

Kelly Lush

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October 7, 2021

In This Issue

- AMO Youth Fellowship Program accepting applications.
- Municipal Cyber Security Forum.
- Spaces remain for in demand Human Rights & Navigating Conflict Relations training.
- Free asset management on-demand webinar series.
- Energy reporting deadline extended to October 15.
- Workshops available for GHG reductions in municipal buildings.
- Canoe Vendor Spotlight: Xerox, Epson.
- Canoe launching on October 27.
- ONE Investment podcast: Fixed Income Investing & Changing Interest Rates.
- The Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants now accepting applications.
- ESA warns of hazards associated with raising of buildings.
- Careers: McKellar, Markham, Thunder Bay, Simcoe County and Halton Region.

AMO Matters

AMO is now accepting applications for its second cohort of Youth Fellows. Please view program details and application information [here](#).

Eye on Events

On October 14, AMO and the Municipal Information Systems Association of Ontario are co-hosting our second virtual Municipal Cyber Security Forum. Learn from leading cyber experts about the shared responsibility of cyber security and how you can build cyber security resiliency across your municipality and organization. \$50 plus HST. [Register today!](#)

AMO has developed [training to support](#) its members in some of the most sensitive and current issues including human rights and equity and developing skills in navigating conflict relationships. A few spaces are still available for fall sessions.

The asset management webinar series will introduce tools and templates piloted with a

group of municipalities in partnership with FCM's [Municipal Asset Management Program](#). Second webinar on "Establishing an Asset Hierarchy and Conducting Data Gap Analysis" is on Friday, October 15 at 1:00 p.m. EST. [Click here to Register](#).

LAS

Did you miss the [O.Reg. 507/18](#) annual energy reporting deadline? The Ministry of Energy will [accept 2019 consumption data](#) up to October 15. Please email BPSsupport@ontario.ca if you have any questions about the regulation.

Buildings are estimated to be responsible for about 40% of greenhouse gas emissions in Ontario. You can help change that! LAS works with Stephen Dixon to offer [workshops on zero carbon emissions](#) – strategies to reduce GHGs in municipal buildings. Contact [Christian Tham](#) to schedule your custom in-person or virtual workshop.

[Canoe Procurement Group](#) is pleased to have Epson and Xerox as approved vendors in the technology category. Printers, multi-function devices, large-format, software, and more. [Contact Tanner](#) to find out how to take advantage of this opportunity.

The [Canoe Procurement Group](#) launched this past spring. On **October 27 from 11am-5pm** join others from across Canada to learn how this valuable buying program helps with procurement and supports Ontario's municipal sector. [Register now](#) for the Public Procurement Summit.

ONE Investment

Podcast: [Main Street to Bay Street: Fixed Income Investing and Changing Interest Rates](#) - Listen to ONE Investment team talk about the optimal fixed income strategy during the current low interest rate environment. How can investors position their portfolios in response to the rate changes?

Municipal Wire*

Municipalities play a critical role in protecting communities from climate change. [Intact Public Entities](#) and the [Intact Foundation](#) are investing \$1 million in Canadian municipalities to help with resiliency. Visit intactpublicentities.ca for more information.

The [Electrical Safety Authority \(ESA\)](#) has seen an increase in the number of buildings, such as cottages, being raised while the electrical supply to the building remained energized. This practice may endanger the public creating shock and/or fire hazards. Learn more [here](#).

Careers

[Clerk - Administrator - Township of McKellar](#). Township of McKellar are seeking a highly motivated person who will lead the Senior Management Team and be responsible for the overall administration of the Township as well as support the initiatives of Council and the Community. To submit resumes, email la@tdobbie.com by October 15, 2021.

[Director of Economic Growth, Culture & Entrepreneurship - City of Markham](#). Reporting to the Commissioner of Development Services, you will act as a strategic partner to the City leadership, playing a key role in the development and implementation of a vision for Markham's economic strategy and investment attraction program, cultural institutions, programs and partnerships. Submit your application to Phelps at

careers@phelpsgroup.ca, by October 29, 2021.

Manager Indigenous Relations - City of Thunder Bay. Under the general direction of the Director – Corporate Strategic Initiatives & Engagement, and as a special advisor to the City Manager, a primary focus of this position will be to develop and recommend an Indigenous and Anti-Racism model and action/implementation plan for the Corporation of the City of Thunder Bay. Submit application to Human Resources by 11:59 PM on October 20, 2021.

Database Applications Specialist II SAP - County of Simcoe. The Database Applications Specialist provides systems analysis and design support for corporate database systems and web-based applications, including vendor liaison during implementation, programming support, troubleshooting, and operational support for all database and program maintenance functions. Submit your application online at www.simcoe.ca/jobs by October 25, 2021.

Director, Digital Business Solutions and Process Transformation - Halton Region. The Director of Digital Business Solutions and Process Transformation is a key leadership role that will set the vision for our business transformation approach and support the delivery of the Region's Digital Strategy. Apply online [here](#) by October 19, 2021.

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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[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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

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

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Legislative and Policy Updates



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October 13, 2021

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INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS

As you may recall, the Provincial legislature was prorogued until after the 44th Federal election. Though touted as an election without much change, the election, which saw a return of the Liberal minority government, will see 50 MPs join the legislature who were not in the 43rd Parliament. As our clerk and legislative services members will know well, this will also mean filling some municipal council vacancies. A federal Speech from the Throne is expected later this Fall.

Despite the prorogation, this summer and early fall have been far from quiet! Back in July, we made a [submission](#) to the [Government's consultation on Codes of Conduct](#). Though the Government has not announced changes yet, the Ministry of Education posted a [regulatory proposal](#) on Ontario's Regulatory Registry proposing implementing minimum standards for school board trustee codes of conduct, which could be an indication of what is to come with respect to Municipal Councils and local boards.

This summer, we launched a MFIPPA Working Group. This group, made up of members with expertise in freedom of information, will work on the creation of resources for members as well as advocacy on the MFIPPA file. Stay tuned for a guidance document and other resources coming soon!

We also participated in the [2021 AMO Conference](#), with delegations with the Ministry of Finance, Government and Consumer Services, and Municipal Affairs and Housing. You may recall that at the Conference, [Minister Clark announced](#) a third intake of the Municipal Modernization Program. Under the Implementation Stream of this program, municipalities can hire interns to assist with the implementation of municipal service delivery. **The intake is open now for eligible municipalities with Expressions of Interest due October 19th.**

With the Ontario Legislature returning from prorogation with a [Speech from the Throne](#) to open the second session of the 42nd Parliament, we have a sense of what we can expect over the next few months. This includes continued investment in roads, highways and transit, calling on the federal government to increase the Canada Health Transfer, and strengthening relationships with Indigenous peoples through playing an active role in reconciliation. We look forward to monitoring these issues as well others that may be of interest to our members.

As a side note, when the Legislature is prorogued, unless otherwise agreed, all bills on the order paper "die" which means that they must be re-introduced. Several bills have since been (re)introduced (see bills and lawmaking section).

Don't forget to subscribe to our [policy blog](#) for regular updates on policy and legislative proposals!

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

On October 1, 2021, we saw the culmination of over three years of back and forth between the City of Toronto and the Province regarding the cuts to Toronto City Council made through [Bill 5: The Better](#)

Local Government Act that reduced the number of city councillors from 47 to 25 and realigned the city’s wards to match federal and provincial electoral boundaries.

In a 5-4 split, the majority of **Supreme Court justices agreed** with the Provincial Government and ruled that the City’s appeal should be dismissed. The City argued that the provincial legislation violated constitutional rights to freedom of expression, the Supreme Court ruled that no one was prevented from speaking, raising money or campaigning. Furthermore, the Supreme Court stated that “unwritten constitutional principles” such as the value of democracy cannot be used to overrule the Constitution, and that “the absence of municipalities in the constitutional text is not a gap to be addressed judicially; rather, it is a deliberate omission.”

What does this mean for other municipalities?

This Supreme Court decision has reaffirmed that municipalities are creatures of the province, and this case maintains the status quo. It is unlikely that this case will lead to further changes for other local governments.

POLICY UPDATES

Update on Marriage Licence Services - The Ontario Registrar General’s (ORG) July 12th memo provides an end date for the third extended validity period for marriage licences.

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Ontario Appoints Special Advisor on Data Authority - The Provincial Government has appointed public data expert, Andy Best, to support the development of a Provincial Data Authority.

READ MORE

Update on Vital Statistics Act - The ORG’s August 23rd memo to Funeral Directors confirms Coroner Investigators’ permanent authority to sign and copy Medical Certificates of Death.

READ MORE

Ontario Requiring Proof of Vaccination on Select Settings - The Government of Ontario announced mandatory proof of vaccination in select settings.

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FAO Review of Ontario’s Municipal Infrastructure - The Financial Accountability Office of Ontario (FAO) has released a report that reviews the infrastructure assets owned by Ontario’s municipalities, estimates their current replacement value and condition, and the costs to bring these assets into a state of good repair in 2020.

READ MORE

Municipal Construction Noise Bylaws Back Into Effect -
Municipalities now have the ability to regulate construction noise through bylaw.

[READ MORE](#)

Ontario's Legislature is Back in Session - The Provincial Legislature returned on October 4th, commencing with the Speech from the Throne.

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BILLS AND LAWMAKING

Government Bills:

Bill 13, *Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2001* -
Introduced by Associate Minister for Red Tape Reduction, Nina Tangri, with 25 schedules and various proposed regulations, this Bill makes changes to several acts consistent with red tape reduction. If passed, among other things, the Bill would:

- Permanently allow cannabis stores to sell online for delivery, which was previously only permitted for a specific period during the pandemic;
- Amend the *Municipal Act* and the *City of Toronto Act* to allow municipalities to enter into special conditional long-term loan agreements with the Canada Infrastructure Bank, which could support revenue-generating projects such as electric bus acquisition with access to low-interest loans;
- Allow restaurants and bars to extend their patios without application to the registrar of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) for approval;
- Make police record checks free for all volunteers; and
- Amend the *Environmental Assessment Act* to allow the environment minister to determine what level of environmental assessment a project will be subject to.

[READ MORE](#)

Other Bills:

A summary of Private Members' Bills and bills from other parties that are of relevance to Ontario's local governments. .

Bill 2, *Creating Safe Zones around Hospitals, Other Health Facilities, Schools and Child Care Centres Act* - Introduced by Liberal MP John Fraser, this Act creates safe zones around certain public spaces to limit the harassment of service providers.

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Bill 3, *Stopping Anti-Public Health Harassment Act* - Introduced by NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, this Act similarly prohibits harassing behaviours in safe zones established by regulation.

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Bill 10, *Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act* – Introduced by Liberal MP Stephen Blais, this Bill amends the *Municipal Act* and the *City of Toronto Act* to require codes of conduct for municipal councillors. These codes of conduct include a requirement that members comply with workplace violence and harassment policies and permits councils to direct Integrity Commissioners to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat in certain circumstances.

[READ MORE](#)

RESOURCES

Roadmap to connectivity: A guide to connecting your community to affordable, high-speed Internet – This guide from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), written in collaboration with Telesat, provides a simplified roadmap for communities to reach their connectivity goals and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and affordable broadband.

[READ MORE](#)

Addressing the Fairness of Municipal User Fee Policy - This paper from the Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance (IMFG) explains why user fees are a good source of revenue for certain municipal services, how user fees are employed by a select group of Ontario municipalities, and how municipalities can navigate the trade-off in user-fee design between efficiency and fairness.

[READ MORE](#)

Another victim of COVID-19: The municipal status quo? - COVID-19 has accelerated digital transformation in many sectors. This white paper from StrategyCorp

Indigenous-Municipal Legal and Governance Relationships – This paper from the IMFG argues that municipalities should look beyond debates over duty to consult and whether it applies to them, and

examines the use of automation and artificial intelligence in the municipal sector.

instead move towards reciprocal and respectful relationships with Indigenous communities that recognize and endorse Indigenous rights and responsibilities.

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