

Municipal Services Offices Provincial Update

May 23rd, 2024

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
- Municipal Services Offices Contacts and Information

Local Government

Municipal Building Official Internships

- Municipalities have a new pathway for designing and administering local programs for hiring building official interns under the Building Code.
- By launching local internship programs, municipalities are supporting the qualification of more building inspectors in the future, and the construction of more homes while maintaining public safety.
- Intern inspectors will be supervised by a qualified building inspector or Chief Building Official and must pass Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing technical and legal exams before practicing independently as building officials.
- Two townships in eastern Ontario have already created local policies under this new pathway: the Townships of South Stormont and North Dundas in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.
- Program guidelines for municipalities and information for applicants are available on our website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-building-code>.
- Contact the Ontario Building Officials Association (OBOA) at <https://www.oboa.on.ca/job-bank> for further information on how to hire a qualified Chief Building Official or a building inspector for your municipality.

Digital Code: Supporting Building Officials

- To support building officials, MMAH released a free 2012 Building Code Compendium in PDF format last year, as an alternative to purchasing the 2,300 page hard-copy (paper) format for \$195.
- The digital version can be used on a laptop, tablet or phone, and has improved navigation features such as bookmarks, hyperlinked tables of contents and the ability to insert notes and highlight sections of text.
- Since it launched last year, the ministry has responded to over 10,000 requests for the free digital Compendium.
- The digital Compendium can now be used while taking Building Code Identification Number (BCIN) qualification exams. Humber College gives exam-takers a link to the digital Building Code Compendium during the exam (exceptions apply to accommodate screen readers).
- Request a free copy of the digital Compendium by visiting our website:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/request-digital-copy-2012-building-code-compendium>.

Strong Mayor Powers

- As part of the government's efforts to increase housing supply, strong mayor powers are established through the *Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022*, which came into force on **November 23, 2022**, and the *Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022*, which came into force on **December 20, 2022**.
- These legislative changes and associated regulations give the mayors of Toronto and designated municipalities the authority to move forward on shared provincial-municipal priorities.
- Some strong mayor powers are related to provincial priorities that are identified in regulation, which are:
 - Building 1.5 million new residential units by **December 31, 2031**.
 - Constructing and maintaining infrastructure to support housing, including, transit, roads, utilities, and servicing.
- The head of council in strong mayor municipalities is subject to existing accountability and transparency rules, as well as certain additional rules including new rules under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

Strong Mayor Powers (Cont'd)

- The mayors of municipalities that have strong mayor powers can:
 - Choose to appoint the municipality's chief administrative officer;
 - Hire certain municipal department heads, and establish and re-organize departments;
 - Create committees of council, assign their functions and appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees of council;
 - Propose the municipal budget, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate mayoral veto and council override process;
 - Veto certain by-laws if the mayor is of the opinion that all or part of the by-law could potentially interfere with a provincial priority;
 - Bring forward matters for council consideration if the mayor is of the opinion that considering the matter could potentially advance a provincial priority; and
 - Propose certain municipal by-laws if the mayor is of the opinion that the proposed by-law could potentially advance a provincial priority. Council can pass these by-laws if more than one-third of council members vote in favour.

Disaster Recovery Programs

- In the event of a natural disaster, MMAH has two disaster recovery programs:
 - The Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians program (DRAO) provides financial assistance to individuals, small businesses, farmers and not-for-profit organizations that have experienced damage to or loss of essential property.
 - The Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance program (MDRA) helps municipalities that have sustained emergency response costs, or damage to essential property or infrastructure.
- The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing activates either or both programs based on evidence demonstrating that the event meets the eligibility criteria for each program.
- These programs are not a substitute for insurance.
- Detailed information about these programs is available online at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/apply-disaster-recovery-assistance> or from your MSO.

Damage Assessment

- When an event occurs, the ministry works with municipalities, the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre and other partners to understand the impacts.
- A Provincial Disaster Assessment Team (PDAT) may visit the affected area to conduct an on-the-ground assessment.
- A PDAT is a technical team the ministry sends to communities when there is evidence of significant, potentially eligible private property damage as a result of a natural event such as a flood or tornado.
- The team's objective is to gather information to inform the potential activation of the DRAO program.
- PDATs are made up of ministry staff and an insurance adjuster under contract with the ministry.
- Municipalities help by collecting local damage information, identifying properties to assess, and accompanying the team.



Finance

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.

Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

- The Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) provides funding to small (under 100,000), rural, and northern communities to help develop and renew core infrastructure (e.g., roads, bridges, water, wastewater, and stormwater).
- Funding is allocated according to the province's estimates of infrastructure need and financial need, and helps provide stability and predictability to municipalities.
- OCIF allocations are linked to municipal asset management plans. Starting in 2023, allocations are calculated using forward-looking Current Replacement Values (CRVs) and CRV estimates.

Asset Management Regulation Requirements

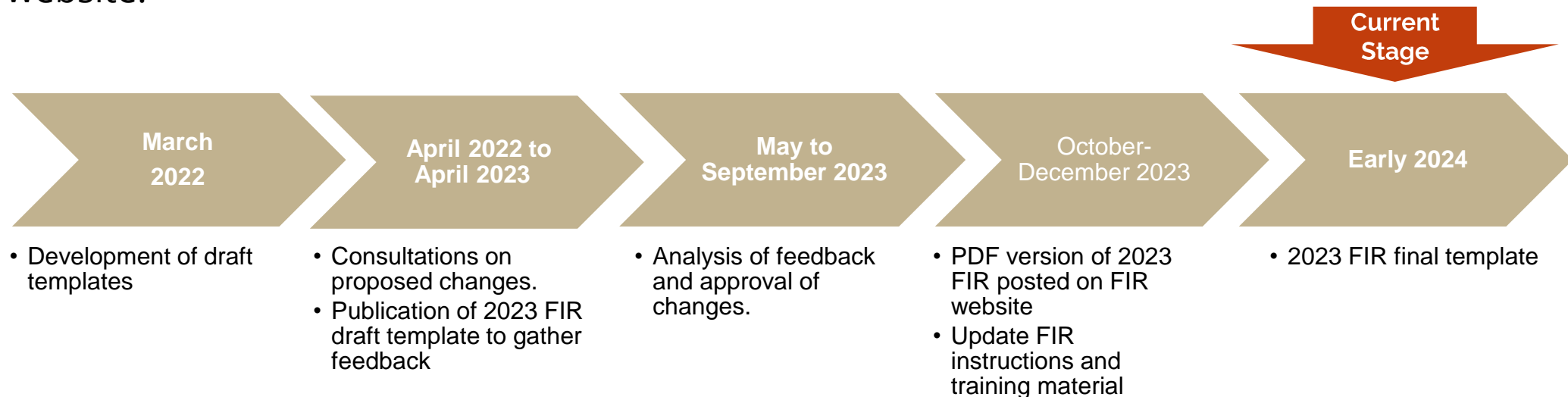


Financial Information Return (FIR)

- Since 1977, the FIR has been the province's primary tool dedicated to the collection of municipal financial information.
- The FIR is used provincially to:
 - Contribute to the review of grants applications, as well as the allocation of grants
 - Determine the Annual Repayment Limit (ARL) for municipalities
 - Prepare Municipal Profiles and the Annual FITS Review
- The deadline to submit the FIR is **May 31st**
- Municipal associations use FIR data when developing advocacy positions.

Financial Information Return (FIR) Template Update

- The FIR template is updated annually to ensure data collected remains relevant and reliable.
- The 2023 FIR has been updated to align with changes to Public Sector Accounting Standards, provincial legislation, and stakeholder data needs.
- Consultations on proposed changes were conducted starting in 2022. Approved changes reflect stakeholder's feedback.
- A preview of the 2023 Financial Information Return in PDF format is now available on the FIR website.



Municipal Services Office Contact Information

MSO-East Contacts (Local Government)

Alison Fath-York

Manager, Local Government and Housing
613 453-0542

alison.fath-york@ontario.ca

Peter Sizov

Senior Municipal Financial Advisor
613 539-5682

peter.sizov@ontario.ca

Lilit Karapetyan

*Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton, Peterborough County,
Peterborough City, Prince Edward County, Lennox &
Addington, Frontenac, Kingston, Lanark and Smiths Falls*

Municipal Advisor

613 449-0897

lilit.karapetyan@ontario.ca

Sofia Sheikh

*Leeds & Grenville, Brockville, Gananoque, Prescott, Hastings, Quinte
West, Belleville, and Northumberland*

Municipal Advisor

613 539-7935

sofia.sheikh@ontario.ca

Alexander Jones

*Renfrew, Pembroke, Prescott & Russell, Ottawa, Stormont, Dundas and
Glengarry, and Cornwall*

Municipal Advisor

613 242-1426

alex.jones@ontario.ca