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Sent: Friday, February 07, 2025 5:04 PM

To: Annette Gilchrist

Subject: AMO Policy Update - Provincial Election Tracking and Guidance for Municipal Energy Decisions



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AMO Election Tracking Update

AMO is currently tracking provincial election commitments made public in 2025 that relate to <u>AMO's election advocacy</u> on their <u>website</u>. Recent announcements on our election priorities from this week on the campaign are listed below. Please consult each party's website and local candidate communications for the full party commitments.

Tackle root causes of homelessness

- The NDP announced their strategy to end encampments in Ontario.
- The Liberal Party committed to permanently double Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits and index them to inflation.
- The Green Party supported AMO's calls for long-term housing solutions that would end homelessness and committed to doubling Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW) rates and tie all future increases to inflation.

Curb reliance on municipal property taxes to fund provincial responsibilities

The NDP committed to uploading shelter funding to the province.

Invest in local infrastructure needed to grow

 The PC Party committed to investing an additional \$22 billion in infrastructure projects.

AMO will be providing updates to our tracking of commitments every Friday until election day on February 27.

AMO Releases Guidance for Municipal Energy Decisions

Municipalities have an increasingly important role in hosting electricity projects to meet a projected 75% increase in electricity demand and to support the use of Ontario's energy exports as a key lever in tariff and trade negotiations.

To empower municipalities in this role, AMO has released new guidance resources:

- <u>The Municipal Electricity Procurement Toolkit</u> provides guidance to help municipal decision makers protect residents, sensitive lands, and municipal finances while securing local benefits and supporting growth.
- <u>Guidance for energy developers</u> outlines how they can effectively partner with municipalities to support smooth project review and implementation.

Developed with input from municipalities experienced in energy projects, the provincial government, Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), and other energy sector partners, this guidance is timely because energy developers have begun to engage with municipalities about the upcoming Long-Term 2 Energy Procurement ("LT2"). Developers pursuing energy stream projects (e.g. renewable energy generation, natural gas, etc.) must have municipal support by October 2025, and for the capacity stream (e.g. battery energy storage systems) by December 2025.

This policy update is also available on AMO's Website.

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