

April 5, 2019

What Your Board Achieved at Today's Meeting



At the top of the meeting, the Board applauded Ontario's own Austin (Aussie) Hunt, recipient of the Order of Canada. He was first elected as Councillor, Township of Billings in 1953 and became Reeve 1968 until he retired in 2018. Congrats Aussie!

A future AMO WatchFile will have more on his incredible CV.

Photo by Sgt. Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall

April 11 is Ontario Budget Day and AMO is readying itself after advocacy on our submission. Already, there have been announcements on long awaited infrastructure funding and 2018 OMPF. We'll be looking to the budget papers for any indication of their future and any other municipal service funding arrangements. Municipal fiscal health, protecting DCAs, solving joint and several and reducing regulatory burden are several of our priorities. Watch for our initial statement shortly after the Minister of Finance delivers his speech. We'll also be busy on our social media channels too. On Monday, April 15, there will be a full analysis of the budget bill itself for municipal government impacts.

Strategic Objectives: AMO's [2019 Strategic Objectives](#) are posted on its website and the Board is working towards them.

The OSPCA and Animal Cruelty Enforcement: The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) announced that it has stopped enforcing animal cruelty legislation related to livestock and horses as of April 1, 2019. OSPCA enforcement of all other animal cruelty will cease on June 28, 2019. The AMO Board encourages the Ontario government to:

- Enforce animal cruelty laws through the province or provincial organizations, and
- Provide funding to municipal governments willing to provide animal cruelty enforcement.

Staff Contacts:

Matt Wilson, Senior Advisor, mwilson@amo.on.ca; and Leslie Muñoz, Policy Advisor, lmunoz@amo.on.ca.

Input into Provincial Child Care Plan: The Board approved policy direction to guide AMO's input into the province's forthcoming Child Care Plan. AMO input to the Minister of Education will be based on: 1) affordability; 2) choice and availability; 3) reducing red tape and administrative burden;

and 4) improving quality. The Board affirmed the province should continue to support Service System Managers with long-term, flexible funding and non-financial support.

Staff Contacts: Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, mjacek@amo.on.ca; and Leslie Muñoz, Policy Advisor, lmunoz@amo.on.ca.

Aggregates Reform: The Province is reviewing aggregates regulations to streamline and cut red tape. Under specific review is the need for peer reviews of reports. The Board considered the need to balance industry development with protecting water resources, public safety, consideration of haul routes, conformance with the provincial policy statement, dust and noise. AMO will continue to participate in this discussion.

Staff Contact: Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, cathiebrown@amo.on.ca.

Provincial Litter and Waste Discussion Paper: The Board approved a submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding the "[Reducing Litter and Waste in our Communities](#)". The draft submission has been circulated to the Board for additional feedback.

Staff Contacts: Dave Gordon, Senior Advisor, dgordon@amo.on.ca; and Amber Crawford, Policy Advisor, acrawford@amo.on.ca.

Other Policy Items

Other items discussed by the AMO Board include:

- Developments on fire interest arbitration and ongoing AMO advocacy on fire regulations;
- The passage of Bill 66, *the Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2019* and construction employer designation;
- Bill 68, *the Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019*;
- Mental health and wellbeing, including ongoing work on WSIB related to complex claims; and
- AMO's upcoming discussion paper on the Crown's Duty to Consult Indigenous people.

Staff Contact: Monika Turner, Director of Policy Centre, mturner@amo.on.ca.

AMO Youth Engagement Strategy: The Board gave approval to a new AMO Youth Engagement Strategy, including a Youth Fellows Program. The intent of the Program is to fund, through an honorarium-based approach, a learning opportunity for up to three post secondary students with an interest in municipal politics. It will employ a mentorship and complement a student's full-time studies or work. With the direction confirmed, watch for the official launch at the August AMO Conference along with more on best practices for engaging youth.

Staff Contact: Brian Rosborough, Director of Membership Centre, brosborough@amo.on.ca.

Federal Gas Tax Fund Top-Up: Staff are directed to waive the administration fee for the one-time transfer of \$650 million top-up announced in the recent federal budget. This means all of the money goes directly to municipal governments. The current agreements between AMO and 443 municipal governments, that deal with reporting and communications for example, will apply as well to this one-time top-up. In terms of timing, the federal transfer to AMO cannot occur until Royal Assent of its budget bill – likely later this June. In the meantime, AMO will work to ensure that the transfer system with each municipality works as well as being prepared for the normal transfer of the July payment.

Staff Contact: Chris VanDooren, Gas Tax Manager, cvandooren@amo.on.ca.

ONE Investment Update: Prudent Investor implementation is progressing now that we have the legislative authority and other approvals and oversight structure completed. In using the One Investment, along with existing investment tools, prudent investor means access to additional investment tools rather than be limited to a regulated list and the High Interest Savings Account. Providing more choice also comes with help in developing investment policy statements for municipal governments of all sizes.

Staff Contact: Judy Dezell, Director of Enterprise Centre, jdezell@amo.on.ca.