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To: Mary Birch
Subject: AMO Policy Update - Ontario Government's Speech from the Throne

July 12, 2018

Ontario Government's Speech from the Throne

At Queen's Park, the Lieutenant Governor, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, read the Throne Speech outlining the Progressive Conservative government's legislative objectives. The new provincial government is seeking to deliver quickly on key actions discussed during the campaign.

Priorities of interest to municipal governments include:

- Respect for our municipal partners. Actions will include:
 - partnering with Toronto/GTA municipalities to build a world-class transit system;
 - addressing the transportation needs of other Ontario urban centres; and
 - respecting the wishes of rural municipalities by putting an end to unfair, unaffordable green energy contracts that have been imposed on them over local objections.
- Balanced budget on a timetable that is responsible, modest, and pragmatic;
- Action to reduce gas prices and lower hydro bills;
- Scraping the cap-and-trade carbon tax;
- Health care investments including 15,000 new long-term care beds and new \$3.8 billion for mental health and addictions, including supportive housing;
- Police services to have the tools, support, and resources they need;
- Expansion of sale of beer and wine to convenience, grocery, and big box stores.

To date, AMO President Lynn Dollin has written to congratulate the Premier, Cabinet Ministers, and Parliamentary Assistants. In these introductory letters, she highlighted what AMO, and our members, bring to assist the Province with their new responsibilities and the importance of working together. Using the strength and local knowledge of our members, AMO brings practical advice and front-line information to Queen's Park.

Among the priority issues for AMO and its membership are early discussions with Ministers on:

- Cannabis including the current excise tax sharing agreement;
- Legislative protection for double hatters;
- Moving forward on Bilateral Agreement programs for infrastructure and Housing;
- Continuing toward full producer responsibility for waste diversion;
- *Police Services Act* next steps with a municipal funders' lens;
- Joint and Several liability changes; and
- Reduction of provincial red tape, regulatory burden and unnecessary reporting requirements placed on municipal governments.

We look forward to soon welcoming all the provincial Leaders, Cabinet Ministers, and MPPs to the AMO Conference in Ottawa August 19th – 22nd.

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