



Correspondence Items Presented for Information February 24, 2025

- 1) Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Re:
 - a) Policy update – Statement on trade and update on provincial election advocacy.
 - b) Policy update – Provincial election tracking and guidance for municipal energy decisions.
 - c) Policy update – Action on tariffs and trade.
 - d) Policy update – Weekly provincial election tracking update.
 - e) Advocacy update – 2025 provincial election party platform briefing notes.
- 2) Correspondence from the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Re: Support for Canadian and Ontario Government negotiations with U.S. Government on trade tariffs.

Statement on Trade and Update on Provincial Election Advocacy

Policy Update • February 03, 2025

Statement on Tariffs, Trade Disruptions and Migration

Ontario's local economies, our natural and human resources as well as the businesses and industries situated in Ontario municipalities are the foundation of Ontario's economy. These elements are fundamental to the national economy and Canada's prosperity.

On December 9, 2024, AMO wrote to the Prime Minister, Ontario's Premier and leaders of the official federal and provincial opposition pledging the support of AMO and its members to assist Canada and Ontario in the face of challenge and uncertainty.

Tariffs and international trade disruptions have the potential to seriously harm Ontario's economy. Other changes in American policy and practices affecting immigration and social policy could create mass migration of American residents seeking the safety and protection afforded by Canada, with massive resource implications for municipalities in Ontario.

AMO and its members stand ready to play our part in protecting our shared social and economic prosperity in Ontario and Canada.

AMO's Provincial Election Campaign

While we collectively turn our eyes toward the real threats we face from outside our borders, AMO and its members must also consider the long-standing challenges we face closer to home.

With an early election in Ontario now underway, AMO's efforts to promote the interests of municipalities in the election will enter its second phase with additional print ads in the days ahead and continued social and digital media postings.

The campaign was launched at the ROMA conference and has garnered considerable notice. The ultimate purpose of the campaign is to ensure that all parties understand that the voice of Ontario's \$68 billion-a-year municipal sector will not be silent in an important debate on Ontario's future.

Since the launch of the campaign on January 19, AMO has received considerable positive feedback from members and some expressions of concern. The impartiality of the campaign has been questioned by some members. The media has asked if it is possible to have an impartial campaign when one party has been governing for more than 6 years.

Through months of planning, the commitment to a non-partisan campaign has been at the forefront of every discussion at the AMO Board. The campaign asks voters to consider the needs of their communities when voting. All parties have the opportunity to compete for their vote by making commitments that help municipalities succeed.

The challenges faced by communities that are caused by provincial policies are complex and caused by both long-standing, historical arrangements and by recent actions and inactions.

No party or individual government is to blame for decades of provincial policies that undermine the social and economic prosperity of Ontario's communities. However, provincial policies that result in declining infrastructure investment, higher property taxes and homelessness in your communities are both bad social policy and bad economic policy. These policies will need to be addressed by whoever forms the next government of Ontario.

AMO is steadfastly non-partisan and looks forward to working with whoever the people elect to form the next Government. These efforts are intended to ensure that whatever party is selected to govern, it will have made clear and measurable commitments to the success of municipalities in every part of Ontario.

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AMO Policy Update – Provincial Election Tracking and Guidance for Municipal Energy Decisions

AMO Election Tracking Update

AMO is currently tracking provincial election commitments made public in 2025 that relate to [AMO's election advocacy](#) on their [website](#). Recent announcements on our election priorities from this week on the campaign are listed below. Please consult each party's website and local candidate communications for the full party commitments.

Tackle root causes of homelessness

- The NDP announced their strategy to end encampments in Ontario.
- The Liberal Party committed to permanently double Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits and index them to inflation.
- The Green Party supported AMO's calls for long-term housing solutions that would end homelessness and committed to doubling Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW) rates and tie all future increases to inflation.

Curb reliance on municipal property taxes to fund provincial responsibilities

- The NDP committed to uploading shelter funding to the province.

Invest in local infrastructure needed to grow

- The PC Party committed to investing an additional \$22 billion in infrastructure projects.

AMO will be providing updates to our tracking of commitments every Friday until election day on February 27.

AMO Releases Guidance for Municipal Energy Decisions

Municipalities have an increasingly important role in hosting electricity projects to meet a projected 75% increase in electricity demand and to support the use of Ontario's energy exports as a key lever in tariff and trade negotiations.

To empower municipalities in this role, AMO has released new guidance resources:

- [The Municipal Electricity Procurement Toolkit](#) provides guidance to help municipal decision makers protect residents, sensitive lands, and municipal finances while securing local benefits and supporting growth.
- [Guidance for energy developers](#) outlines how they can effectively partner with municipalities to support smooth project review and implementation.

Developed with input from municipalities experienced in energy projects, the provincial government, Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), and other energy sector partners, this guidance is timely because energy developers have begun to engage with municipalities about the upcoming [Long-Term 2 Energy Procurement](#) ("LT2"). Developers pursuing energy stream projects (e.g. renewable energy generation, natural gas, etc.) must have municipal support by October 2025, and for the capacity stream (e.g. battery energy storage systems) by December 2025.

This policy update is also available on [AMO's Website](#).



AMO Policy Update – Action on Tariffs and Trade

Tariffs and trade disruptions have the potential to seriously harm Ontario's economy with significant impacts on communities. Ontario's municipalities want to do their part. To support broader federal and provincial efforts, AMO has:

- Highlighted Ontario municipalities commitment to playing our part in protecting our shared prosperity in Ontario and Canada by [writing](#) to the Prime Minister, the Premier of Ontario and federal and provincial opposition leaders in early December 2024;
- Reaffirming and strengthening this commitment through [a statement issued by AMO's Board of Directors in January](#), noting that changes in US immigration and social policy could trigger migration with massive implications for municipal resources; and
- Calling on the Ontario government to work with AMO to effectively harness [municipal procurement](#) as a tool in federal and provincial tariff responses.

AMO is focused on making the case for Ontario municipalities as a critical part of stimulus efforts, including the need for federal and provincial investments to:

- Mitigate cost escalation on municipal capital projects to continue to ensure continuity for the construction sector and related industries;
- Increase and repair social housing stock in the face of excess residential construction capacity and growing housing need; and
- Offset broader fiscal impacts on the municipal sector of potential economic slowdown.



AMO Policy Update – Weekly Provincial Election Tracking Update

AMO is currently tracking provincial election commitments made public that relate to [AMO's election advocacy](#) on their [website](#). Please consult each party's website and local candidate communications for full party commitments.

Updates from this week include:

- The [Northern Ontario Leaders' Debate](#) was broadcast live and included questions related to each of AMO's election priorities.
- The Green Party released their platform and costing which included key commitments in each of AMO's priority areas.

Our [election tracking webpage](#) has been updated with new commitments.

This policy update is also available on [AMO's Website](#).

Support our *Functional Foundations* in advance of the Provincial election on February 27

View this email [in your browser](#).



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Advocacy Update

Learn more about our work as we advocate on behalf of AMCTO members

February 19, 2025

2025 Provincial Election Party Platform Briefing Notes

In case you missed it, we released *Functional Foundations* — our 2025 Provincial election priorities report and accompanying advocacy toolkit for members. Over this short campaign period and following the election, we will be advocating that the Province:

- Commits to a Social and Economic Prosperity Review
- Provides municipalities with stable, predictable funding and investment that matches the cost and value of service delivery
- Creates a modern legislative environment
- Enables a municipal culture that protects and supports staff

We encourage members to help us spread the word about these priorities in advance of the election on February 27, 2025.

After tracking party commitments over the last few weeks, we have put together the following major party platform briefing notes outlining municipal-related commitments made to date. How do our provincial election priorities align with party commitments? What can we expect from the next elected Government? Read our briefing notes below for details.

[DOWNLOAD BRIEFING NOTES](#)

We have added these briefing notes to our member toolkit and encourage you to share these resources with your team members, council, and provincial candidates in your region.

This is an opportune time for us to come together as a sector to ensure municipalities and municipal professionals have access to the tools, resources, and support needed to effectively serve residents and communities.

For more information or questions, please [contact our advocacy team](#).



AMCTO | The Municipal Experts

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Resolution: EOWC Support of Canadian and Ontario Governments' Negotiations with the United States Government on Trade Tariffs

Moved by: Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden of the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville
Seconded by: Steve Ferguson, Vice-Chair, EOWC / Mayor of Prince Edward County

Whereas the Canadian government is currently in negotiations with the United States (U.S.) government on their proposed 25% tariffs on Canadian goods exported to the U.S.; and

Whereas Canada's Prime Minister and Ontario's Premier have outlined several plans to combat the impact that the proposed tariffs would have on Ontario which focus on strengthening trade between Ontario and the U.S. while bringing jobs back home for workers on both sides of the border; and

Whereas the Canadian government has also outlined several ways to address the current relationship with the U.S. including establishing the Council on Canada-U.S. relations to support the federal government as it negotiates with the U.S. on tariffs; and

Whereas trade between Ontario and the U.S. is very important to our residents and local economies, and requires all levels of government to work together in the best interest of those residents; and

Whereas according to data from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, across Ontario municipalities are expected to spend between \$250 and \$290 billion on infrastructure in the next 10 years; and

Whereas Ontario municipalities have traditionally treated trade partners equally and fairly in all procurements in accordance with our established international trade treaties; and

Whereas municipalities play a crucial role as part of the Team Canada approach to combat tariffs and support businesses in our procurement for capital and infrastructure programs; and

Whereas there are trade barriers between Canadian provinces and territories.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus supports the Canadian and Ontario governments on the measures they have put in-place in response to the proposed U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods and ask that they take any and all measures to protect the interests of Ontario in any upcoming trade negotiations, and ensure municipalities are part of the coordinated Team Canada approach;

And that the Canadian and Ontario governments remove any impediments to municipalities preferring Canadian companies and services for capital projects and other supplies;

And that the Canadian and Ontario governments take action to remove trade barriers between provinces as a response to U.S. tariffs and support Canadian businesses;

And that the Canadian and Ontario governments remove all legislative barriers that impact the ability to buy local, and indemnify municipalities should there be challenges to buying Canadian;

And that the Canadian and Ontario governments continue to invest in infrastructure to provide stability, jobs, and support our communities' social and economic prosperity over the long-term.

Be it further resolved, that copies of this motion be sent to:

- The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- The Hon. Nate Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- Doug Ford, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party
- Marit Stiles, Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party
- Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
- Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Ontario Green Party
- Ontario's Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Rebecca Bligh, President, FCM and Councillor, City of Vancouver
- Robin Jones, President, AMO and Mayor of Westport
- Christa Lowry, Chair, Rural Ontario Municipal Association
- Jeff Leal, Chair, Eastern Ontario Leadership Council
- John Beddows, Chair, Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus
- All regional Members of Canadian Parliament
- All candidates running as Ontario Members of Parliament
- All of Ontario's municipalities for their support

Carried

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Clark".

Chair Bonnie Clark, EOWC

February 10, 2025