

January 26, 2021

AMO Policy Update – 2021 OCIP Funding, 2nd Intake of Municipal Modernization Program, and Provincial Emergency Extension

A few provincial announcements occurred at the ROMA conference, which occurred on January 25-26, and we have put them together for your convenience.

Second Intake of the Municipal Modernization Program Announced at ROMA Conference

During the 2021 Annual ROMA Conference, the Honourable Minister Steve Clark has [announced](#) the opening of the second intake of the Municipal Modernization Program. At today's announcement, the Minister noted that government is investing \$40 million dollars to help small and rural municipalities to assist with service delivery reviews and modernization efforts.

The funding is application based and targets 405 municipalities across Ontario. The first intake of the program saw 184 modernization projects funded. These included service reviews, implementing previous recommendations from service reviews, IT upgrades, or process improvements that help municipalities become more efficient with taxpayers' dollars.

Today's announcement is part of the \$125 million committed through 2022-23. For more program information, please visit the [program website](#).

2021 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Announced

Premier Doug Ford [announced](#) the 2021 [OCIF](#) envelope at the ROMA Conference on Monday. In 2021, OCIF will be stable with the Province providing \$200M again this year to 424 municipalities across Ontario. Stability in the funding envelope has been a major policy goal of AMO's during the pandemic.

OCIF supports municipal core infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water

wastewater, and stormwater systems. Individual formula allocations to municipal governments have been provided by the Ministry of Infrastructure.

The Premier also noted in his remarks that the Province has allocated almost \$1 billion to broadband expansion. Affordable broadband access remains a key objective of AMO and ROMA. The full text of Premier Ford's comments can be found [here](#).

Provincial Emergency Declaration Extended

Ontario's [Declaration of Emergency](#), and all orders in force under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, including the Stay-at-Home order, have been extended until Feb 9, 2021.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

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