

**From:** [AMO Events](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Conference Just Three Months Away!  
**Date:** Saturday, May 22, 2021 7:02:59 AM

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## 2020 AMO Conference



May 22, 2021

### AMO Conference Just Three Months Away!

As we celebrate the Victoria Day long weekend in Ontario, all thoughts are on moving forward and putting the worst of the pandemic behind us. There is much room for optimism and hope. Municipalities have distinguished themselves in the service of their communities and will play a leading role in the recovery.

AMO has worked hard over the past 14 months to support our members, provide critical information, and to advocate for policy changes and financial support to help make your job a little easier.

In 2020, AMO's virtual conference made sure that you could remain connected, gain critical insights, and advocate for local priorities through minister's delegation meetings. Your support for the virtual 2020 AMO conference made it a great success. The AMO Conference will be virtual again in 2021, and we are presenting an amazing lineup of speakers, policy workshops, networking sessions, and an opportunity for your council to connect with ministers on local matters.

Here are some of the highlights:

Keynote speakers include journalist **André Picard** on the state of long-term care in Canada, **Sheila Watt-Cloutier** on the social, cultural, and economic impacts of climate change, and **Anthony McLean** on bias, inclusion and mental health.

Our second **Women's Leadership Forum** features Ontario's Lieutenant Governor **Elizabeth Dowdeswell**, groundbreaking parliamentarian and activist **Jean Augustine**, and MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands **Elizabeth May**. The forum will be moderated by **Nam Kiwanuka**, host of TVO's *The Agenda in the Summer*.

Our **Path to Economic Recovery Panel** will feature Finance Minister and Treasury Board President **Peter Bethlenfalvy**, Atkinson Fellow on the Future of Workers, **Armine Yalnizyan** and President and CEO of the Retail Council of Canada, **Diane J. Brisebois**. The panel discussion will be moderated again this year by **Steve Paikin**, host of TVO's *The Agenda with Steve Paikin*.

You will hear directly from the Premier and key Ministers, along with all the political Party Leaders. You can participate in **three Ministers Forums** moderated by TVO's **John Michael McGrath**. There will be 15 workshops dealing with the most topical policy issues, ranging from climate change and housing to broadband and long-term care. The Conference is also an important opportunity to engage with sponsors and exhibitors connected with Ontario's \$50 billion a year municipal sector.

And, of course, **delegation meetings with Ministers** are a key feature of the AMO Conference. To request delegation meetings as part of your AMO 2021 Conference experience, visit the Conference [website](#) and click on the "Delegations" tab before the **deadline of June 4**. Don't forget, you must be a registered delegate to participate in delegation meetings.

For more information and to register for the 2021 AMO Conference, August 15-18, [click here](#). If you have questions that are not answered there, please send them to [events@amo.on.ca](mailto:events@amo.on.ca).

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**From:** [AMO Communications](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - New Provincial COVID-19 Plan, Federal COVID-19 Support Ask, Social Assistance Recovery and Renewal Vision, and Ombudsman's Report on Ambulance Complaints  
**Date:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 4:42:32 PM

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## AMO Policy Update



May 20, 2021

# AMO Policy Update – New Provincial COVID-19 Plan, Federal COVID-19 Support Ask, Social Assistance Recovery and Renewal Vision, and Ombudsman's Report on Ambulance Complaints

## New Provincial COVID-19 Plan

Today the Province [announced](#) plans to gradually reopen using a three-step plan, provided there is alignment with projected vaccination rates and public health advice. The following summarizes these changes, but encourage members to refer to its [Roadmap to Reopen](#) for more details:

- **Step One** An initial focus on resuming outdoor activities with smaller crowds where the risk of transmission is lower and permitting retail with restrictions. This includes allowing outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people, outdoor dining with up to four people per table and non-essential retail at 15 per cent capacity.
- **Step Two** Further expanding outdoor activities and resuming limited indoor services with small numbers of people where face coverings are worn. This includes outdoor gatherings of up to 25 people, outdoor sports and leagues, personal care services where face coverings can be worn and with capacity limits, as well as indoor religious services, rites, or ceremony gatherings at 15 per cent capacity.
- **Step Three** Expanding access to indoor settings, with restrictions, including where there are larger numbers of people and where face coverings can't always be worn. This includes indoor sports and recreational fitness, indoor dining, museums, art galleries and libraries, and casinos and bingo halls, with capacity limits.

Each stage will last for at least 21 days before the Province contemplates moving to the next stage. The Province expects to enter Step 1 around the week of June 14<sup>th</sup>

based on current projections.

Effective May 22, 2021 at 12:01a.m., the Province will also open amenities including golf courses and driving ranges, soccer and other sports fields, tennis and basketball courts, and skate parks. No outdoor sports or recreational classes are permitted. Outdoor limits for social gatherings and organized public events will be expanded to five people, which will allow these amenities to be used for up to five people, including with members of different households. All other public health and workplace safety measures under the provincewide emergency brake will remain in effect.

### **Federal COVID-19 Support Ask for Ontario Municipal Governments**

AMO President Graydon Smith recently [wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau](#) seeking a federal contribution to the 2021 municipal operating funds to match the 2021 \$500 million provincial funding. This is required as Ontario municipal governments continue to face pressures due to COVID-19 response, reduced revenues, and economic recovery efforts. The 2020 Federal-Provincial Safe Restart Agreement Fund was a model of all orders of government partnership and supported municipalities to stay financially whole in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This ask was made with the recognition that the recent federal Budget made a very important infrastructure investment with the additional \$2.2 billion in the Canada Community-Building Fund (formerly known as the Federal Gas Tax Fund), which goes to assisting economic recovery.

### **Social Assistance Recovery and Renewal Vision: Changes to the Municipal Delivery Role**

The provincial government, in partnership with municipal governments and District Social Service Administration Boards, is taking steps to implement a new vision for Social Assistance Recovery and Renewal. This will involve a significant functional realignment of the provincial and municipal delivery roles. AMO is supportive of the proposed transformation with the right conditions in place and committed to working to co-design the new social assistance program. More information and detailed analysis are found in this [AMO Briefing Note](#).

### **Ombudsman's Report on Ambulance Complaint System**

The Ontario Ombudsman, Paul Dube, has released a [report](#) today on the Ministry of Health's investigation process regarding land ambulance complaints.

His investigation concluded that "the Ministry of Health's administrative process for investigating and overseeing patient complaints and incident reports about ambulance services is unreasonable and wrong under the *Ombudsman Act*". His report makes [53 recommendations](#) to address these serious issues.

As land ambulance is a co-funded system comprised of 52 municipal/DSSAB paramedic services with the Ministry of Health, it is expected that the Ministry will be involving AMO and the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs along with other key partners to work together on an approach to consider the Ombudsman's

recommendations shortly.

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 – Stay-at-Home Order Extended  
**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 2:38:38 PM

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## AMO Policy Update



May 13, 2021

# AMO Policy Update – Stay-at-Home Order Extended

As anticipated, the Ontario government [has extended](#) the [Stay-at-Home Order \(O. Reg. 265/21\)](#) until at least June 2, 2021, with the more contagious variants continuing to pose significant risks to the public.

The Province has stated that all public health and workplace safety measures under the [province-wide emergency brake](#) will also remain in effect. The good news is that the government will prepare to administer the Pfizer vaccine to youth between the ages of 12 and 17, beginning the week May 31, 2021. The Province will be finalizing plans to reopen the province gradually and safely during this time.

Although there has been considerable progress done for 1<sup>st</sup> dose vaccinations during the COVID-19 third wave, key public health indicators remain high. The Province has decided to stay the current course which is consistent with the advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts' advice.

The Province will continue to assess the impacts of these measures over the coming weeks, which will include the finalization of plans to reopen the province gradually and safely over time. We also understand that there will be provincial consideration made to the reopening of outdoor recreational amenities on June 2, subject to current trends continuing.

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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