

# Have Your Say!

Health and Human Services

August 18, 2025





**Join at [slido.com](https://slido.com)  
#6729284**

# Norm Gale – Your Facilitator

- Army Veteran
- Paramedic
- Paramedic Chief
- President, OAPC
- City Manager
- President, Norm Gale Strategies

# AMO Health and Human Services Advocacy Priorities

**Municipalities are spending \$5B in health and social areas that are provincial responsibilities everywhere else in Canada.**

- The costs of community housing should be fully uploaded to the province
- Long-term care and public health funding envelopes should be sufficient to meet provincial cost sharing obligations.

**More than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in Ontario 2024 and this could grow to nearly 300,000 over the next decade if we face an economic downturn:**

- Urgent action is needed to move beyond crisis response and tackle the root causes of homelessness with solutions that increase supply of stable supportive, transitional and deeply affordable housing; enhance income security; and improve access to comprehensive mental health and addictions treatment.
- Comprehensive action on the opioid crisis, including investments in prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement.

# AMO Health and Human Services Advocacy Priorities – Continued

**Access to timely primary care and hospital services helps make a community livable and municipalities are increasingly stepping in with property tax dollars**

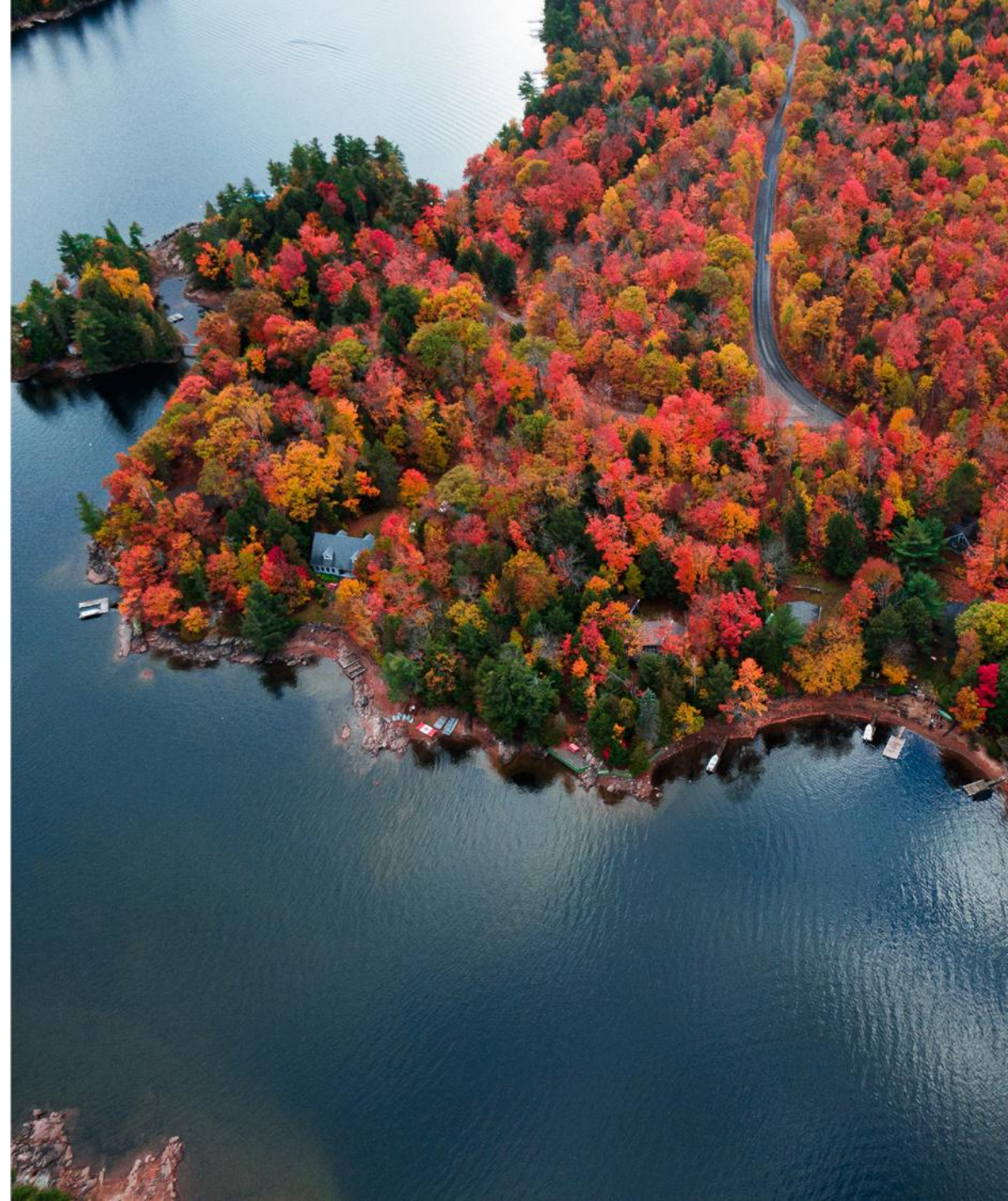
- Municipalities can be active partners in local Ontario Health Teams, but municipalities shouldn't be forced to make financial contributions through physician incentive programs and growing local share requirements.

**In Ontario, 36,000 new supportive housing units are needed for those living with mental health and addictions.**

- To ensure successful tenancies for those at risk of, or experiencing homelessness, supportive housing can provide the wrap-around supports that they need.
- Process improvements are needed to better coordinate supportive housing funding between the federal government and the province as well as MOH/MMAH.

# Discussion Roadmap

1. What is the most impactful change that the province could make to improve a) **health access** and b) **homelessness** in your community?
2. What is the appropriate role for municipalities to play in **attracting doctors and nurses** to their communities?
3. How should AMO capitalize on the media and government attention of our **homelessness report** to continue to advocate for change?
4. **AMO's policy positions** aim to address the needs of Ontario's diverse municipal sector. Are these positions sufficient to meet the challenges we're facing? How could AMO and its members better incent the government to take action to address municipal priorities?
5. Closing Poll





**What is the most impactful change that the province could make to improve health access in your community?**



**For example:**

- **Better physician recruitment incentives**
- **Ending hospital local share**
- **Expanding mental health and addictions treatment**
- **Bigger municipal role in OHTs, primary care reform**
- **Others?**



**What is the most impactful change that the province could make to improve homelessness in your community?**

**For example:**

- Fully fund and expand community housing**
- More supportive housing**
- Others?**





**What is the appropriate role for municipalities to play in attracting doctors and nurses to their communities?  
Should municipal compensation incentives be permitted?**



**How should AMO capitalize on the media and government attention of our homelessness report to continue to advocate for change?**

**AMO's policy positions are meant to respond to the broad needs of Ontario's broad municipal sector.**



**Are these positions sufficient to meet the challenge we're facing?**

**How could AMO and its members better incent the government to take action to address municipal priorities?**



**Would you like more interactive sessions like this at future AMO events?**

# Have More To Say?

## 1. Contact AMO staff to discuss further

Alicia Neufeld, Senior Policy Manager, [aneufeld@amo.on.ca](mailto:aneufeld@amo.on.ca)

## 2. Have Your Say

AMO Member Survey

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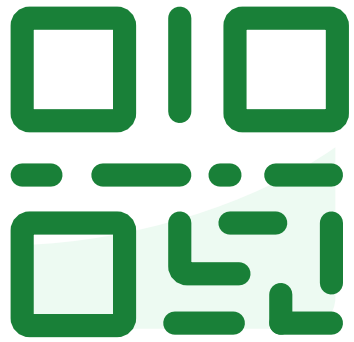


# Have Your Say!

Housing and Land Use Planning

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# AMO Housing and Land Use Planning Priorities

**Ambitious provincial and federal housing goals depend on essential municipal infrastructure. Municipalities are planning for more than \$250B in capital expenditures over the next decade.**

- The province has implemented cuts to eligible development charge expenses, limiting municipalities' ability to recover the costs of essential infrastructure.
- To minimize the risk of more cuts, AMO partnered with the Ontario Home Builders Association to jointly recommend development charge (DC) framework modernization. These changes would make DCs more consistent and transparent.
- Our sector recognizes the need to explore different ways of funding and financing infrastructure in the face of historic growth. But that can't just mean putting everything on the property tax base.

**Municipalities need a new long-term, predictable, and substantial municipal infrastructure transfer.**

# AMO Housing and Land Use Planning Priorities

**Ongoing changes to the land use planning framework, intended to enable faster growth, continue to alter the tools available to municipalities for coordinating livability, health, safety, and infrastructure delivery.**

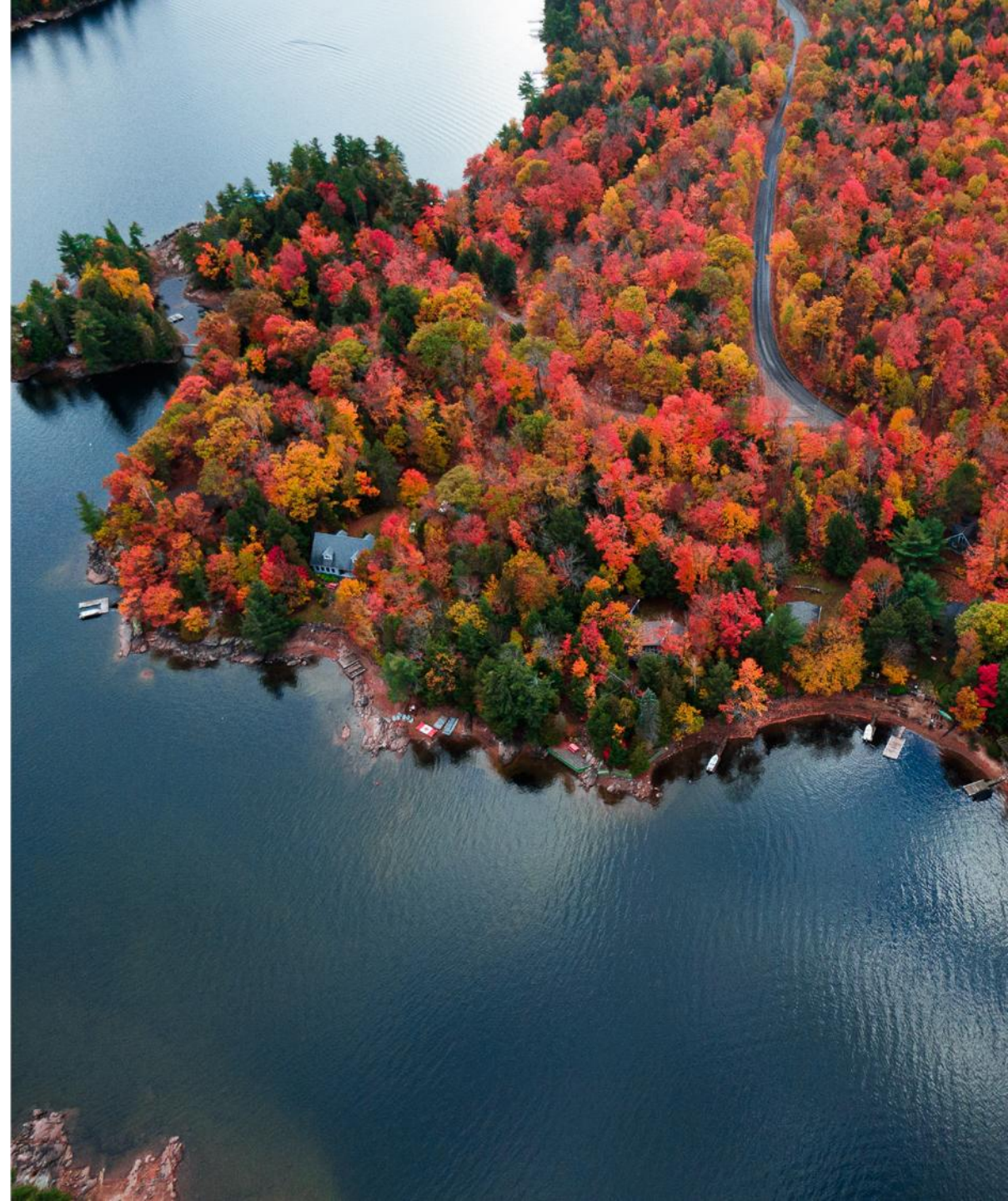
- Municipalities understand the importance of being able to approve planning applications efficiently to respond to the economic and housing pressures facing our communities. They are speeding up development approvals.
- Municipalities should be empowered to lead orderly and fiscally responsible planning and phasing of growth, and protection of environmental, agricultural, and heritage lands in local communities.
- Provincial mechanisms like MZO's and special economic zones should be used only in extraordinary situations and with host municipality's approval.

**Municipalities need provincial and federal partners to support housing supply expansion across the housing continuum, including deeply affordable housing.**

- There is an urgent need for affordable housing given the more than 268,000 Ontario households on the waitlist for social housing.
- People should not have to struggle with housing affordability and have to choose between paying their rent and buying food and other necessities.
- To meet the needs of both employers and employees for economic development, people should be able to live in communities close to where the jobs are.

# Discussion Roadmap

1. What is the most impactful change that the province could make to improve **housing starts** in your community, including deeply affordable housing?
2. What specific changes or improvements to land use **planning requirements** (such as those for planning, environmental protection, heritage preservation, aggregate resources, etc.) would most effectively enable your communities to achieve your housing goals?
3. AMO is advocating for a new long-term, predictable, and substantial municipal **infrastructure transfer**. What specific features or conditions would make such a transfer most effective for your municipality's capital planning?
4. **AMO's policy positions** aim to address the needs of Ontario's diverse municipal sector. Are these positions sufficient to meet the challenges we're facing? How could AMO and its members better incent the government to take action to address municipal priorities?
5. Closing Poll







**What is the most impactful change that the province could make to improve housing starts in your community, including deeply affordable housing?**



**What specific changes or improvements to land use planning requirements (such as those for planning, environmental protection, heritage preservation, aggregate resources, etc.) would most effectively enable your communities to achieve your housing goals?**



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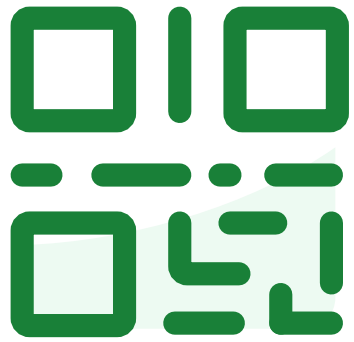


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Municipal Finance and Economic Development

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# AMO Municipal Finance and Economic Development Priorities

**AMO has been advocating for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review that examines provincial and municipal revenues, costs and financial risks, and infrastructure needs.**

- The provincial-municipal fiscal relationship is broken. Municipalities are struggling to deliver essential services and infrastructure that Ontarians rely on.
- As part of this review, municipalities firm provincial commitments in the following areas:
  - Long-term, predictable and substantial infrastructure funding
  - Reducing municipal property tax subsidies to health and social services that are funded by provincial governments everywhere else in Canada
  - Fixing broken provincial systems to address homelessness

**Recognizing the need to explore different ways of funding and financing infrastructure in the face of historic growth, without putting everything on the property tax base.**

- To minimize the risk of more DC cuts, AMO partnered with the Ontario Home Builders Association to jointly recommend development charge (DC) framework modernization. These changes would make DCs more consistent and transparent.



# AMO Municipal Finance and Economic Development Priorities

**Ontario's property tax system is best in class and doesn't need significant reforms – it needs a re-assessment**

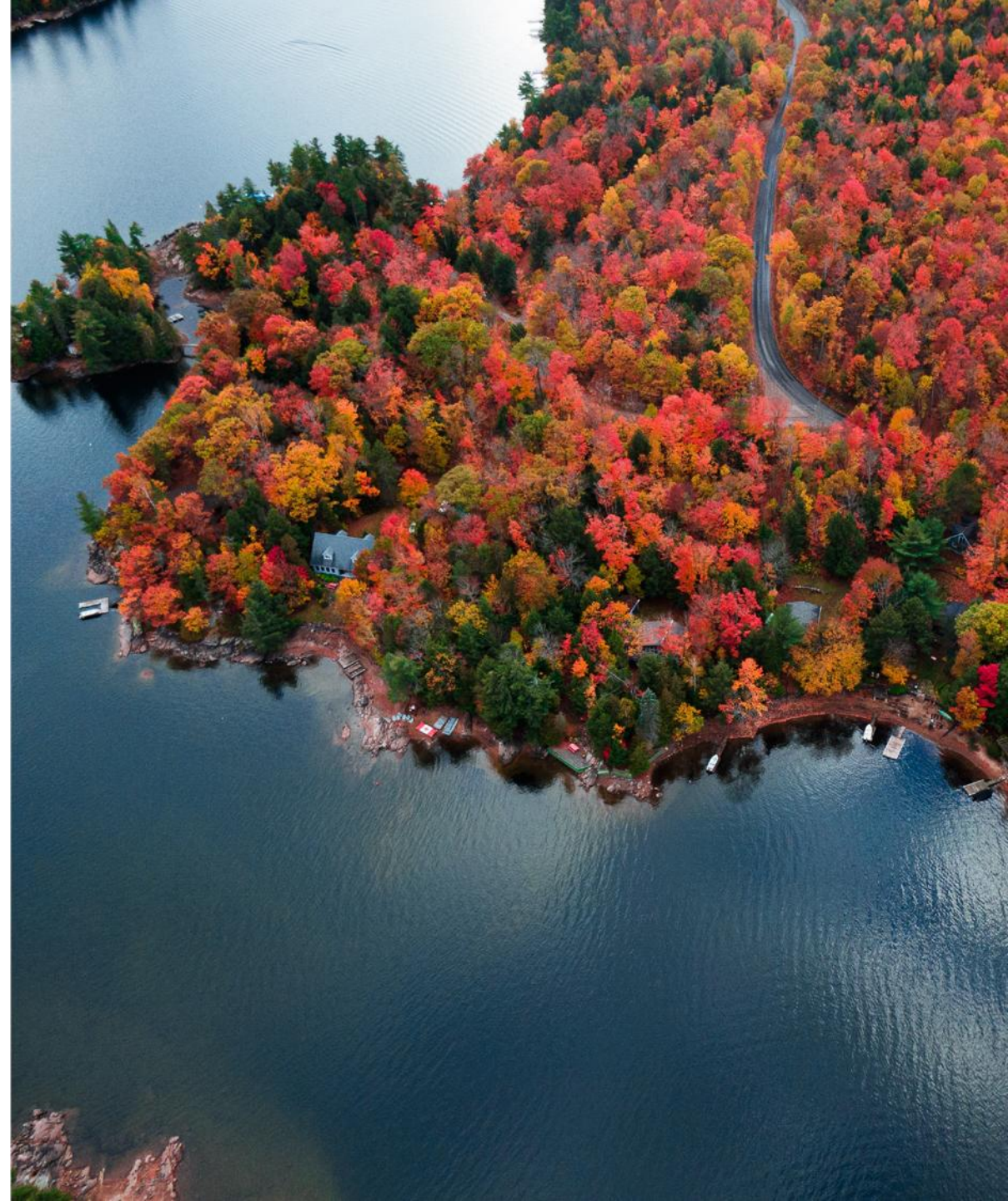
- It has been nearly a decade since the last Ontario property tax assessment. A well-functioning, predictable and up-to-date assessment system supports strong communities and makes Ontario an attractive place to invest.

**Ontario municipalities have important tools to support provincial and federal responses to ongoing trade and tariff uncertainty:**

- Municipal purchasing power can be leveraged to support Canadian firms
- Investing in local communities is a safe bet to mitigate short-term economic risks and support long-term productivity.
- We need to keep in-flight infrastructure projects on track despite a projected \$1B in cost escalation over the next two years, accelerate planned infrastructure projects, and invest in social housing construction.

# Discussion Roadmap

1. AMO has been advocating for a review of **the provincial-municipal fiscal relationship** for more than a year. What changes (e.g., new revenue tools, program uploads, financing changes) would most improve your community's fiscal sustainability?
2. It has been nearly 10 years since the last **property tax assessment** in Ontario. What support do your councils and residents need to ensure the next assessment is well implemented?
3. **Emergency services**, including police, fire and land ambulance make up approximately 40% of the average municipal budget. How could emergency services be improved to help contain municipal costs while ensuring services are there for your communities?
4. **AMO's policy positions** aim to address the needs of Ontario's diverse municipal sector. Are these positions sufficient to meet the challenges we're facing? How could AMO and its members better incent the government to take action to address municipal priorities?
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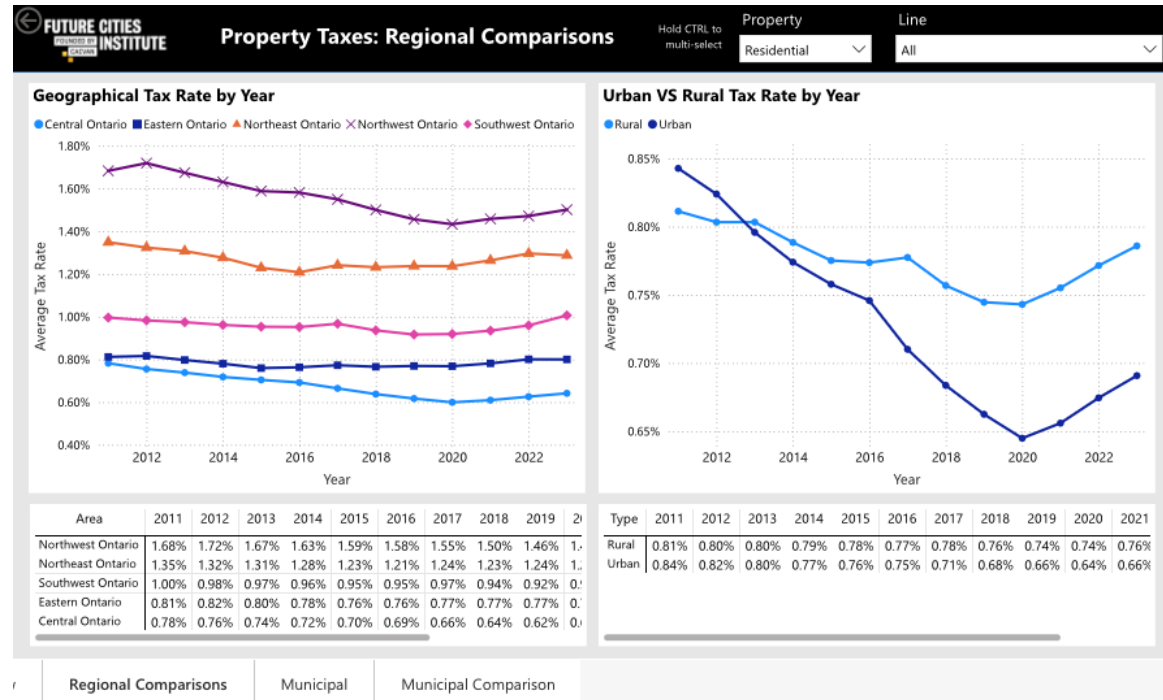


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