



## POLICY UPDATE

November 30, 2022

# Province Responds to AMO Calls for Municipal Funding

Earlier this week [Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022](#) was passed by the legislature and received royal assent, including changes to the *Development Charges Act* that will cost municipalities approximately \$1 billion annually in revenue. In response to AMO's concerns and calls for provincial infrastructure funding, Minister Clark has committed in [a letter to the President of AMO](#) to “ensuring that municipalities are kept whole for any impact to their ability to fund housing enabling infrastructure because of Bill 23.”

In addition, the province has committed to introducing legislation that, if passed, would delay the implementation of development application refund requirements set out in Bill 109 by six months, from January 1, 2023 to July 1, 2023. The delay of these measures will give municipalities more time to implement measures.

AMO is very pleased that the government recognizes the importance for municipal access to funding to support the joint provincial-municipal goal of increasing housing supply and affordability. AMO looks forward to working in partnership with the provincial government to highlight the need for additional federal investments in municipal infrastructure to both support growth and address aging assets.

AMO will continue to work with the province to better understand the amount, timing and conditions of the funding to ensure alignment with municipal realities.

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## POLICY UPDATE

December 1, 2022

# Standing Committee Appearance on Bill 39 and Other Policy Updates

## AMO's Remarks on Bill 39, *the Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022*

Today, AMO's Executive Director, Brian Rosborough, presented to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy regarding Bill 39, *The Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022*. [AMO's remarks can be found on our website](#).

## Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act* Passed

Bill 23, the [More Homes Built Faster Act](#), received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022. As of today, the environmental and regulatory [consultations](#) associated with the Bill and the Housing Supply Action Plan 3.0 remain open.

In the event that consultations close early, AMO will submit comments directly to the respective Ministries and will post them to AMO's [Housing and Homelessness Page](#).

[Yesterday](#), in response to AMO's concerns and calls for provincial infrastructure funding, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing committed in [a letter to the AMO President](#) "ensuring that municipalities are kept whole for any impact to their ability to fund housing enabling infrastructure because of Bill 23". The letter also included a commitment to introduce legislation that, if passed, would delay the implementation of development application refund requirements set out in Bill 109 by six months, from January 1, 2023, to July 1, 2023.

AMO is very pleased that the government recognizes the importance for municipal access to funding to support the joint provincial-municipal goal of increasing housing supply and affordability, and will continue to work with the province to better understand the amount, timing, and conditions of the funding to ensure alignment with municipal realities.

## Bill 46, *Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario Act, 2022* Introduced

Last week, *Bill 46, Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario Act, 2022*, was introduced in the

legislature. A motion for closure on Second Reading debate was deferred to December 1. The proposed changes, if approved, will allow court clerks to reopen certain convictions when satisfied that the defendant, through no fault of their own, missed a notice or was unable to attend a meeting or hearing related to the ticket.

AMO is cautiously optimistic that these changes may help address ongoing backlogs at POA courts and hope that the government will also turn their attention to the lack of Justices of the Peace across Ontario.

## Increase in Construction Funding Subsidy for Long-Term Care Homes

The Ontario government is increasing the construction funding subsidy by up to an additional \$35 per bed, per day for 25 years. Eligible non-profits will also be able to convert \$15 of this supplemental funding into a construction grant payable at the start of construction, to increase projects' upfront equity and enable them to secure financing. Eligible projects must be beginning construction by August 31, 2023.

Eligible operators who wish to apply for the supplemental construction funding subsidy increase must submit a statement of readiness by December 20, 2022. More information is available [here](#) and through the [Long-Term Care Home Capital Development Funding Policy](#). AMO has advocated for increases to the construction funding subsidy to account for increasing capital costs and is pleased to see this increase.

## Fourth Independent Review of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)*

AMO provided a [submission](#) for the Fourth Independent Review of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)* on November 29. AMO shares the Ontario government's commitment to an accessible Ontario by 2025 and continues to support the need for increased and improved accessibility for Ontarians in all aspects of community and civic life. Municipal governments are doing their part at the forefront of efforts to create more accessible communities for their residents.

The submission outlines recommendations for ways to improve the municipal ability and capacity to meet the objectives of the Act with support from the province. There is opportunity for municipal governments to provide their input. Visit the AODA Independent Review [website](#) to learn more.

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## POLICY UPDATE

December 9, 2022

# Bill 39 Passes Third Reading, Greenbelt Consultation, Safe Restart Funding for Transit, Next Generation 9-1-1, New Regulations Proposed under the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, and Ontario Health Teams

## Bill 39, *Better Municipal Governance Act*, Passes Third Reading

The Legislative Assembly of Ontario voted to approve [Bill 39, \*Better Municipal Governance Act\*](#), during Third Reading on Thursday. The Act will amend the *Municipal Act* to allow heads of council designated by regulation to receive strong mayor powers to be able to propose by-laws and pass them with more than one-third of council voting in favour if they advance provincial priorities. Currently, only Toronto and Ottawa mayors will receive these powers.

Provincial priorities will be designated by regulation and are proposed to include meeting provincial targets for 1.5 million new homes by 2031 and increasing infrastructure development to support them.

AMO, many municipal councils, opposition members, and other groups have [requested](#) that the one-third approval of by-laws by council be removed from the Bill as it undermines democratic norms.

In addition, the Bill allows the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to appoint the Chairs of York, Peel, and Niagara Regions while the government designates provincial facilitators to assess regional and lower tier responsibilities.

## Comments Submitted on the Greenbelt

AMO continues to respond to the regulatory and environmental [postings](#) under Bill 23 – *The More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* and the More Homes Built Faster Plan. AMO's [comments](#) on the proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan on December 2 and all other housing related documents can be found [here](#).

## Safe Restart Funding for Transit Announced

Premier Doug Ford and the Minister of Transportation, Caroline Mulroney, [announced](#) new funding for municipal transit through Phase 4 of the federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement (SRA). The funding announced earlier this week will provide \$505 million to help municipal transit systems ensure safe and reliable systems in the face of continuing challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This funding is to help municipal transit systems address costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic between February 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022. Municipalities will be able to use their funding allocations to cover revenue losses, operating expenses, and provincial transit priority projects, including fare and service integration and On-Demand transit.

The funding builds on previous rounds of federal-provincial COVID-19 support for municipal transit and funds have been [allocated](#) to 107 municipal governments with a base amount of \$5,000 plus an allocation based on actual impacts reported through previous SRA phases.

## **Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) Funding Opportunity**

The Government of Ontario is providing funding over three years to support Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in Ontario with their transition to the new NG9-1-1 emergency services communications system. All applicants must apply through this call for proposals to be eligible for funding in any of the three years. [Applications](#) are now due January 10, 2023.

## ***Community Safety and Policing Act* Regulatory Proposals**

The Ministry of the Solicitor General has released regulatory proposals related to the *Community Safety and Policing Act*. Regulations must be in place to be able to bring the new legislation into force. Comments are due by **January 2, 2023**. Further regulatory proposals are anticipated throughout 2023.

The current proposals are:

- [Ontario Provincial Police Detachment Board Members Codes of Conduct](#)
- [Conflict of Interest](#) (for police services members)
- [Vehicle Pursuits](#).

AMO has reviewed the proposals and has not identified any areas of significant concern. Municipalities that will be appointing OPP Board members are encouraged to review the proposals and comment directly to the Ministry. AMO will continue to engage with the Ministry of the Solicitor General and other stakeholders on policing.

## **New Guidance Document for Ontario Health Teams**

The Ministry of Health has released new direction for Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) in the guidance document [Ontario Health Teams – The Path Forward](#). This guidance is

intended to promote greater standardization, informed by lessons learned through OHT implementation to date. The areas of focus for the guidance include clinical priorities, governance, operational capacity, and communications.

This guidance reflects some of the recommendations outlined in our [submission](#). The incorporation of OHTs as not-for-profit corporations will contribute towards addressing our recommendation for clear governance and accountability standards. While we would still like to see a mandated municipal voice into OHT service planning tables and governance boards, the guidance does encourage engagement with municipalities. We continue to recommend that the Ministry mandate municipal representation in future guidance provided to OHTs. We would also like to see further resources announced for municipal service manager participation. AMO will continue to work with the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health to promote greater municipal involvement as OHTs advance in maturity across the province.

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## Office of the President

December 16, 2022

Dear AMO Members,

Given how fluid the housing policy context has been over the past six weeks, we wanted to provide a brief update on where and how AMO continues to work on your behalf.

Bill 23 and other Housing Supply Action Plan initiatives make wide-ranging changes with fundamental impacts for the roles, budgets, and decision-making processes of local governments. We recognize how important it will be to have clarity as soon as possible regarding:

- **What changes municipal governments need to implement by when.** While Bill 23 has received Royal Assent, different elements will come into force at different times. Urgent questions remain regarding the introduction of legislation to delay development application refunding requirements under Bill 109, given imminent deadlines in current legislation. We have stressed to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing the need to provide clear and comprehensive information to municipalities about coming into force timelines of Bill 23 and legislation to amend Bill 109. We have offered to partner with Ministry officials to facilitate information sessions for members in the new year.
- **The timing, nature, and conditions of funding that the government has committed to providing municipalities to offset the impacts of Bill 23.** The government took a significant step to address municipal concerns with Bill 23 with Minister Clark's commitment to "keep municipalities whole". AMO continues to highlight to provincial government officials that to be able to make informed decisions about budgets and capital plans, municipalities need details regarding the role of housing pledge targets, the timing and scope of third-party audits, and the definition of costs for housing enabling infrastructure.

AMO will encourage the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to work with the sector on an informed, collaborative approach to addressing these and other implementation questions.

As soon as we have more information, we will be sure to share it with you. Rest assured that AMO understands the questions and challenges that Bill 23 raises for municipalities and continues to advocate strongly for a clear and collaborative path forward.

I hope you have a restful holiday season and look forward to working with you on what is bound to be a busy year ahead.

Yours truly,



Colin Best  
AMO President  
Councillor, Halton Region

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