

# Municipal Services Offices Provincial Update

April 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

- Updates:
  - Compliance and Enforcement of Orders under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and the *Reopening Ontario Act, 2020*
  - Ontario's Vaccine Rollout
  - Elections
  - Finance
- MSO Contact Info
- Questions

**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

- Municipalities have been asked by the Vaccine Task Force lead by Ret. General Rick Hillier 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
- Information and resources may be found at:
  - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>
  - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-communication-resources>

# 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* (not yet passed)

# 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* propose changes to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* which, if passed, will:
  - 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.

# Financial Indicator Review

- On an annual basis MMAH calculates and reviews select financial indicators for each municipality.
- 7 indicators are produced from data points in the Financial Information Return.
- In the past, there have been changes to the indicators. This year, the indicators are the same as last year.
- Indicators should not be looked at in isolation, and are not a substitute for financial or other professional advice in connection.

FINANCIAL INDICATOR REVIEW						
(Based on the 2018 Financial Information Return)						
Municipal Name						
Date Prepared:		2018 Households:	3,500	Median Household Income (2016):	70,000	
MSD Office:	Northwest	2018 Population:	7,500	Taxable Residential Assessment as a		
Prepared By:		2019 MFCI Index:	6.0	% of Total Taxable Assessment:	50.0%	
Tier:	ST			Own Purpose Taxation:	13,750,000	

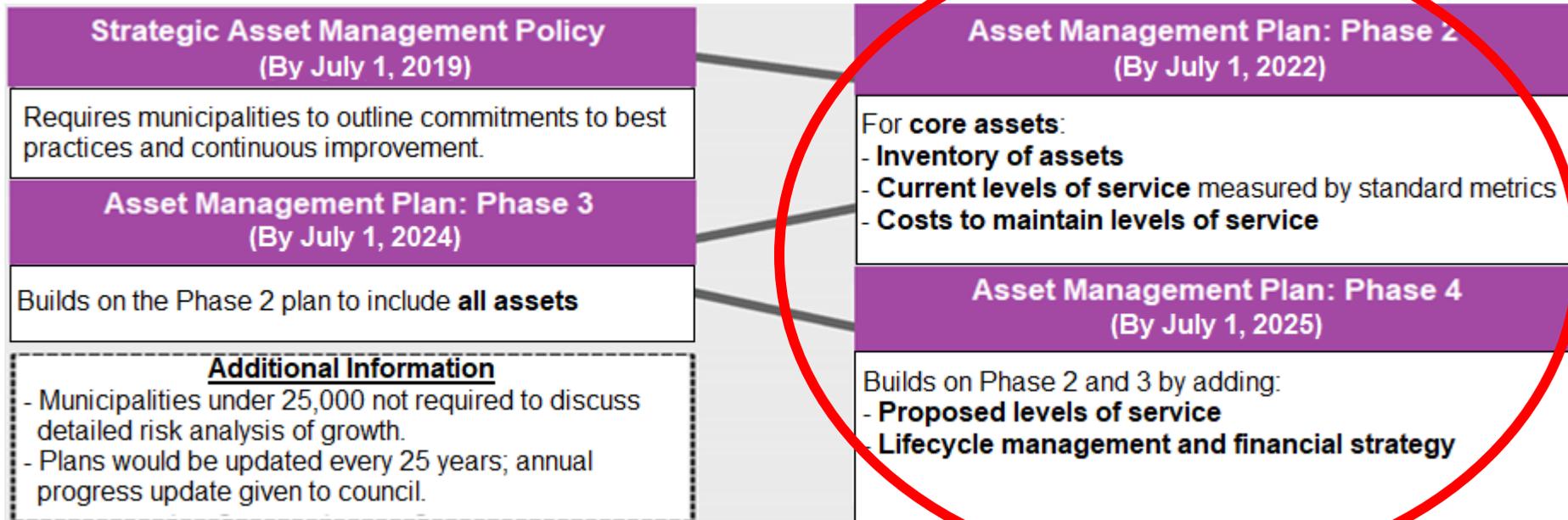
SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS						
Indicator	Ranges	Actuals	North - Population > 2500 <= 10000		Level of Risk	Comments
			Median	Average		
Total Taxes Receivable less Allowance for Uncollectibles as a % of Total Taxes Levied	Low: < 10% Mod: 10% to 15% High: > 15%	2014	19.1%	10.2%	13.9%	HIGH
		2015	22.0%	9.0%	13.7%	HIGH
		2016	8.4%	9.9%	13.2%	LOW
		2017	8.4%	8.9%	11.4%	LOW
2018	8.0%	8.4%	10.7%	LOW		
Net Financial Assets or Net Debt as % of Own Source Revenues	Low: > -50% Mod: -50% to -100% High: < -100%	2014	-115.2%	-3.3%	-8.8%	HIGH
		2015	-98.2%	-8.2%	30.6%	MODERATE
		2016	-80.5%	-6.9%	-11.3%	MODERATE
		2017	-71.9%	-5.9%	-10.7%	MODERATE
2018	-59.7%	6.6%	1.4%	MODERATE		
Total Reserves and Discretionary Reserve Funds as a % of Municipal Expenses	Low: > 20% Mod: 10% to 20% High: < 10%	2014	31.2%	33.5%	35.3%	LOW
		2015	34.4%	32.4%	36.3%	LOW
		2016	31.0%	33.3%	35.3%	LOW
		2017	28.5%	37.0%	37.3%	LOW
2018	23.7%	35.3%	40.1%	LOW		
Cash Ratio (Total Cash and Cash Equivalents as a % of Current Liabilities)	Low: > 0.5:1 Mod: 0.5:1 to 0.25:1 High: < 0.25:1	2014	0.65:1	1.77:1	2.25:1	LOW
		2015	0.84:1	1.71:1	2.05:1	LOW
		2016	1.33:1	1.79:1	2.27:1	LOW
		2017	1.52:1	1.84:1	2.59:1	LOW
2018	1.67:1	2.39:1	2.7:1	LOW		

FLEXIBILITY INDICATORS						
Debt Servicing Cost as a % of Total Revenues (Less Donated TCAs)	Low: < 5% Mod: 5% to 10% High: > 10%	2014	11.0%	4.2%	6.1%	HIGH
		2015	10.6%	4.6%	9.5%	HIGH
		2016	11.7%	4.5%	5.4%	HIGH
		2017	10.3%	4.0%	4.7%	HIGH
2018	13.4%	4.0%	4.7%	HIGH		

# 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?

