



Association of
Municipalities of Ontario

REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 8, 2011

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To: Heads of Council and Councillors:

REGION OF PEEL
CLERKS DEPT.

The upcoming provincial election is an important time for Ontario municipalities and AMO. Key topics of concern have been summarized in AMO's Provincial Election Check List of **Top 12 Asks**. This "flashcard" outlines AMO's policy positions in priority areas and provides you with some of the messaging that the Association will be using this summer and throughout the election period. We would appreciate any assistance in helping us to 'get the word out' during your conversations with municipal colleagues, provincial candidates, the media, constituents and other municipal organizations or associations.

For example, AMO is seeking commitments to:

- Maintain (or accelerate) the 2008 Provincial Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review agreement to upload \$1.5 billion in social services and court security costs by 2018;
- Provide stable, predictable permanent infrastructure funding for roads and bridges;
- Permanently share Provincial Gas Tax revenue for municipal transit ;
- Make people and businesses more accountable for the waste management costs they create, so that property taxpayers are not saddled with them;
- Improve arbitration, to ensure that outcomes are more affordable, transparent and accountable; and
- Introduce insurance reforms that rationalize municipal liability and rein-in soaring insurance costs.

These are just a few of the priority municipal policies that need attention and support from all political parties.

This summer, AMO will launch 2011 Ontario Provincial Election pages on our website, www.amo.on.ca. These pages will present AMO's Top 12 Asks against the commitments that each provincial party makes, along with analysis of party platforms from a municipal government lens. Municipal policy backgrounders, links to relevant election sites, and other election updates will also be posted.

We will continue to provide you with Breaking News bulletins when there are major announcements by the political parties on municipal government issues and provide other updates via AMO's weekly Watch File. For the first time during an election we will also be sharing our views via social media, so do not forget to follow us on twitter, [@AMOPolicy](https://twitter.com/AMOPolicy).

Yours truly,

Peter Hume
President

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
COPY TO:	FILE:
Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee
CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council
Corporate Services	
Public Works	Sept 9
Employee and Business Services	
Health Services	File
Human Services	
Peel Living	

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED



Fiscal Reality Check

- Municipalities receive 9 cents of every tax dollar while the province gets 44 cents and the federal government gets 47 cents. About half of municipal property taxes go to other governments
- Municipalities deliver the public services that most people use most often
- Ontario municipalities own more public infrastructure than the provincial and federal governments (roads and bridges, water and waste water systems, waste management, parks and recreation, public transit, social housing, and long-term care homes)
- Municipal government alone cannot cover estimated infrastructure funding gaps of \$2.7 billion for road and bridges, \$1 billion for public transit, and \$1.5 billion for water and wastewater treatment
- Public health, long term care and emergency services (police, fire and land ambulance) are adding growing costs onto Ontario's limited property tax base
- Municipal property taxes maintain \$40 billion in social housing stock
- Capping or other forms of mitigation shift taxation to low income people



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Provincial Election Check List: AMO's Top 12 Asks

- Will meet (or beat) promised upload of \$1.5 billion in social service and court security costs by 2018
- Won't download costs, or add new ones to Ontario's limited property tax base
- Will create a separate, new, predictable and permanent fund for municipal roads and bridges
- Will make permanent Provincial Gas Tax revenue of about \$318 million for transit
- Will ensure arbitration process achieves affordable, accountable and transparent decisions
- Will protect taxpayers from excessive insurance claims (by addressing joint and several liability)
- Will promote personal and producer responsibility for waste (it's costly; polluters should pay)
- Will provide tools for collecting \$1 billion in unpaid *Provincial Offences Act* fines
- Will consolidate housing programs with current or more funding
- Won't introduce property assessment or taxation caps
- Will provide clear, fair energy policy that supports sound planning and investment in our electricity system
- Will review Development Charges Act (growth should pay for itself)



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