



# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO) REPORT

**February 16, 2021**

The last meeting of the AMO Board was held January 28-29, 2021.

Items of note include:

### **Presentation by Community Schools Alliance**

[www.communityschoolsalliance.ca/](http://www.communityschoolsalliance.ca/)

Community Schools Alliance is a non-profit organization committed to working with the Ontario Ministry of Education, municipalities and school boards to achieve a collaborative process that results in democratically determined decisions regarding education infrastructure. The Alliance believes that such decisions should be based on principles that consider the broad impact, including but not limited to both social and fiscal effects, of any changes to the infrastructure on students and their community.

The Community Schools Alliance encouraged communities to be prepared, as the moratorium on Pupil Accommodation Reviews could be lifted at any time and the process unfolds quickly. They encouraged new membership.

### **Policy**

#### **1) Provincial Offences Act (POA) Courts Modernization Advocacy**

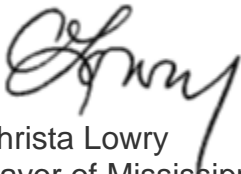
Some 450,000 hearings were suspended in the system when the provincial closure order was made. The Municipal Courts Managers Association of Ontario in consultation with AMO staff, the Municipal Prosecutors Association and the Ontario Municipal Tax and Revenue Association has developed a proposal which includes solutions to improve courts efficiency including improvements to technology, utilization of Administrative Monetary Penalty (AMPs) and allowing consent resolutions without proceeding before a justice to address the backlog. The Board wrote to the Attorney General and the Minister of Transportation in support of the Municipal Court Managers Association recommendations on POA modernization and requesting that their Ministries work with AMO and relevant municipal staff associations to make the changes needed to implement them.

2) Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission – Final Submission

The Board submitted final comments to the Long-Term Care (LTC) COVID-19 Commission on how to improve the LTC COVID-19 outbreak response in Ontario. The Working Group has created 48 recommendations across nine categories, based on their collective expertise and experience in managing COVID-19 in the LTC sector.

3) Universal Broadband Fund – Request for Extension and/or Second Intake

The current timelines of the Universal Broadband Fund may exclude rural, northern, and remote communities in Ontario who are in the beginning stages of identifying their connectivity gap, what Internet solutions are possible, and which Internet Service Providers are looking for Council support. The Board encouraged a deadline extension of 60 days to April 15, 2021 to allow flexibility. If not palatable to the ministry, AMO also requested a second intake period to open in the Summer/Fall 2021, with dedicated funding either from the existing UBF allotment, or additional funds if the UBF is oversubscribed.



Christa Lowry  
Mayor of Mississippi Mills