

# Municipal Services Offices Provincial Update

May 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.

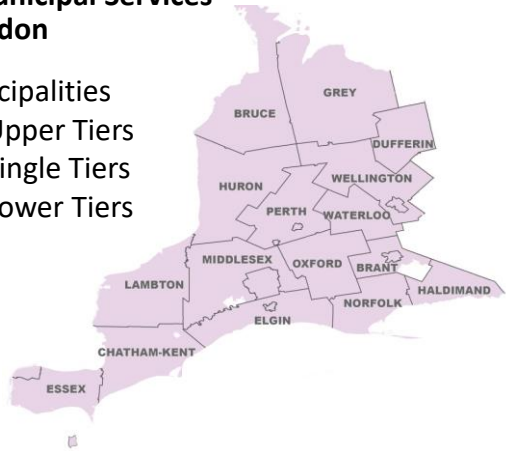
# Outline

- Municipal Services Offices (MSOs)
- Updates:
  - Compliance and Enforcement of Orders under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and the *Reopening Ontario Act, 2020*
  - Ontario's Vaccine Rollout
  - Local Government
  - Elections
  - Finance
- MSO Contact Info
- Questions

# Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Municipal Services Offices

## Western Municipal Services Office - London

- 117 Municipalities
- 12 Upper Tiers
  - 12 Single Tiers
  - 93 Lower Tiers



## Northern Municipal Services Office - Sudbury

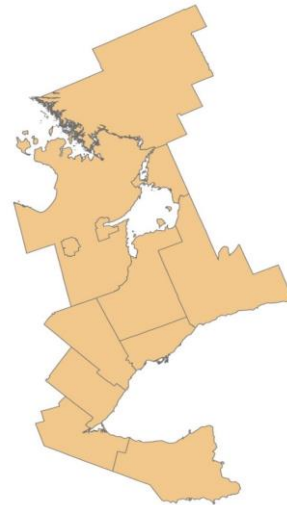
- 110 Single Tier Municipalities



## Eastern Municipal Services Office – Kingston



- 114 Municipalities
- 11 Upper Tiers
  - 13 Single Tiers
  - 90 Lower Tiers

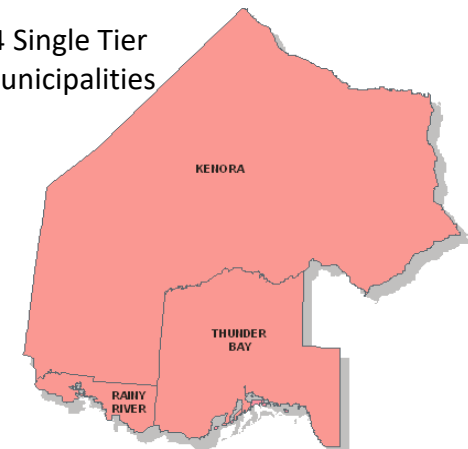


## Central Municipal Services Office – Toronto

- 69 Municipalities
- 7 Upper Tiers
  - 4 Single Tiers
  - 58 Lower Tiers

## Northern Municipal Services Office – Thunder Bay

- 34 Single Tier Municipalities



# Municipal Services Offices - Roles

## Municipal Governance



- Main point of contact for municipalities and service managers.
- Promote government policy, legislation, and new programs.
- Build effective relationships.
- Assist council/board members and staff understand legislation and regulations.

## Municipal Finance



- Help municipalities navigate Ontario ministries.
- Connect municipalities to each other to share solutions and promote shared services.
- Connect municipalities to other ministries.

## Land Use Planning



- Provide local intelligence to MMAH policy, and housing divisions.
- Provide partner ministries with on-the-ground intelligence.

## Housing and Homelessness

**Update - Compliance and  
Enforcement of Orders under the  
*Emergency Management and Civil  
Protection Act* and the *Reopening  
Ontario Act, 2020***

# Authority to Enforce Orders under *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and *Reopening Ontario Act*

- Municipalities play a crucial role in the enforcement of orders made under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA) and the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID) Act, 2020* (ROA) and other public health measures related to COVID-19.
  - Municipal bylaw officers have been designated as provincial offences officers for the purposes of enforcing all ROA and EMCPA orders, including exercising powers to ticket individuals not complying with the stay-at-home order or those not following masking and distancing requirements indoors.
    - Bylaw officers and other provincial offences officers also have the power to temporarily close premises and disperse individuals who are in contravention of an order. (O Reg. 8/21)
    - Police officers or other provincial offences officers have authority to require an individual to provide their correct name, date of birth and address so that provincial offences officers have the necessary information to issue tickets or lay charges under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. (O Reg. 8/21)
  - Under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* municipal bylaw officers and other municipal law enforcement officers can enforce s. 22 orders.
  - Local medical officers of health have powers under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (e.g. to make s. 22 communicable disease order).
  - While municipal enforcement of ROA is voluntary, the province encourages municipalities to consider enforcing these orders where feasible.

# Provincial Enforcement Initiatives

## COVID Safety Campaigns

- Multi-Ministry Teams are visiting local communities to conduct targeted COVID safety campaigns to promote public health requirements.
  - A multi-ministry COVID safety awareness and compliance team has been established with over 450+ provincial offences officers from various ministries throughout Ontario.
  - Campaigns attempt to work in collaboration with police, public health units, and by-law staff to limit duplication of local compliance and enforcement efforts.
  - The campaigns include visits to workplaces that present heightened risk factors for potential transmission of COVID-19, including restaurants and banquet halls, gyms and fitness centres, personal care services, meeting and event spaces, mall-based retail, cinemas and performing arts centres.
- ROA Enforcement Reporting Tool
  - The Ministry of Solicitor General is collecting ROA enforcement data to help monitor and measure the impact of accelerated enforcement and compliance activities across the province.



# **Updates: Ontario's Vaccine Rollout**



# Municipal Role in Vaccine Rollout

- The COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force has asked municipalities to work with their local Public Health Unit to:
  - Provide security if required for vaccines and immunization sites;
  - Echo messaging to inform residents and combat vaccine hesitancy;
  - Support vaccination of municipal Long-Term Care home residents and staff; and
  - Support vaccination efforts with any other required logistical supports ( e.g., traffic flow, use of municipal property).
- Public Health Units determine how, where and when vaccines are distributed using different, locally appropriate channels, including:
  - Mass & Mobile Vaccination Sites
  - Primary Care locations ( e.g., family doctors' offices)
  - Pharmacies
  - Home care service providers
- Additional information and resources can be accessed at:
  - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>
  - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-communication-resources>

# Updates - Local Government



# Municipal COVID-19 Operating Costs Supports

- Safe Restart Fund: \$695 million (50%) in Phase 1 for all municipalities on a per household basis.
- Safe Restart Fund: \$695 million (50%) in Phase 2 including:
  - \$396 million for municipalities that demonstrated remaining COVID-19 related 2020 operating pressures after application of their Phase 1 funding
  - \$299 million for all municipalities to help offset ongoing COVID-10 related operating pressures in 2021
- Provincial COVID Recovery Funding: \$500 million, with payments made in two installments. The first installment of this funding has now been issued, the second installment is scheduled to flow on or before **November 1, 2021**.
- Flexibility to use funding to address the specific priorities of their communities based on their unique COVID- related operating pressures.
- Municipalities will be required to report back in 2021 on the use of this funding using a template on Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON).

# Municipal Modernization Program – Intake 2

- On January 26, 2021, the province announced a second intake of the Municipal Modernization Program (MMP), which has two funding streams:
  - 1) Review Stream** – Under this stream, an eligible project must:
    - Be a review of municipal service delivery or administrative expenditures.
    - Result in a report by the independent third-party reviewer that provides specific and actionable recommendations for cost savings or efficiency finding.
    - Begin field work no earlier than January 26, 2021, with a final report completed and posted publicly on the municipal website by November 30, 2021.
  - 2) Implementation Stream** – Under this stream, an eligible project must:
    - Be based on evidence of savings and include a high-level workplan with project milestones.
    - Begin no earlier than January 26, 2021 and be completed by September 30, 2022.
    - Include a commitment to providing a final report that forecasts efficiency and effectiveness outcomes for at least three years.
    - Include a commitment to reporting back one-year after project completion.
- For both streams, municipalities could apply individually or jointly. Expressions of Interest were to be submitted *via* Transfer Payment Ontario by March 15, 2021.
- To get started, visit [www.Ontario.ca/getfunding](http://www.Ontario.ca/getfunding). Questions can be directed to [municipal.programs@ontario.ca](mailto:municipal.programs@ontario.ca) or to your Municipal Advisor.

# Audit and Accountability Fund – Intake 2

- In May 2019, the Province launched the Audit and Accountability Fund (AAF).
- The first intake of AAF provided \$7.35 million for all 39 large urban municipalities and district school boards interested in conducting line-by-line reviews to identify potential savings, while maintaining vital front-line services.
- On November 17, 2020, the province launched the second intake of the AAF and encouraged municipalities to submit proposals that support the following priorities:
  - Digital modernization
  - Service integration
  - Streamlined development approvals
- Forty-three successful projects from 31 municipalities were announced on March 1, 2021.
- If you have questions on the program, please contact your Municipal Services Office or e-mail [municipal.programs@ontario.ca](mailto:municipal.programs@ontario.ca).

# Updates - Elections



# Changes to *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*

- In 2020 and 2021, the province made changes to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* through:
  - Bill 204, *Helping Tenants and Small Business Act, 2020*
  - Bill 218, *Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020*
  - Bill 254, *Protecting Ontario Elections Act, 2021*



# Bill 204: Single Register of Electors

- The amendments provide the Chief Electoral Officer with authority and responsibility to create and maintain a single register of electors for both provincial and municipal elections.
- Voters would be able to update their information and verify that they are registered to vote in provincial, municipal council and school board elections all at once.
- Elections Ontario would provide the preliminary list of electors for all by-elections that are initiated after January 1, 2024, and for the regular municipal election in 2026.
- The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) would continue to be responsible for providing the preliminary list of electors for the 2022 municipal elections and for any by-elections that take place or are initiated before January 1, 2024.
- Link to Bill 204:
  - [https://www.ola.org/sites/default/files/node-files/bill/document/pdf/2020/2020-10/b204ra\\_e\\_0.pdf](https://www.ola.org/sites/default/files/node-files/bill/document/pdf/2020/2020-10/b204ra_e_0.pdf)

# Bill 204: Single Register of Electors

- Role of MPAC:
  - MPAC would continue to be responsible for providing annual lists to school boards showing the school support of all Ontario residents (and not just eligible voters) and would continue to be responsible for providing Population of Electoral Group (PEG) reports to school boards and the Ministry of Education for the purposes of school board trustee determination and distribution.
- Clerk's Role & the Use of the Voter's List:
  - Clerks would be able to access Elections Ontario's single register of electors at any time prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> in an election year to obtain the preliminary list of electors.
  - Before providing a copy of the voters' list, the clerk must obtain written acknowledgement that the recipient will comply with legislated responsibilities.

# Bill 218: Ranked Ballots and Timeline Changes

- The province has amended the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* to remove the option for municipalities to use ranked ballots to elect council members.
- Deadlines for the 2022 municipal election are:

| DEADLINES  | FORMER DATE      | NEW DATE        |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Candidates to file/withdraw nominations  | July 22, 2022    | August 19, 2022 |
| Councils to pass by-laws authorizing alternative voting and vote counting equipment      | May 1, 2021      | May 1, 2022     |
| Clerks to establish procedures for alternative voting and use of vote counting equipment | December 1, 2021 | June 1, 2022    |

- Link to Bill 218:
  - <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-218>

# Bill 254: *Protecting Ontario Elections Act, 2021*

- The *Protecting Ontario Elections Act, 2021* amends the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* to:
  - Allow municipal clerks to choose to permit municipal election candidates (for municipal council and school board trustee) and third party advertisers to file nomination and registration paperwork electronically (i.e., without having to attend the clerk's office in person).
  - Allow third party advertisers to 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.
  - Give a clear process for third party advertisers who become candidates by automatically ending their advertising campaigns when they file their nomination.
- Link to *Protecting Ontario Elections Act, 2021* :
  - <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-254>

# Updates - Finance



# Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund – 2021 Allocation

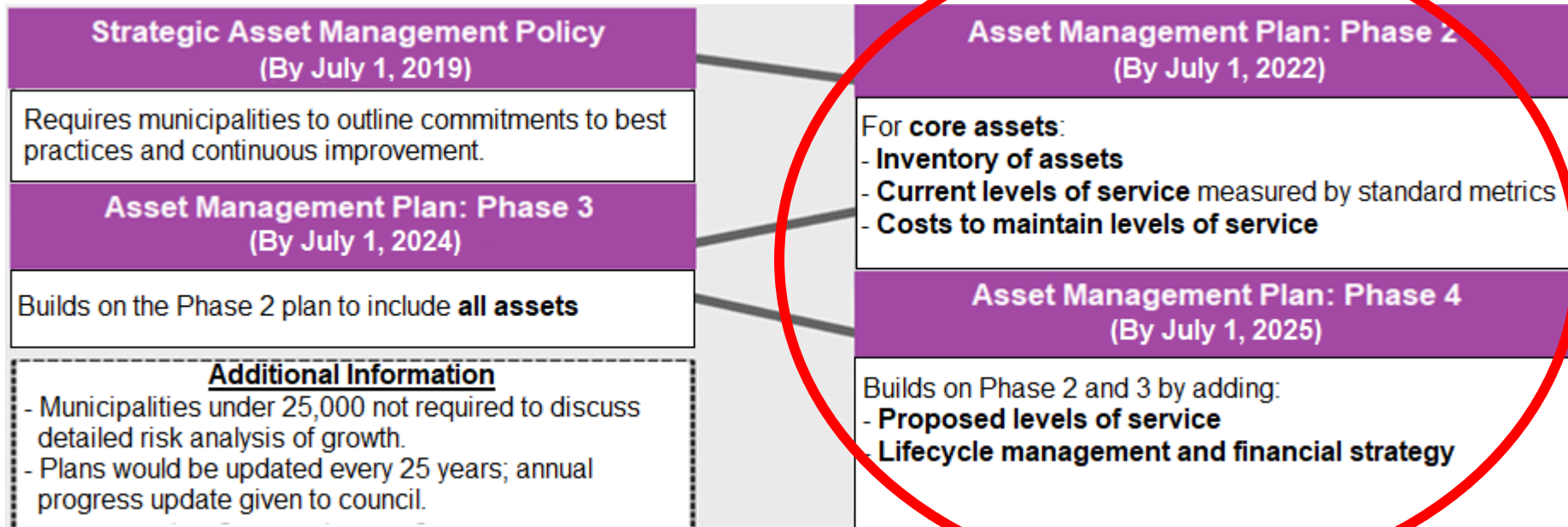
- On October 29, 2020, the province shared details related to municipal allocation under the 2021 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF).
- For 2021, the government is maintaining the overall structure of the OMPF and the program envelope at the same level as 2020.
- The 2021 OMPF will provide a total of \$500 million to 389 municipalities across the province.
- The Ministry of Finance has calculated the 2021 OMPF allocation based on the most recent available data. However, MOF encourages municipalities to submit their outstanding 2019 FIR and/or 2020 tax rate by-law as soon as possible.
- Municipalities are required to submit their 2020 Financial Information Return (FIR) to MMAH by **May 31, 2021**.
- MMAH is requesting that municipalities submit their 2021 tax rates through the Online Property Tax Analysis (OPTA) system or to MMAH by **August 31, 2021**.
- Payments for municipalities that do not meet these reporting obligations will be subject to holdback, beginning with the 2021 fourth quarterly payment, until these documents have been filed.
- Inquiries should be directed to: [info.ompf@Ontario.ca](mailto:info.ompf@Ontario.ca).

# Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund – 2021

- The Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) provides funding for communities with populations under 100,000, along with all rural and northern communities for local infrastructure projects.
- In 2020, approximately \$200 million in OCIF funding was allocated to small, rural and northern communities.
- For 2021, the province has announced a \$200-million investment in municipalities to help small, rural and northern communities build and repair roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure.
- For more information, please visit the Ministry of Infrastructure's [webpage](#) regarding municipal infrastructure support for communities.

# Asset Management Regulation Requirements

- The *Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure* regulation (O.Reg 588/17) was approved under the *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2015*, effective January 1, 2018.
- July 1, 2022: Date for municipalities to have an approved asset management plan for core infrastructure assets (roads, bridges and culverts, water, wastewater and stormwater management systems) that identifies current levels of service and the cost of maintaining those levels of service.





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# Questions?

