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## **Sharing Economy**

Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Annual Conference

**August 16, 2016**



# What is the Sharing Economy?

## The definition varies:

- Sharing assets
- Peer to peer level
- Commercializing the sharing

## What are people sharing?

- Transportation – rides, cars, bikes, boats
- Accommodations – homes, rooms, gardens, desks, workspaces, retail space
- Personal services – meals, activities, travel, retirement, dog-care, cleaning
- Household items – clothing, jewelry, toys, sports, tools
- Financing – loans, crowdfunding



# Considerations

## **Labour impacts**

- Driving growth and innovation
- Challenges the traditional employment relationship

## **Economic impacts**

- Revenues and taxation
- Market pressures, consumer choice and price

## **Social impacts**

- Connected communities
- Inclusiveness



# Government Responses

- Governments are responding to increasing interest in and uptake of the sharing economy
- Governments are looking at how to support this emerging industry, its impact on the economy, the current rules governing this space, and the potential tools/solutions available to respond
- Across the globe, the level of involvement often correlates to the level of government intervention
- In Ontario, municipal bylaws and regulations pose compliance challenges and questions about new rules



# Ontario Commitments

- In 2015, the Sharing Economy Advisory Committee was established to determine the best approach to Ontario's sharing economy
- Committee work is based on the following principles:
  1. Promote a level playing field and tax fairness
  2. Foster innovation and support new businesses
  3. Ensure a coordinated government approach is taken
  4. Protect workers and consumers
  5. Foster connected and accessible communities



# Ontario Commitments

## SHARING ECONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senior executives from across multiple ministries

## WORKING GROUPS

Support  
home  
sharing

Facilitate  
ride-  
sharing

Modernize  
regulation  
and reduce  
regulatory  
burden

Use of  
sharing  
economy by  
government

Foster  
innovation

Promote  
health &  
safety

Ministries continue to undertake internal work



# Ontario Progress

- Closing the gap in **auto insurance** for ride-sharing drivers
- Partnering with **Airbnb** to educate users of their regulatory obligations
- Reviewing the **intercity bus** regulatory regime (see <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/transit/intercity-bus.shtml>)



# Consultation

- **Public** and town hall meetings
- **Industry stakeholder** meetings
- **Municipal engagement** with AMO and the City of Toronto representatives
  - On July 25, 2016, AMO and the province hosted a kick-off municipal roundtable engagement session. Discussion topics included:
    - **Home-sharing** – concerns about the application of municipal bylaws on home sharing users
    - **Ride-sharing** – questions relating to regulating rides that cross municipal boundaries
    - **Food-sharing** – interest in discussing potential health issues that may arise

# Next Steps

- **Continue engagement** – Ontario will continue its engagement with public, industry, stakeholders and municipalities
- **Working groups** – Ontario will continue to identify current and future areas of action
- **Provincial support** – Ontario will continue to support municipalities and facilitate discussions between municipalities, Ontario ministries and the federal government, as necessary

# Questions

- Have sharing economy initiatives presented economic opportunities for the public in your area?
- What impacts have the sharing economy had on your municipality (e.g., updates to by-laws or by-law enforcement)?
- Do you feel you have sufficient tools to regulate the sharing economy in your community? For example, are there provincial laws or regulations that you feel would be useful for your municipality in moving forward with specific initiatives?
- Has your municipality taken steps to respond to the sharing economy, for example, passed special by-laws or entered into agreements or partnerships with sharing economy businesses?
- What gaps should the province be addressing?

If you have any future questions please contact the Sharing Economy Advisory Committee at [SharingEconomy@Ontario.ca](mailto:SharingEconomy@Ontario.ca)