

Sent via e-mail: <u>mayor@hamilton.ca</u>

August 26, 2015

Mr. Fred Eisenberger Mayor City of Hamilton 71 Main Street West 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Toronto, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for sending us your report regarding the impacts of SAMS in the City of Hamilton.

AMO remains concerned about the SAMS implementation and is monitoring the situation closely. This matter is part of ongoing AMO work including our ongoing government relations efforts and, in particular, our efforts related to secure compensation for municipal governments and District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSABs) for all the short and long-term costs associated with the SAMS implementation until such time as the problems are fully resolved.

AMO's President has met with the Minister and corresponded on several occasions regarding SAMS. AMO has asked the Province to come up with a clear plan and to expend the necessary resources to fix the problems as soon as possible. Further, AMO has asked the Province to defer any new initiatives or work requirements until the system returns to a steady state of operations. AMO has also asked that municipal Service System Managers continue to be reimbursed for the post-implementation costs associated with SAMS. Our position is that it is neither fair nor reasonable that municipal governments bear the costs of the new provincial system, and the costs should not be considered as part of the 50-50 cost of administration.

For your council's information, the letters and AMO member communications related to SAMS are found <u>here</u>.

AMO will continue to monitor the situation and work with member municipalities, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) in order to assess the ongoing impacts of SAMS on social assistance operations.

AMO will bring forward your concerns and suggestions in our ongoing work with the Province.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Michael Jack

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