

August 10, 2022

Honourable Steve Clark  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay St 17th Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 2C8

Dear Minister,

Our Association and our members watched with great interest your introduction of Bill 3, *Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act*, today in the Ontario Legislature.

As an organization that represents over 2,000 municipal staff including many Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and senior municipal leaders, our members are proud of the work they do for their councils and communities. CAOs and senior management provide professional management, leadership and non-partisan advice to municipal councils.

The changes proposed in Bill 3 run the significant risk of threatening the neutrality of the municipal public service and politicizing local government leadership. We are concerned with portions of the Bill, such as the mayoral powers to hire the CAO/certain department heads and restructure municipal departments. The Bill does little to enhance municipal accountability, with no evidence to even suggest that these proposed changes will help achieve the goals your government has provided as rationale for this legislation.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that AMCTO has long held the position that there remain opportunities to strengthen municipal administration through clarifying the roles and responsibilities between council and staff, and in particular the role of the CAO. What has been proposed in Bill 3 will do the very opposite, further blurring the lines between political and administrative responsibilities.

The November 2022 implementation of changes proposed by Bill 3 will cause additional administrative burden for municipalities, an issue of great importance to AMCTO and our members. While this burden will be experienced in many areas of the cities, it will be most pressing for those responsible for holding the municipal elections in October.

While the legislative solutions proposed in Bill 3 are concerning, what we believe is most disappointing is that no effort was made to consult associations like AMCTO when the interests and integrity of municipal professionals in large centres like Toronto and Ottawa is clearly being affected.



AMCTO would have welcomed the opportunity to lend our expertise and that of our members to a constructive dialogue to meet your government's objectives. As an Association whose mission is to support and strengthen the knowledge, skills and capabilities of municipal professionals, and in the spirit of collaboration, we want to discuss better legislative solutions.

We look forward to your response and will be following Bill 3 through the legislative process, continuing to strongly represent and communicate the interests of our members where appropriate.

Sincerely,

Elana Arthurs, CMO, AOMC  
President, AMCTO

CC: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Michelle Di Emmanuele, Secretary of Cabinet, Head of the Ontario Public Service  
Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister, MMAH  
Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, AMO