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* VOTE OCTOBER 26

Working With Municipalities to Lower Costs, Improve Services

This week, Ontario ministers and parliamentary assistants met with over 320 municipalities and held nearly 800 meetings with municipal officials at the annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference. During the four-day event, the province furthered its record investments in municipal and community infrastructure, including the following new measures that will strengthen communities, build more homes, improve access to critical services and create thousands of good-paying jobs:

Ontario and Canada are investing \$1 billion to help municipalities that do not levy development charges build more homes. The new Non-Development Charge Municipalities Stream (Non-DC Stream) of the Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build will help municipalities build and renew housing-enabling infrastructure such as roads, bridges and water systems, with applications opening October 29, 2026. Ontario has opened applications for the next intake of the province's \$500 million Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF), with this intake valued at \$100 million. The government's investment through CSRIF is promoting active, healthy living, building stronger communities and giving the next generation of Ontario athletes a place to train and grow their skills. In September, Ontario is launching the next call for proposals to create or expand approximately 78 primary care teams that will connect 600,000 more people to a family doctor or primary care provider. This \$250 million investment is part of the government's \$3.4 billion Primary Care Action Plan and brings the province one step closer to connecting everyone in Ontario to primary care by 2029. Ontario is investing over \$1 billion in land ambulance funding, representing an average increase of nine per cent over 2025. Ontario is also continuing to strengthen public health units by providing one per cent growth base funding for 2027. Since 2018, provincial funding to public health units for public health programs and services has increased by approximately 24 per cent. "Our government appreciates our strong partnership with Ontario's 444 municipalities, which has enabled us to make meaningful progress on a number of shared goals," said Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Despite living through a period of significant uncertainty, Ontario continues to attract people and investment from around the world, building strong communities where people and families are positioned for success." AMO is a non-profit organization that represents Ontario's 444 municipalities. The annual conference brings multiple levels of government together to advance shared priorities. This year, Ministers and parliamentary assistants held nearly 800 meetings with municipalities and municipal organizations from across Ontario. They discussed shared priorities including housing, infrastructure, public health and public safety.

In the 2026 Ontario Budget, Ontario announced an additional \$300 million investment in the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund to help build, and upgrade sport and recreation facilities across the province, bringing the total investment to \$500 million. Since 2024, Ontario has awarded over \$3 billion through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program to support over 305 projects in more than 230 municipalities and First Nations communities. Ontario is launching the third application window of the Rural Ontario Development (ROD) Program, which provides cost-share funding for projects that attract investment, strengthen workforce capacity and build long-term growth in rural communities across Ontario. "The AMO conference is an important opportunity for municipalities and the Ontario government to come together, have direct conversations and find practical ways to work together on the challenges facing communities. We welcome these investments and the recognition of the important role municipalities play in building strong, healthy communities." - Riley Brockington President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter attended the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference alongside elected officials and municipal leaders from across the province to advance key priorities that support Oshawa's continued growth, strengthen the region's long-term prosperity, and contribute to a more competitive and resilient Ontario. Throughout the conference, Mayor Carter highlighted Oshawa's role as a growing economic, innovation and investment hub, and our unique position as a city with the talent, infrastructure, resources and capacity to help drive Ontario's future growth and competitiveness. He showcased Oshawa's Defence and Innovation Corridor, strategically located near post-secondary institutions, the Oshawa Executive Airport, and major transportation networks. The corridor is home to a strong concentration of advanced manufacturing, aerospace, defence, research and technology assets, creating opportunities for investment, job creation and innovation. Mayor Carter highlighted the City's innovative partnerships and emphasized Oshawa's readiness to partner with the province and all levels of government to address shared challenges and advance solutions that benefit residents, businesses and communities across Ontario. Through a series of delegation meetings with provincial ministers, deputy ministers and parliamentary assistants, Mayor Carter advanced three key priority areas:

Partnering with the Province to Accelerate Housing and Infrastructure Mayor Carter met with Amarjot Sandhu, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure, to discuss the investments needed to support Oshawa's continued growth and help achieve Ontario's housing and economic development objectives. During the meeting, he reaffirmed the City's commitment to collaborating with the province to advance shared housing, infrastructure and economic development priorities. Mayor Carter highlighted Oshawa's consistent support for provincial housing goals through strategic infrastructure investments, competitive development charges, streamlined development approval processes, and targeted development charge exemptions that have been in place for more than a decade. While these initiatives have supported sustainable growth, he noted that the continued pace of growth is placing increasing pressure on municipal infrastructure. He advocated for enhanced provincial funding to support both growth-related and state-of-good-repair infrastructure projects, as well as for the modernization and streamlining of provincial infrastructure funding programs. Establishing a Permanent Family Physician Medical Campus Mayor Carter joined leaders from Queen's University and Lakeridge Health in a meeting with Deborah Richardson, Deputy Minister of Health, to advocate for provincial investment in a permanent family physician medical campus in Durham Region to help address Ontario's shortage of family physicians. He highlighted the innovative partnership among the City of Oshawa, Queen's University, Lakeridge Health and the Region of Durham to establish a standalone Queen's-Lakeridge Health Family Medicine MD and Postgraduate Family Medicine Campus in downtown Oshawa within a former health care hub.

The permanent campus would create a dedicated centre for family medicine education and training, helping to attract, train and retain physicians and other health-care professionals while improving access to primary care. Mayor Carter advocated for provincial investment to help secure the long-term future of the Queen's-Lakeridge Health Family Medicine MD Program and establish the permanent campus, noting its strong alignment with Ontario's vision of a connected, people-first health-care system. Establishing a Dedicated Mental Health and Addictions Emergency Department Mayor Carter also participated in the Region of Durham's delegation meeting with The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and John Jordan, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Long-Term Care. During the meeting, delegates emphasized the critical need for a dedicated Mental Health and Addictions Emergency Department at Lakeridge Health to respond to growing demand, improve patient outcomes and relieve pressure on overcrowded emergency departments.

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