

Via e-mail: premier@ontario.ca

February 12, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Support for Municipalities, Support for Ontario's Economic Recovery

The \$19 billion Safe Restart Agreement recognized the essential role of municipalities in protecting the health and safety of communities, safeguarding the social, cultural, and economic fabric of the nation, and leading the economic recovery. It allocated \$4 billion in 2020/21 for municipal governments in Ontario to offset pandemic-related increased costs and lost revenues in municipal operations and transit.

You and your government played an important leadership role in securing the agreement nationally, and in matching and distributing funds quickly and effectively. Assistance with COVID-19 financial impacts, including Ontario's \$0.5 billion Social Services Relief Fund helped protect Ontario communities and literally saved lives.

As municipal governments finalize their 2021 budgets, they are looking to your government for continued leadership provincially and nationally to ensure our communities, struggling businesses, and vulnerable individuals are kept safe from the devastating financial impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Without a clear signal from your government that additional help for 2021 is on the way, municipal councils, facing financial uncertainty because of the pandemic, will be confronted with the potential for service cuts and layoffs, or delayed infrastructure investment; options that can only undermine local, provincial and national economic recovery efforts.

AMO and CUPE Ontario urge you to be a champion once again for municipal governments and the municipal workers who are keeping our communities safe and maintaining the essential services all Ontarians rely on most.

We look forward to working with your government to support and protect our communities and to lead Ontario's recovery.

Sincerely,



Graydon Smith
President, AMO



Fred Hahn
President, CUPE Ontario

cc: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Ontario Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board
The Honourable Steve Clark, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mark Hancock, National President, Canadian Union of Public Employees
Garth Frizzell, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities