

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Welcome
 - 1.2 Call to Order
 - 1.3 Review of Agenda
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2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

- 2.1 Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement - Blackfalds Town Council acknowledges that we are on Treaty Six Territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.
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3. **PRESENTATIONS**

None

4. **BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Request for Direction, Fire Protection Bylaw
 - 4.2 Request for Direction, BMX Supercross Track
 - 4.3 Request for Direction, EPR Transition - Curbside Recycling
 - 4.4 Report for Committee, Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions
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5. **CONFIDENTIAL**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Future Meetings/Events:

- Regular Council Meeting – August 27, 2024
- Standing Committee of Council – September 16, 2024

MEETING DATE: August 19, 2024
PREPARED BY: Ken Morrison, Director of Emergency Management & Protective Services
PRESENTED BY: Robert Cote, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: **Fire Protection Bylaw**

BACKGROUND

The Fire Protection Bylaw 1187/15 was last reviewed in 2015. Since then, the Bylaw template and formatting have changed. As such, it was an opportune time to review, revise, and bring the Bylaw up to date.

DISCUSSION

Fees for service have changed since 2015, when the last revision was completed. Considering current fee structures, Schedule "A" has been updated to reflect the currently accepted fees.

Minor changes have been made within the Bylaw; Part 3 (5) has been removed. Part 3(5) had authorized firefighters to carry green flashing lights in their vehicles to use when responding to emergencies; this was rescinded.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council recommend the newly revised Fire Protection Bylaw be brought to a future Regular Council Meeting for First Reading.

ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council refer the updated Fire Protection Bylaw back to Administration for additional information and/or amendments.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Newly revised Fire Protection Bylaw*
- *Blackline Version of Bylaw 1187/15 and the newly revised Fire Protection Bylaw*

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer



Department Director/Author

BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO ESTABLISH THE OPERATION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS.

A Bylaw of the Town of Blackfalds, in the Province of Alberta, pursuant to the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, being Chapter M 26.1 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000 and amendments thereto, for the purpose of providing for the establishment and operation of fire protection services for the Town of Blackfalds.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, provides that a Council of a Municipality may pass bylaws for the prevention and extinguishing of fires, the preservation of life and property, and the protection of persons from injury or destruction by fire, safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;

WHEREAS, the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*, R.S.A., 2000, Chapter F-19, as amended, provides certain additional powers which may be enacted by the Council of a Municipality so that it can enforce the provisions of the said *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* within the boundaries of the Municipality;

WHEREAS, the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000 Chapter M-26, as amended, provides for the entering into agreements with other municipalities or persons for the joint use, control and management of fire extinguishing apparatus and equipment, and for the purpose of providing fire protection not within the Town of Blackfalds municipal boundaries;

WHEREAS the municipal Council of the Town of Blackfalds has been accredited by the Safety Codes Council in its respective municipality;

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Blackfalds wishes to establish a Fire Service within the Town of Blackfalds and to provide efficient operation of such fire service;

NOW THEREFORE, the Municipal Council of the Town of Blackfalds, duly assembled hereby enacts:

PART 1 – TITLE

1.1 That this Bylaw shall be cited as the “**Fire Protection Bylaw**”.

1.2 Schedule “A” shall form part of this Bylaw.

PART 2 – DEFINITIONS

2.1 In this Bylaw:

- (a) “**Acceptable Burning Barrel**” applies to farm use only and means an outdoor receptacle that meets the following specifications;
 - (i) a minimum of three (3) meters clearance is maintained from any building, property line, or other combustible material when measured from the nearest edge;
 - (ii) the opening does not exceed one (1) meter in width or diameter when measured between the widest points or outer edge;
 - (iii) the receptacle has closed sides made from brick, concrete blocks, heavy gauge metal, or other non-combustible material that is acceptable to the Fire Department; and
 - (iv) a spark arrestor mesh screen with openings no larger than twelve and one-half (12.5) millimeters that is constructed of expanded metal (or equivalent material) is used to cover the opening in a manner sufficient to contain and reduce the hazards of airborne sparks.
- (b) “**Acceptable Fire Pit**” means an outdoor receptacle that meets the following specifications;

- (i) A minimum of three (3) meter clearance is maintained from any building, property line, or other combustible material when measured from the nearest edge;
 - (ii) the fire pit height does not exceed six hundred (600) millimeters when measured from the surrounding grade to the top of the pit opening;
 - (iii) the base that the fire pit is situated on must be non-combustible;
 - (iv) the pit opening does not exceed one (1) meter in width or in diameter when measured between the widest points or outer edges;
 - (v) the fire pit has enclosed sides made from brick, concrete blocks, heavy gauge metal, or other non-combustible material acceptable to the Fire Department; and
 - (vi) a spark arrestor mesh screen with openings no larger than twelve and one-half (12.5) millimeters that is constructed of expanded metal (or equivalent material) is used to cover the fire pit opening in a manner sufficient to contain and reduce the hazards of airborne sparks.
- (c) **“Acceptable Fireplace”** means an outdoor receptacle that meets the following specifications;
- (i) a minimum of one (1) meter’s clearance is maintained from any building, property line, or other combustible material when measured from the nearest fireplace edge;
 - (ii) the fireplace is constructed of materials such as brick or rocks that are heat and flame resistant;
 - (iii) the fireplace is equipped with a chimney that is not less than two and one-half (2.5) meters in height when measured from the base of the burning area;
 - (iv) the fireplace chimney is equipped with an approved screen designed to contain and reduce the hazards of airborne sparks, meeting the requirements of the manufacture and the Alberta Building Code;
 - (v) the base of the fire burning area is not less than three hundred (300) millimeters above the surrounding grade; and
 - (vi) the fire chamber does not exceed one and one-quarter (1.25) meters in width and is at least four hundred (400) millimeters but not more than six hundred (600) millimeters in depth.
- Clay fire pots are required to meet the above regulations and shall have a layer of sand or gravel in the bottom to prevent burn through.
- (d) **“Apparatus”** means any vehicle provided with machinery, devices, equipment, or materials for firefighting, as well as any vehicles used for transporting firefighters or supplies
- (e) **“Burnable Debris”** applies to farm use only and means the following material;
- (i) grass and weeds;
 - (ii) leaves and tree pruning;
 - (iii) brush and fallen trees on newly cleared land;
 - (iv) wood material from the construction or demolition of builds that does not contain wood preservatives as set out by Alberta Environment;
 - (vii) household refuse.

All burning of any of the above debris requires a Fire Permit issued by the Fire Department with the exception of debris when burned in an Acceptable Burning Barrel for farm use only.

- (f) **“Contained Fire”** means a fire which is confined within a non-combustible structure or container
- (g) **“Council”** means the Council of the Town of Blackfalds
- (h) **“Dangerous Goods”** means any produce, substance or organism specified in the regulations or included by its nature in any of the classes listed in the regulations under the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act*, S.C. 1992, c. 34, and any amendments thereto.
- (i) **“Emergency Services”** means Fire Department as established and organized for the Town pursuant to the provisions of this Bylaw consisting of, inter alia, all persons appointed or recruited to the various positions prescribed herein, all equipment, apparatus, materials and supplies used in the operation, maintenance and administration of the Fire Department
- (j) **“Emergency Unit”** means an ambulance, a fire truck, pumper truck, rescue vehicle, bush buggy or tender
- (k) **“Equipment”** means any tool, contrivances, devices or materials used by the fire department to mitigate an incident or other emergency
- (l) **“False Alarm”** means any activation of an Alarm System which results in a response and attendance by the RCMP or Blackfalds’ Fire Department at an Alarm Site, where no unauthorized entry to the alarmed premises or other illegal act or emergency has occurred, and no similar emergency exists, no matter how that request for service is received and includes but is not limited to an Alarm System that:
 - (i) is being tested without prior notice to the RCMP and Blackfalds’ Fire Department.
 - (ii) is activated by a mechanical failure or malfunction or faulty equipment.
 - (iii) is activated by the presence or movement of pets or any other interior movement at the Alarm Site.
 - (iv) which is activated by any act of negligence, error or omission; or
 - (v) is activated by atmospheric conditions, excessive vibrations, power failure or communications failure, unless it is shown by the owner of the Alarm Site that the False Alarm was caused by a storm, lightning, fire, earthquake or act of God.
- (m) **“Fire Alarm”** system means a device or devices installed on or in real property and designed to issue a warning of a fire by activating an audible alarm signal or alerting a monitoring facility but does not include a fire alarm system that is intended to alert only the occupants in a dwelling unit, which it is installed.
- (n) **“Fire Permit”** means a written application in the prescribed form set out by the Fire Department for approval for an Open-Air Fire or discharge of Fireworks and includes such other information and requirements as may be required by the Fire Department
- (o) **“Fireworks”** means firecrackers, and fireworks listed in the current Alberta Fire code and as defined by the Government of Canada Explosives Act, and any amendments thereto:
 - (i) Consumer Fireworks are low-hazard firework articles designed for recreational use by the public. These articles include items such as roman candles, sparklers, fountains, wheels, volcanoes, mines, and snakes.
 - (ii) Display Fireworks are high-hazard firework articles designed for use by professionals. These articles include items such as aerial shells, cakes, roman candles, waterfalls, lances and wheels.
 - (iii) Pyrotechnic Special Effects are high-hazard pyrotechnics articles designed for use by professionals. These articles include items

such as gerbs, mines, comets and crossettes. This class also includes special purpose pyrotechnics manufactured live stage and the film and television industry.

- (p) **“Hazard”** means a risk of fire or damage to property and/or person(s) which may be caused by the burning of any waste and includes any nuisances
- (q) **“Incident”** means a fire or a situation where an explosion is imminent or any other situation where there is a danger or a possible danger to life or property and to which Emergency Services has responded
- (r) **“Incinerator Fire”** means a fire that is confined to a non-combustible structure or container which fire is set for the purpose of burning household refuse
- (s) **“Malicious false fire alarm”** means when a person or persons unknown with intent to cause disruption within a structure has activated a pull station or a detection device.
- (t) **“Member”** means:
 - (i) a person who is a duly appointed Member of the Fire Department, and who receives remuneration (honorarium) for his or her services at a rate of pay established by Council;
 - (ii) a person who is a duly appointed Member of the Fire Department and who has advised the Town in writing that he or she is willing to gratuitously perform his functions under this Bylaw: and
 - (iii) a person who is a duly appointed Member of the Fire Department resides within the boundaries of the Town.
- (u) **“Nuisance”** means causing smoke which unreasonably affects the comfort or convenience of an individual and includes interference with use and enjoyment of property
- (v) **“Open Fire”** shall mean any Fire which is not a Pit Fire, Public Park Site Fire, and which, without limiting the generality of the foregoing shall include grass fires, brush fires, running fires, structure fires, building fires, wood scrap fires, ground thawing fires and chattel fires
- (w) **“Outdoor Fire”** means any fire not contained within a building or structure and shall include fire involving humus soil, piles of coal, farm produce, waste, brush, grass, seed, straw or any fire that has escaped or spread from a building, structure, machine or vehicle and any fire set for the purpose of thawing frozen ground
- (x) **“Paid on call firefighter”** is a firefighter that responds to emergencies 24 hours per day, who can respond during the day, evenings, and/or weekends also referred to as a volunteer firefighter
- (y) **“Peace Officer”** means;
 - (i) a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), a police service, or
 - (ii) a peace officer appointed under the Peace officer Act, while the peace officer is in the exercise or discharge of the peace officer’s powers or duties;
 - (iii) a bylaw officer is hereby authorized and empowered to exercise or discharge the bylaw officer’s powers or duties;
- (z) **“Practice”** means a gathering of Fire Department (service) members scheduled by the Fire Chief or designate at which training in fire protection services is conducted
- (aa) **“Prohibited Debris”** means any material that when burned will result in the release of dense smoke or toxic air contaminants to the atmosphere as

outlined in any statute or bylaw written to protect and enhance the environment and shall include but not limited to materials described as;

- (i) animal cadavers;
 - (ii) animal manure;
 - (iii) chemicals and chemical container;
 - (iv) combustible material in automobile bodies;
 - (v) combustible material in automobiles;
 - (vi) construction site waste;
 - (vii) household refuse;
 - (viii) non-wooded material;
 - (ix) paints and painting material;
 - (x) pathological waste;
 - (xi) rubber or plastic or anything containing or coated with rubber or plastic or similar substances;
 - (xii) rubber or plastic attached to shredded scrap metal;
 - (xiii) straw and stubble;
 - (xiv) toxic substances;
 - (xv) used oil; or
 - (xvi) wood or wood products containing substances for the purpose of preserving wood.
- (bb) **“Pit Fire”** means a fire which is totally confined within a non-combustible structure or container that has the draft and smoke vents thereof covered with a heavy gauge metal screen having a mesh size no larger than 12.5 millimeters and which is ventilated in such a manner as to preclude the escape of combustible materials including ash, and which fire is set for the purpose of cooking or obtaining warmth, and such fire may only be fueled with dry wood, charcoal, coal, natural gas or propane
- (cc) **“Portable Appliance”** means any appliance sold or constructed for the purpose of cooking food in the out-of-doors, obtaining warmth or viewing pleasure. Such fire may only be fueled with seasoned wood, charcoal, natural gas or propane;
- i) The portable appliance must be used as to the manufacturer’s installation and usage requirements,
 - ii) No modifications are to be made to the portable appliance
- (dd) **“Property”** means any real or personal property, which without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes land and structures
- (ee) **“Public Park Site Fire”** means a fire on land owned or leased by the Town or its agents for recreational purposes and is confined to a non-combustible container supplied by the Town, or a Portable Appliance, which is set for the purpose of cooking food, obtaining warmth or viewing for pleasure. Such fire may only be fueled with dry wood, charcoal, coal, natural gas or propane
- (ff) **“Quality Management Plan”** means the Fire Safety Quality Management Plan, approved by the Safety Codes Council, as Adopted by Council.
- (gg) **“Recreational Fire”** means a fire for recreational purposes which is confined to a non-combustible container which is set for the purpose of

cooking, obtaining warmth or viewing pleasure. Such fire may only be fueled with seasoned wood, charcoal, natural gas or propane

- (hh) **“Running Fire”** means a fire burning without being under the proper or any control of any person
- (ii) **“Structure Fire”** means a fire confined to and within any building, structure, machine or vehicle, which will, or is likely to, cause the destruction of, or damage to, such a building, structure, machine or vehicle, excluding an incinerator fire.
- (jj) **“Town”** means the Town of Blackfalds
- (kk) **“Violation Ticket”** means as defined by the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, R.S.A. 2000 c. P-34, and any amendments thereto.
- (ll) **“Volunteer Fire Fighter”** means a member of the Fire Department.

PART 3 - FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 3.1 Council does hereby establish a Fire Department, for the purpose of:
 - (a) preventing and extinguishing fires;
 - (b) investigating the cause of fires;
 - (c) preserving life and property and protecting persons and property from injury or destruction by fire;
 - (d) providing rescue, first response medical services;
 - (e) preventing prairie or running fires and enforcing the provisions of the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*, and any amendments thereto;
 - (f) preventing, combating and controlling incidents;
 - (g) meeting the requirements of the Quality Management Plan for the Fire Discipline;
 - (h) entering into agreements with other municipalities or persons for the joint use, control and management of fire extinguishing apparatus and equipment;
 - (i) purchasing and operating apparatus and equipment for extinguishing fires or preserving life and property.
- 3.2 The Fire Department is hereby authorized to control and mitigate incidents involving Dangerous Goods.

PART 4 - FIRE CHIEF

- 4.1 The authority of the Fire Chief is granted by this Bylaw, Town of Blackfalds Policy and the Safety Codes Act, and any amendments thereto. The Fire Chief shall ultimately be responsible to the Chief Administrative Officer.
- 4.2 The Fire Chief or designate shall be responsible to the Council through the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town.
- 4.3 The Fire Chief has complete responsibility and authority over the Fire Department, subject to the direction of Council, and shall, upon approval of Council, prescribe rules, regulations and policies for the ongoing organization and administration of the Fire Department, including but not limited to:
 - (a) the use, care and protection of Fire Department property;
 - (b) the appointment, recruitment, conduct, discipline, duties and responsibilities of the Members; and
 - (c) the efficient operation of Fire Department Services;

- 4.4 Regulations, rules or policies made pursuant to Section 8 of this Bylaw shall not be inconsistent with the legislation and regulations of the Province of Alberta.
- 4.5 The Fire Chief shall:
- (a) upon approval of Council through the budget process, purchase or otherwise acquire equipment, apparatus, materials or supplies required for the operation, maintenance and administration of the Fire Department to be used in connection therewith;
 - (b) keep or cause to be kept, in proper form, records of all business transactions of the Fire Department, including the purchase or acquisition of equipment, apparatus, materials or supplies and records of fires attended, actions taken in extinguishing fires, inspections carried out and actions taken on account of inspections and any other records incidental to the operation of the Fire Department;
 - (c) Ensure that training is provided to fire service members meeting the requirements of Provincial legislation and industry best practices;
 - (d) upon approval of the Council, negotiate on behalf of the Council, with the Provincial Government of Alberta, other municipalities and persons for the purpose of establishing mutual aid agreements and fire control agreements with recommendations and concerns regarding the establishing or renewing of any mutual aid agreement or fire control agreement and amendments thereto; and
 - (e) perform such functions and have such powers and responsibilities as Council may from time to time prescribe.
- 4.6 The Fire Chief, or any other Member in charge at a fire, is empowered to cause a building, structure or thing to be pulled down, demolished or otherwise removed if deemed necessary to prevent the spread of fire to other building, structures or things.
- 4.7 The Fire Chief, or any other Member in charge at an incident, is empowered to cause Emergency Services to enter on any land or premises, including adjacent land or premises, to combat, control or deal with the incident in whatever manner deemed necessary.
- 4.8 For the purpose of fire investigations and inspections, the Fire Chief may obtain assistance from other officials of the town as deemed necessary in order to discharge the duties and responsibilities under this Bylaw.

PART 5 - CONTROL OF FIRE HAZARDS

- 5.1 If the Town finds within its Municipal boundaries on privately owned land or occupied public land conditions that in its opinion constitute a fire hazard, it may order the owner or the person in control of the land on which the fire hazard exists to reduce or remove the hazard within a fixed time and in a manner prescribed by the Town.
- 5.2 When the Town finds that the order it made pursuant to Section 5.1 has not been carried out, the Town may enter on the land with any equipment and any person it considers necessary and may perform the work required to eliminate or reduce the fire hazard.
- 5.3 The Owner or the person in control of the land on which work was performed pursuant to Section 5.2 shall, on demand, reimburse the Town for the cost of the work performed in default of payment; such cost or fee may be charged against the land as taxes due and owing in respect of that land.

PART 6 - REQUIREMENT TO REPORT

- 6.1 The Owner or his authorized agent of any property damaged by fire shall immediately report to the Fire Department particulars of the fires which are satisfactory to the Fire Chief.

- 6.2 The Owner or his authorized agent of any property containing a Dangerous Good(s) product which sustains an accidental or unplanned release of Dangerous Good(s) product shall immediately report to the Fire Department particulars of the release which are satisfactory to the Fire Chief.

PART 7 - PERMITTED FIRES

- 7.1 No person shall permit an Open Fire upon land owned or occupied by him or under his control within the Town unless:
- (a) the fire has been set by the Fire Department for the purpose of training;
 - (b) the fire is a Public Park Site Fire;
 - (c) the fire is a Pit Fire;
 - (d) the fire is an Acceptable Burn Barrel for newly annexed county property;
 - (e) the fire has otherwise been authorized by the Fire Department, by way of a fire permit.
- 7.2 All Fires are to be supervised by a responsible adult at all times and have a means to extinguish the fire on hand at all times.
- 7.3 Weather conditions must be favourable with winds less than 15km/hr.
- 7.5 The flames shall not exceed 1 meter in height.
- 7.6 The fire must be extinguished completely, so that the ashes are cold prior to leaving the fire.

PART 8 - FIRE PERMIT

- 8.1 No person shall permit an Open Fire or Incinerator Fire upon land owned or occupied within the Town except when the landowner is the holder of a subsisting Fire Permit issued pursuant to this Bylaw, unless;
- (a) the fire has been set by the Fire Department for the purpose of training; or
 - (b) the fire is a Public Park Site Fire
 - (c) the fire has otherwise been authorized by the Fire Department.
- 8.2 When issuing a fire permit the Fire Department may issue the permit unconditionally or impose conditions considered appropriate
- 8.3 Fire Permits issued pursuant to this bylaw are valid for a period of time to be determined and set by the Fire Department. The fire permit shall have endorsed thereon the period of time for which the said permit is valid.
- 8.4 The Fire Department may extend the period of time that a fire permit is valid, provided the fire permit has not expired.
- 8.5 The Fire Chief or designate may terminate, suspend, or cancel a Fire Permit upon contravention of any provision of this Bylaw, the Alberta Fire Code, or any terms and conditions found on the Fire Permit
- 8.6 A Fire Permit is not transferable.
- 8.7 A Fire Permit will not be issued over the phone prior to a site visit being performed.

PART 9 - FIRE BAN

- 9.1 Notwithstanding any provision in this or any other bylaw, the Fire Chief or designate may declare a complete ban on any burning of any kind in the Town.
- 9.2 When determining whether to declare a complete ban on burning, the Fire Chief or designate may take into consideration any or all of the following factors:
- (a) the air quality index;

- (b) levels of precipitation;
 - (c) water shortages or restrictions;
 - (d) availability of firefighters and firefighting equipment; and
 - (e) the overall fire danger.
- 9.3 No person shall build, ignite or allow any kind of fire when a complete ban on burning is in effect.
- 9.4 The Fire Department or a Peace Officer may direct a Person to extinguish any fire when a fire ban is in effect.
- 9.5 A Person who fails to comply with the direction of a member of the Fire Department or a Peace Officer to extinguish a fire during a fire ban is guilty of an offense under this Bylaw and the fire department or the Peace Officer as the case may be, may extinguish the fire.

PART 10 - RECOVERY OF COSTS

- 10.1 Where the Fire Department has extinguished a fire or responded to a fire call or incident within or outside the Town for the purpose of preserving life or property from injury or destruction by fire or other incident, including any such action taken by the Fire Department on a false alarm, the Fire Chief may, in respect of any costs incurred by the Fire Department in taking such action, charge any costs so incurred by the Fire Department to:
- (a) the person who caused the incident
 - (b) the owner of the property of the person in possession of the property where the incident occurred or
 - (c) the owner of the property or the person in possession and control of the property if the location of the incident is not on privately owned land.
 - (d) A person who has negligently or intentionally misused a fire alarm system by activating without cause.
- 10.2 The schedule of costs and fees to be recovered or charged by the Fire Department for services rendered pursuant to this Bylaw shall be as set out in Schedule "A" attached to and forming part of this Bylaw.
- 10.3 In respect of the costs or fees described in Sections 10.2 and 10.3:
- (a) the Town may recover such cost or fee as a debt due and owing to the Town, or
 - (b) in the case of action taken by the Fire Department in respect of land within the Town, where the cost or fee is not paid upon demand by the Town, then in default of payment, such cost or fee may be charged against the land as taxes due and owing in respect of that land.

PART 11 - OFFENCES

- 11.1 Any person who ignites, fuels, supervises, maintains or permits an Open Fire or Incinerator Fire within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Blackfalds without a valid Fire Permit as required by this Bylaw is guilty of an offense, unless;
- (a) the fire has been set by the Fire Department for the purpose of training;
 - (b) the fire is a Public Park Site Fire
 - (c) the fire is a Pit Fire
 - (e) the fire has otherwise been authorized by the Fire Department by way of a fire permit.
- 11.2 When a fire is lit under the circumstances described in Section 39 when such fire is not permitted pursuant to this Bylaw the owner or occupier of the land or the

person having control of the land upon which such fire is lit shall:

- (a) extinguish the fire immediately, or
 - (b) where he is unable to extinguish the fire immediately, report the fire to the Fire Department.
- 11.3 No person either directly or indirectly personally or through an agent, servant or employee kindle a fire and let it become a Running Fire on any land not his own property or allow a Running Fire to pass from his own property to the property of another.
- 11.4 No person shall sell, possess, or discharge Fireworks in the Town unless they have the appropriate permits and licensing for high level displays and special events. A Fire Permit is required for the discharge of Fireworks. Fireworks must be purchased from a recognized company that meets all current provincial or federal regulations and standards.
- 11.5 Fireworks considered low level displays are banned in the Town. Possession, sale, or storage of Fireworks is prohibited.
- 11.6 No person shall:
- (a) build, ignite or allow any kind of fire when a complete ban on burning has been declared in effect.
 - (b) light an open fire, pit fire or public park site fire without first taking sufficient precaution to ensure that the fire is not a nuisance and can be kept under control at all times
 - (c) permit the flames to exceed 1 meter in height
 - (d) light an Incinerator Fire for the purpose of burning household refuse unless the property has recently been annexed county property
 - (e) light an open fire, pit fire or public park site fire when the weather conditions are conducive to creating a running fire;
 - (f) place a Pit Fire less than 3.0 meters from any structure including but not limited to a fence, deck, garage, shed or house or any combustible material;
 - (g) burn in a Pit Fire or a Public Park Site Fire, garbage, leaves, straw, painted wood, treated construction materials and items made of or containing rubber, metal, plastic, tar or any materials deemed for disposal
 - (h) fail to take reasonable steps to control a fire for the purpose of preventing it from becoming a Running Fire or from spreading onto land other than his own;
 - (i) deposit, discard or leave any burning matter or substance where it might ignite other material and cause a fire;
 - (j) conduct any activity that involves the use of fire that might reasonably be expected to cause a fire, unless he/she exercises reasonable care to prevent the fire from occurring;
 - (k) provide false, incomplete or misleading information to the Municipality or to the Fire Department on or with respect to the Fire Permit;
 - (l) interfere with the efforts of persons authorized in this Bylaw to extinguish fires or preserve life or property;
 - (m) interfere with the operation of any the Fire Department equipment or apparatus required to extinguish fires or preserve life or property;
 - (n) damage or destroy Fire Department property;
 - (o) move any fire hose or drive a vehicle over any fire hose at any fire without permission of the Fire Department member in charge;
 - (p) place or cause to be placed, any matter or thing, so as to obstruct or interfere with the operation or use of any fire hydrant, Fire Department water inlet or outlet connections on buildings, fire alarm control panels, manual alarm stations, or any fire detection device or equipment;

- (q) other than the employee of the Town Public Works Department or a member of the Fire Department shall use a fire hydrant for the purpose of obtaining or discharging water from such hydrant without first receiving permission from the Director of Infrastructure and Property Services or the Fire Chief;
 - (r) obstruct or otherwise interfere with access roads or streets or other approaches to any fire hydrants, cisterns, or bodies of water designated for firefighting purposes;
 - (s) falsely represent themselves as a Fire Department Member or wear or display any Emergency Services badge, cap, button, insignia or other paraphernalia for the purpose of such false representation.
 - (t) use a fire to burn prohibited debris.
- 11.7 No person shall obstruct, prevent, or refuse to admit a fire inspector or investigator to or upon any land, premises, yards, or buildings for the purpose of inspecting or investigating on the same, or who incites or abets such shall be considered in breach of this Bylaw.
- 11.8 Nothing in this Bylaw shall be deemed to authorize any fire, burning, or other act that is in contravention of the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, RSA 2000, c. E-12 and any amendments thereto or any regulation made thereunder. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Bylaw and the said Act or Regulations, the provisions of the said Act or Regulations shall govern.

PART 12 – PENALTIES

- 12.1 A person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence and, upon conviction, is liable to a fine as outlined in Schedule “A” contained within this Bylaw.
- 12.2 Where a person:
- a) fails to obtain a Fire Permit as requested under this Bylaw;
 - b) obtains a Fire Permit as provided for in this Bylaw but fails to follow the provisions of the Bylaw or the conditions outlined on the Fire Permit as defined herein; or
 - c) originally did not require a Fire Permit but whose actions brought an Open Air Fire under the requirements for a Fire Permit as defined herein;
 - d) a fire beyond the control of the person or other incident results therefrom, then such a person shall be liable to pay all the costs for emergency response incurred by the Fire Department, and the Town shall be able to recover from such person all such costs as a debt owing to the municipality.
- 12.3 A Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket to any person who the Peace Officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw. A Violation Ticket may be issued to such person:
- (a) either personally, or;
 - (b) by mailing a copy to such person at their last known address.
- 12.4 Where a contravention of this Bylaw is of a continuing nature, further Violation Tickets or Summons may be issued by a Peace Officer, provided that no more than one Violation Ticket or Summons shall be issued for each calendar day that the contravention continues.
- 12.5 Where a Violation Ticket is issued pursuant to this Bylaw, the person to whom the Violation Ticket is issued may, in lieu of being prosecuted for the offence, pay to the Town the penalty specified on the Violation Ticket.
- 12.6 Nothing in this Bylaw shall prevent a Peace Officer from issuing a Violation Ticket for the mandatory Court appearance of any person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw.

PART 13 - VIOLATION TICKET

- 13.1 If the penalty specified on a Violation Ticket is not paid within the prescribed time period, a Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to the *Provincial Offences Procedures Act* and any amendments thereto.
- 13.2 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Bylaw, a Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to immediately issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act* and any amendments thereto to any person who the Peace Officer has reasonable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.

PART 14 - SEVERABILITY

- 14.1 Should any section or part of this Bylaw be found to have been improperly enacted, for any reason, then such section or part shall be regarded as being severable from the rest of the Bylaw and the Bylaw remaining after such severance shall be effective and enforceable as if the section found to be improperly enacted had not been enacted as part of this Bylaw.

PART 15 - REPEAL

- 15.1 That Bylaw 1187/15 is hereby repealed upon this Bylaw coming into effect.

PART 16 - DATE OF FORCE

- 16.1. That this Bylaw shall come into effect, upon the date on which it is finally read and passed.

READ for the first time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20__.

(RES.)

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO KIM ISAAK

READ for the second time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20__.

(RES.)

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO KIM ISAAK

READ for the third time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20__.

(RES.)

MAYOR JAMIE HOOVER

CAO KIM ISAAK

BYLAW ^^ - SCHEDULE A

Offences and Penalties					
			-----Fines-----		
Part	Section	Offence	First	Second	Third and Subsequent
9	36	Fail to comply with Fire Ban	\$1000.000	Court	Court
10	38	False Alarm Response – within a calendar year at the same alarm site RESIDENTIAL	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$500.00
10	38	False Alarm Response – within a calendar year at the same alarm site NON-RESIDENTIAL	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$600.00
10	38	Cause a Malicious False Alarm	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$1000.00
11	43,44	Sell, possess or discharge fireworks	\$150.00	\$250.00	Not more than \$2500.00
11	43	Fire Pit Violations as listed (a) to (j)	\$250.00	\$500.00	Not more than \$2500.00
Costs and Fees					
Description			Cost Recovery		
Response			* Administrative	* Incident Response	
Response to a Fire, Rescue, Dangerous Goods or other incident on any property other than Provincial Highways			* Administrative costs	\$720.00/hour	
Response to a Fire, Dangerous Goods, Rescue Responses or other incident on Provincial Highways			* Administrative costs	\$720.00/hour	
Response to a Fire, Dangerous Goods, Rescue Responses or other incident on railway property			* Administrative costs	\$720.00/hour	
Emergency Responses to other Municipalities as set out in service/mutual aid agreements					
Non-Incident Response					
Apparatus Fee			n/a	\$720.00/hour	
Apparatus with Personnel			n/a	\$720.00/hour	
Bush Buggy Unit with 2 Personnel			n/a	\$350.00/hour	
Tender Unit with 2 Personnel			n/a	\$720.00/hour	
Command Unit with 1 Personnel			n/a	\$250.00/hour	
Utility Trailer with Side x Side 2 Personnel			n/a	\$350.00/hour	
Manpower Fee for Additional Personnel Required			n/a	\$45.00/hr/person	
Costs and Fees					
Description			Cost Recovery		
Inspections			* Administrative	* Incident Response	
Urgent (Less than 1 business day notice)			\$125.00	n/a	
Fire Inspection – First with compliance			\$125.00	n/a	
Fire Inspection – Second with compliance on outstanding violation –Premises deemed satisfactory			\$75.00	n/a	
Fire Inspection – Second with compliance on outstanding violation – Premises deemed unsatisfactory			\$150.00	n/a	
Fire Inspection – Third with compliance on outstanding violation – Premises deemed satisfactory			\$75.00	n/a	
Fire Inspection – Third with compliance on outstanding violation – Premises deemed unsatisfactory			\$300.00	n/a	
Fire Inspection – Subsequent with compliance on outstanding violation – Premises deemed satisfactory			\$75.00	n/a	
Fire Inspection – Subsequent with compliance on outstanding violation – Premises deemed unsatisfactory			\$450.00	n/a	

Fire Inspection – Missed/Unprepared	\$125.00	n/a
Fire Safety Plan Reviews	\$125.00	n/a
Administrative Fees and Costs		
File Search/Report Copies	\$50 per search	n/a
Occupancy Load Certificate	\$75.00	n/a
Fire Investigation Report	\$100.00	n/a
Fire Investigation Photograph	\$5.00/\$25 per cd	n/a
Air Refill (Breathing Air)	\$10 per 30 min cylinder \$35 per cascade bottle	n/a

- * Administrative costs and the cost for replacement of equipment and/or materials used, lost or damaged as a result of the response.
- * Incident Response: All responses will be billed at a one hour minimum with ½ hour increments.



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS BYLAW
1187/15 – FIRE PROTECTION

~~BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND~~ **TO ESTABLISH THE OPERATION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF BLACKFALDS.**

~~WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"),~~

A Bylaw of the Town of Blackfalds, in the Province of Alberta, pursuant to the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, being Chapter M 26.1 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000 and amendments thereto, for the purpose of providing for the establishment and operation of fire protection services for the Town of Blackfalds.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, provides that a Council of a Municipality may pass bylaws for the prevention and extinguishing of fires, the preservation of life and property, and the protection of persons from injury or destruction by fire, safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;

WHEREAS, the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*, R.S.A., 2000, Chapter F-19, as amended, provides certain additional powers which may be enacted by the Council of a Municipality so that it can enforce the provisions of the said *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* within the boundaries of the Municipality;

WHEREAS, the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000 Chapter M-26, as amended, provides for the entering into agreements with other municipalities or persons for the joint use, control and management of fire extinguishing apparatus and equipment, and for the purpose of providing fire protection not within the Town of Blackfalds municipal boundaries;

WHEREAS the municipal ~~council~~Council of the Town of Blackfalds has been accredited by the Safety Codes Council in its respective municipality;

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Blackfalds wishes to establish a Fire Service within the Town of Blackfalds and to provide efficient operation of such fire service;

NOW THEREFORE, the Municipal Council of the Town of Blackfalds, ~~of the Province of Alberta,~~ duly assembled, hereby enacts ~~as follows:~~

PART 1 – NAME OF BYLAW/TITLE

41.1 ~~This~~ That this Bylaw ~~may~~shall be cited as the “**Fire Protection Bylaw**”.

1.2 Schedule “A” shall form part of this Bylaw.

PART 2 – DEFINITIONS

22.1 In this Bylaw:



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- (a) **“Acceptable Burning Barrel”** applies to farm use only and means an outdoor receptacle that meets the following specifications;
- (i) a minimum of three (3) meters clearance is maintained from any building, property line, or other combustible material when measured from the nearest edge;
 - (ii) the opening does not exceed one (1) meter in width or diameter when measured between the widest points or outer edge;
 - (iii) the receptacle has closed sides made from brick, concrete blocks, heavy gauge metal, or other non-combustible material that is acceptable to the Fire Department; and
 - (iv) a spark arrestor mesh screen with openings no larger than twelve and one-half (12.5) millimeters that is constructed of expanded metal (or equivalent material) is used to cover the opening in a manner sufficient to contain and reduce the hazards of airborne sparks.
- (b) **“Acceptable Fire Pit”** means an outdoor receptacle that meets the following specifications;
- (i) A minimum of three (3) meter clearance is maintained from any building, property line, or other combustible material when measured from the nearest edge;
 - (ii) the fire pit height does not exceed six hundred (600) millimeters when measured from the surrounding grade to the top of the pit opening;
 - (iii) the base that the fire pit is situated on must be non-combustible;
 - ~~(iii)~~(iv) the pit opening does not exceed one (1) meter in width or in diameter when measured between the widest points or outer edges;
 - ~~(iv)~~(v) the fire pit has enclosed sides made from brick, concrete blocks, heavy gauge metal, or other non-combustible material acceptable to the Fire Department; and
 - ~~(v)~~(vi) a spark arrestor mesh screen with openings no larger than twelve and one-half (12.5) millimeters that is constructed of expanded metal (or equivalent material) is used to cover the fire pit opening in a manner sufficient to contain and reduce the hazards of airborne sparks.
- (c) **“Acceptable Fireplace”** means an outdoor receptacle that meets the following specifications;
- (i) a minimum of one (1) meter’s clearance is maintained from any building, property line, or other combustible material when measured from the nearest fireplace edge;



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- (ii) the fireplace is constructed of materials such as brick or rocks that are heat and flame resistant;
- (iii) the fireplace is equipped with a chimney that is not less than two and one-half (2.5) meters in height when measured from the base of the burning area;
- (iv) the fireplace chimney is equipped with an approved screen designed to contain and reduce the hazards of airborne sparks, meeting the requirements of the manufacture and the Alberta Building Code;
- (v) the base of the fire burning area is not less than three hundred (300) millimeters above the surrounding grade; and
- (vi) the fire chamber does not exceed one and one-quarter (1.25) meters in width and is at least four hundred (400) millimeters but not more than six hundred (600) millimeters in depth.

Clay fire pots are required to meet the above regulations and shall have a layer of sand or gravel in the bottom to prevent burn through.

- (d) **“Apparatus”** means any vehicle provided with machinery, devices, equipment, or materials for firefighting, as well as any vehicles used for transporting firefighters or supplies
- (e) **“Burnable Debris”** applies to farm use only and means the following material;
 - (i) grass and weeds;
 - (ii) leaves and tree pruning;
 - (iii) brush and fallen trees on newly cleared land;
 - (iv) wood material from the construction or demolition of builds that does not contain wood preservatives as set out by Alberta Environment;
 - (vii) ~~(vi)~~ household refuse.

_____ All burning of any of the above debris requires a Fire Permit issued by the Fire Department with the exception of debris when burned in an Acceptable Burning Barrel for farm use only.

- (f) (f) **“Contained Fire”** means a fire which is confined within a non-combustible structure or container
- (g) **“Council”** —means —the —Council —of —the —Town —of —Blackfalds
- (g) (h) **“Dangerous Goods”** means any produce, substance or organism specified in the regulations or included by its nature in any of the classes listed in the regulations under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act, S.C. 1992, c. 34, and any amendments thereto.



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS BYLAW
1187/15 – FIRE PROTECTION

- (h) (i) **“Emergency Services”** means Fire Department_ as established and organized for the Town pursuant to the provisions of this Bylaw consisting of, inter alia, all persons appointed or recruited to the various positions prescribed herein, all equipment, apparatus, materials and supplies used in the operation, maintenance and administration of the Fire Department
- (i) (j) **“Emergency Unit”** means an ambulance, a fire truck, pumper truck, rescue vehicle, bush buggy or tender
- (j) (k) **“Equipment”** means any tool, contrivances, devices or materials used by the fire department to mitigate an incident or other emergency
- (k) (l) **“False Alarm”** means any activation of an Alarm System which results in a response and attendance by the RCMP or Blackfalds’ Fire Department at an Alarm Site, where no unauthorized entry to the alarmed premises or other illegal act or emergency has occurred and no similar emergency exists, no matter how that request for service is received and includes, but is not limited to an Alarm System that:
- (i) is being tested without prior notice to the RCMP and Blackfalds’ Fire Department_;
 - (ii) is activated by a mechanical _failure or malfunction, or faulty equipment_;
 - (iii) is activated by the presence or movement of pets, or any other interior movement, at the Alarm Site_;
 - (iv) which is activated by any act of negligence, error or omission; or
 - (v) is activated by atmospheric conditions, excessive vibrations, power failure or communications failure, unless it is shown by the owner of the Alarm Site that the False Alarm was caused by a storm, lightning, fire, earthquake or act of God.
- (l) (m) **“Fire Alarm”** system means a device or devices installed on or in real property and designed to issue a warning of a fire by activating an audible alarm signal or alerting a monitoring facility but does not include a fire alarm system that is intended to alert only the occupants in a dwelling unit, which it is installed.
- (m) (n) **“Fire Permit”** means a written application in the prescribed form set out by the Fire Department for approval for an Open—_Air Fire or discharge of Fireworks and includes such other information and requirements as may be required by the Fire Department



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- (n) (o) **“Fireworks”** means firecrackers, and fireworks listed in the current Alberta Fire code and as defined by the Government of Canada Explosives Act, and any amendments thereto:
- (i) Consumer Fireworks are low-hazard firework articles designed for recreational use by the public. These articles include items such as roman candles, sparklers, fountains, wheels, volcanoes, mines, and snakes.
 - (ii) Display Fireworks are high-hazard firework articles designed for use by professionals. These articles include items such as aerial shells, cakes, roman candles, waterfalls, lances and wheels.
 - (iii) Pyrotechnic Special Effects are high-hazard pyrotechnics articles designed for use by professionals. These articles include items such as gerbs, mines, comets and crossettes. This class also includes special purpose pyrotechnics manufactured live stage and the film and television industry.
- (o) (p) **“Hazard”** means a risk of fire or damage to property and/or person(s) which may be caused by the burning of any waste and includes any nuisances
- (p) (q) **“Incident”** means a fire or a situation where an explosion is imminent or any other situation where there is a danger or a possible danger to life or property and to which Emergency Services has responded
- (q) (r) **“Incinerator Fire”** means a fire that is confined to a non—combustible structure or container which fire is set for the purpose of burning household refuse
- (r) (s) **“Malicious false fire alarm”** means when a person or persons unknown with intent to cause disruption within a structure has activated a pull station or a detection device.
- (s) (t) **“Member”** means:
- (i) a person who is a duly appointed Member of the Fire Department, and who receives remuneration (honorarium) for his or her services at a rate of pay established by Council;
 - (ii) a person who is a duly appointed Member of the Fire Department and who has advised the Town in writing that he or she is willing to gratuitously perform his functions under this Bylaw: and



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- (ii) (iii) a person who is a duly appointed Member of the Fire Department resides within the boundaries of the Town.
- (t) (u) **“Nuisance”** means causing smoke which unreasonably affects the comfort or convenience of an individual and includes interference with use and enjoyment of property
- (u) (v) **“Open Fire”** shall mean any Fire which is not a Pit Fire, Public Park Site Fire, and which, without limiting the generality of the foregoing shall include grass fires, brush fires, running fires, structure fires, building fires, wood scrap fires, ground thawing fires and chattel fires
- (v) (w) **“Outdoor Fire”** means any fire not contained within a building or structure and shall include fire involving humus soil, piles of coal, farm produce, waste, brush, grass, seed, straw or any fire that has escaped or spread from a building, structure, machine or vehicle and any fire set for the purpose of thawing frozen ground
- (x) **“Paid on call firefighter” is a firefighter that responds to emergencies 24 hours per day, who can respond during the day, evenings, and/or weekends also referred to as a volunteer firefighter**
- (w) (y) **“Peace Officer”** means;
- (i) a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), a police service, or
 - (ii) a peace officer appointed under the Peace officer Act, while the peace officer is in the exercise or discharge of the peace officer’s powers or duties;
 - (iii) a bylaw officer is hereby authorized and empowered to exercise or discharge the bylaw officer’s powers or duties;
- (x) (z) **“Practice”** means a gathering of Fire Department (service) members scheduled by the Fire Chief or designate at which training in fire protection services is conducted
- (y) (aa) **“Prohibited Debris”** means any material that when burned will result in the release of dense smoke or toxic air contaminants to the atmosphere as outlined in any statute or bylaw written to protect and enhance the environment and shall include but not limited to materials described as;
- (i) animal cadavers;
 - (ii) animal manure;
 - (iii) chemicals and chemical container;
 - (iv) combustible material in automobile bodies;



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- (v) combustible material in automobiles;
- (vi) construction site waste;
- (vii) household refuse;
- (viii) non-wooded material;
- (ix) paints and painting material;
- (x) pathological waste;
- (xi) rubber or plastic or anything containing or coated with rubber or plastic or similar substances;
- (xii) rubber or plastic attached to shredded scrap metal;
- (xiii) straw and stubble;
- (xiv) toxic substances;
- (xv) used oil; or
- (xvi) wood or wood products containing substances for the purpose of preserving wood.

~~(aa)~~

(bb) **“Pit Fire”** means a fire which is totally confined within a non—combustible structure or container that has the draft and smoke vents thereof covered with a heavy gauge metal screen having a mesh size no larger than 12.5 millimeters and which is ventilated in such a manner as to preclude the escape of combustible materials including ash, and which fire is set for the purpose of cooking or obtaining warmth, and such fire may only be ~~fuelled~~fueled with dry wood, charcoal, coal, natural gas or propane

~~(bb)~~

(cc) **“Portable Appliance”** means any appliance sold or constructed for the purpose of cooking food in the out-of-doors, obtaining warmth or viewing pleasure. Such fire may only be fueled with seasoned wood, charcoal, natural gas or propane;

- i) The portable appliance must be used as to the ~~manufacturers~~manufacturer’s installation and usage requirements,
- ii) No modifications are to be made to the portable appliance

~~(cc)~~

(dd) **“Property”** means any real or personal property, which without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes land and structures

~~(dd)~~

(ee) **“Public Park Site Fire”** means a fire on land owned or leased by the Town or its agents for recreational purposes and is confined to a non-combustible container supplied by the Town, or a Portable Appliance, which is set for the purpose of cooking food, obtaining warmth or viewing for pleasure. Such fire may only be fueled with dry wood, charcoal, coal, natural gas or propane



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~~warmth or viewing for pleasure. Such fire may only be fuelled with dry wood, charcoal, coal, natural gas or propane~~

~~(ee)~~

(ff) **“Quality Management Plan”** means the Fire Safety Quality Management Plan, approved by the Safety Codes Council, as Adopted by Council.

~~(ff)~~

(gg) **“Recreational Fire”** means a fire for recreational purposes which is confined to a non-combustible container which is set for the purpose of cooking, obtaining warmth or viewing pleasure. Such fire may only be fueled with seasoned wood, charcoal, natural gas or propane

~~(gg)~~

(hh) **“Running Fire”** means a fire burning without being under the proper or any control of any person

~~(hh)~~

(ii) **“Structure Fire”** means a fire confined to and within any building, structure, machine or vehicle, which will, or is likely to, cause the destruction of, or damage to, such a building, structure, machine or vehicle, excluding an incinerator fire.

~~(ii)~~

(jj) **“Town”** means the Town of Blackfalds

~~(jj)~~

(kk) **“Violation Ticket”** means as defined by the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, R.S.A. 2000 c. P-34, and any amendments thereto.

~~(kk)~~

(ll) **“Volunteer Fire Fighter”** means a member of the Fire Department.

PART 3 – FIRE DEPARTMENT

3 3.1 Council does hereby establish a Fire Department, for the purpose of:

~~(a)~~ (a) preventing and extinguishing fires;

~~(b)~~ (b) investigating the cause of fires;

~~(c)~~ (c) preserving life and property and protecting persons and property from injury or destruction by fire;

~~(d)~~ (d) providing rescue, first response _medical services;

~~(e)~~ (e) preventing prairie or running fires and enforcing the provisions of the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*, and any amendments thereto;

~~(f)~~ (f) preventing, combating and controlling incidents;



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- ~~(g)~~ (g) meeting the requirements of the Quality Management Plan for the Fire Discipline;
 - ~~(h)~~ (h) entering into agreements with other municipalities or persons for the joint use, control and management of fire extinguishing apparatus and equipment;
 - ~~(i)~~ (i) purchasing and operating apparatus and equipment for extinguishing fires or preserving life and property.
- 4 3.2 The Fire Department is hereby authorized to control and mitigate incidents involving Dangerous Goods.
- ~~5 A member may carry on or in a vehicle, other than an emergency vehicle, a lamp that produces intermittent flashes of green light and may operate the lamp while proceeding to respond to an incident to the fire station within the Town boundaries;~~
- ~~(a) no person other than a volunteer firefighter (member) shall operate a lamp that produces intermittent flashes of green light.~~
 - ~~(b) nothing in this section shall be construed so as to permit a member of the Fire Department to operate a vehicle in contravention of the Traffic Safety Act and amendments thereto, the regulations, or any municipal by-law.~~

PART 4 – FIRE CHIEF

- 6 4.1 The authority of the Fire Chief is granted by this Bylaw, Town of Blackfalds Policy and the Safety Codes Act, and any amendments thereto. The Fire Chief shall ultimately be responsible to the Chief Administrative Officer.
- 7 4.2 The Fire Chief or designate shall be responsible to the Council through the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town.
- 8 4.3 The Fire Chief has complete responsibility and authority over the Fire Department, subject to the direction of Council, and shall, upon approval of Council, prescribe rules, regulations and policies for the ongoing organization and administration of the Fire Department, including but not limited to:
- ~~(a)~~ (a) the use, care and protection of Fire Department property;



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- (b) (b) the appointment, recruitment, conduct, discipline, duties and responsibilities of the Members; and
- (c) (c) the efficient operation of Fire Department Services;
- 9 4.4 Regulations, rules or policies made pursuant to Section 8 of this Bylaw shall not be inconsistent with the legislation and regulations of the Province of Alberta.
- 10 4.5 The Fire Chief shall:
- (a) (a) upon approval of Council through the budget process, purchase or otherwise acquire equipment, apparatus, materials or supplies required for the operation, maintenance and administration of the Fire Department to be used in connection therewith;
 - (b) (b) keep or cause to be kept, in proper form, records of all business transactions of the Fire Department, including the purchase or acquisition of equipment, apparatus, materials or supplies and records of fires attended, actions taken in extinguishing fires, inspections carried out and actions taken on account of inspections and any other records incidental to the operation of the Fire Department;
 - (c) (c) Ensure that training is provided to fire service members meeting the requirements of Provincial legislation and industry best practices;
 - (d) (d) upon approval of the Council, negotiate on behalf of the Council, with the Provincial Government of Alberta, other municipalities and persons for the purpose of establishing mutual aid agreements and fire control agreements with recommendations and concerns regarding the establishing or renewing of any mutual aid agreement or fire control agreement and amendments thereto; and
 - (e) (e) perform such functions and have such powers and responsibilities as Council may from time to time prescribe.
- 11 4.6 The Fire Chief, or any other Member in charge at a fire, is empowered to cause a building, structure or thing to be pulled down, demolished or otherwise removed if deemed necessary to prevent the spread of fire to other building, structures or things.
- 12 4.7 The Fire Chief, or any other Member in charge at an incident, is empowered to cause Emergency Services to enter on any land or premises, including adjacent land or premises, to combat, control or deal with the incident in whatever manner deemed necessary.
- 13 4.8 For the purpose of fire investigations and inspections, the Fire Chief may obtain assistance from other officials of the town as deemed necessary in order to discharge the duties and responsibilities under this Bylaw.



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PART 5 – CONTROL OF FIRE HAZARDS

- 14 5.1 If the Town finds within its Municipal boundaries on privately owned land or occupied public land conditions that in its opinion constitute a fire hazard, it may order the owner or the person in control of the land on which the fire hazard exists to reduce or remove the hazard within a fixed time and in a manner prescribed by the Town.
- 15 5.2 When the Town finds that the order it made pursuant to Section ~~14~~5.1 has not been carried out, the Town may enter on the land with any equipment and any person it considers necessary and may perform the work required to eliminate or reduce the fire hazard.
- 16 5.3 The Owner or the person in control of the land on which work was performed pursuant to Section ~~15~~5.2 shall, on demand, reimburse the Town for the cost of the work performed in default of payment; such cost or fee may be charged against the land as taxes due and owing in respect of that land.

PART 6 – REQUIREMENT TO REPORT

- 17 6.1 The Owner or his authorized agent of any property damaged by fire shall immediately report to the Fire Department particulars of the fires which are satisfactory to the Fire Chief.
- 18 6.2 The Owner or his authorized agent of any property containing a Dangerous Good(s) product which sustains an accidental or unplanned release of Dangerous Good(s) product shall immediately report to the Fire Department particulars of the release which are satisfactory to the Fire Chief.

PART 7 – PERMITTED FIRES

- 19 7.1 No person shall permit an Open Fire upon land owned or occupied by him or under his control within the Town unless:
- (a) (a) the fire has been set by the Fire Department for the purpose of training;
 - (b) (b) the fire is a Public Park Site Fire;
 - (c) (c) the fire is a Pit Fire;
 - (d) (d) the fire is an Acceptable Burn Barrel for newly annexed county property;
 - (e) the fire has otherwise been authorized by the Fire Department, ~~7.1.1~~
 - (e) (e) by way of a fire permit.
- 20 7.2 All Fires are to be supervised by a responsible adult at all times and have a means ~~e-fto~~ to extinguish the fire on hand at all times.



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7.3 Weather conditions must be favourable with winds less than 15km/hr.

21 7.5 The flames shall not exceed 1 meter in height.

22 7.6 The fire must be extinguished completely, so that the ashes are cold prior to leaving the fire.

PART 8 – FIRE PERMIT

23 8.1 No person shall permit an Open Fire or Incinerator Fire upon land owned or occupied within the Town except when the landowner is the holder of a subsisting Fire Permit issued pursuant to this Bylaw, unless;

(a) the fire has been set by the Fire Department for the purpose of training; or

(b) the fire is a Public Park Site Fire

(c) the fire has otherwise been authorized by the Fire Department.

24 8.2 When issuing a fire permit the Fire Department may issue the permit unconditionally or impose conditions considered appropriate

25 8.3 Fire Permits issued pursuant to this bylaw are valid for a period of time to be determined and set by the Fire Department. The fire permit shall have endorsed thereon the period of time for which the said permit is valid.

26 8.4 The Fire Department may extend the period of time that a fire permit is valid, provided the fire permit has not expired.

27 8.5 The Fire Chief or designate may terminate, suspend, or cancel a Fire Permit upon contravention of any provision of this Bylaw, the Alberta Fire Code, or any terms and conditions found on the Fire Permit

28 8.6 A Fire Permit is not transferable.

29 8.7 A Fire Permit will not be issued over the phone prior to a site visit being performed.

PART 9 – FIRE BAN

30 9.1 Notwithstanding any provision in this or any other bylaw, the Fire Chief or designate may declare a complete ban on any burning of any kind in the Town.

31 9.2 When determining whether to declare a complete ban on burning, the Fire Chief or designate may take into consideration any or all of the following factors:

(a) the air quality index;



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS BYLAW
1187/15 – FIRE PROTECTION

- (b) levels of precipitation;
- (c) water shortages or restrictions;
- (d) availability of firefighters and firefighting equipment; and
- (e) the overall fire danger.

32 9.3 No person shall build, ignite or allow any kind of fire when a complete ban on burning is in effect.

33 9.4 The Fire Department or a Peace Officer may direct a Person to extinguish any fire when a fire ban is in effect.

34 9.5 A Person who fails to comply with the direction of a member of the Fire Department or a Peace Officer to extinguish a fire during a fire ban is guilty of an offense under this ~~bylaw~~ Bylaw and the fire department or the Peace Officer as the case may be, may extinguish the fire.

PART 10 -- RECOVERY OF COSTS

10.1 Where the Fire Department has extinguished a fire or responded to a fire call or incident within or outside the Town for the purpose of preserving life or property from injury or destruction by fire or other incident, including any such action taken by the Fire Department on a false alarm, the Fire Chief may, in respect of any costs incurred by the Fire Department in taking such action, charge any costs so incurred by the Fire Department to:

35

- (a) the person who caused the incident
- (b) the owner of the property of the person in possession of the property where the incident occurred or
- (c) the owner of the property or the person in possession and control of the property if the location of the incident is not on privately owned land.
- (d) A person who has negligently or intentionally misused a fire alarm system by activating without cause.

36 10.2 The schedule of costs and fees to be recovered or charged by the Fire Department for services rendered pursuant to this Bylaw shall be as set out in Schedule "A" attached to and forming part of this Bylaw.

37 10.3 In respect of the costs or fees described in Sections ~~36~~10.2 and ~~37~~10.3:

- (a) (a) the Town may recover such cost or fee as a debt due and owing to the Town, or



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS BYLAW
1187/15 – FIRE PROTECTION

~~(b)~~ (b) in the case of action taken by the Fire Department in respect of land within the Town, where the cost or fee is not paid upon

demand by the Town, then in default of payment, such cost or fee may be charged against the land as taxes due and owing in respect of that land.

PART 11 - OFFENCES

- 38 11.1 Any person who ignites, fuels, supervises, maintains or permits an Open Fire or Incinerator Fire within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Blackfalds without a valid Fire Permit as required by this Bylaw is guilty of an offense, unless;
- ~~(a)~~ (a) the fire has been set by the Fire Department for the purpose of training;
 - ~~(b)~~ (b) the fire is a Public Park Site Fire
 - ~~(c)~~ (c) the fire is a Pit Fire
 - ~~(e)~~ (e) ~~(e)~~ the fire has otherwise been authorized by the Fire Department by way of a fire permit.
- 39 11.2 When a fire is lit under the circumstances described in Section 39 when such fire is not permitted pursuant to this Bylaw the owner or occupier of the land or the person having control of the land upon which such fire is lit shall:
- ~~(a)~~ (a) extinguish the fire immediately, or
 - ~~(b)~~ (b) where he is unable to extinguish the fire immediately, report the fire to the Fire Department.
- 40 11.3 No person either directly or indirectly personally or through an agent, servant or employee kindle a fire and let it become a Running Fire on any land not his own property or allow a Running Fire to pass from his own property to the property of another.
- 41 11.4 No person shall sell, possess, or discharge Fireworks in the Town unless they have the appropriate permits and licensing for high level displays and special events. A Fire Permit is required for the discharge of Fireworks. Fireworks must be purchased from a recognized company that meets all current provincial or federal regulations and standards.
- 42 11.5 Fireworks considered low level displays are banned in the Town. Possession, sale, or storage of Fireworks is prohibited.
- 43 11.6 No person shall:
- (a) build, ignite or allow any kind of fire when a complete ban on burning has been declared in effect.



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS BYLAW
1187/15 – FIRE PROTECTION

- (b) light an open fire, pit fire or public park site fire without first taking sufficient precaution to ensure that the fire is not a nuisance and can be kept under control at all times
- (c) permit the flames to exceed 1 meter in height
- (d) light an Incinerator Fire for the purpose of burning household refuse unless the property has recently been annexed county property
- (e) light an open fire, pit fire or public park site fire when the weather conditions are conducive to creating a running fire;
- (f) place a Pit Fire less than 3.0 meters from any structure including but not limited to a fence, deck, garage, shed or house or any combustible material;
- (g) burn in a Pit Fire or a Public Park Site Fire, garbage, leaves, straw, painted wood, treated construction materials and items made of or containing rubber, metal, plastic, tar or any materials deemed for disposal
- (h) fail to take reasonable steps to control a fire for the purpose of preventing it from becoming a Running Fire or from spreading onto land other than his own;
- (i) deposit, discard or leave any burning matter or substance where it might ignite other material and cause a fire;
- (j) conduct any activity that involves the use of fire that might reasonably be expected to cause a fire, unless he/she exercises reasonable care to prevent the fire from occurring;
- (k) provide false, incomplete or misleading information to the Municipality or to the Fire Department on or with respect to the Fire Permit;
- (l) interfere with the efforts of persons authorized in this Bylaw to extinguish fires or preserve life or property;
- (m) interfere with the operation of any the Fire Department equipment or apparatus required to extinguish fires or preserve life or property;
- (n) damage or destroy Fire Department property;
- (o) move any fire hose or drive a vehicle over any fire hose at any fire without permission of the Fire Department member in charge;



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS BYLAW
1187/15 – FIRE PROTECTION

- (p) (p) ___ place or cause to be placed, any matter or thing, so as to obstruct or interfere with the operation or use of any fire hydrant, Fire Department water inlet or outlet connections on buildings, fire alarm control panels, manual alarm stations, or any fire detection device or equipment;
- (q) (q) ___ other than the employee of the Town Public Works Department or a member of the Fire Department shall use a fire hydrant for the purpose of obtaining or discharging water from such hydrant without first receiving permission from the Director of Infrastructure and Property Services or the Fire Chief;
- (r) (r) ___ obstruct or otherwise interfere with access roads or streets or other approaches to any fire hydrants, cisterns, or bodies of water designated for firefighting purposes;
- (s) (s) ___ falsely represent themselves as a Fire Department Member or wear or display any Emergency Services badge, cap, button, insignia or other paraphernalia for the purpose of such false representation.
- (t) (t) ___ use a fire to burn prohibited debris.

44 11.7 No person shall obstruct, prevent, or refuse to admit a fire inspector or investigator~~7~~ to or upon any land, premises, yards, or buildings~~7~~ for the purpose of inspecting or investigating on the same, or who incites or abets such shall be considered in breach of this Bylaw.

45 11.8 Nothing in this Bylaw shall be deemed to authorize any fire, burning~~1~~ or other act ~~which~~that is in contravention of the *Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, RSA 2000, c. E-12 and any amendments thereto~~7~~ or any regulation made ~~there under, and in~~thereunder. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Bylaw and the said Act or Regulations, the provisions of the said Act or Regulations shall govern.

PART 12 – PENALTIES

46 12.1 A person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence and~~1~~ upon conviction~~1~~ is liable to a fine as outlined in Schedule “A” contained within this ~~bylaw.~~Bylaw.

47 12.2 Where a person:



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS BYLAW
1187/15 – FIRE PROTECTION

- a) fails to obtain a Fire Permit as requested under this Bylaw;
- b) obtains a Fire Permit as provided for in this Bylaw but fails to follow the provisions of the Bylaw or the conditions outlined on the Fire Permit as defined herein; or
- c) originally did not require a Fire Permit but whose actions brought an Open Air Fire under the requirements for a Fire Permit as defined herein;
- d) a fire beyond the control of the person or other incident results ~~there~~ ~~from~~ therefrom, then such a person shall be liable to pay all the costs for emergency response incurred by the Fire Department~~7.1~~ and the Town shall be able to recover from such person all such costs as a debt owing to the municipality.

12.3 A Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket to any person who the Peace Officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw. A Violation Ticket may be issued to such person:

(a) ~~A Violation Ticket may be issued to such person:~~

~~(a)~~ either personally, or;

~~(b)~~ (b) by mailing a copy to such person at their last known address.

48 12.4 Where a contravention of this Bylaw is of a continuing nature, further Violation Tickets or Summons may be issued by a Peace Officer, provided that no more than one Violation Ticket or Summons shall be issued for each calendar day that the contravention continues.

49 12.5 Where a Violation Ticket is issued pursuant to this Bylaw, the person to whom the Violation Ticket is issued may, in lieu of being prosecuted for the offence, pay to the Town the penalty specified on the Violation Ticket~~–~~.

50 12.6 Nothing in this Bylaw shall prevent a Peace Officer from issuing a Violation Ticket for the mandatory Court appearance of any person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw.

PART 13 -- VIOLATION TICKET

54 13.1 If the penalty specified on a Violation Ticket is not paid within the prescribed time period, a Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to the *Provincial Offences Procedures Act*~~7~~ and any amendments thereto.



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS BYLAW
1187/15 – FIRE PROTECTION

52 13.2 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Bylaw, a Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to immediately issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to the *Provincial Offenses Procedure Act* and any amendments thereto to any person who the Peace Officer has reasonable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.

PART 14 -- SEVERABILITY

53 14.1 Should any section or part of this Bylaw be found to have been improperly enacted, for any reason, then such section or part shall be regarded as being severable from the rest of the Bylaw and the Bylaw remaining after such severance shall be effective and enforceable as if the section found to be improperly enacted had not been enacted as part of this Bylaw.

PART 15 -- REPEAL

54 15.1 That Bylaw ~~shall rescind 1187/15~~ is hereby repealed upon this Bylaw ~~1118/11 in its entirety~~ coming into effect.

PART 16 -- DATE OF FORCE

55 16.1 That this Bylaw ~~comes~~ shall come into effect ~~on~~ upon the date of final passing thereof on which it is finally read and passed.

READ for the first time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20__.

(RES. → _____)

MAYOR ~~MELODIE STOL~~ JAMIE HOOVER

CAO ~~MYRON THOMPSON~~ KIM ISAAK



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS BYLAW
1187/15 – FIRE PROTECTION

READ for the second time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____.

(RES. → _____)

MAYOR ~~MELODIE STOL~~ JAMIE HOOVER

CAO ~~MYRON THOMPSON~~ KIM ISAAK

READ for the third ~~and final~~ time this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20____.

(RES. → _____)

MAYOR ~~MELODIE STOL~~ JAMIE HOOVER

CAO ~~MYRON THOMPSON~~ KIM ISAAK



BYLAW 1187/15 – SCHEDULE “A”

BYLAW ^^ - SCHEDULE A

Offences and Penalties					
Part	Section	Offence	-----Fines-----		
			First	Second	Third and Subsequent
9	3536	Fail to comply with Fire Ban	\$1000.000	Court	Court
10	3638	False Alarm Response – within a calendar year at the same alarm site RESIDENTIAL	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$500.00
10	3638	False Alarm Response – within a calendar year at the same alarm site NON-RESIDENTIAL	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$600.00
10	3638	Cause a Malicious False Alarm	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$1000.00
11	42, 43, 44	Sell, possess or discharge fireworks	\$150.00	\$250.00	Not more than \$2500.00
11	4443	Fire Pit Violations as listed (a) to (j)	\$250.00	\$500.00	Not more than \$2500.00
Costs and Fees					
Description		Cost Recovery			
		* Administrative	* Incident Response		
Response					
Response to a Fire, Rescue, Dangerous Goods or other incident on any property other than Provincial Highways		* Administrative costs		\$ 610 720.00/hour	
Response to a Fire, Dangerous Goods, Rescue Responses or other incident on Provincial Highways		* Administrative costs		\$ 610 720.00/hour	
Response to a Fire, Dangerous Goods, Rescue Responses or other incident on railway property		* Administrative costs		\$ 610 720.00/hour	
Emergency Responses to other Municipalities as set out in service/mutual aid agreements					
Non-Incident Response					
Apparatus Fee		n/a		\$ 600 720.00/hour	
Pumper Apparatus with 4 Personnel		n/a		\$ 600 720.00/hour	
Bush Buggy Unit with 2 Personnel		n/a		\$ 300 350.00/hour	
Tender Unit with 2 Personnel		n/a		\$ 500 720.00/hour	
Command Unit with 1 Personnel		n/a		\$250.00/hour	
Utility Trailer <u>with Side x Side 2 Personnel</u>		n/a		\$ 300 350.00/hour	
Manpower Fee for Additional Personnel <u>Required</u>		n/a		\$ 364 5.00/hr/person	

Costs and Fees

<u>Description</u>	<u>Cost Recovery</u>	
	<u>* Administrative</u>	<u>* Incident Response</u>
Inspections		
Urgent (Less than 1 business day notice)	\$ 100 125.00	n/a
Fire Inspection – First with compliance	\$ 0 125.00	n/a
Fire Inspection – Second with compliance on outstanding violation –Premises deemed satisfactory	\$75.00	n/a

Costs and Fees		
Description	Cost Recovery	
	* Administrative	* Incident Response
Fire Inspection – Second with compliance on outstanding violation – Premises deemed unsatisfactory	\$150.00	n/a
Fire Inspection – Third with compliance on outstanding violation – Premises deemed satisfactory	\$75.00	n/a
Fire Inspection – Third with compliance on outstanding violation – Premises deemed unsatisfactory	\$300.00	n/a
Fire Inspection – Subsequent with compliance on outstanding violation – Premises deemed satisfactory	\$75.00	n/a
Fire Inspection – Subsequent with compliance on outstanding violation – Premises deemed unsatisfactory	\$450.00	n/a
Fire Inspection – Missed/Unprepared	\$75 125.00	n/a
Above Ground and Under Ground Site Inspection and Removal Inspection Fire Safety Plan Reviews	\$75 125.00/hour ±	<u>n/a</u>
Administrative Fees and Costs		
File Search/Report Copies	\$50 per search	n/a
Occupancy Load Certificate	\$75.00	n/a
Fire Investigation Report	\$100.00	n/a
Fire Investigation Photograph	\$5.00/\$25 per cd	n/a
Air Refill (Breathing Air)	\$10 per 30 min cylinder \$35 per cascade bottle	n/a
Private Hydrant Flow Test (new installations)	\$265.00 per hydrant	

* Administrative costs and the cost for replacement of equipment and/or materials used, lost or damaged as a result of the response.

* Incident Response: All responses will be billed at a one hour minimum with ½ hour increments.

*

MEETING DATE: August 19, 2024

PREPARED BY: Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services

PRESENTED BY: Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services

SUBJECT: **Central Alberta BMX Supercross Track Proposal**

BACKGROUND

Administration was approached in December 2023 by the Central Alberta BMX Supercross group to consider the provision of land for the group to build a BMX Supercross Track. At the June 5, 2024, Recreation, Culture and Parks Board Meeting, the Central Alberta BMX Supercross group presented their proposal for a BMX Supercross Track in Blackfalds. The group presented the proposed preliminary design of the BMX Supercross Track at the July 15, 2024, Standing Committee of Council Meeting.

DISCUSSION

At the July 15, 2024, Standing Committee of Council Meeting, parking concerns were raised for the addition of this type of facility at the Sterling Industries Sports Park site. The Central Alberta BMX Supercross group has revised its preliminary design to include more parking stalls to the southeast of the proposed BMX Track site. These additional stalls would help accommodate the regular users of the BMX Supercross Track. Additional parking for large-scale events could be accommodated at the campground, at the Town's Operations Centre, and street parking on Vista Trail (east side) and South Street (north side).

Administration continues to work with this group to refine the preliminary design and is seeking direction from Council on how to move forward with this initiative.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council receive the revised BMX Supercross Track Preliminary Design as information and refer this item to a future Regular Council Meeting.

ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council refer the BMX Supercross Track proposal back to Administration for additional information and/or amendments.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Revised BMX Track Preliminary Design*

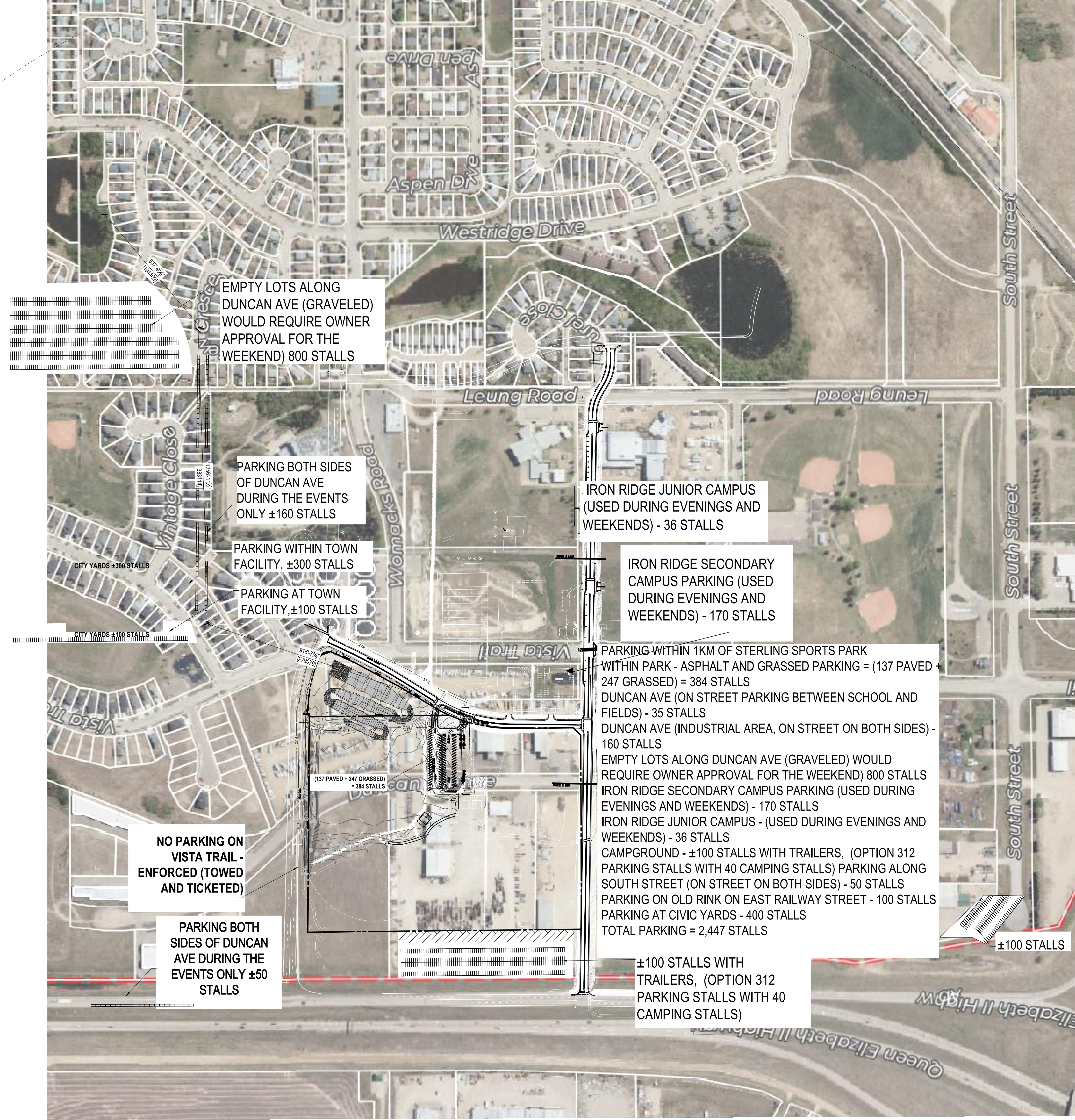
PPROVALS



Kim Isaak, CAO



Department Director/Author



EMPTY LOTS ALONG DUNCAN AVE (GRAVELED) WOULD REQUIRE OWNER APPROVAL FOR THE WEEKEND) 800 STALLS

PARKING BOTH SIDES OF DUNCAN AVE DURING THE EVENTS ONLY ±160 STALLS

PARKING WITHIN TOWN FACILITY, ±300 STALLS

PARKING AT TOWN FACILITY, ±100 STALLS

CITY YARDS ±300 STALLS

CITY YARDS ±100 STALLS

IRON RIDGE JUNIOR CAMPUS (USED DURING EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS) - 36 STALLS

IRON RIDGE SECONDARY CAMPUS PARKING (USED DURING EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS) - 170 STALLS

PARKING WITHIN 1KM OF STERLING SPORTS PARK WITHIN PARK - ASPHALT AND GRASSED PARKING = (137 PAVED + 247 GRASSED) = 384 STALLS

DUNCAN AVE (ON STREET PARKING BETWEEN SCHOOL AND FIELDS) - 35 STALLS

DUNCAN AVE (INDUSTRIAL AREA, ON STREET ON BOTH SIDES) - 160 STALLS

EMPTY LOTS ALONG DUNCAN AVE (GRAVELED) WOULD REQUIRE OWNER APPROVAL FOR THE WEEKEND) 800 STALLS

IRON RIDGE SECONDARY CAMPUS PARKING (USED DURING EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS) - 170 STALLS

IRON RIDGE JUNIOR CAMPUS - (USED DURING EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS) - 36 STALLS

CAMPGROUND - ±100 STALLS WITH TRAILERS, (OPTION 312 PARKING STALLS WITH 40 CAMPING STALLS) PARKING ALONG SOUTH STREET (ON STREET ON BOTH SIDES) - 50 STALLS

PARKING ON OLD RINK ON EAST RAILWAY STREET - 100 STALLS

PARKING AT CIVIC YARDS - 400 STALLS

TOTAL PARKING = 2,447 STALLS

±100 STALLS WITH TRAILERS, (OPTION 312 PARKING STALLS WITH 40 CAMPING STALLS)

NO PARKING ON VISTA TRAIL - ENFORCED (TOWED AND TICKETED)

PARKING BOTH SIDES OF DUNCAN AVE DURING THE EVENTS ONLY ±50 STALLS

±100 STALLS

PROJECT INFORMATION:
ALL STAR PAK REDEVELOPMENT

LOT: ___
BLOCK: ___
PLAN:
CIVIC ADDRESS: 4800 LEUNG ROAD
BLACKFALDS, ALBERTA

STAMPS:

REVISIONS:

ISSUE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
D	2024-07-23	ISSUED FOR REVIEW
C	2024-06-05	ISSUED FOR REVIEW
B	2024-04-03	ISSUED FOR REVIEW
A	2023-12-08	ISSUED FOR REVIEW

DRAWING TITLE:
OVERALL PARKING

JOB NUMBER: ___
DATE: Aug. 11, 24
DRAWN BY: RM

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ACCESS TO OVERFLOW
PARKING 300-400 STALLS

BIKE PARK /
SKATE
BOARD
PARK

ABBEY CENTRE

NEW FOOTBALL FIELD

NEW HIGH SCHOOL
+/- OVER 100 STALLS

PROJECT INFORMATION:
**ALL STAR PAK
REDEVELOPMENT**

LOT: _____
BLOCK: _____
PLAN: _____
CIVIC ADDRESS: 4800 LEUNG ROAD
BLACKFALDS, ALBERTA

STAMPS:

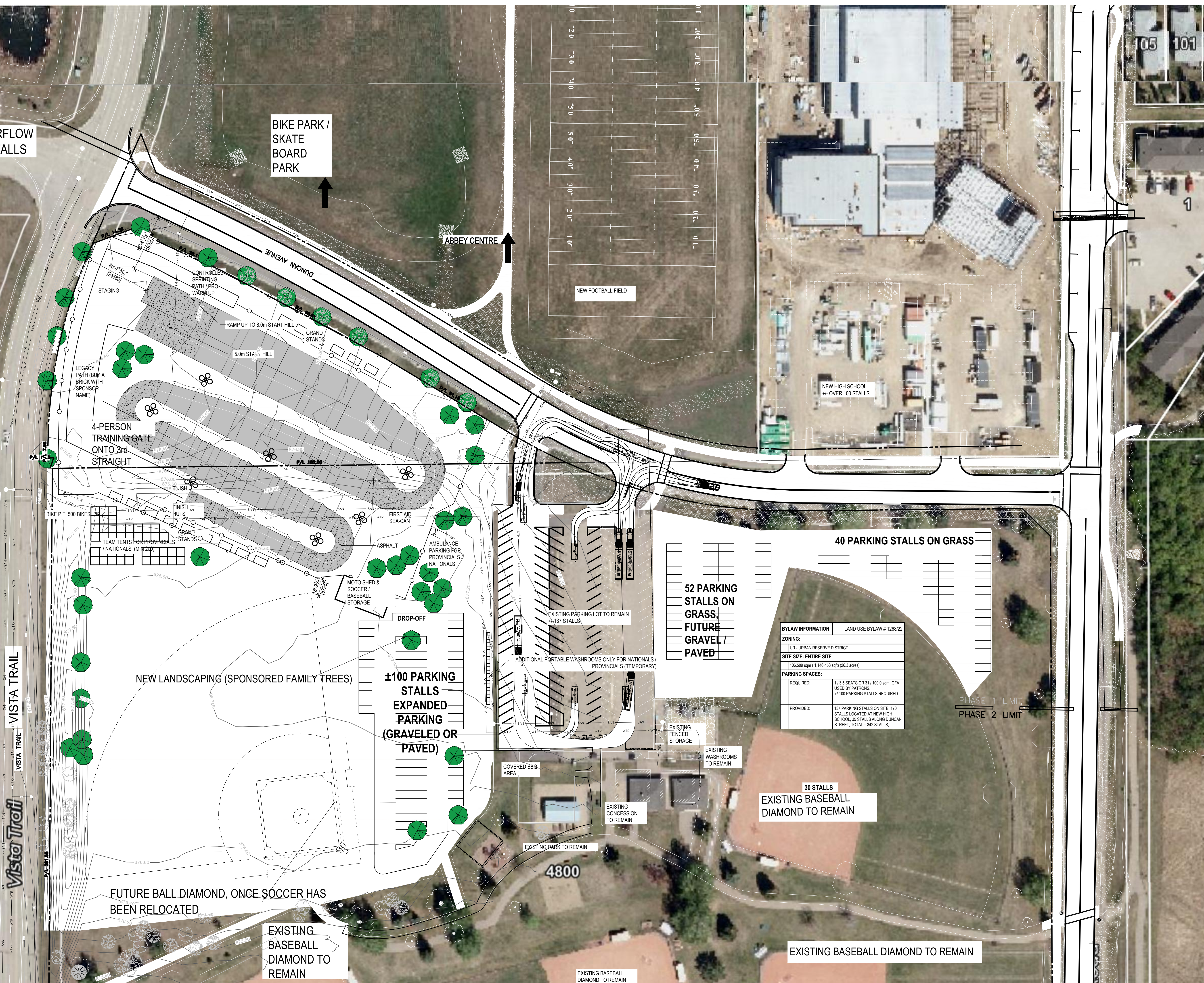
REVISIONS:

ISSUE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
D	2024-07-23	ISSUED FOR REVIEW
C	2024-06-05	ISSUED FOR REVIEW
B	2024-04-03	ISSUED FOR REVIEW
A	2023-12-08	ISSUED FOR REVIEW

DRAWING TITLE:
**SITE PLAN
FUTURE PHASE**

JOB NUMBER: _____
DATE: Aug. 11, 24
DRAWN BY: RM

A100.1



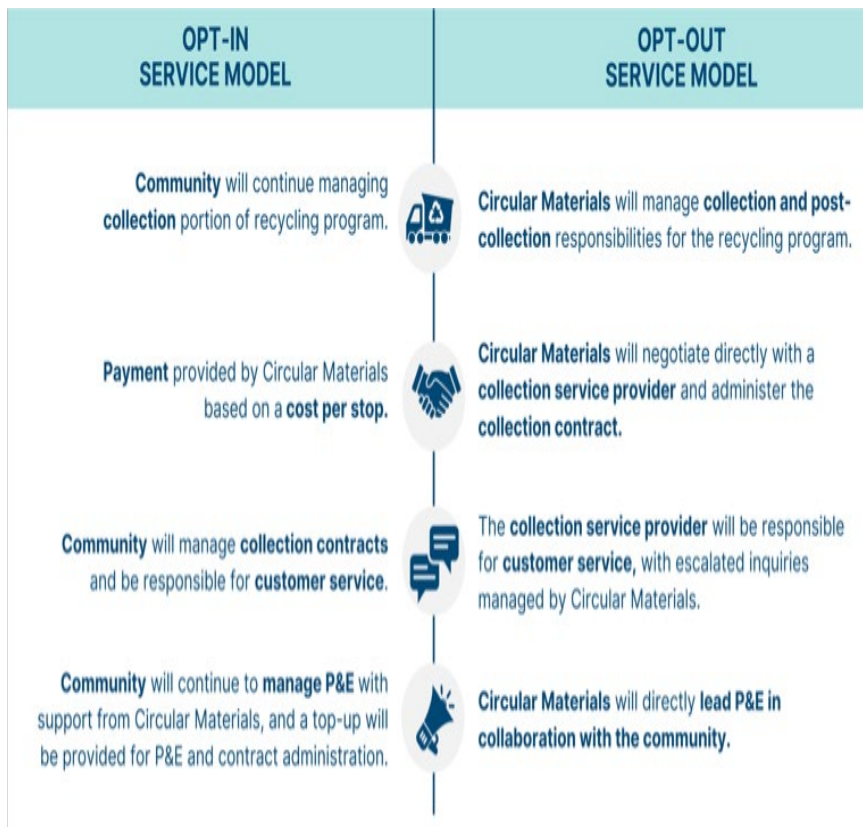
MEETING DATE: August 19, 2024
PREPARED BY: Preston Weran, Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services
PRESENTED BY: Preston Weran, Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services
SUBJECT: **EPR Transition - Curbside Recycling**

BACKGROUND

Effective April 1, 2025, the Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation shifts the financial and operational and marketing responsibility for recycling from municipalities to the organizations that produce and sell packaging and paper. Circular Materials is the organization that is responsible for implementing and managing the recycling system in Alberta on behalf of the Producers and the Province. The Extended Producer Responsibility program does not extend to commercial/industrial recycling, only residential at this time.

DISCUSSION

Circular Materials is providing two service options for the operations of residential curbside recycling which are identified below.



At this stage, Circular Materials has advised that 60% of Alberta municipalities have chosen the Opt-In Service Model and 40% of municipalities have chosen the Opt-Out Service Model. It should be

noted that the reason that the Opt-In Model is more popular is likely because a number of municipalities have their own fleet that are currently doing this in-house. Further, many others, the Town included, are more than likely not comfortable with changing the way the complaints would be redirected from the Town to the Contractor.

For instance, if there was a missed garbage and recycling complaint, the Town would deal with the waste bin but would direct the complainant to, in our case, E360, to resolve the recycling portion of the complaint. This would result in additional frustration for the resident or rate payer that took the time to call in.

Administration has discussed these options internally and feels that the best model from a customer service approach is the Opt-In Service Model as there would be little to no disruption to the residents through this model. The Town has recently signed a new 2-year agreement with E360 who would continue to provide curbside recycling through the Opt-In Service Model, with the EPR program paying for a large portion of this service. The Town could decide to move to the Opt-Out Service Model in the future once there is data from other municipalities on how this service model is working for them, but going the other way, the Town would be stuck in a contract, with little chance of Opting back in to manage the curbside recycling internally.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Town will receive payment from Circular Materials based on a cost-recovery model for operations and marketing. The cost savings are unknown at this time, as with either option, Circular Materials will have to determine our specific service level costs and the cost of managing the service or not, depending on the opt-in or opt-out options. Currently, our residential recycling processing costs are not broken down between pick-up and processing. However, our yearly combined cost for the recycling service is \$338,067.50 in 2024. The Town would anticipate most of those costs being paid for by EPR.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION


That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council recommend to Council to consider a resolution at the August 27, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council that the Town of Blackfalds choose the Opt-In Service Model for Curbside Recycling.

ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council refer the EPR Transition - Curbside Recycling item back to Administration for more information.

APPROVALS



Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer



Department Director/Author

MEETING DATE: August 19, 2024

PREPARED BY: Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: **Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions**

BACKGROUND

The Alberta Municipalities Conference and Trade Show is being held from September 25-27, 2024, in Red Deer. As part of the annual conference, the resolution session will be held on September 26, 2024. Resolutions put forward by the sponsoring municipalities are based on a topic of concern that affects municipalities on a regional and provincial level. Each resolution put forward requests that advocacy be taken on the topic by the Alberta Municipalities. Each member of Council attending the resolution session will be permitted to vote on all resolutions. In the event that Council would like to propose an amendment to a resolution a seconder will be required for that amendment. ABmunis recommends that the amendment be provided in writing in advance of the resolution session. Amendments identified during the resolution session can be provided to the ABmunis staff member working at the audio booth.

DISCUSSION

Administration has reviewed the 2024 Resolution Book and provided the following recommendations on the proposed resolutions based on how the topic affects the municipality and its relationship to the Mid-Term Strategic Plan.

B1: Independent Office of Integrity for Local Government Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 3 – “Leadership and Engagement” as well as one of Council’s Top Priorities of “Open and Transparent Governance”. An Office of Integrity for Local Government would relieve some of the pressure that is placed on Council and Administration in dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints and provide for a fair, unbiased and consistent approach to addressing complaints.

B2: Allowance of Automated Vote Counting Systems in Municipal Elections Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 3 – “Leadership and Engagement” the “Town will ensure adequate staffing and processes are established. Manual ballot counting is not an efficient way to count ballots and moves the Town of Blackfalds back more than a decade in its process of using voting tabulators for election results. Workers will be difficult to attract, which was evidenced by the recent census that was conducted where the Town had no choice but to have employees act as census enumerators during work hours in an effort for the Town to be able to complete the census. In addition to concerns identified in this section Administration agrees with the point made by the City of St. Albert and the Town of Rocky Mountain House that allowing municipalities to employ the vote counting system of

their choice and design will ensure that municipality can provide reliable, accurate and timely elections for their residents.

**B3: Provincial Education Property Tax Reform
Support**

This topic falls in line with both the Strategic Priority 1 - Community Life and Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. As Provincial funding levels are decreases and revenue streams for municipalities are limited, it is imperative to find additional funding sources that can assist municipalities with maintaining infrastructure.

**B4: Restoring Provincial Grants in Place of Taxes Funding
Support**

While this resolution does not directly affect the Town of Blackfalds, as the Town does not receive any Grants in place of Taxes, collective support for municipalities that rely on such taxes is important.

**B5: Small and Remote Municipalities Need Regional Economic Development Alliances to Thrive
Support**

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 2 – Economy. The Town recognizes the value of the REDAs in Alberta. We find considerable value in our REDA by providing connections to site selectors, key studies, and industry influencers. CAEP represents our region, which is stronger together than as individual municipalities, and provides us with more opportunities to see our region prosper. We support the continuation of funding to these organizations as a key portion of our Economic Development Strategy.

**B6: Family and Community Support Services Funding Increase –
Support**

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life. Despite requests to the Province to increase provincial funding for FCSS to keep pace with inflation the preventative programs that FCSS offers to residents is at risk. Our municipality contributes more than the required 20%. With the cost of living going up, we are seeing increased social needs in our community and would like to see the Province provide additional funding to help support our vulnerable population.

**B7: Alberta First Responder Radio Communications System (AFFRCS) Equipment Funding
Support**

While this resolution does not directly affect the Town of Blackfalds due to population, support for this resolution is recommended. This does, however, affect communities within our region and some who we have mutual aid agreements with which interferes with communications while attending scenes due to different communication systems. This can affect our emergency responders too, putting them in danger while responding. Any communication

system that can improve the safety and response times for residents of Alberta should be accessible to all communities.

B8: Declining Fire Department Services Across Alberta
Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life and Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. The Town of Blackfalds continues to see a decline in volunteers as do most communities within our region. Providing a tax credit for a business which allows our fire fighters to respond would assist in making volunteers more accessible. The cost of emergency equipment has seen a substantial increase over the past few years, which makes it extremely difficult for communities to maintain/replace ageing equipment. Re-instating the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program would provide these communities with the assistance needed in purchasing equipment and having it readily available to respond.

B9: Preventative Psychological Services Support for Municipal First Responders and Emergency Dispatchers
Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life and Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. The Town of Blackfalds Emergency responders are currently often the first ones at the scene, responding to emergency medical calls when needed if provincial resources are not immediately available. These emergency personnel are exposed to many traumatic events during their careers, which can adversely affect them, their families and the municipality when they are unable to respond due to Occupational Stress injuries. Preventative Psychological services will assist emergency personnel by providing them the tools they need to deal with the stressors of emergency response, help maintain a healthy team able to respond and service the community for a long time.

B10: Establishing a Provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services
Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life and Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. We are seeing a growing number of disasters within the province, which are affecting both the communities impacted by the incident and those communities which step forward to provide assistance. Throughout the province we have communities stepping forward to aid evacuees, a consistent level of service for hosting communities identified by the province would ensure municipalities are all providing similar services. This would ensure communities who provide their facilities and staff would not be adversely affected by having provided this aid.

B11: Provincial Emergency Shelter Strategy
Support

This topic falls in line with the Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life and Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. The rate of homelessness will continue to increase as the population of Alberta increases in line with the lack of affordable housing. The Province of

Alberta needs to develop a strategy to allow residents of Alberta to meet their basic needs of housing.

**B12: Permanent Supportive Housing Capital and Operational Funding
Support**

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life. As with the previous topic supportive housing is in high demand as the Province continues to see an increase in the complex needs of Albertans who suffer from mental health, addiction and physical health barriers who face homelessness. Permanent supportive housing will reduce the cycle of these individuals becoming homeless after being housed.

**B13: Full-Time 24-Hour Home Care Support in Lodges/Supportive Living Accommodations
Support**

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life. Seniors of Blackfalds as well as others across the Province are in need of quality of life and living options that meet their basic human rights and dignity of life. Any relief that can be taken off the already tasked resources of firefighters, first aid practitioners and EMS is for the betterment of Albertan's as a whole.

**B:14 Attraction and Retention Strategy for Rural Health Care Professionals
Support**

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life and Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. This particular topic is timely for the Town of Blackfalds as Council has been discussing incentives to keep medical practitioners in the community. This is a provincial issue that has now become an issue to resolve at the local level. It is time for the Province to take responsibility for a strategy that will ensure that Albertans across the Province have access to health practitioners in their communities.

**B:15 Creation of a Wildfire Prevention Committee
Support**

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life and Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. It is key that provincial, municipal, federal, industry and all stake holders come together to enhance communication and a unified response to Wildfire Prevention. The increase in wildfires across the country has had devastating effects on lives and property in many communities. The cost resulting from these fires is felt by everyone whether it be through increasing insurance premiums or those more directly affected in the loss of their livelihood, housing and much more. A committee would ensure we are all working together to protect and prevent further fires from having such catastrophic effects on our communities.

B:16 Culture, Recreation, and Sport Facility Infrastructure Deficit Report Card
Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life and Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. While a majority of the Town’s recreation facilities are relatively new, there is still a need for the Province to provide funding for major facility improvements/repairs as our facilities/equipment age.

B:17 Federal Funding for Compressed Natural Gas and Clean Diesel Buses
Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 3 – Community Life. The future of the BOLT transportation system and regional connections will depend on ways to reduce cost and the environmental footprint of public transportation. Electric power does not work efficiently in harsh weather, and CNC and Diesel are better alternative fuels than petrol. Our limited capacity and budgets need to be subsidized by funding, and this more dependable clean power aligns with our Council’s Environmental Policy. Our small municipality cannot improve this system without a strong funding program that will ensure our buses can run cleaner. The improvements and growth of the BOLT system towards a regional transit system support Council’s vision of linking services to residents and residents to services.

B:18 Provincial Support for Watershed Management
Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life. Our Town is part of two watersheds. The Red Deer and the Battle review watershed. We have spent millions of dollars on Master Stormwater Management Projects and programs only to be limited with funding dollars and professionals being impacted by the public’s perception of Stormwater Management and Engineering. This resolution aligns with the Province’s Wetland policies while empowering Council and ICF teams toward real solutions. This support also aligns with our Council’s Environmental Policy. If we don’t protect source water, the rest of our treatment and stewardship will be in vain.

B19: Goldfish Infestation and Emergency Approval of Powder-Form Rotenone Pesticide
Mild-Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. There needs to be more information provided on this topic of Goldfish and other invasive species both in our storm ponds but also downstream, in our lakes, rivers and streams. Support is needed to bring this important topic to the forefront. Gull Lake, 20 minutes away from the Town, is almost unusable for boating and fishing with the threat of Persian Carp, another invasive species. Maybe not an emergency approval of this chemical use, but more discussion on the effects and mitigation of all invasive species needs to be a focus.

C1: Financial Disclosure of Asset Retirement Obligations
Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. The Town experienced these financial pressures through increased Audit costs and utilization of additional staff time to manage the new standard. Although the Town is still working through the ARO (Asset Retirement Obligation) into the 2024 budget year funding support from the Province would have expedited our year-end work in order too to improve our reporting standards.

C2: Extending Municipal Voting Rights to Permanent Residents
Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life and Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. Permanent Residents contribute to the fabric of our communities in Alberta from various volunteer initiatives to enhancing social and cultural activities. In addition these residents pay taxes and contribute to the economy and in turn should have an opportunity to vote at the local level.

C3: Fires on Frozen Lakes
No Position

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. The activities on frozen lakes should be monitored by the province through fish and wildlife no differently than in an open land area.

C4: Increase Capital Funding for Accessible Playgrounds for All New, Replacement or Renovated Alberta Public School with K-6 Programming
Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 3 – Community Life. Accessible playgrounds should be the norm moving forward to accommodate children of all abilities, enabling you, with or without disabilities, their parents, and caregivers to fully participate in all aspects of the playground.

C5: Doubling Speed Fines in Playground Zones and School Zones
Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life. Speeding and non-compliance with TSA regulations continue to be an issue within the Town of Blackfalds and is something residents continually bring to our attention. The safety of our children is of the utmost importance, and larger fines may draw attention to those who are non-compliant with TSA regulations, such as speeding. high priority and

C6. Coverage of Mandatory Drivers' Medical Exam Fees for Albertans Aged 75 and Older Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life. As most Albertans aged 75 and older live on a fixed income and are strapped with the rising costs of utilities, groceries etc. to have to cover a cost that was previously covered under Alberta Health Care further adds to their burden. Maintaining a driver's license will assist with transportation to medical appointment and social activities that are critical in maintaining quality of life.

C.7 Alberta Learner's Licence Program Review Support

This topic falls in line with the Strategic Priority 1 – Community Life. This would allow those over 16 to obtain their non-GDL license sooner by taking the necessary driver training. The over-16 age group are also entering the workforce, often with part-time jobs filling a necessary void for businesses within our community; this would ensure they would have access to transportation to these jobs.

C8. Review of Provincial Animal Protection Act Support

This topic falls in line with Strategic Priority 3 – Leadership and Engagement. With the growing population in Blackfalds, we are also seeing an increase in the animal population, mainly companion animals. With the increase in animals, we see the direct need for an increase in kennels as well as rescue facilities. It is imperative that legislation and regulations through the APA address proper care of these animals.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

- *Alberta Municipalities Resolution Book*

APPROVALS

Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer

Department Director/Author

2024 Resolutions Book



 **Alberta
Municipalities**
Strength
In Members

Version 1: July 29, 2024

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About Resolutions

Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) conducts an annual resolutions process that enables member municipalities to bring forward common issues and solutions and seek member approval to give direction to ABmunis' Board of Directors to advocate to the federal and provincial governments on members' behalf.

This process includes a resolutions session at ABmunis' annual Convention where Regular Members vote on resolutions that have been submitted by members. When a resolution is adopted by members, ABmunis takes action to develop and implement an advocacy strategy for each resolution.

As set out in ABmunis' [Resolutions Policy](#), for a resolution to be presented at ABmunis' Convention, the resolution must:

- address a topic of concern affecting municipalities on a regional or provincial level,
- be approved by the council of the sponsoring municipality, and
- be seconded by an additional municipal council of different sized population.

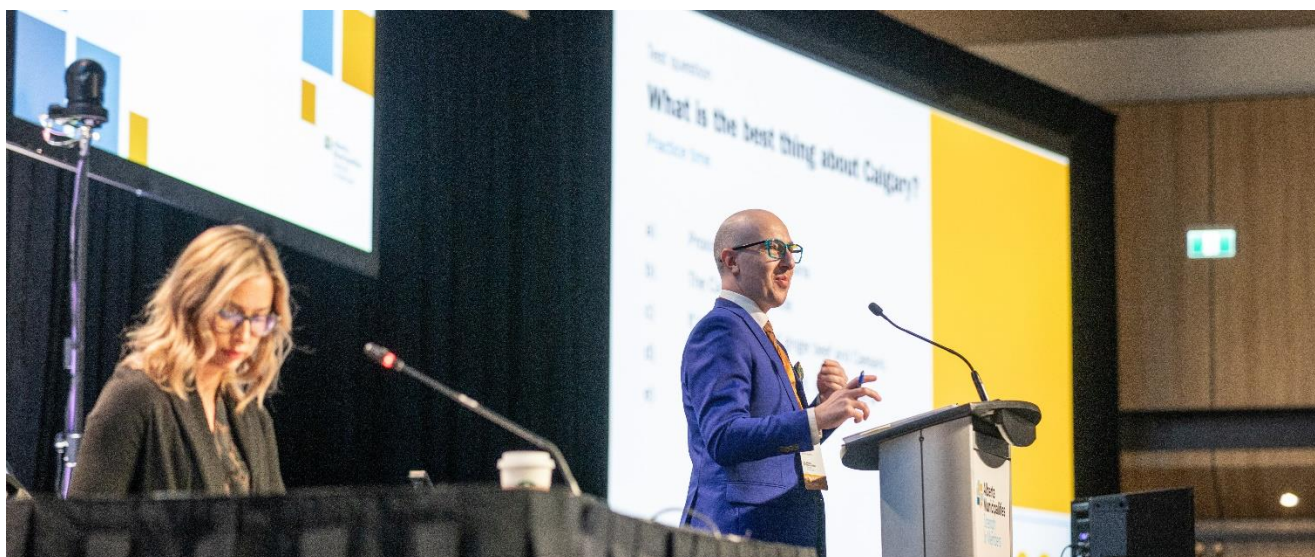
A resolution must not direct one or more municipalities to adopt a particular course of action or policy but must be worded as a request for consideration of an issue, including a call for action by ABmunis.

How to use this Resolutions Book?

Each elected official of a Regular Member municipality who registers for ABmunis' Convention has the right to vote on each resolution at ABmunis' Convention. If one or more members of your council will attend this year's Convention in Red Deer on September 25-27, 2024, then we encourage you to:

1. Review this resolutions book with your council.
2. Discuss if your council supports or opposes the proposed call to action in each resolution so that your elected delegates at Convention have that context when they vote in the resolutions session.

Note: During the Convention resolutions session, each elected official votes individually using their own device. Therefore, your council member(s) can choose to vote in accordance with the majority position of your council or their own personal view, if different. This is one reason we encourage councils to discuss each resolution in advance to increase transparency and understanding of viewpoints on resolution issues.



How can I participate in the Resolutions Session?

The 2024 Resolutions Session will take place on Thursday, September 26 as part of [ABmunis 2024 Convention and Tradeshow](#). The session will follow the process set out in sections 38 to 67 of ABmunis' [Resolutions Policy](#).

Who can speak to a resolution?

As outlined in the Resolutions Policy, elected representatives of Regular Members can speak to resolutions. Upon a motion from the floor, or at the discretion of the Resolutions Chair, a representative of an Associate Member (e.g. municipal districts and counties) may also speak to a resolution.

How to speak to a resolution

After each resolution is introduced, and the mover has been given the chance to speak for two minutes, the Chair will call for a speaker who wishes to speak in opposition, seek clarification, or propose an amendment.

In person attendees wishing to speak to a resolution will be invited to go to microphones clearly marked for those wishing to speak in favour or in opposition. Those participating virtually will be able use the Q&A function of Zoom to enter questions or comments, which will be read out by an ABmunis' staff member in turn with other members standing at the microphones.

Aside from the resolution sponsor, a speaker cannot speak more than once on each resolution.

How to propose an amendment to a resolution

A proposed amendment must be presented with your name, title, municipality, and the resolution title, along with the exact wording of the proposed amendment. All amendments must be seconded unless it is deemed a 'friendly amendment.'

Prior to the Resolutions Session

ABmunis encourages members to provide advance notice of any intent to propose an amendment to a resolution by emailing resolutions@abmunis.ca. This helps ABmunis to prepare and avoid potential delays during the Resolutions Session.

During the Resolutions Session – In Person Attendees

Hand deliver your proposed amendment in writing to both the ABmunis staff person sitting in the audio booth at the back of the room and to the Resolutions Chair.

During the Resolutions Session – Virtual Attendees

Type your proposed amendment in the Zoom chat function.

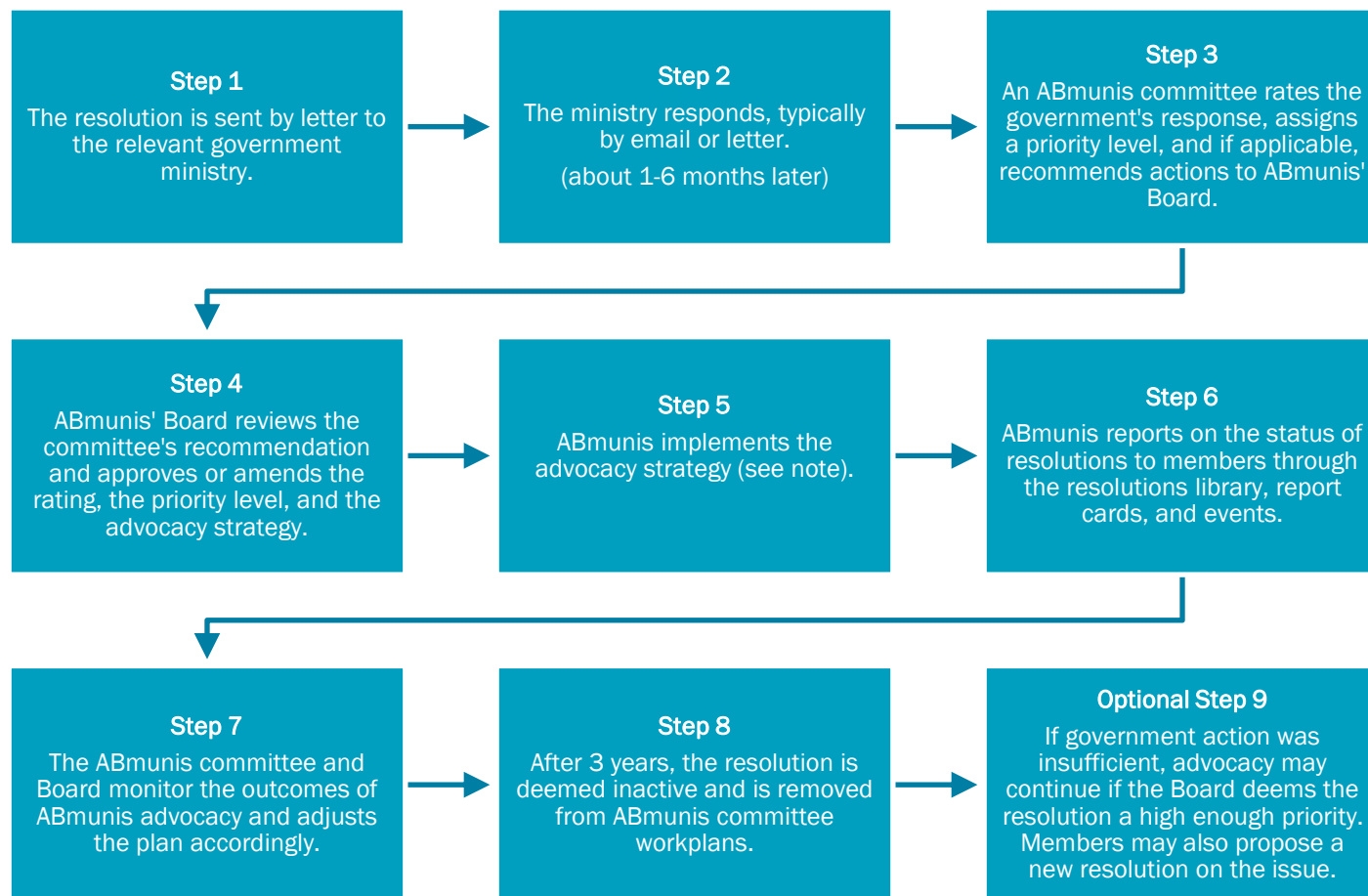
How to vote

In September, elected officials from Regular Member municipalities who are registered for Convention will receive voting credentials from Simply Voting. Elected officials who are eligible for voting credentials can vote on all resolutions.

Bring a laptop, smartphone, or other device that is internet enabled to the Resolutions Session. You will be asked to log in to the Simply Voting website. Once a resolution is called to vote, you will hit the "next vote" button at the top of the page to see the current resolution available to vote on. After you have cast your vote, you will receive confirmation that your vote has been counted. Once the vote result is posted, we will move on to the next resolution.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact resolutions@abmunis.ca.

What happens after members adopt a resolution?



Note: ABmunis' advocacy strategy will differ depending on the priority of the issue. If the Board deems a resolution to be a low priority, ABmunis will monitor the issue but may not take other action after sending the initial letter to the government. Whereas a resolution that is considered a high priority may lead to an advocacy strategy such as sending additional letters, seeking a meeting with a minister, premier, or senior staff, conduct research, strike an ad hoc working group, collaborate with other stakeholder organizations, engage media, conduct a public social media campaign, encourage members to take specific action, or other initiatives.

Status of previous resolutions

All resolutions that have been voted on by members over the previous fifteen years are posted in the [Resolutions Library](#) on ABmunis' website. The Resolution Library summarizes:

- the resolution,
- the response and any actions by the government,
- ABmunis' rating on whether the intent of the resolution has been met,
- ABmunis' rating on the priority of the issue, and
- ABmunis' actions to advocate for the issue.

The status of resolutions can also be viewed through ABmunis' new annual [resolution report cards](#).

2024 RESOLUTIONS

Category B - Issues Related to Alberta Municipalities' Strategic Initiatives

B1: Independent Office of Integrity for Local Government

Moved by: Town of Rocky Mountain House
Seconded by: Town of Sylvan Lake, Town of Legal

WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act requires that municipalities must establish a code of conduct bylaw which governs the conduct of councillors with the intent to build and inspire public trust and confidence in local government by upholding high standards;

WHEREAS there is an inherent conflict in that fellow council members have to determine and enforce the actions of their peers in a structure that needs to be cooperative and collaborative for effective governance;

WHEREAS responsible conduct of elected officials, both individually and collectively as a council, is essential to sound, fair and effective governance;

WHEREAS the current structure of code of conduct legislation places the chief administrative officer and other municipal administration in a difficult position as they are tasked with hiring an investigator and coordinating the investigation of individuals who oversee their compensation and employment;

WHEREAS it would be fairer and more impartial if a third party assessed and determined if a code of conduct complaint was valid and if so, conducted the investigation and recommended appropriate actions warranted by any breach; and

WHEREAS local governments are best served by resources and tools that reflect the legislative framework for local government in Alberta, which is based on democracy, transparency and accountability.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the provincial government to establish an Independent Office of Integrity to serve the public, elected officials and local government officials in an advisory, educational and investigative role in the application and enforcement of council code of conducts.

BACKGROUND:

The sections of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) in regard to code of conducts came into force October 26, 2017, giving municipalities until July 23, 2018 to establish a code of conduct bylaw.

Under the previous MGA there was no requirements for a code of conduct and councillor conduct was addressed locally.

Municipalities can't remove councillors from office, but councillors can use codes of conduct to remove other councillors from committees and exclude them from some meetings. But councillors on the receiving end of those judgments argue that power can be wielded sometimes inappropriately.

Councils need to work collaboratively and cooperatively to effectively govern. This requires a concerted effort of working together and becoming a team that is respectful to each other and accepting different opinions. A code of conduct complaint can be counterintuitive to this essential aspect of a council in that it places council members in quasi-judicial role on a peer.

While the principle of code of conduct bylaws is important, it is just as important that it is implemented in a fair and unbiased manner. The creation of an independent third party such as an integrity office would alleviate this, whereas the office would evaluate and determine if a breach occurred, investigate and recommend disciplinary actions that are suitable to the breach.

The establishment of an inquiry office would also remove administration from being involved in any code of conduct process. This reinforces the dichotomy of council and municipal administration and potential conflict between the two.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

There has been no previous resolution on the matter; however, based on significant input from members, ABmunis has used previous provincial consultations on the MGA to recommend the creation of an independent office. In June 2024, ABmunis met with the Premier and Minister of Municipal Affairs who were both receptive to the idea. This led to Municipal Affairs using its July 2024 consultations on the development of regulations related to the Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act (Bill 20) to include questions on how an Integrity Commissioner's Office could be structured, its extent of power, and the funding source. The approval of this resolution would provide further confirmation that ABmunis' members support the creation of an independent body to serve municipal councils in the investigation and recommendation of sanctions related to code of conduct violations.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Tracy Breese
Legislative Coordinator
Town of Rocky Mountain House
Legislative@TRMH.ca

Dean Krause
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Rocky Mountain House
DKrause@TRMH.ca

B2: Allowance of Automated Vote Counting Systems in Municipal Elections

Moved by: City of St. Albert
Seconded by: Town of Rocky Mountain House

WHEREAS the timely, accurate and efficient operation of municipal elections is essential to uphold the principles of democratic integrity and effective local government;

WHEREAS municipalities across Alberta have historically employed a variety of vote counting methods, ranging from manual counting of ballots to the use of automated vote counting systems that count paper ballots, that best enable them to facilitate local elections based on the unique demographics and structure of their municipality;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta's Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 repeals the section of the Local Authorities Election Act that enables the use of automated vote counting systems, necessitating that municipalities solely employ the manual counting of ballots in future local elections, thereby running counter to the core principle of enabling local decision-making;

WHEREAS a municipal electoral ballot can contain many different votes, including a vote for mayor, multiple councillors, school board trustees, senate candidate nominations, and referendum or plebiscite questions, the complexity of which can both increase the risk of human error and the time required to complete a manual count;

WHEREAS municipalities have utilized automated vote counting systems at their discretion to effectively mitigate the complexity and time required to count ballots in order to produce accurate, reliable and timely election results;

WHEREAS the previous Local Authorities Election Act and current municipal bylaws include stringent, effective and tested regulations for the use of automated vote counting systems, in addition to the allowance of manual re-counts, which have ensured fair, accurate and authentic local elections for many election cycles;

WHEREAS the requirement of manual ballot counting will impose a financial burden on municipalities that have previously relied on automated vote counting systems, limit the ability to provide accurate, timely and reliable results, and increase the risk of delayed results and errors; and

WHEREAS some municipalities have not utilized manual vote counting in years or decades and would therefore incur significant risk in adapting alternative vote counting processes without precedent or corporate expertise, thereby increasing the likelihood of delayed results, errors, and cost escalation.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to permit municipalities to utilize the vote counting system of their choice in the operation of their local elections, including automated vote counting systems, to ensure accurate, cost-effective and timely results for Albertan voters.

BACKGROUND:

On April 25th, 2024, the Government of Alberta tabled Bill 20, the Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, which makes substantive changes to the Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA). The bill repealed section 84 of the LAEA, which stated:

84(1). An elected authority may by bylaw provide for the taking of the votes of electors by means of voting machines, vote recorders or automated voting systems.

Further stipulations within this section referenced the allowance of electronic voting tabulators and included stringent requirements and regulations for the use of such equipment.

Bill 20 replaced this section with the following:

84. A local jurisdiction shall not provide for the taking or counting of votes by means of voting machines, vote recorders, automated voting systems or tabulators.

Many municipalities have used automated vote counting systems – such as electronic tabulators– over a large number of election cycles. These systems typically involve a voter filling out a paper ballot, which is then deposited in an electronic tabulator that records their votes; the technology utilized is similar to “scantron” automated test scoring systems that are used for educational exams in schools and post-secondary institutions across Alberta. Once a paper ballot’s votes have been recorded by the electronic tabulator, the paper ballot remains accessible should any errors or close results necessitate a manual re-count of the ballots.

The use of such systems allows for the effective and timely counting of ballots, some of which can contain over a dozen different individual votes, including votes for mayor, multiple councillors, school board trustees, senate nominees, provincial referendums, and local plebiscites. For example, in the City of St. Albert’s 2021 election, over 17,500 individual ballots were cast, with each ballot containing 7 separate votes, and 17 candidates elected or referendum questions answered out of over 50 options. Similar complex ballot dynamics exist among many municipalities in Alberta.

The previous LAEA enabled the use of automated vote counting systems at a municipality’s discretion, and also placed regulatory stipulations and requirements for their use; municipalities that utilized the equipment often included stricter stipulations for its use within their own election-regulating bylaws. The City of St. Albert’s Municipal Elections Bylaw 20/2017, for example, includes the following regulations:

- Requirements that the automated vote counting system has been tested, is in good working order and will provide accurate results;
- Requirements that the integrity of the automated vote counting system is protected through security measures designed to prevent unauthorized access or tampering of the system;
- Regulations for contingencies should an automated vote counting system malfunction.

Automated vote counting systems also allow for increased reliability and voter confidence in the use of complex ballots. For example, the City of St. Albert’s local election processes enable a voter to place their own marked paper ballot in an electronic tabulator; should the tabulator identify an error on the ballot, the voter will be given an opportunity to request a new ballot, ensuring that their votes are counted. Such contingencies and allowances would not be possible with a manual count, which would necessitate a degree of subjectivity to interpret unclear or improperly marked ballots and thus increase the risk of votes not being counted and vote counting errors.

Municipalities that utilize automated vote counting equipment have also invested notable resources in their operation and regulation; for example, the City of St. Albert regulates the use of electronic tabulators in its Municipal Elections Bylaw¹ and signed a contract with a value of \$55,000 to utilize 31 tabulators in its most recent election. The requirement to utilize manual vote counting will require a broad overhaul of municipal bylaws that regulate elections in municipalities that have utilized automated vote counting systems and will necessitate the design and operation of new vote counting processes in addition to the contracting and/or training of vote counting personnel. Collectively, this will impose financial burdens on affected municipalities due to the resources required to enact an overhaul of this scale to design and employ a new electoral process.

Furthermore, the lack of recent precedence on the utilization of manual vote counting in addition to the lack of corporate knowledge will increase the risk of delay, errors and other related issues for municipalities that have not recently utilized manual vote counting to tabulate complex ballots, which could negatively impact the ability for municipalities to provide timely, effective, and efficient elections. Such delays and errors could undermine the trust

¹ City of St. Albert – Municipal Elections Bylaw 20/2017

https://stalbert.ca/site/assets/files/30875/consolidated_municipal_elections_-_by_bylaw_25-2023.pdf

of residents in their local government's ability to uphold the principles of democratic integrity and effective local government.

Allowing municipalities to employ the vote counting system of their choice and design – whether through a manual count or the use of electronic tabulating equipment – will ensure that they can provide reliable, accurate, and timely elections for their residents, and will maintain the tradition of trust in the municipal electoral process that has been held by Albertans for generations. Furthermore, the autonomy to make a decision such as this is best suited to occur locally, amongst those who know and understand their communities the greatest.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

When the Government of Alberta introduced Bill 20, the Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 during the spring 2024 legislative session, Alberta Municipalities highlighted concerns with the removal of electronic tabulators amongst other concerns with Bill 20. The Government of Alberta has stated that the intent of removing the use of voting machines and tabulators is to increase trust in local election processes. If this resolution is approved, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the Municipal Governance Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Monty Killoh
Advisor
Government Relations
City of St. Albert
mkilloh@stalbert.ca

Trevor Duley
Senior Manager
Government/Indigenous Relations & Environment
City of St. Albert
tduley@stalbert.ca

B3: Provincial Education Property Tax Reform

Moved by: City of St. Albert
Seconded by: Town of Penhold

WHEREAS local public infrastructure such as transportation, water/wastewater utilities, stormwater management, and other local priorities are vital to the sustainability of municipalities and the quality of life for Albertans such as recreation and community facilities;

WHEREAS municipalities across Alberta have highlighted the need for increased municipal infrastructure funding and alternative financing mechanisms and policies to maintain existing infrastructure, build new infrastructure, and support community growth, through the adoption of several associated resolutions at the 2023 Alberta Municipalities Convention;

WHEREAS provincial revenue-sharing with municipalities does not meet the need for local public infrastructure investment, as it has decreased from \$420 per Albertan in 2011 to \$186 in 2024, while municipalities face increasing fiscal pressures related to population growth and high inflation-driven construction costs¹;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta's 2024-27 Fiscal Plan expects that municipalities will collect over \$2.7 billion in provincial education property tax in 2024 on behalf of the province, and predicts this figure will grow by 4.3% a year to \$3 billion in 2026-27²;

WHEREAS on behalf of the Government of Alberta, municipalities collect \$1 billion more for provincial revenue via the provincial education property tax than what they receive in total provincial funding for municipal infrastructure via the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF), competitive grant programs, and other one-time capital investments; and

WHEREAS the 2023 mandate letter for the Minister of Municipal Affairs directs the ministry to review the feasibility of amending the provincial education property tax to assist municipalities with retaining more funding for local priorities.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to action the Minister of Municipal Affairs' mandate letter from the Premier, to review the provincial education property tax to assist municipalities with retaining more funding for local priorities, with the outcome being that municipalities receive provincial funding for municipal infrastructure equal to or greater than what is collectively requisitioned in provincial education property tax on an annual basis for the Government of Alberta.

BACKGROUND:

The collection of the provincial education property tax by municipalities in its current form was established by the Government of Alberta in 1994. Based on equalized assessment value, the province calculates each year the amount of provincial education property taxes that a municipality must transfer to the Government of Alberta. Municipalities are subsequently responsible to calculate the amount of provincial education property taxes to be charged to each property based on their assessed property values. As the provincial education property tax is typically billed to residents in combination with their municipal property taxes, residents may be unaware that approximately 30% of their property tax bill is submitted to the province – it is a reasonable expectation that local property taxes billed by a municipality will fund the services and infrastructure needs within their local community.

¹ Alberta Municipalities – Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget, pg. 5 - <https://www.abmunis.ca/system/files/2024-03/ABmunis%20Preliminary%20Analysis%20on%20Alberta%27s%202024%20Budget.pdf>

² Government of Alberta's 2024-27 Fiscal Plan, Page 63 - <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/23c82502-fd11-45c6-861f-99381fff748/resource/3782cc8f-fdc4-4704-9c50-07fc36e05722/download/budget-2024-fiscal-plan-2024-27.pdf>

The Government of Alberta's 2024-27 Fiscal Plan notes that municipalities are expected to collect \$2.7 billion worth of provincial education property tax in 2024-25, and that this revenue will grow by 4.4% per year to \$3 billion in 2026-27¹.

As the provincial education property tax is tied directly to property assessment values, growth in assessment and new development means that growing municipalities have seen their associated tax requisition increase in 2024 despite a provincial freeze on the tax rate. This increase is especially tangible for municipalities witnessing exceptional growth in development and assessment values, which in effect causes them to become victims of their own success as their provincial education property tax rates increase along with their growth in assessed property values.

The 2023 Mandate Letter for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs directed the Minister to “review the feasibility of amending the provincial education property tax to assist municipalities with retaining more funding for local priorities.” At the 2024 Alberta Municipalities Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus, Premier Danielle Smith noted that the Province will provide more public infrastructure funding to municipalities in 2024 – approximately \$3.6 billion total – than what municipalities collect in Education Property Tax, if all infrastructure spending is included in addition to LGFF allocations. Analysis by Alberta Municipalities found this assertion is accurate if inclusive of federal funding for local infrastructure allocated by the province and spending on provincially-owned highways and bridges; due to these funding allocations either being dissociated from provincial revenues and spending, or from funding municipally owned and operated infrastructure, a more accurate figure of \$1.73 billion is being spent on local infrastructure, which is \$1 billion less than what municipalities will collect in provincial education property tax in 2024².

Should the Government of Alberta reform the provincial education property tax and/or revenue sharing mechanisms with municipalities to be equal to or greater than what they collect in education property tax, the additional \$1 billion in funding would bridge the municipal infrastructure funding gap that exists when current LGFF Capital funding compared with historical funding for municipal public infrastructure³.

Reforming the education property tax in this manner would provide municipalities with the needed fiscal capacity to maintain and build infrastructure to support the quality of life Albertans expect from their local and provincial governments.

There may be some instances across Alberta Municipalities' membership base where individual municipalities currently receive more funding in provincial grants than what they collect in provincial education property tax. The active resolution clause has been worded to consider this factor, as the intent is not to lead to decreased funding for any municipality, but to be equal or greater than what they are individually requisitioned in provincial education property tax.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

Over the years, members have approved numerous resolutions on the issue of provincial property taxes with the most recent resolution in 2020, which called for the Government of Alberta to take over responsibility for the collection of provincial property taxes. The Government of Alberta's response was that the current system provides for the most efficient method of collecting provincial property taxes. Through the development of the Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital program, ABmunis also highlighted and advocated against the growing gap between provincial property taxes and provincial capital funding provided to municipalities.

¹ Government of Alberta's 2024-27 Fiscal Plan, Page 63 - <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/23c82502-fd11-45c6-861f-99381fffc748/resource/3782cc8f-fdc4-4704-9c50-07fc36e05722/download/budget-2024-fiscal-plan-2024-27.pdf>

² Alberta Municipalities – Breaking Down Alberta's Capital Support for Municipalities in 2024. <https://www.abmunis.ca/news/breaking-down-albertas-capital-support-municipalities-2024>

³ Alberta Municipalities: Let's Talk About Infrastructure - <https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/infrastructure/lets-talk-about-infrastructure>

Since the release of the Premier’s 2023 mandate letter, ABmunis has sought regular updates from ministers on the government’s progress and to date has been informed that the review is still under work. If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis’ Board by the Municipal Governance Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis’ Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Monty Killoh
Advisor
Government Relations
City of St. Albert
mkilloh@stalbert.ca

Trevor Duley
Senior Manager
Government/Indigenous Relations & Environment
City of St. Albert
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B4: Restoring Provincial Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT) Funding

Moved by: Town of High Prairie
Seconded by: Town of Mayerthorpe

WHEREAS properties owned by the Government of Alberta are exempt from municipal property taxes, but the province provides a Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT) program to fund municipalities for the municipal services provided to provincial properties;

WHEREAS the Provincial budgets since 2019-2020 have made significant reductions in GIPOT funding to all municipalities across Alberta;

WHEREAS Budget 2024-25 has provided an increase of \$2.1 million in the GIPOT funding to reflect the rising assessment and construction of new provincial government infrastructure;

WHEREAS despite increases in Budget 2023 and Budget 2024, GIPOT's 2024 budget of \$38.1 million is still well below past funding levels of \$60 million before the province cut the program budget in 2019-20; and

WHEREAS these reductions have placed an unfair and disproportionate burden on municipal ratepayers.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the reinstatement of full funding, at a minimum to the 2019/20 funding level of \$60 million, for all properties that are eligible for GIPOT.

BACKGROUND:

The provincial government reduced the GIPOT program by 25% in 2019/20 and a further 25% in 2020/21, for a total reduction of 50% compared to 2019/20. The overall program funding reductions related to these changes in the 2019/21 provincial budgets were significant, impacting almost all municipal units in Alberta. GIPOT's 2024 budget of \$38.1 million is still well below past funding levels of \$60 million before the program cuts by the provincial government in 2019/20.

Historically the revenue flows to the municipalities were based on the taxes the Crown would pay if the properties were not exempt from taxation. This change in funding has effectively downloaded costs to the ratepayers within the municipalities.

This gap in provincial funding points to the need for the province to recognize the essential role that the day-to-day municipal services play in supporting provincial building and properties.

Both Alberta Municipalities and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta have been advocating for a more equitable and fair funding of properties which fall under the GIPOT classification.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

GIPOT funding has been a priority of ABmunis for many years dating back to 2016 when members were encouraged to participate in a letter writing campaign to express concerns with changes to the program. In recent years, ABmunis has highlighted how reductions in GIPOT are one of many examples of how hundreds of millions of dollars have been downloaded onto municipalities between 2017 and 2023. Overall, this resolution aligns with ABmunis' advocacy on municipal financial health and municipal funding. If the resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for a response and further advocacy recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Municipal Governance Committee within the context of other priorities.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Brian Panasiuk
Mayor
Town of High Prairie
mayor@highprairie.ca

Bill McKennan
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of High Prairie
cao@highprairie.ca

B5: Small and Remote Municipalities Need Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs) to Thrive

Moved by: Town of Mayerthorpe
 Seconded by: Town of Coalhurst

WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act (MGA) R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26, Section 3 – Municipal Purposes states “the purposes of a municipality are (3)(a) to provide good government, (3)(a.2) to foster the economic development of the municipality, (3)(b) to provide services, facilities or other things that, [...] are necessary or desirable for all or part of a municipality; and, (3)(c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta’s Economic Development in Rural Alberta Plan (EDRAP) document clearly identifies REDAs as essential partners in the work to grow Alberta’s rural economy through “*continued collaboration and investment in Regional Economic Development Alliances*”;¹

WHEREAS the Premier’s 2023 mandate letter to the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade specifically instructs the Minister to work with REDAs by “collaborating with partner organizations, including Regional Economic Development Alliances, to enhance wayfinding services and other business-attraction initiatives for investments under approximately \$50 million”;²

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta (GoA) has embraced a more than 20-year partnership with REDAs and their members to undertake regional economic development initiatives of mutual interest and this partnership has positioned Alberta as a leader in the delivery of regional economic development;

WHEREAS most rural Alberta communities are served by one of the nine REDAs and many small urban and remote municipalities rely on REDAs for economic development service delivery due to limited budget capacity; and

WHEREAS an innovative solution can be implemented to budget for long-term, consistent provincial funding for REDAs to ensure small and remote municipalities continue to have access to economic development services thus ensuring vital growth in Alberta’s economy.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade and the Government of Alberta as a whole to implement measures for the provision of continuous, stable funding for the nine existing REDAs, supporting each with a budget of \$225,000 per year consisting of \$125,000 per year in operational funding and \$100,000 per year in project funding.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Alberta and the current REDA Chairs to develop a clear purpose and program structure for the REDAs, inclusive of a stable, long-term, collaborative approach to funding.

BACKGROUND:

Over 20 years ago, the GoA envisioned a way for groups of municipalities within a geographic region to collaborate on mutually beneficial economic development initiatives and the REDAs were born. Based on an “all for one and one for all” concept, REDAs undertook projects aimed at building economic resiliency in small and remote rural areas where limited capacity meant that economic development was worked off the side of someone’s desk.

¹ Government of Alberta’s Economic Development in Rural Alberta Plan, page 14 - <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/economic-development-in-rural-alberta-plan>

² 2023 Mandate letter to the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/mandate-letters-to-ministers-2023>

REDAs are member-driven organizations that utilize strategic planning to develop regional priorities. Historically, REDAs have tried to align themselves with provincial priorities wherever possible to maximize results for the entire province. Uniquely positioned to help the GoA deliver the Alberta Advantage in rural areas, REDAs are trusted bridges between the provincial government and their member municipalities building and maintaining networks of local, strategic relationships and expanding much needed growth opportunities.

Funding for REDAs has fluctuated over their history. Up until 2011, most REDAs were staffed and managed by GoA employees from regional offices and each had multiple employees and budgets that ranged between \$400,000 and \$500,000. In 2011, REDA funding was cancelled, and offices closed. The member municipalities of the day chose to continue supporting the work and the organizations received specific project funding from the GoA. Outcomes suffered and REDAs struggled until 2014.

REDA Renewal began as a research project to determine the potential opportunity to be found in renewing the partnership and working with the GoA to set the direction for the re-invigorated collaboration. Agreements were signed that saw each REDA provided with \$100,000 per year in operational support and a mandate to align with provincial priorities to deliver certain outcomes.

During the fiscal years of 2016-18, the REDA-CARES funding stream was created, enabling each REDA to receive \$200,000 in operational and project funding. It required REDAs to submit project plans to their GoA counterparts. The measure returned significant value to the province for that investment.

Sweeping budget cuts in 2019-20 saw REDA funding slashed to \$50,000 each. REDAs continued their work, demonstrating value and, in 2022, the GoA provided a one-time top up of \$25,000 for projects. Then, in 2023, the GoA returned the REDAs to \$125,000 per year in operational support and expressed strong government support for the value of the partnership.

On January 19, 2024, the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade announced the GoA's intention to defund the current REDA program. This abrupt announcement will impact every REDA member across the province. With the potential to impact roughly half of ABmunis' members, this is a matter of great consequence. For all current REDA member municipalities, it will likely mean requests for larger municipal funding contributions.

Many REDA members are small communities with limited capacity. They will have to choose between their fiscal responsibilities and their economic development goals. For the smaller REDAs, the untenable choice their members face could mean the dissolution of more than one REDA.

Even for the larger REDAs, the GoA's decision to defund will have consequences. Without operational funding support, REDAs will have fewer dollars for meaningful projects. And, like the smaller REDAs, communities with limited fiscal capacity could be forced to withdraw from participation, further straining the REDA's budget.

The County of Paintearth No. 18 presented a resolution on the floor at the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Spring 2024 Conference. Receiving overwhelming support, RMA will advocate for a stable funding agreement for the nine REDAs and a renewal of the partnership between the REDAs and the GoA.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

The resolution is consistent with a Request for Decision (RFD) that was passed by members at ABmunis' Spring 2024 Municipal Leaders' Caucus. The Government of Alberta's response to that RFD was that it still intends to proceed with its plan to transition out of providing operational funding to REDAs. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Economic Strategy Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Janet Jabush

Mayor

Town of Mayerthorpe

Janet.Jabush@mayerthorpe.ca

B6: Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Funding Increase

Moved by: City of Airdrie
 Seconded by: Town of Crossfield

WHEREAS the Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) program promotes and enhances the well-being of Albertans, families and communities by funding preventive programs intended to help individuals adopt healthy lifestyles, improve their quality of life and build capacity to prevent and deal with crisis situations should they arise¹;

WHEREAS FCSS is an 80/20 funding partnership between the Government of Alberta and more than 318 participating municipalities and Metis settlements;

WHEREAS between 2015 and 2022 provincial funding for FCSS was stagnant and the \$5 million increase, to a total of \$105 million, in 2023 does not adequately reflect the need for services in Alberta communities;

WHEREAS in October 2023, the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta called on the Alberta Government to increase total funding to \$130 million allowing FCSS programming to be maintained and for the fund to be indexed to inflation; and

WHEREAS investment in prevention creates a sustainable system of local support for Albertans, families and communities and by not increasing FCSS funding to take into account inflation and population growth the result will be a decrease or elimination of critical programs and services.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to immediately increase provincial funding for Family and Community Support Services commensurate to population growth and annual inflation rates to adequately and sustainably fund necessary prevention programs and services in communities across Alberta.

BACKGROUND:

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) has provided funding for vital programs and services to residents in municipalities across Alberta since 1966. Today, eligible services under FCSS must be preventative in nature and may include initiatives and programs that help communities:

- identify their social needs and develop responses;
- promote, encourage and support volunteer work in the community;
- inform the public about services;
- support children and their families' social development;
- help families enrich and strengthen family life and function more effectively in their own environment; and,
- enhance retired and semi-retired people's quality of life.²

Previous FCSS funding resolutions were adopted at Alberta Municipalities' Conventions in 2006, 2007, 2010 and 2014. The Government of Alberta increased funding to a total of \$100 million in 2015 and added an additional \$5 million in 2023. Provincial funding increases have not kept pace with population growth or inflation. From 2000-2023 Alberta added nearly 1.7 million people and inflation averaged 2.25% per year over the same time period. Quickly eroding any additional funds provided by the province and municipalities.

In October 2023, the Family and Community Support Services Association (FCSSA) of Alberta requested an additional \$25 million, a 24% increase, in funding from the Government of Alberta to fund FCSS programs. Noting that preventive programming significantly reduces the amount of money that needs to be invested in health care, mental health, addictions, and the justice system.

^{1, 2} Government of Alberta, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) program, <https://www.alberta.ca/family-and-community-support-services-fcss-program>

“Every dollar invested in preventive services saves us \$7 to \$12 in future spending on justice, health care and addictions. As our provincial priorities focus on critical social issues, Albertans have never needed FCSS more than today.”

Murtaza Jamaly, President
Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta
October 3, 2023

FCSSA is a member-driven organization that was established in 1981 to bring FCSS programs from across the province together to connect, collaborate, and to maximize resources.

A funding increase of \$25 million to \$130 million would help to maintain current FCSS programming levels across the province according to the FCSSA. No additional funding was allotted to FCSS in the 2024 Alberta Budget. Should provincial funding be increased, municipalities would need to increase contribution rates to maintain the 80/20 funding partnership required under the *Family and Community Support Services Regulation*. It should be noted that many municipalities are currently contributing more than 20% to local prevention programs.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with ABmunis' past advocacy where the unchanged level of FCSS funding from 2015-16 to 2022-23 and again in 2024-25 represent a downloading of costs onto municipal governments. The resolution aligns with ABmunis previous advocacy to seek an increase in FCSS funding to keep pace with Alberta's growth and costs of services. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Leona Esau
Intergovernmental Liaison
City of Airdrie
Leona.Esau@airdrie.ca

B7: Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System Equipment Funding

Moved by: Town of Strathmore
 Seconded by: Village of Rockyford, Town of Mayerthorpe

WHEREAS a provincewide radio system helps first-responders, such as police, fire, and ambulance, coordinate to improve safety and response times;

WHEREAS it is the province's mission to provide quality, cost effective, secure, reliable, accessible land mobile radio communications supporting all Alberta first responders;

WHEREAS the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) is a two-way radio network launched in 2016 to be used by first responders in municipal, provincial and First Nations agencies across the province;

WHEREAS the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System was designed to allow agencies to share talk groups, allowing inter-agency communications to be achieved in a powerful fashion; and

WHEREAS not all municipalities have access to the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System due to a lack of available funds for equipment.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide financial support for municipalities with a population of less than 3,000, and for regional groups, to obtain equipment necessary to participate in the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS).

BACKGROUND:

The Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) is the provincewide radio system that helps first-responders, such as police, fire, and ambulance, coordinate to improve safety and response times.

AFRRCS Operations, Maintenance and Sustainability (OMS) is responsible for the maintenance of the system and network to allow communications encompassing 335 sites and over 33,000 devices. The system is monitored 24/7, 365 days a year by the System Control Centre (SCC). There has been substantial provincial investment to build the infrastructure of the system across the province, while encouraging all relevant stakeholders to participate to achieve complete inter-operability Alberta-wide.

First responder agencies are eligible to use the system on a no-cost basis. Approved secondary responders are permitted to use the system with a yearly fee. This does not include the expense of equipment, which can cost \$5,000 to \$15,000 per radio unit. For context, a larger community like Strathmore required a \$250,000 investment to furnish the number of radios required to support the detachment.

The system has been operational since July 2016, but not all municipalities in Alberta are current participants due to the investment required in the radios needed to access the system. Unfortunately, the outlay of dollars for these radios is cost intrusive to many budgets in towns, villages and counties with vast space and smaller populations.

The Town of Strathmore prioritizes Community Wellness as a part of its strategic plan – putting emphasis on the value of the health of residents, and focusing on the maintenance, protection, and improvement of services that support optimum lifestyles. Alberta has one of the largest and fastest growing populations in the country and Strathmore has seen its share of growth. With a population of nearly 15,000 it is imperative that additional available safety measures be accessed, not only by the Town, but extending to the surrounding communities. It is these smaller community partners who should not be overlooked, as everyone works together to contribute to

the safety of Albertans. Those wearing the same uniform should be afforded the same access to communication systems to achieve the greatest benefit. It puts residents at a disadvantage and overall risk when not all villages, towns, and smaller municipalities in the province share in the amazing tool that is the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System. Strathmore has extensive firsthand experience in the challenges faced with communications when working together with neighbouring municipalities to respond to major incidents along Highway 1 who are not all on the same system. These learnings highlight the importance of these tools.

Alberta Municipalities has advocated for collaboration between communities, and putting everyone on an equal footing with access to use of core resources that pertain to the safety and well-being of Albertans should be considered.

The proposal before Alberta Municipalities' members is to advocate that the Government of Alberta provide financial support for the purposes of obtaining the required resources, in the form of emergency service radios, to access the AFRRCS. The proposed action would be in alignment with the Government of Alberta's mission to support rural economic development. Smaller communities building their support systems serves to deliver on this by having the same advantages as larger urban centres.

The health and safety of all Albertans is a priority and ensuring that the delivery of care by those first responders who know their communities best – through access to cost effective, secure, reliable, accessible land mobile radio communications that benefit everyone.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with past ABmunis advocacy on the need to support municipal access to AFRRCS. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Johnathan Strathdee
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Town of Strathmore
johnathan.strathdee@strathmore.ca

B8: Declining Fire Department Services Across Alberta

Moved by: Village of Mannville

Seconded by: Town of Vegreville, Town of Smoky Lake

WHEREAS small communities across Alberta rely on volunteers to serve as firefighters and first responders and therefore, having a sufficient number of volunteer firefighters is essential to the health and safety of each community;

WHEREAS businesses that employ volunteer firefighters do not currently receive a tax credit for doing so;

WHEREAS provincial Fire Services Training Program funding increases are necessary for small community firefighter training; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada's former Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) for fire/emergency training and equipment is no longer available.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities:

1. advocate to the Government of Canada to create a business tax credit for businesses that allow employees who are volunteer firefighters to attend calls during business hours; and
2. advocate to the Government of Canada to reinstate the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program.

BACKGROUND:

Over the past several months, there have been several instances where the Village of Mannville's local fire department has not been able to respond to calls due to the dwindling numbers of volunteer members. In addition to the decline in members, there are several existing members that are unable to leave their place of employment to attend emergency calls.

The Government of Alberta (GOA) reinstated the Fire Services Training Grant (FSTP) in 2022 providing a maximum grant of \$10,000 per application. The grant is to financially assist municipalities to ensure fire services are adequately trained to address the community's risks and levels of service. It would be helpful if the overall program funding of \$500,000 were increased to provide all municipalities opportunities to receive this funding, plus keep pace with inflationary increases in training costs.

The Federal Government cut the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) in 2013. The JEPP was used to fund major capital purchases for fire departments. Reinstating a modernized JEPP would reduce deferred equipment purchases due to fiscal pressures. This grant is imperative as the longer these purchases are deferred the higher the risk to community safety.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

In its 2024-25 budget, the Government of Canada increased the Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit from \$3,000 to \$6,000 to help support volunteer firefighters.

ABmunis has advocated on issues related to emergency management in the past. The provincial government and other organizations are undertaking reviews and working groups to improve wildfire response from numerous perspectives. If the resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Canada for a response and further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis Board by the Infrastructure Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Jennifer Hodel
Chief Administrative Officer
Village of Mannville
cao@mannville.com

B9: Preventative Psychological Services Support for Municipal First Responders and Emergency Dispatchers

Moved by: City of St. Albert
Seconded by: Town of Mayerthorpe

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has stated that improving emergency medical services response times is a priority;

WHEREAS municipalities support emergency medical service response through their provision of first responder services (firefighters, police officers, peace officers, and in some instances, paramedics) and emergency dispatcher services, with these services often working in coordination with Alberta Health Services' emergency medical response;

WHEREAS in supporting emergency medical response, municipal first responders and emergency dispatcher services can be exposed to traumatic incidents that cause psychological injury, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which may require treatment and extended medical leave, reducing municipal capacity to support emergency medical service response;

WHEREAS the Workers Compensation Act permits for the presumptive coverage of traumatic psychological injuries for first responders and emergency dispatchers, resulting in municipal taxpayers funding both the coverage required for recovery and return to service through increased premiums, in addition to the overtime required by active-duty personnel to cover such absences;

WHEREAS the provision of preventative psychological services reduces the frequency and severity of psychological injuries for first responders and emergency dispatchers, enabling fewer associated medical leaves and a more consistent and reliable roster of personnel on active duty;

WHEREAS the provision of preventative psychological services improves the mental health, well-being, and resiliency of first responders and emergency dispatchers, strengthening their ability to perform their emergency medical response duties; and

WHEREAS a more consistent and resilient roster of first responders and emergency dispatchers would both strengthen emergency medical service response times while also reducing the burden on taxpayers to cover associated Workers Compensation Act claims and overtime coverage for absences.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to provide a grant or funding mechanism to municipalities to provide preventative psychological services to municipal first responders and emergency dispatchers to reduce the risk of psychological injury and the associated burden on taxpayers to treat such injuries, in addition to bolstering emergency medical services response services in Alberta.

BACKGROUND:

The Workers Compensation Act defines "first responders" as firefighters, paramedics, peace officers, or police officers. The WCB, in its publication on *Presumptive Coverage for Traumatic Psychological Injuries (First Responders, Emergency Dispatchers and Correctional Officers)*, notes that "presumptive coverage for psychological injuries" sustained by first responders, emergency dispatchers and correctional officers is provided in certain situations¹. This coverage demonstrates a recognized occupational risk for first responders and emergency dispatchers to be exposed to traumatic situations that cause psychological injuries, in addition to a need to receive treatment and undergo recovery. Municipal taxpayers are financially impacted by this coverage and associated treatment costs

¹ https://www.wcb.ab.ca/assets/pdfs/workers/WFS_Presumptive_coverage_for_traumatic_psychological_injuries.pdf

through WCB premiums their municipality must pay. For the City of St. Albert, WCB premiums have been in a surcharge (over standard industry rates) for the past five years due to psychological injury claims.

Many municipalities in Alberta provide first-responder and other associated services, such as fire services, emergency dispatchers, and – in some cases – paramedics. The employees who work in these roles can be exposed to traumatic events which cause the equivalent of a psychological injury (e.g., Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). Some psychological injuries necessitate the filing of Workers Compensation Board (WCB) claims and associated leaves of absences to manage the psychological trauma and duress associated with these events, which results in:

- Higher WCB premiums being funded by municipal taxpayers;
- A reduction of personnel available for active duty that necessitates the use of staff overtime for coverage, which is also funded by municipal taxpayers; and/or
- Reduced capacity to support emergency medical response.

Municipal first responders also support emergency medical response work under the responsibility of Alberta Health Services in situations where provincial resources are delayed, exposing these municipal first responders to risks of psychological injuries. In any case, leaves of absences for first responders to recover from psychological injuries reduces the capacity of municipal first responders to bolster provincial emergency response services.

As the consequences of psychological injuries impact the service provision of first responders and emergency dispatchers, organizations have been increasingly introducing preventative psychological services into their onboarding and professional development programs. One such service being utilized is the “Before Operational Stress” (BOS) program, which offers participants a robust, self-directed learning regiment – in addition to sessions facilitated by mental health clinicians – that covers topics such as the physiology and markers of operational stress, cognitive impacts, emotions and behaviour change, and communication. The program prepares participants to manage their operational stress, such as the experience of traumatic events, in a healthy and structured manner. Participation in the BOS program can:

- Improve mental health symptoms (e.g., depression, anxiety, substance use and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder);
- Equip first-responders with tools to manage workplace stress; and
- Enhance the sense of control over workplace stress and mental health.

A 2021 peer-reviewed study of the BOS program found statistically significant improvements in symptoms of PTSD, quality of life, stigma, and perceived social support in participants, in addition to other benefits such as improvements in symptoms of depression, anxiety, stress, alcohol use, as well as emotional regulation and resilience. The reduction in these symptoms aligns with efforts to reduce the frequency and severity of psychological injuries requiring a leave of absence and treatment for first responders and emergency dispatchers; furthermore, the stated benefits also support efforts to build resiliency among first responders, strengthening their service provision. Other supplemental preventative psychological service initiatives could further support this effort.

As improving emergency medical response services is a provincial priority, the provision of a grant by the Government of Alberta to fund the provision of preventative psychological services for first responders and emergency dispatchers would support this objective. Through improving the mental health symptoms of personnel who witness traumatic events, the risk of both receiving a psychological injury and requiring a WCB-funded leave of absence for treatment would be reduced, enabling a more consistently full roster of first responders and emergency dispatchers available to support emergency medical response. Encouraging and enabling municipalities to provide this service to their first responders and emergency dispatchers would reduce their risk of psychological injury, strengthen and maintain the roster of available municipal first responders, and reduce the burden on municipal taxpayers for the provision of services that support provincial health care service delivery priorities.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with past ABmunis advocacy on the need to provide psychological supports to first responders. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Monty Killoh
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City of St. Albert
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Government/Indigenous Relations and Environment
City of St. Albert
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B10: Establishing a Provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services

Moved by: City of Grande Prairie
Seconded by: Town of Wembley

WHEREAS there is currently no provincial level of service for Emergency Social Services support when hosting external communities from outside of their jurisdiction;

WHEREAS host municipalities each set a Level of Service for Emergency Social Services resulting in significant inconsistency among host municipalities;

WHEREAS there have been inconsistent answers from the province regarding what Emergency Social Services costs are eligible for cost recovery, resulting in host municipalities having to absorb expenses that have later been determined as ineligible for cost recovery; and

WHEREAS there was a record number of community evacuations in Alberta in 2023 and the frequency, severity; and duration of emergency evacuations is increasing.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for a provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services as a framework for providing support to external communities from other jurisdictions in Alberta or from out of province.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services include schedules that indicate services that are considered Basic Survival Needs, and which services are Discretionary; with identification of what costs are eligible for cost recovery.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services acknowledge that the host municipality is providing a Fee for Service and that they will directly invoice the home jurisdiction, or the Government of Alberta and will not be required to apply for Disaster Recovery Program funding to recover their costs.

BACKGROUND:

When a host municipality agrees to accept evacuees from another municipality, reserve, Metis settlement, or from outside of the province, they are doing so in good faith and trying to help others in their time of need.

Unfortunately, the result is a significant disruption of services provided to its own residents. Even worse, local taxpayers are often saddled with a portion of the costs that have been determined ineligible under a Disaster Recovery Program (DRP). This should not be happening when the host community is not the one experiencing the emergency.

During an emergency when a host municipality is asked to accept evacuees on short notice, there is verbal reassurance that all costs will be covered, but there is not enough time to prepare a written agreement. Consequently, the details are subject to individual interpretation. The time decision-making takes can't keep pace with the speed with which issues are evolving. Even when trying to clarify expectations and eligibility for cost recovery through the province, the answers will vary from one day to the next as staff changes occur and new staff are unaware of previous decisions.

Host municipalities are also asked to apply for DRP funding to recover their costs, even though they were not the community that had the emergency. This process extends the time to recover costs well beyond their fiscal year-end,

forcing them to carry those costs forward sometimes for years. In many cases, a very large portion of costs have gone unrecovered.

The rules established for Disaster Recovery Programs are often referred to by staff of the province to answer Level of Service questions. There are several problems with this approach because there are several assumptions made in the DRP rules that do not apply to the host community. DRP rules are intended as a cost-sharing arrangement between the federal and provincial governments and the affected municipality. An example of this is regular staff time not being covered, only overtime. For the host municipality that forces them to subsidize the emergency costs of another municipality.

Many of the problems faced by host municipalities can be prevented if the province creates a Level of Service for Emergency Social Services for Hosting an External Community. This Level of Service should list the services that are required to meet an evacuee's "Basic Survival Needs", services that are discretionary and require approval of the Director of Emergency Management, and what services are eligible for cost recovery.

This Level of Service must be created without using the lens of the Disaster Recovery Program rules.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this specific issue, but it aligns with ABmunis advocacy on provincial downloading of costs onto municipalities. If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for a response. Further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Infrastructure Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Rory Tarant
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
City of Grande Prairie
rtarant@cityofgp.com

B11: Provincial Emergency Shelter Strategy

Moved by: City of Red Deer
Seconded by: Town of Hinton

WHEREAS the provision of emergency shelters and addressing homelessness falls within provincial jurisdiction, that adequate housing is a fundamental human right, and that housing is essential to the inherent dignity and well-being of a person and to building sustainable and vibrant communities;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta needs to create a comprehensive emergency shelter strategy to fully address the project management lifecycle processes of initiating, planning, executing, monitoring, controlling, and closing;

WHEREAS the homeless population continues to grow, so too are the challenges that municipalities face with this segment of our communities; and

WHEREAS there is heightened community sensitivity regarding emergency shelters and their placement, so it is vital the Government of Alberta present a clear vision and strategy regarding the development process for emergency shelters across the province.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta and the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services to create a comprehensive emergency shelter strategy for the entire province. This detailed strategy will provide a vision, guiding principles, objectives, definitions, project management governance, and role clarity for provincial and municipal governments and applicable community stakeholders.

BACKGROUND:

Right across Alberta, there has been a significant increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in our communities. From the large urban cities to small villages, there is a major crisis in the number of unhoused individuals in our province.

According to Red Deer's Point in Time (PIT) Count, held in the fall of 2022, the number of persons experiencing homelessness in the city increased to 334 in 2022 from 144 in 2018, confirming local outreach staff expectations that the number of people experiencing homelessness is increasing. Red Deer is not alone, results from the City of Grande Prairie's 2022 PIT Count on homelessness observed at least 328 individuals experiencing homelessness in their community. This number is up from the 2018 count which saw 228 unhoused individuals. Smaller communities experience the problem at the same proportion but often with fewer resources and partners. For example, the local Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) office of the town of Fort Macleod, population 3,300, helped 82 people in 2023 who were homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

In the absence of a clear Government of Alberta emergency shelter strategy, both the provincial government and municipal governments right across the province have struggled greatly in trying to construct new shelters. For example, in Red Deer, it has been four years now since the Government of Alberta announced a capital project of \$7 million for a new emergency shelter. During this time, there has been very little progress in moving this project forward. From not knowing the provincial government's vision, to confusion over role clarity, to not having proper project management structure in place, Red Deer is no further ahead in building this much needed piece of social infrastructure.

Shelters are a much-needed piece of social infrastructure and homelessness continues to grow in Alberta. To protect people's fundamental right of adequate housing, the Government of Alberta must improve in clearly articulating a vision and plan for emergency shelters right across this province.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on emergency shelters, but the topic generally aligns with ABmunis advocacy on the need for provincial action to address homelessness. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Darren Kuz
Interim Chief of Staff, Office of The Mayor & Council
City of Red Deer
darren.kuz@reddeer.ca

B12: Permanent Supportive Housing Capital and Operational Funding

Moved by: City of Red Deer
Seconded by: Village of Delburne

WHEREAS the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness has increased substantially since 2018, with numbers doubling in some Alberta municipalities;

WHEREAS the demand for supportive housing is high and Alberta municipalities are lacking sufficient permanent supportive housing options to meet the needs of people experiencing chronic homelessness with highly complex needs;

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities require both capital and operational funding for new permanent supportive housing developments to be feasible and sustainable; and

WHEREAS investments in long-term housing solutions for people experiencing chronic homelessness is far less expensive than supporting their needs while in emergency shelters and encampments.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to increase capital and operational funding for hub municipalities in Alberta for permanent supportive housing to ensure appropriate housing options are available for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

BACKGROUND:

There has been an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness and the rate of chronic homelessness across Canada, according to Infrastructure Canada's *Everyone Counts 2020- 2022 - Findings from the Nationally Coordinated Point-in-Time Count Results*¹.

- Compared to previous counts in 2018, there was a 20% increase across the country, with unsheltered homelessness increasing by 88%.
- Some Alberta municipalities have experienced an increase of 50% or greater in homelessness since 2018.

Supportive housing options are in high demand in Alberta municipalities due to the high prevalence of chronicity and complexity of needs among local homeless populations.

Permanent Supportive Housing provides long-term housing and support to individuals who are homeless and experiencing complex mental health, addiction, and physical health barriers. This program provides an appropriate level of service for chronically homeless individuals who may need support for an indeterminate length of time while striving to achieve increased independence.

By prioritizing chronically homeless individuals who require high levels of support, permanent supportive housing increases their likelihood of remaining housed long term. This reduces the instances of individuals returning to homelessness after being housed, thereby alleviating the personal impacts and system pressures that may result.

Investments in permanent supportive housing solutions tend to be more cost-effective than continually supporting individuals in emergency shelters and encampments. Those investments also contribute to a significantly decreased demand on other systems, such as justice and health, with provincial data highlighting that homelessness supports funding resulting in a 64.3% reduction in jail time, 53.6% decrease in hospital usage, and 50.3% decrease in emergency medical service responses.

¹ "Everyone Counts 2020-2022 - Findings from the Nationally Coordinated Point-in-Time Counts," Infrastructure Canada February 1, 2024.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with previous ABmunis advocacy on the need for increased permanent supportive housing to address homelessness. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Darren Kuz
Interim Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor & Council
City of Red Deer
darren.kuz@reddeer.ca

B13: Full-Time 24-Hour Home Care Support in Lodges/Supportive Living Accommodations

Moved by: Town of Tofield
 Seconded by: Town of Vegreville

WHEREAS the service needs for rural Alberta seniors, residing in lodges, requiring enhanced services is increasing and this increases pressures for accessing community supports and amenities;

WHEREAS residents within the lodge/supportive living settings could continue to reside within this structure, without the physical and mental impact of relocation, if the minor and temporary needs could be addressed;

WHEREAS the requirement for relocation due to inability of accessible care places a significant impact on an individual's quality of life such as loneliness, isolation, dignity, and the other imposed stresses of a forced move;

WHEREAS lodges, supportive living, designated supportive living and long-term care have recently shown a vast gap in service(s) despite these facilities having a focus on "life enrichment"; and

WHEREAS adding full-time home care services in lodges and supportive living homes would help avoid the requirement for some individuals to relocate to higher levels of care to access unscheduled health care supports, placing further burden on our already taxed healthcare system.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide funding for full-time, 24-hour, 7 days a week home care services in lodges and supportive living environments.

BACKGROUND:

The Alberta Government has placed an emphasis and encouragement on seniors to remain in their family home for as long as possible. Therefore, there is a trend showing that seniors are entering lodges and supportive living accommodations later in life.

Further, by entering the supportive living environment at a later stage, this sees a requirement for reassessment of higher care needs as support needs cannot be adequately addressed within the current home care service limitations.

Increased frequency of needs is now placing demand upon; families, firefighters, first aid practitioners, and EMS. These needs are focusing on items such as personal hygiene support, incontinence issues, or medication assistance in the evenings. The inability for access to these services at any given time as required is robbing these people of basic human rights and dignity of life.

By having full time, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week support, the focus is placed on a humanistic approach for our seniors. Further, the demand is then removed for these services from our health care providers and remove detriment from the facilities and disciplines which they represent, such as ambulance services.

Many lodges in rural Alberta are experiencing vacancies. These vacancies are evident in both governmental and non- governmental ran entities. However, even in the non-governmental run facilities, lack of supports and services are creating barriers and roadblocks. Through the provision of enhanced services, residents would be supported and able to remain within lodges and supportive living, which they consider to be their homes. Further, this supports resident choice(s) and eases stressors on an already taxed and burdened health care system, the individual(s), and their support network.

This issue and call to action align with the Alberta Municipalities initiatives and advocacy under the social needs' component of health care, and vulnerable Albertans.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this specific issue, but the topic generally aligns with ABmunis advocacy on the need for quality seniors' living options. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Debora (Deb) Dueck
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Town of Tofield
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B14: Attraction and Retention Strategy for Rural Health Care Professionals

Moved by: Town of Hinton
 Seconded by: Village of Boyle

WHEREAS adequate medical services and the professionals required to deliver those services are critical to the safety and well-being of all Albertans;

WHEREAS many rural Alberta municipalities¹ find recruiting and retaining health care professionals very difficult;

WHEREAS a robust and diverse workforce of health care professionals is needed in Alberta to provide equitable access to appropriate health care services no matter where Albertans live;

WHEREAS a cohesive provincial strategy focusing on increasing the number of health care professionals in rural Alberta is critical to ensuring stability and equity in Alberta’s health care system; and

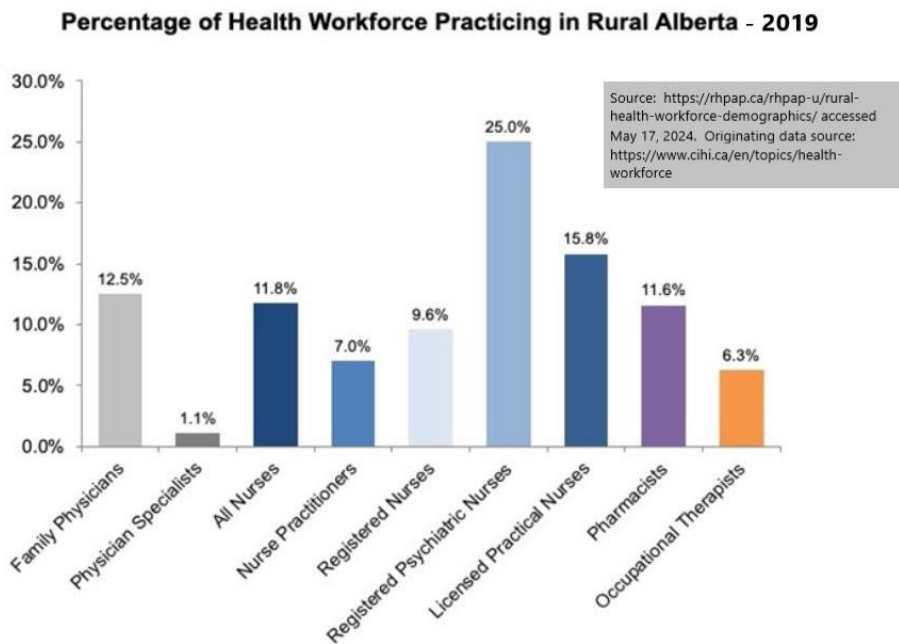
WHEREAS health providers across most professional groups are overrepresented in urban areas compared to the proportion of Canadians living in rural areas (which was about 20.5% in 2019), far less than 20% of most health professionals have taken up rural practice.²

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to develop a Rural Health Care Professionals Attraction and Retention Strategy that focuses on increasing the total number of health care professionals in rural Alberta.

BACKGROUND:

The lack of health care professionals affects all communities in Alberta but is more acute outside of the major urban centres. Per this graph, nearly all health care professions are underrepresented in rural Alberta, leading to staff burn out, dissatisfaction, and premature retirement as well as relocation to better staffed communities.³

In response to the shortage of health care professionals, community-driven attraction and retention initiatives are becoming increasingly common in rural Alberta. Leaders at the municipal, business, and community level recognize that health care services



¹ E.g., communities under 10,000 population. [Rural Health Services Review Final Report \(alberta.ca\)](#), Rural Health Services Review Committee, March 2015 the Government of Alberta. Accessed May 17, 2024.
² [Health Workforce Demographics - Rural Health Professions Action Plan \(rhpap.ca\)](#). Accessed May 17, 2024.
³ [Rural Health Services Review Final Report \(alberta.ca\)](#), p. 1, Rural Health Services Review Committee, March 2015. Government of Alberta.

are crucial for community sustainability and where health services are not available, growth is unlikely and out-migration of taxpayers, investors, workers, and service providers is inevitable. To avoid a continuously dwindling economy, municipalities are forced to act; and this represents another case of downloading of provincial responsibility onto municipalities left with little choice but to undertake property tax-funded initiatives to try and avoid consequential health care staff shortages and resulting reduction in medical services in their community.

Despite all recruitment efforts, there were still 270 medical service disruption notices issued by Alberta Health Services in 2023. This is empirical evidence that even where health facilities are established, staff to operate them are lacking and the facilities cannot serve Albertans. Local efforts to attract and retain service providers may address immediate community concerns, if successful, but fall short in tackling the broader challenge of addressing the overall scarcity of frontline professionals in a complex and interconnected industry.

Current demographic trends in Alberta will place additional stress on our health care system in our lifetimes unless deliberate action is taken; the following data largely taken from the [Population Projections - Alberta and Census Divisions, 2023–2051](#) noted below, are grim:

1. Alberta leads Canada with a 4.40% year-over-year population growth rate (2022/2023)¹ and is expected to reach 7.1 million people by 2051.
2. By 2051, Alberta's population is expected to reach an average age of 41.6 years, up from 39.0 years today.
3. Life expectancy is anticipated to increase by 4.7 years for females and 6.2 years for males by 2051.
4. The 'baby boom cohort' (people born between 1946 and 1965) will significantly impact the aging rate. By 2031, the number of Albertans aged 65 years and older is expected to make up a larger share of the population than the number of children aged 0 to 14.
5. The over-65 age demographic represents approximately 15% of the population and is expected to increase to 20% by 2051.²

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

The Government of Alberta released a [Health Workforce Strategy](#) in 2023, which includes Objective 2.2 to “attract and recruit health care workers to rural, remote, and underserved areas”. If this resolution is passed, ABmunis would look to work with the Government of Alberta and related stakeholders to understand the gap between the current and targeted number of healthcare professionals in rural areas, the targeted timelines, and level of investment to support attraction of healthcare professionals to rural areas. At that point, ABmunis' Board would determine an appropriate advocacy strategy with support from ABmunis' Small Communities Committee and Safe and Healthy Communities Committee.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Nicholas Nissen
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Town of Hinton
mayornicholasnissen@hinton.ca

Jordan Panasiuk
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Town of Hinton
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¹ [Annual Demographic Estimates: Canada, Provinces and Territories \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#) Accessed May 17, 2024.

² Population Projections Alberta and Census Divisions, 2023 – 2051 [Population Projections - Alberta and Census Divisions, 2023–2051](#) Accessed May 17, 2024.

B15: Creation of a Wildfire Prevention Committee

Moved by: Town of Hinton
Seconded by: Town of Coronation

WHEREAS Alberta Forestry and Parks is the principal agency responsible for wildfire management in the Forest Protection Area (FPA), and municipalities are responsible for fire prevention and protection within their boundaries;

WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for the management of wildfires as per Section 7(1) of the Forest and Prairie Protection Act, including all financial costs of suppression within their boundaries;

WHEREAS wildfire seasons are growing increasingly longer and more intense, placing a significant strain on provincial and municipal wildfire resources;

WHEREAS wildfire prevention strategies are a resource-intensive activity that requires resources, expertise, and funding to effectively prepare for and mitigate the effects of wildfires;

WHEREAS there are no Provincial initiatives which allow wildfire fire affected communities and industry to discuss practical and operational issues with Provincial wildfire authorities on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of all Albertans to ensure that municipalities are provided the resources and expertise to be proactive and resilient to the effects of wildfires.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to establish a “Wildfire Prevention Committee” consisting of industry, municipal and provincial subject matter experts, elected officials, and senior municipal administrators.

BACKGROUND:

Alberta’s wildland fire seasons are worsening, posing significant challenges to municipalities within and beyond the Forest Protection Area (FPA). Wildfires are starting earlier, lasting longer, and impacting larger areas of Alberta than ever before. This increase in wildfire activity places a substantial strain on municipal fire and emergency management resources.

In response to these challenges, the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association passed resolution 2023-04 aiming to collaboratively develop a long-term strategy for managing large wildland fires. This resolution underscores the need for coordinated efforts among government ministries, Alberta Municipalities, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and municipalities to address the escalating threats posed by wildfires.

As wildfire seasons across Alberta grow in length and intensity, they not only endanger lives and property but also place a significant drain on municipal resources and budgets. It is imperative to take proactive measures to ensure Alberta’s municipalities are well-prepared and well-equipped to protect Albertans from the increasing threat of wildfires.

The establishment of a Wildfire Prevention Committee could serve to:

1. Inform and advise the Government of Alberta on municipal priorities.
2. Enhance communication between municipalities and Provincial agencies.
3. Encourage a proactive and collaborative approach to protecting Alberta communities from the effects of wildfires.
4. Promote advocacy and stakeholder engagement related to wildfire mitigation measures.

Through these collaborative efforts, the Provincial government and municipalities can align resources, expertise, and knowledge to enhance the resiliency and readiness of Alberta communities from the growing threat of wildfires.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis is currently participating on the Rural Municipalities of Alberta's recent Wildfire Working Group, which involves municipalities, the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association, the Government of Alberta, and the Alberta Forest Products Association and guest speakers. The purpose of the Working Group is to improve wildfire response in Alberta; however, the Working Group is scheduled to complete its work by fall 2024.

The Ministry of Forestry and Parks is also currently developing a Wildfire Mitigation Strategy to align with the federal government's Wildland Fire Strategy. Opportunities to participate in Alberta Forestry and Parks' review have been shared with ABmunis' members via our newsletter. The Office of the Fire Commissioner is also reviewing its mandate. Several engagement sessions have been held virtually and in person around the province. ABmunis emailed members directly about these sessions. This review is looking at the role and mandate of the Office of the Fire Commissioner, training standards, firefighter recognition and management of wildland fires outside of the Forest Protection Area.

If approved, this resolution will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Infrastructure Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Nicholas Nissen
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mayornicholasnissen@hinton.ca

Jordan Panasiuk
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B16: Culture, Recreation, and Sport Facility Infrastructure Deficit Report Card

Moved by: Town of Innisfail
Seconded by: City of Red Deer

WHEREAS culture, recreation, and sport enhance personal health and wellness, increase quality of life through physical activity and mental health, and play an important role in social connection and inclusion;

WHEREAS all Albertans should have the opportunity to access safe culture, recreation, and sport facilities that contribute to healthy citizens, community economic development, sport tourism, job creation and sustainability of the social fabric of communities;

WHEREAS Alberta's municipalities are ineligible to access the provincial government's Active Communities Initiative which allocates \$30 million over three years for community groups, non-profit organizations and societies, First Nations, and Metis Settlements to renew, expand, and/or build small to medium sized public-use community sport and recreation facilities;

WHEREAS the province is expecting and encouraging continued population growth and municipal governments are primarily responsible for culture, recreation, and sport facilities in Alberta, yet the provincial government is reducing its funding support for municipal owned and operated facilities;

WHEREAS a provincial inventory of culture, sport, and recreation facilities that recognizes the physical deterioration of existing infrastructure in municipalities does not exist; and

WHEREAS a culture, recreation, and sport facility infrastructure deficit report card would reinforce the need for strategic and evidence-based decisions, and adequate funding is allocated towards infrastructure investments in municipal owned and operated facilities across Alberta.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to fund Alberta Municipalities or a third-party organization to develop and maintain a database that provides an inventory of all culture, sport, and recreation facilities in Alberta and that the Government of Alberta use that inventory database to benchmark and make strategic and evidence-based decisions on investments in culture, sport, and recreation infrastructure.

BACKGROUND:

A strong provincial economy requires healthy and complete communities, and culture, recreation, and sport are critical community infrastructure that is essential to all Albertans. The Canadian Infrastructure Report Card (2019) indicates that 30-35% of culture, recreation, and sport facilities are in fair or worse condition.¹ Most publicly owned recreation infrastructures were built between the mid 1950's and early 1990's and are nearing their useful life.

The Government of Alberta (GoA) recently announced the Active Communities Initiative which is an allocation of \$30 million for community groups, non-profit organizations and societies, First Nations, and Metis Settlements to renew, expand, and/or build small to medium sized public-use community sport and recreation facilities. The grant program is intended for small and mid-sized sport and recreational facility projects² and municipalities are considered ineligible.

¹ (2024, May 5). Retrieved from Canadian Infrastructure Report Card 2019:

<http://canadianinfrastructure.ca/downloads/canadian-infrastructure-report-card-2019.pdf>

² Government of Alberta. (2024, May 3). Retrieved from Building Active Spaces and Brighter Futures:

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=902887A915EF0-BF58-A6D7-35BC294F5758FF3A>

Access by municipalities for culture, recreation, and sport funding is becoming scarce. The Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) and the Community Initiatives Program (CIP) once were accessible for municipalities to assist with the renewal, expansion, or building of public-use community facilities and are no longer. Although it is appreciated that funding is available to community partner organizations, most community facilities are managed directly by municipalities.

The provincial government quickly responds to municipal inquiries of recreation infrastructure funding programs to utilize the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) Capital funding. Alberta's municipalities know that is not possible as the provincial government's spending on local infrastructure has dropped from 3.7% of total spending a decade ago to 1% today. This means that there is less investment of \$1.3 billion in community infrastructure funding¹ and Alberta's municipalities are facing an estimated \$30 billion deficit that will worsen without government support².

The culture, sport, and recreation infrastructure deficit is not the only challenge. The provincial government has launched Phase 3 of its "Alberta is Calling" campaign which will be the province's largest annual increase in the province's history with an average of 550 people moving to Alberta every day³. Alberta's annual population growth projection is expected to be 2.5% (2022-2025) with 4.5 million population in 2022 to 7.1 million in 2051. The population is expected to become increasingly diverse as immigration will account for 55% of the expected population growth over this period⁴. Municipalities are facing increasing pressure to accommodate the province's growth and maintaining the current infrastructure while planning the addition of new subdivisions and community facilities.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis has encouraged municipalities to incorporate asset management practices to support the effective operation, maintenance and renewal of municipally owned infrastructure. A provincial database of recreation infrastructure would support this practice. If passed, this resolution will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for a response. Further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Infrastructure Committee within the context of related priorities and positions. If the Government of Alberta is supportive of funding the initiative, ABmunis would work with the Government of Alberta to determine if ABmunis or another third-party organization are best positioned to develop and maintain the database.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Todd Becker
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Innisfail
Todd.Becker@innisfail.ca

¹ Alberta Municipalities. (2024, May 5). *Let's Talk About Infrastructure*. Retrieved from Alberta Municipalities: <https://www.abmunis.ca/system/files/2023-09/ABmunis%20Background%20Funding%20of%20Local%20Infrastructure.pdf>

² Alberta Municipalities. (2024, May 5). *Local Government Fiscal Framework*. Retrieved from Alberta Municipalities: <https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/infrastructure/local-government-fiscal-framework-lgff>

³ Gibson, C. (2024, May 9). *3rd Phase of Alberta is Calling is underway, but is province moving too fast?* Retrieved from GlobAL News: <https://globalnews.ca/news/10484561/alberta-is-calling-phase-3-movingbonus/#:~:text=Phase%203%20of%20the%20Alberta.help%20build%20housing%20and%20infrastructure.>

⁴ Government of Alberta. (2024, May 3). Retrieved from Building Active Spaces and Brighter Futures: <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=902887A915EF0-BF58-A6D7-35BC294F5758FF3A>

B17: Federal Funding for Compressed Natural Gas and Clean Diesel Buses

Moved by: City of Red Deer
 Seconded by: Town of Innisfail

WHEREAS with the announcement of the Zero Emission Transit Fund, beginning in 2022 the Government of Canada's funding program for municipal transit has been changed to only allow eligible purchases of hydrogen and electric buses;

WHEREAS hydrogen and electric bus manufacturers do not have the capacity to meet the demand of municipal fleet replacement with confirmed delivery times exceeding two years from date of purchase;

WHEREAS the impacts on the electrical grid and costs of upgrading building infrastructure to support new electrical demand are unknown;

WHEREAS significant technological advancements have made compressed natural gas (CNG) and clean diesel environmentally friendly solutions;

WHEREAS restrictions on municipal access to buses would decrease the service level of transit that municipalities offer, reducing the access for many residents to employment and community; and

WHEREAS restrictions on municipal access to buses would lead to an increase in personal vehicles on the road, increasing the level of emissions.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to work with the Government of Canada to return to a federal funding program that accepts purchases of compressed natural gas and clean diesel buses until 2035, which will allow municipalities to transition their fleets in an efficient and realistic manner.

BACKGROUND:

Many municipalities who provide public transit have taken advantage of previous programs such as the Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP) and the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund Program (PTIF) in past years to replace diesel-based transit fleets with greener options. Significant investments were also made to construct, and service specialized fueling stations.

Transitioning to zero emission transit is a laudable goal. However, the timetable is too short for municipalities to transition without significant challenges that will be borne by their residents and taxpayers.

The current electric and hydrogen bus procurement process makes it difficult for smaller and mid-sized municipalities to fill their orders and receive buses. They are competing with major urban centres across North America. Current delivery times are beyond two years and puts fleet replacement at risk.

Additional fleets would be required to maintain service levels at current schedules, as municipalities would require two electric buses to every CNG bus. Due to the requirement of charging times throughout the day, buses would have to come off their regular service just to charge, requiring a backup bus to cover the service.

CNG and clean diesel burn significantly cleaner than previously used fuel sources. While they are not zero emission, they still significantly reduce emissions when compared to previous diesel options. Additionally, CNG and clean diesel buses cost significantly less than electric or hydrogen buses. Currently, CNG buses can be purchased for approximately \$850,000, whereas electric buses cost approximately \$1,800,000 to \$2,000,000 and hydrogen

buses cost approximately \$1,500,000 to \$1,700,000.

The environmental impact of transit is well established. Reducing the number of available buses has several major impacts on municipalities. First, it forces even more difficult choices between service levels and taxpayer supported costs. The reality is that fewer people will be able to access public transit if transitional funding of CNG and clean diesel buses is not restored. In addition, the environmental effects would be a net negative, as more people will be driving personal vehicles in municipalities who cannot afford electric buses.

The Government of Canada has committed to net-zero emissions from fossil fuels by 2035. Electric and hydrogen buses are a part of reaching that target. However, the public good provided through public transit is at risk of being diminished by moving too fast. A target of 2035 to transition public transit fleets is a more reasonable approach that can still achieve the desired outcomes without unduly burdening taxpayers.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis has advocated for funding for public transit funding in the past but has not had a position on what types and energy sources should be eligible for a public transit funding. If approved, this resolution will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Infrastructure Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Darren Kuz
Interim Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor & Council
City of Red Deer
darren.kuz@reddeer.ca

B18: Provincial Support for Watershed Management

Moved by: City of St. Albert
 Seconded by: Town of Gibbons

WHEREAS the goals and objectives of watershed management plans under the Water for Life Strategy include a safe, secure drinking water supply, healthy aquatic ecosystems, reliable quality water supplies for a sustainable economy, flood and drought preparation, and overall watershed ecological health;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta promotes the management of water to achieve these goals through the Wetland Policy, the Water Act and the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act;

WHEREAS achieving these goals requires an understanding of, and responses to, diverse impacts from agriculture and livestock, road salt usage, vegetation clearing, development pressures, irrigation, septic concerns, and shoreline modifications;

WHEREAS municipalities develop and apply watershed management recommendations into their municipal planning documents and operations to achieve these goals, partially to address provincial regulatory, planning, enforcement, monitoring, and reporting gaps, especially for municipalities not directly situated on major rivers such as the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers;

WHEREAS there is a lack of provincial resources for municipalities to achieve the goals of the Water for Life Strategy without municipally funded services and operations such as water quality monitoring, watershed ecological health assessments, and biodiversity assessments; and

WHEREAS Alberta is currently experiencing drought conditions, with the Province initiating water-sharing negotiations and establishing a new drought advisory committee, necessitating increased attention to watershed and cumulative effects management.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to direct resources to bolster the application of the Water Act and the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act through increased enforcement, data collection and information sharing with municipalities, and biodiversity assessments for municipalities located on smaller rivers and sub-watersheds – including but not limited to engagement with municipalities on Water Act permit approvals to enable alignment with municipal statutory plans – to achieve the goals of the Water for Life Strategy.

BACKGROUND:

The City of St. Albert, along with over a dozen other municipalities and First Nations, are all members of the Sturgeon River Watershed Alliance (SRWA) – a municipally-supported watershed stewardship group established for the Sturgeon River Watershed, which works in partnership with the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA). The SRWA focuses on watershed planning to inform and align municipal policies and planning, ensure access to safe drinking water, promote healthy aquatic ecosystems, and enable a reliable, quality water supply for the economy – objectives that align directly with the Provincial Water for Life Strategy.

As the Sturgeon River is a precipitation-fed river, the use of the surrounding land has an increased impact on the quality and quantity of water in the watershed when compared to glacier-fed rivers like the North Saskatchewan and Bow Rivers. Whereas greater resources such as access to data on water quality, impact assessments, and enforcement of Water Act regulations is available to municipalities situated on major glacier-fed rivers, municipalities situated on smaller tributary rivers often do not have access to the same resources.

The priority issues in the Sturgeon River Watershed are:

- Poor water quality due to excess nutrient and sediment inputs;

- Low water levels in late Summer and Fall in rivers, creeks and lakes;
- Impacts from extensive agriculture and rapid urbanization; and
- Loss of wetlands, riparian areas and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Precipitation-fed rivers have increased risk of being affected by extreme weather events and climate change, due to the lack of glacial fed headwaters; they have lower resiliency to drought and are prone to flooding in high precipitation weather events. While they are often not a source of drinking water, they can be used to attenuate waste, support a healthy aquatic ecosystem, and are tributaries to larger glacier-fed rivers like the North Saskatchewan River – the health of such tributary rivers directly impacts the state of the major rivers into which they eventually discharge.

Furthermore, the permitted and unpermitted loss of wetlands has resulted in low ecological resiliency, with major impacts to ecosystems and economies related to highly fluctuating water levels. Oftentimes, Water Act approvals that affect wetlands are granted without significant municipal consultations, resulting in conflicts with municipal statutory plans that guide the management of wetlands and watersheds within their boundaries.

These issues are not being adequately addressed through provincial resources and oversight. Municipalities situated on smaller rivers must make decisions based on incomplete or missing data critical to making informed decisions – data that may otherwise be available to municipalities situated on larger, glacier-fed rivers. As a result of this gap, sources of pollution are often not quantified or monitored, and can impact surface and groundwater quality of sub-watersheds, and by extension, major glacier-fed rivers to which they are tributaries.

Assuming the work of ecological monitoring to address the gap in provincial resources, oversight and enforcement is expensive and requires specialized knowledge and expertise to complete tasks such as water quality testing and biodiversity assessments – such costs can be prohibitive for smaller municipalities. Furthermore, Water Act approvals are often granted to private landowners without determining the impacts of such decisions on the municipality, their statutory plans, or their water management issues and priorities.

Through allocating more resources to the application and enforcement of provincial water policies and legislation for tributary rivers and sub-watersheds, and through engagement with municipalities on Water Act approvals, the Government of Alberta can provide the tools required to ensure the objectives of the Water for Life Strategy can be adequately met at every source and tributary of Alberta's water supply.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis is an active member of the Alberta Water Council, participating on several sub-committees. ABmunis is also currently looking at updating a water conservation, efficiency and productivity plan for members to reduce their per capita daily consumption of water. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the Environment and Sustainability Committee within the context of related priorities and positions

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

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City of St. Albert
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Trevor Duley
Senior Manager
Government/Indigenous Relations & Environment
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B19: Goldfish Infestation and Emergency Approval of Powder-Form Rotenone Pesticide

Moved by: Town of Sylvan Lake
Seconded by: Town of Bentley

WHEREAS goldfish, an invasive aquatic species, are continuously infesting stormwater ponds, posing a serious risk to the ecosystem;

WHEREAS the only approved pesticide in Canada, liquid Rotenone, is no longer being manufactured due to a manufacturing plant closure;

WHEREAS affected municipalities have made great efforts to resolve the issue, including obtaining the necessary provincial authorization to remove the aquatic invasive species manually;

WHEREAS the exploration of alternative methods, such as electrofishing, dewatering, and dredging, have been used in the absence of liquid Rotenone; and

WHEREAS goldfish continue to infest stormwater ponds, despite using alternative methods, demonstrating how persistent the problem is for affected municipalities.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta for emergency approval of the dry form Rotenone to address the goldfish, an invasive aquatic species, infestation in stormwater pond systems.

BACKGROUND:

An extensive goldfish infestation in Alberta's stormwater ponds requires quick intervention to lessen the environmental harm to waterways and ecosystems.

The lack of liquid Rotenone has made it difficult to manage the aquatic invasive species successfully, even with attempts to address the problem using existing strategies, including physical removal, pond dewatering, and electrofishing. Emergency licensing of dry-form rotenone is required to assist in the prompt and effective management of the goldfish population and reduce the risk of ecological harm.

To mitigate the environmental risk posed to the lake by the aquatic invasive species in the surrounding stormwater ponds, it is imperative for the province to allow the emergency approval of dry-form Rotenone; this approval would not only facilitate an effective tool to control the goldfish population found in the stormwater ponds but also prevent further ecological damaging by providing an urgently needed solution to address the infestations.

By working collaboratively with relevant stakeholders, including municipalities, the Government of Alberta can address this pressing environmental concern and safeguard the integrity of Alberta's natural resources.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this specific issue; however, this resolution aligns with past advocacy on aquatic invasive species. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the Environment and Sustainability Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Megan Hanson
Mayor
Town of Sylvan Lake
mhanson@sylvanlake.ca

Sean Durkin
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Sylvan Lake
sdurkin@sylvanlake.ca

2024 RESOLUTIONS

Category C – Other Issues of Potential Interest to Municipalities

C1: Financial Disclosure of Asset Retirement Obligations

Moved by: Town of Coronation
Seconded by: Town of Hinton

WHEREAS the addition of accounting standard PS 3280, Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO), increases the transparency of a municipality's environmental liabilities through a municipality's audited financial statements;

WHEREAS the new ARO accounting standard requires municipalities and regional service commissions to report the estimated cost to retire, decommission, remediate, or monitor specific tangible capital assets that present an environmental liability at the end of its useful life;

WHEREAS many municipalities, particularly smaller municipalities, lack the administrative capacity to efficiently and accurately assess the estimated cost to retire their relevant tangible capital assets when those assets are deemed to no longer be needed to serve the community; and

WHEREAS municipalities facing the need for abatement assessments lack adequate financial support to comply with these requirements.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta for financial support and tools to support municipalities to comply with PS 3280 in the most cost-efficient manner possible.

BACKGROUND:

In 2018, the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) approved standard PS 3280, Asset Retirement Obligations, with it coming into force for all municipal financial statements for the year ending in 2023. With the implementation of PS 3280, public sector bodies, including municipalities, need to report in their financial statements the estimated cost to retire, decommission, remediate, or monitor specific tangible capital assets once they reach their end of life. Common examples include:

- Buildings with asbestos
- Closure of landfills
- Closure of wastewater treatment facilities

The issuance of detailed guidelines by the province for this process, along with the consideration of best practices to protect municipalities from lawsuits and legal costs associated with such disclosures, would be advantageous.

Some municipalities might struggle to effectively evaluate their environmental liability, which would require hiring consultants to do the work for them. This is a cost that many smaller municipalities cannot afford.

Support from the Government of Alberta would significantly contribute to the stability and sustainability of municipalities across Alberta, enabling them to fulfill their responsibilities under the MGA while protecting them from undue financial and legal risks associated with the capital assets that carry an environmental or health risk.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Municipal Governance Committee within the context of other priorities.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

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Town of Coronation
quintonf@coronation.ca

Matthew Peacock
Mayor
Town of Coronation
matthewp@town.coronation.ab.ca

C2: Extending Municipal Voting Rights to Permanent Residents

Moved by: City of Calgary
Seconded by: Town of Penhold

WHEREAS our responsibility as municipalities extends to all who people who call our communities' home;

WHEREAS permanent residents are community members who have demonstrated a commitment to our communities and, like citizens, contribute to civic life, have chosen to work here, raise families here, pay taxes here, and who use and support municipal services; however, permanent residents do not have the democratic right to vote in their local municipality;

WHEREAS the right to vote in federal elections is enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms for those with Canadian citizenship, the right to vote provincially is defined in Alberta's Election Act, and the right to vote in municipal elections is defined in Alberta's Local Authorities Election Act;

WHEREAS all orders of government make decisions that directly impact the daily lives of all residents, regardless of their citizenship status; and

WHEREAS municipal governments have a unique legislative opportunity to honour the contributions of Permanent Residents – who are long-term constituents, neighbours, and community members who pay property taxes and fees for municipal services, contribute to our local economy by working and purchasing goods and services, and create vibrancy in areas of social and cultural life – by extending them a democratic voice in local governments.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to amend the Local Authorities Election Act to expand voter eligibility to include individuals who have been granted Canadian permanent resident status.

BACKGROUND:

Definition of a Permanent Resident:

A permanent resident is a person who has legally immigrated to Canada and has been granted the status of a permanent resident but is not a Canadian citizen. Permanent residents can live, work, or study anywhere in Canada, and access most social and health benefits. Permanent residents must also pay all taxes in Canada and respect all Canadian laws. Permanent residents may be in the process of applying for Canadian citizenship, which takes a minimum of 4-5 years after immigrating to Canada.

National Context:

The term franchise, or enfranchisement, denotes the right to vote in elections for members of Parliament, provincial legislatures and municipal councils. As municipalities exist as a result of Provincial legislation, the opportunity exists to afford municipal voting rights to Citizens and Permanent Residents alike through an act of the Alberta Provincial Government amending the Local Authorities Election Act.

Canada has a history of expanding voting rights as our values evolve. Consider that dating back to the colonial period, restrictions once effectively limited the right to vote to male property holders. Since then, voting qualifications and voter eligibility have expanded, removing the restrictions on women, First Nations, Inuit, and Asian Canadians' right to vote, and eventually affirming the right of every Citizen to vote.

The expansion of voter eligibility reflects Canada's evolving social values and a more reflective understanding of what it means to contribute to Canadian society. Currently, New Brunswick is drafting legislation to be the first province in Canada to give permanent residents the right to vote in local elections after bipartisan legislation recognized permanent residents as significant members of the community deserving of enfranchisement in local

elections.¹ In addition, Toronto City Council² and Vancouver City Council³ have passed motions calling on their respective provincial governments to enable permanent residents the right to vote locally.

International Context:

On an international level, permanent residents, or their equivalent, have the right to vote in local elections in over 45 nations around the world under various circumstances including, but not limited to:

- U.S.A. (in various states)
- United Kingdom (including Wales and Scotland)
- Ireland
- Germany
- Belgium
- Greece
- New Zealand
- Switzerland
- Denmark
- Finland
- Belize
- Austria
- Netherlands
- Israel
- Australia
- And more...

Alignment with Alberta Municipalities' Strategic Initiatives

The expansion of democratic participation to permanent residents aligns with several strategic initiatives such as:

- Fostering a Culture of Respect
- Welcoming and Inclusive Communities
- Local Authorities Election Act

Granting permanent residents the right to vote provides several benefits across the above strategic initiatives of Alberta Municipalities. The right to vote democratically further enshrines the mutual respect we have for immigrants in our communities. Civic participation fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility amongst community, strengthens social cohesion, and ensures that governments are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people they represent.⁴ By ensuring our community members are represented in local elections, we can create stronger communities.

The provincial government has made changes to the Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) with, and without, the advocacy of Alberta Municipalities. This would be an opportunity to make an amendment to the LAEA that will greatly strengthen our communities and ensure our democracy is reflective of the communities we serve.

Other Considerations:

In Alberta, our elected leaders at the provincial level must win the nomination of their party's constituency association for the riding wherein they seek the nomination. To win the nomination in a riding, a candidate must receive a majority vote of eligible party members in that riding. The eligibility for party membership varies, but for example, the United Conservative Party will allow membership to⁵:

1. Residents of Alberta
2. People aged 14 and above
3. Citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada
4. Have paid the fee

When considering the democratic process is heavily influenced by the candidates who run for leadership, it is relevant information that permanent residents are able to vote for the leader of a party and vote for candidates to secure their nominations. By proxy, permanent residents can contribute to the selection of the Premier of Alberta and their local MLAs but are unable to vote for their local elected officials.

¹ [Extending vote to N.B. permanent residents won't happen by fall: province - New Brunswick | Globalnews.ca](#)

² [Council votes in favour of electoral reform measures | CBC News](#)

³ [The City of Vancouver just moved to let permanent residents vote in civic elections - BC | Globalnews.ca](#)

⁴ [Why Civic Engagement Matters in Democracy? - Modern Diplomacy](#)

⁵ [Membership – The United Conservative Party](#)

Permanent Residents are now eligible to become Police Officers.¹

- Recently, the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program announced new eligibility to allow Permanent Residents eligibility for recruitment into Police Services, including sworn officers and civilian positions.
- This change allows Police Services to recruit international officers into the service.

Permanent Residents are now eligible to join the Canadian Forces.²

- Since 2022, in response to the growing need for stability in the Canadian Armed Forces, the ban on permanent residents enrolling in the Canadian Armed Forces was lifted.
- Permanent residents are now eligible to join the Canadian Armed Forces to alleviate what was viewed as a critical shortfall in personnel.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

This issue relates to ABmunis work to support municipalities to create [welcoming and inclusive communities](#), and ABmunis' principles that local elections should be inclusive and locally focused; however, ABmunis does not currently have a position on whether permanent residents should be eligible to vote in municipal elections. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Municipal Governance Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Courtney Walcott
Councillor
City of Calgary
Courtney.Walcott@calgary.ca

¹ [Attracting skilled workers to protect communities | alberta.ca](#)

² [Minister of National Defence announces that permanent residents are welcome to apply now to join the Canadian Armed Forces - Canada.ca](#)

C3: Fires on Frozen Lakes

Moved by: Town of Sylvan Lake
 Seconded by: Summer Village of Jarvis Bay

WHEREAS fires directly lit on the surface of frozen lakes results in significant environmental damage due to the debris left behind, including materials such as garbage, tires, and pallets containing nails;

WHEREAS the debris from fires directly lit on the surface of frozen lakes poses a threat to the ecosystem of Alberta lakes and surrounding areas, particularly upon melting, when it enters the lake and contributes to environmental pollution;

WHEREAS the current regulatory framework lacks specific provisions to regulate fires directly lit on frozen lakes, necessitating the development of a new regulation to address this emerging environmental challenge;

WHEREAS there is an urgent need for a regulation to address this issue and prevent further harm to the environment; and

WHEREAS collaborative efforts between municipalities, the provincial government, and other stakeholders have proven effective in addressing environmental concerns in the past.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to develop, implement, and enforce, a regulation that mandates fires be contained within raised containers to mitigate the risk of debris contamination and to prevent environmental damage caused by fires directly lit on the surface of frozen lakes.

BACKGROUND:

The practice of burning fires directly on the surface of frozen lakes, as observed in Sylvan Lake and surrounding areas, has raised concerns due to the environmental damage caused by the debris left behind. The debris often contains harmful materials such as nails, garbage, and tires, posing a significant risk to the ecosystem upon melting. While efforts have been made to address this issue through existing channels, such as 310-PARKS, the current system has proven ineffective in resolving the problem.

To mitigate the environmental impact of fires on frozen lakes, it is imperative to develop a regulation mandating fires be contained and removed when the user concludes their time on the lake. This regulation would not only prevent debris contamination, but also facilitate effective enforcement measures to ensure compliance.

By working collaboratively with relevant stakeholders, including municipalities, the Government of Alberta can address this pressing environmental concern and safeguard the integrity of Alberta's natural resources.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Environment and Sustainability Committee within the context of other priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Megan Hanson
 Mayor
 Town of Sylvan Lake
mhanson@sylvanlake.ca

Sean Durkin
 Chief Administrative Officer
 Town of Sylvan Lake
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C4: Increase Capital Funding for Accessible Playgrounds for All New, Replacement or Renovated Alberta Public Schools with K-6 Programming

Moved by: City of Spruce Grove

Seconded by: Village of Amisk

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta announced in June 2020 that any new school with K-6 programming will have funding for a playground included in their capital budgets;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta provides grant funding of up to \$250,000 per school to support the construction of a playground for new or replacement schools; school communities that wish to exceed \$250,000 can use fundraising to supplement the project;

WHEREAS significant fundraising is often required above the Government of Alberta grant funding with schools¹ reaching out to municipalities for additional funding due to insufficient provincial funding for accessible playgrounds;

WHEREAS accessible playgrounds are built to accommodate children of all abilities enabling youth with or without disabilities, their parents, and caregivers to fully participate in all aspects of the playground;

WHEREAS accessible playgrounds require additional funding, above what non-accessible playgrounds cost;

WHEREAS many municipal governments are working towards increasing accessibility in their communities through various measures such as accessibility policies and accessible playground standards for developers;

WHEREAS there is no mechanism that mandates accessible school playgrounds; and

WHEREAS school play time and playgrounds are vital to childhood development, which includes the development of gross motor skills, social interactions, and creativity.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to increase capital funding for all new, replacement, or renovated public schools with K-6 programming to enable the construction of accessible playgrounds to ensure that students with disabilities have equal development opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021/2022, there were 745,770 K-12 students in Alberta with approximately 14% having a coded status that can be related to an identified disability.

Municipalities across the province recognize the importance of creating welcoming, inclusive, and accessible communities. Several municipalities in Alberta have accessibility policies in place or under development; however, school playgrounds are provincially mandated, and therefore excluded from any municipal accessibility policies.

This resolution aligns with Alberta Municipalities' Welcoming and Inclusive Communities (WIC) Initiative, which aims to help municipalities adapt to and celebrate the increasing diversity of Alberta's population. The WIC Initiative works to create communities where all residents and visitors enjoy a sense of belonging and where diversity adds to the social and economic vibrancy of the community, improving the quality of life for all residents, including people with disabilities.

¹ In the context of this resolution 'schools' refer to school jurisdictions eligible for Government of Alberta capital funding which include a public, separate or Francophone grouping of schools governed by an elected school board.

Currently, school boards are eligible for Government of Alberta grant funding for playgrounds either through Alberta Education or Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women; however, school authorities and their fundraising societies are not eligible to receive funding from both sources:

- Alberta Education provides up to \$250,000 for playgrounds, through capital grant funding for new and replacement schools. Schools can use their fundraising societies to supplement playground construction builds that exceed \$250,000.
- Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women provides grant funding through the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) of up to \$125,000 to support the construction of a school playground. Matching funds are required, and funding can be used for new, replacement or renovated schools.

Alberta public sector entities have a history of advocating for additional capital school funding:

- In 2014, the Town of Penhold put forward the Provincial Support for School Development resolution requesting “that the Government of Alberta, when developing new schools, fulfill the role of a contractor and share the costs associated with the development of the lands for the placement of a school structure”.
- In 2017, Edmonton Public School Board successfully advocated to the Government of Alberta for funding playgrounds to be committed to in the 2020 Budget proportional to the new schools announced. In June 2020, the Government of Alberta announced that any new school with K-6 programming would have funding for a playground included in their capital budgets.

Alberta interest groups have a history of advocating for consistent accessibility standards:

- The Alberta Advocate for Persons with Disabilities is working towards a proactive approach towards reducing barriers and improving opportunities for those with disabilities.
- The Alberta Ability Network (AAN) is a collaboration of 170 organizations and community advocates located in Alberta, working together to address systemic barriers facing persons with disabilities, and has advocated to the province for mechanisms for enforcement of accessibility standards in the province.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES’ COMMENTS:

This issue relates to ABmunis’ Welcoming and Inclusive Communities initiative to support all residents to have equitable access to services and facilities, but ABmunis does not currently have a position on whether the province should create a funding system that enables the construction of accessible playgrounds at all K-6 schools. If the resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy recommended to ABmunis’ Board by the Infrastructure Committee within the context of other priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis’ Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Karey Steil
Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator
City of Spruce Grove
ksteil@sprucegrove.org

C5: Doubling Speed Fines in Playground Zones and School Zones

Moved by: City of Calgary
 Seconded by: Village of Duchess

WHEREAS ensuring the safety of children, particularly in playground zones near schools, is paramount due to their heightened vulnerability to traffic-related risks;

WHEREAS various public entities, including school boards and parent councils have voiced concerns regarding speeding and pedestrian safety, underscoring the urgency for additional protective measures;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions, such as Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Quebec, and Ontario, have successfully implemented measures to double speeding fines in school zones;

WHEREAS Alberta has already doubled fines for other vulnerable road users such as when workers are present in construction zones or when passing first responders; and

WHEREAS the provincial government holds responsibility for the Traffic Safety Act and associated regulations/specified penalties, including the establishment of school and playground zones with reduced speed limits to safeguard children's well-being.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to make changes to the Alberta Traffic Safety Act to improve safety within designated school zones and playground zones through measures such as double fines for speeding offenses or adjusting demerits to encourage improved compliance.

BACKGROUND:

This issue affects all Alberta municipalities with school zones and/or playground zones. According to a study cited by the Global Road Safety Partnership¹ increasing speeding fines by 50-100 per cent can result in a 15 per cent decrease in violations.

Given the alignment with existing provincial legislation intended to protect vulnerable road users, and the potential to help reduce safety incidents in school zones and playground zones, this resolution should be given a high priority.

While prioritizing the safety of road users in school zones and playground zones does not specifically align with strategic initiatives listed in Alberta Municipalities' 2024 Business Plan, it does align with the general strategy of prioritizing and building common solutions that strengthen municipalities.

Advocacy to increase fines for speeding in school and playground zones was addressed by Alberta Municipalities through a 2011 resolution sponsored by the City of Grande Prairie. Alberta Transportation responded that they were not pursuing an increase in fine amounts at that time. There does not appear to be any other associations or groups acting on this issue currently.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this specific issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of other priorities and positions.

¹ Sakashita, C. Fleiter, J.J, Cliff, D., Flieger, M., Harman, B. & Lilley, M (2021). A Guide to the Use of Penalties to Improve Road Safety. Global Road Safety Partnership, Geneva, Switzerland.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

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C6: Coverage of Mandatory Drivers' Medical Exam Fees for Albertans Aged 75 and Older

Moved by: City of Cold Lake
 Seconded by: Town of Bonnyville

WHEREAS mandatory driver medical exams for Albertans aged 75 years and older were covered by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan until 2020;

WHEREAS many Albertans aged 75 years and older live on a fixed income and are disproportionately impacted by new and increasing personal expenses;

WHEREAS the ability to maintain a driver's license impacts an individual's independence, his or her ability to efficiently attend medical appointments, and care for themselves as well as their families;

WHEREAS seniors who are not able to drive increasingly rely on municipal services, including accessible transportation, door-to-door bus services, and medical travel subsidies; and

WHEREAS it is in Alberta's best interest to encourage and support independent, active, and healthy seniors who are able to age in their communities with dignity and a high quality of life.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to reinstate Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan coverage for mandatory driver medical exams for Albertans aged 75 years and older.

BACKGROUND:

In 2020, the Government of Alberta removed mandatory driver medical exams from the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) as a cost-saving measure. Amongst the reasons cited for the change was that Alberta was the only province to cover such costs.

Alberta's 2024-25 budget contains measures intended to assist seniors with rising costs, including a 25% reduction in personal registry services and a 25% coverage of the cost of mandatory medical exams. These programs are acknowledged and commended by the movers of this resolution as a meaningful step that will reduce the cost of living and help to maintain the independence of Alberta's seniors.

Given the recent and unprecedented rise in the cost of living, and the disproportionate affect that cost of living increases have on people as they age and are more likely to rely on a fixed income, however, it is requested that the Government of Alberta consider resuming its position as a leader in providing access to mandatory drivers' medical exams for its residents aged 75 years and older.

Mandatory drivers' medical exams are required at the age of 75, 80, and every two years thereafter. The requirements for such mandatory drivers' exams are, of course, reasonable given that changes in people's health can impact their ability to drive safely and are more likely to occur as people age.

The costs, however, are not consistent across the province and can range up to \$150, a 75% increase over the rate that was covered under the AHCIP, which was \$85.58. The movers of this resolution feel that it is in our province's best interest to ensure that each Albertan can live as independently as possible where they are able and willing to do so. Significant fees for mandatory drivers' medical exams can represent a barrier to maintaining a driver's license for healthy Albertan's aged 75 and older who would otherwise be medically cleared to drive.

The Government of Alberta has noted that the population of seniors in Alberta continues to rise faster than any other age group. According to the Government of Alberta's website, in September 2022, there were 725,000 Albertans

over the age of 65 years. That number is expected to double by 2042. Ensuring that Albertans aged 75 and up can afford to maintain their driver's license will also ensure that a greater number of Albertans are able to remain active participants in the communities in which they plan to age. Maintaining independence will mitigate social isolation and exclusion, which the Government of Alberta notes "... can be a significant issue for many seniors and can lead to negative health effects including depression and a reduced sense of well-being." (<https://www.alberta.ca/seniors-resources>)

The benefits of independence and independent mobility that come with maintaining a driver's license are magnified in the context of rural and remote communities. Many seniors living in a rural or remote context must travel to Alberta's larger centres for health care appointments. If these trips cannot be made independently, the burden often falls on public services or more expensive private transportation options.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this issue. On June 18, 2024, the Government of Alberta announced that seniors over 65 years of age now receive a 25 per cent discount on driver's medical exams¹; however, this does not meet the intent of the resolution that seniors should receive full coverage under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.

If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Economic Strategy Committee within the context of other priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Andrew Serba
Manager of Economic Development, Strategy and Communications
City of Cold Lake
aserba@coldlake.com

¹ Government of Alberta June 18, 2024 News Release: "Another registry discount for seniors."
<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=90536BB2B13FF-ADDE-CF3F-70AF076F9D229090>

C7: Alberta Learner's Licence Program Review

Moved by: City of Brooks
 Seconded by: Town of Sexsmith

WHEREAS the ability to drive impacts the livelihood of individuals who do not have access to public transportation to go to and from work and other daily needs, especially in rural Alberta;

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta possesses the most restrictive Learner's Licence Program in Canada;

WHEREAS within the Government of Alberta's Learner's Licence Program, a Class 7 Learner's Licence is the first step to legally driving a vehicle per Alberta's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program;

WHEREAS for the first year, a driver with a Class 7 Learner's License may only operate a vehicle if there is a passenger present who is over 18 years old and has a full Class 5 driver's license or higher;

WHEREAS after one year with a Class 7 Learner's License, a driver can complete a series of tests and upgrade to a Class 5 GDL, which no longer requires a licensed passenger, but still carries various restrictions; and

WHEREAS in Alberta, it takes up to three years to get a full, non-GDL Class 5 Driver's Licence.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Provincial Government to review its Learner's Licence Program for legislative changes which includes shortening the Class 7 Learner's Licence period from twelve months to eight months for those 16 years of age and older who take an approved and accredited driver's training course.

BACKGROUND:

In Alberta, there is no ability to shorten the Class 7 Learner's Licence period by taking driver's training. For those 16 and over, the process requires a minimum of twelve months before a road test can be completed to obtain a Class 5 GDL, which enables the license holder to drive without a licensed passenger present.

If a person is 16 years or older when they apply for a driver's license, Alberta's GDL system requires:

1. At least one year with a Class 7 license, which requires the driver to travel with a passenger in the front seat who has a full Class 5 license.
2. After one year, the driver may complete a road test and receive a Class 5 GDL, which allows them to drive without a licensed passenger, but other restrictions still apply.
3. A driver with a Class 5 GDL may only upgrade to a full Class 5 license after they have driven with a Class 5 GDL for at least two years and have had no license suspensions or demerits in the last year. However, a driver can reduce the time they hold a Class 5 GDL by six months if they complete an accredited Class 5 driver training school.¹

If a person is under 16 years old when they apply for a Class 7 learner's license, they will not be eligible to upgrade to a Class 5 GDL until they turn 16 years old.

In most provinces, individuals with a Class 7 Learner's Licence have the opportunity to shorten the required time period to obtain a full Class 5 Driver's Licence by way of an approved and accredited driver's training course that teaches the fundamentals of driving, both in theory and practicality. Should a new driver be successful in completing the approved and accredited driver's training course, the driver is able to cut down their probation time anywhere from 12 months to eight months (and even six months in some provinces).

¹ Steps to getting an Alberta driver's licence <https://www.alberta.ca/get-drivers-licence-steps>

If the Province of Alberta reduced the Class 7 Learner's Licence period with the approved and accredited driver's training course, it would certainly mean safer roads, as it is witnessed too often that Class 7 drivers are driving with individuals who they themselves barely know how to drive or just sit there as a passenger rather than someone who is to be providing supervision. In addition, a lot of Class 7 drivers continue to hold their Class 7 Learner's Licence for a number of consecutive years which is attributed to failing road tests, as the driver likely had no real training and or good supervision.

Giving Albertans the option to take a driver's training course that not only goes over the theory of driving, but the fundamentals of actually driving is crucial to the individual's development as a driver and fellow road user.

Furthermore, it is a great incentive for people to obtain their Class 5 GDL within a shorter period of time, which is so important in aiding in municipal economies, as new opportunities will arise for business across the province. This will also provide an opportunity for those who want to do better and learn how to be better drivers because of it. Drivers may even qualify for cheaper insurance rates with having a driver's training course on file as well.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Economic Strategy Committee within the context of other priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Mohammed Idriss
Councillor
City of Brooks
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C8: Review of Provincial Animal Protection Act

Moved by: City of Airdrie
Seconded by: Town of Didsbury

WHEREAS Alberta's Animal Protection Act (APA) is a crucial legislative framework designed to safeguard the welfare of animals within the province;

WHEREAS it is imperative to periodically reassess and update existing legislation to ensure it remains effective and aligned with current standards and Alberta's APA has not been substantially changed since 2006;

WHEREAS the current version of the legislation does not differentiate between commercial and companion animals;

WHEREAS societal attitudes and norms have changed, new challenges and risks have emerged and best practices for animal protection may be enacted;

WHEREAS municipalities play a pivotal role in enforcing animal welfare laws within our jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS Alberta's outdated APA lacks clear guidance for when peace officers are empowered to act and what enforcement mechanisms are available such as cases where companion animals are in the care of an animal shelter, rescue, or humane society.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta for a comprehensive review and update of Alberta's Animal Protection Act.

BACKGROUND:

The landscape of animal welfare is dynamic, with new challenges and risks constantly emerging. Public attitudes towards animals and their treatment have undergone significant transformation in recent decades, with an increasing emphasis on compassion, empathy, and ethical stewardship.

Under the current Animal Protection Act (APA) there is no differentiation between commercial and companion animals. This distinction is necessary to provide appropriate guidelines for care and welfare enforcement. Commercial animals can include horses, cattle, sheep, swine and live poultry but usually, they are animals raised for meat production or other products from the animals. A companion animal could be anything that is not a commercial animal, but most commonly include dogs and cats.¹ While a review of the APA may include changes that impact commercial animals, this resolution allows for better protection of companion animals.

In 2006, a major revision to the APA was enacted, only the second update since its inception in 1967. A comprehensive review of the APA is now needed to identify and rectify deficiencies in the legislation, ensuring that it provides clear guidance and consistent enforcement mechanisms across municipalities in dealing with companion animals.

Modernizing legislation and regulation around kennels and rescues is critical to ensuring the welfare and safety of animals in these facilities. With the growing prevalence of companion animals and the increasing demand for adoption and boarding services, outdated regulations fail to address emerging challenges and protect vulnerable animals. Clear and comprehensive regulations can establish standards for housing, care, and hygiene, ensuring that companion animals are provided with adequate nutrition, medical attention, and living conditions. Additionally, updated regulations can mandate regular inspections, licensing requirements, and transparency measures, enabling authorities to monitor compliance and intervene promptly in cases of neglect or abuse.

¹ Province of Manitoba, Animal Care Act. https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/_pdf.php?cap=a84

In addition, over the past decade Alberta has witnessed a significant shift in online animal sales. The increase of online marketplaces, social media platforms and unregulated transactions has transformed the way companion animals are bought, sold, and traded, presenting both opportunities and risks for animal welfare and regulation. While reputable breeders and licensed sellers may utilize online channels to connect with potential buyers, there has also been a surge in informal or backyard breeding operations advertising animals for sale online. These sellers may operate without proper licensing, veterinary oversight, or adherence to animal welfare standards, raising concerns about the welfare and health of the animals involved.

Additionally, the anonymity and convenience of online platforms have created challenges for enforcement agencies tasked with monitoring and regulating animal sales. Unlike traditional brick-and-mortar pet stores or breeding facilities, online sellers can easily avoid scrutiny and oversight, making it difficult to ensure compliance with existing regulations. This lack of transparency and accountability poses risks not only to animal welfare but also to consumer protection, as buyers may unknowingly purchase animals from disreputable sources.

Municipalities play a pivotal role in enforcing animal welfare laws within our jurisdiction. By revisiting the APA, the province can streamline enforcement procedures, provide additional resources, and enhance collaboration between municipalities and provincial authorities, improving compliance with animal welfare standards.

A local business in Airdrie, which was operating as a dog rescue organization, was recently charged under the APA. With complaints dating back to 2016, Airdrie Municipal Enforcement in partnership with the Alberta SPCA seized a large number of dogs in varying states of distress due to the care conditions at the facility. Under the authority of the APA, peace officers are empowered to act when animals are in distress; however, challenges exist as the Act does not provide direction on animal care standards for shelters, rescues, or Humane Societies. Additionally, there are no requirements for registration or oversight of organizations who provide sheltering and care for animals.

In recent years, several Canadian provinces, including British Columbia and Ontario, have taken significant steps to strengthen their animal protection legislation, reflecting a growing recognition of the importance of safeguarding animal welfare. Manitoba's legislation¹ stands out as an example with clear definitions, separation between commercial and companion animals and kennel regulations. The Alberta SPCA and other provincial animal welfare associations agree that the APA is lacking the necessary tools to truly protect animal welfare and could be engaged as stakeholders in the review process.

A comprehensive review of Alberta's APA is essential to ensure that it remains robust, relevant, and responsive to the evolving needs of companion animals and society. From incorporating scientific advancements to addressing enforcement challenges and fostering stakeholder engagement, such a review holds the potential to enhance animal welfare outcomes across the province.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

Prior to the vote at ABmunis' Convention, any questions about this resolution may be directed to:

Leona Esau
Intergovernmental Liaison
City of Airdrie
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¹ Province of Manitoba, Animal Care Act. https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/_pdf.php?cap=a84



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