



AMO Communications
<communicate@amo.on.ca>
16/06/2014 03:04 PM

To "ravis@fort-frances.com" <ravis@fort-frances.com>
cc
bcc
Subject AMO Policy Update - Ontario Provincial Election -
Post-Election Members Update

TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE CLERK AND COUNCIL

June 16, 2014

Ontario Provincial Election - Post-Election Members Update

Last week's election produced the first majority government in Ontario since 2011. This update will provide you with the expected next steps by the provincial government and the start of our post-election government relations and advocacy work on behalf of municipal governments.

AMO has written to all three party leaders to acknowledge the results and all the hard work expended during the election period. The election results created substantial change in the 107 seat Ontario Legislature with 20 new MPPs including six ridings that had no incumbent running. Working with these new members, their leaders and their caucuses will be a priority for us and the sector.

Members may know that the Legislature is set to resume on July 2nd with a Throne Speech as well as the re-introduction of the Budget Bill. Debate on both is required before they can be approved. The contents of the Budget are already known as the Premier confirmed on election night that the Liberal government would introduce the same Budget as they had before the election. Members interested in more information on the Budget's contents and implications for municipalities can refer to [AMO's review of the May 2014 Budget](#). The majority government makes passage of the Throne Speech and Budget all but certain.

The in-coming Cabinet needs to be appointed and sworn in before the House resumes on July 2nd. The announcement on the new Cabinet and its Ministers is expected in the coming days. Once named, the AMO President, Russ Powers, will write to each Minister who has municipal responsibilities or areas of interest with both our congratulations, along with the municipal sector's key priorities in their ministerial portfolio. AMO anticipates that once the Throne Speech and Budget are debated and passed, the Legislative Assembly will adjourn for the summer.

Government and opposition party MPPs will then begin preparing for discussions during the August AMO Annual Conference in London. Information on delegations with Ministers and MPPs will be posted shortly now that the election has occurred. As stated previously, AMO will send a notice to each municipality when more information on delegations is available.

AMO is working on its key interests for the Fall Legislative Session as well as policy matters that require further discussion with the provincial government and all members of the Legislature. Please know that one of our top priorities at this time is working with the government on infrastructure funding, including the Building Canada Fund, so that municipalities can try to take advantage of the remaining construction season as best they can.

Contact: Monika Turner, Director of Policy, mturner@amo.on.ca, 416-971-9856 ext. 318.

assumes no responsibility for any discrepancies that may have been transmitted with the electronic version. The printed versions of the documents stand as the official record.



The 2014 Provincial Budget

05/01/2014

Today the Honourable Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance, delivered the 2014 Provincial Budget.

It delivers on some longstanding commitments for municipal infrastructure but also accelerates cuts to municipal operating grants delivered through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF). Building on previous infrastructure spending announcements, key budget highlights are below.

- **Significant infrastructure investments** – The budget includes a 10 year \$130 billion commitment to infrastructure investment. The Province's matching funds to the federal Building Canada Fund is included along with the following new municipal components:
 - **Public transit and transportation infrastructure** – Of the above total, \$28.9 billion over the next 10 years will be dedicated to public transit and transportation. This includes \$15 billion for the GTHA and \$13.9 billion for investments in the rest of the province. In 2014-15 this represents \$3.3 billion (\$1.7 billion in the GTHA and \$1.6 billion outside the GTHA). Further discussions on the how and when of these allocations will occur in the future.
 - **A permanent infrastructure fund for roads and bridges** – The budget delivers a \$100 million annual fund for "critical projects in communities with challenging fiscal circumstances". It will include application and formula based funding for municipalities. It will move towards a fully formula-based funding model over time. No other details regarding eligibility are provided in the budget. This honours a longstanding provincial commitment.
 - **Accelerated OMPF cuts for 2015** – The budget cuts operating funding to municipalities with challenging fiscal circumstances by \$35 million in 2015. This represents an unexpected funding cut of \$10 million to the communities that can least afford it and which benefitted the least from the upload. AMO had advocated for a deferral of the expected \$25 million cut. The Association is extremely surprised and disappointed with this move. It raises additional questions regarding the government's approach to OPP billing. Specifically, what does this added decrease mean when OPP billing reform policy for 2015 has not been determined?
 - **Cuts to the Power Dam Special Payment Program** – Municipalities which host power dams will see \$4.4 million in cuts to these transfers over four years. Such dollars offset lost property tax revenues for these communities. Increased property taxes or service cuts should be expected in these municipalities to make up for the Province's "responsible spending choice". Was the previous honouring of this arrangement irresponsible?
 - **The upload remains intact** – The Province continues to maintain the 2008 upload agreement. Its 2015 value to the sector is \$1.63 billion. The importance of this commitment to the sector as a whole is indisputable. Sector wide, municipalities have been able to redirect these dollars to increased infrastructure investments. But on a local level, the value of this upload varies considerably from one municipality to the next. That's why the OMPF is so important for municipalities with challenging fiscal circumstances.

Contact

Matthew Wilson
 Senior Advisor
mwilson@amo.on.ca
 T 416.971.9856 ext. 323
 TF 1.877.426.6527
 F 416.971.6191

Link

[2014 Ontario Budget](#)

- **Social assistance** – ODSP and Ontario Works rate increases will be implemented this fall. Municipalities will be shielded from cost-share related increases for Ontario Works until January 2015. In addition, the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative will benefit from the permanent addition of \$42 million starting in 2014-15. Previously this allocation was temporary.

AMO's budget analysis will continue. Further updates will be provided as required.

Advocacy

Economic Development
Energy
Finance
Housing
Infrastructure
Labour
Planning
Risk Management
Social Services
Waste Management

Events & Training

Conferences
Councillor Training
Symposiums
Webcasts
Workshops

About Us

Accessibility
AMOMobile app
Annual Report
Awards
Board of Directors
By-Law
Careers
Contact Us
History
Membership
Memorandum of Understanding
Municipal 101
Products & Services
Volunteering
Watch File

Related Sites

FONOM
Gas Tax at Work
LAS
MEPCO
NOMA
OMKN
OSUM
ROMA

Programs

Gas Tax
MIDAS

Working to make Ontario municipalities stronger

© 2013 Association of Municipalities of Ontario | [website policy](#)