



ROBIN JONES
for
AMO PRESIDENT
Right Time. Right Choice.

March 14, 2024

Hello colleagues across the Province

I am announcing that I am a candidate for AMO President in 2024. As Mayor of Westport, I am pleased to have the full support of my Council.

I was born and raised in Toronto and graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University. Throughout my professional career, I moved 14 times and have lived in every region of Ontario, except the North East. Before retiring in Eastern Ontario, I resided in Thunder Bay.

- Mayor of Westport since 2014
- UCLG Warden, Chair EOWC, EORN Board
- AMO Board member since 2018
- Chair of AMO Rural Caucus since 2021
- Chair of ROMA since 2021
- Current Chair of AMO Policing Task Force
- AMO's Indigenous Task Force member

I have served as the Chair of the AMO Rural Caucus and ROMA Board since 2021. My goal has been to ensure that the challenges faced by Rural Ontario are brought to the attention of Queen's Park. To achieve this, I have been determined to gather evidence and data that supports our cause. Over the past three years, I have led the ROMA Board in completing three projects that focus on evidence-based policies that address the challenges faced by Rural Ontario. These projects are aimed at helping Rural Ontario rebound from COVID-19, improving housing and increasing access to health services, while providing proactive and concrete solutions to these challenges. I am pleased to say that the government has responded positively to these projects and we are making progress.

- Retired Chief Nishnawbe-Aski Police
- Served with the Ontario Provincial Police and Waterloo Regional Police
- Provincial Negotiator First Nations Policing
- Leadership Instructor - International Association of Chiefs of Police

This work has provided me with a strong foundation to shoulder the leadership that your next AMO President will need in the coming years. These are increasingly challenging times for Ontario's municipalities. During the project research, I had the opportunity to discuss the issues with municipal mayors and leaders across the province. I understand the frustrations that we all share about the opioid crisis, homelessness, and mental illness that are wreaking havoc in our communities. These issues are breaking our communities, spirits and in some cases, the banks. Regardless of their size, municipalities face challenges in providing housing, accessing primary health care, dealing with failing infrastructure, catering to the needs of seniors, and finding qualified people to provide municipal services to our residents. Moreover, our staff are essential to keeping up with constantly changing regulatory environments.

My tenure on the AMO Executive Board for the last three years has allowed me to understand the responsibilities of the President and gain a broader perspective on the issues through discussions with my peers. My experience at the MOU table has emphasized the importance of consultation between the Province and Ontario's municipal governments.

While it's true that the MOU table holds a significant position in our organization and is considered to be a valuable and respected institution,

it's also true that some critical matters might not make it to the table. It's important to ensure that all issues are addressed and resolved, regardless of whether or not they are discussed at the MOU table.

If I am elected, I will work towards improving the relationship and creating a stronger partnership between municipalities and the provincial government. My experience as Chair of ROMA has enabled me to establish positive relationships with various Ministers, MPPs, and provincial staff. It is essential to have strong and committed relationships with members of the provincial government to ensure effective governance and tackle local challenges. It is crucial to recognize the role of municipalities in delivering essential services and implementing provincial programs efficiently. In the past, outdated regulations, disjointed policy announcements, and a lack of action on initiatives that are important to you have posed obstacles. We can overcome these challenges by developing more effective partnerships and improving communication.

I am committed to supporting the AMO Social and Economic Prosperity Review and working collaboratively with municipalities and the government to thoroughly analyze revenues, costs, and financial risks. This includes a detailed evaluation of Ontario's infrastructure investment and service delivery requirements. It is crucial to address these concerns through a consultative and cooperative approach among all orders of government. To achieve real change, we need transformative action.

I have a proven track record of leadership in both local and provincial politics and am fully committed to fulfilling the duties of the position of AMO President if elected. With my diverse life experiences, I bring a wide range of skills and qualifications to the office of the AMO President.

As the AMO elections occur this August, I kindly request your support. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to email or call me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robin Jones

613-328-1051

rjones@villageofwestport.ca

<https://www.youtube.com/@RobinJonesforAMOPresident>