

MEMBER COMMUNICATION

ALERT N°: 07-036

To the attention of the Clerk and Council
July 5, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Laurel McCosham, Policy Advisor
(416) 971-9856 ext 315

AMO Report to Members on June 2007 Board Meeting

To keep members informed, AMO continues to provide updates to its members on important issues considered at regular meetings of the AMO Board of Directors. Highlights of the June 2007 Board meeting follow:

- **Update on Status of Transportation Standard under the AODA**

The Board received an update from London Transit on the status of Transportation Standard developed under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. While it was acknowledged that transit is supportive of the AODA and accessibility, the sector is concerned that the Standard, as it is currently written, will be prohibitively expensive for some jurisdictions.

The Board directed staff to prepare an Alert, requesting AMO member municipalities to participate in the public consultation process once the Standard is released. AMO will also be preparing a response to the Standard.

- **AMO Discussion Paper on Social Housing**

The Board of Directors approved the framework for an AMO Discussion Paper on Social Housing. The paper will tie into the AMO Principles for Housing in Ontario which support an upload of social housing costs and service delivery based on local accountability, integration, flexibility and innovation. The paper will be formally presented at the AMO Conference.

Contact: Petra Wolfbeiss, Senior Policy Advisor, email: pwolfbeiss@amo.on.ca; ext: 329

- **AMO Advocacy Paper "Poverty and the Property Tax Burden in Ontario"**

The Board approved the AMO Advocacy Paper, "Poverty and the Property Tax Burden in Ontario" which will be presented at the AMO Conference in August. The paper highlights the impact of current municipal-provincial fiscal arrangements (and the resulting high property taxes) on low income families and seniors.

Contact: Laurel McCosham, Policy Advisor, email: lmccosham@amo.on.ca; ext: 315

- **Municipal Energy Plan Template**

The municipal energy plan template, created by AMO's Energy Conservation and Smart Meters Task Force, was approved in principle by the Board. The template is designed for facilities managers to allow them to structure their energy management initiatives, and measure energy consumption and conservation efforts. It will be available to members in the near future.

Contact: Craig Reid, Senior Policy Advisor, email: creid@amo.on.ca; ext: 334

- **Waste Electronics and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) and Waste Strategy Announcement**

The Board received a report on the recent announcement from the Minister of the Environment designating electronics as the first full extended producer responsibility program in Ontario. The Board also received the Ministry's proposed Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) on Waste Management Planning, which was developed in response to AMO's request for an integrated waste management policy framework for Ontario.

Contact: Milena Avramovic, Senior Policy Advisor, email: milena@amo.on.ca; ext: 342

- **Mining Resolution**

The Board considered a resolution from Lanark County regarding mining activities on private lands for which the Crown controls the mineral rights. The resolution calls on the Government to reunite surface and mining rights. Members of the Board noted that this issue is a problem not just in Eastern Ontario but in all parts of the province. Endorsing the resolution, the Board directed staff to transmit it to both the Minister of Northern Development and Mines and the Premier.

Contact: Laurel McCosham, Policy Advisor, email: lmccosham@amo.on.ca; ext: 315

This information is available in the Policy Issues section of the AMO website at www.amo.on.ca.

MEMBER COMMUNICATION

ALERT N°: 07/039

To the attention of the Clerk and Council
July 5, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Craig Reid, AMO Senior Policy Advisor
(416) 971-9856 ext 334

Province Proclaims the Clean Water Act – Municipal Government Action is Required

Issue: On July 3, 2007, the *Clean Water Act* was proclaimed and the regulations regarding the preparation of Source Protection Plans came into force.

Background:

The *Clean Water Act*, which received Royal Assent on October 19, 2006, requires the creation Source Protection Plans to address threats to drinking water sources. The Act requires Source Protection Committees composed of municipalities, land owners, industry and the public to study drinking water source threats and to develop Source Protection Plans for their communities.

On July 3, 2007 the Act and the regulations identifying Source Protection Areas and constituent municipalities came into effect. The first phase of the planning process will now begin with the grouping of municipalities and nomination of members to the Source Protection Committees. Municipalities have the ability to appoint $\frac{1}{3}$ of the members to each committee for their Source Protection Area.

Appointment Process:

The government has amended the Source Protection Committees Regulation to allow the Source Protection Authorities (SPA) to divide the municipalities that are located in whole or in part within the source protection area/region into groups in an effort to streamline the appointment process and make municipal representation more effective.

The SPAs are required to consult with municipalities on how to develop the groups to ensure that representation is fair and effective across the watershed. Municipalities and source protection authorities have approximately 60 days after the Act and its regulations have come into effect to develop groups within the source protection area/region.

After 60 days, by September 3, 2007, the SPA must provide notification to the Clerks of municipal councils within the source protection area/region. The notice will include:

- A description of the functions of the source protection committee;
- A summary of the obligations of committee members;
- The municipal groups that have been determined through a negotiated process with municipalities to select members;
- The number of municipal representatives each group must select;
- The date by which a joint list must be sent by the group(s) to the source protection authority.

Member Communication

From the date the notice is sent to the Clerks, each group of municipalities will then have an approximately 60 days to work together and pass council resolutions that provide a list of potential municipal representatives to the source protection authority. The SPA would then appoint these people as the municipal representatives on the committee.

Once the committees are appointed, work will begin on the creation of terms of reference to guide the work of each committee and the source protection planning process.

Action:

It is recommended that each municipality contact their source protection area to begin discussing appropriate municipal groupings and the nomination process. Further information may be found at the Ministry of the Environment website at: www.ontario.ca/cleanwater. A copy of the regulations can also be found on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry, www.ebr.gov.on.ca, EBR reference number 010-0122.

This information is available in the Policy Issues section of the AMO website at www.amo.on.ca.