

**From:** AMO Communications <[communicate@amo.on.ca](mailto:communicate@amo.on.ca)>

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**To:** [BWhite@town.minto.on.ca](mailto:BWhite@town.minto.on.ca)

**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - AMO Welcomes Increased Infrastructure Funding for Municipalities

February 22, 2016

### **AMO Welcomes Increased Infrastructure Funding for Municipalities**

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, announced at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association - Ontario Good Roads Association Combined Conference today that the Province would triple funding under the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) by 2018-19.

The Premier announced that the OCIF formula funding component will be doubled next year from \$50 million to \$100 million and increased ultimately to \$200 million within three years. The application portion of OCIF will also continue, increasing to \$100 million in year three.

"We welcome the commitment of dollars and the formula-based approach. As I said earlier today, municipal governments need support from the Provincial and Federal governments, both in terms of funding and planning for Ontario's infrastructure needs," said AMO President, Gary McNamara.

The Premier also announced that the Province would allow OCIF to be banked for up to five years to pay for larger projects and streamline applications to better reward good asset management by municipalities. Finally, the Connecting Links program will be increased to \$20 million next year and \$30 million in 2018-19.

AMO and Ontario municipalities have long sought to put provincial funding for infrastructure on a more sustained and predictable path. Increasing formula funding helps to acknowledge the progress municipal governments have made on asset management planning to understand funding priorities. Sustainable infrastructure funding supports local economies and quality of life across Ontario.

**AMO Contact:** Craig Reid, Senior Advisor, E-mail: [creid@amo.on.ca](mailto:creid@amo.on.ca), 416.971.9856 ext. 334.