

Kelly Lush

From: AMCTO | The Municipal Experts <amcto@amcto.com>
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To: Kelly Lush
Subject: AMCTO Legislative Express

Jan. - Mar. 2021 Legislative and Policy Updates



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April 7, 2021

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It's hard to believe we are already into spring, and over a year into the pandemic! The Government has had a full legislative agenda since resuming on February 16th and we have been busy here at AMCTO too.

Back in January we provided input into the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Office priority setting consultation. You can read our submission [here](#).

The Ontario Chief Electoral Officer, Greg Essensa, recently presented to the Board of Directors outlining the Elections Ontario three-year plan to transition to a single registrar of electors to improve the municipal voters' list. As you are aware, this transition is the result of 16 years of advocacy work. We look forward to working with Elections Ontario on the transition to a single registrar of electors over the next several months with the assistance of our Voters' List Working Group. We will also be supporting members in their preparations for the 2022 municipal elections by developing tools, templates and resources. For example, our [2021 – 2023 Municipal Elections Calendar](#) is now available.

We've also been monitoring Bill 254 (see the Bills and Lawmaking section below), which if passed would amend the *Municipal Elections Act* to enable clerks to allow candidates and third-party advertisers to:

- Submit their nomination and registration forms electronically;
- Allow registered third-party advertisers to end their advertising campaigns before voting day; and
- Clarify that if a third-party advertiser files a nomination to run for office, their advertising campaign automatically ends.

The Bill went to the Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly on March 29th. If passed, this would be an advocacy win for members. In our last *Municipal Election Act* submission, to address the problematic nature of filing in-person in a pandemic or emergency context, we recommended allowing the submission of paperwork electronically – recognizing the need to improve processes while also acknowledging that digital accessibility varies across the province.

We are continuing to advocate for improvements to Provincial processes that impact municipal service delivery and reporting. Over the past few months, we have:

- Confirmed our support for efforts that streamline regulations with the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#);
- Sent a [letter](#) to Associate Minister Sarkaria reminding him of our submission on [reducing municipal burdens](#) and:
 - Called on the Government to find opportunities to streamline reporting processes for municipalities; and
 - Called for the release of the list of reporting reductions previously announced

As we continue to track and monitor Provincial consultations and legislative activity looking out for the interests of our members, providing analysis, updates and making submissions, we'd like to draw your attention to the upcoming [Consultation to Strengthen Municipal Codes of Conduct](#) and welcome

any insights you may have. Please forward your thoughts to [Alana Del Greco, Manager of Policy and Government Relations](#).

We will keep members informed as further details become available. See below for a related Private Member's Bill on this topic.

We will also be looking ahead to the Federal Budget which we expect to be unveiled on April 19th.

Stay tuned for some volunteer opportunities including the opportunity to serve on our 2021-2022 Legislative and Policy Advisory Committee (LPAC) to support AMCTO policy and government relations work. In the meantime, for regular updates on policy or legislative proposals, [subscribe to the AMCTO Policy blog!](#)

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

On March 24th, the Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board, Peter Bethlenfalvy, presented his first Budget and the Government's second during the pandemic: *Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy*. This Budget sets the stage for the 2022 Provincial election and contains two core pillars: protecting people's health and protecting the economy.

In our [2021 Pre-Budget Submission](#), recommendations were divided into two parts:

1. Small, meaningful actions that relieve burden so that administrators can focus on managing the pandemic's impact on their communities; and
2. Planning for an eventual economic recovery, municipal recovery and resilience actions that can have positive impacts for Provincial priorities as well as direct residual benefits for workers, families and businesses who live, work and play in municipalities across Ontario.

Specifically, one of our recommendations called for an extension to deadlines in *O. Reg. 588/17: Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure*. We are pleased to see that the Province [has responded by extending deadlines by one year](#).

On municipal resiliency, the *2021 Budget* commits to a review of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) in consultation with municipalities to ensure the program meets the needs of local communities. We will continue to look for openings and opportunities to promote members' interests in this regard.

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POLICY UPDATES

Province Flows Gas Tax Funding – On January 14th, 2021 the Minister of Transportation announced that the Province is providing \$375 million through the Gas Tax program to 109 municipalities for transit projects.

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2021 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund – During the 2021 ROMA conference, the Premier announced a \$200 million investment for the 2021 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF).

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Consultations on Growing the Greenbelt – On February 17th, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced the launch of a 60-day consultation on Growing the Greenbelt. The comment period ends on April 19th, 2021.

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Additional Funds for Audit and Accountability Program – On March 1st, 2021, the Province announced additional dollars towards the Audit and Accountability Fund to help large municipalities find better and more efficient ways to operate and save taxpayers' dollars.

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Additional Operating Support to Municipalities – On March 4th, 2021, the Province announced an additional \$500 million to support operating pressures faced by municipalities as a result of COVID-19 in 2021.

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Update on Marriage Licence Services – The Ontario Registrar General has sent two memos to Ontario Marriage Licence Issuers with information and updates as a result of the province-wide declaration of emergency.

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BILLS AND LAWMAKING

Bills Passed:

Bill 218: *Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act* (Received Royal Assent on November 20, 2020). This bill amends the *Municipal Elections Act* to change Nomination Day to the 3rd Friday in August, removes a municipality's ability to choose

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to implement ranked ballot voting, and changes the timeline for passing a bylaw authorizing the use of voting and vote-counting equipment or alternative voting method to May 1st of the year of an election. This effectively changes the timeline for clerks to establish corresponding procedures and forms to June 1st in the year of the election.

Bill 254: *Protecting Ontario's Election Act, 2020* (referred to Standing Committee on March 29th, 2021). The bill proposes a number of changes to processes and rules for Provincial elections as well as amendments to the *Municipal Elections Act* that would enable clerks to allow candidates and third-party advertisers to: 1) submit their nomination and registration forms electronically; 2) allow registered third-party advertisers to end their advertising campaigns before voting day; and 3) clarify that if a third-party advertiser files a nomination to run for office, their advertising campaign automatically ends.

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Private Members' Bills:

A summary of Private Members' Bills from Queen's Park that are of relevance to Ontario's local governments.

Bill 214: The *Time Amendment Act* (Received Royal Assent). If proclaimed, the Bill would amend the *Time Act* to make daylight savings time the standard time year-round. Consequential amendments are made to the *Election Act, 1990* the *Labour Relations Act, 1995*, and the *Mining Act, 1990*. Of note is that when the Member introduced the Bill in the Legislative Assembly, he stated that in order for the Bill to be proclaimed into force, there would need to be similar changes made in other jurisdictions such as Quebec and New York.

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Bill 260: *Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act* (First Reading). This Bill would amend the *Municipal Act* and the *City of Toronto Act* in order to require the code of conduct for municipal councillors and members of local boards to include requirements for those councillors and members to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies. It would also permit municipalities and local boards to direct the Integrity

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Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat if a Commissioner's inquiry determines that the member has contravened the code of conduct by failing to comply with the workplace violence or harassment policies.

RESOURCES

States of Emergency: Decision-making and participatory governance in Canadian municipalities during COVID-19 – This report examines the impact declared states of emergency have on public participation, particularly the limitations around participation for under-represented groups such as BIPOC communities who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

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The MIX Challenge Toolkit: Tools and Techniques for Challenge-Based Innovation Partnerships and Procurement – The Municipal Innovation Exchange (MIX) project team created this Toolkit to assist municipalities that are contemplating or undertaking a procurement by means of innovation partnerships. It is meant to help staff determine which projects are a good fit for this approach to procurement, help them to initiate and manage an innovative partnership, and assess the overall experience.

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Assessing Organizational Readiness for Digital Transformation: Developing a Readiness Checklist for Municipalities – This article provides a framework for municipalities to assess the viability and necessity of organization-wide digital transformation.

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Reforming Canadian Fiscal Federalism: The Case for Intergovernmental Disentanglement – This policy paper from Ontario 360 discusses how Ontario can play a leadership role in strategies to improve Canadian federalism as part of post-pandemic recovery planning.

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Are We Ready for Digital Governance? – This opinion piece contemplates whether government is ready for digital transformation and how it can determine the right way forward.

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From: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>
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April 8, 2021

In This Issue

- PJ Marshall Awards - Call for submissions for 2021.
- AMO's webinar on long-term care posted.
- AMO 2021 Early Bird registration ends soon.
- Sponsorship and Exhibit Hall information now available.
- Accessibility & your municipality: Meeting your legal and ethical obligations.
- LAS Webinar: NEW! Aggregates category.
- Careers: Brantford Police Service, East Gwillimbury and Simcoe County.

AMO Matters

Every year at the AMO Conference the PJ Marshall Awards recognize municipal excellence and innovation in capital projects, operating efficiencies and new approaches to service delivery. If you have something you are proud to share, the deadline for 2021 submissions is May 28, 2021.

On March 24, AMO hosted a webinar on long-term care for members. In case you missed it, the link to the recording is here. For more information, contact Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor.

Eye on Events

April 30 is the last day to take advantage of the AMO 2021 early bird registration rate. Register now to be first in line for the last gathering of AMO members before the 2022 provincial election. Conversations at AMO 2021 will provide important input to the next governments' agenda -make sure you have your say by registering today.

What makes an AMO Conference great? Speakers, delegates, political leaders and, importantly: sponsors and exhibitors! Take advantage of the exclusive opportunity to showcase your products and services with municipal leaders from across Ontario. The AMO 2021 virtual conference offers an abundance of options to profile your value.

What are your municipality's legal and ethical obligations to persons with disabilities? AMO's partner, [eSolutionsGroup](#), addresses current Ontario legislation and how it affects content and systems compliance, technical aspects of updating and maintaining accessible content on your website. Register now for the [April 8](#) or [April 15](#) webinar.

LAS

Spring is here and that means so is construction season! [Join our webinar on April 21](#) to learn about our new Aggregates category, making it easier to source the materials you need to get the job done. Part of the [Municipal Group Buying Program](#).

Careers

[Chief Financial Officer - Brantford Police Service](#). Job Posting 21-047. Reports to: Office of the Chief (i.e. Chief and Deputy Chief). Interested applicants are invited to forward complete resumes with cover letter (Word or Adobe format only) and completed Brantford Police Service Application form prior to Monday, April 12, 2021, 12:00 midnight, to: Marva Usher, Recruiting Coordinator, Brantford Police Service, Post Office Box 1116, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5T3. Fax: 519.756.4272; Email: [Marva Usher](#).

[Manager of Water & Wastewater - Town of East Gwillimbury](#). Position status: Permanent, Full-time. Reports to: Director, Operations. If you're looking for a career that will enable you to contribute to a growing and inclusive community, please submit your resume and related information online at [ADP Workforce Now - Career Centre](#). Deadline for applications is April 16, 2021.

[Municipal Technologist - Town of East Gwillimbury](#). Position status: Permanent, Full-time. Reports to Development Manager. If you're looking for a career that will enable you to contribute to a growing and inclusive community, please submit your resume and related information online at [ADP Workforce Now - Career Centre](#). Deadline for applications is April 16, 2021.

[Director, Community Engagement & Partnerships - County of Simcoe](#). Employment Status: Permanent Full-Time. Location: Midhurst. Reference Code: 1202. Closing Date: April 16, 2021. To view the job description and submit your application, please visit Simcoe County [Career Opportunities](#).

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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