

**PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
AND THE
ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO**

2021 JOINT ANNUAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING STATEMENT

We are pleased to present the annual joint statement for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province of Ontario and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for 2021. The MOU sets out the principles and procedures of how the province consults with AMO on provincial legislation or regulations that have a significant impact on municipalities.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the MOU. The renewal of the agreement at the 2021 AMO Annual Conference sets the stage for continued collaboration and demonstrates Ontario's commitment to this special partnership. The partnership between the province and municipalities continues to grow stronger as we work together to manage the challenges facing Ontario's communities and support a strong economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of the year, we have worked together to convene the MOU table on a monthly basis. We had 14 formal MOU meetings covering 50 agenda items. These discussions have resulted in decisive action between both levels of government. The discussions at the MOU table have been respectful, cordial and outcomes driven.

An extensive range of shared priorities were discussed over the course of this year:

Infrastructure

- Expansion of broadband access (i.e. Accelerated High Speed Internet Program, Supporting Infrastructure Expansion Act)
- Infrastructure funding supports (i.e. Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Green Stream Phase 2, Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund)
- Asset management

Addressing impacts of COVID-19 and supporting recovery

- Emerging municipal issues- fiscal matters, continuing public health support, operational matters
- Businesses supports (i.e. Liquor Sales Licence Patio Extensions)

Social service supports

- Social assistance renewal
- employment services transformation
- Supportive housing
- Addressing homelessness (i.e. By-Name List and enumeration)
- Early years and child care

Improving safety, service delivery and efficiency

- Property assessment
- Municipal Code of Conduct framework
- Modernizing firefighter training in Ontario
- Reducing barriers for volunteers (i.e. Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015)
- Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act modernization request
- Improving road safety

Health and long-term care

- Community paramedicine policy framework - request
- Home and community care
- Mental health for first responders
- Long-term care – areas for improvements and enhancements

Environment and Natural Resources

- Conservation Authorities transformation
- Blue Box program transition (i.e. producer responsibility Implementation)
- Strengthening environmental compliance practices
- Streamlining Environmental Assessments for municipal infrastructure
- Electricity system long-term needs Northern Ontario Resource Development Support Fund

In addition to formal MOU meetings, the Province has continually engaged AMO and its members on the government's response to COVID-19, which enabled the province to quickly respond to municipal needs by providing over \$1B in additional COVID-19 financial relief in 2021 (e.g. additional provincial funding to support municipal operating pressures and recovery, Social Services Relief Fund, transit funding).

Working in partnership, the provincial and municipal governments have supported communities to deliver critical services and relief to residents and businesses during the pandemic. The Provincial-Municipal COVID-19 Technical Working Group, a staff-level forum with tripartite participation from the Ontario government, AMO, and the City of Toronto, has met regularly throughout the year to address emerging COVID-19 issues and develop solutions.

We will continue to work together to plan for a stronger future and identify priorities for the year ahead. Specifically, our partnership is critical in supporting Ontario's economic recovery as well as addressing broader challenges, including housing supply and affordability.

Discussions through the AMO MOU table will continue to help deliver better outcomes and supports to keep Ontarians safe. The discussions have proved enormously valuable, and both the Ontario and AMO look forward to continuing with this strong level of collaboration. Together, we will keep Ontarians safe, and help our communities recover and prosper.