



AMCTO
THE MUNICIPAL EXPERTS

AMCTO-Mitacs Municipal Innovation Internship Program (MIIP)

Webinar for Municipal Governments

February 11, 2026



Webinar

- Slides and recording of the presentation will be sent to all participants and posted on the [MIIIP web page](#)
- To participate in the Question & Answer portion, please post your question in the Q&A box
- If you are having technical difficulties, please use the Chat function

Welcome



**Kyle Pratt, MPA, CMM III, CHRL,
CMO, Dipl.M.A.**

Vice President, AMCTO

Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Tillsonburg

Today's Agenda

- Overview of the MIIP:
 - Goals, outcomes & benefits
 - Project eligibility requirements
 - Three-phased application process & deadlines
 - How projects are selected and funded by Mitacs
- Questions & Answers
- Summary & Next Steps



[MIIP Guide](#) and [Webpage](#)

Goals & Outcomes

- Improve employee recruitment and retention in the municipal workforce
- Support the development of the next generation of staff leadership in the Ontario municipal sector while encouraging innovation in local government
- Connect municipalities in Ontario with the post-secondary population and talent
- Provide a variety of different projects across as many municipalities as possible

Municipal Benefits

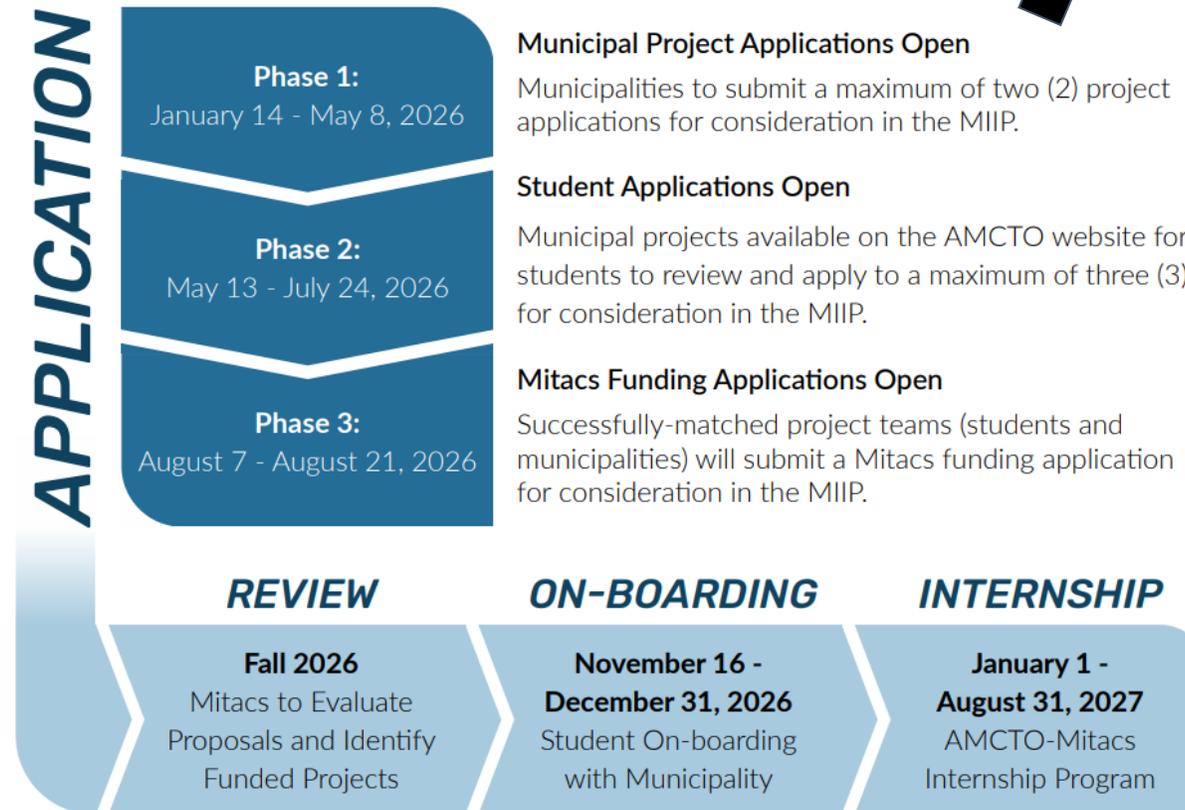
There are two (2) major benefits for municipalities that participate in this program:

1. A cost-effective resource to help identify, advance, improve and/or solve important innovation and/or research challenges facing their community(ies)
2. Succession planning support at the senior municipal staff level by identifying post-secondary students that have relevant experience and/or a desire to work in local government

Overview

- Up to 15 paid, part-time positions (\$30,000/student)
- Open to all municipalities in Ontario
- Funded by Mitacs & municipality
- Eight (8)-month internships

[Access the Municipal Project Application Form](#)



New: Partnership with FCI

- New for 2026-2027, AMCTO has partnered with the University of Waterloo's Future Cities Initiative (FCI) to help identify five (5) municipal projects and interns in alignment with the MIP goals and objectives
- If your municipality already has a working relationship with FCI, or want to learn more, we encourage you to contact them directly at fci@uwaterloo.ca

Program Eligibility

- Open to any Ontario municipality and post-secondary student studying in Ontario that meets the program eligibility criteria
- Projects must be: i) innovation- or ii) research-based
- Required to include an experiential (i.e. hands-on) learning component to ensure that the student is exposed to various aspects of municipal governance and operations
- Each municipality can submit a maximum of two (2) applications of which they are a lead on
 - Different projects must be submitted separately, and ranked by preference
 - More than one (1) municipality can work together on the project
 - Only one (1) project per municipality will move forward to the final application round

Program Eligibility

Projects must:

- Propose to advance the modernization of the local government's programs and services and have outcomes that would benefit the municipality
- Be feasible to be completed through a hybrid work arrangement within eight (8) months (January 1 - August 31, 2027)
 - This includes a maximum of four (4) in-person visits by the student to the municipality
- Be appropriate for a student to complete with support from the municipal team
- Involve a municipal lead contact identified who will be responsible for managing and interacting with the student

[Access the Municipal Project Application Form](#)

Project Eligibility

Projects can relate to the design, integration, improvement, modernization, and implementation of these activities:

Possible Themes to Consider	Possible Topics to Consider
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comprehensive reviews & audits ● Corporate strategic plans, roadmaps & master plans ● Efficiency & optimization reviews ● Feasibility & system reviews ● Modernization reviews & streamlining ● Service delivery & operational reviews ● System implementation, integration & improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equity, diversity, and inclusion & social well-being ● Housing & urban development ● Sustainability & climate adaptation ● Waste management & circular economy ● Infrastructure, mobility & transportation ● Public health & safety ● Water & natural resource management ● Economic development & tourism

Email amcto@amcto.com if your municipality has an idea that falls outside of these boundaries to discuss eligibility.

2026 MIIP Cohort

Project	Intern
<i>Lifting Black Voices - City of Ottawa</i>	Nicholas Spataro , Queen's University
<i>Optimizing Community Paramedicine: Evaluating System Efficiencies & Innovation - Middlesex-London Paramedic Service</i>	Haley Ng, Western University
<i>Exploration of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in a Small, Rural, Northern Municipality - Township of Terrace Bay</i>	Mashuk Ahmed, Lakehead University
<i>Records Management Review Implementation - Municipality of North Perth</i>	Silvia Rodrigues, Western University
<i>Enhancing Engagement in Oakville: Voter and Candidate Outreach for the 2026 Municipal Election - Town of Oakville</i>	Maryam Abouelela, Western University

Program Funding

- The MIIP leverages co-funding from the applicant municipality and Mitacs to provide a research stipend to the selected student. A breakdown of project contributions is show below:

Contribution from the lead municipality sponsoring the project (per student)	\$15,000 +HST
Contribution from Mitacs (per student)	\$15,000
Total Project Stipend (per student)	\$30,000

- The municipality provides funding to AMCTO; the total project funding flows to the academic institution at which the student named to the MIIP project is registered

Selection Process

Phase 1: Municipal Project Application(s)

- Proposals will be reviewed by AMCTO and Mitacs
- Any information or responses contained in the Municipal Project Application Form will be shared with both organizations
- The name of the lead municipality and content of the project applications that advance to Phase 2 will be posted publicly on the AMCTO website for students to view

Due May 8, 2026 @ 12:00pm ET

Selection Process

Phase 2: Student Application(s)

- Proposals will be reviewed by AMCTO's Review Committee
- The Committee will recommend which students should be matched to approved municipal projects based on the evaluation process
- AMCTO will facilitate introductions between students, academic supervisors, and lead municipality for projects advancing to Phase 3

Due July 24, 2026 @ 12:00pm ET

Selection Process

Phase 3: Mitacs Funding Applications

- Successful project teams will be invited to submit a Mitacs Funding Application in August 2026
- Applicants will be invited to submit an application to one (1) of two (2) Mitacs programs:
 - Accelerate (Research Projects)
 - Business Strategy Internship (Innovation Projects)
- All \$300,000 in funding will flow to Mitacs from AMCTO on behalf of municipal applicants

Due: August 21, 2026 @ 12:00pm ET

Additional Notes

- Student is not a municipal employee
- Student is expected to visit the host municipality (max 4 times), with costs related to travel being the responsibility of the student
- AMCTO will provide on-boarding instructions in fall 2026 and AMCTO and Mitacs will conduct evaluations periodically throughout the internship

Questions & Answers



Next Steps

- Slides and the webinar recording will be posted in the coming days on the [webpage](#)
- All Municipal Project Application(s) due: **May 8, 2026 @ 12:00pm ET**
- Read the [Application Guide](#) in its entirety
- Share with your colleagues and peers
- For more information, please contact:
 - David Arbuckle, AMCTO Executive Director – amcto@amcto.com
 - Sarah Fairlie, Mitacs Senior Advisor, Social Innovation – sfairlie@mitacs.ca