

*December 13, 2018*

AMCTO Advocacy Update – Municipal Reporting Burden

Last week, AMCTO was pleased that the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing Steve Clark committed to addressing the sector's reporting burden. A letter sent to all Ontario municipalities formalized his remarks from the 2018 AMO Conference where he echoed the concerns that AMCTO raised in its landmark 2017 report on municipal-provincial reporting; that municipal reporting is often onerous, excessive, fragmented, duplicative, and often a barrier to effective municipal service delivery.

AMCTO is pleased to see its recommendations being adopted as the Minister commits to convening a cross-government working group on their municipal reporting requirements. This group will be tasked with reducing reporting, ensuring the information collected is necessary for the province's work, eliminating duplicate reporting, and ensuring reporting requirements for small municipalities are appropriate.

To inform this process, a municipal stakeholder working group made up of key associations will be leveraged to provide an informed perspective as early as next week. AMCTO is pleased to work closely with our municipal partners on this group from AMO, MFOA and OMSSA to present a sector wide effort.

Background:

For the past several years, AMCTO has made the municipal reporting burden a key advocacy issue. These efforts began when research led to the release of the 'Bearing the Burden' report in early 2017. This prompted a series of activities that brought us to where we are today:

- Late in 2016, AMCTO staff shared a draft report with staff from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for review and feedback.
- In late Spring of 2017, AMCTO staff were invited to brief the Secretary of the Cabinet, Steve Orsini on the reporting burden research along with briefing to the MARCO/LUMCO and Regional & Single Tier CAOs.
- During the summer of 2017, AMCTO staff briefed the then Municipal Affairs Critic and now Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs Ernie Hardeman and his staff.
- Over 2017-18, AMCTO staff began to work with the previous government on reporting reduction related to the Human Services Integration portfolio.

While the above efforts raised the profile of the reporting burden, Minister Clark's commitment to the reporting burden file is a positive step to working toward improved municipal service delivery. We look forward to working with Minister Clark and his team on this issue.

For more:

[Bearing the Burden: Summary Report](#)

[Bearing the Burden: Technical Report](#)

[Municipal-Provincial Reporting Inventory](#) (as of early 2017)

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