

UPDATE

from the Ministry of Municipal
Affairs and Housing



November 2008

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**Provincial-Municipal
Fiscal and Service
Delivery Review**

**Local Government
Takes Centre Stage**

**Ontario Economic
Outlook and Fiscal
Review 2008**

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER JIM WATSON

The report of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review is an historic milestone in the Province's relationship with municipal governments. [Read more](#)



HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP MILESTONE

A landmark report, Facing Forward Together, has been released by the Province, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the City of Toronto. It completes the work of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review. [Read more](#)



ONPHA COMMEMORATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) marked a special moment at its annual conference in Ottawa last month as it celebrated its 20th anniversary year serving the affordable housing community. [Read more](#)



LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

Local Government Week was launched last month to provide Ontario youth with a new way to learn about local government. [Read more](#)



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Minister's Message



Welcome again to UPDATE, the e-newsletter of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Our goal is to keep you informed of developments in the housing and municipal sectors.

The [report of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review](#) is an historic milestone in the Province's relationship with municipal governments.

The consensus report, released on October 31, represents the most intensive and closest collaboration ever seen between the Province, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the City of Toronto.

In our agreement with municipal partners, our government has committed to upload social assistance benefits costs. The upload of the costs of Ontario Works benefits comes on top of the upload of Ontario Drug Benefits and the Ontario Disability Support Program that the Premier announced last year.

The cost of court security will also be uploaded to the province to a maximum of \$125 million a year.

By 2018, the annual net benefit of all Review uploads to municipalities will be \$1.5 billion.

An article on the Review and its consensus report can be found in this issue of UPDATE.

We also are bringing news in this issue about the first Local Government Week. It offered Grades 5 and 10 students across the province an opportunity to discover more about the world of municipal management. Local Government Week is a project of the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario with support from my ministry and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Last month, I had the pleasure of addressing the annual conference of the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) in Ottawa. This conference marked a special moment for ONPHA, as it celebrated its 20th anniversary year serving the affordable housing community. Its achievements during the past two decades are certainly impressive and you can learn more about ONPHA in this UPDATE.

Please provide us with your feedback. If this issue of UPDATE has been forwarded to you and you would like to continue receiving our e-newsletter, please take the time to [subscribe](#).

Jim Watson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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Historic Partnership Milestone

A landmark report, *Facing Forward Together*, has been released by the Province, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the City of Toronto. It completes the work of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review.

The joint review was a unique opportunity for municipal and provincial representatives to discuss new and better ways to fund and deliver services to the people of Ontario.

"This report is an historic milestone in our partnership with municipal governments," says Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Jim Watson. "All Ontarians will benefit from the spirit of collaboration of the Review."



Members of the Political Table of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review pose with the agreement that was signed on October 31st at Queen's Park. From left to right are Bob Sweet, Peter Hume, Doug Reycraft, Jim Watson, Eddie Francis, Dwight Duncan, Hazel McCallion, Michael Power, David Miller and Richard Adams. Roger Anderson could not attend the event.

Uploads

The report outlines the provincial commitment to fully fund social assistance benefits. Starting in 2012 the cost of court security will also be uploaded over seven years to a maximum of \$125 million a year.

The agreement puts a ten-year plan in place – a plan that brings a \$1.5 billion a year net benefit to municipalities by 2018.

The upload of costs of Ontario Works benefits comes on top of the upload of Ontario Drug Benefits and the Ontario Disability Support Program, which was announced last year.

Review Tables

A [table of elected provincial and municipal representatives](#) led the Review assisted by a [coordinating table](#) that was made up of senior municipal administrators, as well as provincial and AMO staff.

Joint working tables analyzed issues related specifically to service delivery accountability, infrastructure, and fiscal architecture and economic competitiveness.

Minister Jim Watson says the Review provided a truly unique opportunity to sit down with municipal representatives and examine how to best deliver and fund services. "Our Report sets the stage for a sustainable approach for service delivery and funding in Ontario's communities."

UPDATE readers can learn more about the report by visiting [the Review's web page](#).

Related Links

- [Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review](#)

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ONPHA Commemorates 20 Years of Service

The Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) marked a special moment at its annual conference in Ottawa last month as it celebrated its 20th anniversary year serving the affordable housing community.

Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Jim Watson addressed the conference and told delegates how impressed he was with the Association's achievements over the past two decades.

"ONPHA makes our province a better place for more than 400,000 people, including low-income families, senior citizens, victims of violence, persons with developmental disabilities, those suffering from mental illness, those who struggle with homelessness, and many more," Minister Watson says.

ONPHA has grown to include more than 770 non-profit providers, operating more than 160,000 non-profit units across Ontario.

Following his remarks, ONPHA arranged for Minister Watson to meet with five delegations representing different types of non-profit housing providers.

These included Aboriginal housing providers, seniors housing providers, large providers, supportive housing providers, and providers from the north and northwest of the province.

The small group delegations allowed the Minister to hear a wide range of issues directly from those working at the grassroots level.

"These delegations proved to be most informative," says Minister Watson.

"They gave me a deeper appreciation of the hard work and dedication of non-profit providers, and the vital role that non-profits play in ensuring the strength and diversity of communities throughout Ontario."

More information about the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association is available on its [website](#).

Related Links

- [Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association](#)



Minister Watson addressed the annual conference of the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association last month in Ottawa.



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Local Government Week

Local Government Week was launched last month to provide Ontario youth with a new way to learn about local government.

This is the first year for the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario project, which is being supported by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

The partners worked closely with the Ontario Teachers Federation and other education experts in developing the program.

Local Government Week, observed across Ontario this year from October 19-25, is aimed at Grade 5 students of social studies and Grade 10 students of civics and history. It introduces these students to the world of municipal government – its leaders, the programs and services they provide, local decision-making, and career and volunteer opportunities in local public service.

AMCTO President Ray Callery says, “We are pleased to partner with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and AMO to bring Local Government Week to life and as a celebration of the key role that Ontario local governments play in defining the character, priorities, and physical make-up of our communities.”

The week featured a wide range of activities in social studies, history and civics.

Students got to experience municipal leadership, the functions and services municipalities provide, and the processes involved in local decision-making.

Some of the Local Government Week activities conducted included:

- face-to-face meetings with community leaders
- mock municipal referendums
- observing councils in session
- Mayor For A Day, and
- tours of municipality.

“Local Government Week is an opportunity for our children and youth to learn more about the role local government plays in our daily lives,” said Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Jim Watson.

More information about [Local Government Week](#) is available on the website of the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario.

Related Links

- [Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario](#)
- [Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#)



Minister Jim Watson appointed Basil, a Regal Road Public School student, 'Mayor for the Day' during a Local Government Week event last month at the Toronto school. Guest speakers at the event included Toronto Councillor Cesar Palacio (left) and former AMCTO president Betteanne Cadman (right) who loaned her municipality's chain of office.

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