

August 2026

AMO's Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan

AMO Position

- Last year, AMO released its first Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan (IRAP), demonstrating AMO's commitment to fostering positive relationships, listening, learning and honouring Indigenous Peoples' rights. Reconciliation work is important because First Nations and urban Indigenous people are our neighbours and live in our communities.
- Municipalities have a responsibility to uphold Indigenous rights. Good Indigenous-municipal relations is about being good neighbours to adjacent First Nation communities while delivering culturally respectful supports to the Indigenous residents who call our towns and cities home.
- The Action Plan provides a roadmap for municipalities and for AMO itself, helping inform policy, training, membership services, and municipal engagement work going forward.
- AMO's recent work on IRAP has focused on measurable action, tangible impacts, and deepening Indigenous-municipal relationships through continued collaboration, engagement, and long-term partnership building.

Overview

- Strong relationships with Indigenous rights-holders and organizations are increasingly central to municipal success in addressing:
 - Rapid growth and housing development
 - A growing role in energy projects and economic infrastructure, and
 - Increasing social challenges that disproportionately impact Indigenous people.

IRAP Highlights

- The Action Plan sets out 19 concrete actions to support member municipalities in improving local Indigenous relations, as well as how AMO will advance reconciliation internally.¹
- Internally, the plan calls on AMO to:
 - Strengthen its reciprocal relationships with Indigenous partners
 - Implement internal policies to improve Indigenous inclusion within the organization, and
 - Engage with Indigenous partners to integrate their perspectives into AMO policy and jointly advocate to provincial and federal governments.
- AMO will encourage and support member municipalities by providing training, guidance and action-focused resources on:
 - How to fulfill municipal responsibilities in advancing Indigenous rights, and
 - Delivering programs that strengthen local municipal-Indigenous relationships, address systemic inequities, and improve service delivery for Indigenous People.

Plan Development

- AMO's Indigenous Advisory Council initiated and guided the plan's development and is now guiding its implementation. The Council is comprised of leaders from the Ontario Native Women's Association, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and Indigenous municipal officials.
- AMO's first year of implementation is focusing on deepening relationships with Indigenous partners, updating AMO's corporate policies to support reconciliation and supporting Indigenous people to run in the next municipal election, among other actions.
- Following a competitive procurement, AMO contracted the award-winning First Nation, woman-owned firm Tawi:ne Consulting Inc to support the development and implementation of the plan.
- This plan is based on AMO's commitment to building strong relationships with Indigenous partners and guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Calls for Justice.
- It is also grounded in extensive consultation. Nearly 200 individuals from municipalities, Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations were consulted.¹

Key Facts

- Ontario municipalities are on the traditional territories of Indigenous Nations and within Treaty areas. Indigenous Peoples, including First Nation, Inuit, and Métis, live in nearly every Ontario community and are vital to its social and economic life.
- Ontario has Canada's largest Indigenous population, making up 2.9% of the total¹. In some cities, like Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie, the urban Indigenous population can be as high as 14%.²
- Many municipalities and First Nations are neighbours, sharing resources, infrastructure, and common goals for community well-being and regional development.
- Municipalities must uphold Indigenous rights as affirmed by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Canadian Constitution.
- Municipalities also have a responsibility to address the lasting effects of colonization by advancing reconciliation. This includes implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice, some of which are specifically for municipalities, such as staff training.
- As part AMO's IRAP commitments, AMO and the Anishinabek Nation recently established a new MOU which creates a framework for future collaboration. AMO's President and the Anishinabek Nation Grand Chief will participate in a public signing ceremony of the MOU as part of AMO Conference plenary programming.

Other Resources and Reports

- [AMO's Municipal Governance & Indigenous Relations website.](#)
 - [AMO-OFIFC MOU](#) and [Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship](#)
 - [AMO-ONWA MOU](#)
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#)
- [The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#)

For more information: Contact the AMO Media Team at media@amo.on.ca

¹ [AMO, 2025, Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan](#)

² [Statistics Canada, 2021, Focus on Geography Series, 2021 Census of Population](#)

