

March 26, 2026

Ms. Celine Chiovitti
Chief Pension Officer
OMERS Administration Corporation (AC)
900 -100 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 0E2

Celine:

We write to you on behalf of COTAPSA and AMCTO, in reference to the OMERS Reviewer's recommendations regarding the appointment of observers of the new OMERS Sponsors Council.

Having met with OMERS Administration Corp. representatives on February 18, 2026, to discuss the Province of Ontario's plans for OMERS governance, and following receipt of your March 6, 2026, email -- we wanted to follow up on the four questions raised in your March 6 note, regarding the Sponsors Council observers. We appreciate this opportunity to provide our collective feedback.

Our answers to each question are **bolded** as below. We expect you will be sharing, as part of this process, the relevant Sponsors Council draft bylaws related to the observers and their roles for stakeholder comment. We look forward to receiving the draft bylaws.

1. Describe how an observer member should participate in meetings of the Sponsors Council. Should they be permitted to speak in meetings in the same way as the other members? Should they be able to place items on the agenda? Should the voting members be permitted to exclude observers from a meeting or a portion of a meeting?

We believe non-voting observers should be afforded the same rights and responsibilities as full members of the Sponsors Council, including speaking to and placing items on the agenda, except for voting. Perhaps observers could be allotted a specified time each meeting to present perspectives on behalf of their respective constituencies.

The rights of observers should be clearly set out in the by-laws under consideration and voting members should not be permitted to exclude observers from meeting or portions of meeting.

In general, Observers should serve a maximum of two terms, with each term to last no more than 3 years.

2. Should observers receive the same access to materials as voting members?

Again, to answer in the style of your first question, using hypothetical formal contract language binding OMERS and the observer-naming groups:

“The OMERS Sponsors Council shall provide to the Observer copies of all notices, minutes and other materials that its Secretariat provides to regular members of the Council, at the same time and in the same manner as such materials are delivered to those Council members.

This should include, but not be limited to:

- OMERS Administration Corporation financial reporting**
- Actuarial reports and actuarial valuations**
- Funding analysis and funding policy materials**
- Risk assessments and risk management reporting**
- Investment and plan performance reporting**
- Any other reports provided by the Administration Corporation to the Sponsors Council**

Observers should also have access to any reporting provided to the Sponsors Council relating to regulatory filings or reporting obligations involving the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA), the Province of Ontario or the Government of Canada.

Observers’ access to materials should only be restricted in exceptional circumstances. Any decision to withhold materials from observers should be made formally by the Sponsors Council and recorded in the meeting minutes, including the general reason for the restriction. (Such exclusions should be used sparingly and should not apply to financial reporting, actuarial reports, funding analysis, risk assessments or regulatory reporting provided to the Sponsors Council.)

3. In cases where a single observer seat is shared by multiple named organizations, should the bylaw direct how those organizations are required to put a name forward? What should the process be if the organizations are unable to reach consensus?

There should be a clause in the Sponsors Council bylaws to the effect that an observer can be named at the sole discretion of those OMERS stakeholders permitted to name such observers, by simple notice of a signed letter to OMERS from the leadership of the relevant nominating organization(s). (Removal of an observer, similarly, should be at the discretion of the nominating organizations, and not OMERS.)

In those cases where the organizations are unable to reach consensus, the practice should be to leave the observer position vacant. Let the relevant organizations find a consensus, rather than OMERS prescribe potential candidates, for example.

4. In the event that the bylaws create a process for reviewing council composition in the future, how should the process apply to observers? How should new groups be added as observers or groups who no longer warrant observer status be removed?

We believe that Porier and the Province have carefully considered this matter and have made a decision on who shall have observer status. We believe responsibility for this matter should remain with the Province to ensure Sponsor organizations can not make decisions on who should have observer status.

Some additional pertinent questions that occur to us regarding the observer position, with COTAPSA's answers continuing in bold, appear below:

- *Will the draft bylaws acknowledge that each observer's first loyalty must be to the specific segment of OMERS membership (or OMERS employer base) represented by the relevant observer-nominating OMERS "manager organizations," to adopt the language of the OMERS Reviewer's report?*

We believe this point needs to be emphasized in the Sponsors Council bylaws, to differentiate the observer role from the profile of a council member – in this specific case involving COTAPSA and AMCTO, the relevant named observer acts on behalf of the 25% of OMERS active membership who lack any other representation in OMERS current governance arrangements.

- *As well, will the bylaws include some competency-based guidelines to assist "manager organizations" in the selection of observers? Do these draft guidelines highlight the importance of prospective observers having a prior understanding of actuarial practices, defined benefit pension funding principles, OMERS governance, etc.?*

Since, over time, leadership/staff at the nominating organizations will come and go, there's a very high likelihood that the observer-related bylaws as published by the Sponsors Council will represent the most "authoritative" available statement of the specifics of the observer role for the relevant observer-naming OMERS stakeholders.

COTAPSA and AMCTO both agree on the importance of the Sponsors Council bylaws encouraging nominating organizations to give priority to individuals with firsthand knowledge and experience with topics including, but not limited to:

- **defined benefit pensions generally; the *OMERS Act* and the *Pension Benefits Act*; jointly sponsored pension plan legislation; the formal process around actuarial filings; FSRA and its role as the pension regulator in Ontario; the history, evolution, membership, investments, liabilities and governance of OMERS.**

Thank for this opportunity to provide our feedback. Both AMCTO and COTAPSA remain fully committed to the process outlined by the OMERS Reviewer and working within the observer relationship as outlined in the revised legislation.

Sincerely,



Michael Major,
Executive Director
COTAPSA



David Arbuckle
Executive Director
AMCTO

CC:

Josef Filipowicz, Executive Director of Policy, Office of the Honourable Robert Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Josef.Filipowicz@ontario.ca)
Tanner Zelenko, Director of Stakeholder and Caucus Relations, Office of the Honourable Robert Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca)
Robert Poirier, OMERS Reviewer (omersgovernancereview2025@ontario.ca)
Chris Skubel, Director, Municipal Controllershship and Financial Planning Branch (MFPB), Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (chris.skubel@ontario.ca)
Ruchi Parkash, Director, Municipal Finance Policy/Local Government Division, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (ruchi.parkash@ontario.ca)
Laurie Hutchinson, CEO, OMERS Sponsors Corporation (LHutchinson@Omers.com)
George L. Cooke, Chair, OMERS Administration Corporation Board (pnolan@Omers.com)
Max Cananzi, OMERS SC Board of Directors (omerssc@Omers.com)
Elizabeth Brown (Association of Municipalities of Ontario), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Pierre Côté (Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Garry Cubitt (Ontario Association of Police Services Boards), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Peter Derochie (Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Deborah Dubenofsky (Association of Municipalities of Ontario), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Scott Marks (Retiree Group), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Domenic Maugeri (CUPE Local 79), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Tim D'Souza (Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Giuliana Carbone (City of Toronto), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Rick Robson (Police Association of Ontario), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Chris Varcoe (Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Giulia Volpe (Ontario Public Service Employees Union), OMERS SC Board of Directors
John Weatherup (President, Toronto Education Workers/Local 4400), OMERS SC Board of Directors
Lindsay Jones, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (ljones@amo.on.ca)
CUPE Ontario (info@cupe.on.ca)
CUPE Local 79 (president@cupelocal79.org)
CUPE Local 416 (emariconda@local416.org)
Electricity Distributors Association (tsarkesian@eda-on.ca)
Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (media_inquiry@oacas.org)
Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (lisadarling@oapsb.ca)
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (pdaly@ocsta.on.ca)
Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association (admin@ontariofirefighters.org)
Ontario Public Service Employees Union (opseu@opseu.org)

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (Thomas.Golightly@osstf.ca)
Police Association of Ontario (pao@pao.ca)
Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU Canada) (office@atucanada.ca)
Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (amcto@amcto.com)
Canadian Office & Professional Employees Union (COPE) (kcaston@copeseqb.ca)
Civic Institute of Professional Personnel (CIPP) (peter.bleyer@cipp.on.ca)
Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) (cpereira@etfo.org)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 636 (officeibew636@gmail.com)
Metrolinx (ramneet.aujla@metrolinx.com)
Municipal Finance Officers Association (MFOA) (donna@mfoa.on.ca)
Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (Contact@oacp.ca)
Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) (gerry@oasbo.org)
Ontario Municipal Administrators Association (OMAA) (scott@omaa.on.ca)
Ontario Municipal Human Resources Association (OMHRA) (executivedirector@omhra.ca)
Ontario Nurses Association (ONA) (onamail@ona.org)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) (dmendez@seiulocal2.ca)
Toronto Police Association (TPA) (information@tpa.ca)
Unifor (president@unifor4304.org)