

AMO Municipal Finance and Economic Development Task Force

Terms of Reference

Purpose:

The Task Force will help AMO to develop policy and advocacy positions that increase consideration of municipal interests in the areas of municipal finance and funding sources for municipal services and infrastructure, economic, labour market and skills development.

Mandate:

The Task Force will provide advice to AMO regarding matters of municipal finance, funding sources for municipal services and infrastructure, economic, labour market and skills development. This advice will be used by AMO to develop advocacy positions for the consideration of the AMO Board. On a confidential basis, Task Force input may inform AMO MOU discussions relevant to the mandate. The Task Force will provide a forum and resource to AMO in the relevant areas to improve expertise and influence with municipal governments, the province, federal government, industry and business associations amongst others.

While specific topics for consideration by the Task Force will be set through discussions between AMO staff and the Chair and Vice-Chair, discussion areas may include:

- The current municipal fiscal framework, including, property assessment and taxation, user fees, alternative revenue sources, debt and investment and the evolving municipal-provincial fiscal relationship
- Explore future funding sources for municipal services and infrastructure, such as grant programs, expansion of user rates, and expanded revenue tools, especially in light of changing investment needs to manage changes in climate and population growth
- Integration of federal, provincial, and municipal economic development and labour market development policies and programs to support innovation, productivity and prosperity across industries and regions
- Municipal interests in immigration and settlement of newcomers as it pertains to addressing labour market challenges

Once study topics are agreed, AMO will develop a workplan to guide the Task Force's agendas and direction in subject areas.

Indigenous Relations:

AMO and municipal governments are committed to building strong relationships with indigenous and First Nations partners. AMO recognizes that indigenous and First Nations communities have protected constitutional rights that must be considered broadly and individually. These communities may also have distinct knowledge and resource stewardship obligations through to apply to evaluation of economic projects and strategies.

Seeking to build better relationships, AMO will examine opportunities for partnerships in economic development and labour market policy, infrastructure, climate change and local finance that advance broad prosperity for all Ontarians, including First Nations and indigenous communities and the Finance and Economic Development Task Force will ensure consideration of indigenous and First Nations knowledge and interests that can contribute to broad, lasting and sustainable prosperity and advance reconciliation with these communities.

Digitization:

AMO's Finance and Economic Development Task Force will consider proposals through a lens of increasing digitization of services and remote delivery that ensures forward-looking proposals. Such considerations could include economic development and industrial policy proposals, skills development and labour force training, immigrant settlement, financial information and digital government services, amongst others. The Task Force shall use its discretion in applying this digital lens to provide the best advice to the AMO Board possible.

Application of policy lenses used by the Task Force may be supplemented by rationale in reports to the Board, policy proposals and publications as appropriate.

Membership:

Membership will be drawn from across the municipal sector, including elected and appointed officials and will include: Northern, rural, county, single-tier, small and large urban representatives as well as geographic representation. In addition, staff and municipal officials with expertise in finance and service design, economic development, labour market and skills development, immigration and settlement will be sought.

Additionally, the Task Force will engage with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Council of Ontario, and the Toronto Board of Trade. As appropriate, the Task Force will engage with labour organizations, representatives of training organizations such as Colleges Ontario and others specific to an area of examination.

Meetings:

Meetings will be managed by the Chair in consultation with AMO staff, including setting direction for areas of examination, developing agendas, and identifying relevant stakeholders to engage. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will assume the Chair's duties. If both the Chair and Vice-Chair are unavailable, AMO staff will assume these roles.

Frequency:

The Task Force will normally meet three to four times per year. As needed, sub-groups may be established to provide additional focus on issues and may meet more frequently.

Duration:

The Task Force is established initially for two years but may be extended to four years. At the two-year mark, mandate and membership will be reviewed to ensure continued integration with AMO priorities, Board representation and membership.

Integration:

AMO staff and the Task Force Chair and Vice-Chair will ensure integration between Task Force work and directions of inquiry and AMO Strategic Priorities. AMO staff will coordinate the work of the Task Force with other AMO Task Forces and the AMO Board will remain the ultimate integration and decision-making authority on any recommended positions or advice provided.