

UPDATE

from the Ministry of Municipal
Affairs and Housing



Summer 2009

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**Ministry of Municipal
Affairs and Housing
Annual Report 2008/2009**

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER JIM WATSON

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CHANGING TIMES

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PROMOTING CAREERS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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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 municipal and housing sectors.

Last month, I was in St. John's for the Provincial and Territorial Meeting for Ministers Responsible for Local Government. I had an opportunity there to speak to my counterparts from across Canada about Ontario's green initiative, recent investments in housing and infrastructure, and our strong provincial-municipal partnership.

It will be Ontario's turn to host the conference next summer and ministers from across the country will be meeting in Ottawa.

The nation's capital will again be the site of the annual conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario later this month. Changing Times is the theme of this year's gathering. I am looking forward to hearing from municipal leaders from across the Province at the Minister's Forum, during delegations, on the conference floor and at the Ontario reception. This edition of UPDATE has a preview.

This summer we've been consulting as part of our work on a Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy. This work will provide a framework for affordable housing over the next 10 years. During these consultations, we want to hear about pragmatic, specific and affordable solutions.

So far, we've had consultation sessions in Sault Ste. Marie, Brampton, Windsor, Kitchener, Toronto and Ottawa. In September, we'll continue to go across the province, with sessions in London, Hamilton, Lindsay, Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

All the details for these sessions are on my ministry's website and I encourage you to attend. Your participation would be of tremendous value in helping to create a strategy that is both responsive and responsible to all Ontarians.

My ministerial staff and I have had opportunities this summer to raise hammers and pound nails for a good cause – volunteering for Habitat for Humanity projects in Toronto and Ottawa.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, non-government, charitable organization dedicated to improving the lives of low-income persons and their families through home ownership.

Decked out in hard hats, work boots and tool belts staff members joined me in a range of tasks on the two projects. These included insulating basements, installing and sealing walls with caulk and working on ventilation systems.

We were allowed to discover our hidden construction talents and contribute to a most worthy cause.

The goal of a new Government of Ontario website is to directly provide Ontarians with comprehensive government news and information. Information that can be easily found, read and understand. I invite you to visit and subscribe to the [Government of Ontario newsroom](#), which will provide you with up-to-date news about our government, its services and new initiatives.

In June we announced our government's continuing support for the Municipal Internship Program. As detailed in this issue of UPDATE, this is the third year of the program with provincial funding covering half of the interns' salaries.

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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Changing Times

The annual conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) takes place later this month.

Municipal officials and ministers and staff from the Ontario government will gather in Ottawa between August 16 and 19, 2009.

“Changing Times” is the theme for this year’s conference, which will bring together more than 1800 municipal elected officials and staff.



AMO's annual conference takes place later this month in Ottawa.

A Solid Foundation

“Strong provincial-municipal partnerships provide a solid foundation to tackle current challenges,” says Minister Watson. “At this conference we can continue our discussions on how we can work together to create investment and jobs in our communities.”

Premier Dalton McGuinty is scheduled to address delegates and Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Jim Watson and Energy and Infrastructure Minister George Smitherman will be among those to address the annual gathering.

Provincial ministries will be meeting with municipal delegations and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has received more than 40 delegation requests for this year’s conference.

Ministers’ Forum

Delegates can pose questions to provincial ministers and parliamentary assistants at a forum and the annual gathering also will offer workshops on a variety of topics.

There will be an opportunity to visit the Government of Ontario and other booths set up at the conference venue.

Related links:

- [AMO Annual Conference](#)



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The newsroom carries news from across the Government of Ontario, including the Premier's office, Municipal Affairs and Housing and other ministries.



Government of Ontario newsroom.

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Promoting Careers in Local Government

Minister Jim Watson in June announced \$125,000 in support for the third year of the Municipal Internship Program at the annual conference of the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO).

The amount is up from previous years' funding of \$25,000. The additional funding means that one more university graduate and one more municipality in Ontario can participate in the program.

Provincial funding covers 50 per cent of five interns' salaries while host municipalities fund the remaining 50 per cent.

The City of London, a host municipality last year, is participating in the program once again and is committing to pay the full cost of its intern's salary for 2009-2010.

The program is a partnership between the Province and AMCTO.

It aims to attract young university graduates to careers in local government and build a core of young professionals to help address municipal succession planning.

The following are the 2009-2010 interns and their respective host municipalities:

- Jessica Auger-Beaulieu – City of Thunder Bay
- Karen Graham – Municipality of North Huron
- Amanda Gubbels – City of Burlington
- Curtiss Law – City of Brockville
- Kuthula Matshazi – City of Kitchener
- Eamon O'Flynn – City of London

Related links

- [Interns' Program Gets A Boost](#)



Minister Jim Watson (centre) and Ray Callery, AMCTO President, (right) with interns Curtiss Law, Amanda Gubbels, Karen Graham, Eamon O'Flynn and Kuthula Matshazi.