

MA-C5-1

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
TO:	FOR:
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March 7, 2014

## AMCTO Statement - Proposed New Municipal Accountability Measures

### Wynne Government Adds Provincial Oversight to Municipal Government

Ontario Premier, Kathleen Wynne has announced that her government plans to create new municipal accountability measures that create an additional layer of Provincial oversight for Ontario's municipalities.

AMCTO is concerned that this move will require municipal administrators to develop new and/or possibly redundant processes to review complaints around service delivery and/or choose whether to have service complaints investigated by Ontario's Ombudsman. In addition, these service complaints, even if handled by municipalities, could be subjected to "review" by the Ombudsman after the fact.

While AMCTO supports the notion of appropriate oversight, we are greatly concerned that these proposed new legislative requirements will increase the red tape burden for the municipal sector which is already heavily burdened with provincial regulatory and reporting requirements. We are further concerned that these new municipal accountability measures are not reflective of the Municipal Act recognition of municipal governments as a responsible and accountable order of government.

AMCTO concurs with AMO's comments below:

*"The Ontario Government would layer Provincial oversight and new administrative processes on municipal government. It represents duplication and inefficiency, and importantly, it suggests that Wynne's Government does not trust in the capacity of municipal government to expose and address questions about performance and integrity.*

*No one knows what it would cost municipal government to fulfill these new responsibilities. But new costs are inevitable, the administrative burden is likely to be substantial, and municipalities and their citizens should expect more red tape.*

*Assigning oversight authority to the Office of the Ontario Ombudsman, a provincial appointee who is based at Queen's Park and who reports to Ontario's Legislature, has the effect of transferring local municipal accountability to the Province".*

As debate on this proposed legislation proceeds, AMCTO hopes that the outcomes arising from this debate appropriately reflect the openness, transparency and municipal professionalism that has been a hallmark of Ontario's diverse municipal sector.

### AMCTO – The Municipal Experts

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