

Alert

To the immediate attention of all Heads of Council, CAOs, and Clerks

February 9, 2006 – Alert 06/08

URGENT MATTER

CUPE STRIKE - AMO CALLS ON PROVINCE TO PROTECT PUBLIC INTEREST AND THE DELIVERY OF MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

As a direct result of Bill 206, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (Ontario) is receiving a mandate from its membership to conduct an illegal, province-wide strike. We understand the intention is for picket lines to be raised at midnight of the day Bill 206 is set for Third Reading. This could be as early as Monday, February 13. AMO has received many requests for assistance in light of the illegal strike mandate.

In response to members, the Association is urgently requesting that the Ontario Government intercede on behalf of threatened communities to seek an injunction to uphold the laws of Ontario and to minimize the impact of CUPE's Bill 206 strike.

A province-wide strike by CUPE members would disrupt vital services in our communities and threaten the health and safety of people in communities in every part of Ontario. Important municipal services such as child care, homes for the aged, ambulance services, transit, public health, hydro electricity, water and sewer services, waste management and others would be at risk as a result of this action. The potential consequences for Ontario's communities are grave. As the largest representative, by far, of OMERS employee members, many other public services in our communities are at risk as a result of an illegal, province-wide CUPE strike.

In the past, the Government of Ontario has acted in the public interest and intervened to protect important public services (hospitals and schools) from illegal province-wide labour action. AMO is looking to the Province to take immediate action to protect our communities. Please watch for further Alerts with updates.

As well, AMO has requested a meeting with the Premier and Minister Gerretsen to discuss Bill 206.

This information is available in the Policy Issues section of the AMO website at www.amo.on.ca

For more information, contact: Pat Vanini, AMO Executive Director, at 416-971-9856 extension 316