

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Date: June 8, 2017 at 5:32:07 PM EDT
To: "t.oke@southhuron.ca" <t.oke@southhuron.ca>
Subject: AMO Needs Your Attention and Assistance

June 8, 2017

Members of Council and Heads of Administration:

Below are three critical matters that are our immediate focus and will impact you somehow. You and your senior management should be aware of them, as they will move forward in the next few weeks:

- i. Proposed Asset Management Regulation is posted for comment until July 24 on the EBR (Registry Number: 013-0551) Why should you care? The regulation proposes more criteria (e.g., establishing service levels, undertaking an operational cost analysis including matters such as energy costs). It standardizes the way municipal asset management plans will be done in a rather aggressive, but phased, timeframe. Many local governments will likely need to update and expand their plans to meet the proposal. The Ministry did a consultation last year. Our advice to the government was that a regulation was not the best path forward, and the timing and the capacity challenges (staff and financial) are significant. Many councils and senior staff need to consider how this will affect them locally and provide their input: <https://www.ebr.gov.on.ca>.
- ii. WSIB is drafting a policy on chronic mental stress injuries in the workplace. Consultation ends July 7. The budget bill (Bill 127) allows for this type of claim. It feels as open-ended as the workplace harassment legislation, which in essence left it to the courts to determine based on case evidence. Finding balance in this is challenging: <http://www.wsib.on.ca>.
- iii. *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017* (Bill 148) proposes new requirements for all employers including municipal governments. There is certainly growing concern about the impacts on the private sector. As of today, there is no information on when the provincial Standing Committee will start hearings or where:
http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=4963.

AMO's Board meets June 16 to consider its response to these items. We will send you some information on June 19. At that point, we will be looking for additional voices. Be ready. Stay tuned.