

AMO Report to Member Municipalities Highlights of the August 2017 Board Meeting

August 2017 Board Meeting

To keep members informed, AMO provides updates on important issues considered at regular AMO Board of Directors' meetings. The Board met in Ottawa, Ontario prior to the 2017 Annual AMO Conference. Highlights of the August 12, 2017 meeting include:

One-Third Tax Exemption Resolution

The Board passed a resolution requesting that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities champion this matter federally and to coordinate other provinces impacted by the federal policy change set to take place January 2019. (FCM has recently advised that it will discuss this matter at its September Board meeting.) AMO's survey responses from municipal treasurers demonstrate that there is a cost impact to municipal governments in Ontario.

AMO Contact: Pat Vanini, Executive Director, pvanini@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 ext. 316.

Bill 148, *Fair Workplace, Better Jobs 2017*

The AMO Board continues to recommend amendments to Bill 148 to exempt municipal operations. The recent annual conference profiled the legislation and our concerns. The Minister of Labour has assured AMO and delegates that the unintended consequences in the drafting as relates to municipal governments will be re-examined. Exemptions will be needed to the Bill that would frustrate municipal public safety and emergency activities. If not amended, it would make big changes to the *Employment Standards Act* and *Labour Relations Act*. Scheduling, on-call payments, equal pay provisions, vacation entitlements, personal emergency leave, union certification, and successor rights are a few of the issues that would impact municipal operations and budgets.

AMO Contact: Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, cathiebrown@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 ext. 342.

Bill 139, *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017* – Land Planning Appeals Tribunal (OMB Review)

The AMO Board will be advising Ministers Mauro and Naqvi that it supports this proposed direction for a renewed land use appeal process with a couple of suggestions such as:

- all provincial land use policies should be transferred to the Provincial Policy Statement where it is easily found and more apparent;
 - 90 days seems too short for the 2nd decision process so 120 days will be recommended;
 - the effectiveness of the second decision process should be reviewed a couple of years after implementation; and
 - greater upfront dialogue between provincial and local planning staff at the outset of amendments so that there is better understanding of the application of provincial policy to local circumstances, so the likelihood of appeal is reduced.
- AMO Contact:** Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, cathiebrown@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 ext. 342.

Digital Government and Ontario's Municipal Governments

The AMO Board received and approved a comprehensive paper, including its four recommendations, enabling municipal government digitization. The AMO Digital Government Task Force report, "[#OnMuni Online: Towards Digital Transformation and Opportunities for Ontario's Municipal Governments](#)", explores how municipal governments can consider available digital opportunities, overcome perceived barriers to digital transformation, and show how municipal governments can digitally mature.

AMO Contact: Nicholas Ruder, LAS Research Advisor, nruder@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 ext. 411.

Waste Management Update

AMO, with its municipal partners and key producers, have been advocating the move of the Blue Box program to full producer responsibility faster than the Ministry's proposed 2023 date. The advocacy has resulted in an announcement at the recent AMO Conference by MOECC Minister Chris Ballard that he has directed the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority and Stewardship Ontario to amend the Blue Box Program Plan as a first phase of transition to the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act*, 2016. In addition, municipal comments to the EBR posting of MOECC's "Discussion Paper: Addressing Food and Organic Waste in Ontario" were recently submitted.

AMO Contact: Dave Gordon, Senior Advisor, dgordon@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 ext. 371.

Leadership "Onward" Project

The AMO Board received an update on the Leadership "Onward" Project. With the

critical need for municipal succession planning at the senior leadership staff level, the objectives of this project include the development of programs to respond to leadership gaps that include: creation of champions at the political level, active promotion of municipal succession planning and talent development efforts, and increased awareness of municipal management as a career choice.

Jim Pine, CAO, County of Hastings, pinej@hastingscounty.com, and Tony Haddad, CAO, Town of Tecumseh, thaddad@tecumseh.ca are the project's municipal leads.

Highlights of the 2017 AMO Annual Conference: For plenary session videos including Local Share, Nik Nanos polling, panel discussion on global trends and impacts, provincial leaders' sessions and more, please click here:

<https://www.amo.on.ca/Events/AMOCongress/OnAtAMO>.