



AMCTO
THE MUNICIPAL EXPERTS

AMCTO Advocacy Unplugged

Zone 6 – October 9, 2025

Agenda

- Background on AMCTO's Policy and Government Relations Program
 - Policy and Government Relations Committee
 - Issue Profile
- Highlight of key advocacy files
 - Context
 - Position
 - Ongoing and upcoming activities
- Questions

Policy and Government Relations Program

Government Relations and Policy Services

- **Government Relations:** Process of strategically organizing and proactively actively engaging with government officials
- **Policy Services:** Activities that provide updated policy information and in some cases its dissemination

Policy and Government Relations and AMCTO

- AMCTO Staff: Charlotte and Alana, Dave
- AMCTO Members
- Policy and Government Relations Committee
- AMCTO Board

Policy and Government Relations Committee

- PGRC is the vehicle for AMCTO positioning on legislative, policy and advocacy issues
- Our member “think tank” that provides advice on “on the ground” issues and impacts on potential strategic approaches to advocacy

AMCTO's Issue Profile



Set of objectives and policy statements on issues areas that AMCTO has made or will make, which provide direction to the Association on whether or how to take an official stand on public policy issues



Scopes what AMCTO reacts to while allowing flexibility to fill gaps and articulate new positions and emerging issues

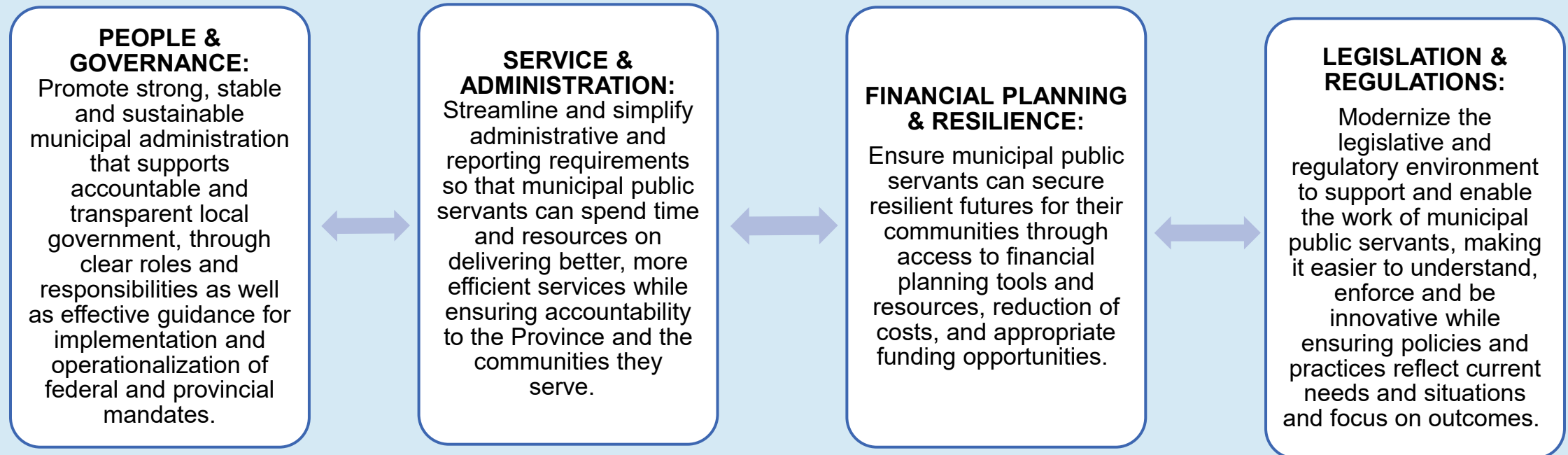


Directs staff in evaluating advocacy and policy opportunities



Catalogues for the record AMCTO's existing policy positions

AMCTO's Issue Profile



Under review and have sought Committee and broader member feedback.

Sample Issue, Statement, Activities

Category: Legislation and Regulations

Issue: Local elections should continue to be conducted in a safe, secure, and responsive manner

Policy Statement: The Province should review and continue to modernize and clarify provisions within the *Municipal Elections Act*

Key Activities:

- Continue to advocate to the Province about the benefits of a mandatory PA Day on municipal and school board election day to facilitate accessible voting on local schools
- Continue to advocate for the modernization of the *Act* through post-municipal and school board election review and submission development

Position Development



Relevance and importance (risk; impact) of the issue to AMCTO members and the municipal sector



Potential impact taking a position might have on the issue itself (opportunity), on AMCTO members, on our organization, and/or the other associations our members support



Potential divisiveness of the issue within the membership



Expertise of membership who provides their advice to AMCTO staff to inform advocacy on whether the issue better aligns with the missions of other staff associations

Highlight of Key Advocacy Files

- Not an exhaustive list of everything we are engaged on
- Mixture of proactive and reactive
- Some files are inter-related
- For each file:
 - What's going on (Context)
 - Who we working with (Targets; Allies)
 - What we'd like to see (Position)
 - What we're doing and planning to do (Activities)

Accountability and Transparency

What's going on?

- **Recall:** Government introduced Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act in the spring
- Spent summer at Standing Committee
- Will introduce bill for third reading when legislature resumes
- Will propose corresponding regulations for consultation

Who are we working with / who are we targeting?

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: Ministers Office, Ministry Staff
- Other associations (AMO, AORS)

What do we want to see?

- Amendments to the proposed legislation which consider protections for municipal staff (full list of recommendations)
- Regulations developed with meaningful input from municipal sector
- *other: changes are mindful of municipal elections timelines

What are we up to?

- **Recall:** Oral presentation and written submission to standing committee
- Letter to Premier from staff associations
- Continued advocacy with Ministers Office
- Discussions with members, other associations, preliminary research about what we'd like to see in a model code of conduct to prepare for regulatory posting

Strong Mayors

What's going on?

- **Recall:** Government expanded strong mayor powers to 170 additional municipalities on May 1, 2025; now a total of 217
- In 2025 red tape package: "Ontario is exploring changes to strengthen strong mayor framework..."

Who are we working with / who are we targeting?

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: Ministers Office, Ministry Staff
- Other associations

What do we want to see?

- Employment powers removed from strong mayor powers
- Further guidance and clarity regarding the legislation

What are we up to?

- Continuing to bring forward our concerns/questions to MMAH
- Working advocacy into other avenues (e.g. Bill 9, Municipal Act recommendations)
- *also: supporting members through conducting a research scan on strong mayor use, monthly drop-in sessions, shared resources

Municipal Elections and Voters List

What's going on?

- **Recall:** In 2024, Municipal Elections Working Group brought forward a legislative submission with prioritized recommendations to improve the MEA
- Historically, MMAH reviews the MEA following each election
- First election with the PLE being provided by Elections Ontario

Who are we working with / who are we targeting?

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: Ministers Office, Ministry Staff
- Elections Ontario, MPAC
- Ministry of Education: Ministers Office, Ministry Staff
- OPSBA, School boards

What do we want to see?

- Longterm: a comprehensive review of MEA
- However, **changes should not be made for 2026 elections**

What are we up to?

- Met with Minister Flack in June 2025 to reiterate the importance of MEA changes and not making changes during the election (review target: 2027); met with positive response
- Continue to promote the importance of not making legislative / governance changes in other areas that could impact elections (e.g. strong mayor, Bill 9, school board governance)

Automated Speed Enforcement

What's going on?

- **Recall:** In the 2025 budget, the Province announced its intention to make ASE and Red-Light Camera locations more transparent to focus on road safety objectives
- On September 25, Province announced a ban on municipal speed cameras with legislation to be introduced when the legislature resumes

Who are we working with / who are we targeting?

- Premier & Ministry of Transportation
- AMO, Good Roads

What do we want to see?

- Respect for municipal decision making in transportation decisions
- That alternative programs are funded sufficiently

What are we up to?

- September 26th resolution from the board
- Connecting with other associations to discuss potential future advocacy
- Information gathering from members with ASE programs

Provincial Offences Act

What's going on?

- **Recall:** 2025 budget announcement of “intent to consult with municipal partners to help drivers pay outstanding traffic tickets or fines by streamlining the collection process”

Who are we working with / who are we targeting?

- Ministry of Attorney General: Ministry staff
- MCMA, AMO, MFOA

What do we want to see?

- Modern provincial offences legislation
- The right tools to ensure the efficient and effective administration of justice including enforcement and fine collection

What are we up to?

- Working with other municipal associations towards laying the ground-work for joint advocacy
- Working on some ‘innovative strategies to address fine collection’ through a working group led by MCMA

Accessibility

What's going on?

- We've heard from our members some of the issues they have experienced with accessibility audit process
- We know there is a need for more support for municipalities to have the capacity to meet the objectives of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* in a way that is efficient, affordable and sustainable for their communities

Who are we working with / who are we targeting?

- Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility
- ONAP, AMO

What do we want to see?

- An Ontario where persons with disabilities' needs are meaningfully met.

What are we up to?

- AMO Delegation with MSAA and following up with Ministry staff
- Information gathering from our members about their experiences with audits and capacity challenges

Municipal Act

What's going on?

- Municipal Act has a legislative requirement to review the *Municipal Act* every 5 years
- Updates and changes have been made piecemeal (e.g. Strong Mayors, Bill 9), but comprehensive review has not taken place since MOMLA, 2016

Who are we working with?

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: Ministry Staff and Ministers Office
- Other associations down the line (such as AMO, MFOA)

What do we want to see?

- Modern legislation that is permissive and reduces administrative complexity

What are we up to?

- Launched *Municipal Act* Review Working Group this summer and reviewing the legislation thematically
- Research Assistant doing jurisdictional scanning on enabling legislation

Municipal Finance

What's going on?

- Has not been a property assessment in Ontario since 2016
- Ongoing issues with municipal financial sustainability
- Have been various approaches to advocate for 'new deal' over the last few years

Who are we working with?

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Ministry of Finance
- AMO, MFOA, OMTRA, FCM

What do we want to see?

- Municipal financial sustainability (e.g. appropriate, consistent funding streams, support for infrastructure)
- Return to regular assessment cycle

What are we up to?

- Annual pre-budget submission to make financial asks for municipal sector
- Continue to advocate for return to regular assessment cycle

MFIPPA

What's going on?

- **Recall:** In 2024, AMCTO MFIPPA Working Group brought forward a comprehensive legislative submission with recommendations to update MFIPPA
- Bill 194 enacted in 2024 amended FIPPA and introduced regulation-making authority that will impact Ontario public sector institutions concerning cybersecurity, AI etc.

Who are we working with?

- Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement: Ministry Staff, Minister's Office
- Ministry of Red Tape Reduction, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- IPC, AMO

What do we want to see?

- A government-led comprehensive review of the legislation

What are we up to?

- 2025 AMO delegation with Minister Crawford
- Continuing to work with Ministry Staff
- Highlighting connection between MFIPPA modernization and Bill 194 and other legislation to promote urgency

Questions

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