

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

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 11:04 AM

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

Subject: AMO Policy Update – Reports on Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis, Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.



AMO Policy Update – New Reports on Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis, Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility

AMO Launches Groundbreaking Homelessness Study

[News Release](#)

Today the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) released a comprehensive report titled “[Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario’s Homelessness Crisis](#)” that reveals the unprecedented and growing toll of homelessness on individuals, families, communities, and governments. It outlines the risk of inaction and shows there is a reasonable path forward.

The study was conducted by HelpSeeker Technologies, in partnership with AMO, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA).

The study’s findings indicate that Ontario is at a tipping point in its homelessness crisis. More than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2024, a number that has grown by more than 25 per cent since 2022. Without significant intervention, homelessness in Ontario could double in the next decade, and reach nearly 300,000 people in an economic

downturn. The crisis stems from decades of underinvestment in deeply affordable housing, income support and mental health and addictions treatment, combined with escalating economic pressures on communities.

The report proposes a fundamentally new approach that focuses on long-term housing solutions over temporary emergency measures and enforcement. AMO urges provincial and federal governments to take significant, long-term action on affordable housing, mental health and addictions services, and income supports to fix homelessness and improve communities' economic foundations and quality of life.

You can find a communications toolkit, including AMO's backgrounder, a customizable news release, and social media cards on the [AMO website](#).

Water and Wastewater Utility Feasibility Study

On January 8, AMO's business services arm (LAS) released a [feasibility study](#) that explores the opportunity and considerations for managing water and wastewater under a municipally-led Municipal Services Corporation. This work was supported by an expert panel and will be featured in the upcoming 2025 ROMA Conference programming in late January.

The study complements the AMO-MFOA water and wastewater [backgrounder](#), which provided a fact-base on the opportunities and challenges of this model. AMO believes that Municipal Service Corporations can be a valuable organizational and governance tool, particularly for small-to-medium-sized municipalities lacking the tax base to support costly infrastructure renewal and expansion. For these communities, Municipal Service Corporations offer a potentially helpful mechanism to increase administrative and technical capacity and financial sustainability for water and wastewater infrastructure. However, it's crucial that these corporations be planned openly, thoughtfully, and carefully under municipalities' leadership.

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

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

To unsubscribe, please| [Opt Out](#)

155 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA

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

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 5:06 PM

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

Subject: AMO Policy Update – AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Submission

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the contents to be safe.



AMO Policy Update – AMO 2025 Pre-Budget Submission

AMO has released its 2025 [pre-budget submission](#) highlighting how municipalities are focused on providing the things that matter most to Ontarians, including:

- building more homes to support growth and make housing more affordable;
- dealing with homelessness and the drug crisis to improve quality of life for everyone; and,
- providing important core municipal services like policing and transit while keeping property tax growth to a minimum in the face of ongoing cost of living challenges.

But delivering on these priorities is impossible with the current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements. For over a year, AMO and more than 160 member councils have been calling on the province for [a joint Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#) with no engagement to date. The impact of a broken provincial-municipal fiscal framework is apparent in our communities, with implications for housing affordability, cost of living, and public safety.

Municipalities urgently need the province to reset fiscal fundamentals. To address the growing threats to quality of life across Ontario, AMO urges the provincial government to make concrete commitments in these key areas:

1. Infrastructure funding for housing and the economy
2. Reduced provincial reliance on municipal subsidies
3. Fixing broken provincial systems to address homelessness

AMO will provide a presentation outlining this year's pre-budget submission on the plenary stage at the 2025 ROMA Conference.

AMO Supports Changes to Brownfields Rules to Reduce Barriers to Development

AMO submitted [comments](#) to a recent Environmental Registry posting regarding provincial rules for Brownfields development in support of changes to regulatory requirements for brownfields projects to reduce the need for Records of Site Condition (RSC) in certain cases.

The proposal will eliminate the need for RSCs where there are no legislative requirements and where proposals are low-risk, meaning they would have been filed with a Phase-One Environmental Phase Assessment (EPA). This means that no potentially contaminating activities or areas of potential environmental concern were identified for that property.

AMO supports a risk-based approach to environmental safety requirements. Ontario's ambitious target to build 1.5 million new homes over the next ten years to house a growing population requires close public and private sector cooperation. Brownfields offer valuable properties that can be repurposed in communities for new residential or other uses. Changes to reduce red tape and improve development timelines while ensuring strong environmental

protections can help deliver needed development more quickly and affordably.

AMO's Response to the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021*

AMO recently sent a [letter](#) to Minister Kusendova-Bashta in response to consultations on the *Support for Seniors and Caregivers Act, 2024*.

The proposed changes included improved access to dementia care, consistent with AMO's longstanding asks to expand emotion-focused care. However, the Bill's enforcement and liability provisions raise potential impacts of new individual liability provisions on long-term care staff recruitment, on liability for long-term care home Board members, and the removal of the reduction of penalties from municipal and other non-profit homes. AMO members are committed to their roles on the Boards of long-term care homes and to the safety of residents in municipal long-term care homes. We strongly encourage the provincial government to reconsider these changes.

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

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

unsubscribe, please| [Opt Out](#)

55 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA