

## Municipal-Indigenous Relationship Agreements

Resource – November 29, 2021

Municipal leaders are being looked to set the tone and be part of the constructive societal change in Indigenous Relations that is needed and expected. A question we have been hearing from members is how municipal governments leaders and staff can support the healing, learning, and restoration needed to strengthen reconciliation with Indigenous friends, neighbours, and communities.

Relationship Agreements can be helpful in building relationships and identifying areas of mutual concern and interest. By going through the process of creating an agreement, municipalities and Indigenous communities can continue (or begin) the process of developing mutual understanding and ongoing conversations. Completing this process will better equip all those involved to engage in meaningful, respectful conversations and solutions when issues do arise.

A [guidance document](#) is now available to support AMO members in creating Relationship-Agreements. It was developed by the AMO Indigenous Relations Task Force and recently approved by the AMO Board of Directors. The goal of a relationship agreement is to establish a long-term relationship of practical cooperation and commitment that respects the Indigenous community. The agreement must also recognize the need for ongoing compatibility, coordination, and understanding between the parties.

At the August 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, the AMO Board of Directors approved two resource papers to assist municipal councils' efforts to support Truth and Reconciliation.

The first resource paper provides an overview of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's \(TRC's\) Calls to Action](#) that municipal governments can address themselves.

The second resource paper provides ideas and options for [what municipal leaders, councils can do to better support and engage Indigenous residents and neighbours at this time](#).

These AMO resource papers are meant to be organic and to be revised/updated when appropriate and more municipal resource materials are available.

### Contact:

Monika Turner  
Director of Policy  
[mturner@amo.on.ca](mailto:mturner@amo.on.ca)  
Tel: [416.971.9856](tel:416.971.9856) ext. 318

Lianne Sauter  
Policy Advisor  
[lsauter@amo.on.ca](mailto:lsauter@amo.on.ca)