

President to Attorney General re Joint and Several Liability

October 2, 2019

Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Building, 11th Floor
720 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Dear Minister Downey:

I am following up on our meeting at the AMO Conference regarding the joint and several liability system in Ontario.

As you know, AMCTO is the largest voluntary association of local government professionals in Ontario, representing almost 2,200 members working in management and leadership.

We have a history of involvement on this file, including previous submissions that call for reform. In our 2017, 2018, and 2019 pre-budget submissions, AMCTO raised its concerns about the way in which past failure to reform joint and several liability has impacted local governments and resulted in higher insurance premiums, a “liability chill,” and less money available to support local services.

That is why we are pleased to support the report released today by the AMO Task Force. The recommendations propose the kinds of reforms that AMCTO has previously supported, particularly moving to a form of proportionate liability and finding ways to reduce municipal insurance costs.

Additionally, we support finding a balance between making whole those who suffer losses and ensuring municipalities do not bear a disproportionate share of doing so.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rick Johal, Director of Member & Sector Relations (rjohal@amcto.com).

Sincerely,

Dean Sauriol, CMO, AOMC, Dipl.M.M.
President