

Appendix B: Background on the Audit and Accountability Fund

On May 21, 2019, the Province of Ontario announced the provision of a \$7.35 million Provincial Audit and Accountability Fund to help large municipalities and district school boards review municipal service delivery expenditures to find efficiencies and modernize service delivery, while protecting jobs. On August 16, 2021 the Province announced a third intake of the Provincial Audit and Accountability Fund to help large municipalities become more efficient while delivering the services that residents and businesses rely on every day.

Eligible municipalities could apply to the Province for funding to retain a third party consultant to undertake reviews which must:

1. Be a review of municipal service delivery or administrative expenditures by an independent third-party reviewer for the purpose of finding savings and efficiencies.
2. Result in a final report by the independent third-party reviewer that provides specific and actionable recommendations for cost savings and efficiencies.
3. Complete a final report that is posted publicly on the municipal website by February 1, 2023.

Only third-party service fees were eligible for funding. Municipal administration costs such as staff time are not eligible for funding. Proposals that included digital modernization, service integration and streamlined development approvals were encouraged.