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May 2, 2020

## **AMO Launches Virtual 2020 Conference**

In early April, AMO committed to delivering the 2020 Conference “one way or another” – either in person or virtually. We also promised to keep you informed, and to ensure you have the information you need to make informed choices about your participation in the AMO 2020 Conference.

It is now clear that having an in-person conference in August in the beautiful City of Ottawa is not feasible.

So today, we are launching our Virtual AMO 2020 Conference - August 17-19, on a computer screen, tablet or smartphone near you.

While a virtual conference will be different in many ways, many of the best features of the conference will still be offered, including:

- Keynote Speakers and Panels on important topics
- A dozen breakout sessions on many key issues
- Interaction with the Premier, the leader of the Official Opposition, and the leaders of the Liberal and Green parties
- Ministers’ speeches and Ministers’ Forum
- Virtual delegation meetings with Ministers
- AMO AGM
- AMO election for 2020-2022 Board, including candidate speeches
- Virtual networking opportunities
- A program that looks at the compelling and topical issues of today, including:
  - Innovation and disruption
  - COVID-19 response, lessons learned and recovery
  - Women in Leadership
  - Climate Change

- And many others
- A virtual tradeshow
- Interactions with key sponsors
- And much more

The program will include a combination of live-interactive sessions and recorded material. All of the proceedings will be recorded as they occur and will quickly be made available for Conference delegates to view on-demand, so you don't need to miss a single session. The program will include 3 mornings of shared, real-time, plenary proceedings plus on-demand material and experiences so you can customize your days, and attend delegation meetings with Ministers, without missing a thing.

The virtual AMO 2020 Conference will bring AMO members together this August just as it always has done. While AMO 2020 will be different, the AMO staff and Board are working with our partners to ensure it will be every bit as meaningful, interesting and worthwhile.

*"The AMO conference is an important opportunity for the Government of Ontario to connect directly with municipal councils from every part of Ontario. This year, we look forward to making that same connection through AMO's virtual 2020 Conference."* Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

*"The AMO Conference is important to our members for learning, networking and for direct interaction with the government. It's important to the government as an opportunity to hear directly from you. And it's important to AMO as a key member service and because conference revenue helps keep membership fees low."* Jamie McGarvey, AMO President

## **Registration**

We have reduced the price of the conference to reflect reduced costs and to make the conference more affordable. If you are already registered for AMO 2020, and you still want to participate, you don't need to do a thing. A partial refund will be processed to reflect the new price, after the July 6, 2020 cutoff date for cancellations.

If you have already registered but do not want to participate and you prefer a full refund, you can cancel your registration by July 6, 2020. Registrations will not be refunded after July 6, 2020, but can be transferred.

If you haven't already registered for the AMO 2020 Conference, and want to join in, please visit the AMO Conference [2020 Registration](#) to register.

### **Hotel Room Information**

One thing about a virtual conference is that you will not need a hotel room to participate. AMO has negotiated with conference hotels for a full refund of a guestroom booking deposits for bookings made under the AMO Conference room blocks. Information about hotel room refunds is available on the AMO 2020 Conference webpage [Hotel Information](#). If you have accommodation bookings in Ottawa not under the AMO blocks, you will need to contact the accommodation provider directly.

### **Thank You!**

Thank you for your continued interest in the 2020 AMO Conference. Responding to COVID-19 and supporting our members through challenging times has been AMO's number one priority. A virtual conference in 2020 is an important part of AMO's commitment to serve our members. The AMO 2020 virtual conference will ensure AMO members have access to up-to-date information, lessons learned from COVID-19, and critically important networking opportunities that bring Ontario municipalities together in the service of our communities.

### **Questions**

If you have questions about the Virtual AMO 2020 Conference, you may find the answers at our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) section on the AMO conference webpage. If you have questions that are not answered there, please send them to [events@amo.on.ca](mailto:events@amo.on.ca)

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