
From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 6:46 PM

To: Jennifer E. Willoughby <jwilloughby@shelburne.ca>

Subject: AMO Policy Update – NDP Motion on Municipal Fiscal Sustainability, Mental Health and Addictions, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure

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AMO Policy Update – NDP Motion on Municipal Fiscal Sustainability, Mental Health and Addictions, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure

NDP Motion Calling for a New Deal with Ontario's Municipalities

Yesterday, the NDP [tabled a motion](#) calling on the provincial government to reach a new deal with Ontario municipalities to address downloaded provincial costs in areas such as housing and healthcare.

AMO welcomes this acknowledgement that the current provincial-municipal

fiscal framework does not support sustainable communities or the quality of life of their residents. AMO has been calling for a [Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#) to update our fiscal relationship. 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 continued 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.

Response to Provincial Bike Lanes Legislation

Yesterday, AMO's Executive Director Brian Rosborough presented [remarks](#) to the legislature highlighting concerns with Bill 212, *the Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act*.

AMO views the provincial proposal to remove and block bike lands in specific locations as misguided and an ineffective way of addressing congestion. The development of a balanced transportation network that includes a broad mix of roads, cycling paths, sidewalks, and public transit options is an exercise best left to municipalities, based on their in-depth understanding of municipal infrastructure, community needs, and long-term growth plans.

AMO also submitted written [comments](#) to the Committee calling on the province to abandon the proposal.

Bill 223, *Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act*

Minister Kerzner tabled [Bill 223, *Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act*](#), which includes previously announced changes to supervised consumption sites in Ontario. The legislation would:

- Prohibit any supervised consumption site from operating within 200 metres of a school, childcare centre, or EarlyON centre. This change would close 10 sites currently operating in Ontario.
- It would also require municipalities to seek provincial approval before requesting federal approval or renewal of supervised consumption site

or funding for safer supply programs. This means that supervised consumption sites not currently impacted by the 200m limit could be impacted once provincial approval for renewal is required.

- Municipalities would also require provincial approval to publicly support, including through by-laws or resolutions, any other organization seeking to open a supervised consumption site or safer supply program.

As outlined in AMO's July Report, [The Opioid Crisis: a Municipal Perspective](#), tackling a problem as complex as the opioid crisis requires a comprehensive approach, including harm reduction supports that make sense for local communities. Municipalities – in collaboration with health, police, and other partners – are best positioned to decide whether supervised consumption sites are right for their communities.

Ontario Expanding Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel

As employers of first responders, municipalities are faced with the financial obligations associated with work-related mental health injuries. AMO was pleased to see a \$32 million investment through a new Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel program and the creation of an Anti-Stigma Strategy for first responders and public safety personnel.

The program will include a web portal to access core services, access to a 24/7 call-line and other trauma-informed mental health services. Grants for employers will also be provided to help subsidize the costs of these additional programs and services. A call for applications, inviting organizations to apply for funding under the grant, will be rolled out in early 2025.

Proposed Integrated Energy Plan for Ontario

AMO [presented to the legislature](#) in support of Bill 214, *Affordable Energy Act*, that makes progress on a plan to grow clean and affordable electricity capacity in Ontario. Key priorities include:

- Urging to the province to commit to a 2050 net-zero emissions target;
- Endorsing community benefit agreements between municipalities and energy proponents as part of procurement processes related to generation, storage and transmission projects;
- Ensuring the costs and risks of new last mile energy infrastructure are not transferred to municipalities or local distribution corporations.

AMO also [submitted comments](#) supporting enhanced funding to municipalities and local distribution corporations (LDCs) to implement local energy efficiency measures.

Cyber Security and MFIPPA

AMO [submitted comments](#) to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy on Bill 194, *Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act*. The bill proposes changes that would establish a cyber security framework for broader public sector entities including municipalities, school boards, and hospitals.

AMO highlighted the need to balance strong data and privacy protection with the flexibility needed to allow municipalities to put systems in place, and act quickly when cyber-threats are identified. AMO also commented on the long-standing need to update MFIPPA, particularly around frivolous and vexatious requests.

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

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2024 1:36 PM
To: Jennifer E. Willoughby <jwilloughby@shelburne.ca>
Subject: AMO Policy Update – 2024 Housing Targets in Ontario

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AMO Policy Update – 2024 Housing Targets in Ontario

Ontario is in a housing crisis and municipalities are doing everything in their power to increase housing supply and affordability while working towards the province's ambitious target of building 1.5 million homes over 10 years. This year's housing starts are predicted to be lower than provincial government targets and many may blame municipalities. AMO knows this is not true and has [defended against](#) reports or associations that have blamed municipal approval timelines and development charges as key issues in explaining declining housing starts.

As 2024 numbers are finalized, it will be important to remember that Ontario's housing market is complex and under pressure from unanticipated population growth, interest rates, labour shortages and inflation that has outstripped

wages. AMO has produced a [resource](#) to help lay out myth from reality to show that the solution to the housing affordability crisis will be found through collaboration between the province, municipalities, the development industry, and through industry innovation.

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

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2024 4:15 PM
To: Jennifer E. Willoughby <jwilloughby@shelburne.ca>
Subject: AMO Policy Update – OPP Billing, Bills

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AMO Policy Update – OPP Billing, Bills

AMO and municipalities across Ontario have loudly advocated for provincial action to address the unmanageable increase in Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) costs for next year. AMO is proud to have worked closely with the government to address these concerns raised by municipalities. Today, the [provincial government proposed](#) more than \$77 million in 2025 to provide municipal budget relief and invest in Ontario's communities.

The majority of Ontario's municipalities proudly partner with the Ontario Provincial Police to keep their communities safe. Ontarians already pay the highest policing costs in the country, and these additional costs were beyond municipal fiscal capacity to absorb. While AMO appreciates the provincial action to address this specific issue, a broader solution to the weakening foundations of municipal fiscal sustainability is critically needed. AMO continues to call on the province for a comprehensive review of the municipal-provincial fiscal framework that helps provide the services that Ontarians rely on every day, including policing.

AMO looks forward to continuing to work closely with the provincial government as they look forward to reviewing the OPP billing model to ensure it continues to meet the needs of communities across the province.

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From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 4:24 PM
To: Jennifer E. Willoughby <jwilloughby@shelburne.ca>
Subject: AMO Pre-Budget Submission 2025

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AMO Pre-Budget Submission 2025

On behalf of its members, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is continuing to advance its advocacy on the urgent, province-wide need for a comprehensive review of provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements.

The provincial-municipal fiscal framework is broken. As municipal councils work through their budget processes, it's clear that municipalities across the province are facing immense pressure created by growing costs in areas of provincial jurisdiction.

For almost a year, municipalities across the province have been calling on the provincial government to sit down with municipalities and collaboratively engage on a Social and Economic Prosperity Review. More than 170 municipalities across Ontario joined the call and passed a [resolution](#) asking the provincial government to respond to these concerns.

Unfortunately, the provincial government has not agreed to come to the table. But a lack of provincial engagement hasn't changed the critical need for a new fiscal framework.

AMO will be evolving its advocacy through its upcoming 2025 pre-budget submission, which will be released in mid-January. In this submission, AMO will be calling for provincial action on three key areas that would support municipal fiscal sustainability in order to improve the quality of life in communities across Ontario, including:

1. **Long-term and predictable investments in municipal infrastructure:**

Ontario municipalities are planning to invest more than \$250B in capital expenditures over the next ten years to meet growth needs, improve transportation and adapt to climate changes, but the current funding approaches are insufficient.

The provincial and federal governments are under-investing in infrastructure, funding programs are often piecemeal and short-term, and infrastructure funding programs do not grow with the economy.

2. **Reducing the province's reliance on municipal property taxes** to fund health and social services programs. In 2022, municipal expenditures subsidized health services, housing and social and family services by \$4B. That is \$4B taken away from core municipal priorities and it only continued to grow in 2023.

Responsibility for funding community housing should be uploaded to the province and provincial funding for health services, like public health and long-term care, should be sufficient to meet legislative requirements and standards for quality of care so municipalities don't have to step in to fill the gaps.

3. **Addressing the systemic causes of homelessness** through investment in income security, and mental health and addictions treatment services, taking the pressure off police and paramedics and improving public safety.

In early January, AMO along with key partners, will be releasing the results of an ambitious research project on the scope and scale of homelessness across Ontario, and the provincial investments needed to truly address it. AMO will be sharing more information on the key outcomes of this work as well as communications tools with members before it is released in early January.

While each municipality faces unique local circumstances, so many of the fundamental challenges caused by unsustainable fiscal arrangements are the

same. AMO will be following-up with additional resources to support unified messaging across membership, including:

- Key messages regarding municipal fiscal sustainability to support delegations at the ROMA Conference in January.
- A communications toolkit (e.g., social media, key messages, template press releases) early in the new year that will provide members with more support in bringing a united message to the provincial government on the need for municipal fiscal sustainability to enhance quality of life for all Ontarians.

We know that municipalities across Ontario are under pressure to respond to increasing budget pressures, but the municipal sector is strongest when it speaks with one strong and united voice.

Sincerely,



Robin Jones

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