

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Municipal Services Offices Provincial Update

Fall 2019

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.

Municipal Services Division Municipal Services Office (MSO)

Who we are and what we do

- Work alongside ministry and municipal staff to provide advice on policy and program implementation
- Organize and deliver educational activities to municipal stakeholders
- Provide recommendations on issues, policies, and related legislation affecting local governments

Services and products that we provide

- Advise on existing resources for municipalities
- Promote municipal leading practices
- Focus on implementing provincial priorities and plans
- Support our stakeholders by building their capacity to assess and implement the full range of options available to them

Local Government Updates

Investing in Service Delivery and Efficiency

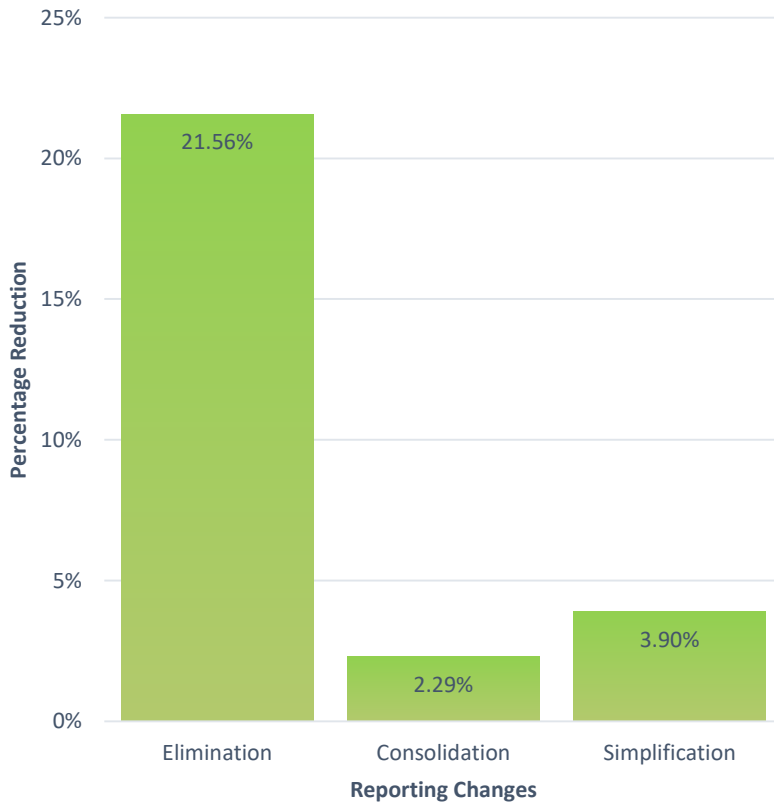
- On March 20th, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced funding to support small and rural municipalities' efforts to become more efficient and reduce expenditure growth in the long term.
- This unconditional investment is intended to help modernize service delivery and reduce costs through investments in projects such as: service delivery reviews, development of shared services agreements, and capital investments.
- Municipal Services Offices can offer advice and point to examples.
- In the future, we will be interested to hear your success stories.

Examples

- Township of Laurentian Valley is conducting an Operational Review
- Municipality of Charlton and Dack and Township of Chamberlain are now sharing an office.
- Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and The Islands is pursuing energy conservation and efficiency upgrades.
- Town of Espanola is using some of those funds to make insulation improvements at the arena
- Municipality of Temagami is doing integrated strategic planning, service delivery review, asset management plan update and an official plan update.
- The County of Renfrew is consolidating offices, ending off-site leases.

Municipal Reporting Burden

Overall Reporting Reduction



MMAH has been leading the project through:

1. Leading inter-ministerial meetings
2. Collaborating with municipal associations, including MFOA, since December 2018
3. Establishing a provincial inventory of municipal reporting
4. Leading municipal reporting reduction results
5. Immediate and longer-term reductions

Finance Updates

Financial Indicator Review

- On an annual basis the Ministry calculates and reviews select financial indicators for each municipality.
- 7 indicators are produced from data points in the FIR.
- Indicators are shared with the municipality to facilitate dialogue on financial management practices
- Financial Indicator Template (FITs) Review results are provided to municipalities for information purposes.
- Indicators should not be looked at in isolation, and are not a substitute for financial or other professional advice in connection with any particular matter.

New for 2019

Municipalities are responsible for making local decisions, including complying with any applicable statutes or regulations.

Old Indicator	New Indicator	Reason for Change
Net Financial Assets or Net Debt as a % of Own Purpose Taxation, User Fees and Charges	Net Financial Assets or Net Debt as a % of Own Source Revenues	Own Source Revenues is a better reflection of all the revenues that municipalities have control over.
Debt Servicing Cost as a % of Total Revenues	Subtract Donated Tangible Capital Assets from Total Revenues	Donated Tangible Capital Assets (TCAs) is an accounting entry to get the TCA on to the municipality's books. It is not cash revenue. Year over year changes in Donated Tangible Capital Assets impacts year over year comparisons.
Annual Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of Own Purpose Taxation, User Fees and Charges	Annual Surplus / (Deficit) (less any Donated Tangible Capital Assets) as a % of Own Source Revenues	Reflect consistency with other changes.

Current Grant Opportunities

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

- The Community, Culture and Recreation stream is an application-based program contributing up to \$1 billion in total partner funding to projects improving access to and/or quality of community, cultural, and recreation infrastructure. Projects must be community-oriented, non-commercial, and open to the public.
- Municipalities, Indigenous communities, public sector and not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding.
- Projects will be considered within two sub-streams under the CCR program
 1. Small-scale renovations and rehabilitations that address functionality and accessibility, with a project cap of \$5 million
 2. Larger, new-build or expansion projects for multi-purpose community, cultural and recreation facilities
- The Province will prioritize projects based on the following objectives:
 - *Meets community and user needs*
 - *Promotes good asset management*
 - *Represents good value for money*
 - *Improves accessibility*

Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

- Launched in 2014, OCIF provides funding to more than 420 small, rural, and northern communities to help develop and renew core infrastructure and support asset management planning.
- In March 2019, MOI confirmed formula-based allocations totalling about \$200 million for the 2019 calendar year, and informed municipalities that due to provincial fiscal constraints, no application-based funding is being provided for 2018 or 2019.
- The Ministry also advised municipalities of plans to redesign the program. In light of program redesign, 2020 formula allocations are subject to review.
- The province heard from municipalities at the AMO conference that communities need stable, reliable infrastructure funding. The government is committed to working with municipalities on the redesign of the program.

Community Planning & Development

Proposed Provincial Policy Statement

- On May 2, 2019, the government released “More Homes, More Choice: Ontario’s Housing Supply Action Plan”, which includes a series of initiatives to address housing supply, including a review of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)
- The government is currently consulting (from July 22, 2019 - October 21, 2019) on proposed changes to the PPS to support the Action Plan and other land use planning related priorities. Changes are proposed across 5 key areas:
 - A. Increasing Housing Supply and Mix
 - B. Protecting the Environment & Public Safety
 - C. Reducing Barriers & Costs
 - D. Supporting Rural, Northern and Indigenous Communities
 - E. Supporting Certainty and Economic Growth
- Engagement activities include regional workshops with municipalities, stakeholder sessions, Indigenous community outreach, and opportunities to submit comments online through the Environmental Registry posting, via e-mail or mail

Streamlining Development Approvals

Overview

- To augment the policy and legislative improvements made in the Housing Supply Action Plan (HSAP) and the *More Homes, More Choice Act*, the Streamlining Development Approvals initiative is undertaking a broad, cross-government examination of the development approvals process, with a focus on identifying opportunities to help bring housing and business online faster.

Consultations

- Over March/April 2019, workshops were held with developers and municipal representatives to visually document their actions, pain points and recommendations at each major stage of the approvals process (e.g., pre-consultation, application, conditional approval).
- The consultation process enabled the development of a client-focused journey map, which depicts developers' experiences navigating the process and pinpoint the significant barriers and issues that they face.
- A One-Window Digital Service was raised at each consultation as a necessary improvement, particularly in terms of process certainty, transparency and meeting faster timelines.

Next Steps

- In response, MMAH is exploring a provincial digital system to provide guidance to applicants for provincial requirements and improve the coordination of provincial approvals across ministries.
 - A technical reference group of stakeholders drawn from the development and municipal sectors are providing advise and expertise on the development of options for a potential digital system.

Housing Updates

Housing & Homelessness Plans – Five Year Review

- The *Housing Services Act, 2011* requires service managers to develop comprehensive, multi-year housing and homelessness plans (10 years or more).
- The five-year review process provides the opportunity for Service Managers to update their Plans to reflect changing local needs.
- The MMAH “Five-Year Review of Housing and Homelessness Plan: A Guide for Ontario Service Managers” provided suggestions and resources to support the local review process.
- The Ministry recently approved a request from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), on behalf of its members, to extend the deadline for the 5-year review from June 30th, 2019 to the end of calendar year.
- Completed review reports and amended plans are now to be submitted to the Ministry by December 31, 2019.

Homeless Enumeration Requirements

- Service managers conducted local homeless enumeration in 2018, as required under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*.
- The Ministry identified gaps and limitations in the enumeration approach and in the resulting data collected through the first data collection, and recognized that there are opportunities to improve.
- The Ministry will pause the requirement for Service managers to conduct local homeless enumeration to allow time to review in more detail future enumeration requirements and ensure that the data collected will be used to improve programs and outcomes for those experiencing homelessness.
- Service Managers received letters from the ministry on August 21, 2019 indicating that they would not be required by the province to conduct local enumeration in 2020.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

More Housing, More Choice: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan

Housing Supply Action Plan

On May 2, 2019, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing released More Homes, More Choice: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan

The Action Plan is intended to tackle Ontario's housing crisis and help to build more homes across the province

The Action Plan was informed by broad public and stakeholder consultations that were conducted over Winter 2018-19. Over 2,000 submissions were received through the online portal

The consultations identified a number of themes as barriers to housing supply

Barriers to Housing Supply

1	SPEED	Red tape and paperwork can add years to a construction project.
2	COST	Layers of permits, government approvals and charges by municipalities add to the cost of building new homes.
3	MIX	We need a variety of different types of housing – from detached houses and townhomes to mid-rise apartments, second units and family-sized condos.
4	RENT	There are more people looking for homes than there are places to rent.
5	INNOVATION	Ontario needs to explore new housing designs and materials, creative approaches to home-ownership and leasing, and more.

About the Action Plan

- **What we have already done:**
 - Previously-announced initiatives
- **What we are doing:**
 - More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019
- **What we will do:**
 - Next steps to increase housing supply
- **Protecting What Matters:**
 - Ensuring the safety and health of Ontarians
 - Protecting environmental and cultural heritage, including the Greenbelt
 - Supporting a vibrant agricultural sector and protecting employment lands; and
 - Ensuring that funds are available for growth-related infrastructure (water and sewer systems, roads, transit and schools).

Building Services Transformation

- The building industry sector is a \$38B industry and a key driver of Ontario's economy.
- For years, the sector has been raising concerns about the need for modern and timely services to support their ability to understand and apply the highly technical and complex Building Code requirements.
- To make sure the sector has the support it needs to ensure Ontario's economy continues to grow, MMAH will be consulting this Fall on proposals to transform building code services and their delivery.
- There are two key components to building services transformation:
 - Modernizing Building Code Services:** Enhancing existing services and creating new services to better support municipalities, the public and the building sector. Consultation with municipalities and other relevant stakeholders will inform service design.
 - Transforming Service Delivery:** As part of building services transformation, MMAH will establish a new administrative authority to deliver modern building code services.

Building Service Transformation – Consultation

- On September 24th, Minister Clark announced the launch of a 60-day consultation that will run until November 25th.
- Letters have been sent to Heads of Council, Chief Building Officials and a number of municipal associations (e.g. AMO) outlining consultation opportunities.
- A consultation discussion paper has been posted to Regulatory Registry and Environmental Registry of Ontario as of September 24th. The paper, and details on consultation opportunities can be found by visiting Ontario.ca/buildingtransformation
- A series of regional information sessions will also be conducted in the month of October. These sessions will include a stakeholder component in the afternoon (1:00-3:00pm) and a public open house in the evening (5:30-7:00pm).

City of Belleville Belleville Lion's Club Friday, October 4 th	City of Chatham-Kent Chatham Cultural Centre Wednesday, October 9 th
City of North Bay North Bay Memorial Gardens Arena Monday, October 7 th	City of Vaughan Vellore Hall Wednesday, October 16 th

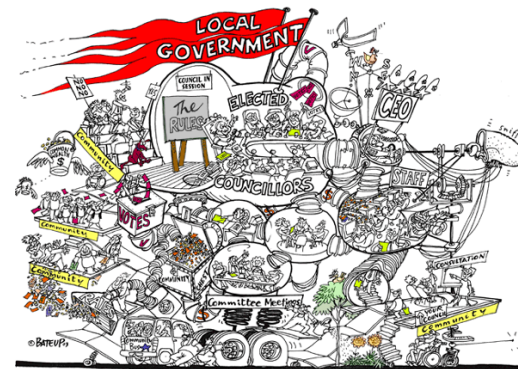
- The Building Services Transformation team can also be contacted with any questions by emailing buildingtransformation@ontario.ca.

Upcoming Events

Local Government Week

October 20 to 26

- Local Government Week is held during the third week of October every year.
- Ministry looking for examples of what your municipality has done successfully in previous years or plans to do in 2019.
- Please share your information with your local government advisor
- Ministry will be monitoring social media for Local Government Week references.



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Questions?

