



300 Dufferin Avenue  
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**London**  
CANADA

July 17, 2023

Chair and Members  
Corporate Services Committee

## **RE: Update on Association of Municipalities of Ontario Board Advocacy**

### **Background**

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) represents the interests of Ontario's 444 municipalities, and exists to coordinate and advance municipal advocacy, share information, and otherwise support strong and effective municipal government across Ontario.

AMO's Board of Directors meets five times per year. AMO's Executive Committee meets monthly, and also holds regular meetings directly with Provincial cabinet ministers through the AMO-Provincial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) table.

### **AMO Advocacy Update**

AMO's ongoing advocacy work covers a wide array of topics relevant to London, including: municipal planning and development; housing supply and affordability; municipal infrastructure; economic development; climate adaptation and resilience; and social determinants of health.

Notably, AMO is taking a more active role in advocacy around homelessness, which undoubtedly contributed to significant Provincial Budget commitments of \$202 million annually for the Homelessness Prevention Program and the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program, and an additional \$425 million over three years for community mental health programs.

AMO's recent work on homelessness has included organizing the "Ending Homelessness Symposium" in May, which included a presentation by London's Deputy City Manager of Social and Health Development, Kevin Dickins, further strengthening the province-wide interest in London's whole-of-community approach. A summary of key takeaways from the Symposium is available on AMO's website:

[www.amo.on.ca/sites/default/files/assets/DOCUMENTS/Reports/2023/AMO\\_Homelessness\\_Symposium\\_Summary\\_Proceedings.pdf](http://www.amo.on.ca/sites/default/files/assets/DOCUMENTS/Reports/2023/AMO_Homelessness_Symposium_Summary_Proceedings.pdf)

Some of the other active files for the AMO Board currently include: the need for a timely MPAC reassessment, the transition of blue box programs to producer responsibility, the review of proposed policies from *A Place to Grow* and the *Provincial Policy Statement*, council codes of conduct, municipal insurance, and public safety.

### **AMO's Large Urban Caucus**

The August meeting of the AMO Board will be my last meeting as Chair of the Large Urban Caucus after four years in that position. While I will continue to be an active member of both the AMO Board and the Large Urban Caucus, St. Catharines Councillor Dawn Dodge will be taking over as Chair.

I will also take this opportunity to congratulate Burlington Mayor Marianne Meed Ward on her new role as Chair of the Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM). Mayor Meed Ward continues to be an invaluable part of the Large Urban Caucus, and I have no doubt that she will bring the same impassioned and thoughtful approach to her leadership of OBCM. My congratulations as well to our own Mayor Josh Morgan on his election as Vice-Chair of OBCM, which – in addition to having a leading role at OBCM – will also allow him to participate in MOU Table discussions.



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**2023 AMO Annual Conference:**

As host city for AMO's 2023 Annual Conference, London will be in the spotlight in August as we welcome 2,000+ municipal and Provincial representatives to our city. Tourism London, the London Music Office, RBC Place, AMO staff, and many others have been working hard to put together an exciting and engaging program that showcases London – both as a destination, and as a leader in tackling the biggest challenges facing Ontario cities.

The AMO Annual Conference is a key event for London's intergovernmental advocacy cycle, as it provides an opportunity to introduce and/or advance initiatives directly to Provincial ministers in support of our Strategic Advocacy Framework. For many members of Council this will be the first time attending ministerial delegation meetings at the AMO conference. I look forward to working alongside colleagues to showcase London – both as a vibrant and welcoming community, and as an innovative leader in municipal policy.

My thanks to Council for your continued support in my role on the AMO Board.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Hopkins".

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Anna Hopkins  
Councillor, Ward 9