

**From:** [AMO Communications](#)  
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**Subject:** November 29th AMO Board Highlights  
**Date:** Friday, November 29, 2019 4:11:55 PM

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## AMO Policy Update



November 29, 2019

# November 29th AMO Board Highlights

AMO President Jamie McGarvey created a [video overview](#) of today's AMO Board meeting.

### **Flood Advisor's Report**

The Board received preliminary highlights on the Flood Advisor's report. While there are many recommendations that touch on municipal operations, it is expected that they will likely not create new municipal costs. There is a strong focus on stormwater management, promoting green infrastructure, improved floodplain mapping and avoiding construction on floodplains. Many of the recommendations reflect previous AMO asks regarding adequate funding to infrastructure programs and provincial support for robust prevention and response.

- Craig Reid, Senior Advisor [creid@amo.on.ca](mailto:creid@amo.on.ca) and Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor [cathiebrown@amo.on.ca](mailto:cathiebrown@amo.on.ca)

### **Public Health and EMS modernization consultations**

AMO will be very active in the current Public Health and EMS modernization consultations. Staff are reviewing the Ministry of Health discussion papers and associated questions. The AMO Health Task Force will be meeting with Jim Pine, Municipal Advisor, and Ministry officials in January. The AMO Board will be considering its response at its January 31st Board Meeting.

- Monika Turner, AMO Policy Director, [mturner@amo.on.ca](mailto:mturner@amo.on.ca) and Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, [mjacek@amo.on.ca](mailto:mjacek@amo.on.ca)

### **Blue Box Program & Waste Management Issues [separate]**

Provincial consultations on the Blue Box regulation have started, which are complementary to the recent municipal consultations held across the province by AMO. The AMO Board discussed the mechanism to decide the transition schedule as one has not been determined yet. The Board also received information on steward obligation decisions for Blue Box funding in both 2019 and 2020 funding decisions,

and an update on municipal say in landfill siting approvals.

- Dave Gordon, Senior Advisor [dgordon@amo.on.ca](mailto:dgordon@amo.on.ca) and Amber Crawford, Policy Advisor [acrawford@amo.on.ca](mailto:acrawford@amo.on.ca)

### **Ontario Data Strategy – Better, Smarter Government discussion paper**

The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services released its final discussion paper as part of its Ontario Data Strategy consultations. The Board reviewed and approved the AMO's response to "Better, Smarter Government" which will detail how the provincial government can help the municipal sector leverage data and data driven technologies, including emphasizing the development of a common repository for municipal reports to alleviate the burden of reporting to multiple ministries. AMO looks forward to how action plans that emerge from the consultations will be phased-in and measured to demonstrate success to Ontarians.

- Nicolas Ruder, Research Advisor, AMO Enterprise Centre and LAS [nruder@amo.on.ca](mailto:nruder@amo.on.ca)

### **Bill 132 - *Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2019***

Bill 132 covers dozens of proposed amendments to legislation, some of which will have municipal impacts. On November 25th AMO President, Jamie McGarvey presented Bill 132: *Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2019* concerns regarding below water table extraction of aggregates to the Standing Committee on General Government. Where contaminated water from aggregates operations gets into municipal drinking water, municipal council members should not be held liable for provincial decisions to license. AMO will continue to watch this and how regulations for waste, off road vehicles, pesticides, and the repeal of the *Line Fences Act* progress.

- Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor [cathiebrown@amo.on.ca](mailto:cathiebrown@amo.on.ca)

### **Bill 108 - Municipal/Conservation Authority Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

The Board considered the change to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, regarding MOUs that will be required between municipal governments and conservation authorities. A draft template for planning related services was received and will be shared soon on the AMO website so staff can begin to consider what might be negotiated in this MOU. Many municipalities are already using similar MOUs.

- Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor [cathiebrown@amo.on.ca](mailto:cathiebrown@amo.on.ca)

### **Indigenous Relations**

AMO staff reported on their work with the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) to support Indigenous peoples in Ontario municipalities in the spirit of reconciliation. AMO and the OFIFC have created a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will frame our joint association work moving forward. As well, AMO is having preliminary discussions with the OFIFC about an Ontario Friendship Declaration between AMO, the OFIFC, Friendship Centre Executive Directors, and corresponding municipal governments. The declaration's intent is to build relationships and identify common priorities for serving Indigenous people in

communities.

- Monika Turner, AMO Policy Director, [mturner@amo.on.ca](mailto:mturner@amo.on.ca)

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