



## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 11, 2022

### **CITY OF ST. THOMAS WELL REPRESENTED AT 2022 AMO CONFERENCE**

ST. THOMAS, ON — Mayor Joe Preston, Councillors Gary Clarke and Jim Herbert, and City Manager Sandra Datars Bere will join over 1,700 participants from hundreds of municipalities and organizations from across Ontario as they participate in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's 2022 AMO Conference. The conference takes place from August 14 to 17 at the Shaw Centre and Westin in Ottawa.

As the most comprehensive educational forum for municipal governments, the 2022 AMO Conference will be the first in-person gathering of municipal leaders in almost three years. The conference provides an opportunity for municipal officials to work directly with the newly elected Ontario government as it begins its new mandate.

Keynote presenters include Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Sylvia Jones, Ontario's Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Steve Clark, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Peter Tabuns, (Interim Leader of the Ontario NDP and Official Opposition), Stephen Blais (Ontario Liberal Caucus Critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing), and Mike Schreiner (Leader of the Green Party of Ontario) will also give presentations.

The annual conference is an opportunity for the City to learn and collaborate on solutions and opportunities to local and provincial challenges. As part of the conference, the City of St. Thomas will attend delegation meetings with provincial ministries.

This year, the City of St. Thomas will meet with the:

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ministry of Education



As part of the delegations, topics this year include advocacy for resources to create new and augment existing mental health supports, funding to assist with the costs of environmental remediation of brownfields to support residential development on former rail lands, increased support for inter-community transportation connections and initiatives, and support for opportunities to work with local school boards to address concerns surrounding future growth planning and existing overcrowding challenges at area schools.

To highlight this advocacy work, the City has developed a Provincial Advocacy Plan that showcases the ongoing priorities and directions of Council as they relate to working with the elected Provincial government to realize our strategic plan goals of being compassionate, vibrant, and thriving community. This document will be updated as priorities and strategies evolve.

The Plan can be viewed on the City's website: [www.stthomas.ca](http://www.stthomas.ca)

For further information contact:

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#### Quick Facts

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario and Canada's political system.

All media are required to register in Room 204 at the Shaw Centre. Attending media are encouraged to book accommodation as soon as possible, if needed.

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