

# A Social and Economic Prosperity Review: Let's Build a Stronger Ontario



Municipalities provide the services that Ontarians rely on every day. The fiscal framework that enables municipalities to do this work is broken. Failing to fix this problem fails residents, small businesses, health and public safety partners, and major industries.

AMO calls on Premier Ford to do what taxpayers expect – work together with municipal governments to get it done for Ontarians.

Strong and sustainable municipalities mean safe, healthy, affordable and prosperous communities through investments in what Ontarians care about most, including:

## Housing

### Addressing housing affordability and supporting growth

Municipalities own and operate half a trillion dollars of public infrastructure. Over the next 10 years, they are planning for more than \$250 billion of capital expenditures – with around \$100 billion related to growth.



## Healthcare

### Shortchanging municipalities shortchanges healthcare

In 2022, municipalities across Ontario spent \$3.3 billion on health despite only receiving \$1.8 in provincial grants. When public health, long-term care, and ambulance funding don't keep pace with need, we see the impacts in hospitals across the province.



## Cost of Living

### Higher property taxes aren't the answer

Ontario has the second highest property taxes in Canada and they continued to rise in 2024 as municipalities dealt with inflation, growth, and issues like homelessness. Property taxpayers – including seniors on fixed incomes and struggling small businesses – simply cannot afford to pay for more.



## Public Safety

### Maintaining public safety is a top priority

Municipal resources fund police forces. The impacts of inadequate approaches to mental health, addictions and homelessness challenges put police resources under strain.



## Ontario municipalities need a strong provincial partner to help us meet the challenge.

AMO continues to ask the provincial government to sit down with municipalities and work together on a social and economic prosperity review. This should include a joint review of revenues, costs and financial risks, as well as an analysis of Ontario's infrastructure investment and service delivery needs.



The goal is to update the provincial-municipal fiscal relationship to support strong economic foundations, sustainable communities, and quality of life. While these conversations are already happening in the media and at dinner tables, AMO's Memorandum of Understanding with the provincial government is the ideal framework for a formal collaboration where we can work together to achieve real results for Ontarians. The municipal fiscal sustainability challenge is urgent, province-wide, and central to Ontario's social and economic prosperity.

Join Ontario's municipalities in this important initiative.



Working together, we can build a better Ontario.



Housing



Healthcare



Cost of Living



Public Safety