

**From:** [AMO Communications](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – More Social Services Relief Funding to Protect the Homeless during COVID-19, Ontario Vaccine Rollout Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 2:30:19 PM

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## AMO Policy Update



March 10, 2021

# AMO Policy Update – More Social Services Relief Funding to Protect the Homeless during COVID-19 and Ontario Vaccine Rollout Update

## More Social Services Relief Funding to Protect the Homeless

Today the Ontario government [announced](#) that it is providing \$255 million in additional funding for the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF). The SSRF will continue to help municipalities, District Social Services Administration Boards, and Indigenous program partners to keep vulnerable people safe. It will protect homeless shelter staff and residents and help people from becoming homeless.

Specifically, the funding can be used to acquire motel and hotel spaces to support physical distancing of shelter residents, hire more shelter staff, and purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies. It can also add to rent and utility banks to help prevent more people from becoming homeless.

This brings the total SSRF investment up to \$765 million since the onset of the pandemic. The SSRF funding is an important investment for both economic and social recovery and is literally saving lives. AMO has highlighted the need for the funding to continue for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic situation and is pleased with the government's proactive response.

## Ontario Vaccine Rollout Update

Additional information on the [provincial vaccination rollout](#) has been released today. With the increasing vaccine supply, the Ontario government is able to expand the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to include pharmacies and primary care settings.

As of Friday, March 12, over 325 pharmacies will be offering the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine to eligible Ontarians aged 60-64, by appointment only, as part of the vaccine delivery pilot program in three public health unit regions: Toronto, Windsor-Essex, and Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington. This vaccine rollout will be expanded to more pharmacies in other regions of the province as supply increases.

To increase capacity for vaccination beyond public health units and the pharmacy pilots, the Province is working with primary care professionals to offer vaccinations in primary care settings and community locations, such as physician offices, in partnership with public health units. This initiative will begin in Hamilton, Toronto, Guelph, Peterborough, Simcoe-Muskoka, and Peel as of Saturday March 13, 2021. It needs to be emphasized that primary care providers will not be taking appointments by request but will be contacting eligible Ontarians aged 60-64 directly to book an appointment starting today, March 10, 2021. They will only be offering the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine at this time.

As Phase One of Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine rollout is nearing its completion, there are preparations to move into [Phase Two of its COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan](#) as of April, with a focus on vaccinating populations based on age and risk. Vaccinations continue to be offered to eligible populations at hospitals, mobile clinics, and mass immunization clinics.

Mass immunization clinics are a significant delivery channel to administer Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Over 120 mass immunization clinics are planned to open this month across Ontario in addition to sites already open, increasing the Province's vaccine administration capacity to over 150,000 doses per day, dependent on supply. Many municipalities and their staff are working with their public health units to support these mass immunization clinics.

As greatly anticipated, the Province will launch an online booking system and a provincial customer service desk on March 15. These supports are to answer questions and book appointments at mass immunization clinics, starting with those over the age of 80. As further vaccine distribution information becomes available, AMO will share through future updates and/or on our [COVID-19 Resources page](#).

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

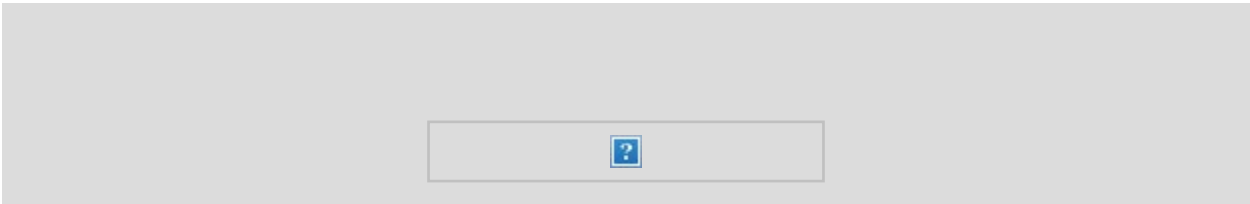
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**From:** [AMO Communications](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Municipal Councillor Code of Conduct Consultations  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 3:11:50 PM

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## AMO Policy Update



March 8, 2021

# AMO Policy Update – Municipal Councillor Code of Conduct Consultations

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, announced late Friday afternoon, March 5<sup>th</sup>, that the Province would [launch a consultation](#) on municipal Codes of Conduct for council members. The consultation will be led Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues, Jill Dunlop, and will consider input from municipal councillors, staff, and associations.

AMO recognizes that enforcing behavioural standards for council members can be a challenging matter for many members to find consensus on. However, stronger standards and compliance are in the public interest. To frame the considerations from a municipal government perspective, AMO was asked to provide input to the Minister earlier this year. With the launch of the consultations, AMO is now providing its input to members today to help them consider options to strengthen Codes of Conduct.

The [AMO Board of Directors' recommendations](#) aim to strengthen existing tools for compliance with Codes of Conduct as well as provide some new tools for municipal governments to use in defined circumstances. In providing their input, AMO's Board expressed confidence in Codes of Conduct and the office of Municipal Integrity Commissioners as local tools to help councils maintain public accountability and agreed to by all council members upon assuming office.

The Board's recommendations are:

- amending the Municipal Act to allow for **Administrative Monetary Penalties** in Municipal Code of Conduct breaches to incentivize compliance – subject to regulation and a municipal by-law setting out appropriate penalty thresholds for the municipality;
- **suspension** of a council member for a certain period of time in defined

- circumstances that could negatively impact public health and safety;
- **removal from office** by a member of the Judiciary on the recommendation of an Integrity Commissioner where a report has found serious and/or repeated breaches of Codes of Conduct; and
  - better **training and standards for Integrity Commissioners** to improve capacity and consistency of decision-making across the province.

To provide context for AMO Board's recommendations, here is the background to this work. In December, Minister Clark requested that AMO consider providing advice to the Government on this subject. After conducting research and several robust discussions, AMO's Board of Directors adopted recommendations at its meeting in late January. Since that time, AMO staff has been working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to provide input on next steps. With the public launch of this consultation AMO is providing members with the Board's advice to the Province.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

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**From:** [AMO Communications](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – New 2021 COVID-19 Relief Funding  
**Date:** Thursday, March 4, 2021 9:38:30 AM

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## AMO Policy Update



March 4, 2021

# AMO Policy Update – New 2021 COVID-19 Relief Funding

## Ontario Government Provides New 2021 COVID-19 Relief Funding for Municipal Government Operations

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board, [announced](#) this morning that the Government of Ontario is providing an additional \$500 million to municipal governments to support municipal operations. Securing funding in 2021 to support municipal operations which builds on the \$4 billion federal and provincial support in 2020's Safe Restart Agreement (SRA) has been AMO's number one advocacy priority.

Today's announcement provides funding to all 444 Ontario municipalities. Similar to Phase 2 of the SRA funds, the support is based on a [base + formula allocation](#) to recognize varying impacts of the pandemic on municipal capacity and revenues. AMO understands that a 10 per cent base allocation will be provided to all municipal governments and a Top-Up formula allocation is based on COVID-19 case counts in the municipality from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to February 18, 2021. In making the announcement, Minister Clark called on the federal government to match the funding provided through an additional 2021 allocation.

The funding will be provided in two installments: installment 1 will flow on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and installment 2 on or before November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. To receive funding, Municipal Treasurers will need to sign back an agreement and provide it to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing by March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This agreement, reporting, and eligible uses for the funds will be communicated to municipal governments through letters to the Heads of Council from the Ministry.

In welcoming the announcement, AMO's President Graydon Smith, noted that this funding makes an important investment in Ontario's economic recovery by building on critical Safe Restart Agreement and Social Services Relief Fund support previously provided to Ontario municipalities. The funding provided today will help to offset budgetary impacts of COVID-19 in municipal governments across Ontario and support critical municipal services, helping to keep capital projects on track in local communities.

Together with the new \$150 million for transit provided by Ontario earlier this week, this funding marks a significant investment in local services that support people, businesses, and communities. AMO will continue to work with the Ontario Government in partnership to secure additional federal funding to offset the impacts of COVID-19 on municipal budgets, services, and transit.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

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**From:** [AMO Communications](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – New Support for Local Fire Services, Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Tools and Resources  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 2:09:30 PM

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## AMO Policy Update



March 12, 2021

# AMO Policy Update – New Support for Local Fire Services and Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Tools and Resources

## Support for Local Fire Services During COVID-19

Yesterday, the Ministry of the Solicitor General [announced](#) it will provide \$5 million to help municipal fire services address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This one-time funding will enhance fire safety training across the province and support safety inspection programs to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code. Recognizing that Ontario's fire departments vary in size, capacity and levels of risk, each municipality will be able to submit proposals for an initial \$4,500 base grant plus additional funding dependent on population served.

## Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Tools and Resources

The Ministry of Health vaccine tools and resources have been updated and are now posted to the [Ministry's website](#). Changes are highlighted within these documents, and new documents include information for AstraZeneca and COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccines.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

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**From:** [AMO Communications](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Phase II of Vaccinations Plan, Bill 257 – Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, Firefighter Training Modernization  
**Date:** Friday, March 5, 2021 3:51:01 PM

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## AMO Policy Update



March 5, 2021

# **AMO Policy Update – Phase II of Vaccinations Plan, Bill 257 – *Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act*, and Firefighter Training Modernization**

## **Vaccination Distribution Plan – Phase II**

The Province has announced that [Phase Two](#) of Ontario's vaccination distribution plan will begin next month. Phase Two will focus on age and risk to prevent further death, hospitalization, and transmission. [Populations eligible for Phase Two vaccination](#) will be: older adults, between 60-75-79 years of age; individuals with specific health conditions and some primary caregivers; people who live and work in congregate care settings and some primary caregivers; people who live in hot spots with high rates of death, hospitalizations, and transmission; and certain workers who cannot work from home. These groups are expected to be vaccinated from April to July 2021.

Beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Province will be launching an online booking system and a provincial customer service desk to answer questions and support appointment bookings at mass immunization clinics. In addition to mass vaccination clinics, hospitals, and mobile clinics, the Province is also working with the pharmacy sector and primary care professionals to offer vaccinations in new settings. This phase is expected to vaccinate up to nine million Ontarians.

## **Bill 257 – *Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act***

Yesterday, [Bill 257, \*Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act\*](#), was introduced in the Legislature by the Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure.

The purpose of the Act is to reduce costs to broadband providers associated with attaching broadband wirelines to hydro utility poles and would provide timely access to poles and to municipal rights of way to install broadband on municipal land for “provincially significant” broadband projects. These proposed measures build on the Province’s [Up to Speed: Ontario’s Broadband and Cellular Action Plan](#).

The definition of a “provincially significant project” will be determined through regulation. If this term is scoped to mean **projects in rural and northern areas receiving provincial broadband funding**, this Act could help to ensure projects are delivered faster to the benefit of local communities that are currently unserved or underserved.

Bill 257 also proposes amendments to the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* that could see an impact to the pole attachment process for local distribution companies (LDCs) and to the Ontario Energy Board.

There are also proposed amendments to the *Planning Act* that ministerial zoning orders made under section 47 are not required, and are deemed to never have been required, to be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), except in the Greenbelt.

While this amendment, if passed, may clarify some legal matters, it raises questions as to why the Province would not want to abide by the Provincial Policy Statement which articulates provincial interests.

AMO expects to engage with the Ontario Government during the regulatory development process to ensure that the legislation improves broadband coverage to municipal governments without jeopardizing accountability for municipal rights-of-way and local autonomy. AMO has strongly supported expansion of access to broadband connectivity for Ontario communities and will work to ensure the proposed legislation helps communities achieve that while protecting local taxpayers and their investments.

## Firefighter Training Modernization

Yesterday the Office of the Fire Marshal published a [Communiqué](#) on the Ontario Fire College Training Modernization. It was issued as a follow up to the January 13, 2021 [announcement](#) regarding the decommissioning of the Ontario Fire College (OFC) and the modernization of fire safety training in Ontario.

The decommissioning of the OFC campus is set for March 31, 2021. Available options for OFC training are set out in the Communiqué, as is who to contact should municipalities have any questions.

AMO’s [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

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