

City of St. Thomas Community Recycling Centre Wins AMO Gas Tax Award

Ottawa, Ontario, August 16, 2017 – The City of St. Thomas has been recognized by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for investing the federal Gas Tax Fund in its community recycling centre. The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, along with Lynn Dollin, AMO President, presented the award today to St. Thomas Mayor Heather Jackson.

The AMO Gas Tax Award is given out each year to municipal governments that demonstrate excellence in the use of the federal Gas Tax Fund. The Awards highlight infrastructure projects that make a difference in our communities by addressing local needs, creating economic growth or achieving environmental outcomes.

The City of St. Thomas received the Award for investing \$1,795,000 from the federal Gas Tax Fund into a new community recycling centre that gives residents a place to dispose of material that isn't accepted at curbside pick-up. The recycling centre has helped the City increase the amount of waste diverted from landfill with about 14,000 visits to the centre within the first 15 months of it opening.

“The Government of Canada has committed to working with municipalities to ensure that they are ready for tomorrow’s challenges,” said the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. “The flexibility of the federal Gas Tax Fund allows cities like St. Thomas to invest in community recycling projects that contribute to strategic asset management and long-term sustainability.”

“Thanks to our new community recycling centre, St. Thomas is diverting more waste from landfill,” said Heather Jackson, Mayor of the City of St. Thomas. “Predictable funding from the federal Gas Tax Fund helped us complete this project that will benefit St. Thomas and neighbouring communities for years to come.”

“St. Thomas residents now have options when it comes to recycling, which means less waste going to landfill,” said Lynn Dollin, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. “Federal investment through the Gas Tax Fund helps to keep the environment clean.”

The federal Gas Tax Fund is a permanent and stable source of funding for municipal infrastructure. AMO delivers the Fund to Ontario municipalities, except Toronto, twice a year, on a per capita basis. This approach means that federal funding can address the diverse needs found in all of Ontario’s municipalities. AMO will administer more than \$620 million from the Fund in 2017.

You can learn more about the Gas Tax Fund in Ontario by visiting www.gastaxatwork.ca or @GasTaxinOntario on Twitter.

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports and enhances strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario and Canada's political system.



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