

# **Municipal Services Offices Provincial Update**

**AMCTO – Zone 2**

**October 29, 2021**

# Important Notice

- Municipalities are responsible for making local decisions, including complying with any applicable statutes or regulations.
- This presentation is for information purposes only and is not a substitute for legal or other professional advice in connection with any particular matter. This presentation deals with complicated issues and concepts in a highly summarized fashion, and key details may not be included. The inclusion of municipal or other local examples in this presentation does not imply an endorsement by the ministry.
- Users should verify the information that has been included from other sources prior to making decisions or acting upon it.

# Presentation Outline

- Updates
  - Local Government
  - Finance
  - Housing
  - Community Planning & Development
- Municipal Services Offices Contacts and Information

# Local Government



# Municipal Election Reminders

- Changes to council composition
  - By-laws need to be passed prior to **December 31, 2021**.
- Establishing or altering ward boundaries
  - By-laws need to be passed by **December 31, 2021**.
  - May wish to consider possible appeals and any appeal period delaying the effective date of the by-law.
- Election budget
  - Consider allowances in the 2022 budget.
- Service providers for alternative voting and vote counting equipment
  - May wish to consider thinking early about ensuring that your agreements with private service providers are in place.
- Delegation of authority
  - May wish to consider the need for appropriate delegation of authority to be in place if council becomes subject to restricted acts provisions.

# *Municipal Elections Act* Changes Reminder

- Electronic filing of nomination and registration paperwork
  - Clerks may choose to permit municipal election candidates (council and school trustee) and third-party advertisers to file nomination and registration paperwork electronically.
- Ending a third-party advertisers' campaign
  - Third-party advertisers can end their campaign by filing a written withdrawal with the clerk at any time prior to the end of registration period for third-party advertisers.
  - The *Municipal Elections Act* stipulates that a third-party advertiser's campaign is automatically ended if they file a nomination to run for office.
- Timeline Changes

Activity	Deadline
Candidates to file/withdraw nominations	<b>August 19, 2022</b>
Councils to pass by-laws for alternative voting and vote counting equipment	<b>May 1, 2022</b>
Clerks to establish procedures for alternative voting and use of vote counting equipment	<b>June 1, 2022</b>

# Finance



# COVID-19 Operational Funding

To date, municipalities have received three rounds of COVID-19 operational funding allocations:

- **Safe Restart Agreement (SRA)**
  - Two phases totalling more than \$1.2 billion.
- **2021 Provincial COVID-19 Recovery Funding for Municipalities (CRFM)**
  - Two equal payments in 2021.
- Municipalities are required to report back on the use of this funding using a template on Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON)

# Municipal Modernization Program

- The Municipal Modernization Program (MMP) is part of Ontario's commitment to help small and rural municipalities become more efficient and modernize service delivery.
- **Intake 3:** More than \$50 million was announced at the AMO 2021 conference to fund projects that support digital modernization, service integration, streamline development approvals and shared services/alternative delivery models.
- Eligible projects could include:
  - Service delivery reviews
  - Software modernization
  - Operational and performance reviews
  - Shared service assessments
  - Strategic/master plan creation

# Audit and Accountability Fund

- The province launched the Audit and Accountability Fund (AAF) for municipalities to undertake third party reviews with the goal of finding service delivery efficiencies.
- **Intake 3:** \$7 million was announced at the AMO 2021 conference to fund projects that support digital modernization, service integration and streamlined development approvals.
- Eligible projects could include:
  - Service delivery reviews
  - Modernization reviews
  - Digital transformation studies
  - Streamlined development approval process reviews
  - Services integration reviews

# Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund

- The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) is the province's main general assistance grant for municipalities.
- The program primarily supports northern and rural municipalities across the province. Its objectives are to:
  - Recognize the challenges of northern and rural municipalities, while targeting funding to those with more challenging fiscal circumstances;
  - Support areas with limited property assessment; and
  - Assist municipalities that are adjusting to year-over-year funding changes.

# Investment in Broadband and Cellular Access

- In 2021, the province invested \$2.8 billion to connect all Ontarians to reliable, high-speed internet by the end of 2025. This brings the total provincial investment to ~\$4 billion since 2019.
- This investment will help to achieve objectives outlined in:
  - Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan
  - Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government
- High-speed internet and cellular projects and investments include:
- Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) program
  - Ontario/Canada partnership to support large scale infrastructure projects
  - Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) Cellular Gap project
  - Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT)
  - Matawa Broadband and projects in northern Ontario
  - Telesat's Lightspeed (Low Earth Orbit satellite) project

# Asset Management Regulation Requirements

## Strategic Asset Management Policy (By July 1, 2019)

Requires municipalities to outline commitments to best practices and continuous improvement.

## Asset Management Plan: Phase 2 (By July 1, 2022)

For core assets (water, wastewater and stormwater assets, roads, bridges and culverts):

- Inventory of assets
- Current levels of service measured by standard metrics
- Costs to maintain levels of service

## Asset Management Plan: Phase 3 (By July 1, 2024)

Builds on the Phase 2 plan to include all municipal assets, including current levels of service and costs.

## Asset Management Plan: Phase 4 (By July 1, 2025)

Builds on Phase 3 where plans shift to:

- Proposed levels of service
- Lifecycle management and financial strategy for all assets

# Financial Information Return New Website

- The website is located at: <https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/fir/fir/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Financial Information Return website. The header features the Ontario logo and the text "Financial Information Return" with a "Français" link. A navigation menu includes "FIR Home", "Municipal Reporting", "Reports", "Open Data", "News", and "Contact Us". The main content area is split into two sections: "FIR 2020 Template" with a "Download Template" button and a link to "View templates for other years", and "FIR Reports by Municipality" with a "View 2020 Reports" button and a link to "View reports for other years". The background of the main content area shows a keyboard and a hand pointing at a tablet displaying charts.

# Financial Indicator Reviews

- **Financial Indicators (7):** On an annual basis, MMAH calculates and reviews select financial indicators for each municipality.
  1. Total Taxes Receivable Less Allowance for Uncollectible as a Percentage of Total Taxes Levied;
  2. Net Financial Assets or Net Debt as a Percentage of Own Source Revenue;
  3. Total Reserves and Discretionary Reserve Funds as a Percentage of Operating Expenses;
  4. Cash Ratio – Total Cash and Cash Equivalents as a Percentage of Current Liabilities;
  5. Debt Servicing Cost as a Percentage of Total Operating Revenue;
  6. Asset Consumption Ratio – Closing Amortization Balance as a Percentage of Total Cost of Capital Assets;
  7. Annual Surplus/Deficit as a Percentage of Own Source Revenues.

# Housing



# Current Housing and Homelessness Programs

- Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)
- Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)
- Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)
- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)
- Other Housing and Homelessness Updates

# Social Services Relief Fund

To date, municipalities have received four rounds of the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) allocations:

- **SSRF Phase 4:** \$307.4 million was announced at the AMO 2021 conference.
  - This investment includes \$21 million in residual funding under the previously announced COCHI.
- Phase 4 includes both eligible operating and/or capital expenses.
  - All eligible operating expenses under the existing SSRF Phase 3 and eligible capital expenses under the existing Phase 2 will be maintained under Phase 4.
- All eligible operating expenses must be spent by **March 31, 2022**.
- Service Managers should consider how enhanced supports and services offered through the SSRF will be phased out or continued through other funding sources.

# COVID-19 Risk Management

## Provincial Antigen Screening Program (PASP)

- In March 2021, MMAH communicated to Service Managers, the opportunity to participate in PASP as part of Ontario's continued efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this program, MMAH-funded shelters and supportive housing facilities can receive free rapid antigen tests to screen for COVID-19.

## Risk Assessment Surveys

- MMAH continues to conduct surveys with service managers to assess the capacity, use and vulnerability of the emergency shelter system and congregate supportive housing developments during the pandemic.

# By-Name List and Enumeration

## By-Name List

- In March 2021, MMAH communicated to service managers and sector organizations the requirement to begin developing a By-Name List in April 2021 and have an operational list across the entire Service Manager area by January 1, 2022.

## Enumeration

- Due to gaps and limitations in the 2018 enumeration data, MMAH paused the requirement for service managers to conduct local homeless enumeration for 2020 to review the province's enumeration requirements. To provide greater consistency in the data collected, MMAH requires service managers to enumerate in 2021 by December 15th using a Point-in-Time (PIT) Count method.

# Municipal Tools for Affordable Housing

## ***Planning Act***

- Additional Residential Units
- Official Plans and Zoning By-laws
- Garden Suites
- Community Improvement Plans
- Inclusionary Zoning
- Demolition Control Areas
- Subdivision Control
- Reduction in Parkland / Cash-in-Lieu
- Waiving/reduction of application fees
- Reduction / Exemption from Parking Requirements
- Community Benefits Charges
- Development / Community Planning Permit System

## ***Municipal Act***

- Municipal Services Corporations
- Grants
- Municipal Capital Facilities Agreements
- New Multi-Residential Property Class
- Prohibiting the demolition and conversion of residential rental properties

## ***Development Charges Act***

- Full or partial exemptions to DCs for (common) types of development
- Early or late payment of DCs

# **Community Planning and Development**



# A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

- Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe laid the groundwork for municipal and development sector partners to move toward economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Conformity Date – July 1, 2022**
  - The date by which and single-tier municipalities must have their official plans in conformity with the updated policies in *A Place to Grow* is July 1, 2022.
  - Updated official plans will play a critical role in helping more Ontarians find a home that meets their needs, as well as supporting economic recovery from COVID-19.

# Projection Methodology Guideline Update

- The Projection Methodology Guideline is a document that supports the municipal implementation of the Provincial Policy Statement involving Building Strong Healthy Communities.
- An update to the 1995 Projection Methodology Guideline is needed to reflect provincial priorities and support the implementation of the new Provincial Policy Statement.
- An update to the guideline would:
  - Align the methodology with the current planning framework;
  - Reflect government priorities and support the implementation of provincial policies;
  - Provide a consistent approach to determine land need requirements over the long-term for municipalities outside of the Greater Golden Horseshoe; and
  - Provide an approach that is adaptable to all communities in Ontario.

# Community Improvement Plans

- Community Improvement Plans (CIPs) are a tool available under Section 28 of the *Planning Act* used to create financial incentives and promote economic development.
- CIPs can be developed by single and lower-tier municipalities as well as prescribed upper-tier municipalities.
- Common CIP themes include:
  - Brownfield redevelopment;
  - Downtown revitalization;
  - Industrial/employment; and
  - Affordable housing

# Other Updates

- In addition to the *Municipal Act* and the *Planning Act*, there are numerous pieces of legislation that deal with municipal activities within Ontario.
- For information on current provincial funding programs and to find out if your municipality is eligible, please access Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON).
  - <https://www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/gr/tpcr>

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# Questions?

