

Kelly Lush

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: January 28, 2026 1:49 PM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AMO Policy Update - 2026 Pre-Budget Submission, Consultations on Light Vehicle Procurement and Construction Policies



AMO Policy Update – 2026 Pre-Budget Submission, Consultations on Light Vehicle Procurement and Construction Policies

Top Insights

- AMO published its [2026 Pre-Budget Submission](#) today. AMO continues to call on the province to review the municipal fiscal framework, and to take immediate actions on funding municipal infrastructure, health and social services, and homelessness needs.
- The province’s [proposed “Buy Ontario” procurement policy](#) responds to AMO’s advocacy calling for a framework that balances protecting Ontario jobs with ensuring municipal procurement is on-time and on-budget.

AMO 2026 Pre-Budget Submission

AMO’s [2026 Pre-Budget Submission](#) continues to call on the province to sit down with municipalities to update the fiscal arrangements that make Ontario’s communities safe, affordable, healthy, and prosperous. We also ask the province to take immediate action in funding municipal infrastructure, health and social services, and homelessness needs. Our specific asks are:

Request 1: Provide long-term municipal infrastructure funding for housing and the economy

- This includes extending the Building Faster Fund beyond 2026.

Request 2: Fully funding health and social services that are provincial responsibilities

- Including revisiting local share hospital requirements, moving forward with the public health funding review, and implementing a provincial physician recruitment system.

Request 3: Bringing together municipal and federal partners to address the homelessness crisis

- Including investing \$11 billion for homelessness prevention and deeply affordable and supportive housing, providing operating dollars to unlock Build Canada Homes capital funding, and working with the federal government to secure a renewed National Housing Strategy.

The key supporting evidence that forms the basis of our requests are:

The municipal fiscal environment

- At \$2,104 per person, Ontario had the second highest property taxes per capita in Canada, in 2024. Property taxes accounted for 50% of municipal revenue in 2024.
- Municipal share of government revenue (for all three orders of government) continues to decline and stood at 10.2% in 2024.

Infrastructure spending

- Municipalities continue to fund 80% of infrastructure costs as provincial and federal contributions have remained largely unchanged since 2018.
- One dollar invested in infrastructure generates an additional \$6 in economic activity.

Health and social services spending

- Municipal funding of provincial responsibilities in health and social services has increased 1.5 times since 2019, and stood at \$5.4 billion in 2024.
- The province's transfer payments to municipalities are one of the lowest in Canada, at \$6,380 per Ontarian, in 2024.

State of homelessness and homelessness spending

- Approximately 85,000 individuals were homeless in 2025, an increase of 8% from the previous year. Without new interventions, Ontario's homeless

population could double in a decade, even under conditions of steady economic growth.

- Municipalities account for the largest share and fastest growing share of homelessness and housing funding.

Provincial Consultation on Light Vehicle Procurement and Construction Policies

The Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement is consulting on [proposed procurement requirements](#) that would expand the [Buy Ontario Act](#) to apply to municipalities and prioritize “made-in-Ontario” for procurement of light fleet vehicles. This approach reflects feedback from AMO and municipalities including:

- Allowing municipalities to buy from out of province if Ontario-made vehicles are not available or are cost-prohibitive, ensuring municipalities can procure on time and on budget.
- Protecting the ability to use local procurement by-laws/policies to get the best value-for-dollar and invest in local businesses.
- Protecting municipalities from liability under trade agreements like the Canada-European Comprehensive Trade Agree (CETA) by including municipalities under the provincial directive, and requiring vendors to attest that they meet the Ontario-made definition.

The proposed requirements would also prioritize “Ontario-made” and “Canadian-made” procurement for goods and services used for capital infrastructure and construction projects. AMO will work with MPBSD to understand the potential impact to projects with a focus on mitigating cost and timeline escalation.

An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).

*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.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2026 10:01 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: AMO Watchfile - January 29, 2026



January 29, 2026

In This Issue:

- Just launched: AMO's *Make Your Municipal Move* public campaign.
- Healthy Democracy tools and resources for 2026.
- Municipal Information & Data Analysis System (MIDAS) - important notice.
- New funding: Rural Ontario Development Fund: Second intake is now open.
- Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative.
- OSUM Conference: Save the date: April 29 – May 1 in Parry Sound.
- Free Information session for Youth Considering running for Municipal Office.
- AMO Regional and Single-Tier Caucus Virtual Meet-Up: 2026.
- New year, new skills: Navigating Conflict Relationships.
- Lead Where You Live - A Guide to Running for Municipal Council.
- More Dates! Free workshop series for those seeking re-election & first-time candidates.
- The phase-out of mercury containing lamps has started.
- Webinar: Demystifying Job Order Contracting.
- Webinar: Municipalities Under Pressure One Year Later report update.
- IESO Webinar on Long Lead Time (LLT) Procurement.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO's new public advertising campaign, *Make Your Municipal Move*, brings awareness to municipalities and highlights the diverse career opportunities that are available at the level of government closest to people and communities. To learn more about the campaign and how you can get involved, visit municipalmove.ca, or email WGardiner@amo.on.ca.

Resolve to foster healthier municipal democracy in 2026 with help from AMO. With the next municipal election just around the corner take a look at [AMO Healthy Democracy tools and resources launched](#) to help you strengthen participation in Ontario's local governments.

The MMAH FIR system and all associated applications - reporting etc. including the MIDAS data feeds, will be down for a necessary system upgrade beginning on January 30, 2026. The maximum outage period is January 30, to March 1, 2026, inclusive. [MIDAS](#) will be operational, however no new FIR data will be uploaded during this time.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Rural Affairs is [accepting applications](#) for the Rural Ontario Development Fund until February 26. Register for [an information session](#) being held February 12.

Under the Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative, the governments of Canada and Ontario will be accepting applications from February 17 to March 17 for [new funding](#) to help local businesses grow international and domestic sales.

Education Opportunities

The 2026 annual OSUM Conference is in Parry Sound April 29-May 1. Save the date and stay tuned for information on registration, accommodations and programming!

Many young people are inspired to run for municipal council, not everyone understands the ins and outs of doing so. Facilitated by current young municipal leaders, these sessions provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence on becoming a candidate and how to run a campaign. View [full workshop details and register here](#).

You can now register for the AMO Regional and Single Tier Caucus Virtual Meet-Up meet. Scheduled for Monday, February 23 from 10am-12noon. This interactive session provides an opportunity for questions and answers on AMO's strategic policy and government relations priorities and approach. If you have top of mind questions, you can submit them in advance to events@amo.on.ca. [Register here](#).

Gain skills in building collaborative relationships and negotiating difficult ones. This 2 part, interactive workshop will explore the constructs, traps and pitfalls of conflict relationships, and how to approach, plan and execute relationships successfully. [Register here to save your spot](#).

The [Lead Where You Live Resource](#) provides key information for anyone running in the 2026 municipal election. This guide will introduce you to some of the key steps in that process. It will also give you a sense of what life is like as an elected member of a municipal council.

If you missed *AMO's Healthy Democracy Leadership Series: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities* workshop registration, we are offering more dates to register. It's designed to equip you with the tools, resilience, and confidence to meet the challenges of the political landscape head-on. It's offered at no charge in two streams: first time candidates, and those considering re-election in 2026. [Full details and registration information here](#).

LAS

The [phase-out of mercury containing lamps](#) (fluorescent, metal halide, sodium, etc.) has started. Don't get left in the dark with outdated lighting systems. Contact Christian to use our simple, turn-key [Facility Lighting Service](#) this year.

Job Order Contracting (JOC) is a new method of construction project delivery in Canada. Join the Canoe Procurement Group on February 12 at 2PM EST to learn how and why JOC works. [For more information and to register, click here](#).

Municipal Wire*

HelpSeeker Technologies is hosting a webinar for policymakers, public servants, and sector leaders on January 27th at 12:00PM to discuss the newly released Municipalities Under Pressure report. [Click here to register](#).

The IESO is [hosting a webinar](#) today, January 29 at 2 pm to discuss the design of the upcoming LLT procurement including community engagement requirements, and timelines for municipal support confirmations. You can also register for a [municipal breakout session](#) following the main session.

Careers

[Vacant Unit Tax Compliance Auditor - City of Hamilton](#). Closing Date: February 4 2026.

[Court Enforcement Officer / Agent d'exécution des actes de procédure - Ministry of the Attorney General / Ministère du Procureur general](#). Closing Date: February 10, 2026.

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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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: February 5, 2026 10:02 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: AMO Watchfile - February 5, 2026



February 05, 2026

In This Issue:

- AMO Board meeting recap from President Robin Jones.
- AMO's Public Affairs and Advertising Campaign.
- Asset Management Plan Map.
- Guidance for Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence.
- Ontario Land Tribunal Announces AI Practice Update.
- New funding: Rural Ontario Development Fund: Second intake is now open.
- Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative.
- OSUM Conference: Register Today!
- Free Information session for Youth Considering running for Municipal Office.
- AMO Regional and Single-Tier Caucus Virtual Meet-Up: 2026.
- New year, new skills: Navigating Conflict Relationships.
- Lead Where You Live - A Guide to Running for Municipal Council.
- More Dates! Free workshop series for those seeking re-election & first-time candidates.
- LAS/IPE All Risk Municipal Grant.
- Free Webinar: Why Privacy Impact Assessments Matter & How Digital Management Can Reduce Risk.
- Blog - Car Accident Guide: Safety Steps and Claim Tips.
- Webinar: Demystifying Job Order Contracting.
- Municipal Student Survey.
- Ready to Take Your Career To the Next Level?
- OPPI Employer Readiness Workshop.
- HelpSeeker Technologies Webinar Recording on Updated Homelessness Report.
- Free Intersectoral Action Training Series.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

The AMO Board met on January 30th at the AMO office in Toronto. The Board was introduced to this year's Youth Fellows and discussed AMO's continued efforts in support of your key priorities. Watch AMO President, Robin Jones's recap of key [board meeting updates here](#).

Join us on March 3, 2026, for a [free webinar](#) on how you can leverage the resources of AMO's new public affairs and advertising campaign, '[Make Your Municipal Move](#)'. Discover brand new campaign

assets and ready-made templates you can use to boost the campaign reach and drive local engagement. For more information email WGardiner@amo.on.ca.

A recent update to our [Asset Management Map](#) providing links to all asset management plans found that municipalities report in their plans owning and managing \$1 trillion (2025 CAD) of infrastructure.

Provincial Matters

The Information and Privacy Commissioner in partnership with the Ontario Human Rights Commission have [released recommendations](#) for responsible public sector use of artificial intelligence.

Effective March 30, 2026, the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) is implementing [a new Practice Direction](#) on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in OLT proceedings.

The Ministry of Rural Affairs is [accepting applications](#) for the Rural Ontario Development Fund until February 26. Register for [an information session](#) being held February 12.

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Education Opportunities

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LAS

The *All Risk Municipal Grant – Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency* was such a success in 2025 that LAS and Intact Public Entities are offering it again to Ontario municipalities in 2026. To learn more, please [follow this link](#).

Managing privacy risk has become increasingly important for Ontario municipalities, particularly with the growing use of AI-enabled technologies. [Join a free webinar on February 11](#) hosted by LAS' Freedom of Information and Privacy Impact Assessments services partner, Vayle.

[This car accident guide](#) - contributed by Cowan Insurance - LAS' Personal Home and Auto Insurance partner, offers some practical preparation tips and outlines the details you should gather to help protect your insurance claim and yourself.

Job Order Contracting (JOC) is a new method of construction project delivery in Canada. Join the Canoe Procurement Group on February 12 at 2PM EST to learn how and why JOC works. [For more information and to register, click here.](#)

Municipal Wire*

AMO is partnering with the University of Waterloo's Work-Learn Institute to better understand how municipalities can more effectively attract and retain the next generation. If you've supervised a student in a municipal setting – or know someone who has – please forward them this short, [anonymous survey](#) to share their experiences. If you have any questions, please contact WGardiner@amo.on.ca.

OPPI is opening registration for a free in-person workshop that gives employers and managers practical tools to support newly hired planners. The course includes an Employer Handbook (supported by AMO) on management practices that promote inclusion, retention, and long-term success. [Register Here!](#)

On January 27th, HelpSeeker Technologies hosted a webinar for policymakers, public servants, and sector leaders to discuss the recently updated Municipalities Under Pressure report. [View the recorded presentation on YouTube.](#)

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Tamarack Institute are offering public health units, governments, and others a [virtual learning series](#) on strengthening collaboration to enhance well-being in Ontario.

Join your peers in Kitchener on April 17 for a dynamic, full-day professional development event hosted by the Ontario Municipal Administrators Association to help you sharpen your skills, expand your network, and gain practical insights from. The day will feature lessons from seasoned municipal executives and help position you for long-term success. [Register Here.](#)

Careers

[Program Manager - Association of Municipalities of Ontario.](#) Closing Date: February 20, 2026.

[Manager, Fleet and Transit - City of Kawartha Lakes.](#) Closing Date: February 25, 2026.

[Equipment Repair Technician - Town of Oakville.](#) Closing Date: February 9, 2026.

About AMO

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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: February 13, 2026 11:11 AM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AMO Policy Update - Submission on Municipal Environmental Assessments, Advocacy on Municipal Case Law, New Funding for Postsecondary Education



AMO Policy Update – Submission on Municipal Environmental Assessments, Advocacy on Municipal Case Law, New Funding for Postsecondary Education

Top Insights

- AMO recommends the province aligns its proposed streamlined environmental assessment process for high-risk projects with existing planning and heritage frameworks.
- AMO has written to the Attorney General recommending a review of recent legal decisions that impact tools municipalities use to manage land.
- The Ontario government announces a new long-term funding framework for postsecondary education institutions.

AMO Submission on Changes to Municipal Environmental Assessments

The province has updated its proposed approach to streamlining environmental assessments (EAs) to address feedback, including those in [AMO's March 2024 submission](#). Changes include:

- Consistently applying the new EA process to private sector led water infrastructure projects.
- Strengthening requirements for Indigenous consultation.

AMO welcomes these changes, as they progress AMO's long-running call to reduce red tape for low-risk projects while ensuring that environmental checks and balances are in the right place.

New changes introduced in this round of public consultation are:

- Revisions to the new streamlined EA process and projects that would be subject to it.
- New archaeological assessment requirements.

[AMO's latest ERO submission](#) sets out three recommendations to reduce the risk of project delays and support effective Indigenous consultation:

1. Review how the new EA process fits within existing planning and permitting rules and timelines.
2. Work closely with Indigenous communities to design and roll out the new archaeological assessment process that's aligned with the province's broader heritage framework.
3. Provide clear guidance, training, and transition support to ensure consistent and timely application of the new requirements.

AMO Advocacy on Recent Municipal Case Law

AMO has [written to the Ontario Attorney General](#) outlining two court decisions and asking the province to review the decisions to determine if action is needed to protect municipal land management tools. The first case is a Supreme Court ruling that municipalities may lose property title when private owners encroach on parkland. The second is an Ontario Appeal Court ruling that limits the ability of municipalities to enforce contracts with property owners if part of a contract become void.

Ontario Government Announces New Funding for Postsecondary Education

The Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security has announced a new fiscal framework for post-secondary institutions including:

- A new long-term funding model with \$6.4 billion focused on delivering programs that align with student and labour-marked demand.

- Allowing public institutions to raise tuition by 2 per cent for three years, after which tuition increases may align with inflation.
- Aligning OSAP financial assistance for students at public institutions with other provinces'. This involves allowing up to 25 per cent of OSAP funding as grants, and a minimum of 75 per cent as loans, while removing eligibility for private career colleges students.

Municipalities recognize the value of postsecondary institutions play in supporting Ontario's economic competitiveness. We support measures to address the financial strain colleges and universities are under. These changes will help communities benefit from the economic and social benefits brought by postsecondary institutions.

An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).

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Kelly Lush

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: February 19, 2026 10:01 AM
To: Kelly Lush
Subject: AMO Watchfile - February 19, 2026



February 19, 2026

In This Issue:

- Just launched: AMO's Leading with Respect Handguides.
- Webinar: AMO's Public Affairs and Advertising Campaign.
- Ontario Land Tribunal Announces AI Practice Update.
- Rural Ontario Development Fund.
- Geologic Carbon Storage Framework.
- Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative.
- Guidance for Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence.
- AMO 2026: Conference Registration Open!
- Supporting your Run for Municipal Office in 2026: Resources and Workshops.
- OSUM Conference: Register Today!
- AMO Regional and Single-Tier Caucus Virtual Meet-Up: 2026.
- Navigating Conflict Relationships for Municipally Elected Officials.
- Municipal Student Survey.
- Bring Your Building Permit Process and Planning Applications Online.
- Streamline Your Document Signing Process.
- Free Intersectoral Action Training Series.
- Webinar on lead service line replacements.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO has launched its Leading with Respect Handguides to provide practical, accessible tools for councils and staff to navigate conflict, foster good governance, and build vibrant, inclusive communities. Access [AMO's Leading with Respect Handguides here](#).

Join us on March 3, 2026, for a [free webinar](#) on how you can leverage the resources of AMO's new public affairs and advertising campaign, '[Make Your Municipal Move](#)'. Discover brand new campaign assets and ready-made templates you can use to boost the campaign reach and drive local engagement. For more information email WGardiner@amo.on.ca.

Provincial Matters

Effective March 30, 2026, the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) is implementing [a new Practice Direction](#) on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in OLT proceedings.

The Ministry of Rural Affairs is [accepting applications](#) for the Rural Ontario Development Fund until February 26. This funding can help create strong businesses, boost economic growth, protect jobs and improve infrastructure in small communities.

Regulations under the *Geologic Carbon Storage Act* came into effect of February 1 and The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has published a [Fact Sheet for Municipalities](#) about this [new framework](#).

The governments of Canada and Ontario are accepting applications from February 17 to March 17 for [new funding](#) to help local businesses grow international and domestic sales.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner in partnership with the Ontario Human Rights Commission have [released recommendations](#) for responsible public sector use of artificial intelligence.

Education Opportunities

Registration is now open for the AMO 2026 conference. [Register today](#).

AMO is offering programs designed to support aspiring candidates and returning elected officials. Whether you are considering your first run for office, seeking re-election, represent an underrepresented community, or a youth, we have a program tailored for you. Resources range from helping you make the decision to run or run again, to building your team, crafting your message, and getting out the vote, and includes the *Lead Where You Live* guide for key steps in the process. Register for workshops and access resources [here](#).

Join your Ontario Small Urban colleagues for at the OSUM 2026, April 29 – May 1 in Parry Sound. [Click here](#) for registration and hotel details.

Register for the AMO Regional and Single Tier Caucus Virtual Meet-Up, Monday, February 23 from 10am-12noon. This interactive session provides an opportunity for questions and answers on AMO's strategic policy and government relations priorities and approach. If you have top of mind questions, you can submit them in advance to events@amo.on.ca. [Register here](#).

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LAS

Build your community faster with an online permitting process for both staff and the construction community. Learn how to accept, review, and issue building permits online with easy communication through the [Electronic Permitting Service here](#).

Streamline your document signing process with secure and authentic online digital signatures through the Electronic Signature service offered by program partner, Notarius. [Learn more](#).

Municipal Wire*

AMO is partnering with the University of Waterloo's Work-Learn Institute to better understand how municipalities can more effectively attract and retain the next generation. If you've supervised a student in a municipal setting – or know someone who has – please forward them this short, [anonymous survey](#) to share their experiences. If you have any questions, please contact WGardiner@amo.on.ca.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Tamarack Institute are offering public health units, governments, and others a [virtual learning series](#) on strengthening collaboration to enhance well-being in Ontario.

On February 27, the Ontario Municipal Water Association is hosting a webinar on how municipalities can facilitate full lead service line replacements. [Register here](#).

Careers

[Program Manager - Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#). Closing Date: February 20, 2026.

[IT Systems Administrator - Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#). Closing Date: February 25, 2026.

[Environmental Planner/Planificateur environnemental - Ministry of Transportation/Ministère des Transports](#). Closing Date: March 2, 2026.

[Director, Legal Services and Deputy Regional Solicitor - Durham Region](#). Closing Date: March 2, 2026.

[Manager of Legal - Town of Innisfil](#). Closing Date: March 2, 2026.

[Manager, Community Housing - County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: 26 February 2026.

[Manager, Community Housing - County of Simcoe](#). Closing Date: February 26, 2026.

[Senior Manager, Customer Experience - Toronto Building](#). Closing Date: March 3, 2026.

About AMO

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