

UPDATE

from the Ministry of Municipal
Affairs and Housing



September 2009

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Feedback](#)

**Green Energy Act Will
Attract Investment,
Create Jobs**

**Lou Rinaldi, new
Parliamentary Assistant
to the Minister of
Municipal Affairs and
Housing (Municipal
Affairs)**

**County of Dufferin
Breaks Ground for New
Affordable Housing Units**

**Brant and Brantford
Celebrate New Affordable
Housing**

**Ontario Disaster Relief
Assistance Program
Guidelines**

**Hydro One to Kick-start
Major Transmission
Projects**

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER JIM WATSON

Last month, I was in St. John's to meet with provincial and territorial ministers responsible for housing. I had the pleasure of visiting that historic city twice this summer for meetings with my colleagues from across the country. [Read more](#)



AN ANNUAL HIGHLIGHT

Over a thousand municipal officials and ministers and staff from the Ontario government gathered in Ottawa last month for the annual conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. [Read more](#)



PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS COME TO AN END

The public consultation sessions for the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy are coming to an end. On September 30, 2009 Minister Watson will meet with residents, stakeholders and housing providers in Thunder Bay for the last of the 13 sessions. [Read more](#)



THE NEW ODRAP GUIDELINES ARE READY

It's been 10 years since the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program Guidelines were first published and this year, thanks to feedback from the Ministry's municipal partners, they have been updated, given a new look and readied for a new decade. [Read more](#)



[Français](#)

Update is published by the [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#)

[Privacy](#) | [External Links Disclaimer](#)

© [Queen's Printer for Ontario](#), 2009

You are here > [Home](#) > [About the Ministry](#) > [UPDATE — E-Newsletter](#) > [Articles](#) > [UPDATE - September 2009](#) > Minister's Message

Your Ministry

▶ Local Government

▶ Land Use Planning

▶ Housing

▶ Building Regulation

▶ OnRAMP

▶ The Learning Centre

Explore Government

▶

Contacts

▶ Telephone Directory

▶ ServiceOntario Centres

▶ MPPs

▶ Have a Question?

▶ Contact the Minister

▶ Ministry Regional Offices

▶ Virtual Reading Room

Features



Ministry E-Newsletter



Affordable Housing Program Video



Subscribe to RSS Feeds

Share this Page



Other Resources

▶



Minister's Message

[Email this page](#)



Welcome to the 21st issue of UPDATE, keeping you abreast of news and progress in the housing and municipal sectors.

Last month, I was in St. John's to meet with provincial and territorial ministers responsible for housing. I had the pleasure of visiting that historic city twice this summer for meetings with my colleagues from across the country. The Ministers Responsible for Local Government met there in July.

Just before flying to St. John's I was in Ottawa for the annual conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario in Ottawa. This event, which Premier Dalton McGuinty told delegates is a highlight of his year, will be in Windsor/Essex next August. This edition of UPDATE has a report on this year's AMO conference, which I must say was another tremendous success. Our focus on the economy and investing in municipalities was well received by the delegates.

I want to welcome Lou Rinaldi to our Ministry. Lou is the new Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Municipal Affairs). Carol Mitchell, who held this post previously, has been appointed Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (Health). I wanted to thank Carol for her hard work and dedication during her time at MMAH. Lou Rinaldi joins Mario Sergio who is our Parliamentary Assistant for housing matters.

We are just completing consultations on a Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy, which will provide a framework for affordable housing over the next 10 years. Since June we have conducted consultation sessions in Sault Ste. Marie, Brampton, Windsor, Kitchener, Toronto, Ottawa, London, Hamilton and Lindsay. Our last sessions are in Sudbury and Thunder Bay this month. While the public sessions are ending, the consultation will continue until the end of the year. If you want to contribute, I encourage you to visit the ministry's website, read the consultation document, and make a submission. You will find more about the strategy and the consultations in this issue of UPDATE.

The Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program Guidelines have been updated and given a new look. You will find details in this issue of our e-newsletter.

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

[Back to UPDATE - September 2009](#)

You are here > [Home](#) > [About the Ministry](#) > [UPDATE — E-Newsletter](#) > [Articles](#) > [UPDATE - September 2009](#) > An Annual Highlight

Your Ministry

Local Government

Land Use Planning

Housing

Building Regulation

OnRAMP

The Learning Centre

Explore Government

Contacts

Telephone Directory

ServiceOntario Centres

MPPs

Have a Question?

Contact the Minister

Ministry Regional Offices

Virtual Reading Room

Features

Ministry E-Newsletter

Affordable Housing Program Video

Subscribe to RSS Feeds

Share this Page



Other Resources



An Annual Highlight

Over a thousand municipal officials and ministers and staff from the Ontario government gathered in Ottawa last month for the annual conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

This year's AMO conference had "Changing Times" as its theme.

In his opening day presentation Minister Jim Watson thanked municipal delegates for "the ongoing spirit of cooperation that we share." He said, "It will be crucial as we continue to focus on addressing current challenges, particularly the economy."

Highlight of the Year

Premier Dalton McGuinty told delegates that he and his caucus colleagues consider the AMO conference to be "the highlight of our year." The Premier said they welcomed the opportunity to meet with delegates and to "talk about our communities and to work together to better serve our people."

Energy and Infrastructure Minister George Smitherman announced at the annual gathering a multi-year initiative to reimburse municipalities for direct costs related to facilitating renewable energy facilities.

Delegates had an opportunity to pose questions to provincial ministers during the conference on topics that included infrastructure funding, municipal election voter lists, rural schools and a national housing strategy.

The interaction between municipal elected politicians and ministers is a highlight of the conference each year.

Mayor Neil Ellis of Belleville is quoted in his local newspaper as saying, "It's nice to meet with the ministers and talk about our issues and see if there is anything they can do."

Shared Experiences

Sault Ste Marie Mayor John Rowswell in the Sault Star called the conference "one of the best networking opportunities out there for a municipal politician. He said, "You get a chance to meet counterparts from similar-sized communities and share experiences good and bad, learn first hand what works and what doesn't."

[Email this page](#)



Minister Jim Watson speaks to reporters after he addressed AMO delegates during the first morning of their conference.



Premier Dalton McGuinty addresses delegates during this year's AMO conference in Ottawa (CBC photo)

Next year the annual municipal gathering will be held in Windsor/Essex.

Related links:

- [Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#)

[Back to UPDATE - September 2009](#)

HOME | ABOUT THE MINISTRY | NEWSROOM | JOB OPPORTUNITIES

You are here > [Home](#) > [About the Ministry](#) > [UPDATE — E-Newsletter](#) > [Articles](#) > [UPDATE - September 2009](#) > Public Consultations Come To An End

Your Ministry ▼

- ▶ Local Government
- ▶ Land Use Planning
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Building Regulation
- ▶ OnRAMP
- ▶ The Learning Centre

Explore Government >

Contacts ▼

- ▶ Telephone Directory
- ▶ ServiceOntario Centres
- ▶ MPPs
- ▶ Have a Question?
- ▶ Contact the Minister
- ▶ Ministry Regional Offices
- ▶ Virtual Reading Room

Features ▼

 **Ministry E-Newsletter**

 **Affordable Housing Program Video**

 **Subscribe to RSS Feeds**

Share this Page  >

Other Resources >



Public Consultations Come To An End

[Email this page](#)

The public consultation sessions for the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy are coming to an end. On September 30, 2009 Minister Watson will meet with residents, stakeholders and housing providers in Thunder Bay for the last of the 13 sessions.

More than 1,000 participants have joined Minister Watson, Parliamentary Assistant Mario Sergio and former Parliamentary Assistant Carol Mitchell, and many local MPPs all across the province to share their ideas on the best ways to deliver affordable housing.

There have been so many interesting ideas raised at the sessions. In particular, Minister Watson was asked to press the federal government for a national housing strategy, increase funding for affordable housing, introduce new planning tools, and provide supports, programs and protections to allow people to live with respect and dignity in their homes and thrive in their communities.

"These meetings have been a great chance to listen and learn," said Minister Watson. "The cross-section of people, their varied experiences and thoughtful ideas will be a valuable resource in the development of this long-term plan."

The sessions have been so popular that in Ottawa a tent had to be set up to accommodate the overflow crowd; an extra session had to be added for Toronto; and, the Hamilton session packed a church hall.

The ministry is accepting submissions, comments or suggestions for the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy until December 31, 2009. Information about the various methods to submit comments, in addition to the consultation document, may be found on ministry's website at www.ontario.ca/housingstrategy. Information is also available through the toll-free information line at 1-877-224-7271.



Public Consultations

[Back to UPDATE - September 2009](#)

HOME | ABOUT THE MINISTRY | NEWSROOM | JOB OPPORTUNITIES

You are here > [Home](#) > [About the Ministry](#) > [UPDATE — E-Newsletter](#) > [Articles](#) > [UPDATE - September 2009](#) > The New ODRAP Guidelines Are Ready

Your Ministry

Local Government

Land Use Planning

Housing

Building Regulation

OnRAMP

The Learning Centre

Explore Government

Contacts

Telephone Directory

ServiceOntario Centres

MPPs

Have a Question?

Contact the Minister

Ministry Regional Offices

Virtual Reading Room

Features

Ministry E-Newsletter

Affordable Housing Program Video

Subscribe to RSS Feeds

Share this Page



Other Resources



The New ODRAP Guidelines Are Ready

[Email this page](#)

It's been 10 years since the [Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program Guidelines](#) were first published and this year, thanks to feedback from the Ministry's municipal partners, they have been updated, given a new look and readied for a new decade.

The purpose of the guidelines remains the same: to provide an overview of and information about how to access ODRAP in the event of a natural disaster.

Staff in Municipal Services Offices use the guidelines frequently in assisting municipalities when dealing with emergencies.

Review

Earlier this year Ministry staff sat down and reviewed questions that municipalities had posed about ODRAP. They reviewed program effectiveness and how clearly responsibilities were articulated in the guidelines.

The new guidelines better define the differences between public and private components of the program. They more fully describe Disaster Relief Committees and clarify how to draft a municipal resolution when a municipality wishes to request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to declare a disaster area for the purposes of ODRAP.

On-line, CD or Hard Copy

The Program Guidelines are now available on-line at the [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#) website as well as at the five Municipal Services Offices around the province in CD or hard-copy.

Related Links:

- [New ODRAP Guidelines](#)



ODRAP

Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program



Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program Guidelines

[Back to UPDATE - September 2009](#)