

**From:** [AMO Policy](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer E. Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Fall Economic Statement  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 30, 2024 5:15:09 PM

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## **AMO Policy Update - Fall Economic Statement**

This afternoon, the province released its [2024 Fall Economic Statement](#). The statement included the following announcements

impacting municipalities:

- A \$100 million increase in the **Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF)** over the next two fiscal years. AMO welcomes this OMPF enhancement as an important step in addressing municipal fiscal sustainability, including rural and Northern communities who will benefit from this increase. 2025 OMPF allocations, totaling \$550 million, and supporting materials have been posted [online](#).
- Supporting consolidation of **municipal electricity utilities (MEUs)** by extending and expanding transfer tax breaks. AMO welcomes this measure to ease the financial burden when local decisions are made to merge utilities.
- While the **provincial property tax review** is ongoing, property tax reassessments will continue to be deferred. The province is also undertaking work to permit municipalities to reduce municipal tax rates on affordable rental housing properties, explore property tax changes for student housing, and improve information and data sharing between the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and municipalities. AMO looks forward to continued engagement on the property tax review, and these specific measures to ensure that the property tax system continues to work for municipalities.
- Scope expansion on Bill 212: *Fighting Gridlock, Saving You Time Act*. It now proposes to give the province power to **remove existing bike lanes**. AMO's recent [policy update](#) on the Bill highlights how the province's overreach into municipal planning is ineffective and counterproductive. AMO will oppose this in its comments to standing committee.

The province has included stronger revenue and economic growth projections than were included in the 2024 Budget. The provincial fiscal foundations are in place for meaningful partnership with municipalities on a Social and Economic Prosperity Review.

On behalf of municipalities, AMO is calling on the provincial

government to make investments that will improve the quality of life of Ontarians in communities across the province. Municipalities need a provincial partner that will:

- **Sustainably invest in public infrastructure** to support growth, improve transportation, and prepare for the impacts of climate change.
- **Reduce the province's \$4 billion reliance on municipal revenues to fund provincial programs**, like health and social services, so municipal tax dollars can go toward supporting thriving communities.
- **Take action on the root causes of homelessness** through investments in mental health and addictions programming and improved income security that allows people to keep a roof over their heads.

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*This policy update is also available on [AMO's Website](#).*

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**From:** [AMO Policy](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer E. Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Encampments and Opioid Crisis  
**Date:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 4:55:51 PM

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## **AMO Policy Update - Encampments and Opioid Crisis**

**Comprehensive Provincial Approach Needed to Make Tangible  
Progress on Homeless Encampments and the Opioid Crisis**

Municipalities across Ontario understand the need for urgent action to address both the rising number of homeless encampments and the opioid crisis. There are more than 1400 encampments across the province. We can do better for our most vulnerable Ontarians and our broader communities.

Decades of isolated policy decisions made by successive provincial governments have compounded problems. More people are facing income insecurity. Health care and mental health demands are not being met. Help with addiction is hard to get. Affordable housing is desperately needed everywhere.

We need provincial action that is going to help the Ontarians who are struggling today and also tackle the root causes of homelessness so the crisis does not continue to grow.

Earlier this year, AMO released two policy papers calling for provincial action on the [opioid crisis](#) and [homeless encampments](#). AMO engaged with municipal members, police, paramedics, and mental health and addictions and housing experts over the course of months to identify the suite of actions needed.

This is a complex problem that won't be solved by simple, short-term solutions. We need a comprehensive approach, including:

- Provincial guidance that supports an appropriate and consistent approach to encampments across the province;
- Improvements to the income security system that leave too many living in poverty, and more than 1 million people in Ontario using food banks last year;
- Significant investments in deeply affordable housing and supportive housing;
- Long-term, sustainable, and substantial investment in prevention programs;
- Expanding access to voluntary and evidence-based treatment with same-day access and scaling up 24/7 crisis centres; and,

- Ensuring local say on the harm reduction approaches needed within local communities.

The current Ontario government did not create this crisis, but it has the resources and the wherewithal to take the comprehensive actions needed to solve it. Municipalities are ready to work together with the provincial government to tackle this systemic problem.

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**From:** [AMO Policy](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer E. Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Advancing Housing Initiatives, Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future and Sustainable OPP Costs  
**Date:** Monday, October 28, 2024 6:09:49 PM

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## **AMO Policy Update - Advancing Housing Initiatives, Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future and Sustainable OPP Costs**

## **AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing**

On October 1st and 2nd, AMO held a gathering of over 200 municipal, Indigenous, and sector leaders to share understandings, insights, and actions to advance and grow Ontario's community and supportive housing system.

Municipalities fund more than \$1 billion in social housing per year, yet the need for deeply affordable housing continues to rise across the province. The scale of this need surpasses the fiscal capacity of municipalities to address it.

Housing is a top priority in AMO's call to the province for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. The stability and sustainability of municipal governments are critical to ensuring that important municipal services continue to support the quality of life of residents and the economic and social prosperity of communities.

AMO is working hard to drive change across Ontario, and we are pleased that so many municipalities joined us at this important event and in our work.

Learn more about the key outcomes of the Knowledge Exchange through reading the [summary of proceedings](#).

## **Provincial Vision for Ontario's Energy Future, and Introduction of Bill 214, *The Affordable Energy Act***

Last week the Minister of Energy and Electrification released [Ontario's Affordable Energy Future](#), which set out a vision for meeting rising electricity demand while keeping costs down and reducing emissions. Electricity demand is expected to increase by 75% by 2050. Key elements of this vision are:

- Meeting 2030 emissions targets by investing in a mix of energy sources including nuclear, hydro, renewables, natural gas and storage solutions
- Developing an integrated energy resource plan to coordinate planning across all energy partners, including municipalities
- Modernizing local distribution corporation (LDC) funding models to support grid upgrades
- Expanding energy efficiency programs to help people save money on their energy bills
- Exporting electricity

To begin implementing this energy vision, the province [has introduced](#) Bill 214, *The Affordable Energy Act*. This legislation provides a framework for



advancing key priorities such as developing an integrated energy plan, prioritizing nuclear generation, and expanding energy efficiency plans.

The province's vision responds to AMO's recent calls for a provincial energy plan that commits to decarbonization and sets out a path for meeting Ontario's growing energy needs. AMO will continue to advocate for these commitments and a plan that ensures residents and businesses have access to clean, reliable and affordable energy.

## **AMO Advances Advocacy on Additional Residential Units**

AMO [submitted comments](#) to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on a [proposed regulation](#) that seeks to remove barriers to Additional Residential Units (ARUs) by limiting some local zoning by-law requirements for ARUs, such as maximum lot coverage, etc. AMO supports removing barriers to building new housing so long as municipalities have the appropriate tools and flexibility to responsibly manage local growth. At the same time, we remain concerned about the cumulative impact of continued changes to Ontario's land use planning framework. AMO's comments call on the province to provide certainty so municipalities and builders can focus on delivering new housing instead of catching up to policy changes.

## **OPP Billing**

AMO has heard ongoing concerns from members related to sizeable increases on their bills from the Ontario Provincial Police. We understand that the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Ontario Provincial Police have heard these concerns and are interested in working with municipalities to mitigate their concerns. AMO will continue to work with the provincial government and share additional information as it becomes available.

## **Province's 2024 Housing Forum**

Last Friday, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing brought together community partners and municipal representatives to discuss how Ontario can best continue to work closely with its partners to remove barriers and get more homes built faster. The forum included presentations and discussion components on:

1. Housing-enabling infrastructure, focusing on municipal service corporations and private communal sewage systems. AMO and its members were strong on the critical need for provincial and federal funding to build housing-enabling infrastructure and highlighted key insights from [AMO and MFOA's Water & Wastewater Municipal Services](#)

## [Corporations Backgrounder.](#)

2. An update on factory-built (modular) housing indicating that the province is developing a “Factory-Built and Innovative Housing Strategy.”

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