister about:

- His plans to support the municipal sector in building capacity to continue to make Ontario more accessible;
- If there were plans for regulatory amendments to address the recommendations of various standards review committees; and
- What the Ministry's plans are for accessibility beyond 2025.

We also raised concerns from our members regarding the auditing and reporting processes that many are currently undergoing.

Minister Cho and his staff expressed interest in further dialogue on the accessibility audit process, and we welcome the opportunity to continue engaging with ministry officials on this important topic.

Provincial Speeches and the Ministers' Forum

The AMO Conference provided delegates with the opportunity to hear from Premier Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack, Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, Minister of Infrastructure Kinga Surma, and opposition leaders. Delegates also had the opportunity to sit in on

the Ministers' Forum, where members of council could ask the Cabinet general municipal questions.

Premier Ford's Speech

During his speech, Premier Ford spoke about U.S. President Trump, trade and tariffs, and working with others to build a strong Canadian economy, noting he met with Prime Minister Carney while in Ottawa. He focused on the government's infrastructure commitments and his continued interest in investing in the extraction of critical minerals. Premier Ford called on municipalities to eliminate development charges to help spur development and lower the cost of housing in communities. He also announced an additional \$1.6 billion in the **Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program**, which provides funding for core infrastructure projects such as roads and water systems.

Ministers' Forum

Of particular interest to AMCTO members, several questions during the Ministers' Forum were focused on Bill 9, *Municipal Accountability Act, 2025*, and when the sector can expect to see the legislation implemented. While Minister Flack did not give any sense of whether changes will be made to what was initially proposed, he said that the Bill will continue to go through the legislative process and that the Standing Committee will review all feedback received.

Minister Flack also told delegates that he intends to consult with the municipal sector to "extend and improve" the **Building Faster Fund**, including ensuring the fund is reflective of the current market and encouraging municipalities to cut development charges.

Our members may also be interested to hear that Minister of Finance Peter Bethlanfalvy was asked about the 'heads in beds' funding formula and if the government was considering making changes to increase these amounts. He claimed that while he is not currently considering making any changes, he will continue to listen.

Finally, Minister of Education Paul Calandra stated that he is considering major changes to the school board governance model, including considering having the province take on more responsibilities. We will continue to monitor these changes related to their potential impacts on school board elections.

Moving Forward

The AMO Conference continues to be an important opportunity for our Association to connect with provincial and municipal leaders. We will be following up on Minister Crawford and Minister Cho's commitments and look forward to continuing these conversations to advocate on our members' behalf.

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



AMCTO | The Municipal Experts

5090 Explorer Drive, Suite 510, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 4T9

(905) 602-4294 | amcto.com

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August 28, 2025

In This Issue:

- AMO is accepting applications for Director of Policy and Government Relations.
- Supply Ontario's updated Vendor of Record (VOR) program.
- Ontario Community Environment Fund: Apply by Sept 24.
- Trade-Impacted Communities Program.
- Rural Ontario Development Program opens for applications.
- Nominations for 2025 Excellence in Agriculture award.
- Applications open for 2025 Cyber Security Cooperation program.
- AMO Trade and Tariff Forum – October 24: Building Ontario's Economic Resilience.
- Registration for AMO's Second Annual Healthy Democracy Forum is open.
- Minimum Maintenance Standards Update Webinar.
- ClearRisk - Streamlining your Risk Reports Webinar.
- AdvantAge Municipal Councillors webinar: The Current LTC Environment.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO is now accepting applications for the [Director of Policy and Government Relations](#) role at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Closing Date: September 12, 2025.

Provincial Matters

Unlock streamlined and cost-effective procurement with [Supply Ontario's Enterprise-wide VOR Program](#). Ontario municipalities have access to pre-qualified vendors for cost-effective goods and services under standardized terms, conditions, and pricing.

The Ontario government is providing almost \$3 million through the [Ontario Community Environment Fund](#) to support community-based projects that support and restore the environment.

The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade is [accepting applications for project funding](#) that responds to US trade disruption.

The Ministry of Rural Affairs is accepting applications to the modernized [Rural Ontario Development](#) (ROD) Program. Applications are being accepted through four intakes with the first open from June 24 – September 24, 2025.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness is [accepting nominations](#) for the 2025 Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizing individuals, businesses and organizations driving excellence in Ontario's agri-food sector.

Federal Matters

The Government of Canada is offering up to \$10.3 million to support initiatives enhancing cyber resilience including innovation, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. [Applications are open](#) until September 25.

Education Opportunities

AMO is holding a forum for its members, key stakeholders and partners to provide a reliable assessment of tariff and trade disruptions and their impact on Ontario municipalities and business sector. Forum discussion and content will include identifying measures to address and mitigate these impacts. This future facing event is an opportunity to build new alliances and relationships across impacted sectors in support of strong and effective economic advocacy. [Register here](#).

We are pleased to be hosting the second annual AMO Healthy Democracy Forum October 18-19 at the [Westin Harbour Castle Hotel](#) in Toronto. This year's discussions will focus on strategies to encourage and increase voter turn out, candidate attraction and retention as well as promoting civility and confronting harassment in Ontario's municipalities. For more information and to register [click here](#).

LAS

Join us for our Q3 Risk Management Webinar. Charles Painter, Partner, Dolden LLP will provide an update on the Minimum Maintenance Standards review. [Register here](#).

Join us on Tuesday September 9 @ 2pm to learn how to automate current manual tasks and save claims and related insurance costs. This free webinar will be hosted by our Risk and Claim Management System partner, ClearRisk. [Register here](#).

Municipal Wire*

This [free AdvantAge webinar](#) on October 14 from 1-2pm will share insights related to long-term care governance and compliance for municipal councillors and their staff.

Careers

[Supervisor, Cemetery Administration](#) - City of Waterloo. Closing Date: September 4, 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

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

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155 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA

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