

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO AND THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO

2023 JOINT ANNUAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING STATEMENT

We are pleased to present the annual joint statement for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Province of Ontario for 2023.

The AMO MOU table is a critical institution at the centre of the provincial-municipal relationship. It supports essential discussions amongst provincial and municipal leaders on issues of mutual priority, interest, and concern, as we work together to help build a strong, vibrant Ontario.

The MOU table enables the opportunity for the diverse perspectives of Ontario's municipal sector to be considered as part of the government's decision-making process. The MOU table helps to shape better public policy outcomes for Ontario's communities and residents.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Ontario and its municipalities are not immune to challenging headwinds that are making it more difficult to get homes built, including higher interest rates, inflationary pressures on the cost of building materials, supply chain disruptions, and gaps in the labour market. Against these headwinds, it is more important than ever for the province and its municipal partners to work closely together.

In recent months, the parties have re-affirmed their commitment to this table as a place for candid and robust discussion to support effective public policy.

Key provincial initiatives impacting the municipal sector were discussed at the Table over this time period, including:

- Housing, including legislative changes, implementation challenges and future directions
- Infrastructure, including the *Building Faster Fund* and joint advocacy to the federal government for additional needed investment
- Municipal fiscal sustainability, including AMO's proposed Social and Economic Prosperity Review
- *Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare Agreement* Implementation
- Strengthening Public Health
- Social Assistance Renewal

In addition to formal MOU meetings, meetings of the Provincial-Municipal Housing Engagement Table – co-chaired by staff from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMO, and the City of Toronto and comprised of senior municipal staff from across the province – highlight a renewed commitment to collaboration and evidence-based policy making.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

AMO and the province look forward to continuing to refocus the provincial-municipal relationship in 2024, recognizing the benefits of two-way discussions on key matters and shared priorities affecting municipal governments and communities. This is especially important as we address housing supply and work towards the province's goal to build 1.5 million homes.

Next year brings the opportunity for AMO and the province to renew the MOU as AMO celebrates its 125th anniversary, reflecting on the critical role municipal governments play in Ontario's social and economic well-being. We look forward to our continued collaboration, as we work in partnership to leverage the AMO MOU table to support the delivery of transparent, efficient, and effective outcomes for Ontarians.