

**From:** [AMO Communications](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Ontario-Municipal Summit Seeks Solutions to Build More Homes  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 2:05:31 PM

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## AMO Policy Update



January 19, 2022

# Ontario-Municipal Summit Seeks Solutions to Build More Homes

Today, Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM), Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO), and AMO President Jamie McGarvey met with Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister Steve Clark, at the [Ontario Housing Affordability Summit](#).

Premier Ford announced more than \$45 million for a new Streamline Development Approval Fund to help Ontario's 39 largest municipalities modernize, streamline, and accelerate processes for managing and approving housing applications. Over \$8 million was announced through the Audit and Accountability Fund to help large urban municipalities identify potential savings and efficiencies through third-party reviews to further accelerate the creation of new housing and modernize municipal services.

The provincial government has also committed to working with the municipal sector to develop a data standard for planning and development applications to help accelerate approval timelines. This work is part of the [Ontario Data Authority](#) initiative, designed to accelerate Ontario's economic and social growth through improved data sharing. AMO's Digital Government Task Force has been recently re-purposed to work on this needed data standard.

AMO agrees with the province that everyone has a role to play in addressing Ontario's housing crisis and reiterates that housing affordability is a shared responsibility requiring commitment and coordination from all orders of government and the non-profit, co-operative, and private sector. Today's Summit was a good start and there is more work to do.

AMO looks forward to continuing to work with our partners to address Ontario's housing crisis, including at the upcoming Rural Housing Affordability Roundtable. The Premier and Minister will be hosting this Roundtable at the ROMA Conference on

January 23<sup>rd</sup> with rural, remote, and northern municipal leaders.

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 - Housing Affordability Task Force Report, Call to Re-examine Hospital Capital Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 11:43:19 AM

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## AMO Policy Update



February 8, 2022

# AMO Policy Update – Housing Affordability Task Force Report and Call to Re-examine Hospital Capital Funding

## Housing Affordability Task Force Report Released

The province has now released the Housing Affordability Task Force [report](#). It contains the Task Force's recommendations to increase the supply of market housing to address the housing crisis.

The Task Force report's recommendations include five main areas to quickly increase the supply of market housing, to meet a goal of adding 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. These areas include:

- making changes to planning policies and zoning to allow for greater density and increase the variety of housing;
- reduce and streamline urban design rules to lower costs of development;
- depoliticize the approvals process to address NIMBYism and cut red tape to speed up housing;
- prevent abuse of the appeal process and address the backlog at the Ontario Land Tribunal by prioritizing cases that increase housing; and
- align efforts between all levels of government to incentivize more housing.

Additionally, the Task Force report makes other recommendations to increase housing supply over the long-term, including to digitize and modernize the approvals and planning process, grow the skilled labour workforce, and encourage new pathways to home ownership.

The province will be consulting further with municipal governments, the public, and the housing industry. In the next 10 days, AMO will be submitting our consolidated

housing affordability recommendations, as approved by the AMO Board of Directors, to Minister Clark and the province for their consideration on their next steps on housing affordability.

## Call to Re-examine Hospital Capital Funding

AMO's [2022 Pre-Budget Submission](#) included a number of municipal priorities for the upcoming provincial budget including re-examining the local funding of provincial hospitals. The submission highlights the impact of the "local share" capital donations in funding provincial hospital construction and expansion. The "local share" requirements have fiscal implications for municipal governments pressured to fill funding gaps to get hospital projects off the ground. AMO's submission calls on the provincial government to re-evaluate this approach.

If your municipal council would like to add its support, please see the [resolution](#) for your council's consideration.

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**From:** [AMO Communications](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Pre-Budget Submission, New Joint & Several Technical Group, Phase 2 CA Regulations, and Provincial Gas Tax Boost  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 4:42:44 PM

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## AMO Policy Update



January 26, 2022

# **AMO Policy Update – Pre-Budget Submission, New Joint & Several Technical Group, Phase 2 CA Regulations, and Provincial Gas Tax Boost**

## **AMO Pre-Budget Submission**

Today, Jamie McGarvey, AMO President, delivered the Association's Pre-Budget Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. His remarks highlighted three key themes for the fiscal year that lies ahead:

1. AMO seeks a provincial budget that continues to address pandemic-related municipal costs with ongoing intergovernmental cooperation and investment.
2. A budget that does not impose new unfunded responsibilities upon municipalities and builds for the future; and
3. A budget that accounts for inflation in cost-share programs, Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund allocations, and provincial payments in lieu of taxes.

His address highlighted growing municipal capital contributions to new hospital construction and the need to re-think funding approaches. The full written submission is [linked here](#). Municipalities are encouraged to re-enforce the above themes in their submissions to the government and note highlighted emerging trends.

## **Municipal Insurance Costs: Joint and Several Liability Technical Review**

Attorney General Doug Downey has asked his Ministry to convene a Technical Working Group on joint and several liability. The Working Group is anticipated to begin work in March and will start by examining suggestions made by AMO. The announcement responds to recent calls by AMO and municipalities for the government to create a plan to address this long-standing challenge before the end of the

Government's mandate.

Municipalities have experienced substantial increases in insurance costs and joint and several liability is one driver of insurance rates long identified by the municipal sector. Other drivers include climate change and the insurance market.

The Working Group will also include insurance industry representation and is a positive step by the Government. While AMO recognizes that a solution is unlikely before the June Ontario election, it is hoped that the discussions will lay the groundwork for action afterward.

## **Phase 2 Regulations of the *Conservation Authorities Act* Posted**

Today, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted the [second phase of regulations](#) under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The posting proposes how the CA programs and services will be paid for, including the municipal levy, the voting mechanism, and other governance and transparency matters.

As part of this consultation, the Ministry is hosting three webinars in February, including one focused for municipalities and municipal associations on February 8th. If you wish to attend a webinar, please register by emailing [ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca) with the subject line "CAA Phase 2 Webinars" and indicate your preferred session date.

AMO will provide comments on the submission which are due in 30 days (February 25, 2022).

## **Ontario Gas Tax Boost**

On January 21, 2020, the Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation [announced](#) that the province will provide an additional \$120.4M in one time funding to top the Ontario Gas Tax for Transit Program in 2021-22. This funding brings the program to \$375.6M for the year and stabilizes it after gas tax revenues decreased during the pandemic.

The Ontario Gas Tax for Transit Program provides two cents for every litre of gasoline sold in the province. The funds are allocated based on transit ridership and can be used to support transit capital and operations. The funds are provided to 107 municipalities and support transit services in 142 communities.

Gas Tax funding stability was recommended by AMO and will provide important supports to municipal transit as the pandemic continues to challenge ridership levels. This funding is in addition to previously announced specialized COVID-19 transit supports by the provincial and federal governments.

Along with the recent [doubling](#) of Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF), Ontario municipalities will be able to plan expenditures to improve important local services.

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**From:** [AMO Events](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Willoughby](#)  
**Subject:** Update on the 2022 AMO Conference Launch  
**Date:** Friday, January 28, 2022 3:01:47 PM

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## AMO Policy Update



January 28, 2022

### Update on the AMO 2022 Annual Conference Launch

In December 2021, AMO shared with its membership the plan for the 2022 conference to be held in-person in August in the host City of Ottawa. This is still the plan.

AMO decided to hold off opening registration and releasing the conference room block until early in 2022 as Covid-19 continued to present some uncertainty.

We are pleased to share that planning for AMO 2022 is underway and we remain optimistic that we will all meet in person in August.

Final decisions will be made at the March 25th meeting of the AMO Board after which the Conference will be officially launched.

You will want to hold off booking your hotel room until the official launch.

As in the past, we will send a communication providing all the details you need to plan for another exciting and important AMO Annual Conference.

Have questions? [events@amo.on.ca](mailto:events@amo.on.ca)

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