

Province of Ontario and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

2018/2019 Joint Annual Memorandum of Understanding Statement

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

Our first MOU was signed in 2001 to establish a strong and collaborative relationship between the province and municipalities. 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.

In 2018, at the annual AMO conference, the government reinforced its partnership with municipalities by signing the MOU one year ahead of its renewal date. This set the stage for continued collaboration between the two levels of government and highlighted Ontario's commitment to listen to municipalities.

Since June 2018, we've had eleven formal MOU meetings with seventeen Cabinet ministers and six parliamentary assistants. We have had robust discussions on fifty-seven agenda items. Discussions at the table are considered confidential and AMO's advice is offered as input to the government's decision-making process. Some of the shared priorities discussed at the meetings include:

- increasing affordable housing supply
- infrastructure funding to support local priorities
- reducing red tape and municipal reporting burden
- improving service delivery and efficiency
- the need for financial sustainability for both the province and municipal governments

The government also took action on a number of items that AMO has advocated for, including:

- protecting double-hatter firefighters
- repealing the Green Energy Act
- seeking municipal input regarding joint and several liability, insurance costs, and the impact of 'liability chill' on the delivery of local public services
- transforming the animal welfare system
- transitioning the costs of the Blue Box Program away from municipal taxpayers
- a consultation process on public health and EMS (dispatch) modernization

Municipalities play a vital role in the lives of Ontarians. Discussions at the MOU table help us deliver better public policy outcomes for our communities. We will continue to keep the lines of communication open and engage in consultations that are informed by the diverse needs of Ontario's municipalities. Together, we can help Ontario's communities realize their full potential.