



AMO Policy Update: New AMO Advocacy on Homelessness, Opioids, and Water Infrastructure Demonstrate the Critical Need for Social and Economic Prosperity Review

AMO Continues to Advocate for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review

Earlier this year, AMO and nearly 100 of its members called on the provincial government to commit to a Social and Economic Prosperity Review to fix the broken provincial-municipal fiscal framework. AMO is now calling on the provincial government to commit to this joint review at the 2024 AMO Conference in August.

AMO is pleased to share new tools to support the next chapter of advocacy on this important initiative, including:

- [Updated messaging](#) highlighting the need for action on municipal fiscal sustainability to address the things Ontarians care most about – like housing affordability, healthcare, cost of living and public safety
- [A template letter](#) to provincial Ministers

We hope that you share widely and use this material to engage with fellow council members, MPPs, and community members in communicating why this challenge is urgent, province-wide, and central to Ontario’s social and economic prosperity.

Call for Provincial and Federal Action on Homeless Encampments

Nowhere is the need to fix the provincial-municipal fiscal framework more clear than in responding to the homelessness crisis.

While municipalities did not create the homelessness crisis, they are being forced to manage it without the resources or tools to sufficiently respond. Municipalities are often caught balancing the important needs of unsheltered people living in encampments, who deserve to be treated with empathy and respect, and a responsibility to ensure our communities are safe and vibrant places for all residents.

To support conversations at Council, with communities, and with provincial and federal governments, AMO is pleased to share the following resources:

- [Homeless Encampments in Ontario: A Municipal Perspective](#) – This paper illustrates the complex situations municipalities are managing while calling on the provincial and federal governments for leadership and action.
- [Key messages](#) from the AMO paper to help provide context for local discussions.
- [Social media cards](#) to highlight urgent needs like provincial guidance to municipalities on how to manage encampments in an increasingly complex legal landscape.

Call for Provincial Action on the Opioid Crisis

More than 2500 Ontarians died due to opioids in 2023, in communities big and small across the province. Increasingly, divisive rhetoric is distracting from much needed government action and leadership.

AMO collaborated with key partners from the health, justice, business and social services sectors to develop [The Opioid Crisis: A Municipal Perspective](#). This paper seeks to re-focus attention on evidence-based solutions across the four pillars of prevention, treatment, enforcement and harm reduction.

Please also find attached the following resources to understand what this crisis is doing to your community and to call attention to the need to act, including:

- [Local information](#) on opioid deaths in your municipality
- [Key messages](#) from the AMO paper to help provide context for local discussions
- [Social media cards](#) to highlight the need for evidence-based solutions

Water and Wastewater Municipal Services Corporations

Over the next 10 years, Ontario's municipalities are planning to make more than \$250 billion in capital investments to support growth, and replace and renew aging assets, including water and wastewater infrastructure. What role can and should municipal services corporations for water and wastewater play in supporting growth and delivering this critical public service?

AMO and MFOA have developed a [backgrounder](#) for municipalities on municipal services corporations for water and wastewater. This municipal resource includes:

- Facts about MSCs for water and wastewater.
- The benefits, strategic considerations and risks related to governance, finance, and planning.
- Examples of four existing MSCs.

Municipal services corporations won't work for every municipality. AMO firmly believes that to make the best long-term decisions for residents, communities and the economy, decisions around delivering water and wastewater through a municipal services corporation should be led by the municipal sector.

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
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Dear Ministers,

As you know, municipalities provide the services that Ontarians rely on every day. The fiscal framework that enables municipalities to do this work is broken. Failing to fix this problem fails residents, small businesses, health and public safety partners, and major industries.

Since last fall, AMO has called on your government to commit to working with municipalities on a Social and Economic Prosperity Review to put municipalities on solid fiscal footing for the benefit of Ontario's competitiveness and quality of life. The review calls on the provincial government to sit down with municipalities and work together to conduct a joint review of revenues, costs and financial risks, as well as an analysis of Ontario's infrastructure investment and service delivery needs. Since its launch, more than 150 municipalities and organizations have supported this work – *and counting*.

AMO and its members remain committed to this important initiative. The review is critical to Ontario's ability to make progress on the issues people care about most, including housing, healthcare, cost of living and public safety. The municipal fiscal sustainability

challenge is urgent, province-wide, and central to Ontario's social and economic prosperity.

[Insert a sentence or two about your local circumstances, such as above average property tax increases, key financial pressures, and complex challenges that make this important to your municipality/organization]

This work has received support from the opposition, who recognize the importance and urgency of a conversation on the state of municipal finances and the need for a comprehensive review of provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements. All three opposition leaders have committed to a New Deal for municipalities if elected in the next election.

Municipalities continue to call on Premier Ford to do what taxpayers expect – work together with municipal governments to get it done for Ontarians. **We urge your government to commit to this review at the upcoming AMO conference.** Working together, we can build a better Ontario.

Sincerely,