

Sent via e-mail to: minister.mah@ontario.ca

April 1, 2025

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park, 17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Flack,

For years, municipalities have called on the province for better tools to codify and enforce higher standards of accountability for elected officials. AMO was pleased to see the government act in December 2024, introducing a bill that reinforced accountability while supporting a safe and respectful work environment for members of council and for municipal staff. We hope to see the government re-introduce legislation on codes of conduct when the legislature is called back in April.

On behalf of Ontario's municipalities, the AMO Board would propose some amendments to the legislation before it is re-introduced.

First, we would recommend that that the removal from office vote be adjusted from unanimous to a supermajority (2/3 vote). We recognize that a vote to remove an elected municipal official from office is fundamentally different than a regular council vote, but the current proposal sets too high of a threshold and poses equity issues as council sizes vary across the province. In addition, the process already includes significant checks and balances that reduce the need for a unanimous vote, including recommendations for removal from both the local integrity commissioner and the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario.

Second, we would recommend that the legislation include a progressive range of discipline options for integrity commissioners, aligned with what was established under the *Education Act* in 2023. This would provide a standard list of penalties that could be applied apart from removal from office, including censure of a member, barring attendance at meetings, barring a member from sitting on committees, and barring a member from being chair or vice chair of committees.

Once again, AMO commends the government for taking action to address the concerns raised across the sector. Serving our communities in a leadership role is both a privilege and a responsibility.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss this important topic at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "J".

Robin Jones
AMO President

cc: The Honourable Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and
Housing
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing