

Diana Wilson

From: communicate@amo.on.ca

Sent: Monday, November 29, 2010 2:57 PM

To: Diana Wilson

Subject: AMO Breaking News - Government Announces Provincial Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy

November 29, 2010

TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE CLERK AND COUNCIL

Government Announces Provincial Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Rick Bartolucci, has released the government's long awaited affordable housing strategy.

The strategy promises a new spirit of collaboration. The strategy also commits to ensuring the current resources we have will meet the real needs of people in communities across Ontario. Most significantly, the strategy commits to removing complexities in the planning, funding and delivery of affordable and social housing programs, streamlining access to housing and lays the groundwork for ongoing change.

Highlights of the strategy include:

- Clarification of provincial and municipal roles and responsibilities;
- New legislation that is flexible, responsive and will assist municipal service managers in helping people get access to the services they need (the Social Housing Reform Act will be repealed);
- Local planning and service delivery processes developed through collaborative planning;
- First steps towards consolidation of the over twenty housing and homelessness programs and funding streams;
- Introduction of a streamlined, tax based RGI program that reduces administrative complexities and access to housing;
- Developing flexible wait lists where service managers can collaborate across municipalities;
- The government is maintaining the Special Priority Policy but commits to seeking solutions for unintended consequences of the policy;
- The government is expanding the mandate of the Social Housing Services Corporation. To reflect this expanded mandate, the Corporation will now be known as the `Housing Services Corporation`;
- Ongoing commitment to energy efficiency;
- Including affordable housing in the *Planning Act* and permitting secondary units; and
- Continued advocacy to secure federal commitment to affordable housing.

AMO is pleased that the governments' strategy reflects recommendations of the Provincial Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review and recognizes municipalities as a core element of success to their strategy. Specifically, we are pleased that the government will be moving ahead - while in a phased approach - with the consolidation of the over twenty housing and homelessness funding

11/29/2010

streams and programs. AMO is also pleased that service managers will now be able to plan with local stakeholders to better identify and prioritize responses and funding for people in need of housing and services.

The new strategy is important for municipalities in a number of ways including, as mentioned, reducing funding and planning barriers and providing municipalities with the authority to make decisions without ministerial consent. Rather than delivery agents, municipalities are rightly recognized as the core funders and program managers who best understand the needs of people in their communities.

But, AMO recognizes that good policy and planning can only go so far. New funding is needed. The government does contribute approximately \$450 million annually to affordable housing - but the need for more is great. AMO anticipates that as the economy improves, the government will commit to funding their strategy and addressing the growing affordable housing pressures in Ontario with new funding.

AMO will support the Province in its advocacy efforts to encourage the federal government to commit to a national housing plan. The federal government did recently renew funding for the Housing Partnership Strategy for another three years. However, currently, the federal commitment to affordable housing is short term and declining with \$144 million targeted to municipalities set to disappear in the next decade.

Transforming a system does not happen overnight. The government recognizes this and has committed to working with AMO and municipalities on the regulation and ongoing program development. While implementing this strategy will take time it will also require money. The potential for increased administrative costs and responsibilities will need to be addressed.

AMO welcomes the opportunity to make sure that our resources are used in the most efficient way so that people can get access to the services they need. We also welcome the opportunity to make sure that we get the planning for our communities and our future right.

AMO Contact: Petra Wolfbeiss, Senior Policy Advisor, email: pwolfbeiss@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 ext. 329.

If you have problems opening the attachment(s) please call AMO at (416) 971-9856.

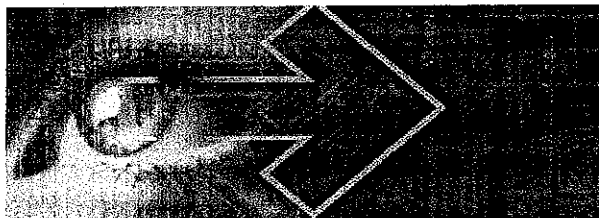
PLEASE NOTE AMO Breaking News will be broadcast to the member municipality's council, administrator and clerk. Recipients of the AMO broadcasts are free to redistribute the AMO broadcasts to other municipal staff as required. We have decided to not add other staff to these broadcast lists in order to ensure accuracy and efficiency in the management of our various broadcast lists.

Diana Wilson

From: communicate@amo.on.ca
Sent: Thursday, November 25, 2010 10:25 AM
To: Diana Wilson
Subject: AMO Watch File - November 25, 2010



Watch File



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November 25, 2010

In This Issue

- AMO ad focuses on waste diversion.
- *Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act* passes.
- Ministry of Energy releases long term energy plan.
- Ontario Clean Energy Benefit assists small municipalities.
- Province consulting on safety guidelines for dams - municipal dikes impacted.
- Two Private Member Public Bills introduced that impact municipalities.
- AMO and FCM strengthen federal and municipal dialogue.
- FCM recruiting municipalities for international projects.
- Request for nominations for the 2011-2014 ROMA Board.
- Resolutions/submissions from Trent Hills and Bayham.
- Career opportunities with the Ring of Fire Secretariat and Simcoe County.
- *Links to full text articles below.*

Provincial Matters

AMO's public service ad alerts the public to Ontario's pressing waste challenges. Starting the week of Nov. 29, select Ontario daily newspapers will run AMO's advertising insert highlighting the urgent need to reduce waste. Titled "Heap of Trouble," the PSA points to some surprising statistics.

The *Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act* passed third reading in the Ontario legislature on Tuesday, November 23rd, 2010. The sustainability planning provisions of the *Act* will require the development of regulations. AMO expects wide consultation with the municipal sector as these are developed. Further information can be found on the Ministry of Environment website.

The Ministry of Energy 20-year Building Our Clean Energy Future plan contains some opportunities and challenges for municipalities.

Ontario Clean Energy Benefit - AMO has since confirmed with the Ministry of Finance that low volume municipal accounts under 250,000 kWh annually are eligible for the 10 percent reduction

Province consulting on safety guidelines for dams - Municipal dikes will be impacted. Ministry of Natural Resources is consulting on proposed guidelines for dam owners/operators until December 10, 2010.

Two Private Member Public Bills were introduced and received First Reading, including: Bill 134, The Municipal Residential and Commercial Surge Protector Act, 2010 and Bill 136, The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Safety Cameras), 2010.

Federal Matters

AMO President and Executive Director, along with members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board met with M.P.s and Senators as part of FCM's advocacy days in order to advance municipal interests, predominantly the call for continued support for infrastructure (alone, Ontario municipalities' gap is \$60 billion/10years) and to further strengthen federal and municipal dialogue on other matters of mutual interest, such as affordable housing.

FCM is currently recruiting Canadian municipalities to implement local economic development demonstration projects in the following countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Tanzania, Cambodia, Vietnam, Bolivia and Nicaragua. Municipalities interested in engaging in MPED should apply by Monday November 29, 2010.

The Municipal Wire*

Request for Nominations for the 2011 - 2014 ROMA Board. In order to qualify for nomination and election for Zone Representative position, the attached Nomination Form must be received by the deadline Friday, January 28, 2011.

Municipality of Trent Hills resolution supporting the development of a commemorative Highway of Heroes coin.

Municipality of Bayham letter regarding lottery license requirements for local penny sales.

Career/Employment Opportunities

Director, Aboriginal Community and Stakeholder Relations, Ring of Fire Secretariat, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines & Forestry, Thunder Bay - Please apply online, only, at www.ontario.ca/careers, quoting Job ID 32529, by December 9, 2010.

County Clerk, Simcoe County - Please submit your resume quoting posting number 10-02-105-01 by December 13, 2010.

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.

AMO Contacts

AMO Watch File Team

Conferences/Events

Policy and Funding Programs

LAS Local Authority Services Limited

MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario

OMKN Ontario Municipal Knowledge Network

Media Inquiries Tel: 416.729.5425

Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions

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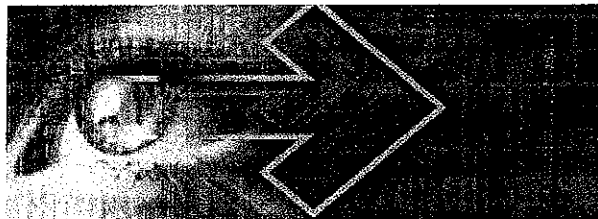
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Diana Wilson

From: communicate@amo.on.ca
Sent: Thursday, December 02, 2010 10:12 AM
To: Diana Wilson
Subject: AMO Watch File - December 2, 2010



Watch File



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December 2, 2010

In This Issue

- Government expands powers of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Government will make changes to welfare but Special Diet Allowance stays.
- Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste (MHSW) payment information.
- Government announces long awaited affordable housing strategy.
- New Bills introduced that impact municipalities.
- Infrastructure Stimulus deadline - March 31, 2011.
- Kick off the New Year and new term with AMO's Councillor Trainings.
- One week left to register for Ontario West Municipal Conference in London.
- LAS Solar Program celebrates largest rooftop installation in Canada.
- Request for nominations for the 2011-2015 ROMA Board.
- Resolutions from Cavan Monaghan, Central Elgin and the County of Lambton.
- *Links to full text articles below.*

Provincial Matters

Amendments to Health Promotion and Protection Act provides the Chief Medical Officer of Health authority in the hiring/firing of medical officers of health and in local planning during public health emergencies.

Of immediate note to municipalities, the government announced that it will not go ahead with its 2010 budget decision to eliminate the Special Diet Allowance and replace it with a nutritional supplement program for people with severe medical needs.

Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste. Payment Information process and timing for Q3 Phases 1, 2 and 3 as provided by Stewardship Ontario.

The affordable housing strategy promises a new spirit of collaboration. The strategy also commits to ensuring the current resources we have will meet the real needs of people in communities across Ontario.

New Bills - A Government Bill, *Bill 140, Strong Communities through Affordable Housing Act, 2010*, Government Bill, *Bill 141, Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2010* and a Private Member Public bill, *Bill 139, Clandestine Drug Operation Prevention Act, 2010* were introduced and received First Reading.

Federal Matters

Recent media reports indicate the federal Minister responsible for the infrastructure stimulus program is

prepared to be flexible for projects facing extenuating circumstances.

Eye on AMO/LAS Events

Prepare for the term ahead with 2011 workshop offerings including: Heads of Council, Effective Municipal Councillor Training-Getting Started, and the Meetings Series. Don't delay register today.

Register today for the must attend Fall Conference for 2010 - the Ontario West Municipal Conference at the Four Points be Sheraton London December 7th and 8th.

LAS - Local Authority Services

LAS' solar program partner Essex Energy and the Town of Tecumseh are the proud owners of Canada's largest rooftop solar system. Learn more about the LAS Solar Program.

The Municipal Wire*

Request for Nominations for the 2011 - 2015 ROMA Board. In order to qualify for nomination and election for Zone Representative position, the attached Nomination Form must be received by the deadline Friday, January 28, 2011.

County of Lambton resolutions concerning the barrier of no debt clearance in place for Ontario Student Assistance Program loans and Ontario Works eligibility rules for persons disqualified from the OSAP.

The Township of Cavan Monaghan resolution requests the Ontario Provincial Government to revise the setback requirement for industrial wind turbines.

The Municipality of Central Elgin resolution requests amending the *Municipal Election Act* and the *Municipal Act* to provide for a date in November for the newly elected Council to take office.

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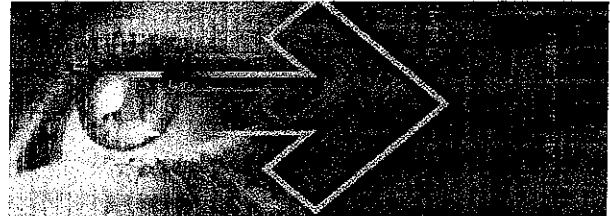
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Diana Wilson

From: communicate@amo.on.ca
Sent: Thursday, December 09, 2010 10:21 AM
To: Diana Wilson
Subject: AMO Watch File - December 9, 2010



Watch File



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December 9, 2010

In This Issue

- Annual AMO-Ontario MOU Joint Statement.
- New Bills introduced that impact municipalities.
- Federal Gas Tax Fund permanency update.
- Request for Nominations for the 2011-2015 ROMA Board.
- 3rd Annual Mayors' Green Connections.
- Career Opportunities with AMO, MCSS and Conservation Halton.
- *Links to full text articles below.*

Provincial Matters

The annual [AMO-Ontario Memorandum of Understanding Statement](#) is an overview of some of the year's discussions at the MOU Table. Click [here](#) for the French version.

[Two Private Member Public bills, Bill 143, Property Tax Deferral Act, 2010 and Bill 146, Organic Waste Diversion Act, 2010](#) were introduced and received First Reading.

Federal Matters

As [announced](#) in the 2008 Budget, the Federal Gas Tax Fund will become permanent after 2014. AMO continues to engage the federal government on the issue and expects negotiations to begin in late 2011.

The Municipal Wire*

[Request for Nominations for the 2011 - 2015 ROMA Board](#). In order to qualify for nomination and election for Zone Representative position, the attached [Nomination Form](#) must be received by the deadline Friday, January 28, 2011.

Green Connections - a complimentary invitation-only event is a unique opportunity for municipal leaders, parks staff and community stakeholders to meet, share information and build consensus on how to develop strategies to encourage people of all ages and abilities to enjoy gardening, recreational parks, parklands and landscapes in their communities. To register your selected municipal representatives' FREE attendance, please contact Lee Rozon, Executive Director, CiB at 1-877-640-4005 or [register here](#).

Career/Employment Opportunities

[Policy Advisor, AMO](#) - Do you want to influence public policy for the benefit of people and communities in every part of Ontario? Please apply in confidence by noon, January 7, 2011.

Project Director, Business - Ministry of Community and Social Services & Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Toronto - Please apply online, by December 22, 2010, by visiting www.ontario.ca/careers and entering Job ID 32994 in the Job ID search field.

Director, Conservation Lands, Conservation Halton – Send your resume by January 9, 2011 by 12 am to hr@hrca.on.ca (please include job title in subject line).

About AMO

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66 Front Street South,
Campbellford, ON K0L 1L0
t 705.653.1900 f 705.653.5203
www.trenthills.ca

HIGHWAY OF HEROES INITIATIVE

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Trent Hills has passed the following resolution at a recent Regular Council meeting:

WHEREAS the Highway of Heroes plays a significant role honouring our fallen Canadian soldiers;

AND WHEREAS the Highway of Heroes provides a remarkable venue for Canadian citizens to pay tribute to our fallen soldiers;

AND WHEREAS the Highway of Heroes has become a significant component of Canadian culture;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Municipality of Trent Hills unanimously endorses the production of a Canadian coin depicting an image of Canadians honouring our fallen soldiers from bridges that span the Highway of Heroes;

AND FURTHER supports the circulation of this resolution to our MP, MPP, the Royal Canadian Mint, AMO, FCM and the City of Toronto for distribution to all Canadian Municipalities requesting support of this initiative;

AND FURTHER respectfully request all Canadian Municipal Councils make it known to their MP, and encourage the Royal Canadian Mint in writing to produce a Canadian coin to recognize the Highway of Heroes.

AND encourage all citizens to contact their MPs and sign the on-line petition and to send a written letter to the Royal Canadian Mint supporting the development of a commemorative Highway of Heroes coin.

Contact Information:

Royal Canadian Mint
320 Sussex Dr.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G8
Fax: 613-993-4092
Phone: 800-267-1871

Online Petition:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/hhyoh123/petition.html>



Municipality of
Bayham

P.O. Box 160, 9344 Plank Road,
Straffordville, Ontario N0J 1Y0
Tel: (519) 866-5521 • Fax: (519) 866-3884
email: bayham@bayham.on.ca

November 4, 2010

AGCO Head Office
Licensing and Registration Branch
90 Sheppard Avenue East
Suite 200
Toronto, ON
M2N 0A4

Re: Lottery Licence Requirements - Local Penny Sales

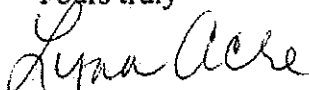
Council for the Municipality of Bayham has received concerns from local charitable/church groups that existing lottery licence requirements for small local events, particularly penny sales, are extremely onerous. For small local groups, the administrative burden to comply with existing regulations is more than their volunteer memberships can manage. These groups are concerned that with such requirements, their fundraising functions cannot continue, and their continued existence is then threatened.

Council shares these concerns, and is therefore seeking amendments to current regulations to ease the administration. Specifically regarding penny sales, regulations now require each and every prize be detailed and valuations established. This requirement applies to all penny sales, including those with total prize values less than \$500. Local small penny sales often have a large number of donated prizes, with very low valuations each, and as mentioned the need to list all prizes can be extremely onerous.

Bayham Council is therefore suggesting that Bazaar Licence requirements be amended to either exempt small local penny sales entirely, or in the alternative, an overall declaration of total prize value only be required to obtain a licence.

Your consideration regarding this matter would be most appreciated.

Yours truly


Lynn Acre
Mayor

p.c. Steve Peters, MPP
Ontario Municipalities



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY WARDEN

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Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0
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Fax: (519) 845-3160
www.lambtononline.ca

November 17, 2010

The Honourable Jim Milloy
Minister, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
3rd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Milloy,

Please be informed that at its meeting held on October 6, 2010, Lambton County Council passed the following resolution concerning the barrier of no debt clearance in place for Ontario Student Assistance Program loans:

- a) That the Warden, on behalf of Lambton County Council, correspond with the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities recommending changes to the Ontario Student Loan program such that there is a debt clearance afforded to individuals in default consistent with the federal student loan program to empower low-income Ontarians to break out of the cycle of poverty.
- b) That the Warden, on behalf of Lambton County Council, correspond with the Minister of Community and Social Services recommending changes to Ontario Works rules to extend eligibility to persons disqualified from the Ontario Student Assistance Program to empower low-income Ontarians to break out of the cycle of poverty.
- c) That the correspondence noted above, be forwarded to Municipal Clerks requesting endorsement of the recommendations, and that such endorsements be forwarded to the respective Ministers.
- d) That the Warden be requested to arrange a meeting with area Members of Provincial Parliament to secure their assistance in the pursuit of the necessary regulatory changes.

Education is seen as one of the keys to transitioning out of poverty and into long-term, viable employment. The pursuit of post secondary education is very costly in Ontario and financial assistance is a necessity for a person living in poverty.

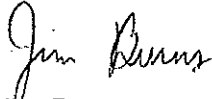


However, many people living in poverty are unable to access post-secondary education due to a previous Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) default. These are people who have attempted to pursue post-secondary education in the past but were not successful for any number of reasons including but not limited to family violence, lack of readiness, child care challenges and transportation issues. Subsequent low paying employment or social assistance did not afford the financial means for repayment and the paperwork involved to apply for OSAP repayment deferral status was often overlooked during the struggle to make ends meet and survive each day with low financial resources.

After a default, a student can request debt clearance for the federal loan portion which allows access to additional federal loans. Upon completion of the post-secondary educational program, the debt from both the previous and the current federal loan is outstanding and arrangements are made to begin repayment. However, there is no corresponding process for the provincial portion and as a result students are not eligible to receive any further funding from the Ontario Student Loan program. This provincial policy creates a significant systemic barrier to individuals in poverty and will continue to do so if not addressed.

I urge the Provincial Government to remove the systemic barrier facing those living in poverty and allow debt clearance on the provincial portion of the Ontario Student Loan Program in line with the federal process, thus affording people in poverty an additional opportunity to secure post-secondary education and commence their plans to exit poverty.

Sincerely,



Jim Burns
Warden

cc: Bob Bailey, M.P.P. Sarnia-Lambton Riding
Maria Van Bommel, M.P.P. Lambton-Kent-Middlesex Riding
Municipal Clerks

September 23, 2010

Re: Industrial Wind Turbines

The following resolution was passed by the Township of Cavan Monaghan on September 7, 2010 for your government's consideration:

Whereas there is conflicting information regarding the health effects of industrial wind turbines on citizens living in close proximity to these structures; and

Whereas citizens living in close proximity have reported serious health problems;

Now Therefore Be it Resolved that the Council of the Township of Cavan Monaghan requests the Ontario Provincial Government to implement a moratorium on industrial wind turbines until independent health studies have been completed; and

Further that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable John Wilkinson, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes Brock MPP, Rick Johnson, the leader of the Official Opposition, the Honourable Tim Hudak, and to other provincial cabinet ministers that may be deemed appropriate ; and

That a copy be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their support and for distribution to AMO member municipalities seeking their support and encouraging them to pass similar resolutions. **Carried.**

The following resolution was passed by the Township of Cavan Monaghan on September 7, 2010 for your government's consideration:

Whereas the setback required for industrial wind turbines in the province of Ontario is 550 meters; and

Whereas other jurisdictions have seen fit to require greater setbacks, some as much as 2 kilometers; and

Whereas there are reported health risks related to such turbines; and

Whereas all powers that would allow municipalities to deal with this serious issue have been removed by the Province;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Cavan Monaghan requests the Ontario Provincial Government to revise the setback requirement for industrial wind turbines to be 750 meters from any public road or residential dwelling; and

Be it further resolved that the Township of Cavan Monaghan requests that some powers to deal with these wind turbines be restored to allow municipalities to set appropriate setbacks specific to their jurisdiction and to implement such other measures as they deem necessary; and

Further that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable John Wilkinson, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes Brock MPP, Rick Johnson, the leader of the Official Opposition, the Honourable Tim Hudak, to such other provincial cabinet ministers that may be deemed appropriate ; and

That a copy be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their support and for distribution to AMO member municipalities seeking their support and encouraging them to pass similar resolutions. **Carried.**

DISCLAIMER

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The Corporation of the Municipality of
Central Elgin

450 Sunset Drive, 1st Floor, St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 5V1 P: 519.631.4860 F: 519.631.4036

November 24th, 2010

Honourable Rick Bartolucci
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON
M5G 2E5

Dear Mr. Bartolucci:

Re: Term of Council

Please be advised that Council discussed the above noted matter at their meeting dated Monday, November 15th, 2010 and the following resolution was passed:

Moved D. Marr; Seconded R. Matthews

WHEREAS the *Municipal Elections Act* was amended to change the date of municipal elections from the second Monday in November to the fourth Monday in October;
AND WHEREAS this change in date also potentially lengthened the period when Council may be restricted from taking certain actions under the *Municipal Act* (section 275);
AND WHEREAS the extended time period between election day and December when the new Council takes office is unnecessarily long;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin request that the *Municipal Elections Act* and the *Municipal Act* be amended to provide for a date in November when the newly elected Council shall take office AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Hon. Steve Peters, MPP, Elgin-Middlesex-London. CARRIED.

Please feel free to contact me at the municipal office should you have any questions respecting this matter.

Yours truly,

Dianne Wilson
Deputy Clerk

c.c. Honourable Steve Peters, MPP, Elgin-Middlesex-London
All Ontario Municipalities

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Michelle Casavecchia

From: County of Elgin [County_of_Elgin@mail.vresp.com]
Sent: November 30, 2010 9:32 AM
To: Michelle Casavecchia
Subject: Elgin County Newsletter, November 2010



ElginCounty

Progressive by Nature



News Flash

[Welcome Message
Alan Smith, General
Manager Economic
Development >>](#)

[Business Profile -
Energy &
Environment
Solar Growth
in Elgin >>](#)

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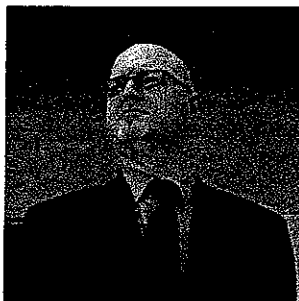
[Contact Information](#)

Alan Smith
General Manager
Economic
Development

Kate Burns
Marketing &
Communications
Coordinator
(519) 631-1460 ext 137

Welcome Message

Alan Smith



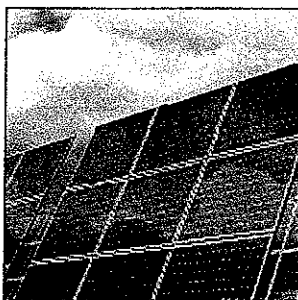
Welcome to the Fall 2010 issue of our newsletter. We're happy to report that Elgin County's Economic Development department is busier than ever with leads and contacts. This is an optimistic sign for the County's economy. We've seen other good signs emerge from several recent events and conferences. We are reaching out to many people with messages about Elgin County and they are reaching back!

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

[↑ back to top](#)

Business Profile - Energy & Environment

Elgin County Attracts Proposals For Green Energy from Solar Farms



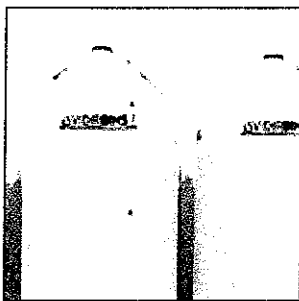
Elgin County's motto "Progressive By Nature" is becoming more and more appropriate as green-energy businesses propose to generate electrical power from renewable energy sources in the County. Several solar-power projects have sprung to life and are aiming to join the wind-power and biofuel companies already established.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

[↑ back to top](#)

Business Profile - Agribusiness

New Manufacturer Is a Boost For Aylmer's Revitalization



The Town of Aylmer has received a boost in establishing itself as a prime location for manufacturing with the announcement of a new investment by a Manitoba-based company.

V-Bins Ontario Inc. has found an ideal location for manufacturing its vertical steel storage bins used by the agricultural and food processing sectors.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

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Business Profile - Manufacturing

Enns Textile Flourishing and Creating Jobs in Aylmer



An entrepreneurial family in the Town of Aylmer is enjoying a burst of success in 2010, creating jobs with the hope of more to come.

The latest good news for Enns Textile was an announcement September 1st that the federal government has advanced a loan of \$125,000 under the Sand Plains Community Development Fund to help the company increase production of packaging

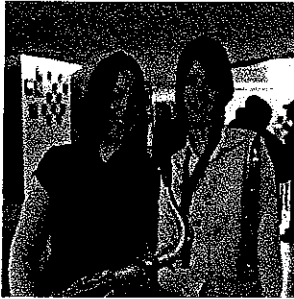
products for automotive parts.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

[↑ back to top](#)

Business Profile - Creative Economy

Inspirational Music Teacher Is Part Of Elgin's Growing Creative Economy



Creativity abounds among the people of Elgin County. Sharon Little knows this first-hand and has helped to nurture the creative spirit in many people through her business, One Quality Note.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

[↑ back to top](#)

Business Profile - Tourism

Savour Elgin: A Taste Experience



Savour Elgin celebrates local food, wine, and agri-tourism in partnership with quality restaurants. Members of Savour Elgin must either grow or produce their own products and in the case of restaurants have 25% of their annual receipts purchased locally (within a 100 km radius).

One of the goals of Savour Elgin is to strengthen the food supply chain; the program is able to do just that by connecting producers and chefs, with tasty results.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

[↑ back to top](#)

Business Resources

Online Service Gives Business Owners A Break



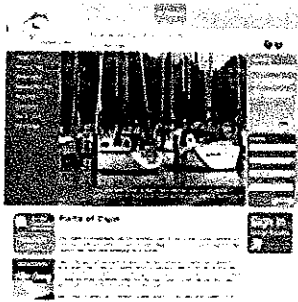
When businesses are just getting started, too much red tape can become a red light. There are so many federal, provincial and local regulations that business owners are often unaware of them. On top of the considerable time they must spend travelling from one government office to another to obtain permits and licences, they can suddenly find their businesses in contravention of a regulation they didn't know existed.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

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Awards and Recognition

Elgin-St. Thomas Tourism Services Recognized with International Award



ST. THOMAS, ON – Elgin - St. Thomas Tourism Services received an Honorable Mention for Excellence in Economic Development for the Elgin & St. Thomas Tourism Website in the category of Special Purpose Website for communities with populations of 25,000 – 200,000 from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

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Top Five



News Flash



Land & Space



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of Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Le Premier ministre
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1



November 25, 2010

RECEIVED

NOV 30 2010

Ms. M. Casavecchia, DPA, CMO, CMM III
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
Township of Malahide
87 John Street South
Aylmer, Ontario
N5H 2C3

Dear Ms. Casavecchia:

Thank you for your letter of November 8, informing me of council's resolution regarding exempting utilities from the Harmonized Sales Tax. I appreciate your keeping me updated on council's activities.

As this issue falls under the responsibility of the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, I have sent him a copy of council's resolution. I trust that the minister will also take council's views into consideration.

Thank you again for the information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dalton McGuinty
Premier

c: Honourable Dwight Duncan





MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION

RECEIVED

NOV 30 2010

November 26, 2010

To: All Heads of Council
Ontario Municipalities

From: Dan Mathieson
Chair, MPAC Board of Directors

Subject: Update – MPAC Activities

As the newly elected Chair of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's (MPAC) Board of Directors, I am pleased to provide you with my first update on our activities to date in 2010.

Changes to Board of Directors

New members were appointed to the Board of Directors in 2010 as the terms of a number of sitting members ended. As the Mayor of Stratford, I was appointed to the Board in September as a Municipal representative and elected by the Board as Chair. Also newly appointed to the Board in 2010:

- Debra Marshall, taxpayer representative from Prince Edward County;
- Jim McDonell, Mayor of South Glengarry; and,
- James Wilson, Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Haliburton.

I would also like to thank the following Board members whose terms expired in 2010 for their commitment and hard work:

- Former Chair Debbie Zimmerman, Councillor, Regional Municipality of Niagara, who completed her second three-year term in August;
- Margaret Black, Mayor of the Township of King; and,
- Lloyd Russell, Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer for York Region.

MPAC is accountable to the public through a 15-member Board of Directors, appointed by the Ontario Minister of Finance. Eight (8) members are municipal representatives; five (5) represent property taxpayers; and two (2) represent the Provincial Government. A complete list of our Board members is available at www.mpac.ca.

Office of the Chair c/o Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
1305 Pickering Parkway, Pickering, ON L1V 3P2
T: 519.271.0250 ext 236 F: 905.831.0040
www.mpac.ca

Form No LH4001A

Property Assessment Cycle

Even though 2010 is not a province-wide Assessment Update year, MPAC continues to update the property information it has on file. In November, approximately one (1) million year-end Property Assessment Notices were mailed to property owners across the province to capture in-year changes. Property owners who receive a Notice from MPAC this fall, and believe it is incorrect, will have until **March 31, 2011** to ask MPAC to reconsider their assessment. The next province-wide Assessment Update will take place in 2012.

I would also like to provide you with an update on our implementation of the four-year assessment cycle and the phase-in of eligible assessment increases introduced by the Government, and some of the operational challenges it has presented the organization.

MPAC's business processes have undergone a thorough review resulting in substantial changes to integrate the phase-in provisions into our systems and to include them on all assessment products. Even though this is not an Assessment Update year, every time a property undergoes a change due to new construction or changes in use, the phase-in values must be recalculated. As well, MPAC is now required to retroactively recalculate the phase-in values to adjust for decisions made by the Assessment Review Board on current and prior property tax years and issue an Advisory Notice of Assessment.

As MPAC prepares for the 2012 province-wide Assessment Update and the next phase-in cycle, we will continue to make the necessary changes to our business processes and systems.

Service Delivery

I am pleased to report that MPAC has processed more than \$28 billion in assessment growth for municipal tax rolls in 2010. The amount of growth added this year surpasses last year's total of nearly \$25 billion and represents the addition of assessment from new construction taking place in the province.

Earlier this year, MPAC assembled a cross-functional committee to review the assessment growth process and implement improvements to ensure the timely delivery of new growth. The Municipal Liaison Group – Assessment Growth Sub-Group includes representatives from 15 municipalities across Ontario. The objective of the committee is to develop a strategy to ensure growth is added in an accurate and timely manner across the province as well as to develop an assessment growth forecasting model to accurately calculate and measure growth estimates at the municipal level.

This partnership has already helped to introduce improvements to our processes and we are committed to continuing our focus on adding timely and accurate assessment growth to municipal rolls in 2011.

A second committee, the Municipal Liaison Group – Assessment Products and Services Sub-Group, has already met to discuss the timely development of new products and the efficient delivery of existing products and services. Working with 12 municipal representatives, we have already identified improvements to our processes to ensure the timely delivery of reports to municipal staff.

MPAC also remains committed to completing Requests for Reconsideration (RfR). As of October 27, 2010, we have received over 36,000 RfRs, which represent 0.8% of Ontario's more than 4.7 million properties. This number is down from the 178,000 received in 2009 following the province-wide Assessment Update. We continue to work with our property taxpayer customers to resolve these matters and answer questions or provide the information they need to understand their property's assessment.

Municipal Enumeration

Based on our discussions with the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) following the 2006 Municipal Enumeration, we made a number of improvements to our enumeration processes for 2010 including an increased focus on sharing information with municipalities and improving our Municipal Enumeration Form (MEF).

In April and May, we mailed MEFs to approximately 2.4 million households across the province. The forms were sent to households where we needed to confirm or update occupant information in our database. The 2010 form was redesigned to make it easier to complete with a three-step process.

Our website also offered detailed information including an interactive MEF and video presentation to help explain Enumeration and encourage the completion and return of forms to MPAC.

Additionally, municipalities were provided detailed Enumeration information and updates throughout the year through Municipal Connect™, newsletters, meetings and regular correspondence. Our Municipal Relations group were also available at conferences and AMCTO election training sessions.

We do continue to face challenges in obtaining the information we need to make further improvements to our Preliminary List of Electors (PLEs). This includes the limited access we have to births and death information from the Ontario Ministry of Government Services. Our work in this area will continue as we look ahead to the next Municipal Enumeration in 2014.

Organizational Realignment

You may be aware that MPAC recently undertook an organizational realignment to improve our service delivery to our shared customers, the property taxpayers of Ontario.

The realignment is being carried out within our current complement and budget. There is no reduction in service or staffing levels in any of our offices located across the province – a demonstration of our ongoing commitment to providing property taxpayer customers and municipal stakeholders with local knowledge and expertise.

It is important to note that this is not a restructuring of our entire organization. Rather, we are improving customer service and strengthening our local focus by aligning our business under two (2) core streams: Valuation and Customer Relations, Business Properties; and Valuation and Customer Relations, Residential and Farm Properties. Through realigning reporting structures and streamlining our business processes, a single staff member – someone with an understanding of both the local community and the properties contained within it – is now responsible for addressing a property taxpayer customer's assessment concerns from start to finish.

I would also like to confirm that the support MPAC provides to our municipal stakeholders has not changed in any way. Our team of Municipal Relations professionals continues to serve across the province as your dedicated resource. In addition, your access to products and services specifically designed to meet the unique requirements of Municipal stakeholders remains as before.

I believe this framework better positions us to provide our customers with outstanding customer service. It also offers more flexibility and adaptability, which will enable our organization to efficiently meet your evolving needs as we continue to work together to serve the property taxpayers of Ontario.

Toronto Bank Tower Decision

In October, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld a Divisional Court decision affecting MPAC's approach to assessing commercial property. The decision involved assessment complaints filed for the 2001 and 2002 property taxation years by owners of six high-value downtown office complexes, known collectively as the Bank Towers. MPAC's approach was upheld by the Divisional Court. That decision has now been confirmed by the Ontario Court of Appeal.

In closing, I look forward to working with my fellow Board members and senior executive team in the coming months to ensure that we continue to look for ways to improve our products and services. The success of many of our activities is due in large part to the hard work of our dedicated team of employees across Ontario. We look forward to their continued commitment to delivering property assessment excellence and outstanding service.

If you have any questions or need additional information, I encourage you to contact me at (519) 271-0250 ext. 236; Carl Isenburg, President and Chief Administrative Officer, at (905) 837-6150; or Arthur Anderson, Director, Municipal Relations, at (905) 837-6993.

Yours truly,



Dan Mathieson
Chair, MPAC Board of Directors

Copy MPAC Board of Directors
Carl Isenburg
Paul Galaski, Vice-President, Valuation and Customer Relations,
Residential and Farm Properties
Arthur Anderson

Michelle Casavecchia

From: communicate@amo.on.ca
Sent: November 30, 2010 5:02 PM
To: Michelle Casavecchia
Subject: AMO breaking news re social assistance reform

TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE CLERK AND COUNCIL

November 30, 2010

Government will make changes to welfare but Special Diet Allowance stays for now

On November 30, 2010, the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, announced the government's next steps in welfare reform. Of immediate note to municipalities, the government announced that it will not go ahead with its 2010 budget decision to eliminate the Special Diet Allowance and replace it with a nutritional supplement program for people with severe medical needs.

The Special Diet Allowance (SDA) is a benefit available to people receiving Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). The SDA provides additional assistance - up to \$250.00 per month - for people in receipt of OW and ODSP who require a special diet because of a medical condition. To qualify for the SDA, recipients of OW and ODSP must have medical approval of the need for a prescribed diet. Municipalities contribute (in 2009-2010) 20% of the benefit paid to OW recipients.

This is not the first time that the SDA has been reviewed. In 2005 the government passed regulations that specified eligible medical conditions under the SDA. In the past, medical practitioners had the discretion to recommend additional benefits for medical conditions. At the time of this change, all applicants had to reapply to for the SDA.

The government's original decision communicated in the 2010 budget to replace the SDA was driven by a number of factors including concerns raised by the Auditor General and findings of the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal.

In 2009, the Auditor General recommended greater oversight on compliance with required documentation for the SDA and specifically recommended that the government review the allowance with a "view to limiting its possible abuse."

In early 2010, the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal ordered the Ministry of Community and Social Services to pay three lead complainants retroactive and ongoing benefits. The complaint brought forward was that changes to the SDA in 2005 violated the Human Rights Code. This was a significant decision as it resulted in the potential for the review of 200 pending complaints.

Also today, the government announced a major review of social assistance. This review will be headed by the Honourable Frances Lankin, and Dr. Munir Sheikh and will take place over 18 months (January 2011 to June 2012). The review will focus on:

- recommend ways to improve people's ability to find and keep jobs, and guarantee security for people who cannot work;

- examine and determine the effectiveness of social assistance and its role in relation to other parts of Canada's income security system; and
- define Ontario's position regarding the federal government's responsibility for Ontarians' income security.

What Does this Mean for Municipalities?

In the 2010 budget, the government had committed to transitioning from the SDA to a nutritional supplement program for recipients of Ontario Works with severe medical needs. The program was to have been transitioned over a number of months and have been administered by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

While specific details of the transition to a new program were not available at the time, AMO was cautious in assuming this would result in savings to municipalities.

What we do know, is that in 2009 and 2010, the cost of the SDA was approximately \$98 million provincially, with municipalities contributing approximately \$20 million to this cost.

Today's government decision may impact municipalities who have removed the SDA costs in their budget planning for 2011. While the upload of Ontario Works benefits continues, municipalities will contribute 14% of the benefit costs in 2011. In addition, SDA recipients will now be required to reapply for the allowance resulting in an administrative impact on municipal staff. It will be important that the government commit to providing administrative funding.

AMO recognizes the need to ensure that those in need of support because of medical conditions not be unfairly impacted by any provincial policy changes and has asked the government to consult with AMO and municipalities as they undertake changes to the special diet allowance and consider future changes to social assistance in Ontario.

AMO will continue to monitor the government's progress and work with its members to communicate with the independent commission as it undertakes its review.

Link to social assistance review materials:

<http://news.ontario.ca/mcss/en/2010/11/ontario-launches-comprehensive-social-assistance-review.html>

AMO Contact: Petra Wolfbeiss, Senior Policy Advisor, email: pwolfbeiss@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 ext. 329

PLEASE NOTE AMO Breaking News will be broadcast to the member municipality's council, administrator and clerk. Recipients of the AMO broadcasts are free to redistribute the AMO broadcasts to other municipal staff as required. We have decided to not add other staff to these broadcast lists in order to ensure accuracy and efficiency in the management of our various broadcast lists.

DISCLAIMER These are final versions of AMO documents. AMO assumes no responsibility for any discrepancies that may have been transmitted with the electronic version. The printed versions of the documents stand as the official record.



STEVE PETERS, MPP

Elgin - Middlesex - London

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DEC 11 2010

November 26, 2010

Honourable Sophia Aggelonitis
Minister of Revenue
Frost Building South, 6th Floor
7 Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Transportation
Ferguson Block, 3rd Floor
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Ministers:

Please find enclosed e-mail correspondence and a copy of a resolution from the Township of Malahide that calls upon the provincial government to provide Ontario municipalities with a portion of the HST generated through the sale of gasoline and diesel in a similar fashion as the federal government does with its gas tax rebate program for municipalities.

As you are aware, at the present time only municipalities that have a public transit system receive provincial gas tax funding. This means only three out of 12 municipalities in my riding (both upper and lower tier) receive funding each year from the provincial gas tax rebate program.

While appreciative of municipal infrastructure funding they have received in past joint federal-provincial stimulus programs, Ontario's municipalities still face a significant infrastructure deficit that needs to be addressed. I am supportive of the locally led initiative that calls on the provincial government to provide a portion of the revenue of the HST from gasoline and diesel sales towards municipal infrastructure and I hope that you will give every due consideration to the Township of Malahide's request.

Ministers, I would appreciate your reviewing the correspondence and responding directly to the Township of Malahide. As always, thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Peters, MPP
Elgin-Middlesex-London

Cc: Ms. Michelle Casavecchia, CAO, Township of Malahide, 87 John Street South, Aylmer, Ontario, N5H 2C3

Mr. Mark McDonald, CAO, County of Elgin, 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, Ontario, N5R 5V1

Constituency Office

750 Talbot Street, Suite 201, St. Thomas, Ontario N5P 1E2

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Municipality of
Bayham

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P.O. Box 160, 9344 Plank Road,
Straffordville, Ontario N0J 1Y0
Tel: (519) 866-5521 • Fax: (519) 866-3884
email: bayham@bayham.on.ca

December 2, 2010

Township of Malahide
87 John Street, South
Aylmer, ON N5H 2C3

Attention: M. Casavecchia

Dear Ms. Casavecchia:

Please be advised that correspondence regarding HST – Gasoline and Diesel Fuel and resolution passed by the Township of Malahide was considered at the regular meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Bayham held November 18th and the following resolution was passed:

.....AND THAT Council supports resolution passed July 22, 2010 by the Township of Malahide regarding HST - Gasoline and Diesel Fuel".

Should you require further information feel free to contact this office

Yours truly

Brenda Gibbons
Administrative Assistant

File: C10
C2010-086

CC: Premier Dalton McGuinty
Steve Peters, MPP
Joe Preston, MP

Michelle Casavecchia

From: communicate@amo.on.ca
Sent: December 2, 2010 3:37 PM
To: Michelle Casavecchia
Subject: Infrastructure Stimulus Deadline Extended to October 31, 2011

TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE CLERK AND COUNCIL

December 2, 2010

Infrastructure Stimulus Deadline Extended to October 31, 2011

Prime Minister Stephen Harper extended the deadline for completing projects receiving infrastructure stimulus funding today. The new deadline is October 31, 2011 allowing an additional construction season for completion.

The deadline extension affects projects in four programs under the Economic Action Plan including: the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund; the Building Canada Fund Communities Component Top-Up; the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program; and the Knowledge Infrastructure Program. The extension applies to all projects under these programs.

To qualify for the extension, work must have begun on the project and it must have incurred eligible costs before March 31, 2011. Claims for all expenses incurred up to this date must be submitted by April 30, 2011. The Government of Canada will not share in costs incurred after October 31, 2011 and proponents will be required to complete projects at their own expense.

Today's announcement is welcome news. Ontario municipalities have been working hard to complete stimulus projects on time and indications are the vast majority of projects will meet their deadlines. In the meantime, AMO and the municipal sector have been pursuing flexibility on the deadline for municipalities facing delays through no fault of their own to ensure municipal governments do not incur additional costs.

AMO will continue to update members on relevant news related to stimulus funding.

AMO Contact: Craig Reid, Senior Policy Advisor, email: creid@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 Ext. 334

PLEASE NOTE AMO Breaking News will be broadcast to the member municipality's council, administrator and clerk. Recipients of the AMO broadcasts are free to redistribute the AMO broadcasts to other municipal staff as required. We have decided to not add other staff to these broadcast lists in order to ensure accuracy and efficiency in the management of our various broadcast lists.

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November 26, 2010

To All Members of the Association:

The Board of Directors met today and as part of the Board's business, it dealt with the impact of the municipal election on the Board's composition as directed by its By-law. President Norman Sandberg worked to achieve a smooth transition.

In terms of appointing a President to fill the position until the membership can elect at the next annual meeting, the Board turned to its Past President, Peter Hume, Councillor, City of Ottawa. Peter will serve as President until August, 2011 at which point the membership will have the opportunity to elect a President to complete the 2010-2012 term as set out in the Bylaw. The normal nomination process will be undertaken.

An election process similarly will occur in August for those Caucuses affected by vacancies. In the meantime, the By-law authorizes the Caucuses to fill the Director vacancies. The following Caucuses will be looking to make Directors' appointments until August 2011 and will be moving to fill the positions in time for the Association's January Board meeting. Those filling the positions will need to have the support of their council.

- County Caucus – 1 Director
- Large Urban Caucus – 1 Director
- Northern Caucus (West) – 2 Directors
- Regional and Single Tier – 1 Director
- Rural Caucus – 1 Director
- Small Urban Caucus – 1 Director

The Board expressed its appreciation to Norman Sandberg for his leadership, and to the other members leaving the Board for their contributions to policy development and Association governance. All recognized the need for the Association to continue to move forward, with the support of all municipal government and a common voice. Part of Norman's remarks follow:

"It is an honour to be chosen to serve as AMO President and I am privileged to have had the opportunity, however brief, to serve with all of you. Involvement in AMO is in essence about working together for others. No matter where one hails from, there are many common interests and challenges. If we do our jobs well, we achieve the flexibility needed to make things happen within the different local circumstances. This organization has a government relation strategy that gets results – not everything we need, but more than we would achieve if we didn't work together. The next four years will be challenging for our municipalities. I am glad that you are here to work on those challenges and confident in your abilities to succeed – both in your home towns and at AMO."