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From: AMO Communications [<mailto:communicate@amo.on.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:09 PM
To: Emmerson, Wayne
Subject: Request for council resolutions to support AMO/LAS request for broader municipal investment powers

To the attention of the Head of Council and Council:

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario and LAS ask for your council's support of the attached resolution which asks for the province to change the current Municipal Act investment regulation to allow municipalities to invest consistent with the 'Prudent Investor Standard', if such investments are through the One Investment Program.

The province has recently conferred 'Prudent Investor' status on the City of Toronto to enable them to have greater diversification in portfolio management and asset selection, and we strongly believe that other Ontario municipalities should be granted similar investment powers if their investments are managed through professional investment management options, such as the One Investment Program.

AMO, LAS, and the Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ontario (MFOA) have lobbied the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for broader investment powers for more than 4 years, with the issue now being considered as part of the Municipal Act review. We however want this change to be made sooner than the completion of the Municipal Act review, and to achieve this we ask for your support of this resolution.

If you have any questions about our request or the attached resolution, please contact Jason Hagan, LAS Program Manager, at jhagan@amo.on.ca or 416-971-9856 x320.

If you have problems opening the attachment(s) please call LAS at (416) 971-9856.

DISCLAIMER: Any documents attached are final versions. LAS assumes no responsibility for any discrepancies that may have been transmitted with this electronic version. The printed versions of the documents stand as the official record.

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Sample resolution for municipal councils related to broader investment powers

WHEREAS municipalities are required to invest their reserves in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001 and Ontario Regulation 438/97 (as amended), which specifically outlines allowable investments;

and WHEREAS to ensure the sustainability and sound stewardship of the municipality's investments, the municipality is of the opinion that changes should be made to the Municipal Act, 2001 and Ontario Regulation 438/97 (as amended), to allow for the prudent investment of reserves, if those investments are professionally managed and part of a broader investment strategy;

and WHEREAS the Prudent Investor Standard is an industry accepted best practice in effectively managing a portfolio of investments, and the Standard applies to investments, not in isolation, but in the context of the portfolio of investments and as part of an overall strategy, that should incorporate acceptable risk and return objectives suitable to the stakeholders;

and WHEREAS the Province is conferring "Prudent Investor" status on the City of Toronto to enable greater diversification in portfolio management,

and WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Local Authority Services (LAS), and the Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ontario (MFOA), have long requested that the Prudent Investor Standard apply to all municipal investments that are invested with The One Investment Program;

and WHEREAS in 2005, municipalities were granted the ability to invest in longer-term corporate bonds and Canadian equity investments via only the One Investment Program, and the One Investment Program has demonstrated strong investment returns for municipalities within these 'new' investment sectors;

and WHEREAS the institutional portfolio managers utilized by the One Investment Program recommend that the Prudent Investor Standard approach is a more appropriate approach to investing;

and WHEREAS operating municipal investments under the Prudent Investor Standard is precluded by the Municipal Act, Eligible Investments, in its current form;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council support the request of AMO, LAS, and MFOA to amend Ontario Regulation 438/97 (as amended) of the Municipal Act, 2001, to allow municipalities to invest consistent with the Prudent Investor Standard, if such investments are through the One Investment Program.