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June 25, 2015

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

The Honourable Ted McMeekin  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
College Park, 17th Floor  
777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

The Honourable Yasir Naqvi  
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services  
George Drew Building, 18th Floor  
25 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

The Honourable Kevin Flynn  
Minister of Labour  
14th Floor  
400 University Avenue  
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7

Dear Ministers:

The AMO Board of Directors is quite concerned that a proposal by the Ontario Professional Fire Fighter's Association (OPFFA) to expand their medical services has been under provincial consideration since April and is progressing in complete absence of discussions with AMO/municipal employers and our municipal experts who manage both paramedic and fire services. This is testing the provincial-municipal relationship in an unhelpful manner.

I strongly recommend that the Province put the brakes on this. At the very least, you should set up an immediate process that puts AMO/municipal employers, Chiefs of Fire, and Paramedical experts together with others to carefully look at the proposal, and the expectations and implications that it advances. There are complex technical, legal and administrative matters, not to mention governance and oversight, that need to be seriously considered before you proceed with a decision, even for pilot projects.

As the employers, we deeply care about how this proposal might work or not work as it is within our service responsibilities. The OPFFA appears to have had a great deal of airtime with ministries. Employers should have the same consideration. Given the complexity and the myriad of questions, AMO proposes that a working group be convened to explore these areas before Cabinet accepts the OPFFA proposal.

The Province must take the time to benefit from the collective and practical knowledge of service managers who deliver health and fire services in our communities, along with representation from other bodies who have an interest in the efficacy of the concept and impacts their responsibilities, too (e.g. base hospitals).

This suggestion of a working group is reasonable, practical and one that the Province needs to put into action. Isolating municipal employers and the service areas or delaying involvement until the pilot project concept is almost a done deal is not fair or acceptable.

Yours sincerely,



Gary McNamara

cc: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario  
Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
Laurie Leblanc, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Matthew Torigian, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services  
Sophie Dennis, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour  
Norm Gale, President, Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs  
Matthew Pegg, President, Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs  
Joy Hulton, Regional Solicitor, Regional Municipality of York/Emergency Services Steering Committee