

Land Use Planning and Resources Task Force

Terms of Reference

Context

One of the major roles that municipal governments play is in land use planning. This includes making sure that proposed land uses are compatible and complementary, such as between developable land, maintaining agricultural land, resources for extraction, and siting energy generation and storage projects.

As part of the land use planning process, it is imperative that municipalities respect Indigenous interests and perspectives in land relationship planning. AMO acknowledges that Indigenous stewardship of land contributes to environmental preservation and biodiversity.

Municipalities have been a target of considerable criticism from developers and the provincial government for being a major barrier to building housing supply in recent years. A lot of change has already happened, and there is likely more to come.

At the same time as housing pressures are mounting, municipalities must balance the needs for resource extraction (e.g. minerals, aggregates, forestry), land use (e.g. agriculture), and siting (e.g. energy, landfills, etc.).

To deal with these thought-provoking issues, AMO is creating a Land Use Planning and Resources Task Force to help inform and provide advice to government on new legislation and regulations, and the implementation that flows from those changes.

The following facts illustrate the context of the types of issues that will be discussed:

- **Housing:** Building 1.5 million homes by 2031¹ remains the province's top issue, which is separate and apart from the issue of homelessness being dealt with a different committee. There have been three Housing Supply Action Plans and numerous pieces of legislation and regulation since 2018 that deal with market housing.
- **Agriculture:** Ontario makes up the largest national share of farms and farm operators in Canada. It is home to 25.5% of total farms in Canada, and 7.7% of total farm area. In addition, it is the second largest contributor to the country's farm operating revenues.²
- **Aggregates:** In 2020, over 167 million tonnes of mineral aggregates were produced in Ontario. Over 14 tonnes of aggregate are used per person in the province each year.³

¹ <https://www.ontario.ca/page/more-homes-built-faster>

² <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/96-325-x/2021001/article/00006-eng.htm>

³ <https://toarc.com/about-us/>

- **Mining:** Mining operations in Ontario contributed an estimated annual total of \$7.5 billion to Ontario's GDP, \$3.3 billion in wages and salaries, and sustained over 48,605 full-time equivalent jobs in the province via direct, indirect and induced channels.⁴
- **Landfills:** There is 14.5 years of landfill capacity in Ontario left, and over 60% of Ontario's disposal capacity is located in only 7 landfills.⁵
- **Energy:** The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has been directed to acquire 4,000 megawatts (MW) of new electricity generation and storage resources, including up to 1,500 MW of natural gas generation, with the remainder coming from other sources.⁶
- **Forestry:** The forestry sector is a \$12.9 billion industry with 85 billion trees on 71 million hectares comprising more than 66% of Ontario's landscape.⁷

Purpose:

The Land Use Planning and Resources Task Force is established to inform AMO's advocacy strategy and positions on land use planning and resources with an objective to leverage and share municipal expertise with the province and member municipalities.

Mandate:

The Land Use Planning and Resources Task Force will work toward the goal of informing AMO policy positions on issues pertaining to:

- land use planning and compatibility
- energy generation and transformation
- resource extraction

The task force will consider potential policy positions on these issues within the context of how they can contribute meaningfully to truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Further, the role of digital government will be considered in relation to land use, planning, and resource policy and approaches.

The task force will focus on integrated approaches to develop high level strategic positions that support municipal governments and provide instructive feedback and recommendations to the provincial (and federal) governments. Specifically, it will:

- Inform a proactive advocacy approach to the provincial (and where appropriate, federal governments) about proposed changes to Ontario regulations and legislation;

⁴ https://oma.on.ca/en/ontario-mining/2022_OMA_Economic_Research_Report.pdf

⁵

https://www.owma.org/download/eJwFwQEKGqCAMAMAXqeGmablZKynKIDYIen13u!qQxTk5rIOUhrUCIhp9@aZXLpFmPhQiUkbDgNVggs0UzMVA8JI59gF8tGOtP8LsF0U=/O/WMA%20Landfill%20Report%202021%20_FINAL_lowres.pdf

⁶ <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002373/ontario-building-more-electricity-generation-and-storage-to-meet-growing-demand>.

⁷ <https://www.ontariogenomics.ca/industry-solutions/forestry/#:~:text=With%2085%20billion%20trees%20on,and%20employment%20in%20the%20province>.

- Play a role in advising both the Board and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Team (on a confidential basis);
- Serve as a forum for dialogue between municipalities and relevant provincial ministries on matters relevant to the mandate; and,
- Provide the municipal perspective on policy, funding, and program delivery decisions.

Membership:

Membership will be comprised of municipal elected officials and senior staff decision makers who represent the different size, type, and geographic locations of Ontario's 444 municipalities. Members may also be drawn from other organizations where there is a potential to align advocacy and communications work in a manner that is consistent with AMO's policy priorities. Designation will not be allowed.

The Chair in conjunction with AMO staff, may invite guests from relevant stakeholder groups and sector partners.

The Chair may establish working groups as needed with different members to advise the task force on specific matters where technical subject matter expertise is required. These working groups will be chaired by the Vice Chair, or AMO staff in their absence.

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Task Force:

The Chair of the task force is Karen Redman (AMO Board Member and Regional Chair for the Region of Waterloo). Lynn Dollin (AMO Board Member and Mayor of the Town of Innisfil) is Vice-Chair. Both will assist in aligning with the AMO Board's strategic objectives.

In the absence of both Chairs, AMO staff will assume Chair duties. The agenda will be developed by AMO staff and approved by the Chair. Meetings will take place as required at the call of the Chair.

Duration:

The task force will meet on an ongoing basis for one year, at which time the duration may be extended at the discretion of the Chair for another year.

Meeting Frequency:

It is expected that the task force will meet a minimum of four times annually (2.5 hours at a time), and more frequently as needed at the discretion of the Chair.

Integration:

In presenting its work to the AMO Board, the task force will consider how best to integrate and present its advice in a way that complements the work of other AMO task forces and AMO policy priorities.