
From: Brouwer, Andrew
Sent: October-07-16 1:11 PM
To: Mayor Van Bynen
Cc: Moor, Linda
Subject: RE: Municipal Fiscal Gap - AMO Needs Your Support

Sure, no problem. Linda, FYI & inclusion on addendum.

From: Noble, Pat **On Behalf Of** Mayor Van Bynen
Sent: October-07-16 1:11 PM
To: Brouwer, Andrew
Cc: Mayor Van Bynen
Subject: FW: Municipal Fiscal Gap - AMO Needs Your Support

Hi Andrew

Mayor Van Bynen asks that you please place the council resolution in support of closing the municipal fiscal gap on an upcoming agenda – please and thank you.

Pat Noble

From: AMO Communications [<mailto:communicate@amo.on.ca>]
Sent: October-06-16 5:10 PM
To: Mayor Van Bynen
Subject: Municipal Fiscal Gap - AMO Needs Your Support

On behalf of the AMO Board, please find attached a letter from AMO President Lynn Dollin seeking your council's participation in two important ways:

- 1) by passing a council resolution in support of closing the municipal fiscal gap; and
- 2) by attending a *What's Next Ontario?* briefing near you.

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

OPT-OUT: If you wish to opt-out of these email communications from AMO please click [here](#).



October 6, 2016

Dear Members:

AMO Seeks Council Resolution of Support and Offers More What's Next Ontario? Briefings

On behalf of the AMO Board, I am seeking your council's participation in two important ways:

- 1) by passing a council resolution in support of closing the municipal fiscal gap; and
- 2) by attending a *What's Next Ontario?* briefing near you.

AMO wants every council to be involved in the *What's Next Ontario?* project. There is a looming fiscal gap facing Ontario's municipalities. *What's Next Ontario?* is about recognizing the gap and seeking sector support for closing it. The response has been impressive, but there's more to be done!

Additional Briefings

We want to thank the hundreds of municipal elected officials who have already attended the 25 in-person meetings and webinars AMO hosted across the province in the spring and fall. Be assured that your input is being heard and will be considered by the AMO Board. If you have participated already, thank you.

Haven't participated yet? We are offering additional in-person briefings in October and November that are open to all municipal elected officials and senior municipal staff:

- **Timmins, Ontario** – Tuesday, October 11, 2016 from 1-3 pm
- **Dryden, Ontario** – Wednesday, October 19, 2016 1-3 pm
- **Markham, Ontario** – Friday, October 28, 2016 from 9-11 am
- **Hamilton, Ontario** – Friday, October 28, 2016 from 2-4 pm
- **Cornwall, Ontario** – Thursday, November 3, 2016 from 9-11 am
- **Tweed, Ontario** – Thursday, November 3, 2016 from 3-5 pm

Sign up is easy, and can be done [here](#) or contact Evelyn Armogan at 416-971-9856 ext. 326 or earmogan@amo.on.ca. Can't participate in person? Sign up for our remaining webinar on Wednesday, October 12th.

Resolution

We've boiled down the essence of the challenge we face in the next ten years to a one-page resolution. We urge every council in Ontario to consider, adopt the resolution, and reply to AMO by December 1, 2016.

What does it say? We know Ontarians see infrastructure as the number one challenge facing their community. We know that even if we raise property taxes and user fees by inflation (1.8%), we will still be \$3.6 billion short to fix the infrastructure gap, every year for ten years. This is what we need to address. As elected officials, how do we deal with this challenge? What is the best approach? Ontarians already pay the highest property taxes in the country. How high is too high?

We could finance this gap by increasing property taxes. It would require property tax revenue increases of 4.6% annually for 10 years, sector-wide. And, what happens if the federal or provincial governments pull back on future commitments? We know that could mean property tax revenue increases of up to 8.35% annually for 10 years, sector-wide. How might these numbers translate locally as an annual rate increase?

We've made good strides on infrastructure in the last few years, but there is no long-term plan to finance the future needs of municipal governments as well as the local infrastructure Ontarians care about. Let's start doing that, together. The attached resolution below is a starting point.

There are issues which unite all municipal governments, and this is one of them. Where do we want to go together? This is an opportunity for you and councils to own what's next. We urge you to add your council's voice to the conversation.

I have also written directly to your clerk and provided a copy of the resolution. Please give this resolution council's consideration. If you have questions, please contact Matthew Wilson, Senior Advisor, mwilson@amo.on.ca, 416-971-9856 ext. 323.

Yours sincerely,



Lynn Dollin
AMO President

P.S. Check out the What's Next Ontario? section of the AMO website for links to AMO conference videos including Nik Nanos and Bill Hughes, our two papers, and other material.

WHAT'S NEXT ONTARIO? RESOLUTION

WHEREAS recent polling, conducted on behalf of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario indicates 76% of Ontarians are concerned or somewhat concerned property taxes will not cover the cost of infrastructure while maintaining municipal services, and 90% agree maintaining safe infrastructure is an important priority for their communities;

AND WHEREAS infrastructure and transit are identified by Ontarians as the biggest problems facing their municipal government;

AND WHEREAS a ten-year projection (2016-2025) of municipal expenditures against inflationary property tax and user fee increases, shows there to be an unfunded average annual need of \$3.6 billion to fix local infrastructure and provide for municipal operating needs;

AND WHEREAS the \$3.6 billion average annual need would equate to annual increases of 4.6% (including inflation) to province-wide property tax revenue for the next ten years;

AND WHEREAS this gap calculation also presumes all existing and multi-year planned federal and provincial transfers to municipal governments are fulfilled;

AND WHEREAS if future federal and provincial transfers are unfulfilled beyond 2015 levels, it would require annual province-wide property tax revenue increases of up to 8.35% for ten years;

AND WHEREAS Ontarians already pay the highest property taxes in the country;

AND WHEREAS each municipal government in Ontario faces unique issues, the fiscal health and needs are a challenge which unites all municipal governments, regardless of size;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Council supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario in its work to close the fiscal gap; so that all municipalities can benefit from predictable and sustainable revenue, to finance the pressing infrastructure and municipal service needs faced by all municipal governments.

Please forward your resolution by December 1, 2016 to:
AMO President Lynn Dollin amopresident@amo.on.ca.