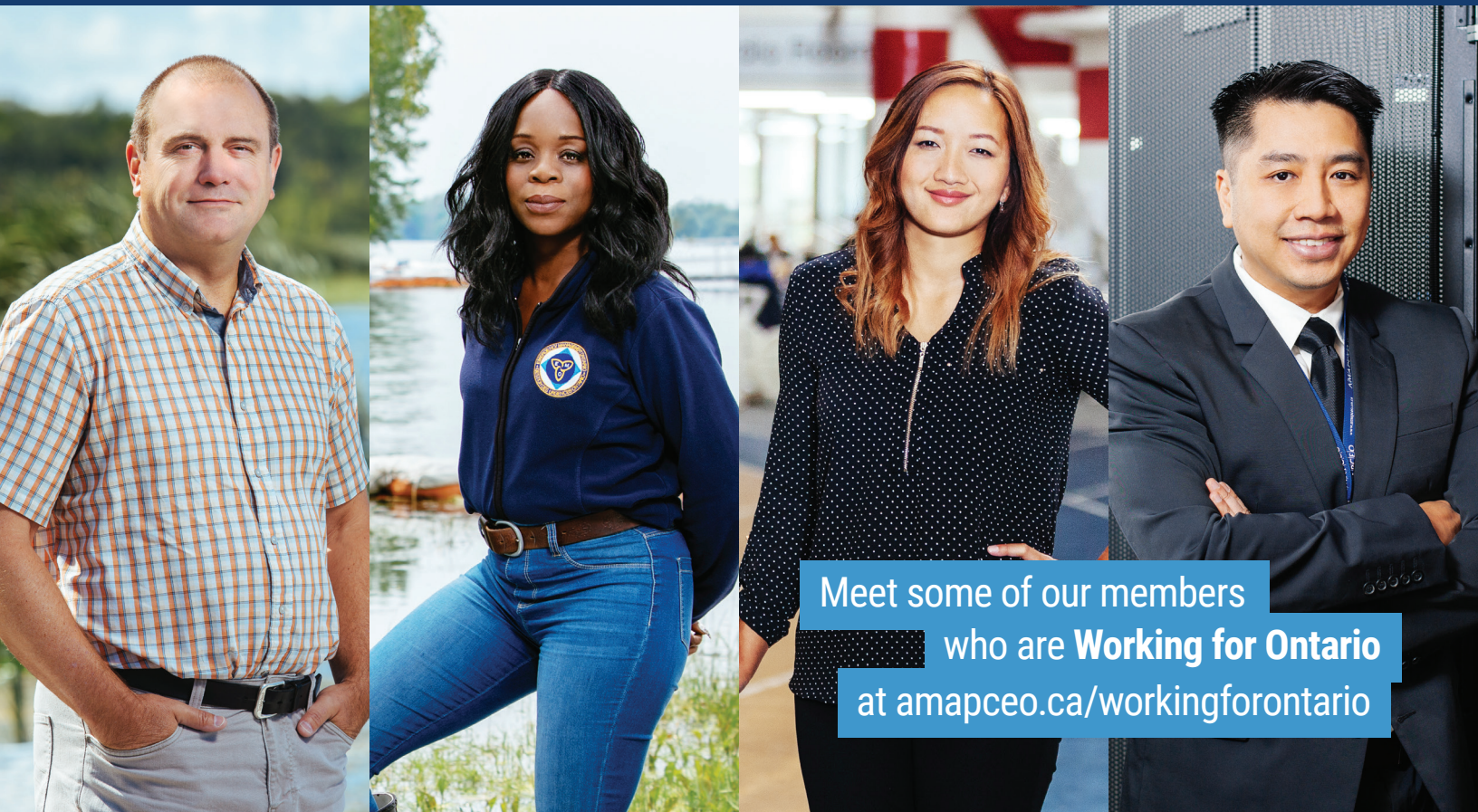


Ontario Budget

FALL 2020

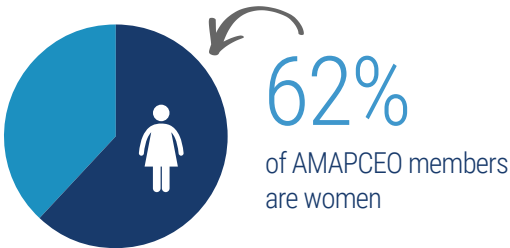


Meet some of our members
who are **Working for Ontario**
at amapceo.ca/workingforontario

AMAPCEO
ONTARIO'S PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES

Who We Are

AMAPCEO is a member-driven union of professional employees, dedicated to providing outstanding representation and membership services. We protect members' rights, defend Ontario's public services, and advocate for better working conditions for all workers.



The majority of AMAPCEO members work for the Ontario Public Service (OPS). You will have met some. They work in every ministry, and in agencies, boards, and commissions in over 130 communities across the province and in eleven cities outside Canada.

We also represent members in seven bargaining units in the Broader Public Sector:

- the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario;
- Health Quality Ontario;
- the Ontario Arts Council;
- Public Health Ontario;
- Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care; and
- the former offices of the Ontario Child Advocate and the French Language Services Commissioner (now part of the Office of the Ontario Ombudsman)

Our membership is educated, professional, and diverse. They are problem solvers who take pride in working hard and offering creative, evidence-based solutions to public policy issues. They are passionate about serving the public interest.

As a non-partisan union, AMAPCEO has a long and proud of working in a constructive, problem-solving manner with governments of all political stripes. We have worked successfully on legislation and policy initiatives and negotiated free and fair collective agreements with governments from all three major political parties.

14,000
public professionals
represented

Introduction

When the COVID-19 pandemic took Ontario into its grip in March, the postponement of the spring Budget became one of many impacts of the pandemic.

In light of the endless repercussions of the pandemic on work and workplaces, and due to space constraints imposed for fall budget consultations, AMAPCEO is focusing its submission on the Ontario Public Service (OPS).

Despite that focus, it is important to also recognize the pandemic has illustrated the need for increased funding throughout the broader public sector, in areas such as public health and funding for arts and cultural organizations, as the province continues to fight the pandemic and as it focuses on economic recovery.

The Value of a Strong OPS

In our past two budget submissions, AMAPCEO has argued the hiring-freeze-fuelled reduction in the size of the OPS is misguided. We have demonstrated that prior to the hiring freeze the OPS was—by any measure—a lean organization.

The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of a competent and well-staffed public service. While health care has been in the forefront, the importance of critical public service roles extends well beyond.

Learn more about the efficiency of the OPS at [amapceo.ca/budget2020](https://www.amapceo.ca/budget2020)

Throughout the pandemic, AMAPCEO members have worked tirelessly to meet the evolving and rapidly changing needs of the many ministries they serve. Our members at the Ministry of Finance have been hard at work putting together two budgets this year. Our members at the Ministry of Education worked on planning an unprecedented school year while prioritizing the health and safety of students. Members throughout the OPS worked to draft new regulations and legislation with tight deadlines in the middle of a global health emergency.

The professionalism of AMAPCEO's members has shone through.

While our members got the job done, this crisis can only serve as a reminder of the importance of a robust professional public service so Ontarians can continue to receive and trust the quality of the public services they rely on.

The OPS Workplace of the Future

Since March, all OPS employees who can do so have been working remotely. The swiftness with which the government acted to switch to remote work was remarkable.

Before the pandemic, the OPS would see tens of thousands of its employees go to work in downtown Toronto. It is no exaggeration to suggest that lives were saved by such a large employer immediately implement remote work for its staff. This was a team effort and both the government and our members can be proud of the transition. AMAPCEO applauds the government for their leadership on this.

Evidence across the OPS points to an increase in productivity for those working remotely.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is ever-changing and far from over.

We appreciate the pause of the back-to-work plan for now and **recommend maintaining remote work policies until it is safe to transition back.**

This is also an opportunity to rethink what the workplace can and should look like as we move forward. To what extent can work be done remotely? What of open-plan workspaces? Is there an opportunity for the government to save money by reducing the amount of leased office space?

There is much to consider as we move forward. **AMAPCEO recommends that we work together to address these important questions through a collaborative process with the government and the OPS Employer.**

See more of AMAPCEO's
submissions at
amapceo.ca/publications

AMAPCEO

ONTARIO'S PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES

Established in 1992, AMAPCEO is a bargaining agent that represents 14,000 professional and supervisory public servants who work in the Ontario Public Service or one of six organizations in the Broader Public Sector.

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