



## **Township of Brock Council Information Index**

**November 9 – November 13, 2020**

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<a href="#">1537/20</a>	AMCTO – Advocacy Update – Bill 218 and Ontario Fall 2020 Budget

**Lesley Donnelly**

**From:** AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** November 5, 2020 7:31 PM  
**To:** Becky Jamieson  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update: 2020 Provincial Budget

Date:	09/11/2020
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November 5, 2020

## AMO Policy Update: 2020 Provincial Budget

The Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance has released the 2020 Provincial Budget. It provides a three-year fiscal outlook for Ontario and this comes after being delayed by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic this Spring. The budget touches on several economic scenarios related to the speed of economic growth but does not articulate a path forward toward a balanced budget. This will be provided in the 2021 Spring budget.

Below are the immediate highlights of new items in the 2020 Provincial Budget of a municipal interest. Within the budget document, the word "municipal" is found over 140 times reflecting a great deal of focus and priority placed toward Ontario's municipal sector.

These items are wide-ranging and provided at a high level. The expectation is that a more detailed Budget Bill will follow shortly.

### Fiscal Outlook

COVID-19 has impacted the global economy and Ontario has felt the impact. Provincial GDP declined by 12.3 per cent in the second quarter of this year. Despite some economic improvement of late, the economy is expected to contract by 6.5 per cent in 2020. The volatility created by the pandemic will result in a ranging economic growth projection for 2021 with it expected to narrow in 2022. Finally, the provincial debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to hit 50 per cent within two years.

Minister Phillips has outlined [Ontario's 2020 Budget](#) as the next phase of Ontario's Action Plan. Through three main pillars of *Protect*, *Support*, and *Recover* the government is making \$45 billion (\$30 billion already announced) in commitments

over the next three years to manage the pandemic, focus on addressing the COVID-19 challenges and economic difficulties, and support key investments to deliver on an economic recovery.

## **Budget Impacts to Municipal Governments:**

### **Business Education Tax**

The government is lowering the Business Education Tax rates in recognition of this long-standing municipal concern. These rates will be lowered 0.88 % (10 basis points lower than 0.98%) and the Province is expected to adjust payments to school board to off-set reductions in education property taxes. The Province expects this to produce \$450 million in savings for 2021.

### **Property Tax Relief for Small Business**

Municipalities will be provided flexibility to target property tax relief for small businesses with a provincial commitment to consider matching these reductions. Through a new optional property subclass for business properties, municipalities will be able to define this for their own local needs.

- Additionally, existing property tax exemption for Ontario branches of the Royal Canadian Legion will apply for 2019 and subsequent tax years to Ontario units of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada.

### **Addressing Speculative Sales**

Addressing speculative sales amendments to the *Assessment Act* are being introduced to allow for the potential creation of optional new assessment tools to address concerns regarding redevelopment and speculative sales. This reflects an earlier private member's bill (i.e. Bill 179) put forward by MPP Robin Martin.

### **Broadband and Infrastructure**

The Budget confirmed recent announcements on [broadband and cellular](#) as well as [infrastructure](#) investments. Yesterday, the government announced an additional \$680 million to support broadband and cellular connectivity for unserved and underserved communities, including a doubling of the ICON program to \$300 million. Also noted was the recent COVID-19 Resiliency Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, which makes \$250 million of provincial and federal funding available to municipalities with no local cost match required.

### **Long-Term Care**

The Budget announced previous commitments made which included the [increase of daily direct care](#) for long-term residents to four hours a day over a four-year period. It also reiterated the Province's commitment to the [Accelerated Build Pilot Program](#) made in July 2020.

These investments build on supports announced as part of the first phase of Ontario's response to COVID-19, and the investments made to protect vulnerable seniors through the [COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan](#).

### **Stormwater Investments**

New investments in stormwater systems include:

- \$15 million over two years in one-time funding to support municipalities to improve the management of Lake Ontario wastewater and stormwater discharges, to reduce combined sewer overflows and bypasses, lower phosphorus discharges.
- \$10 million over 2 years to support wastewater monitoring and public reporting, to improve transparency around monitoring and public reporting of sewage overflows and bypasses from municipal systems in the Great Lakes.

### **Public Transit**

The \$4 billion [Safe Restart Agreement](#) provides \$2 billion to Ontario's transit systems to help support services during the pandemic and Ontario has provided municipal governments and transit operators with \$15 million in provincial funding to support enhanced cleaning.

### **Conservation Authorities**

Today's announcement confirms anticipated changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and regulations. While additional clarity will be sought on a number of matters, we understand that the local service agreement MOU's between Conservation Authorities and Municipal Governments are a local matter and the province is not intending to reduce this local control of MOUs through future regulation.

### **Ontario's Community Building Fund**

The budget invests \$100 million over 2 years to support community tourism, cultural and sport organizations. Funding support will be available to municipalities. The program will be delivered by Ontario Trillium Foundation through two streams. One stream will provide funding to municipalities to make investments in infrastructure rehabilitation and renovation, to meet and address public health protocols and local community needs.

### **Seniors**

The budget puts forward an investment in **Seniors Active Living Centres** in the amount of \$3.1 million over the next fiscal year (2021-22).

In addition, Ontario is proposing new tax relief to help seniors live safely at home longer through the new Seniors' Home Safety Tax Credit for the 2021 taxation year, providing a 25 per cent credit on eligible renovations of up to \$10,000.

## Inclusive Community Grants Program

The budget invests \$2 million over 2 years to fund the development of community supports that promote healthy and active aging, support social engagement, and help with participation in the labour force.

Within today's budget, there are several repeated provincial announcements that were made throughout the year. For this budget update, many of them have been omitted for brevity as they have been shared by AMO previously to members.

AMO will continue to review the budget details as well as the proposed legislation that is expressed to follow the budget. Updates will be provided as additional information becomes available.

**AMO Contact:** Rick Johal, Senior Advisor, [rjohal@amo.on.ca](mailto:rjohal@amo.on.ca), 905-962-7425.

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Lesley Donnelly

**From:** Central Counties Tourism <info@centralcounties.ca>  
**Sent:** November 6, 2020 12:34 PM  
**To:** Becky Jamieson  
**Subject:** Member Update Ontario 2020 Budget Highlights

Date:	09/11/2020
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## Update on Ontario 2020 Budget Highlights

Dear Central Counties Members,

Yesterday, the Government of Ontario released details of the 2020 budget, [Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover](#). We are providing you with [budget highlights](#) that affect your business. Be sure to check the B2B website [centralcounties.ca](#) and upcoming CCT e-news releases for further updates to the program details as they become available from the government.

### Highlights

- \$100 million Community Building Fund designed to help tourism, cultural and sports organizations that are experiencing financial pressure due to the pandemic
- \$9 million through the new [Reconnect Festival and Event Program 2020-2021](#) to support municipalities and event organizers during COVID-19.

**\*Deadline to apply – Dec. 1,2020**

- \$25 million one-time emergency funding for Ontario's arts institutions to help cover operating losses incurred as a result of COVID-19
- 20 per cent tax credit for Ontario residents who spend on eligible Ontario-based tourism expenses, once public health officials say it is safe to travel through the Tourism Expense Rebate program
- \$6 million one-time investment to enhance Ontario's parks that support the tourism sector to electrify more campsites, and revitalize and expand the number of roofed accommodations to complement 2021 – Year of Ontario's Staycation
- Permanent expansion of alcohol retail as part of food takeout and delivery orders
- Freezing beer tax and mark-up rates until March 1, 2022. Government is proposing to retroactively cancel the increase in wine basic tax rates that was legislated to occur on June 1, 2020
- Hydro cost savings for business (beginning January 1, 2021) with the renewable energy contracts that make up the Global Adjustment Cost of a hydro business invoice will now be paid by the Provincial Government
- \$300 million available to assist eligible businesses pay costs associated with property taxes and energy bills, in any region in Ontario where the Province determines recently modified Stage 2 public health restrictions are necessary, or going forward, in areas categorized as Control or Lockdown
- \$180.5 million over 3 years for training and jobs to connect workers in the tourism and hospitality sector and others affected by the pandemic with an additional \$100 million through Employment Ontario for skills training, a redesigned Second Career program and \$59.5 million to acquire in-demand skills
- WSIB six-month deferral of premium payments to provide financial relief to employers

An Ontario budget highlights page is [here](#). All available funding opportunities for Ontarians is [here](#).

Stay safe. Stay healthy.

*The Central Counties Team*

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Lesley Donnelly

**From:** Rural Ontario Municipal Association <events@roma.on.ca>  
**Sent:** November 7, 2020 7:03 AM  
**To:** Becky Jamieson  
**Subject:** 2021 ROMA Conference: Exhibitor Registration Open

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# ROMA: Connecting Rural Ontario

## Annual Conference

### 2021 ROMA Conference: Exhibitor Registration Open

This year ROMA's annual conference is going virtual. And as always, industry partners remain an important aspect of the ROMA Conference. We have developed a sponsorship and exhibitor package with various opportunities that will place your message and branding directly in front of ROMA conference delegates, just like we always have.

Applications to exhibit at the ROMA Conference are now available. Please [download here](#).

The deadline for registration, payment, and booth set up is **December 18, 2020. It's important that interested organizations register now.**

If you have any questions, please contact Victoria van Veen at [Vvanveen@amo.on.ca](mailto:Vvanveen@amo.on.ca) or 416.971.9856 extension 315.

**Lesley Donnelly**

**From:** AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** November 6, 2020 4:27 PM  
**To:** Becky Jamieson  
**Subject:** AMO is pleased to support the City of Brampton on their first-ever virtual Economic Empowerment and Anti-Black Racism Conference

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November 6, 2020

## AMO is pleased to support the City of Brampton on their first-ever virtual Economic Empowerment and Anti-Black Racism Conference.

The conference will bring together more than 20 municipalities from across Ontario to listen, share, support and collaborate with one another as we identify and strategize to breakdown barriers for Black Canadians.

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**Date:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020  
**Time:** 9 am to 5 pm EST  
**Location:** Online via WebEx  
 Registration is required to attend

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### Who should attend?

- Individuals working in diversity and inclusion
- Individuals working towards addressing anti-Black racism
- Staff in CAO's Office & Human Resources

### Agenda:

- Morning Session: 9 am - 1 pm pm EST

- Opening Remarks: Mayor Patrick Brown, City of Brampton
- Special Presentation: Then and Now
- City of Toronto: Confronting Anti-Black Racism
- Afternoon Session: 1:45 pm - 5 pm EST
- Round Table Conversation 1: Paving the Way
- Round Table Conversation 2: Cities at Work
- Round Table Conversation 3: Next Steps

**[Click here for more information on the agenda and speakers.](#)**

**[Register Now](#)**

**Supported by:**

- Region of Durham
- City of Hamilton
- City of Markham
- Region of Peel
- Town of Shelburne
- City of Toronto
- City of Vaughan
- Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO)
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Network in the Advancement of Black Communities

**City of Brampton | [economicantiblackracism@brampton.ca](mailto:economicantiblackracism@brampton.ca) | [brampton.ca](http://brampton.ca)**

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AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>  
 November 9, 2020 2:33 PM  
 Becky Jamieson  
 AMO Policy Update – \$1.75 Billion Announced for Broadband Across Canada

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November 9, 2020

## AMO Policy Update – \$1.75 Billion Announced for Broadband Across Canada

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, [announced](#) an additional \$750 million to support connectivity through an expanded [Universal Broadband Fund](#) (UBF) today. The UBF supports the Government of Canada's goal of connecting all Canadians by 2030. The Fund was originally announced in 2019, providing \$1 billion to support connectivity. Municipal governments are eligible to apply to the Fund.

The UBF includes \$150 million for Rapid Response Stream projects which can connect Canadians by November 15, 2021, and \$50 million available for mobile internet projects primarily for Indigenous communities. The Prime Minister also announced today an agreement with Telesat to improve high-speed internet coverage for the far north, rural, and remote regions across Canada through Low Earth Orbiting satellites.

The UBF complements Ontario's recent [significant expansion](#) of its ICON broadband funding program which together will improve connectivity to unserved and underserved regions in Ontario.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

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Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
 Premier's Office, Room 281  
 Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
 Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Honourable Premier Ford,

**Re: Bill 218**

At the regular meeting of Council held November 4, 2020, the following resolution was carried:

Council discussed the Ontario Bill 128, Supporting Recovery and Municipal Elections Act 2020. Provincial Bill 218 was recently introduced to the legislature as Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act 2020. As part of this bill, it was proposed to remove the framework for conducting ranked ballot municipal elections for the 2022 election, citing cost as the reason for the change.

This proposed change results in further erosion of local decision-making by repealing the ranked ballot voting system utilized very effectively by London, Ontario in the last municipal election. This is a system that could and perhaps should be adopted by other municipalities around Ontario. It is felt that the system encourages more candidates and improved participation of voters.

Bill 218 also proposed shortening the nomination period of the 2022 municipal election to approximately six weeks.

**Resolution #11**

**Moved by: G. Little – Seconded by: H. Foster**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Township of Amaranth request the Provincial Government of Ontario rescind the proposed changes regarding ranked ballot voting and the nomination period included as part of bill 218.

Further resolved that a letter regarding this resolution be forwarded to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Peel and Steve Clark,

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Letter to be copied to AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.

**CARRIED.**

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Deputy Mayor Chris Gerrits</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Councillor Heather Foster</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Councillor Gail Little</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mayor Bob Currie</b>	<b>X</b>		

Respectfully submitted,

*Nicole Martin*

Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A.  
Acting CAO/Clerk

C: Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Peel  
Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
A.M.O.  
Ontario Municipalities



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CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
TELEPHONE 613-968-6481  
FAX 613-967-3206

## City of Belleville

169 FRONT STREET  
BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO  
K8N 2Y8

November 10, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier's Office, Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**Delivered by e-mail**  
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

RE: **Bill 218 – Proposing Changes to the Municipal Elections Act –  
Extension of Nomination Period  
New Business  
10, Belleville City Council Meeting, November 9, 2020**

This is to advise you that at the Council Meeting of November 9, 2020, the following resolution was approved.

“WHEREAS municipalities in Ontario are responsible for conducting fair and democratic elections of local representatives; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario, with Bill 218, Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020 is proposing changes to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996; to extend nomination day from the end of July to the second Friday in September; and

WHEREAS municipal elections are governed by the Municipal Elections Act which was amended in 2016 to include shorter nomination periods; and

WHEREAS the operation, finance and regulatory compliance of elections is fully undertaken by municipalities themselves; and

10. New Business  
Belleville City Council Meeting  
November 9, 2020

Page 2

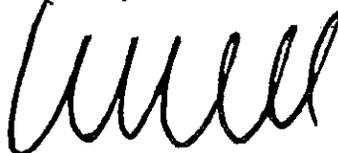
WHEREAS local governments are best poised to understand the representational needs and challenges of the body politic they represent, and when looking at alternative voting methods to ensure voters have options in an effort to increase voter participation and are able to vote safely, it becomes more difficult to implement these alternatives with the proposed shorter period between Nomination day and the October 24, 2022 Election day;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the City of Belleville send a letter to the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of the Attorney General urging that the Government of Ontario respect Ontario municipalities' ability to apply sound representative principles in their execution of elections; and,

THAT the Corporation of the City of Belleville Council recommends that the Government of Ontario supports the freedom of municipalities to run democratic elections within the existing framework the Act currently offers without amendment; and THAT this resolution be circulated to all Ontario Municipalities, AMO and AMCTO."

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,



Matt MacDonald  
Director of Corporate Services/City Clerk

MMacD/nh  
Pc: AMO

Todd Smith, MPP Prince Edward-Hastings  
Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings – Lennox & Addington  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Minister of the Attorney General  
Councillor Kelly, City of Belleville  
Councillor Thompson, City of Belleville  
Ontario Municipalities

**Lesley Donnelly**

**From:**  
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**To:**  
**Subject:**

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AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>  
 November 9, 2020 6:01 PM  
 Becky Jamieson  
 Two AMO Webinars: mental health support and AODA, digital contact tracing solutions

**Follow Up Flag:**  
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November 9, 2020

**The "Echo" Pandemic:  
 Supporting Employee Mental Health in the Wake of COVID-19**

**REGISTER TODAY**

The mental health of your employees is at risk from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact in the coming months will be felt by organizations as ongoing mental health issues hurt productivity, and increase absence and disability costs. And yet, employers are seeing that the mental health programs they have in place are not doing the job of effectively supporting employees and containing costs.

AMO has partnered with BEACON, Canada's leading digital mental health provider, that delivers cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) digitally, with one-on-one guidance of a registered therapist. The service is important for improving access to mental health care as it avoids the wait times and other barriers to receiving mental health support when needed. The convenience of the BEACON platform is that it provides therapy through a user's smartphone, tablet, or computer – from wherever and whenever they are most comfortable.

On Thursday, November 12 at noon (ET), join BEACON for a complimentary webinar. Anthony Sam, Business Development Director from BEACON, will describe the critical principles your municipality should embrace to help your employees protect, nurture, and improve their mental health in the post-COVID reality. You will also hear about the Town of Whitby's experience implementing the BEACON platform.

**Agenda**

- Introduction and Overview of the AMO-BEACON partnership (AMO)

- Advancing Mental Health Principles and the BEACON platform (BEACON)
- Panel with the Town of Whitby (AMO, Town of Whitby)
- Q&A session

**REGISTER TODAY**

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**Keeping up with Ontario Legislation:  
Digital Solutions to Support Your Municipality**

**REGISTER TODAY**

With 2020 quickly coming to a close, now is the time to ensure you're meeting all current and upcoming Government of Ontario mandates. To help, AMO is partnering with eSolutionsGroup and GHD to deliver an educational, 1-hour presentation highlighting available products and services for the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA) legislation deadline of January 1, 2021 and mandatory screening requirements to help you effectively screen, track and detect COVID-19.

This will include:

- Available services, from training and website audits, to document remediation services to help your municipality be fully compliant with the January 1, 2021 AODA deadline.
- Cost-effective contact tracing and appointment scheduling platforms: Learn about ways to keep staff and visitors safe at your municipal offices through cost-effective and easy to implement solutions such as online appointment booking and contact screening and tracing tools.
- Advanced solutions: From wearable technology that can help your staff know if they're too close to others, or if they've come into contact with COVID-19 cases, to waste water testing that can detect COVID-19 three days before symptoms appear, these advanced solutions can help organizations combat COVID-19.

Join us on Thursday, November 26 at noon (ET) to learn more.

**Agenda**

- Introduction and Overview of AMO-eSolutionsGroup Partnership and Government of Ontario directives (AMO)
- AODA and Available Services (eSolutionsGroup)
- Cost-effective contact tracing and appointment scheduling platforms (eSolutionsGroup)
- Advanced COVID solutions (GHD)



**TOWNSHIP OF EAST GARAFRAXA**

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EAST GARAFRAXA • ON • L9W 7J8

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[www.eastgarafraxa.ca](http://www.eastgarafraxa.ca)

November 11, 2020

County of Wellington  
Donna Bryce, Clerk  
74 Woolwich Street  
Guelph, ON N1H 3T9  
[donnab@wellington.ca](mailto:donnab@wellington.ca)

Date:	12/11/2020
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Attention: Donna Bryce,

RE: Resolution of Support - Assessment Methodologies for Aggregate Resource Properties

At the October 27, 2020 special electronic meeting of Council, the following resolution was passed:

**Moved by Pinkney, Seconded by Nevills**

**Be it Resolved that:**

WHEREAS previous assessment methodologies for aggregate resource properties valued areas that were used for aggregate resources or gravel pits at industrial land rates on a per acre basis of the total site and such properties were formally classified and taxed as industrial lands; and

WHEREAS *Township of East Garafraxa* Council supports a fair and equitable assessment system for all aggregate resource properties; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation determined, with the participation only of the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, revised criteria for assessing aggregate resource properties; and

WHEREAS *Township of East Garafraxa* Council has concerns that the revised criteria does not fairly assess the current value of the aggregate resource properties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council does not consider the revised criteria for assessment of aggregate resource properties as a fair method of valuation for these properties; and

(b) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council believes there is a need to review the current assessment scheme for aggregate resource properties to address the inequity of property values; and

(c) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council hereby calls upon the Province to work with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to address the assessment issue so that aggregate resource properties are assessed for their industrial value; and

(d) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council direct the Clerk to provide a copy of this motion to the Ministers of Finance; Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Natural Resources and Forestry; and to AMO, ROMA, and all Ontario municipalities and local MPP(s). **CARRIED.**

Trusting you will find this satisfactory.

Regards,



Susan M. Stone, AMCT  
CAO/Clerk-Treasurer  
Corporation of the  
Township of East Garafraxa

Cc: Honorable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance [rod.phillips@pc.ola.org](mailto:rod.phillips@pc.ola.org)  
Honorable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing [steve.clark@pc.ola.org](mailto:steve.clark@pc.ola.org)  
Honorable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry [john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org](mailto:john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org)  
Kyle Seeback, Dufferin-Caledon MP [Kyle.Seeback@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Kyle.Seeback@parl.gc.ca)  
Sylvia Jones, Dufferin-Caledon MPP [sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org)  
AMO [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)  
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Ontario Municipalities

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**Lesley Donnelly**

**From:** AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** November 12, 2020 10:01 AM  
**To:** Becky Jamieson  
**Subject:** AMO WatchFile - November 12, 2020

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**AMO**  
**watchfile**



November 12, 2020

### In This Issue

- Seeking expressions of interest for 2 municipal staff vacancies on AMO Board.
- Accessible municipal websites.
- New Inclusive Community Grant: Applications open.
- ROMA 2021: Request for delegation meetings is open!
- ROMA 2021: Exhibitor information now available.
- The "Echo" Pandemic: Supporting employee mental health in wake of COVID-19.
- Keeping up with Ontario legislation: Digital solutions to support your municipality.
- LAS procurement goes digital.
- AMO's Business Services help you work better.
- Group Buying Webinars: Last ones for 2020!
- Investments 101 - Online training.
- Technation's Municipal Cybersecurity Best Practices event.
- Career with AMO.

### AMO Matters

There are 2 vacancies on the AMO Board: staff positions on Rural and Large Urban Caucuses. Details about qualifications and appointment process are [here](#). Deadline, including Council resolution, is November 30.

Need an AODA compliant municipal website in time for January 1, 2021? AMO's partner [eSolutionsGroup](#) has you covered. eSolutionsGroup is [offering](#) members engaging and accessible websites on a budget. Contact [Karen Mayfield](#), eSolutionsGroup President, for more information.

### Provincial Matters

Through the new Inclusive Community Grant, municipalities and local organizations can receive up to \$60,000 for projects that facilitate community involvement for seniors and persons with disabilities. Applications will be accepted until December 21, 2020. For more information and to apply, visit the [Ontario website](#).

## **Eye on Events**

Delegates attending the [2021 ROMA Conference](#) can now [request their virtual delegation meetings](#) with ministers or parliamentary assistants at the ROMA conference. You must be a registered delegate to participate in these meetings.

Put your products and services front and centre at the 2021 ROMA Conference for rural municipal decision makers. Exhibitor information is [now available](#) - register today!

The mental health of your employees is at risk from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Join [AMO's partner BEACON](#) for a [complimentary webinar](#) on November 12 at noon (ET), which will describe the critical principles municipalities should embrace to help employees protect and improve their mental health in a post-COVID reality.

AMO's partner [eSolutionsGroup](#) is hosting a complimentary webinar on available products and services for the AODA legislation deadline of January 1, 2021 and digital solutions to help you screen, track and detect COVID-19. [Join us on November 26](#) at noon for more information.

## **LAS**

LAS is improving its purchasing efficiency by switching to eSolutions' [Bids&Tenders eProcurement](#) platform. LAS bids undertaken on behalf of the municipal sector will now be managed online. We will continue to use MERX when co-posting bids with our sister associations across Canada. Check out our [Bid Opportunities page](#) for more information.

Overburdened by procurement and trying to find the best products? As AMO's business arm, LAS offers municipalities a [range of programs and services](#) designed to help. From Administration and Commodities to Energy, Asset, and Digital services, we've got you covered. Make LAS your go-to municipal partner.

[Municipal Group Buying Program](#) webinars: [Join us November 18](#) to hear from CDW about technology offerings to keep municipalities working efficiently. [Join us December 2](#) when Grainger and Motion Industries present on fire equipment, including bunker gear and rescue equipment. Watch for more webinars in 2021!

## **ONE Investment**

Learn at your pace from your place in 2020 [by registering online](#) for the Investments 101 course. The course is developed to educate municipal staff on the fundamentals of investing and discusses options available to municipalities under the [Legal List](#) and [Prudent Investor Standard](#).

## **Municipal Wire\***

If you are a municipal leader interested in improving the cybersecurity resilience of your community, [register for Technation's Municipal Cybersecurity Best Practices](#) event on November 20, 1 pm to 4 pm (ET). This is a complimentary event and participation is capped at 100. Save your seat!

## **Careers**

Policy Intern - AMO. Assisting senior advisors and the Director of Policy, the successful candidate will support AMO's policy development process. Please apply in confidence to: [careers@amo.on.ca](mailto:careers@amo.on.ca) by Friday, December 18, 2020 at 12 noon.

### 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](https://twitter.com/AMOPolicy) on Twitter!

### AMO Contacts

[AMO Watch File](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#) Tel: 416.729.5425

[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)

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Meeting Date:	
Action:	null
Notes:	CII
Copies to:	

November 12, 2020

MPP Will Bouma  
 96 Nelson Street, Suite 101  
 Brantford, ON N3T 2X1

Sent via email: [will.bouma@pc.ola.org](mailto:will.bouma@pc.ola.org)

Dear MPP Bouma:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council at its Special meeting held November 10, 2020 passed the following resolution:

### **Bill 218 - Ranked Ballots for Municipal Elections**

WHEREAS Bill 218 – “Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020” removes the option for municipalities to choose the ranked ballot system for an election; and

WHEREAS in 2016 the Ontario Provincial Government gave municipalities the tools to use Ranked Balloting in Municipal elections commencing in 2018, which was deployed in the City of London thereby becoming the first Municipality in Canada to make the switch, while Cambridge and Kingston both passed referendums in favour of reform and Burlington, Barrie, Guelph, Meaford and others are now exploring a change as well; and

WHEREAS the change of election method process does not impact the Provincial election models but greatly impacts a Municipalities execution options; and

WHEREAS the only explanation given for this is that we should not be ‘experimenting’ with the electoral process during a pandemic mindful that ranked ballot voting is not an experiment but widely used throughout the world and should be a local option that Municipalities can look to utilize in the next election which is just under two years away

WHEREAS Bill 218 also moves up the Municipal nomination date from the end of July to mid September for no apparent reason thereby reinforcing the power of incumbency and potentially discouraging broader participation in municipal elections; and

WHEREAS these changes are being proposed without any consultation with AMO, Municipalities or the public;

## NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to submit the following comments on behalf of the Council of the City of Brantford to the Province of Ontario with respect to the proposed changes to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*:
- i. Council does not support the proposed changes to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, specifically related to the removal of the option for a municipality to hold a ranked ballot election;
  - ii. Council does support the principle that each Municipality should be able to choose whether or not to use first-past-the-post or a ranked ballot election; and
  - iii. Council encourages the Provincial government to meaningfully consult with Municipalities on municipal issues before introducing legislative changes of this magnitude; and
- B. THAT the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of this resolution to MPP Will Bouma, Premier Doug Ford, and the list of other Municipalities and include a request to delay the decision until such a time that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Large Urban Mayor's Caucus of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and comments from Municipalities have been collected and submitted to the Province.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Tanya Daniels  
City Clerk  
[tdaniels@brantford.ca](mailto:tdaniels@brantford.ca)

cc: Hon. D. Ford, Premier of Ontario  
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario;  
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities;  
Large Urban Mayor's Caucus of Ontario;  
All Ontario Municipalities

**From:** [AMCTO | The Municipal Experts](#)  
**To:** [Brock Clerks](#)  
**Subject:** Advocacy Update – Bill 218 and Ontario Fall 2020 Budget  
**Date:** November 13, 2020 10:02:02 AM

Update on advocacy efforts for Bill 218 and key Budget takeaways  
 View this email in your [browser](#).



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November 13, 2020

## Advocacy Update – Bill 218 and Ontario Fall 2020 Budget

### Bill 218: *Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020*

On Monday, November 9, Bill 218 went through **clause-by-clause review** at the Standing Committee on Justice Policy. In consideration of Schedule 2 of the Bill (that amends the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*), as expected, much of the attention was on clauses that remove municipal authority to choose to use Ranked Ballot Voting (RBV).

While there were at least three proposed amendments brought forward by Opposition members to the Rank Ballot sections of the Bill, they were all defeated. While AMCTO did not take a position on these specific changes, we did raise our concerns over the proposed changes to move nomination day.

With regard to nomination day, AMCTO expressed to the Government that changing the date to the "second Friday in September from the fourth Friday in July," would have significant impacts on our members' ability to deliver effective election services. We have advocated this position numerous

times – first by [writing to Ministers Clark and Downey](#), second by making a submission to the Standing Committee, and finally by having ongoing conversations with ministry staff.

In recognition of these proposed impacts to our members, the Government introduced an amendment at Standing Committee which was carried: nomination day is now proposed to move to the 3rd Friday in August. While AMCTO maintains that the new proposed nomination date still puts undue pressure on election administrators, this amendment does provide a few more weeks time to deliver election services. Given the time allocation motion currently applied to the Bill, it is expected that the Bill will move to Legislature for Third Reading on November 16.

As we all look towards the 2022 municipal election cycle, based on what we're hearing from members, we expect that clerks' departments may incur additional costs in order to carry out election activities, particularly those related to using alternative voting methods (telephone, internet, mail-in etc). We would ask those tracking additional costs incurred as a result of this change, to please [share this information with us](#) so that we can analyze and continue to monitor the impact of this measure.

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### Ontario Fall 2020 Budget

The Budget was built around three themes: protect, support and recover, and provides a three-year outlook with a few scenarios of what Ontario's fiscal situation could look like.

Ontario is projecting a \$38.5 billion deficit for 2020-2021, as a result of COVID-19. Depending on the pace of economic growth, the deficit could shrink over the next three years, however, the Province could be projecting a significant deficit (approximately \$28.2 - \$33.4 billion depending on the economic scenario) going into the 2022 provincial election year.

We have [already blogged](#) about several measures announced as part of the Fall 2020 Budget.

The Minister also introduced **Bill 229: Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020**, containing 44 Schedules that would make amendments to several Acts.

#### **Some of the more significant proposals are outlined below:**

The Bill would amend the *Conservation Authorities Act* to add further accountability and transparency measures including:

- A section that requires persons appointed to conservation authorities to be municipal councillors.
- A section on duties of members to act honestly and in good faith on behalf of municipalities where members are appointed by participating municipalities.
- A section that requires agendas and meeting minutes of the authority and executive committees to be made public and posted to the authority's website.

In addition, the Bill would allow the Minister to appoint a representative from the agricultural sector. Conservation Authorities would continue to be responsible for providing programs and services to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals.

#### **For treasurer members in particular:**

There are several proposed amendments to various legislation including the *Assessment Act*, and the *Municipal Act*, to enact proposed changes to property tax assessment for some businesses.

As mentioned in our [budget blog post](#), in 2021, municipalities will have the ability to reduce property taxes for certain small businesses via a new 'small business' property tax class.

Some consideration will have to be given as to the definition of small business used by

municipalities to ensure that this measure provides the support intended — particularly as there is a provincial commitment to consider matching these reductions. A [2018 City of Toronto staff report on Tax Policy Tools to Support Businesses](#) identified some considerations for implementing such a measure.

Additionally, the Bill proposes to extend property tax exemptions that already apply to land that is used and occupied as a memorial home, clubhouse or athletic grounds by an Ontario branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, units of the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans in Canada.

The Bill also proposes to allow municipalities to elect whether or not to have a vacant unit program — provided they pass a bylaw and unless otherwise prescribed or defined in the *Municipal Act*.

Municipalities are also given several options respecting the requirements of their programs.

Overall, AMCTO is encouraged to see that the budget **maintains the OMPF funding envelope, continues investments in broadband and modernizing government process and procedures** — all of which are measures that align with our pre-budget submission.

---

For more information or to get involved in our advocacy efforts, please contact:

**Alana Del Greco**

Manager, Policy and Government Relations

[adelgreco@amcto.com](mailto:adelgreco@amcto.com)



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