
Sent via email to: minister.fin@ontario.ca

January 13, 2023

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y7

RE: Reassessment

Dear Minister Bethlenfalvy:

Through recent correspondence and engagement with the Ministry of Finance, AMO has expressed very strong support for a timely return to the assessment cycle. We recognize how important it was to pause reassessment during the height of the pandemic. We made sure our members understood it too.

The province's latest economic statement was silent on the assessment cycle, leaving the sector eager to understand the government's intentions regarding the 2024 tax year and beyond. We also understand that there is a very narrow window for opportunity left for the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to move forward in time for the 2024 taxation year.

A well-functioning, up-to-date assessment system is the foundation of the municipal tax system that supports strong, vibrant, and growing communities. Ontario's property tax system works well and provides municipalities with a stable and predictable source of revenue. Just as important, it provides stability and predictability for property taxpayers.

With the ROMA conference now just over a week away, our members will be looking to the government for direction on returning to the assessment cycle. We'd encourage the government to heed the sector's call to clarify its intentions. We will continue to work closely with MPAC and with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the public, media, and municipal councils understand the benefits and the importance of moving forward with the reassessment at this time, and the value to municipalities and taxpayers of a modern, up-to-date, and reliable assessment system.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you again to discuss this important matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Best", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Colin Best
AMO President
Halton Regional Councillor

cc: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Parliamentary Assistant Byers, Ministry of Finance
Al Spacek, Chair, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation