

## TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE CLERK AND COUNCIL

March 28, 2014

### AMO Report to Members

#### Highlights of the March 2014 Board Meeting

To keep members informed, AMO provides updates on important issues considered at regular AMO Board of Directors' meetings. Highlights of the March 2014 Board meeting include:

##### **Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)**

CASL was approved at the end of November 2013. The law applies to all commercial electronic messages (CEM), which includes emails, texts, voice, sound and instant messaging. AMO and other organizations have until July 1, 2014 to ensure that they are in compliance. All municipal governments are urged to review CASL with their corporate lawyer for their own services and operations so that any needed changes are in place prior to July 1, 2014. Enforcement by the CRTC is compliant driven and fines for organizations are up to \$10 million. Sending out any CEMs after July 1<sup>st</sup> will need either express or implied consent from the recipient. All CEMs must contain the senders contact information and an opt-out mechanism.

**Contact:** Nancy Plumridge, Director of Administration & Business Development, email: [nplumridge@amo.on.ca](mailto:nplumridge@amo.on.ca) Ext 324.

##### **Energy Task Force Update: Energy Pricing**

The Long Term Energy Plan and recent events make it clear that the rising energy costs are having a negative impact on economic development and households. The AMO Board will be corresponding with all three party leaders requesting they make reducing energy costs a priority. The letter will focus on getting more facts, improving governance of provincial level energy managers and deeper discussions on improved transmission, local generation, and the shoulder to shoulder delivery model. AMO members should continue to write their MPPs saying this is a vital issue for provincial action.

**Contact:** Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, email: [cathiebrown@amo.on.ca](mailto:cathiebrown@amo.on.ca), Ext. 342.

##### **Aggregates: Standing Committee Report**

Recently there was a Standing Committee review of the *Aggregates Resources Act* and a Ministry of Natural Resources response outlining their intended actions. AMO will follow up with the Minister of Natural Resources in support of improved information, communications and mapping, and better adherence to the planning process including all site plan amendments, when pits are reactivated and during rehabilitation. Members should be aware that potential fee increases will be considered by MNR in the near future.

**Contact:** Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, email: [cathiebrown@amo.on.ca](mailto:cathiebrown@amo.on.ca), Ext. 342.

##### **End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) Processing**

The Board approved AMO's response to the Ministry of the Environment's discussion paper on proposed regulatory changes that would apply new environmental standards to ELV processing.

AMO's response will include issues regarding the enforcement of the new regulations, abandoned ELV sites, proper disposal of hazardous liquids during ELV processing and the need for further discussion between the Province and stakeholders on ELV processing.

**Contact:** Nicholas Ruder, Policy Advisor, email: [nruder@amo.on.ca](mailto:nruder@amo.on.ca), Ext. 411.

### **Review of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act***

The Board was provided an update on two recent developments concerning the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA). First, the Province has commissioned an independent review to assess the effectiveness of the Act. Secondly, the Province is proposing changes to the Customer Service Standard. AMO will submit a response to provide input and feedback on both developments. AMO's Barrier Free Access Working Group will meet in April to consider a response.

**Contact:** Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, email: [mjacek@amo.on.ca](mailto:mjacek@amo.on.ca), Ext. 329.

### **MEPCO Update**

MEPCO Chair shared information on the 2013 investment return of 6.5% (gross), which resulted in a marginally improved funded status for the plan (from 85.6% to 88.2%) and a funding deficit of \$8.6 billion. Given continuing funding uncertainty and historically high blended contribution rates (21.38%), MEPCO remains focused on measures that would get the plan out of deficit mode sooner and to keep contribution rates from increasing. At its March 17, 2014 meeting, the MEPCO Board discussed the OMERS investment strategy with the new OMERS OAC Board Chair, George Cooke and approved MEPCO's 2014 Work Plan.

**Contact:** Bruce McLeod, MEPCO Staff, Email: [bmcleod@amo.on.ca](mailto:bmcleod@amo.on.ca), Ext. 350.

### **LAS Update**

LAS continues to provide value to the Ontario municipal sector. The LED Streetlight Retrofit Program has signed letters of intent with 33 municipalities with over 22,000 fixtures being upgraded. Natural gas prices are increasing significantly (40% or more) and are expected to remain high, whereas the LAS hedge price will remain at 15.9 cents/m<sup>3</sup> until Oct 2014 which is 20% lower. The LAS electricity hedge price of 2.83 cents/kwh is 8% lower than the default government pricing. 190 municipalities are using LAS's Energy Planning Tool in order to develop energy reports (Reg. 397-11) due July 1<sup>st</sup>. The One Investment Program continues to offer great returns for the Bond, Universe Corporate Bond, and Equity Portfolios. The LAS Group Benefits Program has 33 members who have realized savings on average of 12%. This week's Asset Management Symposium was extremely successful with approximately 200 in attendance. LAS has partnered with MFOA to offer asset management training over the next three years as it has growing importance to Councils and infrastructure funding mechanisms.

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### **2014 AMO Urban Symposium**

Only one week left to register for the upcoming 2014 AMO Urban Symposium "Connected Community" April 3 & 4, 2014 at the Waterloo Inn. Now in its seventh year of programming, this year's 1.5 day event will cover topics such as youth development, high-rise waste management,

transit, child care, urban food and more. Visit the AMO website [www.amo.on.ca](http://www.amo.on.ca) for complete details on the event.

**PLEASE NOTE** AMO Breaking News will be broadcast to the member municipality's council, administrator and clerk. Recipients of the AMO broadcasts are free to redistribute the AMO broadcasts to other municipal staff as required. We have decided to not add other staff to these broadcast lists in order to ensure accuracy and efficiency in the management of our various broadcast lists.

**DISCLAIMER** These are final versions of AMO documents. AMO assumes no responsibility for any discrepancies that may have been transmitted with the electronic version. The printed versions of the documents stand as the official record.