

**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** August 7, 2025 10:01 AM  
**To:** Kim Rose  
**Subject:** AMO Watchfile - August 7, 2025



August 07, 2025

**In This Issue:**

- Get access to MIDAS!
- Provincial consultations on electricity transmission planning.
- Rural Ontario Development Program opens for applications.
- Nominations for 2025 Excellence in Agriculture award.
- Applications now open for EASE Grant - apply by August 14th.
- Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund: Apply by August 15.
- Don't miss this year's pre-conference workshops at AMO 2025.
- AMO Guide to Delegation Meetings 2025: Be prepared for your ministerial delegations.
- Registration for AMO's Second Annual Healthy Democracy Forum is open.
- AMO fall education workshops.
- Municipal website usability checklist.
- Ontario Professional Planners Institute Launches Free Workshop Series.
- Limited time Offer: Free RETScreen® Expert Trial and Support.
- New guidance for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) safety.
- Careers.

**AMO Matters**

MIDAS - the [Municipal Information & Data Analysis System](#) - provides access to the Financial Information Returns (FIRs) data to all Ontario municipalities. MIDAS converts FIR data into meaningful reports and identifies multiple year trends. For access, municipal elected officials and municipal staff can email [MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca](mailto:MIDASAdmin@amo.on.ca).

**Provincial Matters**

The provincial government is soliciting feedback on electricity transmission projects including the [Greenstone](#) Line, [Windsor to Lakeshore](#) Line, [Bowmanville to GTA](#) Line, [Orangeville to Barrie](#) Line, and [Barrie to Sudbury](#) Lines.

The Ministry of Rural Affairs is accepting applications to the modernized [Rural Ontario Development](#) (ROD) Program. Applications are being accepted through four intakes with the first open from June 24 – September 24, 2025.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness is [accepting nominations](#) for the 2025 Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizing individuals, businesses and organizations driving excellence in Ontario's agri-food sector.

The [EASE Grant](#) offers up to \$60,000 in funding for small capital projects that improve Ontario communities' accessibility and enhance quality of life for people with disabilities and older adults.

### **Federal Matters**

The Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund provides grants for projects aimed at reducing homelessness. Find out about the process to apply and learn about the latest solutions. [Sign up here](#).

### **Education Opportunities**

This year's AMO Conference includes an impressive slate of preconference workshops. These workshops will support your decision making from asset management, procurement practices and insights as well as maintaining your wellbeing as you lead your local communities. [See more here](#).

AMO's [Guide to Delegation Meetings](#) outlines best practices to help AMO members get the most out of your delegation meetings. You will find advice on the full delegation process, from submitting your request for a delegation, preparing, participating and following-up after your successful meeting.

AMO is holding a forum for its members, key stakeholders and partners to provide a reliable assessment of tariff and trade disruptions and their impact on Ontario municipalities and business sector. Forum discussion and content will include identifying measures to address and mitigate these impacts. This future facing event is an opportunity to build new alliances and relationships across impacted sectors in support of strong and effective economic advocacy. [Register here](#).

We are pleased to be hosting the second annual AMO Healthy Democracy Forum October 18-19 at the [Westin Harbour Castle Hotel](#) in Toronto. This year's discussions will focus on strategies to encourage and increase voter turn out, candidate attraction and retention as well as promoting civility and confronting harassment in Ontario's municipalities. For more information and to register [click here](#).

### **LAS**

Want to [make your website easier to use](#)? Our Barrier-free Website Builder partner is offering a valuable Usability Checklist. It offers a range of opportunities, specifically for municipal staff, covering everything from quick wins to larger tasks that can completely transform residents' and staff website experience.

### **Municipal Wire\***

AMO is pleased to support OPPI in developing a [series of free workshops](#), offered both in person and virtually, to address the shortage of planners in Ontario. Registration will open late August, so stay tuned.

NRCan's RETScreen Division is offering a [free one-year trial licence](#) to new users who would like to download &/or link to EnergyStar Portfolio Manager (ESPM) data. Email [retscreen@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:retscreen@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca) to subscribe. PLUS, for a limited time, free technical support for connecting RETScreen to ESPM is available by emailing Stephen Dixon at [sdixon@knowenergy.com](mailto:sdixon@knowenergy.com).

Energy Storage Canada and the Energy Safety Response Group have [published new guidance](#) answering common questions and myths about BESS systems. This resource can help municipalities considering hosting projects under the LT2 energy procurement.

## Careers

[Planning/Zoning Coordinator and Assistant Secretary Treasurer](#) - King Township. Closing Date: August 18, 2025.

[Asset Management Specialist](#) - Township of St. Clair. Closing Date: August 13, 2025.

[Advisor Strategic Support & Issues Management](#) - City of Toronto. Closing Date: August 22, 2025.

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## About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

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## AMO Contacts

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[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

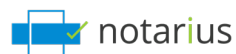
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Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

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