

From: [AMO Communications](#)
To: [Jennifer Willoughby](#)
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Long-Term Care Commission Report Overview, Digital Ontario
Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 3:31:10 PM

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AMO Policy Update



May 3, 2021

AMO Policy Update – Long-Term Care Commission Report Overview and Digital Ontario

Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission Releases Report

The Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission has publicly released a final report fulfilling their mandate to examine the pandemic response for long-term care in Ontario. The [322-page report](#) contains the following:

- the state of long-term care before COVID-19, including the longstanding challenges concerning staffing, quality of resident care, oversight, funding, and infrastructure
- the deficiencies in Ontario's pandemic preparedness
- the COVID-19 crisis in long-term care and its devastating impacts
- best practices and promising ideas that can be adopted and expanded to improve long-term care, and
- final recommendations that build on the interim recommendations provided in October and December 2020.

The Commissioners' overall conclusion was that there was a lack of planning for a pandemic and that the response to COVID-19 was insufficient. The government is being urged to make changes to protect against outbreaks of infectious disease and any future pandemics.

AMO was active in the inquiry providing both testimony and written submissions to the Commissioners. A response to the government about this report, and the recent Auditor General's Report, will be developed and communicated to AMO members after further analysis of the recommendations and implications. The report provides the foundation for a critically needed discussion on how to effectively transform long-term care in Ontario.

Building a Digital Ontario

The Ontario Government introduced its first Digital and Data Strategy, [Building a Digital Ontario](#), on Friday, April 30th. This Strategy is the result of over two years of consultation and includes over two dozen new and established initiatives to equip people and businesses to succeed and, is to play a role in keeping Ontarians safe and secure, connected, and supported in the digital world. This strategy is an extension of [Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government](#).

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.

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From: [AMO Communications](#)
To: [Jennifer Willoughby](#)
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Ministry of Transportation Bill, CSPA Regulations, Municipal Act Clarification, Delegation Requests Open
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 3:10:32 PM

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AMO Policy Update



April 27, 2021

AMO Policy Update – Ministry of Transportation Bill, CSPA Regulations, *Municipal Act* Clarification, and Delegation Requests Open

New Road Safety Legislation

The Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Caroline Mulroney, introduced new road safety legislation in the Ontario Legislature yesterday. The Bill focuses on increasing and escalating penalties for stunt driving and street racing including higher fines, vehicle impoundment, demerit points, license suspensions, and mandatory courses.

The Bill also includes new changes aimed at regulating Ontario's towing industry, introducing a Director of Towing in the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), company, driver and vehicle standards, and protections for consumers. Currently some municipalities license tow truck operators to protect consumers. These local regimes will continue but could potentially be replaced by the provincial regulator in the coming years. MTO will be consulting with affected municipalities.

The Bill makes changes, also, to the incident collection requirements to track car doors hitting cyclists and electric scooters, and redefines power assisted bicycles. While AMO was hopeful that changes requested by municipal governments to increase *Highway Traffic Act* fines would be brought forward, these changes were not included in the Bill at this time. However, MTO is working to allow Administrative Monetary Penalties for red-light and Automated Speed Enforcement technology infractions under section 21.1 of the Act to be in place by July 1, 2022.

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA) Regulations

The Ministry of the Solicitor General is consulting on new regulatory proposals that are necessary to bring the Act into force. Additional regulatory proposals will be posted in the future. The first five proposals are:

1. [Oaths and affirmations for police officers, First Nation Officers, special constables, auxiliaries, and police service board members](#),
2. [Composition of the Ontario Provincial Police \(OPP\) Governance Advisory](#),
3. [A review and revision period for community safety and well-being \(CSWB\) plans](#),
4. [Suspension without pay](#), and
5. [Chief's referral to the Law Enforcement Complaints Agency](#).

Comments will be accepted until June 7, 2021. AMO will be reviewing and providing general comments on these regulations and members are encouraged to examine them and submit comments as appropriate.

Municipal Act, Section 357 (1) d and 323 (1) d Clarification

The Ministry of Finance has issued a clarification on Section 357 (1) d and 323 (1) d of the *Municipal Act* regarding property tax refund applications related to business shutdowns. AMO understands that a number of municipalities have received applications related to refund requests as a result of shut down orders to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The Ministry has informed AMO and other municipal associations that:

“While it is the responsibility of each local municipality to interpret and administer these sections for itself, it is the Ministry’s view that sections 357(1)(d) and 323(1)(d) are not intended to provide relief in a situation where a property **has not been physically damaged or demolished**.”

The Ministry notes that businesses affected by the shutdown may be able to apply for provincial property tax and energy rebates as well as the federal Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) programs.

AMO Conference Delegation Meetings Open

Delegation meetings are a key feature of the AMO Conference. To request delegation meetings as part of your AMO 2021 Conference experience, please click [here](#). As an AMO Conference delegate, you can request a virtual meeting with a Minister or Parliamentary Assistant at the AMO Conference. The deadline to submit your request is **June 4, 2021.**

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From: [AMO Communications](#)
To: [Jennifer Willoughby](#)
Subject: AMO Policy Update - Province Introduces Paid COVID-19 Leave
Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:57:45 PM

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April 29, 2021

AMO Policy Update – Province Introduces Paid COVID-19 Leave

The Province introduced legislation today to create a [temporary COVID-19 focused provincial sick day program](#). This legislation, if passed, will require employers to provide workers with up to three days of pay, up to \$200 per day, if missing work because of COVID-19. This will be retroactive to April 19, 2021 and effective until September 25, 2021, the same date the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) program will expire.

The WSIB will administer the program but it will be funded by the Province, not by the WSIB who relies on employers to fund their programs. At the time of writing the draft legislation was not available on the Legislative Assembly website, but when it is posted it should be found [here](#).

The Province has also offered to provide funding to the federal government to double CRSB payments to Ontario residents, adding an additional \$500 per week to eligible individuals for a total of \$1,000 per week. It is understood that federal-provincial discussions are currently occurring on creating a bridge between these programs and making it easier for employees to navigate between them when needed. The two programs, once up and operating together, are not to be used in the same week.

It has been stated by the Province that these temporary sick days, when passed into law, are not to be stacked on top of employer provided benefits if those benefits already provide for 3 or more sick days as part of the employment entitlements. As the employer is to manage the provision of these temporary COVID-19 focused provincial sick days, it is presumed that the employer will make sure this does not occur.

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From: [AMO Communications](#)
To: [Jennifer Willoughby](#)
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Reports on Long-Term Care Pandemic Response
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 2:47:12 PM

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April 28, 2021

AMO Policy Update – Reports on Long-Term Care Pandemic Response

The Office of the Auditor General (AG) of Ontario [released](#) a special [report](#) on Pandemic Readiness and Response in Long-Term Care. It is the result of an initiated audit which sought to assess whether the Ministry of Long-Term Care and the long-term-care homes were sufficiently positioned, prepared, and equipped to respond to the issues created by the pandemic in an effective and expedient way.

The general conclusion reached by the AG is that they were not. It was also concluded that the Province implemented several measures to deal with the impact of COVID-19. However, some unintended consequences on the homes' residents and staff further contributed to crowding and staffing shortages. The AG has provided 16 recommendations. The Province has responded that it will consider them along with other recommendations from other sources.

The independent Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission has announced that it will provide its report to the Ministry of Long-Term Care this week by April 30, 2021. After this it will be up to the government to release the report publicly. AMO provided a [written submission](#) and [testimony](#) to the Commission.

Ontario's Ombudsman is also expected to issue a report at some point based on its own investigation.

Once the reports have been released, AMO will send a members' communication with explanation of each and analysis of the implications.

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