

AMO ADVOCACY UPDATE

Ontario Small Urban Municipalities

PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL RELATIONSHIP

- Constructive provincial-municipal working relationship in the government's first term
- During the pandemic, municipalities worked in partnership with the province to keep Ontario's communities safe and to safeguard the economy. Municipalities and DSSABs got the job done, and Ontario, along with Canada, provided over \$5B in COVID financial relief
- COVID caused a massive, unanticipated spike in housing demand threatening affordability for middle- and upper-income Ontarians - creating a political and election issue for the provincial government
- Emerging political narrative that municipalities were to blame for limited supply and skyrocketing housing prices

PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL RELATIONSHIP

- Fall 2022 provincial legislative agenda severely damaged provincial-municipal relationship, creating both challenges and opportunities for AMO
- Indications that the province has heard municipal calls for greater collaboration
 - 2023 Provincial Budget responded directly to municipal calls for greater investment in homelessness and community-based mental health supports
 - Early signs of a more collaborative approach on housing
- Going forward, AMO will continue to strike the right balance in highlighting both:
 - Municipal willingness to reset the relationship and the benefits of working collaboratively to achieve shared goals
 - Where provincial policy is problematic and undermines the interests of the sector and the public

AMO'S PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

Building Ontario Together

2023 Pre-Budget Submission



AMO's 2023 Pre-Budget Submission



- Presented February 13 to Standing Committee, calling for:
 - Partnership on housing supply, with clarity regarding commitment to fully offset \$1 billion costs of Bill 23.
 - Action on homelessness, including:
 - higher base shelter/prevention funding
 - more community housing/rent subsidies
 - social assistance rates and transformation
 - more supportive housing and increases to base mental health and addictions budgets.
 - Overall increase in per capita program spending and progress towards closing the \$28 billion gap with provincial/territorial average.

HOMELESSNESS: ADVOCACY

- Resolutions Campaign
 - Passed by over 40 organizations
- Coalition Letter in Globe and Mail
 - Signed by 25 partners from the social, health, education, business, labour and justice sectors
- Conventional media
 - 170 media mentions for AMO housing and homelessness
 - Significant local coverage of Council resolutions
 - Major outlet coverage of Op-Ed



HOME > LOCAL NEWS

End homelessness crisis: Social Services board to province

DSSAB board chair Luke Dufour says the patience of municipalities across the province is wearing thin and urgent action is needed from the province to prevent, reduce and end homelessness

 [Kenneth Armstrong](#)
Feb 17, 2023 12:33 PM





Ward 2 councillor Luke Dufour is chair of the local Social Services administration board, which passed a resolution Thursday asking for urgent action by the Ontario government to end homelessness in the province | Alex Flood/SooToday



HOMELESSNESS: BUDGET AND NEXT STEPS

- Significant progress in provincial Budget:
 - Additional \$202 M annually to Homelessness Prevention and Indigenous Supportive Housing
 - Additional \$425 M over 3 years on community-based mental health and addictions supports
- AMO will continue to highlight the need for urgent, coordinated action from all levels of government
 - May 3-4 AMO Ending Homelessness Symposium highlighting innovative community action
 - Key focus of August AMO Conference programming
 - Collaboration with FCM on the need for additional federal investments in Reaching Home Initiative and the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit
 - Provincial action on enhanced income support and coordinated social services, actions to increase supply of community housing, and integrated housing and health solutions

HOUSING

- Bill 23 (October 2022) – Fundamental changes with no consultation, based on false narrative that housing shortages are the fault of municipalities
 - Significant fiscal impacts on municipalities with DCs
 - Major changes to planning roles of Conservation Authorities and Regional governments
- Bill 97, Provincial Planning Statement (April 2023) – Less sweeping change with responsiveness to some municipal concerns
 - Changes for agricultural lands, employment areas, settlement boundaries process, Ministerial zoning powers
 - Actions to address shortage of building inspectors
 - Key uncertainties remain in approach to environmental policies
- AMO focused on improving collaboration and supporting implementation
 - Provincial-Municipal Housing Engagement Table; Housing Supply Action Plan Implementation Table

OTHER POLICY PRIORITIES

- Infrastructure
 - Support for growth while also ensuring sustainable, predictable funding for asset management
 - Working with FCM to support next generation federal program
- Municipal Codes of Conduct
 - Support for the principles reflected in Bill 5 (Private Members' Bill); letters to Minister Clark and the Premier to introduce a Government Bill
- Indigenous – Municipal Relations
 - New Indigenous Advisory Committee to drive an Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan
- Ontario's Energy Transition
 - Municipalities as critical partners in regional planning and siting processes
- Health Access and Prevention
 - Community paramedicine, public health, Ontario Health Teams