



Advocacy Briefing Note

As an influential voice for municipal professionals, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) advocates for legislative, regulatory, policy and program changes to support our members in effectively serving their communities.

Priority Issues

Issue 1: *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)* Modernization

The legislation in its current form is not responsive enough to the needs of digital government and lacks clarity in critical areas. Modernizing MFIPPA to be responsive, permissive, and outcomes-focused will allow administrators to provide better service to their communities.

Current Status:

Recent amendments under Bill 97 made initial changes to MFIPPA but did not amount to a comprehensive modernization of the Act. New compliance requirements tied to those amendments are set to take effect January 1, 2027 – a timeline that municipalities, particularly smaller ones, are unlikely to meet.

AMCTO Recommendations:

- Extend the compliance/enforcement timeline to July 1, 2028, for the new MFIPPA requirements to give municipalities realistic time to prepare.
- Commit to a comprehensive review and modernization of MFIPPA, developed with municipal input.

Key Messages:

- We appreciate the Government's initial work to modernize MFIPPA through Bill 97. It was an important first step. However, the Act has not kept pace with how municipalities operate today. We need to continue to work towards a comprehensive review and update of the Act.
- With respect to the new privacy and personal information protection requirements, the current implementation timeline does not reflect the operational and resourcing realities of municipalities, especially those without dedicated privacy or IT staff. We are asking the Government to establish a more realistic timeline of July 1, 2028.
- A realistic timeline and a full modernization process will lead to better compliance outcomes and stronger protection of resident privacy – not just an earlier deadline on paper.
- Work with the Association, along with other stakeholders, towards a comprehensive update to the Act.

Background Materials:

- [Issue at a Glance: MFIPPA Modernization](#)
- [Key Messages for MFIPPA Modernization](#)
- [AMCTO MFIPPA Submission](#)

Issue 2: *Municipal Elections Act (MEA)* Review

For local elections to be run more efficiently and to ensure improved compliance, the Act should be streamlined, modernized, and re-designed to assist voters, candidates, contributors, and advertisers with understanding their responsibilities while reducing operational and administrative burden for election administrators.

Current Status:

AMCTO provided several recommendations to Government in 2024 as part of its own review of the Act and is now advocating for a 2027 initiated review of the Act, including related amendments to the *Education Act* and *Assessment Act*.



AMCTO Recommendations:

Maintain the commitment to a 2027 MEA review, with a timeline that allows for meaningful municipal consultation well ahead of the next municipal elections in 2030.

Key Messages:

- Ontario's municipal election legislation requires updating to reflect current administrative realities and best practices.
- Providing legislative certainty well in advance of municipal elections allows municipalities to implement changes effectively and educate candidates, voters, and election officials.
- Election administrators take pride in executing fair, accountable, transparent, accessible, and reliable local elections and are always looking for ways to continuously improve the delivery of these important services to serve voters, candidates and their communities.
- Modern, practical election legislation will strengthen confidence in Ontario's municipal democratic processes and 2027 is a good time to work towards strengthening the legislation.

Background Materials:

- [Issue at a Glance: MEA Modernization](#)
- [Key Messages for MEA Modernization](#)
- [AMCTO MEA Submission](#)

Influence & Advocacy

- AMCTO advocacy and government relations work is driven by evidence-based research and member input, led by a policy and government relations team with a deep understanding of provincial and federal government.
- AMCTO's Policy and Government Relations Committee (PGRC) gives members an ongoing channel to help develop, review, and recommend advocacy and policy positions.
- AMCTO has positive, longstanding working relationships with municipal political associations – including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario, and Ontario Big City Mayors – to advance sector-wide advocacy alongside the work of chief administrative officers and their heads of council.
- Strong media relationships have resulted in appearances on *TVO: The Agenda with Steve Paikin*, *CTV Your Morning*, *CBC's Ontario Today*, and inclusion in several regional and national print and digital publications.

About AMCTO

AMCTO represents excellence in local government, management and leadership. Since 1938, AMCTO has provided education, accreditation, leadership, and management expertise for Ontario municipal professionals. With 2,200+ members working in municipalities across the province, AMCTO is Ontario's largest association of local government professionals.

AMCTO members represent **98%** of Ontario's 444 municipalities

50% of Ontario's CAOs are AMCTO members

Over **\$15 billion** in collective annual buying power among AMCTO members

Over **85 years** as a certified educational institution serving the municipal sector