

February 27, 2024

Sent via email

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

Re: Social and Economic Prosperity Review

Dear Premier,

I am writing on behalf of the [Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario \(AMCTO\)](#) to inform you that AMCTO supports AMO's call for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review.

For over 85 years, AMCTO has maintained a productive relationship with government by helping ensure the professional expertise and local understanding of our members is utilized to improve existing and/or new legislation, policy and programs in service of Ontarians.

The current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining the social and economic prosperity of Ontario.

Current arrangements make it impossible for municipalities to invest in the infrastructure needed to support housing and economic growth, or to prepare for the impacts of climate change. They challenge municipalities' ability to provide the critical services – from long-term care to land-use planning, energy to emergency services – that make Ontario a great place to live, work and invest.

Property taxpayers, including small business owners and seniors on fixed incomes, can't afford to pay for the province's affordability and homelessness crisis and AMO has calculated that property taxpayers are subsidizing the Province to the tune of almost \$4 billion annually.

We believe the time is right for a province-wide conversation where municipalities and the province come together to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances province-wide.

AMO is calling on the provincial government to commit to this review as part of the upcoming budget, with a view to developing a consensus report with recommendations by 2025.

AMCTO supports this call.



AMCTO's Board of Directors approved the attached resolution at our February meeting given that this campaign directly relates to AMCTO's own advocacy priorities: ensuring municipal public servants can secure resilient futures for their communities through access to financial planning tools and resources, through the reduction of costs, and appropriate funding opportunities.

We join our colleague associations and Ontario's municipalities in calling on the Province to join Ontario's municipalities in this important initiative so that we can build a better Ontario.

Sincerely,

[Originally Signed by]

Stephen O'Brien, AOMC
President, AMCTO

Cc: Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Colin Best, AMO President

AMCTO Supports AMO's Call for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life.

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year.

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation.

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure.

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises.

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity.

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need.

WHEREAS AMCTO and the municipal sector has called for predictable long-term funding supports that are reflective of the value and cost of the services municipalities are expected to deliver.

WHEREAS AMCTO's foundational fiscal planning and resilience advocacy principle is about ensuring municipal public servants can secure resilient futures for their communities through access to financial planning tools and resources, through the reduction of costs, and appropriate funding opportunities.

WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities.

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario.



AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca); Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca); the Minister of Finance (minister.fin@ontario.ca); and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo@amo.on.ca).

Approved: February 23, 2024