

Monica Hawkins

From: AMO President <amopresident@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 9:01 AM
To: Monica Hawkins
Subject: Value of AMO Membership and MEPCO Support in 2023

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December 16, 2022

Re: Value of AMO Membership and MEPCO Support in 2023

AMO is your organization, and your membership makes all the difference.

As 2022 began, AMO moved forward supporting the recovery and securing additional funding from the province to offset municipal costs and losses due to COVID-19. While the pandemic is not fully behind us, communities of all sizes are moving ahead and getting on with the business of government and providing the services that people and businesses rely on most.

As 2022 draws to a close, AMO is active on your behalf pushing back against legislation that would undermine municipal authority, diminish your capacity to build complete communities, and take away essential infrastructure funding your municipality needs to support increased housing supply and economic growth.

In between, provincial and municipal elections occurred with a renewed mandate for the Ontario Government and a forty percent turnover on municipal councils, ushering in new voices and ideas, and a renewed commitment to strong and sustainable municipalities.

In 2022, AMO hosted its first in-person conference since 2019; and what a conference it was, with record attendance, outstanding delegate feedback, new and diverse voices, and a newly elected AMO Board. Thank you to all who attended and made it such a success, and please join us again in London in August 2023.

In late November, the AMO Board approved its [2023 Strategic Objectives](#) and allocated multi-year funding for two major projects.

AMO's Municipal Workforce Development Project responds to a major concern of

municipal governments about their current and future workforce needs. It will help us better understand the challenge and will engage our post-secondary education partners in the creation of programs customized to develop our current workforce and prepare the next generation of community builders.

The second project is AMO's Healthy Democracy Project, which will build on AMO's "We All Win" initiative to advance greater diversity, equity and inclusion on municipal councils. It will also engage with community partners to advance democratic ideals, more civil political discourse and community engagement, build a greater understanding of the important role of municipal government, and create tools to encourage greater voter turnout.

AMO is a highly influential advocacy organization, but it's also much more. Through our Local Authority Services (LAS) - AMO's Business Services organization, there are many programs and services designed to support municipalities. AMO's Membership Centre delivers councillor training. It also delivers the Canada Community-Building Fund on behalf of the Government of Canada allowing you to put that money to work without delay. Since its launch in 2005, municipalities have invested nearly \$8.5 billion from the Fund into about 11,700 local projects.

We also advance municipal employer interests in OMERS as your sponsor representative through the Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario (MEPCO). Through MEPCO, we ensure that your voice influences the governance and the administration of the \$120 billion OMERS plan. We know that OMERS is important to you and to your employees. Making sure it's affordable, sustainable, and meaningful, is MEPCO's top priority. With geopolitical instability, inflation and rising interest rates, the governance and administration of the OMERS fund is more important than ever. Your ongoing support of MEPCO is essential to the success of the OMERS plan.

You have my commitment that we will continue our hard work on your behalf in 2023. To do that, we need your membership in AMO and MEPCO. The related membership invoices have been mailed to your treasury department for payment. Municipal governments are the frontline of governments. Let us work together in 2023 to ensure the collective voice of municipal government in Ontario is heard loud and clear.


Best wishes to you, your friends and family, and your community for a happy, safe and festive holiday season.

Sincerely,



Colin Best
AMO President
Councillor, Halton Region

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