

AMO's 2017 Pre-Budget Submission Released: *What's Next Ontario?*

Today AMO provided its 2017 Pre-Budget Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

Highlights of AMO's Submission include:

- First and foremost, AMO seeks the government's courage to work with the municipal sector in developing a bolder revenue framework for Ontario's municipal governments. The submission asks a key question on long-term sustainability: *What's Next Ontario?*
- AMO also seeks the government's commitment to address some of the longstanding and emerging issues in the provincial-municipal relationship that require action. Issues include:
 - The addition of inflationary increases to the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF);
 - The provincial government must become a more active funding partner of social and affordable housing in Ontario;
 - Modifying recent policing grant announcements to assure municipalities and police leaders face no added financial risks in the long-term;
 - Leadership on legislative reforms that improves the efficiency and effectiveness of police services for all communities;
 - Changes to the interest arbitration system; and
 - Maintaining the provincial 1/3 contribution for cost-shared infrastructure funding, even if the federal government contributes a greater amount, for recognition of ongoing municipal operating costs.
- Municipal governments from all corners of the province will be looking to the 2017 Provincial Budget to signal provincial interest in addressing the long-term financial needs of the entire municipal sector, through a bolder revenue framework. Having a 19th century revenue tool kit, to deliver 21st century services, is not a successful recipe for the future.

Municipalities have until Friday, January 20, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. to make a pre-budget submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. Submissions can be addressed to the Clerk of the Committee, Eric Rennie, and emailed to: erennie@ola.org.