

**PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**  
**AND THE**  
**ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO)**  
**2019/2020 JOINT ANNUAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING STATEMENT**

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We are pleased to present the joint statement for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Province of Ontario.

The MOU sets out the principles and procedures of how the province consults with AMO on provincial legislation or regulations that have a significant impact on municipalities. Discussions at the table are considered confidential and AMO's advice is offered as input to the government's decision-making process.

Since 2018, we have worked together to convene the MOU table on a monthly basis, the past year has posed unprecedented challenges, which has resulted in even further engagement between the Province and the municipal sector. Since November 2019, we had a record 16 formal MOU meetings, covering 70 agenda items. These productive discussions have resulted in decisive action between both levels of government. In addition to formal MOU meetings, the Province has continually engaged AMO and its members on the government's response to COVID-19.

This year, the relationship between the province and municipal governments has grown stronger, and the partnership and spirit of collaboration that underpins the relationship has been instrumental in working together to manage the challenges facing Ontario's communities, as a result of COVID-19. This has allowed the Province to act quickly to meet the needs of municipalities, and keep them functioning, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. These discussions have led to quick responses on several issues, including:

- initiatives introduced to support municipalities better during the emergency such as allowing virtual Municipal Council meetings and enabling redeployment of municipal staff to address priorities and needs;
- funding supports for municipalities including the Safe Restart Agreement funding and Social Services Relief Fund;
- staged approach to Reopening Ontario;
- delivery of the COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan to prepare for the second wave.

Working together, the provincial and municipal governments have kept communities running by providing critical services and relief to residents and businesses during the pandemic.

We have also jointly established the Provincial-Municipal COVID-19 Technical Working Group - a staff-level forum with tripartite participation from the Ontario Provincial government, AMO, and the City of Toronto. The Working Group has been meeting regularly since April 2020 and has

ensured a proactive approach to addressing emerging COVID-19 issues and developing solutions. This unique collaborative engagement is a testament to the strength of the provincial municipal relationship and has resulted in municipal governments providing ongoing input into COVID-related initiatives with potential impacts on the municipal sector.

In addition to COVID-19 related engagement, a range of other shared priorities were discussed over the past year:

- Building Services Transformation
- New Responsibility Regulation for the Blue Box
- Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Community Paramedicine
- Proposed Changes to Regulations and Standards Under the Aggregate Resources Act
- Supportive Housing and Community Housing Engagement
- Conservation Authorities Review
- Age-Friendly Communities
- Water Quality Management
- Environmental Assessment Modernization
- Natural Gas Expansion Program
- Provincial Policy Statement
- Ontario's Draft Forest Sector Strategy
- Property Assessment and Taxation Review
- Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Review
- ICON Broadband Program
- Infrastructure Ontario Loan Program
- Community Safety and Policing Act regulations
- Flood Mitigation Strategy
- Home and Community Care Modernization
- Child Care and Early Years Review
- Cemetery care maintenance funds and accounts
- Workforce Development and Training Review
- Provincial Offences Act amendments

Municipal governments will play a critical role in Ontario's economic recovery. A strong provincial-municipal partnership is vital for the ongoing management of the pandemic. Discussions through the AMO MOU table have helped deliver better outcomes and supports to keep Ontarians safe. These unprecedented discussions have proved extremely valuable, and both orders of government look forward to continuing with this strong level of collaboration. Together, we will keep Ontarians safe, and help our communities recover stronger and better.