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Melinda Reith - Head, Clara, Maria

From: "AMO Communications" <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Date: January-06-15 4:25 PM
To: <twpshcm@xplornet.com>
Subject: AMO Breaking News - 2015 Pre-Budget Submission Outline

January 6, 2015

AMO's 2015 Pre-Budget Submission Outline

The Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs will be meeting to conduct Pre-Budget consultations in late January. AMO has asked to make an oral presentation to the Committee in addition to making a written submission. Any municipality wishing to make written submissions has until **5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2015** to write to the Clerk of the Committee. Contact details are below. AMO is also expecting to meet with the Minister of Finance and other key Ministers on our budget advice.

Below is a general outline of AMO's 2015 Pre-Budget Submission.

Context and General Themes:

- Provincial and municipal governments share an interest in long-term financial sustainability.
- The Province is focused on reducing its deficit and expects all sectors to be a part of its resolution (e.g. health, education, municipal). Municipalities understand the concerns with the provincial deficit and debt and related ancillary impacts.
- Sustainability for municipal governments will not happen if the Province decides to move costs to the local level in the short or long term, either deliberately or by avoidance. Local pressure builds when the Province stops programs that the public needs or have become the norm over time.
- Municipalities are united with the provincial government on seeking additional assistance from the federal government for municipal infrastructure and housing.
- Healthy municipal governments and local economies are essential to a healthy Ontario economy. Efforts to build prosperity at a local level start with a stable property assessment and property taxation system and their integrity needs to be reinforced.
- There are plenty of opportunities for the Province to assist municipal governments in critical areas at no cost to the provincial treasury.

We must begin to look forward and consider what the future looks like for Ontario communities. A healthy future for municipal governments in this province will include among other matters, the following:

1. **The Province, in concert with municipal government, undertaking a cumulative impact analysis of municipal fiscal health.** We need to answer these questions: what provincial actions have affected the budgets of municipal governments, which parts of the sector are most affected, how will any negative impacts be mitigated? The upload of some provincial programs has been helpful to some parts of the province but others have had greater challenges in adjusting to decrease in the OMPF, including the accelerated OMPF reductions for 2015. At the same time, many municipalities are dealing with significant reductions in assessment for specific industrial property types and land uses.

07/01/2015

- 2. Streamline responsibilities between the municipal and provincial orders of government with clearer and simpler lines of accountability.** One of the matters that the Drummond Report highlighted was the amount of provincial oversight and municipal reporting that is required but often not usefully analysed. One municipality tallied the reports it provides to the Province on a yearly basis. It submits the following to provincial ministries: 96 monthly reports, 100 quarterly reports, 6 semi-annual reports and 68 annual reports. This is a subtotal of 270 reports annually, plus an additional 16 audited statements, plus the annual Financial Information Return. The total tally: 287 reports. That's more than one for every single workday in the year. From AMO's perspective, there is plenty of room to simplify reporting requirements while maintaining accountability and improving the coordination of these activities in a streamlined way.

Aligning responsibilities with resources is a key accountability consideration which should be reviewed. Too often municipal governments are footing the bill yet lack the levers to control cost. How do we bring greater cost containment to local bodies, consistent with provincial and local fiscal frameworks? This is a question without an immediate answer.

- 3. Action is needed on police and emergency service costs.** The Province needs to modernize the standards and the delivery of these services. This includes the legislative framework and labour relations. The annual salary increases for police officers and fire fighters are roughly three times the rate of inflation. This is not sustainable. Police officer and fire fighters do important work and are well compensated; but these ever-increasing costs are challenging municipalities to be able to provide for the full range of programs and services that keep a community safe. In addition, AMO is advocating for legislative changes that would end union interference in the off-duty volunteer firefighting activities of Ontario's firefighters.
- 4. Infrastructure and housing investment is a top municipal priority.** The permanent \$100 million Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund is a welcome addition to help support critical infrastructure in Ontario's smaller communities. Over time, AMO expects that the government will honour its commitment to increase funding and move to a full formula allocation. Larger municipalities are also expecting funding from the Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure component of the Building Canada Fund. AMO is urging an open process for municipal applications for these dollars.

The provincial and federal governments have renewed the investment in Affordable Housing agreement for a further five years. While this is welcome, the short-term, time-limited nature of provincial and federal funding makes it difficult for municipalities to develop and implement long-term housing plans. Permanent and enhanced funding programs for housing are greatly needed.

Generally, we have known since the mid-2000s that infrastructure needs are greater than the available funds. We expect the infrastructure gap will be even greater when all the municipal asset management plans are completed. We will need to work on a much more involved and predictable infrastructure funding and financing approach. This is an essential part of sustaining economic prosperity for Ontario and its municipal governments.

- 5. Improve the rule of law and its administration; pass Bill 31, the Highway Traffic Statute Law Amendment Act.** This would greatly help municipalities by putting more teeth into enforcement and the collection of unpaid fines administered under the *Provincial Offences Act*.
- 6. Make changes that cost the Province nothing, but would help municipal governments manage their costs.** Changes to interest arbitration and joint and several liability reform are two obvious examples. When arbitrators make decisions, they need to focus on the community itself and the negotiated agreements that other municipal staff in that community have negotiated. What they shouldn't focus on is a settlement from an emergency service 1,000 kilometres away. The time has come to resolve this long standing challenge. On joint and several liability, the government recently backed away from minor reforms. This approach needs to be reconsidered - municipal governments cannot afford to be the insurer of last resort or to assume the responsibility of others' mistakes.
- 7. Growth must pay for growth.** On Development Charges, artificial discounts for transit, etc. and exclusions (e.g. hospitals) need to end. Municipal governments are looking to see progress in this area.

Municipal governments wishing to make a submission are encouraged to reinforce these themes with specific local examples. Pre-budget submissions can be directed to:

Katch Koch
Clerk, Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A2
E-mail: kkoch@ola.org

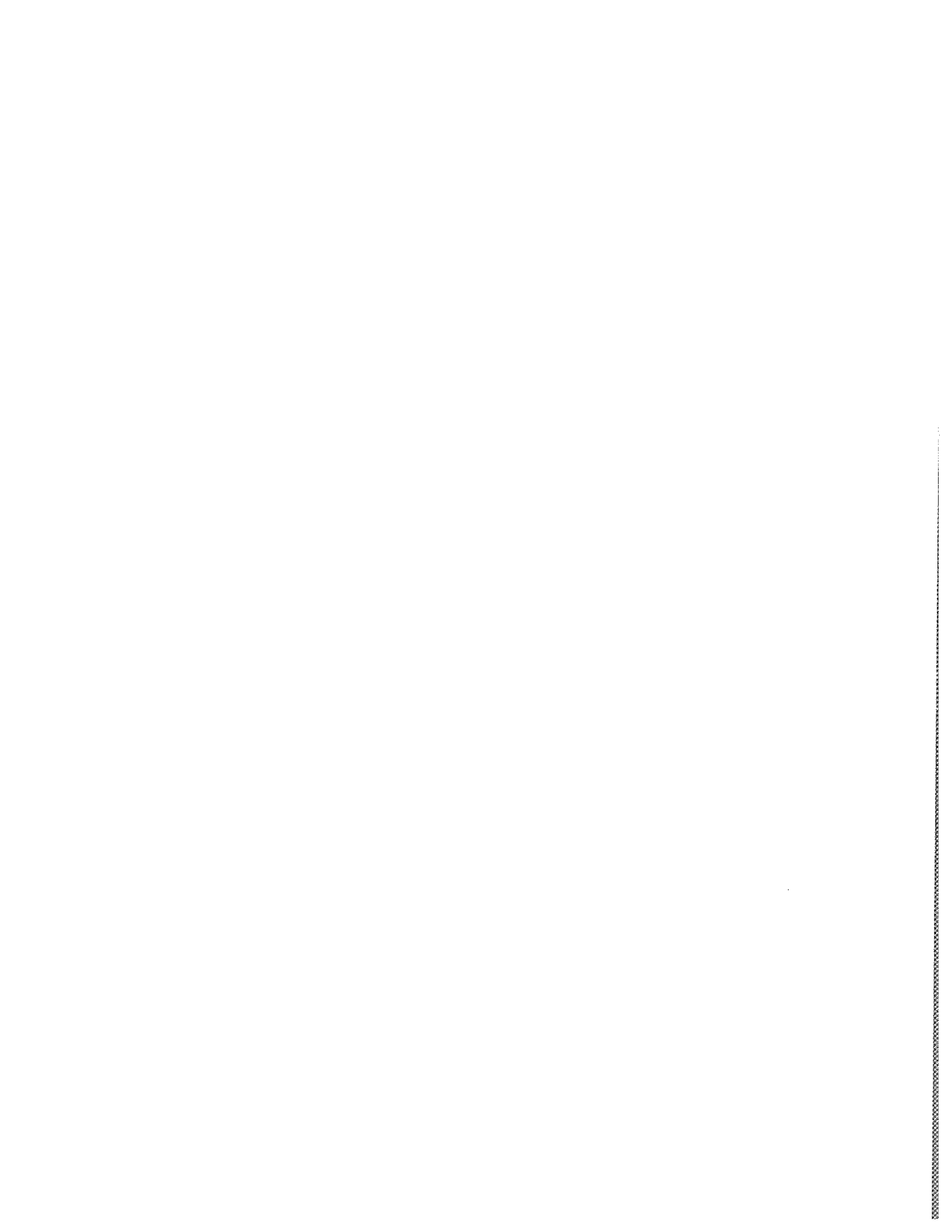
AMO Contact: Matthew Wilson, Senior Advisor, e-mail: mwilson@amo.on.ca, 416-971-9856 Ext. 323.

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

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Ministry of Community Safety
and Correctional Services

Ministère de la Sécurité
communautaire et des Services
correctionnels



Office of the Fire Marshal
and Emergency Management

Bureau du commissaire des incendies
et de la gestion des situations d'urgence

2nd Floor
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto ON M3M 0B1
Telephone 647-329-1100
Facsimile: 647-329-1143

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Toronto ON M3M 0B1
Téléphone : 647 329-1100
Télécopieur : 647 329-1143

December 17, 2014

Dear Mayor in Council:

This letter is a follow-up to prior letters sent to you or the previous Mayor in Council on February 12, 2014, and June 17, 2014, respectively.

Effective January 1, 2014, Ontario became the first province to enact a series of regulatory changes intended to improve fire safety in vulnerable occupancies. Although the requirement for owners of these occupancies to retroactively install automatic sprinklers received the majority of the media coverage, a number of additional regulatory changes were enacted that impose requirements on municipalities and Chief Fire Officials. I would like to clarify what this means for municipalities like yours:

- Three years to complete mandatory training for all Chief Fire Officials responsible for approving facility fire safety plans (**New; deadline is January 1, 2017**);
- Observation of annual fire drills based on approved scenario (**New and in effect as of January 1, 2014; first fire drill to be completed by December 31, 2014**);
- Annual fire safety inspections conducted by the Chief Fire Official, based on a standardized checklist (**New and in effect as of January 1, 2014; first inspection to be completed by December 31, 2014**);
- Registry of Vulnerable Occupancies (**New and in effect as of January 1, 2014; entering information about facilities to be completed by December 31, 2014**).

The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) committed to provide support to municipalities through advice, assistance and training. The following are a list of items demonstrating how the OFMEM kept this commitment.

1. Training program/course acceptable to the Fire Marshal

To meet the requirements for this mandatory training, Chief Fire Officials must complete a training program/course, acceptable to the Fire Marshal, no later than December 31, 2016. The course became available on line effective April 30, 2014. In addition, traditional class room courses commenced in the fall of 2014.

2. Registry of Vulnerable Occupancies

As part of the new regulatory requirements, the fire department is mandated to enter specific information about vulnerable occupancies within their municipality into the OFMEM Registry of Vulnerable Occupancies following the completion of the mandatory inspection. The OFMEM has commenced the Registry and municipal fire departments have begun populating the registry.

3. Training for Municipal Fire Departments

The OFMEM completed both webinars and forty two (42) full day training sessions across the province; these training opportunities were attended by over 1400 fire service personnel.

Committed to Working Together

The regulatory changes, incorporating a balanced approach of enhanced inspections, training and fire code retrofits, will help reduce the probability and consequence of fire on occupants and property as well as decrease the risks encountered by firefighters who are called to respond to fire emergencies in these occupancies. The value of these fire safety enhancements have already been demonstrated through recent fire incidents in which all residents were safely evacuated, that occurred in municipalities where the fire department had already undertaken the mandatory inspections and observation of fire drills.

It remains the responsibility of facility owners and operators in all municipalities to ensure their buildings are in full compliance with the changes to Ontario fire safety regulations. Similarly, it remains the responsibility of municipalities and Chief Fire Officials to ensure they are in full compliance with the new Regulations and Fire Marshal Directives.

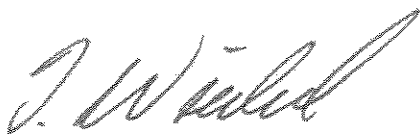
The OFMEM continues to support municipalities and Chief Fire Officials by providing advice and assistance, training and ongoing communication regarding prescribed timelines to help municipalities and Chief Fire Officials to be in compliance with the law.

The OFMEM is commencing a monitoring program in January, 2015 to confirm and validate the status of compliance of municipalities and Chief Fire Officials with the new regulations and Fire Marshal directives. I have delegated the Field and Advisory Section of the OFMEM this responsibility. If you have any questions regarding the monitoring process, they can be directed to Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal Pierre Yelle, who can be reached by e-mail at Pierre.Yelle@ontario.ca or by telephone at (705) 725-1825.

To learn more about the work that has been accomplished to date and regulatory responsibilities, visit the OFMEM Web site portal for care occupancies, care and treatment occupancies and retirement homes, or contact the OFMEM at (647) 329-1100.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter. We all have a role and duty to play in keeping seniors and vulnerable Ontarians fire safe.

Sincerely,



Tadeusz (Ted) Wieclawek
Ontario Fire Marshal and Chief of Emergency Management

CC: All Ontario Fire Chiefs
Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Jim Jessop, Director, Field and Advisory Services / Deputy Fire Marshal, OFMEM
Al Suleman, Director, Prevention and Risk Management, OFMEM
Barney Owens, Director, Response, OFMEM
Mary Prencipe, Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal, Technical Services, OFMEM
Pierre Yelle, Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Protection Services, OFMEM
Chris Williams, Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Investigation Services, OFMEM

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Township of Algonquin Highlands

The Township of Algonquin Highlands

RESOLUTION

11 Dec 2014

Motion No.

Moved by: *Lisa Barry*

Seconded by: *[Signature]*

WHEREAS the Township of Algonquin Highlands is in receipt of the new OPP Billing Model which will see invoices split between base costs and calls for service on an approximate 60/40 split;
 AND WHEREAS all municipalities will pay the same base cost per property, which is estimated at \$203.00 per property;
 AND WHEREAS the new model received Cabinet approval on August 13, 2014 and will commence on January 1, 2015, to be phased in over five years;
 AND WHEREAS the Province is currently responsible for policing costs associated with unorganized townships;
 AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Killarney has passed a resolution requesting the Province implement a billing method for those properties located in unorganized townships;
 NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Algonquin Highlands does hereby endorse the resolution passed by the Municipality of Killarney and requests the Province implement a billing method for those properties in unorganized townships so those properties contribute to their fair share of policing costs;
 AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Ministry of Finance, AMO, MPP Laurie Scott and all municipalities serviced by the OPP.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

[Signature]
 Dawn Newhook, Municipal Clerk
 Township of Algonquin Highlands
 (705) 489-2379

Reeve Carol Moffatt	Yea	Nay
Deputy Reeve Liz Danielsen	Yea	Nay
Councillor Lisa Barry	Yea	Nay
Councillor Marlene Kyle	Yea	Nay
Councillor Brian Lynch	Yea	Nay

Carried *[Signature]* Defeated

Reeve Carol Moffatt

Deferred
[Signature]
 Clerk Dawn Newhook

