

Ministry of
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and Housing

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October 19, 2009

To: All Municipal Heads of Council

The provincial government is strengthening Ontario's communities by helping prepare young adults for leadership roles in local government through its continued investment in the Ontario Municipal Internship Program (MIP).

Now in its third year, this successful initiative provides talented recent university graduates with hands-on management experience in key municipal operation areas under the direct supervision of a Chief Administrative Officer or designate. To date, 77 per cent of the MIP's graduates have been offered progressive positions in municipal/public administration – in fact, three interns have accepted Chief Administrative Officer positions in the municipal sector.

With 40 per cent of senior municipal staff projected to retire within the next ten years, municipalities must act today to ensure the long-term health of Ontario's communities. The Province has partnered with the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) on the MIP to address the critical need to attract and train the next generation of competent, well-rounded municipal leaders.

The MIP provides 50 per cent funding – up to \$20,000 per intern – to participating municipalities to subsidize intern salaries. Additionally, up to \$5,000 per intern is provided for ongoing training and other ancillary expenses. In the current economic climate, the opportunity to attract talented, high-functioning staff at a fraction of market cost provides significant return on investment.

The Province is supporting the 2010–2011 MIP with continued funding toward the salaries and expenses of five interns. Additionally, we are working with AMCTO to bring new sponsors on board to increase the number of interns taking part in the program during the upcoming year. It is the goal of the program to include diverse work experience for the interns, including geographic size, location and population of the placement municipalities.

I welcome the opportunity to provide continuing support to the MIP to advance our shared interest in attracting new, professional staff to careers in the municipal sector, assisting with succession planning, and supporting strong, sustainable Ontario municipalities.

I would like to encourage your municipality to learn more about the intern program and how it may benefit your organization. For more information on the program and how to apply to participate as a host municipality, please visit the Ministry's website at www.ontario.ca/mah and click on Local Government, or visit www.amcto.com.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Watson, MPP
Minister

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