

Sent via e-mail: [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

December 11, 2023

The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 438 University Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce:

AMO appreciates the steps that the province is taking to enhance the capital program for school boards as part of the provincial government's overall efforts to build and invest in infrastructure. Schools and child care centres are a central part of complete communities, and crucial in supporting the well-being and positive development of students and children. AMO wants to work with the government to make this a reality on the ground to support the goal of helping build modern schools faster to support the needs of growing communities.

This is an essential initiative to support the anticipated population growth and the provincial target of building 1.5 million new homes with a range of services to support new residents. It effectively complements the ministry's effective collaboration with municipal service managers to expand child care spaces for the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care system in Ontario. Support for joint school board-municipal project submissions can encourage innovative approaches to service delivery and co-location of facilities such as community recreation centres that can help to strengthen communities.

The new process is responsive to municipal feedback over the years and should accelerate the development of new schools and to expand capacity in existing ones. Given the timelines, we would encourage the ministry to communicate to municipal councils as soon as is possible about the program launch so that they can begin to work with their local school board partners.

We acknowledge and appreciate that the government will be looking to municipal governments to contribute to the success of the program. Dialogue with AMO and our municipal members can be leveraged, in particular with respect to how to effectively support implementation. Significant coordination will be required across ministries and municipalities to align the many evolving processes and roles related to land-use planning and infrastructure. Success will depend on close collaboration and effective implementation supports for all players, ensuring that timelines are aligned with municipal budget decision-

making in the case of joint project submissions. Our Land Use Planning and Resources Task Force is an available forum to provide advice.

Thank you, again, for your efforts to support communities. We look forward to working with you to further advance the initiative. Your staff can contact Lindsay Jones, AMO's Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Relations, about next steps. Her email is [ljones@amo.on.ca](mailto:ljones@amo.on.ca).  
Sincerely,



Colin Best  
AMO President and Councillor, Region of Halton

cc: The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education  
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing