

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 2.1 In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Town of Blackfalds acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, the ancestral lands of Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-status peoples whose footsteps have marked these lands since time immemorial.

We recognize the inherent relationships Indigenous communities have with this land and its creatures and commit to supporting reconciliation and healing. We honour the resilience, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples, past and present.

As we gather, we pledge to listen, learn, and take meaningful action toward a future based on mutual respect and understanding as we continue on our journey of truth and healing. We recognize that reconciliation is not a single act but a lifelong journey—one that requires accountability, humility, and the centering of Indigenous voices.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 3.1 Adoption of the Aug 17, 2026, Agenda

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Adoption of the July 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes

5. DELEGATIONS

None

6. BUSINESS

- 6.1 Request for Direction, Revised Council Policy - Asset Management
6.2 Report for Committee, Citizen Engagement & Budget Survey
6.3 Report for Committee, Alberta Municipalities 2026 Resolutions
6.4 Request for Direction, Increasing the Authority of the Development Officer
6.5 Request for Direction, Proclamation Policy

7. CONFIDENTIAL

- 7.1 Ice Agreement – ATIA Sections 19 – Disclosure Harmful to Business interests of a third party and 29 – Advice from Officials
7.2 Intersection Crossing – ATIA Section 29 – Advice from Officials

8. ADJOURNMENT

Future Meetings/Events:

- Regular Council Meeting – August 25, 2026
- Special Standing Committee of Council Meeting – August 26, 2026

MINUTES

A Standing Committee of Council Meeting for the Town of Blackfalds was held on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 5018 Waghorn Street in Council Chambers, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Laura Svab
Deputy Mayor Jim Sands
Councillor Shane Hanson
Councillor Ryan Brown
Councillor Cory Twerdoclib
Councillor Brenda Dennis

ATTENDING

Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer
Preston Weran, Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services
Jolene Tejkl, Planning & Development Manager
Derek Starnes, Sports and Events Manager
Shelby Craig, Marketing & Communications Team Lead
Jessica Robinson, Executive & Legislative Coordinator
Renan Bravo, IT Technician

REGRETS

Councillor Aaron J. Hoyte

OTHERS PRESENT

Trevor Thomas, Central Sport
Russ Wlad, Central Sport

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Sands welcomed everyone to the Standing Committee of Council Meeting of July 20, 2026, and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement was read to recognize that the Town of Blackfalds is on Treaty 6 territory.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Standing Committee of Council reviewed the Agenda for July 20, 2026, and amended the Agenda, as follows:

- Business Item 6.8 Request for Direction, Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) – Status Update and Proposed Council Committee, was moved to Item 6.2 on the Agenda, and the remaining items were renumbered accordingly.

060/26 Councillor Dennis moved That Standing Committee of Council adopt the Agenda for July 20, 2026, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

061/26 Councillor Hanson moved That Standing Committee of Council adopt the Minutes for June 15, 2026, as amended, as follows:

- Resolution 057/26 striking 8:15 p.m. and replacing with 7:15 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES**5. DELEGATIONS****5.1 Central Sport Supporting the Town of Blackfalds with Sports Tourism Opportunities**

Trevor Thomas and Russ Wlad of Central Sport provided Standing Committee with an update on the organization's efforts to support Central Alberta communities in attracting and hosting sporting events. They also highlighted the upcoming Battle of the Bunnocks tournament, which will be held in Blackfalds and Red Deer from August 21–23, 2026.

6. BUSINESS**6.1 Request for Direction, Municipal Planning Commission Notice of Motion – Land Use Bylaw Amendments**

Manager Tejkl presented the Municipal Planning Commission Notice of Motion regarding rear yard setback requirements for accessory buildings.

062/26

Mayor Svab moved That the Standing Committee of Council refer the matter to Administration to prepare amendments to the Land Use Bylaw to remove the 1.0 m (3.28 ft) or 6.0 m (19.69 ft) rear yard setback requirements for an Accessory Building when it is accessed by a Driveway, and bring the proposed amendments forward for Council's consideration at a future Regular Meeting of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**6.2 Request for Direction, Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) – Status Update and Proposed Council Committee**

Director Weran provided Standing Committee with an update to the Environmental Stewardship Strategy (ESS).

063/26

Councillor Brown moved That Standing Committee of Council instruct Administration to develop Terms of Reference for this Environmental Advisory Committee and to bring it forward for Council approval.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**6.3 Request for Direction, Disc Golf Course at McKay Ranch**

Manager Starnes presented an update on a plan for a disc golf course at the McKay Ranch park space.

064/26

Councillor Hanson moved That Standing Committee of Council recommend to Council to approve the installation of five disc golf holes in the McKay Ranch park space, as per the layout presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**6.4 Request for Direction, Council Communication & Engagement Committee – Coffee with Council**

Marketing & Communications Team Lead Craig brought forward the engagement tool of Coffee with Council for consideration.

065/26

Councillor Hanson moved That Standing Committee of Council recommend that the Coffee with Council initiative, along with a draft schedule be directed to a Regular Council Meeting for consideration, based on the discussion of Standing Committee of Council on July 20, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

6.5 Request for Direction, Council Communication & Engagement Committee – Council Monthly Reports

Marketing & Communications Team Lead Craig brought forward for Standing Committee's consideration updates to the Council Monthly Reports.

- 066/26** Mayor Svab moved That Standing Committee of Council recommend that the revised Council Monthly Reports be directed to a Regular Council Meeting for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.6 Request for Direction, Standing Committee of Council Meeting Schedule Adjustments

CAO Isaak brought forward recommendations to amend the scheduled Standing Committee of Council Meetings.

- 067/26** Mayor Svab moved That Standing Committee of Council schedule a Standing Committee of Council Meeting on August 26, 2026, for preliminary budget direction related to the development of the 2027 Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 068/26** Councillor Twerdoclib moved That Standing Committee of Council reschedule the September 14, 2026, Standing Committee of Council Meeting to September 15, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RECESS

Deputy Mayor Sands called for a five-minute recess at 7:33 p.m.

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RETURNED TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Sands called the Standing Committee of Council Meeting back to order at 7:46 p.m.

7. CONFIDENTIAL**7.1 Committee Discussion – ATIA Section 29 – Advice from Officials**

- 069/26** Councillor Dennis moved That Standing Committee of Council move to a closed session commencing at 7:46 p.m., in accordance with Section 197(2) of the *Municipal Government Act*, to discuss item 7.1 Committee Discussion, as per Section 29 of the *Access to Information Act*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Closed Session Attendance: Mayor Laura Svab, Deputy Mayor Jim Sands, Councillor Shane Hanson, Councillor Ryan Brown, Councillor Cory Twerdoclib, Councillor Brenda Dennis, and CAO Kim Isaak.

- 070/26** Councillor Hanson moved That Standing Committee of Council move to come out of the closed session at 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RETURNED TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Sands called the Standing Committee of Council Meeting back to order at 8:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Standing Committee of Council Meeting Attendance: *Mayor Laura Svab, Deputy Mayor Jim Sands, Councillor Shane Hanson, Councillor Ryan Brown, Councillor Cory Twerdoclib, Councillor Brenda Dennis, and CAO Kim Isaak.*

8. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Sands adjourned the Standing Committee of Council Meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Jim Sands, Deputy Mayor

Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer

MEETING DATE: August 17, 2026

PREPARED BY: Aws Al Sammarraie, Manager of Engineering Services

PRESENTED BY: Aws Al Sammarraie, Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: **Revised Council Policy - Asset Management**

BACKGROUND

The Town of Blackfalds provides reliable services, ensuring public safety and supporting sustainable economic growth. We are establishing this Asset Management Policy as a core governance framework. This Policy guides how we systematically manage the lifecycle of our physical assets, including roads, water networks, facilities, and fleets, while balancing service quality, local risks, environmental sustainability, and budget limits. To stay aligned with changing community priorities, legal mandates, and our financial landscape, we will formally review and update this policy every four years. This proactive approach ensures Blackfalds remains a resilient, well run, and vibrant community for future generations.

DISCUSSION

This Policy strives to maximize financial, social, environmental and economic benefits, consider current and future needs, evaluate options and opportunities, carefully manage risk and provide the required Level of Services to the Community in a sustainable manner.

The purpose of this Policy is to facilitate the logical, methodical and informed decision-making for the Town's Asset Management Program to achieve greater Asset Lifecycle management and effective allocation of resources.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / OTHER MASTER PLAN ALIGNMENT



**Economic Vitality and
Community Prosperity**



**Community Life,
Safety, and Inclusion**



**Leadership,
Engagement and
Advocacy**



**Sustainable Services
and Infrastructure**

It drives Sustainable Services and Infrastructure by embedding lifecycle costs into budgets, supports Economic Vitality by protecting infrastructure assets, secures Community Safety through well maintained facilities, and fosters Leadership and Engagement through the new Participant Involvement Program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no financial implications to recommending the adoption of this Policy.

COMMUNICATION / ENGAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Implementing this Policy fundamentally alters how the Town connects with stakeholders, moving from passive informational updates to active partnership and collaboration. Successfully delivering these service levels requires all municipal departments to work together during annual budget reviews to assess resource needs, unify daily operations, and track the full lifecycle of municipal assets.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion(s):

1. That Standing Committee of Council recommend that Council consider approval of the revised Asset Management Council Policy at a future Regular Council Meeting.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That Standing Committee of Council direct the revised Council Policy - Asset Management Policy, as amended, to a Regular Council Meeting for consideration.
 - a) That Standing Committee of Council refer the revised Council Policy - Asset Management back to Administration for more information.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Revised Council Policy - Asset Management Policy*

APPROVALS

Rick Kreklewich,
A/Chief Administrative Officer



Department Director/Author

ASSET MANAGEMENT

POLICY NO	
DIVISION DEPARTMENT	Infrastructure & Planning Services
REVIEW PERIOD	4 Years, Upon Legislative Change or As Required

1. POLICY PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to facilitate the logical, methodical and informed decision-making for the Town's Asset Management Program to achieve greater Asset Lifecycle management and effective allocation of resources. The Policy specifically addresses the following Principles:
- 1.1.1 Provide consistent and accurate means of tracking and reporting the Town's Assets (including the planning, creation, operation, maintenance and disposal of Assets);
 - 1.1.2 Provide a framework which enables the Town to promote and enhance the provision of services at a level that balances customer expectations with cost and business risk;
 - 1.1.3 Integration of Asset Management practices within long-term financial planning and budgeting strategies.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 The Town owns various Infrastructure Assets which support the delivery of service to its Community. The Town recognizes the need to implement an Asset Management Strategy to achieve the medium to long-term financial sustainability of the organization. The Town will develop and operate an Asset Management Strategy and promote the use of Asset Management Principles in all Town departments.
- 2.2 Asset Management is the coordination of the Town of Blackfalds activities to realize value from our Assets. It involves all Town of Blackfalds departments, interest holders, residents, and Council.
- 2.3 The Asset Management Program strives to maximize financial, social, environmental and economic benefits, consider current and future needs, evaluate options and opportunities, carefully manage risk and provide the required Level of Services to the Community in a sustainable manner.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 “**Asset**” means a physical component of a system that has value, enables services to be provided, and has an economic life greater than 12 months.
- 3.2 “**Asset Lifecycle**” means the full life-cycle span of an asset from the point when a need for it is first established, through design, construction, acquisition, operation and any maintenance or renewal, through to its decommissioning or disposal.
- 3.3 “**Asset Management**” means the process of making decisions about the use and care of infrastructure to deliver in a way that considers current and future needs, manages risk and opportunities, and makes the best use of resources.
- 3.4 “**Asset Management Plan**” means the documented information that specifies the activities, resources, and timescales required for an individual asset, or grouping of assets, to achieve the Town’s Asset Management objectives.
- 3.5 “**Asset Management Program**” means how the Town’s organizational objectives are to be converted into Asset Management objectives, including the approach for developing the Asset Management Policy, Asset Management Strategy, and Asset Management Plans, in supporting achievement of the Asset Management objectives.
- 3.6 “**Asset Management Strategy**” means the documented information that specifies how the Town’s Asset Management objectives are to be converted into Asset Management objectives, the approach for developing Asset Management Plans, and the role of the Asset Management Program in supporting the achievement of the Asset Management objectives.
- 3.7 “**CAO**” means the Town of Blackfalds Chief Administrative Officer.
- 3.8 “**Critical Asset**” means an asset for which the financial, business or service level consequences of failure are sufficiently severe to justify proactive inspection and rehabilitation.
- 3.9 “**Community**” means and refers to all members of the public that live in, work in, operate businesses and visit the Town of Blackfalds.
- 3.10 “**Infrastructure**” means the physical asset developed and used by the Town to support its social, cultural and economic activities.
- 3.11 “**Level of Service**” means the defined standard for the provision of a particular service. The components in defining these standards include quality, quantity, reliability, responsiveness, environmental acceptability, and cost.
- 3.12 “**Principles**” means to provide direction on applying Asset Management within the municipality, and guidance on what the Asset Management Program should cover. The Principles should be aligned with the Community vision, the existing Municipal Sustainability Plan, and other strategic plans to ensure consistency between the municipality’s strategic direction and asset management efforts.

- 3.13 “**Resilience**” means the capacity of the Town to function, so that the people living and working in it survive and thrive no matter what the changes, stresses or shocks they encounter.
- 3.14 “**Risk**” means the degree of price volatility and/or chance of failure carried by an Asset, factoring in the impact of failure and asset criticality.
- 3.15 “**Sustainability**” means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 3.16 “**Town**” means the municipality of the Town of Blackfalds.

4. SCOPE

- 4.1. The Town of Blackfalds owns a wide range of Asset types that deliver services to the Community. This Policy applies to all Town-owned Assets.
- 4.2. The Table below summarizes the services that the Town of Blackfalds provides and gives examples of the Town of Blackfalds Assets that help the Town to deliver these services

Services Provided to the Community	Example of Asset Group	Example of Asset Types
Trasportation	Roads	Pavements,sidewalks, traffic signals, signs
	Fleet	Services vehicle, snow ploughs, heavy truck, graders, loaders , excavtor
Potable Water Supply	Water Infrastructure	Reservior, pump ststion, pipes, valves, hydrants
Waste Removal	Sanitary Infrastructure	Manholes, pipes, lift stations
	Solid Waste	Bins & Transfer station yard
Stormwater Management	Drainage	Ponds, outlets,culverts, ditches, Stormwater Lift stations
Open Space Recreation	Parks	Playfields,playgrounds,trails
	Natural Assets	Tree
Community and Municipal Facilities	Buildings	Community hall, Abby center, public works yard
	Art Collection	Wall Murals, paintings, sculptuers
Emergency Response	Fleet	Fire Trucks, peace officers vehicles
Adminstration	IT Infrastructure	Computers, photocopiers, communications

5. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. Municipal Council to:

- 5.1.1 Approve by resolution this Policy and any amendments.
- 5.1.2 Consider the allocation of resources for successful implementation of this Policy in the annual budget process.
- 5.1.3 Prioritize effective stewardship of Assets and articulate Community values.
- 5.1.4 Consider the Level of Service sustainability delivered to the Community.

5.2. Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 5.2.1 Recommend this Policy and any amendments for adoption by Council.
- 5.2.2 Recommend the necessary resource requirements to execute this Policy.
- 5.2.3 Implement this Policy and approve Procedures and exceptions.
- 5.2.4 Ensure Policy and Procedure reviews occur.
- 5.2.5 Establish an Asset Management Steering Committee to guide the Asset Management Strategy and implementation.

6. POLICY

6.1 Asset Management Strategy Objectives

6.1.1 The following objectives that emphasize Asset Management will be implemented as part of the Town's Asset Management Program:

- i. Clearly define Levels of Service that support customer needs and meet regulatory requirements, while accounting for risk, costs and available resources;
- ii. Establish and maintain a record of the value and depreciation rates of all tangible assets owned by the Town;
- iii. Review, on an on-going basis, business processes related to asset acquisition, risk management, asset maintenance, asset disposition, and service provision;
- iv. Establish a set of corporate standards that ensure consistency in the decision- making process as to how assets are managed;
- v. Modify business processes as necessary to ensure continuous improvement, and ensure operational effectiveness and efficiency;
- vi. Ensure legislative requirements and regulatory standards are met; and

- vii. Achieve continuous improvement in Asset Management processes through ongoing improvements to data quality to provide increased forecast reliability.

6.2 Public Participation

- 6.2.1 The Town will develop a Participant Involvement Program that identifies key internal and external stakeholders and customers that are to be engaged as part of consultation for Asset Management Plans. This can include conducting a public engagement session to obtain public input on important Asset Management matters for the Town. All information obtained from public participation will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in the Asset Management Strategy and/or Asset-specific Asset Management Plans.

6.3 10-Year Capital Plan

- 6.3.1 The Town recognizes that the implementation of an Asset Management Strategy is directly correlated to the Town's 10-Year Capital Plan. As Asset Management for the Town evolves and priorities are set, reprioritizing Capital projects will enable the Town to meet its Asset Management needs while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

6.4 Operational Budget

- 6.4.1 On an annual basis, the Town reviews its annual operating budget. As part of this process, annual repairs and maintenance costs for Assets are identified if information is available. The amount of budget allocated for annual repairs and maintenance is directly influenced by the age and condition of Town Assets. As part of the Town's commitment to sustainable financial planning and budget strategy, overall life-cycle costs, including ongoing repairs and maintenance, will be accounted for.

6.5 2026-2030 Strategic Plan

- 6.5.1 In 2026, Council developed and approved this focused strategic plan. With a vision for "A Vibrant, friendly, and forward-thinking community people are proud to call home" With values to be Accountable, Collaborative and Compassionate. All four of the Strategic Priorities pertain to Asset Management:
 - 1. Economic Vitality and Community Prosperity,
 - 2. Community Life, Safety, and Inclusion,
 - 3. Leadership, Engagement, and Advocacy, and
 - 4. Sustainable Services and Infrastructure.

6.6 Municipal Sustainability Plan

- 6.6.1 In the 2020 Municipal Sustainability Plan (“MSP”), the vision for the Town of Blackfalds is defined as “a progressive and growing family community, situated in an economically sustainable, collaborative, healthy, safe, and beautiful living environment, where opportunities are abundant and realized through partnerships and innovation.” Of the MSP’s five sustainability pillars for the Town, Infrastructure and Buildings has been identified as the pillar that encompasses the entire built environment in Blackfalds.
- 6.6.2 The following are key excerpts from the Infrastructure and Buildings sustainability pillar that pertain to Asset Management:
- i. Ensure Blackfalds is a livable community that people seek out for its high quality of life;
 - ii. Maintain a range of facilities to service diverse interests and needs;
 - iii. Take a proactive approach to growth and new infrastructure and repair;
 - iv. Invest in infrastructure across the entire municipality;
 - v. Buildings are of high-quality design and environmental performance;
 - vi. Neighbourhoods in Blackfalds are designed to encourage walkability; and
 - vii. Infrastructure projects are considered and negotiated among multiple levels of government.

6.7 Level of Service

- 6.7.1 In order to effectively develop and maintain a sustainable Asset Management Strategy, the Town of Blackfalds recognizes that the Level of Service for Community services is directly influenced by budget and policy, where applicable.

6.8 Reporting

- 6.8.1 A draft version of the Asset Management Strategy will be developed that incorporates Asset Management Asset Team, external, and customer consultation requirements as necessary.

7. EXCLUSIONS

None

8. SPECIAL SITUATIONS

None

9. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 Asset Management Strategy
- 9.2 Asset Management Plan

- 9.3 International Standards Organization (ISO) Standards 55000:2024
- 9.4 International Standards Organization (ISO) Standards 55001: 2024
- 9.5 International Standards Organization (ISO) Standards 55002: 2018
- 9.6 International Standards Organization (ISO) Standards 55010:2024

10. END OF POLICY

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

Date

Date

POLICY RECORD HISTORY

	Resolution No:	Date
Policy Adopted		
Policy Reviewed		
Policy Revised		

ADMINISTRATIVE REVISIONS

Date	Description

MEETING DATE: August 17, 2026
PREPARED BY: Darolee Bouteiller, Finance Manager
PRESENTED BY: **Darolee Bouteiller, Finance Manager**
SUBJECT: **Citizen Engagement & Budget Survey**

BACKGROUND

The community engagement portion of the budget process was approved as part of the Budget timelines at the April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting of Council. It was determined that community engagement would be in the form of an in-house survey, along with an open house during the Community Information Expo.

The process of gathering input from citizens is an important part of approving an operating budget. The feedback helps to ensure the Town is addressing the concerns and prioritizing the needs of citizens.

DISCUSSION

The Council Communications and Engagement Committee (CCEC) was established in early 2026 for the purpose of improving the way Council engages and communicates. The committee's Terms of Reference include reviewing and providing input on the Annual Budget Survey. Through collaborative discussions, reviewing other municipality's budget surveys, hearing from other municipal councils, and researching trends from previous years, the CCEC drafted questions into a survey for consideration. The survey prepared by the committee is attached as Appendix A.

The primary goal of conducting a survey is to provide citizens with an opportunity to provide feedback on Town services and priorities. It will aim to help the Town understand how well its services meet community expectations, and to gather valuable input that may influence how resources are allocated within the Town budget.

The survey begins with demographic questions, then asks the respondent to indicate where they feel the Town should focus, followed by service area questions with a comment box allowing for a written response to add more context. The survey, then asks how "acceptable" a solution is to keep a balanced budget, and the respondent's willingness to support a property tax increase for "specific purposes". The final question asks their preferred "tax strategy" for the Town.

Survey Planet is the platform that will be used again. It provides a user-friendly interface that can be completed on any device connected to the internet. The survey will be set up and overseen by the Communications Department. The survey will begin on August 24 and end on September 21.

The Budget "open house" will take place during the Community Information Expo held September 14, at the Community Centre. Town Council will have a display of budget boards, with informative data on services and capital investments. The display will help initiate conversations with residents. Additionally, it will provide an opportunity for residents to complete the budget survey on-site with the QR Code or on one of the town tablets.

Results from this survey will assist Council in setting priorities for budget considerations. The survey results will be finalized and presented to Council on October 14. The results will be incorporated into the Town of Blackfalds 2027 – 2029 Budget.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / OTHER MASTER PLAN ALIGNMENT



**Economic Vitality and
Community Prosperity**



**Community Life,
Safety, and Inclusion**



**Leadership,
Engagement and
Advocacy**



**Sustainable Services
and Infrastructure**

Community feedback will be a tool used to help determine how aligned current services are with citizen expectations and could influence the budget priorities. This supports Council's strategic priorities, for sustainable services, and economic vitality. This process can also impact on citizens sense of inclusion within the community, by having a say in what is important to them.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the survey and open house include staff time for preparing and promoting the survey, prizes, and office supplies. Total cost is expected to be less than \$1,000.

COMMUNICATION / ENGAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The success of this survey is directly tied to citizen participation. An active communication strategy is to be deployed to encourage citizens to respond. The survey will be promoted through the Town of Blackfalds social media accounts, website and on utility bills. A QR Code (Quick Response) will be posted at municipal facilities for people to take a photo and complete remotely. In addition, tablets will be set up at several Town facilities for citizens to use if they do not have access to the internet. This option will also be available at the Community Information Expo.

As an incentive to encourage participation in the survey, the Town is offering a chance to win one of two prizes: \$150 credit to a town utility account with a Blackfalds promotional gift, and an Abbey Gift Card with a Blackfalds promotional gift.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council receive the community engagement budget survey and open house planning as information.

ALTERNATIVES

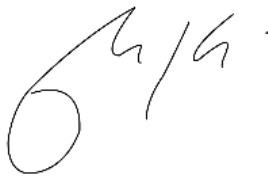
- a) That Standing Committee of Council receive the Community Engagement Open House

Planning as information and refer the Budget Survey back to Administration with the discussed amendments for inclusion in the Budget Survey

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A – 2027 – 2029 Budget Survey

APPROVALS



Rick Kreklewich,
A/Chief Administrative Officer



Department Director/Author

Town of Blackfalds Budget Survey Questions Draft

We want to know more about you!

How old are you?

- Under 18 years of age
- Between 18 – 30
- Between 31-45
- Between 46-65
- Age 66 +

What is your property status?

- Blackfalds resident property owner
- Blackfalds resident renter
- Business owner/operator in the Town of Blackfalds
- Lacombe County Resident

How long have you lived in Blackfalds?

- 0-5 years
- 6 – 10 years
- 11 – 20 years
- 20+ years
- N/A

How would you rate your overall quality of life in the Town of Blackfalds?

- Very good
- Good
- Acceptable
- Poor
- Very Poor

We'd like to see if there are emerging trends in various areas of the community, or similar concerns with all parts of Town.

Please type in your Postal Code

[written response]

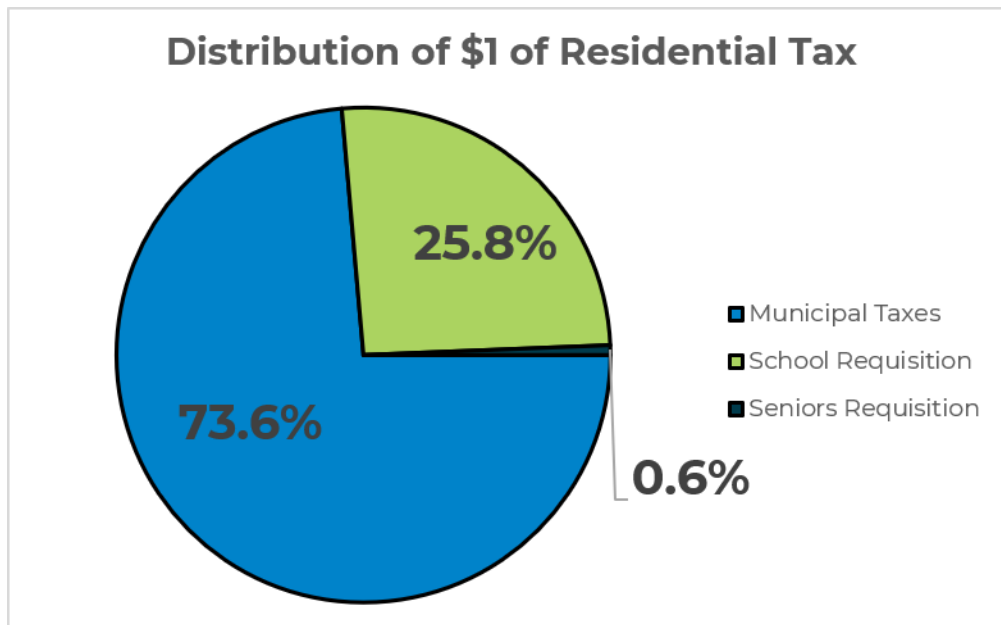
As we look toward planning for the future, which do you believe is the most important to focus on in order to shape the next few years?

- Plan for future growth
- Attract new and maintain current business and amenities
- Minimize property taxes in the future

- Ensure long-term fiscal sustainability – meaning financial decisions today maintain a healthy financial position in the future
- Prepare for and react to changes in the economy
- Other
- Don't know

If you didn't know, the Town of Blackfalds collects both the education tax and seniors requisition on behalf of the Province of Alberta. To the best of your knowledge, what percentage of your taxes do you think are transferred to the province?

26.4% of your property taxes are collected for school requisitions for the Province of Alberta and Senior requisitions for the Lacombe Foundation.



In this next section, we want to know how you think we're doing in our various departments!

Please indicate which of the following services you have used in the past year.

- Protective Services
- Infrastructure Services
- Economic Development
- Facility Services
- Programs & Events
- Parks & Playgrounds
- Marketing & Communications
- Family & Community Support Service

Protective Services include policing, fire and emergency services, bylaws and municipal enforcement, and occupational health & safety.

These services account for approximately 11% of the Town's operating budget, provide a safe community, encompassing policing, emergency services, fire suppression, rescue, medical response, and many common concerns including excessive noise, unsightly premises, and support at public events.

What is your desired change to variable spending for Protective Services? Please indicate whether you would increase, decrease or make no change.

- Decrease
- No change
- Increase

What is the biggest challenge or area for improvement you have observed or experienced within [Protective Services] that the budget should address?

Written response

Infrastructure Services consist of road and street maintenance.

Infrastructure Services account for 7% of the operating budget and consist of road and street maintenance including repairs, street sweeping, snow removal, and signage.

What is your desired change to variable spending for Infrastructure Services? Please indicate whether you would increase, decrease or make no change.

- Decrease
- No change
- Increase

What is the biggest challenge or area for improvement you have observed or experienced within [Infrastructure Services] that the budget should address?

Written response

The Economic Development department engages in activities designed to enhance and expand economic viability within the Town of Blackfalds, through business attraction and tourism. Economic Development accounts for less than 1% of the overall Town Budget

What is your desired change to variable spending for Economic Development? Please indicate whether you would increase, decrease or make no change.

- Decrease
- No change
- Increase

What is the biggest challenge or area for improvement you have observed or experienced within [Economic Development] that the budget should address?

Written response

Facility Services maintain all municipal buildings and recreational facilities, as part of the Community Services Department, which is 18% of the operating budget. Facility services are responsible for maintenance of the Town buildings like the Abbey Centre, Eagle Builders Centre, Community Centre, Protective Services Building, and the Civic Center.

What is your desired change to variable spending for Facility Services? Please indicate whether you would increase, decrease or make no change.

- Decrease
- No change
- Increase

What is the biggest challenge or area for improvement you have observed or experienced within [Facility Services] that the budget should address?

Written response

The Town offers various **Programs & Events** throughout the year. As part of the Community Services Department, which is 18% of the operating budget, the Town facilitates and coordinates arts & culture, fitness, aquatic, intergenerational, youth and senior programs and events. This includes Blackfalds days and Summer Cultural series.

What is your desired change to variable spending for Programs & Events (parks, trails, sports fields, etc.)? Please indicate whether you would increase, decrease or make no change.

- Decrease
- No change
- Increase

What is the biggest challenge or area for improvement you have observed or experienced within [Programs & Events] that the budget should address?

Written response

Parks, Playgrounds and Green Spaces consist of playgrounds, parks, trails and open spaces. As part of the Community Services Department, which is 19% of the operating budget, parks, playgrounds and green spaces include floral beautification, tree planting and other replacement initiatives.

What is your desired change to variable spending for Parks & Playgrounds? Please indicate whether you would increase, decrease or make no change.

- Decrease
- No change
- Increase

What is the biggest challenge or area for improvement you have observed or experienced within [Parks & Playgrounds] that the budget should address?

Written response

Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) provides support and social programs.

The FCSS mandate includes volunteerism, family life enrichment programming, seniors and youth programs, and community development. Although supported by provincial and local government grants, this service accounts for about 2% of the Towns' total operating budget.

What is your desired change to variable spending for Family & Community Support Services [seniors and youth programs]? Please indicate whether you would increase, decrease or make no change.

- Decrease
- No change
- Increase

What is the biggest challenge or area for improvement you have observed or experienced within [FCSS] that the budget should address?

Written response

Marketing & Communications leads, coordinates, and manages all activities that involve information sharing, promotions, and brand strategies for all departments in the Town.

The MarCom team spearheads the development of marketing goals and promotional activities and supports the organization's internal and external communications, including the Town's website, social media accounts, newsletters, media releases, events, and programs. MarCom accounts for less than 1% of the overall total budget for the Town.

What is your desired change to variable spending for Marketing & Communications? Please indicate whether you would increase, decrease or make no change.

- Decrease
- No change
- Increase

What is the biggest challenge or area for improvement you have observed or experienced within [Marketing & Communication] that the budget should address?

Written response

What value do you receive from the Town of Blackfalds services for the taxes you pay? Please rate, 1 being “very poor” and 5 means “very good”

[slider]

The next few questions will ask you to rate how acceptable each of the following solutions is to you in order to keep a balanced budget.

Reducing the level of Town services (e.g., reduced hours for facilities, fewer program offerings, mowing restrictions).*

- Acceptable
- Neutral
- Unacceptable

Increasing user fees for Town services that currently have fees (e.g., Abbey Centre access, permits, licenses).*

- Acceptable
- Neutral
- Unacceptable

Postponing infrastructure projects (e.g., new amenities or major repairs).*

- Acceptable
- Neutral
- Unacceptable

The next few questions will ask you to rate how acceptable each of the following solutions is to you in order to keep a balanced budget.

Introducing new user fees for some Town services that currently have no fees (e.g., RV dumping fees or transfer site fees)*

- Acceptable
- Neutral
- Unacceptable

Please indicate your willingness to support a property tax increase for the following specific purposes:

To maintain the current level of all Town services (e.g., Protective Services, Infrastructure, Community Services).*

- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose

Please indicate your willingness to support a property tax increase for the following specific purposes:

To enhance specific existing services (e.g., increased frequency of snow removal, expanded community programs, more policing presence).*

- Support

- Neutral
- Oppose

[add which existing service]

Please indicate your willingness to support a property tax increase for the following specific purposes:

To fund new programs or amenities that do not currently exist in the Town.*

- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose

[add new programs/service]

What is your preferred tax strategy for the Town of Blackfalds?

- Increase taxes and increase services
- Increase taxes and maintain services
- Maintain taxes and cut services
- Reduce taxes and cut services
- Prefer not to answer

MEETING DATE: August 17, 2026

PREPARED BY: Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: **Alberta Municipalities 2026 Resolutions**

BACKGROUND

The Alberta Municipalities Conference is being held from September 23-25, 2026, in Edmonton. As part of the annual conference, the resolution session will be held on September 24, 2026. 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 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 second 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 ABmunis staff member working at the audio booth.

DISCUSSION

Administration has reviewed the 2026 resolution book and provided the following recommendations on the proposed resolutions based on how the topic affects the municipality and relationship to Council's Strategic Plan.

B1: Balancing Incentives Between Locum and Community-Based Physicians & Other Healthcare Workers to Support Family Practice Support

This topic aligns with Strategic Priority 1 – “Economic Vitality and Community Prosperity” Access to sustainable healthcare services is a key factor in attracting and retaining residents, businesses, and investment. Advocacy for equitable incentives that support the recruitment and retention of community-based physicians and other healthcare professional can help strengthen the local healthcare system and ensure continuity of care. Previous Councils have heard from local healthcare practitioners regarding the financial and operational challenges associated with maintaining a community-based practice, highlighting the importance of incentive structures that support long-term service delivery within the community. e expenses required for maintaining a practice.

B2: Further Strengthening Governance and Funding Models for Seniors' Lodge Accommodations Support

Strengthening governance and funding models for seniors' lodge accommodations advances the Sustainable Services and Infrastructure priority by improving the long-term sustainability of both the facilities. A strengthened funding model will help alleviate some of the financial burden on municipalities within the Housing Management Body by reducing their reliance on municipal contributions to fund major capital improvements, facility upgrades, and infrastructure replacement costs. Enhanced governance provisions would also provide

municipalities with more meaningful engagement in the decision-making process by allowing member municipalities to review and approved the Housing Management Body's operating and capital budget before they are finalized. This increased accountability and oversight helps ensure that budget decisions align with municipal priorities and promotes transparency in the use of public funds.

**B3: Derelict Non-Residential Tax Subclass
Support**

This topic aligns with the Community Life, Safety, and Inclusion and Economic Vitality and Community Prosperity priorities of Council's Strategic Plan. A derelict non-residential tax subclass would encourage the improvement and redevelopment of vacant or deteriorated non-residential properties that may negatively impact community appearance, safety, and economic vitality. This subclass provides an incentive for property owners to address unsightly or unsafe conditions.

**B4: Modernization of Municipal Investment Authorities under the Municipal Investment
Regulation
Support**

This topic aligns with all of Council's Strategic priorities. Additional municipal revenue tools will enhance financial stability, enabling infrastructure investment, fostering economic growth, and, improving community services and inclusivity, and strengthen local leadership through increased capacity to respond to community needs and priorities.

**B5: Provincial Alternative Revenue Optimization to Support Productivity, Workforce
Readiness, and Industrial Competitiveness
Support**

This topic aligns with all of Council's Strategic Priorities. Advocating for a new revenue optimization program that recognizes municipalities as key contributors to provincial economic growth would support the Town's ability to sustainable fund infrastructure, support housing and workforce growth, enhance community services, and strengthen local leadership through collaborative engagement with provincial and municipal partners.

**B6: Budget Surplus and Municipal Infrastructure Investment
Support**

This topic aligns with all of Council's Strategic Priorities. Establishing a framework to allocation a portion of provincial surpluses toward municipal infrastructure projects would support long-term infrastructure sustainability, enhance economic growth opportunities, improve quality of life for residents, and reflect collaborative leadership between municipalities and the Province in address infrastructure needs.

**B7: Broadening Scope Off-Site Levies
Support**

This resolution aligns with the Economic Vitality and Community Prosperity and the Sustainable Services and Infrastructure priorities of Council's Strategic Plan. The promotion of sustainable infrastructure funding supports economic growth, ensuring development contributes fairly to growth-related costs, enhancing community services, and strengthening transparent and responsible municipal governance.

B8: Expanded Grant Eligibility for Water Infrastructure
Neutral

Expanding Grant Eligibility for water for life funding model for water infrastructure advances the Sustainable Services and Infrastructure priority by improving the long-term sustainability of potable water services. A strengthened funding model will help alleviate some of the financial burden on municipalities due to growth and environmental improvements by reducing reliance on municipal contributions to fund major regional water improvements, facility upgrades, and infrastructure replacement costs. This is a limiting factor for many municipalities. A review of the criteria of provisions would also provide municipalities with more grant eligibility. This would help ensure that grant decisions align with municipal priorities and promote transparency in the use of public funds.

B9: Limiting Use of Fresh Water in Hydraulic Fracturing
Support

Limiting the use of fresh water used for Hydraulic Fracturing aligns with the Sustainable Services and Infrastructure priority by limiting the use of surface and shallow groundwater sources to ensure potable water sources and watersheds are protected. A strengthened, more transparent process around Temporary Diversion Licences (TSLs) will help limit the financial burden on municipalities while protecting the environment by increasing public engagement, improving management around water scarcity while protecting the source water for municipal uses. An updated policy and criteria of overarching provisions would also provide municipalities with improved transparency in water allocation decisions. The idea of public engagement while ensuring that governance framework reflects the importance of water as a shared and essential resource levels the playing field for all water users.

B10: Police Fines and Penalties Revenue Sharing
Support

This resolution aligns with all of Council's Strategic Priorities. Advocating for municipalities to receive a proportionate share of Traffic Safety Act fine revenue will help to support fiscal sustainability, enhances the Town's capacity to invest in community priorities, promotes public safety, and advances fair and transparent intergovernmental funding practices.

C1: Regulation of Personal Micromobility Devices (i.e. e-scooters) through the Alberta Traffic Safety Act
Support

This resolution strongly aligns with Community Life, Safety, and inclusion. This topic has been front and center of Council's discussion with community members. Establishing a clear and

consistent provincial framework for personal micromobility devices would improve safety for riders, pedestrians, and motorists, supports the integration of alternative transportation options, enhances community connectivity, and preserves municipal authority to address local needs through bylaw enforcement and governance.

**C2: Family Support for Children with Disabilities Transparency and Timely Access
Support**

This resolution aligns with Community Life and Inclusion and Leadership and Engagement. Advocating for improvements to transparency, communication, accountability, and timelines supports more responsive governance, strengthens public trust, and helps reduce uncertainty for families.

**C3: Alignment of Municipal Fiscal Year with Provincial and Federal Budget Cycles
Neutral**

This resolution aligns with the Leadership, Engagement and Advocacy priority area. Administration does not believe there is a significant benefit to changing the Town's current December 31 fiscal year-end. A change could delay capital budget approvals, potentially affecting the Town's ability to complete tendering and initiate projects within the current construction season. In addition, major provincial and federal grant allocations are generally known well in advance and are incorporated into the Town's budgeting process, often up to two years ahead.

**C4: Strengthening Auditor Reporting of Financial Irregularities in Municipal Financial Statements
Neutral**

This resolution aligns with the Leadership, Engagement and Advocacy and Sustainable Services and Infrastructure priority areas. Administration is neutral on this matter, as the Town has undergone financial audits conducted by two major accounting firms over the past seven years. In Administration's view, both firms have provided Council with sufficient assurance and reporting to address the concerns identified in the resolution.

**C5: Door- to-Door Solar Sales
Support**

This resolution aligns with the Community Life, Safety, and Inclusion and Leadership, Engagement and Advocacy Priorities of Council's Strategic Plan. Advocating for enhanced regulatory oversight and improved consumer protection against misinformation related to Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP) promotes transparency, accountability and informed decision making.

**C6: Restoring Provincial Support for Perpetual Conservation Easements (Preston)
Support**

This resolution aligns with Council's Sustainable Services and Infrastructure strategic priority as a perpetual conservation easements have long been used in Alberta as a mechanism to conserve lands of environmental, agricultural, and cultural importance. These easements have been changed from perpetual to 50 year limits. This limits the effectiveness of these easements over time. By resolving to move back to a perpetual conservation easement, the resolution will align with Leadership, Engagement and Advocacy to protect these natural areas into perpetuity. 50 years is not a long time when it comes to managing growth and protecting of naturalized areas.

C7: Remediation of Contaminated Properties
Support

This resolution aligns with Council's Sustainable Services and Infrastructure strategic priority by encouraging redevelopment within existing serviced areas and maximizing the use of current infrastructure investments. However, contaminated properties present significant financial barriers to redevelopment, making provincial support essential to help fund assessment, remediation, and reclamation efforts that return these lands to safe and productive use.

C8: Equitable Provincial Charitable Gaming Model
Support

This resolution aligns with the Community Life, Safety, and Inclusion priority of Council's Strategic Plan. Enhanced and sustainable charitable funding would strengthen community organizations, reduce reliance on municipal grants, and lessen funding pressures on local businesses that are frequently called upon to support local programs, events, and services. This supports a healthy non-profit sector, a stronger business community, and improved quality of life for residents.

C9: Strengthening Alberta Municipalities' voice to the Province by Increasing the Resolution Voting Threshold
Neutral

While this resolution aligns with Leadership, Engagement and Advocacy, Administration is neutral on this topic. Increasing the approval threshold could help ensure resolutions brought forward by Alberta Municipalities reflect stronger provincial consensus, potentially strengthening advocacy efforts with government a higher threshold may make it more difficult for emerging issues to advance for consideration, particularly where support exists but falls short of a supermajority.

E1: Investing in Prevention: Strengthening FCSS and Community Well Being
Support

This resolution aligns with all of Council's Strategic Priorities. As municipalities are the local government closest to residents, local programs through FCSS and community partners frequently service as the first point of assistance for individuals and families facing challenges. Collective advocacy provides opportunities to address funding inequities and reduce financial burdens on municipalities that contribute more than their proportionate share toward the

services. In 2026 the Town of Blackfalds contributed \$200,000 more than the required provincial amount.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / OTHER MASTER PLAN ALIGNMENT



**Economic Vitality and
Community Prosperity**



**Community Life,
Safety, and Inclusion**



**Leadership,
Engagement and
Advocacy**



**Sustainable Services
and Infrastructure**

Advocacy through Alberta Municipalities supports all of Council's Strategic Priorities by providing a collective municipal voice on issues that impact local governments and residents. Through collaboration with municipalities across Alberta, the Town of Blackfalds can influence provincial policy, advocate for sustainable funding and legislative improvements, support economic growth and community well-being, and demonstrate leadership in addressing current and future municipal challenges.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council receive the Alberta Municipalities 2026 Resolutions report for information.

COMMUNICATION / ENGAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Communicating advocacy priorities and resolutions to residents helps illustrate how Council can influence issues that impact the Town of Blackfalds and residents. It increases public awareness of municipal challenges, highlights Council's efforts, and demonstrates how collective advocacy can lead to meaningful improvements for the residents.

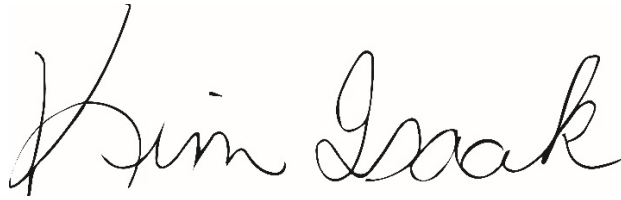
ATTACHMENTS

- Alberta Municipalities 2026 Resolutions Book

APPROVALS



Rick Kreklewich,
A/ Chief Administrative Officer



Kim Isaak
Chief Administrative Officer

2026 Resolutions Book



 **Alberta
Municipalities**
Strength
In Members

Version 1: July 29, 2026

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About Resolutions

Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) conducts an annual resolutions process. This enables Regular Members¹ to bring forward common issues and solutions and seek member approval. Approved resolutions direct ABmunis' Board of Directors advocacy positions on those issues, opening conversations with the Government of Alberta or other organizations and governments.

ABmunis' resolution process is guided by our [Resolutions Policy](#).

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 are attending this year's [Convention & Trade Show](#) in Edmonton on September 23 - 25, 2026, then we encourage you to:

1. Read this book to understand how the resolution session will run at Convention.
2. Review each resolution before you attend Convention and seek clarity if needed.
3. Make time to discuss each resolution with your council colleagues so that your elected delegates at Convention understand your councils perspectives when debating, and voting in the resolution session.

Note: During the Convention resolution session, each elected official votes individually. 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.

What process led to these resolutions being presented at ABmunis' Convention?

All Regular Members had the opportunity to submit a resolution to ABmunis before May 31, 2026. The municipality was responsible for writing the resolution and having it approved by their council and approved by a second council from a municipality of a different population size.

Each resolution was reviewed by ABmunis' Municipal Governance Committee and Board of Directors to ensure each resolution met the criteria outlined in our [Resolutions Policy](#). For example, a resolution must:

- Address a concern affecting municipalities on a regional or provincial level,
- Not involve a conflict between individual municipalities, citizens, or promote individual businesses,
- Not direct one or more municipalities to take a specific course of action, and
- Not create a perception that ABmunis is partisan or create potential risks for ABmunis.

If a resolution met the criteria of our Resolution Policy, it has been published in this Resolutions Book for all Regular Members to consider and vote on at ABmunis' 2026 Convention.

¹ A [Regular Member](#) is any city, town, village, summer village, specialized municipality, or other designated municipality in Alberta that has an active membership with ABmunis. References to 'member' generally refers to Regular Members.

Can we still submit a resolution?

Yes, but only for emergent issues that:

1. Arose just prior to, or after May 31, 2026, such that members could not submit the resolution in time; and
2. Have a critical aspect of concern to municipalities that must be addressed before the 2027 Convention.

Emergent resolutions must be submitted before 12:00 p.m. on September 22, 2026. If you are considering an emergent resolution, please consider submitting as early as possible to help ensure a smooth process for ABmunis and all members during Convention. [Instead of submitting an emergent resolution](#), ABmunis' members may also consider bringing forward issues at ABmunis' Spring 2027 Municipal Leaders' Caucus or request action by contacting ABmunis' Board of Directors. Any questions about emergent resolutions may be emailed to resolutions@abmunis.ca.

How do I participate in the Resolution Session?

The 2026 resolution session will take place on Thursday, September 24, 2026, as part of ABmunis [2026 Convention & Trade Show](#). The session will follow the process set out in sections 36 to 63 of the [Resolutions Policy](#).

Who can speak to a resolution?

Elected representatives of a Regular Member municipality can speak to resolutions. A representative of an Associate Member (e.g. municipal districts and counties) may speak to a resolution if there is a motion from the floor, or at the discretion of the Chair.

How to speak to a resolution

After each resolution is introduced by the mover, the Chair will call for a speaker who wishes to speak in opposition, seek clarification, or propose an amendment.

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. Speakers will have ninety (90) seconds to speak. Except for the mover of the resolution, a representative may not speak more than once on each resolution.

If no member rises to speak in opposition, seek clarification, or propose amendment, the Chair will declare debate closed and the spokesperson from the moving municipality will be allowed one (1) minute to close debate.

How to propose an amendment to a resolution

ABmunis will only consider amendments to the active clause of the resolution (*It is therefore resolved that...*). If you are concerned that information in the whereas clauses or background section of a resolution is incorrect, please email resolutions@abmunis.ca with relevant sources that ABmunis can use to verify the correct information.

To support an efficient resolution process, members are encouraged to propose an amendment to a resolution only when it materially changes the intent or direction given to ABmunis. Please avoid proposing amendments that deal with minor issues like grammar, tone, or sentence structure. ABmunis will understand the primary intent of each resolution and will adjust our advocacy as needed.

Notifying the Mover and ABmunis

ABmunis encourages members to discuss the proposed amendment with the moving municipality² prior to Convention, or as early as possible and notify ABmunis (resolutions@abmunis.ca) at the same time. This is a courtesy to the mover and enables ABmunis to be prepared to present the proposed amendment visually on the screen to help all attendees during the voting process and avoid delays in the Convention schedule.

² The contact information for the moving municipality is listed at the end of each resolution in this Resolutions Book.

Seconders for an Amendment

Unless it is deemed a “friendly amendment” the mover of the amendment must have a seconder from another municipality.³

Submitting an Amendment

Members are strongly encouraged to submit the proposed amendment in writing at least one day prior to the resolution session. It must be presented with your name, title, municipality, and the resolution title, along with the exact wording of the proposed amendment.

If prior to the Resolutions Session

Email resolutions@abmunis.ca.
This helps avoid delays during the resolution session.

If during the Resolutions Session

Hand-deliver your proposed amendment in writing to both the ABmunis staff sitting in the audio booth at the back of the room and to the Resolution Session Chair on stage.

How to vote

Approximately one week prior to Convention, elected officials from Regular Member municipalities who are registered for Convention will receive an email with voting credentials from Data on the Spot. This email should be saved for use during Convention.

The email from Data on the Spot will be similar to this:

You are registered to vote during the ABmunis Convention, taking place September 23-25. Below, you will find your login instructions for the vote.

There is a test vote that is open now. Please check your credentials and cast a vote on the test question as soon as possible so that we can be sure you received your credentials.

If you need any assistance, please contact: credentials@dataonthespot.com.

To vote, please visit: <https://www.dataonthespot.app/>.

Then enter:

Registered email - *****

Password - *****

Please note that these are only the voting credentials. Further information will be sent out by Alberta Municipalities prior to Convention.

Regards,
Alberta Municipalities

When you receive this email from Data on the Spot, we ask that you **complete the test vote as soon as possible** to ensure that your credentials are activated. The same login information will be used during the elections of ABmunis' Board of Directors.

If you do not receive an email from Data on the Spot on the Spot by September 18, 2026, please check your email's junk folder first and then email credentials@dataonthespot.com with your name and municipality.

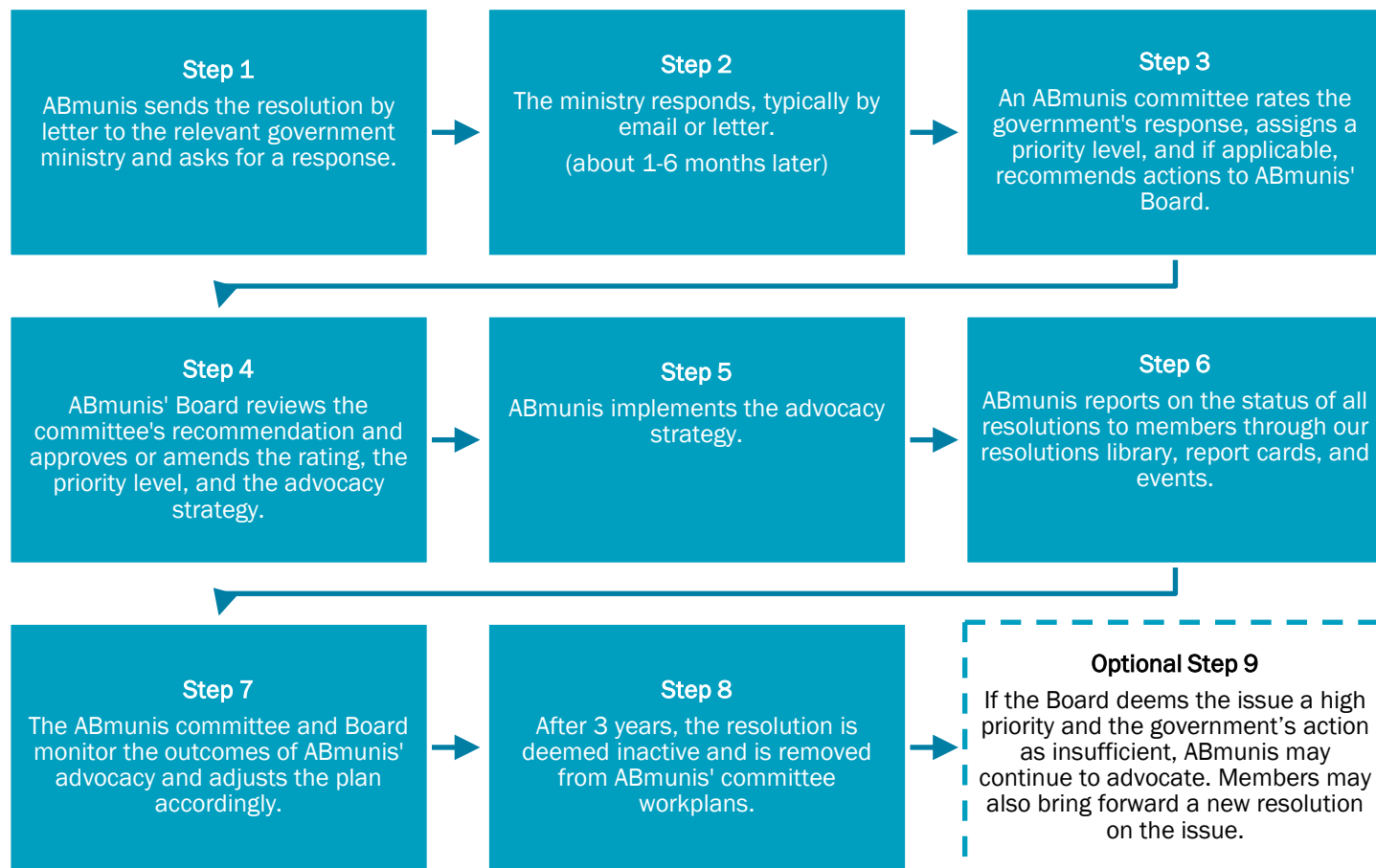
³ Per section 4 of ABmunis' Resolutions Policy, a “friendly amendment” is defined as an amendment that is so simple or uniformly acceptable that it can be adopted by unanimous consent during debate. This eliminates the necessity for a formal amendment process including seconding, debating, and voting.

Bring an electronic device to vote

Bring a laptop, smartphone, or other device that is internet enabled to the resolution session. You will be asked to log in to the Data on the Spot website to vote. When instructed by the Resolution Session Chair, you will follow the steps on your device to vote. 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?



Are some resolutions given more priority?

Yes. ABmunis assigns a low, medium, or high priority to each resolution based on the criteria in our [Advocacy Prioritization Policy](#). The priority level assigned to a resolution will determine the level of effort ABmunis takes to advocate on the issue.

ABmunis' Actions

Send a letter(s)
 Monitor outcomes
 Collaborate with other organizations
 Conduct research
 Meet with a minister(s) or senior official
 Strike an ad hoc working group
 Meet with the Premier
 Engage media
 Conduct a social media campaign
 Support members to take specific actions
 Other initiatives

Low Priority	Medium Priority*	High Priority*
✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓
	✓	✓
	✓	✓
		✓
		✓
		✓
		✓
		✓
		✓

*may involve a combination of the listed actions

Status of previous resolutions

Since 2009, ABmunis has posted all member resolutions in our online [Resolutions Library](#), which shows:

- 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' annual [resolution report cards](#).

Tips from past councils

- When voting on a resolution, consider the following questions:
 - Is this issue important enough that ABmunis should invest its time and resources on the issue?
 - Is ABmunis the best organization to add value to this issue?
 - If the issue doesn't apply to my community, can I still support it because municipalities in Alberta will generally benefit if ABmunis is successful in its advocacy?
 - Would advocacy on this issue have unintended consequences for municipalities?
- If you plan to speak to a resolution, take time to practice your remarks to be under 90 seconds so your microphone isn't cut off during your address. The timer starts as soon as you introduce yourself at the microphone.
- Each resolution has been brought forward by a council of your peers. If you don't agree with the resolution, keep an open mind as to why they brought it forward and focus your energy on questioning the policy, without criticizing the council bringing it forward, or the people it impacts.

2026 RESOLUTIONS

Category B: Issues Related to ABmunis' Strategic Initiatives

B1: Balancing Incentives Between Locum and Community-Based Physicians & Other Healthcare Workers to Support Family Practice

Moved by: Town of Hinton
Seconded by: Town of Swan Hills

WHEREAS timely and reliable access to primary health care is essential to the health, safety, and well-being of all Albertans, and the absence of stable primary care contributes to increased emergency department use and poorer health outcomes;

WHEREAS Alberta's healthcare workforce includes both locum and community-based physicians and other healthcare workers, with locums providing important short-term coverage but not intended to replace ongoing, continuous primary care;

WHEREAS locum physicians are provided with flexible, short-term practice opportunities without long-term service commitments, while community-based physicians provide ongoing clinical services, manage administrative responsibilities and maintain continuity of care, creating differences that can discourage permanent community-based practice;

WHEREAS municipalities across Alberta, particularly in rural and remote regions, continue to face challenges recruiting and retaining committed family physicians and other healthcare workers, resulting in service disruptions, clinic instability and increased reliance on locum coverage;¹

WHEREAS ongoing recruitment and retention challenges increasingly require municipalities to divert limited local resources to physician attraction and retention initiatives;² and

WHEREAS strengthening incentives for physicians and other healthcare workers willing to commit to rural residents could increase attraction and retention, therefore supporting workforce stability, continuity of care and the long-term sustainability of local health systems.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to review and amend physician and other healthcare worker incentive frameworks to reduce disparities between locum and community-based physicians and other healthcare workers.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to support community-based family physician practice in rural and underserved communities, to strengthen continuity of care and ensure stable access to primary health services for all Albertans.

BACKGROUND:

Access to stable primary health care is fundamental to the health, safety, and economic sustainability of Alberta communities. Family physicians provide longitudinal care that supports prevention, chronic disease management, and appropriate use of emergency and acute care services. When residents are unable to access a regular family physician, pressures shift to emergency departments and neighbouring communities, increasing system strain and undermining public confidence in essential services.

Alberta's healthcare workforce includes both locum and community-based physicians and other healthcare workers, each serving an important role. Locum healthcare workers provide critical short-term coverage during periods of absence or transition. However, locum practice is designed to be temporary and does not require long-term patient

¹ Alberta Medical Association, [AB's Family Medicine Crisis](#)

² Alberta Municipalities, [Attraction and Retention Strategy for Rural Health Care Professionals \(2024\)](#)

attachment, clinic management responsibilities, or sustained community presence.³ In contrast, permanent, community-based physicians provide ongoing clinical care, -long-term patient relationships, oversee administrative responsibilities, and ensure clinic continuity. These roles support continuity of care and health system stability, but they also involve greater workload, risk and long-term commitment.

Current incentive structures can unintentionally make short-term locum practice more attractive by offering flexibility without equivalent incentives for sustained community-based practice. Evidence suggests that comprehensive, community-based care is increasingly perceived as unrewarded and unsustainable and further suggests that without a course correction, we risk creating a healthcare system in which continuity is the exception rather than the norm.⁴ Alberta municipalities continue to. ⁵

The Government of Alberta has invested in physician recruitment, training and compensation, including more than \$7 billion in the 2026–27 budget⁶. The province has also offered the Rural and Remote Family Medicine Resident Physician Bursary, which is now fully allocated. However, the bursary was not limited to permanent, community-based practice; recipients could commit to a single community, move between communities or practise as locums in eligible communities.⁷

Incentives for physicians and other healthcare workers fall under provincial jurisdiction as part of health service delivery. However, municipalities are increasingly compelled to respond to local physician shortages. Across Alberta, smaller and more remote communities are increasingly offering municipally funded subsidies and incentives for physicians.⁸ These expenditures place pressure on local budgets and property taxpayers, divert resources from core municipal responsibilities, and result in misaligned incentives between municipalities to attract and retain permanent, community-based physicians.

To keep incentives fair and sustainable, Alberta should review and amend physician and other healthcare worker incentive frameworks to reduce disparities between locum and community-based physicians. Where locum physicians receive benefits including no overheads paid for weekend coverage, travel honoraria, and accommodations⁹, community-based physicians could be incentivized by general reduced overhead costs and relocation and accommodation subsidies. Additionally, the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences suggests that financial incentives could be part of a larger, comprehensive strategy to improve the attractiveness of rural practice settings ¹⁰.

Addressing these disparities aligns with provincial objectives to strengthen primary care, improve patient attachment, and reduce avoidable pressure on emergency services. It also aligns with Alberta Municipalities' strategic priorities related to community well-being, sustainable service delivery, and appropriate alignment of responsibilities between orders of government.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

While ABmunis does not currently have a position on the specific issues raised in this resolution, access to health care is one of ABmunis' strategic priorities. It further aligns with a [2024 resolution](#) on the attraction and retention strategy for rural health care professionals.

³ Alberta Medical Association, [Information for Locum Physicians](#)

⁴ Okpalauwaekwe et al. BMC Primary Care, [To stay or leave: an integrative review of factors, personas, and recommendations for retaining family physicians in Canada](#)

⁵ CBC, [Hinton ER doctor shortage puts strain on region, local leaders say](#)

⁶ CTV, [Alberta government announces \\$7.7B investment into physician recruitment in 2026-27 budget](#)

⁷ Rural and Remote Family Medicine Resident Physician Bursary, [Rural and Remote Family Medicine Resident Physician Bursary](#)

⁸ Alberta Municipalities, [ABmunis in the News: Q3, 2024](#),

⁹ Alberta Medical Association, [Information for Locum Physicians](#)

¹⁰ Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, [Canada's Health Workforce: Pathways Forward](#)

If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

Fuchsia Dragon
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Town of Hinton
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B2: Further Strengthening Governance and Funding Models for Seniors' Lodge Accommodations

Moved by: City of Edmonton
 Seconded by: Town of Rocky Mountain House

WHEREAS municipalities have a legislated mandate under the *Alberta Housing Act* to fund the annual deficit for the previous fiscal year and capital and operating reserve requisitions of Housing Management Bodies (HMBs) providing seniors' lodge accommodations;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta's Seniors Lodge Program Review Panel Final Report (2025) identified systemic issues including aging infrastructure, significant deferred capital maintenance, and inconsistent funding models that threaten the long-term sustainability of seniors' housing;

WHEREAS the amendments through Bill 28 Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act to the Alberta Housing Act as well as the concurrent amendments to the local Ministerial Orders have collectively eroded municipal oversight, specifically by removing mandatory financial reporting and budget approval mechanisms, while maintaining municipal funding obligations and the resulting fiscal impacts unaddressed;

WHEREAS without strengthened legislative mechanisms for municipalities to approve budgets and align them with local requirements, both orders of government face increased financial risk, potentially leaving taxpayers as the sole backstop for escalating HMB deficits that municipalities can no longer effectively monitor;

WHEREAS the Rural Municipalities of Alberta have identified similar concerns regarding insufficient provincial funding leading to increased requisitions on the municipal property tax base for both operational and capital costs; and

WHEREAS previous Alberta Municipalities resolutions regarding affordable housing funding models and capital support are set to expire, necessitating a renewed and aligned advocacy effort to address the growing deferred maintenance and financial pressures on municipalities.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities:

1. Advocate to the Government of Alberta to ensure that regulations and Ministerial Orders resulting from the 2026 legislative amendments mandate meaningful municipal governance participation on seniors' lodge boards, including the formal right to review and approve HMB operating and capital budgets before requisitions are finalized;
2. Advocate to the Government of Alberta to provide an update on the negotiation of a new province-wide funding agreement that ensures the mandatory capital and operating reserves required by the amended *Alberta Housing Act* are not funded primarily through municipal requisitions, but through a sustainable provincial contribution that reflects the Province's primary responsibility for social housing; and
3. Explore opportunities to align advocacy efforts with the Rural Municipalities of Alberta to ensure a unified municipal voice in addressing the shared challenges of HMB requisitions and the long-term viability of the seniors' lodge system.

BACKGROUND:

In July 2025, the Government of Alberta released the [Seniors Lodge Program Review Panel Final Report](#), emphasizing the need for predictable, long-term capital funding streams and stronger municipal-provincial alignment. While the 2026 amendments to the *Alberta Housing Act* actioned structural recommendations from the review panel's report regarding mandatory capital reserves (Recommendation 4), critical recommendations regarding the reform of funding models to target an equitable share of costs based on the respective fiscal capacity of other orders of government to prevent the shifting of greater deficits onto municipalities (Recommendation 3) and the establishment of a transparent three-year rolling capital plan (Recommendation 5) remain largely unaddressed.

Consequently, these legislative changes modernized the requirement for reserves without establishing the commensurate municipal oversight authority or the provincial funding levels necessary to manage the resulting fiscal impacts. This has created a mandate gap where municipalities are obligated to fund reserves and deficits without a formal legislative right to approve the budgets that drive those costs.

Recent municipal budget data shows a sharp rise in mandatory HMB requisitions for operating and capital funding across communities of all sizes, illustrating that this is a systemic provincial challenge rather than a localized one. For instance, the City of Edmonton's 2026 budget discussions highlight that Greater Edmonton Foundation Seniors Housing identified a \$4.7 million capital funding shortfall for high-priority projects that could not be met by existing reserves. Similar pressures are seen in mid-sized and smaller communities across Alberta.

A [November 2024 Auditor General report](#) found over \$1 billion in deferred maintenance across the province's affordable housing portfolio. The [Alberta Seniors & Community Housing Association \(ASCHA\)](#) has repeatedly warned that chronic capital underfunding places the financial sustainability of the entire program at risk and threatens the safety of vulnerable seniors. While recent provincial commitments toward lodge modernization are appreciated, they address only a fraction of the total need identified by housing providers.

This resolution seeks to reinforce the 2025 Review Panel's recommendations by ensuring that "equitable funding" and "good governance" are translated into legislative protections. By strengthening the ability of municipalities to vet budgets and align them with local growth, this advocacy aims to support our seniors' housing partners in securing a stable, transparent financial future that does not place an undue burden on the municipal property tax base.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with ABmunis strategic priority of affordable housing and homelessness, and ABmunis position on the recommendations in the Senior's Lodge Program Review Panel's final report and recommendations. If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

Sharon Wadi
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City of Edmonton
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B3: Derelict Non-Residential Tax Subclass

Moved by: City of Edmonton
Seconded by: Town of Peace River

WHEREAS derelict non-residential properties impose increased costs on municipalities due to factors such as higher demands on bylaw enforcement, public safety risks, and the potential for arson;

WHEREAS the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) currently restricts the ability of municipalities to create a non-residential derelict tax subclass, preventing them from using a property tax lever to encourage remediation of these properties;

WHEREAS some municipalities have authority to create derelict non-residential tax subclasses, but the utility of this authority is limited by the requirement that properties must be unoccupied for a year before being assessed as derelict, and by the constraint of the 5:1 tax rate ratio, which may disallow a tax rate high enough to motivate owners to act; and

WHEREAS expanding subclassing authority to all municipalities through an MGA amendment would provide a valuable tax tool to address derelict properties and aligns with the goals of Alberta Municipalities' Property Taxes Reimagined initiative.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to amend Sections 297 and 358.1 of the *Municipal Government Act* to allow all municipalities the option to create a derelict subclass under Class 2 Non-Residential property.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT such an amendment include an exemption from the 5:1 tax rate ratio limit, or include a higher ratio limit, for a derelict non-residential tax subclass, to ensure municipal councils have the necessary flexibility to set a deterrent tax rate.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to remove the requirement that a property be unoccupied for a year before it can be assessed into a derelict non-residential tax subclass.

BACKGROUND:

Derelict non-residential properties are properties that contain a fully or partially constructed non-residential improvement, where the improvement shows serious signs of neglect, is dilapidated, falling into significant disrepair, or is unusable for its intended purpose, but does not include properties that are actively undergoing renovation, construction or demolition. Municipalities that can currently create a derelict non-residential subclass are permitted to define "derelict" for their own purposes.

Derelict non-residential properties have a direct impact on municipal costs, since these properties typically require higher levels of service from bylaw enforcement, fire rescue, and other municipal services. For example, fires often begin in derelict buildings as the unhoused population seek shelter and warmth in unmonitored structures with no utilities. In Edmonton, there have been several fires started in derelict buildings, causing significant property damage to the derelict structure as well as neighbouring structures.

Derelict properties also reduce quality of life for residents living nearby. In presentations to Edmonton's City Council, residents have described living in a state of fear and heightened tension due to concern about the risks of fire and illegal activities in nearby derelict structures. A survey conducted in 2024 found that 83 per cent of Edmontonians strongly agreed that the presence of derelict properties negatively affects the overall quality of life in a neighbourhood. Surrounding non-residential properties are also impacted as the dereliction discourages patronage of their businesses.

Tax subclasses have been an effective tool to address dereliction. In 2023, Edmonton created a derelict tax subclass for residential properties that has demonstrated significant success. Of the 202 properties identified as derelict in the first year of the subclass, 62 were demolished or remediated by the end of the year. Several other municipalities have also created derelict residential tax subclasses, including the City of Wetaskiwin and the Town of Ponoka.

The *Municipal Government Act* currently prevents municipalities from creating a non-residential derelict tax subclass, restricting the use of property tax as a lever to encourage remediation. While Edmonton and Calgary do have authority to establish derelict non-residential subclasses, this authority is unnecessarily constrained by the requirement that properties must be unoccupied for a year before they can be assessed as derelict. This requirement makes it difficult to administer a derelict non-residential subclass, since a property owner may be able to demonstrate a minimal degree of occupation without addressing the dereliction, thereby largely defeating the objectives of the subclass.

The success of a derelict subclass depends on a municipality's ability to impose a higher tax rate on derelict properties. Section 358.1 of the MGA sets a maximum tax rate ratio of 5:1 (highest non-residential rate to lowest residential rate), which limits the ability of some municipalities to impose a high enough tax rate on derelict non-residential properties to incentivize the owner to address the dereliction.

This resolution aligns with the core principles of Alberta Municipalities' Property Taxes Reimagined initiative, which advocates for a fairer fiscal framework and more effective tax tools for local governments. By establishing a derelict non-residential tax subclass, municipalities can better address the mismatch between responsibilities and revenues by creating a targeted mechanism to disincentivize urban blight and encourage the redevelopment of underutilized properties. This approach supports Alberta Municipalities' ongoing advocacy for increased municipal autonomy and targeted fiscal tools to address municipal priorities, including community safety.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

As mentioned in the background section, this resolution aligns with ABmunis' broader work on [Property Taxes Reimagined](#) to ensure municipalities have adequate financial tools to address local needs. If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the relevant policy committee(s) 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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B4: Modernization of Municipal Investment Authorities Under the Municipal Investment Regulation

Moved by: City of Grande Prairie
 Seconded by: Village of Duchess, City of Lacombe

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities are authorized under the Municipal Government Act to invest in accordance with provincially prescribed regulations;

WHEREAS the Municipal Investment Regulation¹ establishes a prescriptive investment framework that limits the range of eligible investment instruments available to most municipalities, effectively restricting portfolios to fixed-income investments and limiting opportunities to enhance long-term investment returns in support of municipal financial sustainability;

WHEREAS many municipalities in Alberta have developed significantly in financial capacity, governance maturity, and access to professional investment management, including:

- Established investment policies;
- Oversight by senior financial officers and committees; and
- Access to external advisors and institutional investment services;

WHEREAS modern public sector investment practices increasingly emphasize a “prudent investor” approach, which enables diversification within a strong governance and risk management framework rather than relying solely on a prescriptive list of allowable investments²; and

WHEREAS enhancing investment flexibility for municipalities can support long-term financial sustainability and reduce reliance on property taxation.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to amend the Municipal Investment Regulation to expand investment authorities available to municipalities by implementing a scalable, capacity-based framework that includes:

- **Direct Governance-Based Authority:** Extending broader investment eligibility to municipalities that demonstrate independent capacity through a prudent-investor policy, professional oversight, and robust risk-reporting practices;
- **Pooled and Collaborative Authority:** Permitting municipalities to access expanded, diversified asset classes for a policy-defined portion of municipal funds without extensive internal administrative requirements, provided such investments are made through approved, municipally geared pooled funds, collaborative arrangements, or institutional services; and
- **An Opt-In Mechanism:** Providing a clear designation process subject to Ministerial approval or defined criteria that allows municipalities to choose the tier of investment authority that best matches their local governance capacity, financial needs, and strategic goals.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT any amendments to the Municipal Investment Regulation maintain appropriate safeguards to ensure:

- preservation of capital,
- prudent risk management, and
- transparency and accountability to Council and the public.

¹ [Alberta Regulation 149/2022 – Municipal Investment Regulation](#)

² [Municipal Government Act Section 250 – Investments](#)

BACKGROUND:

Under the *Municipal Government Act*, the Municipal Investment Regulation³ governs how Alberta's municipalities may invest public funds. While the regulation was modernized in recent years, it continues to apply a largely prescriptive approach for most municipalities, limiting investments primarily to highly conservative instruments.

At the same time, the regulation provides expanded investment authority to select large municipalities, including the City of Calgary, City of Edmonton, and the City of Medicine Hat, allowing access to a broader range of asset classes and investment strategies. This has created an uneven regulatory environment across the province.

Even a limited exposure to equities, real assets, and pooled, diversified portfolios has been shown to produce materially higher long-term returns than portfolios focused exclusively on AAA-rated fixed-income investments^{4,5}. Over extended time horizons, equities have historically outperformed government bonds, real assets such as real estate have outperformed bonds on a risk-adjusted basis, and blended portfolios have consistently outperformed fixed income alone. Evidence indicates that even a modest allocation of total municipal reserves to diversified investments can outperform a fully fixed-income, AAA-focused portfolio over the long term, typically generating an additional 2–3 percentage points in annual returns. Higher long-term returns support improved fiscal sustainability, reduce pressure on property taxation, and strengthen overall municipal financial positions.

Canadian public-sector pension plans provide a well-established example of how long-term public funds can be responsibly managed through diversified investment portfolios. Rather than relying exclusively on low-risk, fixed-income instruments, these plans invest across a broad mix of asset classes, including equities and real assets, within strong governance frameworks to achieve sustainable long-term returns while managing risk. This diversified approach has been essential to maintaining fiscal sustainability over multi-decade horizons and mitigating inflation risk. The experience of public-sector pensions demonstrates that appropriate governance, oversight, and pooling of funds can allow public institutions to prudently enhance returns beyond those achievable through AAA-rated investments alone.

In Saskatchewan, recent legislative and policy changes have enabled municipalities to improve the management of municipal reserves through pooled and diversified investment structures⁶. In partnership with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Saskatchewan municipalities may now invest a limited portion of unappropriated reserves through SUMAInvest, a provincially approved pooled investment program overseen by professional investment managers. This framework allows municipalities to access diversified portfolios, including equities, real assets, and fixed income, while maintaining governance safeguards, investment limits, and transparency requirements. Saskatchewan's approach demonstrates that limited, well-governed diversification of municipal reserves can be implemented without replacing provincial funding programs or compromising fiscal oversight.

Most municipalities now operate with significantly greater financial complexity than when earlier regulatory frameworks were established. Many manage substantial reserve balances and capital funds, supported by experienced finance teams, robust governance structures, and access to professional investment expertise.

The current regulatory limitations:

- constrain diversification opportunities,
- expose municipalities to inflationary erosion of reserve values, and
- limit the ability to achieve risk-adjusted returns comparable to institutional standards.

³ [Alberta Regulation 149/2022 – Municipal Investment Regulation](#)

⁴ [CESifo Working Papers 11634-2025 January 2025 \(Private Investment and Public Investment: Total Rates of Return and Global Balances in the OECD\)](#)

⁵ [CIBC Asset Management – 2025 Long-term Annualized Capital Market Expected Returns](#)

⁶ [SUMAInvest Booklet April 2026](#)

Modernizing the regulation to reflect a governance- and capacity-based model, rather than a size-based distinction, would align Alberta with leading public sector investment practices. Such an approach would allow municipalities to responsibly enhance investment performance while maintaining strong safeguards for public funds.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS

This resolution aligns with ABmunis' broader work on [Property Taxes Reimagined](#) to develop solutions for municipalities to have adequate revenue streams and tools to address local needs. If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the relevant policy committee(s) 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:

Danielle Whiteway, CPA CA
Chief Financial Officer
City of Grande Prairie
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B5: Provincial Alternative Revenue Optimization Program to Support Productivity, Workforce Readiness, and Industrial Competitiveness

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

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities of all sizes and types are experiencing sustained infrastructure cost escalation, significant capital delivery pressures and labour competition and challenges driven by inflation, population and industry growth, and increased demands on core municipal services regardless of the municipal assessment mix;

WHEREAS municipalities play a direct role in enabling provincial economic outcomes by providing the infrastructure, land use planning, housing readiness, utilities, roads, and emergency services that support multiple industries, such as agriculture, forestry, energy development, manufacturing, and workforce mobility;

WHEREAS the municipal property tax system remains the primary revenue tool for local governments, despite being designed to fund local services rather than to efficiently reflect regional or province-wide economic activity and productivity benefits;

WHEREAS productivity-enabling infrastructure and services often generate economic and fiscal benefits beyond municipal boundaries, including benefits to provincial revenues, trade activity, labour force participation, and investment attraction;

WHEREAS the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) and other existing municipal funding programs alone cannot address all structural fiscal pressures arising from municipalities' role in enabling provincial economic productivity and growth across regions; and

WHEREAS continued reliance on property taxation to support these outcomes risks increasing residential tax pressure, constraining investment readiness, and exacerbating regional tensions between communities with differing assessment compositions.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to explore and collaboratively develop an additional, provincial revenue optimization program, separate from and in addition to the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) and existing municipal revenue sources, that:

- a) Supports Alberta's economic productivity and competitiveness, including agriculture, forestry, energy, manufacturing, logistics, and workforce participation, through investments in trade-enabling, housing-enabling, and workforce-supporting municipal infrastructure and services;
- b) Aligns funding to municipalities and regions where there is demonstrated economic activity, service demand, or productivity outcomes that extend beyond municipal boundaries or are not fully reflected within local tax bases;
- c) Recognizes municipalities as delivery partners for provincial economic objectives, including labour force attraction and retention, housing enablement, transportation connectivity, utilities, and public safety, where municipal investment is required to support provincial growth and competitiveness;
- d) Provides predictable, transparent, and formula-based funding, allowing municipalities to incorporate revenues into long-term capital planning, asset management, and service sustainability; and
- e) Is developed collaboratively with Alberta Municipalities, Mid-sized Mayors Caucus, rural municipal partners, and the Government of Alberta, ensuring regional equity, economic neutrality, and alignment with Alberta's provincial productivity and economic development priorities.

BACKGROUND:

Alberta municipalities of all sizes and geographies are experiencing sustained financial and operational pressures arising from inflationary cost escalation, population change, labour competition and challenges, and aging municipal

infrastructure. These pressures affect urban, rural, and specialized municipalities alike, regardless of assessment composition or growth trajectory.

Municipalities play a critical role in enabling Alberta's economic productivity by providing the infrastructure, services, and land use outcomes that support industry, agriculture, forestry, energy development, manufacturing, logistics, and the mobility and retention of the provincial workforce.

- Transportation corridors, local roads, and bridges that connect regional supply chains, trade routes, and work sites;
- Utilities, servicing capacity, and land-use readiness that enable housing delivery, industrial development, and workforce mobility;
- Emergency services, policing, fire protection, and transit systems that support workforce participation and community safety;
- Community and social infrastructure—such as recreation facilities, health-adjacent services, and social supports—that underpin labour attraction, retention, and regional livability.

These investments generate economic and fiscal benefits that extend beyond municipal boundaries, contributing to provincial productivity, competitiveness, and revenue growth, while the associated costs remain largely borne at the municipal level.

At present, the municipal property tax system remains the primary revenue tool available to local governments. While property taxation is appropriate for funding local services, it was not designed to efficiently capture or reflect the broader economic benefits generated by productivity-enabling infrastructure and services that extend beyond municipal boundaries. Continued reliance on property taxation alone risks increasing residential tax pressure, constraining investment readiness, and reinforcing regional tensions between municipalities with differing assessment bases. Even with population and assessment growth expanding municipal revenues over time, the type, timing and pace of growth often does not align with the infrastructure and service costs required to enable provincial economic activity. Municipalities must fund roads, utilities, emergency services, housing-enabling infrastructure, and community supports in advance of or disproportionately to revenue realization, frequently resulting in sustained fiscal pressure even in growing communities.

British Columbia provides an example of a long-standing, productivity-focused funding model through the Peace River Agreement¹, which evolved from the original Fair Share Agreement established in 1994. Under this negotiated, multi-year framework, the Province of British Columbia reinvests a portion of provincial resource revenues into municipalities and regional districts that provide infrastructure and services supporting economic activity occurring largely outside municipal boundaries. The Peace River Agreement recognizes the role of local governments as service delivery partners for provincial resource development and economic growth, while providing predictable, formula-based funding that supports long-term capital planning, infrastructure investment, and community sustainability without reallocating municipal tax capacity.

Many municipal investments that support workforce participation, trade corridors, industrial operations, and regional service provision generate provincial and regional benefits that are not fully aligned with municipal revenue capacity. Addressing these structural challenges through alternative, productivity-focused revenue mechanisms could strengthen Alberta's economic competitiveness while maintaining regional equity and municipal fiscal sustainability.

Crucially, this proposed program is not designed to redistribute existing wealth or create competitive imbalances between neighboring communities. Rather, it recognizes that industrial growth creates localized and regional cost pressures that do not align neatly with municipal borders. By establishing a provincial revenue-sharing mechanism to fund these pressures, the Province can ensure that no municipality is forced to subsidize provincial economic growth through local residential property tax increases. This approach fosters regional collaboration by removing the fiscal friction often caused by mismatched service-delivery and tax-assessment boundaries.

¹ [Peace River Agreement | City of Fort St. John](#)

There is an opportunity for the Government of Alberta and municipalities to collaboratively explore alternative revenue optimization approaches that focus on value creation, economic growth, and shared outcomes for all Alberta Municipalities.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

This resolution generally aligns with ABmunis work on municipal finances and infrastructure funding. For example, the current phase of the Property Taxes Reimagined project is to identify and develop solutions for municipalities to have adequate revenue streams and tools to address local needs. If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the relevant policy committee(s) 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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B6: Budget Surplus and Municipal Infrastructure Investment

Moved by: City of Airdrie, City of Leduc, City of Lethbridge, Town of Cochrane, Town of Okotoks

Seconded by: Town of Coalhurst, Town of Crossfield, Town of Grimshaw, Town of Hinton, Town of Nanton, Town of Vegreville, Village of Duchess

WHEREAS municipalities across Alberta face critical infrastructure challenges including aging water and wastewater systems, deteriorating roads, bridges and community facilities, and insufficient capacity to accommodate population and economic growth, while operating with limited revenue tools and constrained capital budgets;

WHEREAS infrastructure project costs continue to rise due to inflation, further eroding municipal capital budgets and making it increasingly difficult for municipalities to address infrastructure needs through traditional funding mechanisms;

WHEREAS infrastructure is a shared responsibility between provincial and municipal governments, with municipalities owning and maintaining close to 60 per cent of Alberta's public infrastructure¹, including essential systems that support the province's economic prosperity and community sustainability;

WHEREAS water and wastewater infrastructure, roads, bridges, recreation and other community facilities require substantial capital investment to ensure public health, safety, economic development, and quality of life with many Alberta communities facing immediate needs for system upgrades, capacity expansion, and asset replacement;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has recorded a year-end surplus in 13 of the last 25 provincial budgets², creating opportunities for strategic one-time investments in municipal infrastructure without compromising ongoing program funding or fiscal sustainability; and

WHEREAS Alberta's current *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act*³ legislates that 50 per cent of surpluses must be used towards debt repayment and allows for the remaining 50 percent to be applied to debt repayment, the Heritage Savings Trust Fund or to one-time initiatives, at the sole discretion of the province.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to commit to creating a framework, used during provincial surpluses, to allocate a portion of the surplus to critical municipal infrastructure projects.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the framework prioritizes projects based on demonstrated need and readiness for construction, with funding distributed through a transparent application process, and in alignment with provincial and municipal strategic priorities.

BACKGROUND:

Infrastructure challenges affect municipalities of all sizes across Alberta, from major urban centers experiencing rapid population growth to smaller rural communities managing aging systems and facilities with limited tax bases. During budget surplus years, a commitment to additional funding for municipal infrastructure investment would mean more support for critical projects that may have otherwise been deferred. Since 2000, Alberta has recorded a year-end surplus in 13 provincial budgets⁴, demonstrating recurring opportunities to establish a pathway for one-time investments, in addition to the funding already provided to municipalities by the province.

¹ ABmunis website (2026, April). [Infrastructure](#).

² Government of Alberta website (2026, April). [Budget documents](#).

³ Government of Alberta Open Data Resources (2026, April). [Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act](#).

⁴ Government of Alberta website (2026, April). [Budget documents](#).

A legislated portion of budget surplus addresses diverse needs by creating a funding mechanism that responds to provincial fiscal capacity while supporting both provincial and municipal infrastructure priorities in a meaningful way. With municipalities owning and maintaining almost 60 per cent of Alberta's public infrastructure, the need for sustainable capital funding is critical. Large urban centers face pressure to expand water and wastewater treatment capacity and build new roads to accommodate population increases. Medium-sized municipalities experience similar growth pressures while managing aging infrastructure that require replacement and adding new community amenities. Smaller rural communities struggle to maintain basic infrastructure systems and facilities with limited tax bases. **Allocating a portion of budget surpluses to municipal infrastructure investment would ensure that periods of strong economic performance translate directly into improved public assets across all community types.**

Even modest surpluses could generate substantial investment in one-time municipal infrastructure initiatives. For example, with a provincial budget surplus of \$1 billion, a 25 per cent allocation would yield approximately \$250 million for one-time infrastructure projects. Alberta's actual 2023–24 surplus of \$4.3 billion, could have generated approximately \$1.075 billion for infrastructure projects and the 2024–25 surplus of \$8.3 billion, approximately \$2.075 billion, using the same 25 per cent allocation. These amounts demonstrate meaningful contributions to addressing Alberta's growing infrastructure deficit, enabling municipalities to undertake major shovel-ready projects that could otherwise require decades of incremental funding accumulation.

A focus on one-time investments in near-term, municipal capital budget approved projects, in addition to existing funding programs, enables municipalities to address high priority capital needs. Quick allocation of funding to shovel-ready projects ensures economic stimulus benefits and timely infrastructure improvements. This resolution directly supports many of the Government of Alberta's objectives by ensuring that infrastructure capacity is well-maintained and keeps pace with growth and economic activity and the change could be easily incorporated within the current fiscal framework legislation.

The resolution also aligns with Alberta Municipalities' strategic priorities by advocating for sustainable infrastructure funding mechanisms that enable municipalities to maintain and expand essential services while reducing reliance on property taxation for major capital projects.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

This resolution generally aligns with ABmunis work on municipal finances and infrastructure funding. For example, the current phase of the Property Taxes Reimagined project is to identify and develop solutions for municipalities to have adequate revenue streams and tools to address local needs. If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the relevant policy committee(s) 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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B7: Broadening Scope of Off-Site Levies

Moved by: Town of Cochrane

Seconded by: Town of Penhold

WHEREAS section 648 of the *Municipal Government Act* authorizes municipalities to impose off-site levies on new development to recover a portion of growth-related infrastructure costs;

WHEREAS the scope of infrastructure eligible for off-site levies remains limited and does not fully reflect the capital infrastructure required to support growth and complete communities;

WHEREAS population growth creates demand for additional municipal capital infrastructure, including but not limited to outdoor recreation amenities, municipal operations facilities, and transit infrastructure required to deliver services to expanding communities;

WHEREAS when growth-related infrastructure costs cannot be recovered through off-site levies, municipalities must rely on general taxation or other funding sources, resulting in existing taxpayers subsidizing infrastructure required for new development; and

WHEREAS municipalities require flexible and modern legislative tools to ensure that growth-related infrastructure costs are shared fairly, transparently, and in a manner that supports desired and livable communities.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to amend the *Municipal Government Act* to broaden the scope of infrastructure eligible for off-site levies to better reflect the full range of growth-related infrastructure required to support new development, where municipalities can demonstrate a clear connection between growth and the infrastructure required, in a manner that maintains transparency, predictability, and fairness for municipalities, developers, and residents.

BACKGROUND:

Municipalities across Alberta are experiencing sustained growth and increasing demand for infrastructure to support new communities. Off-site levies have, and continue to be, a key tool that allow municipalities to recover a portion of growth-related capital costs. However, under the current framework in the *Municipal Government Act*, the scope of infrastructure eligible for recovery remains too restrictive.

While the *Municipal Government Act* enables recovery of core infrastructure such as water, wastewater, stormwater, roads, transportation infrastructure, community recreation facilities, fire halls, police stations, and libraries, it does not fully capture the range of infrastructure required to support growth.

As communities expand, municipalities must invest in additional infrastructure to deliver services and support complete communities. This includes:

- outdoor recreation infrastructure (e.g. sports fields, courts, and community-use amenities);
- transit infrastructure (e.g. fleet storage, transit hubs, and supporting facilities);
- municipal operations facilities (e.g. public works yards and fleet maintenance facilities); and
- other capital infrastructure required to deliver municipal services to growing communities.

These investments are often directly driven by growth. Where growth-related infrastructure falls outside current off-site levy eligibility, municipalities must fund these investments through general taxation, reserves, or other sources. As a result, existing taxpayers often bear a disproportionate share of the costs required to support new development, effectively subsidizing growth. This misalignment can create financial pressure for municipalities and undermine the principle that growth should contribute to the infrastructure it necessitates. Expanding eligibility would help correct this imbalance by better aligning costs with the drivers of growth.

This challenge affects municipalities across Alberta, particularly those experiencing sustained or rapid growth. Municipalities experiencing growth face increasing pressure to align infrastructure funding with development while maintaining financial sustainability.

ABmunis previously raised this issue through [a resolution](#) calling on the Government of Alberta to expand the scope of off-site levies. While subsequent amendments have broadened eligibility in certain areas, the current framework still does not fully reflect the range of infrastructure required to support growth.

Broadening the scope of off-site levy eligibility would provide municipalities with a more complete tool to align infrastructure funding with growth. It supports a “growth pays for growth” approach and improves transparency in how costs are allocated.

Municipalities would continue to demonstrate a clear connection between development and the infrastructure being funded, ensuring levies remain appropriate and justifiable, while expanded eligibility would provide greater flexibility within a framework that maintains accountability.

This approach aligns with provincial objectives to support housing and community growth. Providing municipalities with effective infrastructure funding tools supports timely development, reduces long-term financial pressures, and helps build desirable, livable communities across Alberta.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

As noted in the background section, ABmunis has long advocated for an expanded scope of off-site levies to enable municipalities to recover growth-related infrastructure costs. Over the past 18 months, ABmunis has actively engaged with the Government of Canada to ensure the integrity of the off-site levy framework is respected in federal funding programs and has secured support from the Government of Alberta in advancing this position. ABmunis has also advocated against the introduction of regulatory restrictions on off-site levy provisions within the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA). While limited restrictions were introduced through Bill 28, they did not go as far as initially proposed. In addition, ABmunis is currently developing a tool and guide to support municipalities in the effective use of off-site levies. Overall, this resolution aligns with ABmunis’ ongoing advocacy efforts to strengthen the off-site levy model and supports our broader commitment to protecting and enhancing municipal autonomy.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis’ Board by the relevant policy committee(s) 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:

Christine Raves
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Town of Cochrane
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B8: Expanded Grant Eligibility for Water Infrastructure

Moved by: Town of Stettler
Seconded by: City of Camrose

WHEREAS the costs associated with the construction, maintenance, and upgrading of municipal water systems in Alberta have risen significantly due to inflation, material costs, and labor shortages;

WHEREAS municipalities face limited fiscal capacity and a constrained property tax base, making it increasingly difficult to fund large-scale water projects without provincial and federal government support;

WHEREAS many municipalities function as regional hubs for essential services such as hospitals, schools, libraries, commercial amenities, and recreation, resulting in increased infrastructure demand beyond what is support by their local tax base;

WHEREAS growth pressures, including annexation and development of previously unserved areas, are further increasing demand for municipal water infrastructure and associated financial responsibilities;

WHEREAS municipalities are required to comply with evolving provincial and federal regulatory standards and are increasingly impacted by climate-related pressures, including drought, necessitating significant and ongoing investment in water supply, storage, and system resilience;

WHEREAS current water funding programs do not consistently reflect these cumulative pressures and may limit eligibility based on project structure rather than demonstrated regional service demand and opportunities to maximize return on investment; and

WHEREAS more predictable and inclusive eligibility for provincial water funding would support proactive, long-term infrastructure planning and reduce reliance on reactive or emergency investments.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the expansion of eligibility criteria under the Water for Life funding framework, or successor water infrastructure programs, to include single municipalities that function as regional service hubs and provide services to populations that extend beyond their municipal tax base.

BACKGROUND:

Municipalities across Alberta face ongoing challenges of securing sufficient funding to provide, maintain, and upgrade essential water services. Current challenges are being further impacted due to growing drought concerns, inflationary costs, increased demand, and [population](#). The current criteria of Water for Life funding risks limiting the impact by prioritizing projects based on technical eligibility rather than the broader project benefit and the ability to implement proactive infrastructure solutions before crisis occurs. A careful review of eligibility, allocation, and the criteria used to determine priorities is needed to ensure the existing water and wastewater funding truly support projects that maximize public value and benefit.

Impacts of Rising Costs

Due to rising inflation, local governments are constantly exploring ways to minimize the financial burden on taxpayers, frequently relying on grant funding to help offset costs. From 2020 to 2025 the Town of Stettler saw a 25% increase in asphaltting tenders and a 40% increase in 150 mm watermain replacement tenders from 2021 to 2024. Stettler isn't isolated in these figures. Municipalities across Alberta are facing the same reality of steadily increasing demand for services alongside rapidly rising capital and operating costs. Inflation in construction material, utilities, and labour has significantly outpaced growth in municipal revenues, meaning the municipal tax dollar now delivers substantially less purchasing power than in previous years.

At the same time, Alberta's accelerated population growth has not been matched by proportionate provincial funding. In 2009 municipalities were receiving approximately \$635 in [provincial funding](#) per person, compared to about \$327 per person (adjusting for inflation) in 2023.

Regional Hubs

The current structure of Water for Life funding, which requires multi-municipal partners or regional system participation, presents a barrier for municipalities that independently serve as a regional service hub. In Minster Dreeshen's response to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta's [Resolution 9-25S](#) he said that the Water for Life funding "reflects a strategic focus on sustaining Alberta's regional water and wastewater systems, ensuring long term resiliency, and access to safe, reliable water services" and that the focus is to "allocate limited funding toward projects which provide the greatest return on investment for entire regions". The structure of the program currently neglects to address communities that act as regional hubs, providing services for a population that far exceeds their municipal tax base.

While Stettler's population during the 2021 federal census was 5,695 a [growth study](#) completed in 2007 establishes a market population of 42,000, stretching from Lacombe all the way to the Saskatchewan border. Further, in Stettler's most recent [Commercial Market Analysis](#), it was noted that while the Town of Stettler only accounts for 47.9% of the population in the immediate trade area, 80% of jobs are within the Town of Stettler municipal borders and serviced by municipal water systems.

Risks of Disruption

Municipalities are working to act proactively, rather than reactively, but the available funding and programs offered by the Government of Alberta include strict eligibility criteria preventing funding for projects that would deliver the highest long-term value and return on investment for Albertans. This challenge is underscored by high-profile water main failures in the last 5 years in communities across Alberta including Calgary, Beiseker, Cochrane, and Three Hills.

Drought and water scarcity lead to further challenges for municipalities. While municipalities are expected to proactively protect their water systems and prepare for droughts, the reality is that capital projects to address these challenges are often high-cost, high-risk, and time sensitive.

This is further compounded by the challenges municipalities face in bringing annexed lands up to full urban community standards. Where previously unserved areas are incorporated into municipal boundaries, significant investment is required to extend water infrastructure. This work is critical not only for equitable service delivery, but also for public safety, including reliable emergency response through hydrant access for fire protection.

Ensuring funding is accessible allows municipalities to implement critical projects when needed rather than deferring them due to budgetary constraints, protecting both the municipality and the border region they serve.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not have a position and has not previously considered a resolution specifically advocating for changes to grant eligibility criteria for water infrastructure funding. However, numerous past resolutions have consistently called for increased availability, predictability, and sustainability of funding for municipal water and wastewater infrastructure, for example, the [2023 resolution](#) for adequate provincial infrastructure funding.

The current resolution aligns with these established concerns, particularly regarding funding pressures, growth-related demand, and the need for long-term planning certainty. If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

Maddie Standage
Legislative Services Coordinator
Town of Stettler
mstandage@stettler.net

B9: Limiting the Use of Fresh Water in Hydraulic Fracturing

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

WHEREAS the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) currently permit the use of fresh water for hydraulic fracturing operations;

WHEREAS Alberta Environment and Protected Areas' mandate is to protect and enhance Alberta's environment and ecosystems to ensure a sustainable future for all Albertans;

WHEREAS the AER is issuing Temporary Diversion Licences (TDLs) for the withdrawal and use of fresh water by industry;

WHEREAS existing water allocation and priority frameworks under the *Water Act* do not consistently account for cumulative effects, local water security risks, or drought conditions when TDLs are issued for industrial activities, creating concerns for municipalities and agricultural water users; and

WHEREAS TDLs are not subject to appeal, and opportunities for public input, including Statements of Concern, are not consistently available prior to water withdrawals occurring.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to review current policies and regulatory frameworks governing the use of fresh water in hydraulic fracturing, with the goal of reducing reliance on fresh water sources in drought stressed regions.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta work with industry, municipalities, and other stakeholders to support and accelerate the development and adoption of alternative water sources for hydraulic fracturing, including saline water and recycled produced water.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta evaluate the current roles and responsibilities of the Alberta Energy Regulator and Alberta Environment and Protected Areas with respect to water allocation decisions under the *Water Act*, to ensure clarity, transparency, and alignment with water management objectives.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta improve transparency in the Temporary Diversion License approval process by ensuring that supporting information used in decision-making is publicly accessible and that opportunities for municipal and public awareness and input are enhanced.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta assess opportunities to strengthen oversight and consistency in the application of legislation, policy, and directives related to Temporary Diversion Licences, including those involving alluvial aquifers.

BACKGROUND:

Water is a finite and increasingly stressed resource in Alberta, particularly during periods of drought and low precipitation that have become more frequent in recent years. Municipalities across the province are responsible for ensuring reliable access to potable water for residents, as well as supporting agricultural producers who depend on consistent water supplies for food production and economic sustainability.

Hydraulic fracturing operations can require significant volumes of water, a portion of which is sourced from fresh surface water and shallow groundwater systems through Temporary Diversion Licences (TDLs). While TDLs are intended to be short-term in nature, their cumulative impact on watersheds, particularly in smaller or already stressed basins, can be substantial. Municipalities have raised concerns regarding the lack of transparency, limited

public engagement, and absence of an appeal mechanism associated with TDL approvals.

Currently, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) is authorized to issue TDLs for energy resource activities under the *Water Act*. This dual role, both regulating industry and making water allocation decisions, has raised concerns among municipalities regarding the adequacy of environmental oversight and the prioritization of water use. Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA), as the department mandated to manage and protect water resources, may be better positioned to provide independent and consistent oversight of water allocation decisions.

Municipal governments are increasingly expected to manage the local impacts of water scarcity, including implementing water restrictions, investing in infrastructure, and responding to public concerns about water security. At the same time, municipalities have limited authority to influence industrial water use decisions made at the provincial level.

In addition, advances in technology and industry practices have demonstrated that alternatives to the use of fresh water in hydraulic fracturing, such as the use of saline water, recycled produced water, or other non-potable sources, are viable and increasingly common. Encouraging or requiring a transition to these alternatives would reduce pressure on freshwater systems while allowing resource development to continue.

Ensuring that water allocation decisions are transparent, science-based, and prioritize essential human and agricultural needs is critical to maintaining public trust and long-term sustainability. Providing opportunities for public input and access to information used in decision-making would further strengthen accountability.

For these reasons, municipalities are seeking changes to provincial policy and legislation to better protect freshwater resources, improve transparency in water allocation decisions, and ensure that the governance framework reflects the importance of water as a shared and essential resource.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not have an established position on limiting the use of fresh water in hydraulic fracturing, and no previous resolutions have directly addressed this issue. However, ABmunis has identified related concerns around water security, cumulative effects, and transparency in water allocation decisions in our water management policies and 2025 submission to the province on water availability.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

Craig Douglas
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Rimbey
craig@rimbey.com

Rick Pankiw
Mayor
Town of Rimbey
rick.pankiw@rimbey.com

B10: Police Fines and Penalties Revenue Sharing

Moved by: Town of Mundare

Seconded by: Town of Hanna

WHEREAS section 162(2) of the Traffic Safety Act states: “Subject to subsection (4), fines and penalties imposed under this Act in respect of contraventions occurring in a municipality for which policing services are required to be provided under section 4(5) or (6) of the *Police Act* belong to the municipality that is required to provide the policing services”;

WHEREAS section 162(3) of *Traffic Safety Act* states: “Subject to subsection (4), fines and penalties imposed under this Act in respect of contraventions for which informations are laid or violation tickets are issued under the Provincial Offences Procedure Act or notices of administrative penalty are issued under the Provincial Administrative Penalties Act by peace officers employed by a municipality belong to that municipality”;

WHEREAS as of April 1, 2020, municipalities/municipal districts/counties receiving policing services under the Provincial Police Services Agreement (PPSA) are required to pay a portion of policing costs;

WHEREAS the changes to the Police Funding Model (PFM) will cause a financial burden on the PPSA municipalities;

WHEREAS the intent of Section 162 of the *Traffic Safety Act* is that fines should be distributed on the basis of who pays for the policing; and

WHEREAS despite the intent of the *Traffic Safety Act*, PPSA Municipalities do not receive a share of the fines and penalties.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to amend section 162 of the *Traffic Safety Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter T-6 to distribute fines and penalties under the Act to those municipalities receiving policing services under the Provincial Police Services Agreement at the same percentage that these municipalities pay for policing.

BACKGROUND:

Prior to October 31, 2005, Section 162 of the *Traffic Safety Act* stated:

Disposition of fines and penalties (*in effect prior to October 31, 2005*)

162(1) Subject to subsection (2), any fine or penalty imposed under this Act belongs to the Crown in right of Alberta.

(2) Any fine or penalty imposed under this Act in respect of an offence occurring in

- (a) a municipality that is an urban area, belongs to that municipality,
- (b) a municipal district or Metis settlement, other than on a highway designated as a primary highway pursuant to the *Public Highways Development Act*, belongs to the municipal district or Metis settlement, and
- (c) an Indian reserve, other than on a highway designated as a primary highway or a highway designated as a secondary road pursuant to the *Public Highways Development Act*, belongs to the band.

- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(c), “band” and “reserve” mean a band and reserve as defined in the *Indian Act* (Canada).

After October 31, 2005, the *Traffic Safety Act* was changed so that traffic fines were distributed based on the “who pays for policing model”.

Municipalities that are not policed under the PPSA, and municipalities that pay for a community peace officer, receive 60% of the specified fines/penalties that are issued in the municipality under the *Traffic Safety Act*, whereas the province receives 40%.

This proposed resolution, as of 2030-2031, would mean PPSA municipalities receive 18% of total fines and penalties collected in their boundaries, whereas the province would receive 72%.

There are 278 municipalities included in the PPSA. These municipalities are paying a portion of the policing costs but do not receive any portion of the fines/penalties issued in the municipality.

Based on estimates received from the Government of Alberta:

- The Town of Mundare (population 858) will see a 188% increase from 2025-2026 (\$43,500) to 2030-2031 (\$125,500).
- The Town of Hanna (population 2,394) will see a 157% increase from 2025-2026 (\$173,112) to 2030-2031 (\$443,838).

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with ABmunis strategic priority related to policing and the ongoing advocacy on the Police Act regulations and the renewed police funding model. It is a renewal of a 2022 resolution calling for the same actions.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

Colin Zyla
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Town of Mundare
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2026 RESOLUTIONS

Category C: Other Issues of Potential Interest to Municipalities

C1: Regulation of Personal Micromobility Devices (i.e. e-scooters) through the Alberta Traffic Safety Act

Moved by: City of Spruce Grove
Seconded by: Village of Irma

WHEREAS the *Alberta Traffic Safety Act* provides the legislative and regulatory framework governing the use of motorized vehicles on roadways, sidewalks, and pathways in Alberta;

WHEREAS personal micromobility devices, including e-scooters, electronic skateboards, hoverboards, e-bikes, and segways, are increasingly used as a mode of transportation within municipalities;

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has enabled the operation of commercial/rental e-scooter share programs through regulatory exemptions, and several municipalities have implemented pilot programs to authorize and manage their use;

WHEREAS the *Traffic Safety Act* does not currently establish a clear legal framework for the operation of privately owned micromobility devices on public infrastructure, limiting municipalities' ability to effectively regulate their use;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has the authority to establish regulations under the *Traffic Safety Act* and has undertaken consultation regarding the regulation of personal micromobility devices; and

WHEREAS the absence of a defined provincial framework creates challenges related to enforcement, public understanding, and safety, including concerns related to speed limits, age restrictions, mandatory helmet use, particularly for youth, and clear definitions of where devices can operate.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to amend the *Traffic Safety Act* and its associated regulations to establish a clear and consistent provincial framework for the operation and use of personal micromobility devices, while providing municipalities with autonomy for bylaw enforcement within their jurisdiction as needed.

BACKGROUND:

The *Traffic Safety Act* establishes the legislative framework governing the use of vehicles on roadways, sidewalks, and pathways across Alberta. However, the Act has not kept pace with the rapid emergence and adoption of personal micromobility devices (PMDs), such as e-scooters, e-bikes, hoverboards, and other small electric mobility options.

Municipalities across Alberta have participated in provincially authorized pilot programs for shared e-scooter services. Through these pilots, municipalities have developed a range of approaches to managing these programs, including designated parking areas, speed restrictions, operating zones, and safety requirements, reflecting local priorities and infrastructure considerations. While these programs have demonstrated the benefits of micromobility, they have also highlighted gaps in the current legislative framework, particularly with respect to privately owned devices.

As personal micromobility devices become more widely available for individual purchase, safety and enforcement challenges are increasing. Key considerations include how to regulate speed, ensure helmet use, and clearly define where PMDs are permitted to operate. While shared fleet operators have the ability to implement technological controls such as speed limiting and geofencing, no comparable mechanisms exist for privately owned devices. This creates inconsistent enforcement environments and increases the risk of unsafe or non-compliant use.

The absence of a clear, province-wide regulatory framework has also resulted in varied approaches across municipalities. While this reflects local flexibility, it may also contribute to confusion among users regarding acceptable practices and expectations as they move between communities.

The Government of Alberta has been engaging stakeholders on the regulation of personal micromobility devices, beginning late-2025. This work is expected to inform potential amendments to the *Traffic Safety Act* and associated regulations, with legislation anticipated as early as fall 2026. As a participant in this process, Alberta Municipalities has expressed support for enabling PMDs (based on the existing [resolution](#) from the City of Calgary that expires in fall 2026) and emphasized the importance of ensuring that any new regulatory framework both enhances safety and respects municipal autonomy.

As part of this work, there is an opportunity for the province to provide greater clarity while maintaining local flexibility. The development of a provincial best-practices guide could support municipalities in implementing consistent and effective approaches to PMD regulation. Such a guide could outline recommended speed limits, helmet requirements, and appropriate riding zones, enabling municipalities to adopt approaches suited to their local context while promoting safe and consistent use across Alberta.

A coordinated provincial framework, supported by best practices and developed in collaboration with municipalities, would help ensure that PMDs are used safely, consistently, and in alignment with local needs and priorities.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

As noted above, ABmunis has previously provided feedback to the Province on stakeholder engagement related to this issue and has emphasized the importance of clear regulatory frameworks that enable municipalities to determine whether and how PMDs operate within their communities. This resolution aligns with the advocacy advanced through the City of Calgary's resolution, which is set to expire in 2026, and would support the continuation of that work. While the issue does not currently align with ABmunis priority strategic initiatives, it is consistent with ABmunis' support for municipal autonomy, local decision-making, and the ability of municipalities to address community needs through appropriate regulatory tools.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the relevant policy committee(s) 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:

Kristin Lewis
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City of Spruce Grove
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C2: Family Support for Children with Disabilities Transparency and Timely Access

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

WHEREAS the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program is intended to provide timely, needs based supports to children with disabilities and their families across Alberta;

WHEREAS families across Alberta report prolonged wait times for FSCD services and limited communication regarding application status and anticipated timelines;

WHEREAS extended delays in accessing FSCD supports can contribute to employment disruption, financial hardship, missed developmental opportunities for children, and increased strain on families;

WHEREAS timely FSCD supports help children participate more fully in community life while supporting family stability and parental workforce participation;

WHEREAS in 2022, the Government of Alberta discontinued routine public reporting of FSCD wait list data that had shown how many approved or eligible families were awaiting services; and

WHEREAS transparency, timely communication, and accessible information are fundamental to equitable and accountable public service delivery.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to improve transparency, communication, and timeliness within the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program by:

1. Reinstating routine public reporting on FSCD wait list volumes and average wait times at key stages of the process;
2. Ensuring families awaiting FSCD supports receive clear, proactive communication regarding application status and expected next steps;
3. Allocating targeted, time-limited resources to reduce existing FSCD backlogs so approved supports can be accessed within reasonable timelines; and
4. Establishing transparency and timeliness as core operational standards within the FSCD program.

BACKGROUND:

Municipal leaders across Alberta hear from families facing significant delays and limited communication within the FSCD program. While municipalities do not administer FSCD, the effects of delayed access are felt locally through reduced workforce participation, increased pressure on community-based supports, and broader impacts on community wellbeing.

A 2024 Inclusion Alberta survey of 746 families across 81 electoral divisions reported that families waited an estimated three years after applying to access the full range of FSCD services, including average waits of approximately 7.5 months for an eligibility decision and a further 10 months before initial supports began. The same survey reported that 58 percent of families experienced negative impacts while going without required supports, including employment disruption, financial hardship, and missed developmental opportunities.

The discontinuation of routine public reporting on FSCD waitlist data in 2022 reduced transparency and made it more difficult for families, municipalities, and communities to understand system pressures and anticipated timelines.

This resolution does not prescribe a specific service delivery model. It focuses on practical governance level improvements to transparency, communication, and timeliness that would improve accountability and reduce uncertainty for families while broader system improvements are pursued.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this specific issue. If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

Anna Cooper-Abel
Senior Administrator
Town of Sylvan Lake
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C3: Alignment of Municipal Fiscal Year with Provincial and Federal Budget Cycles

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

WHEREAS municipalities rely on funding, grants, and policy direction from provincial and federal governments to support municipal operations, infrastructure, and service delivery;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta and Government of Canada operate on a fiscal year of April 1 to March 31, which differs from the fiscal calendar used by municipalities;

WHEREAS differences in fiscal year timing create challenges for municipalities in financial planning, budgeting, forecasting, reporting, and aligning priorities with other orders of government; and

WHEREAS aligning municipal fiscal years with provincial and federal fiscal calendars would improve coordination, transparency, responsiveness to funding opportunities, and long-term financial planning.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to amend relevant legislation and regulations to change the municipal fiscal and budget cycle to align with the provincial and federal fiscal calendar of April 1 to March 31.

BACKGROUND:

Municipalities operate within a broader intergovernmental environment where provincial and federal funding programs, policy decisions, and budget cycles influence local planning and service delivery.

The proposed resolution identifies fiscal year alignment as a potential mechanism to improve coordination between municipalities and other orders of government. The differences in fiscal timing may contribute to:

- challenges in aligning approved municipal budgets with funding announcements;
- the need for mid-year budget adjustments and reforecasting; and
- timing pressures in implementing funded programs and capital projects.

These potential benefits form the basis of the proposed resolution and reflect a broader interest in improving coordination across orders of government. Aligning municipal fiscal years with provincial and federal budget cycles (April 1 to March 31) may offer benefits, including:

- improved ability to align budgets with confirmed funding announcements;
- enhanced multi-year financial planning; and
- greater coordination across shared priorities and programs.

A recent 2024 study published by the C.D. Howe Institute further highlights the importance of fiscal alignment and long-term financial coordination across governments. The report notes that timing differences between municipal and senior government budget cycles can create planning inefficiencies, reduce predictability for local governments, and complicate the implementation of infrastructure and funding programs. The study also emphasizes the increasing financial pressures municipalities face in managing infrastructure, service delivery, and long-term capital planning within an evolving intergovernmental funding environment. While municipalities across Canada operate under different legislative and fiscal structures, the report identifies improved fiscal coordination and planning alignment as important considerations in supporting sustainable municipal financial management.¹

¹ C.D. Howe Institute, Mind the Gap: Canada's Municipal Infrastructure Challenge, April 2025. Available at: https://cdhowe.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Commentary_681-1.pdf

The proposed resolution is intended to support further discussion and advocacy regarding fiscal coordination between municipalities and other orders of government. As municipalities continue to manage increasingly complex financial and infrastructure responsibilities, improved alignment of fiscal and budget cycles may contribute to more effective long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of shared priorities and funding programs.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have an established policy position on this issue.

Changing the timing of the fiscal year for municipalities would impact other processes such as assessment valuation dates, tax deadlines for Albertans and businesses, and provincial reporting systems. It would also impact time demands on professions like assessors, engineers, and auditors. Research would be required to determine the costs associated with changing both municipal and provincial processes and systems, which could be significant. In turn, this research would require an investment of time and resources by ABmunis. If this resolution is approved, ABmunis would have to consider our ability, in relation to other priorities, to effectively engage the Government of Alberta, municipalities and related professionals to understand the benefit and costs.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

Ryan Veldkamp
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C4: Strengthening Auditor Reporting of Financial Irregularities in Municipal Financial Statements

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

WHEREAS municipal councils rely on audited financial statements as a primary accountability tool to support transparent decision-making, public trust, and sound stewardship of municipal funds;

WHEREAS auditors may identify financial irregularities during municipal audits, such as unexplained variances, misclassifications, procurement or contract anomalies, weak internal controls, or unusual reserve transactions, that are not always clearly, consistently, or plainly communicated to municipal councils or the public;

WHEREAS current Canadian auditing standards and practices may result in such irregularities being communicated in highly technical language or dispersed throughout audit documents, making it difficult for elected officials and the public to readily understand potential financial risk or governance implications; and

WHEREAS clearer, more standardized, and plain-language reporting of significant audit findings would improve transparency, strengthen financial oversight, reduce long-term financial risk, and reinforce public confidence in municipal governance.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities urge the Government of Alberta to work with the appropriate professional bodies, including the Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta (CPA Alberta), to strengthen professional standards, guidance, and training requirements so that auditors clearly and explicitly report significant financial irregularities identified during municipal audits.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities requests the Government of Alberta encourage CPA Alberta to develop a standardized, plain-language Municipal Audit Executive Summary to accompany municipal audited financial statements, outlining key information for council and public understanding, including but not limited to:

- the municipality's overall financial position;
- observations related to investments and major infrastructure assets;
- the status and flexibility of municipal reserves;
- findings related to fraud risk, compliance, and internal controls;
- identification of material financial or governance risks; and
- comments on the municipality's financial health.

BACKGROUND:

Municipalities are often the largest financial organizations within their communities, managing significant public funds, major infrastructure assets, complex procurement processes, and long-term debt and reserve strategies. Despite this responsibility, many municipalities, particularly small and mid-sized ones, operate with limited financial staff, constrained internal controls, and increasing exposure to financial complexity and risk.

External audits play a critical role in supporting municipal accountability and governance. However, auditors only may identify financial irregularities, such as unexplained variances, questionable journal entries, procurement anomalies, reserve movements, or control weaknesses, that do not meet the strict threshold of a "material misstatement" but still represent meaningful governance, compliance, or risk concerns. When these matters are not clearly disclosed, councils may lack timely and complete information needed to identify issues early and take corrective action.

All Alberta municipalities are impacted, as every municipality is required to obtain an annual external audit. A clear, consistent, and plain-language reporting format from audit firms will restore confidence, with clarity on the financial health of their community.

This in turn will prevent that brave council representative from having to ask the question, “So...is our municipality in a good financial position?”.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this particular issue.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis’ Board by the relevant policy committee(s) 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:

Rick Binnendyk
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Penhold
rbinnendyk@townofpenhold.ca

C5: Door-to-Door Solar Sales**Moved by:** City of St. Albert**Seconded by:** Town of Jasper, Town of Rocky Mountain House, Town of Westlock

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta's Clean Energy Improvements Regulation enables municipalities to establish Clean Energy Improvement Programs (CEIP) that provide for the financing of specific residential and commercial energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades, including insulation, heating and cooling systems, and solar photovoltaic panels (solar PV);

WHEREAS CEIP participation is contingent upon compliance with specific program requirements, including the use of approved contractors and eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades and products;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta introduced consumer protection measures in 2017 to restrict door-to-door sales of specific "household energy products," including furnaces, water heaters, windows and air conditioners;

WHEREAS these restrictions do not include solar PV systems, resulting in solar PV contractors being exempt from the door-to-door sales prohibitions that apply to other contractors that deliver CEIP-financed products for Albertans; and

WHEREAS this regulatory gap has contributed to misinformation being shared regarding CEIP eligibility and financing terms, contributing to consumer confusion and financial misunderstanding, and placing additional administrative burden on municipalities delivering CEIP programs.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to enhance regulatory oversight for door-to-door solar PV sales, and to engage with Alberta Municipalities and the solar PV industry to protect consumers from misinformation regarding municipal CEIP programs.

BACKGROUND:

The Government of Alberta's Clean Energy Improvements Regulation came into force in January 2019, which allowed for the implementation of Alberta Municipalities' Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP). CEIP is an innovative financing tool that enables residential and commercial property owners in municipalities that pass a clean energy improvement tax bylaw to access long-term financing to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades, and to pay it off over long-term through their property tax bill.

As of 2026, 29 municipalities are running active CEIP programs across Alberta, with over 1,000 projects being completed and \$125 million in financing being made available. Upgrades such as insulation, windows/doors, heat pumps, and solar PV installations are some of the eligible products covered by CEIP. This injection of funding into the home upgrade market has boosted economic activity and financial opportunities in the home contracting trades; over 675 Albertan contractors have been designated as "CEIP Qualified Contractors," which include electricians, plumbing & HVAC contractors, and solar PV contractors among others.

However, regulatory gaps within the Consumer Protection Act have created an uneven playing field among CEIP contractors and increased the risk of misinformation regarding program eligibility and financing terms. Of particular relevance is the fact that certain door-to-door sales activities were banned by the Government of Alberta in 2017, however this ban only applied to the following specific "household energy products":

- Furnaces
- Natural gas and electricity energy contracts
- Water heaters

- Windows
- Air conditioners
- Energy audits

Although this ban covers the majority of contractors that deliver CEIP upgrades, it does not cover solar PV contractors, meaning these contractors do not have the same restrictions and can engage in door-to-door sales activities.

In addition to the consequences of creating an uneven playing field for CEIP contractors, this regulatory gap also creates financial strain on municipalities, as many municipalities with CEIP programs have needed to direct more staff resources to handling resident inquiries and complaints regarding information provided to them by solar PV contractors performing unsolicited door-to-door sales.

This resolution seeks to ensure solar PV contractors are subject to comparable consumer protection standards as other home energy contractors participating in CEIP programs. This will protect Alberta consumers, support fair market conditions, and reduce associated administrative burdens on municipalities that must correct misinformation on CEIP program criteria and eligibility.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have an established policy position on this issue.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the relevant policy committee(s) 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
Government Relations Advisor
City of St. Albert
mkilloh@stalbert.ca

C6: Restoring Provincial Support for Perpetual Conservation Easements

Moved by: Town of Cochrane
 Seconded by: Town of Innisfail

WHEREAS conservation easements have historically been used in Alberta as a voluntary land stewardship tool to protect ecologically significant areas, agricultural lands, and natural heritage features;

WHEREAS perpetual conservation easements provide long-term certainty for landowners, municipalities, and conservation organizations seeking to preserve lands with environmental, agricultural, or cultural value;

WHEREAS municipalities rely on long-term land-use planning to manage growth, infrastructure, and environmental stewardship, which benefits from tools that provide lasting certainty on the use of land;

WHEREAS recent shifts in provincial policy, through the newly created Private Land Conservation Program, have reduced support for perpetual conservation easements based on the principle that land should remain available for future use; and

WHEREAS time-limited conservation tools can provide flexibility in land use but may not be suitable in all circumstances, particularly where long-term or permanent conservation outcomes are desired.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to restore policy support under the Private Land Conservation Program for perpetual conservation easements as a voluntary land stewardship tool, ensuring municipalities, landowners, and conservation organizations have access to this option where locally supported and aligned with environmental, agricultural, or community planning objectives.

BACKGROUND:

Perpetual conservation easements have long been used in Alberta as a mechanism to conserve lands of environmental, agricultural, and cultural importance. These easements are voluntary agreements between landowners and qualified organizations that restrict certain types of development in order to protect identified values on the land.

A change to the Land Trust Grant Program, now known as the [Private Land Conservation Program](#), has reduced support for perpetual easements, based on a preference for maintaining future land-use flexibility. While this approach emphasizes adaptability by allowing for term easements of up to 50 years, it may limit the ability of municipalities and landowners to secure long-term conservation outcomes where there is strong local support to do so.

Perpetual conservation easements would be voluntary and landowner-initiated. They would not restrict options on other properties. This resolution is about preserving choice for municipalities. Time-limited easements provide flexibility, while perpetual easements provide certainty. Municipalities and landowners should have access to both tools to reflect local priorities and the nature of the land being protected.

For municipalities, conservation easements can support broader land-use planning objectives, including protecting natural areas, maintaining agricultural viability, and preserving community character. They can also complement growth management by directing development to appropriate areas while conserving lands that provide ecological or cultural benefits.

Restoring provincial support for perpetual conservation easements does not require mandating their use. Rather, it would ensure that municipalities, landowners, and conservation partners retain access to this tool as one option among many. This approach respects local decision-making and property rights while enabling communities to pursue conservation outcomes that reflect their priorities.

This issue is relevant to municipalities across Alberta, particularly those experiencing growth pressures alongside the need to protect natural and agricultural landscapes. Providing access to a full suite of voluntary land-use tools supports balanced, locally informed decision-making.

The proposed resolution aligns with Alberta Municipalities' broader interests in supporting responsible land-use planning, environmental stewardship, and ensuring municipalities have the tools needed to manage growth effectively.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not have an established policy position specific to restoring provincial support for perpetual conservation easements, and no previous resolutions have directly addressed this issue.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

Christine Raves
Senior Advisor, Intergovernmental Relations
Town of Cochrane
christine.raves@cochrane.ca

C7: Remediation of Contaminated Properties

Moved by: Town of Vermilion
Seconded by: Village of Marwayne

WHEREAS there are numerous contaminated and derelict properties throughout Alberta which are left abandoned by property owners each year, often accompanied by unpaid property taxes;

WHEREAS contaminated and derelict properties negatively affect property owners and municipalities;

WHEREAS previous grant funding from the Government of Alberta was not adequate to remediate properties and is no longer available;

WHEREAS applicable acts and regulations do not properly distinguish between current owners and original polluters, and further do not completely prevent the original polluter from evading their remediation responsibilities; and

WHEREAS municipalities face the dilemma of either seizing these properties through unpaid taxes and therefore inheriting the liability; or allowing the continued contamination of lands and accumulation of unpaid taxes.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to review relevant legislation to enable the differentiation between current and former owners with respect to liability for contaminated properties; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to reinstate an adequately funded grant program to facilitate the remediation of contaminated properties.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Vermilion, along with many neighbouring municipalities, continues to face a growing and significant challenge related to contaminated and environmentally compromised properties. In many cases, property owners have failed or refused to take responsibility for the remediation and cleanup of these sites, while also neglecting to pay municipal property taxes associated with the properties.

Despite enforcement efforts by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, including the issuance of Environmental Protection Orders, municipalities are finding that compliance remains extremely limited. Property owners are either unwilling to undertake the required remediation work or, in some instances, cannot be located at all. As a result, contaminated properties are being left abandoned within communities, creating ongoing environmental, financial, and public safety concerns.

This issue places an increasingly unfair burden on municipalities and local taxpayers, who are left to manage the long-term impacts of derelict and contaminated sites without the necessary authority, resources, or financial support to adequately address them.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis has considered issues related to contaminated properties and brownfield redevelopment through previous resolutions, including the [2012 resolution](#) on abandoned energy infrastructure and the [2021 resolution](#) on creating jobs through remediating and redeveloping brownfields. These recognize the financial and regulatory challenges municipalities face in addressing contaminated sites.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

Shannon Harrower
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Vermilion
sharrower@vermilion.ca

C8: Equitable Provincial Charitable Gaming Model

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

WHEREAS charitable organizations provide a valuable service across Alberta and their sustainability is of utmost importance to Alberta society;

WHEREAS charitable organizations that experience financial instability may impact municipalities through increased requests for funding, or subsequent community reliance on municipalities to provide services that can no longer be sustainably delivered by charitable organizations;

WHEREAS Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) helps to ensure the sustainability of charitable organizations through revenue generation made possible by volunteer charitable casino events, known as Alberta's Charitable Gaming Model¹;

WHEREAS Alberta's Charitable Gaming Model was responsible for over \$422.8 million in revenue raised by thousands of Alberta charitable organizations in 2024-25²;

WHEREAS previous reviews of Alberta's Charitable Gaming Model conducted by the Government of Alberta and AGLC have articulated that an inequitable model for the disbursement of casino revenues to charities currently exists, and that the frequency of revenue generating opportunities varies greatly based on location;

WHEREAS the AGLC initiated a charitable gaming review in 2019-2021 and published a "What We Heard Report"³ Since, then no substantive action has been taken to address the issues identified in the review.

WHEREAS Since the latest review, the gaming landscape has evolved with the introduction of the province's iGaming Strategy for online gaming⁴ and Play Alberta.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta and AGLC to implement mechanisms to improve the sustainability of charities, including but not limited to, a more equitable and transparent provincial Charitable Gaming Model, funding from online gaming, or funding from other AGLC-administered sources.

BACKGROUND:

Under Alberta's current Charitable Gaming Model⁵, adopted in 2003, charitable groups may be licensed by the AGLC to conduct charity casinos in coordination with licensed private casino facilities as a revenue generating opportunity. These revenues are critical for charitable organizations' sustainability and ability to provide services to communities across Alberta.

There are 19 casino facilities⁶ located throughout Alberta, each of which belongs to a "casino region." Charities are generally assigned to their nearest casino facility. While charities located within Edmonton and Calgary and charities that provide province-wide services are permitted to receive a license for a casino event in Edmonton or Calgary casino facilities.

¹ <https://aglc.ca/gaming/charitablegaming/albertas-charitable-gaming-model>

² <https://aglc.ca/gaming/charitablegaming/albertas-charitable-gaming-model>

³ https://aglc.ca/sites/aglc.ca/files/aglc_files/CGR-What_We_Heard.pdf

⁴ <https://www.alberta.ca/albertas-igaming-strategy>

⁵ <https://aglc.ca/gaming/charitablegaming/albertas-charitable-gaming-model>

⁶ <https://aglc.ca/about-us/publications/quick-facts>

In a 2010 MLA Advisory Report⁷ on “Eligible Organizations’ Access to and Distribution of Proceeds from Licensed Casino Events,” it was identified that inequities exist because:

- There is a long waiting period to hold casino events across the province because there are more charitable organizations than there are possible casino events—waiting times vary from 16 months to 34.5 months depending on the region.
- Amongst casino regions, charitable proceeds can vary among regions, from an average high of \$77,486 to \$18,011.

Despite this report, inequities continued to persist over the subsequent decade. From 2019 through to 2021, AGLC surveyed over 3,800 organizations and conducted targeted stakeholder engagement with 90 charitable organizations and casino representatives as part of their Charitable Gaming Review. Input consistently showed concern that the current charitable gaming model results in regional disparities in wait times for casino events and the amount of proceeds earned from those events, and that these disparities are exaggerated by higher costs for rural charities such as increased transportation costs. There were a wide variety of recommendations looking at what types of organizations should have access to casino revenue, how revenues should be distributed and how regional boundaries could be adjusted.

Since this report was published, neither AGLC nor the Government of Alberta have implemented policy changes to action any of the above-mentioned recommendations.

Furthermore, the landscape of gaming has changed since this report; in 2020, AGLC launched Play Alberta, a provincially-regulated online gaming platform. Play Alberta generated \$37 million in revenue its first year, and has now grown to generate \$270 million in revenue for 2025. This new revenue stream did not exist when AGLC conducted the Charitable Gaming Review referenced above and serves as an example that while the gaming industry has evolved and changed, Alberta’s Charitable Gaming Model has not.

The increased emphasis on this issue in recent years – reflected in two historic resolutions approved by Alberta Municipalities members (with 88% member support in 2018, and 92% member support in 2022)⁸ as well as resolutions approved by Rural Municipalities of Alberta⁹ – creates a strong foundation for Alberta Municipalities to continue advocating on this issue to the Government of Alberta and AGLC with the support of a diverse range of municipalities.

The City of St. Albert hopes that this advocacy will advance the long-standing recommendations for a more equitable and transparent provincial Charitable Gaming Model, that improves access to revenues for charities throughout Alberta. Since last bringing forward this resolution in 2022, online gaming has grown significantly, and this may present alternative revenue sources to sustainably fund Alberta charitable organizations as well.

⁷ <https://doczz.net/doc/1097736/proceeds-to-charities-from-licensed-casino-events>

⁸ AB Munis Resolutions:

- <https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/resolutions-library/gamingcasino-funds>
- <https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/resolutions-library/equitable-provincial-charitable-gaming-model>
- <https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/resolutions-library/equitable-provincial-charitable-gaming-model-0>

⁹ RMA Resolutions:

- <https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/18-02f-casino-opportunities-for-charitable-organizations/>
- <https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/20-16f-casino-opportunities-for-charitable-organizations/>
- <https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/13-17f-aamdc-advisory-committee-to-support-the-alberta-gaming-and-liquor-commission-in-reviewing-charitable-gaming-in-alberta/>
- <https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/12-23s-casino-opportunities-for-charitable-organizations/>

The following table outlines the wait times and revenues each casino-region received as of December 31, 2024¹⁰.

Casino Region	2024 Wait Time for Key Events (Months)	2024 Annualized Return (product of wait times and proceeds)
Calgary	20	\$49,281
Calgary-Rural	36	\$21,494
Camrose	40	\$ 5,760
Edmonton	22	\$42,730
Fort McMurray	17	\$20,852
Grande Prairie	28	\$16,459
Lethbridge	33	\$12,898
Medicine Hat	17	\$12,967
Red Deer	34	\$10,484
St. Albert	31	\$ 7,379

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS

Members passed similar resolutions in 2009, 2018, and 2022, ABmunis does not currently have a position on this issue.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

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

¹⁰ <https://aglc.ca/gaming/charitable-gaming/distribution-revenue>

C9: Strengthening Alberta Municipalities' voice to the Province by Increasing the Resolution Voting Threshold

Moved by: Town of Penhold
Seconded by: Strathcona County

WHEREAS the Alberta Municipalities' (ABmunis) Resolutions Policy No. AP002 sets the process for members resolutions during the annual ABmunis convention.

WHEREAS the Resolutions Policy currently requires a simple majority of votes cast (50% plus one) for a resolution to be adopted;¹

WHEREAS resolutions adopted with narrow margins may not clearly represent the collective position of Alberta's members, which can reduce the effectiveness and credibility of ABmunis' advocacy with provincial and federal governments; and

WHEREAS increasing the voting threshold for resolutions would ensure that only those resolutions with substantial and demonstrable member support are advanced, thereby strengthening ABmunis' advocacy focus and improving alignment with its strategic priorities;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities conduct member engagement on Resolution Policy No. AP002 to identify areas for improvement to the resolution process, including exploring the potential benefits of increasing the voting threshold required for the adoption of resolutions from a simple majority (50% plus one) to a two-thirds (66%) majority of votes cast, representing at least two-thirds of its members.

BACKGROUND:

The ABmunis' Resolution Policy No. AP002 is intended to establish a clear and consistent process for resolutions that align with ABmunis broader advocacy initiatives. ABmunis mission is to be the voice of urban municipalities and provide visionary leadership, solutions-based advocacy, and service excellence on behalf of over 260 municipalities who are facing a variety of complex issues.

The Resolution Policy sets out the process for:

- The call of resolutions,
- Requirements of movers and seconders,
- Researching, writing, and submitting resolutions,
- The process for emergent resolutions,
- ABmunis Review of resolutions,
- The process of the resolution session during convention, including the introduction and debate of resolutions, amendments, and voting, and
- The action on adopted resolutions following convention.

To ensure clarity in the Resolutions Policy, member engagement is important to gain insights on where the resolution process could be improved. For example, the Resolution Policy establishes the voting threshold for resolutions to be approved as a simple majority (50% plus one of votes cast).

¹ [Alberta Municipalities, Resolutions Policy No. AP002, approved December 19, 2024.](#)

According to ABmunis, between 2017 and 2025, its members adopted 162 votes on resolutions based on the 50% plus one threshold. If a two-thirds majority were required for those votes to be successful, it would have reduced the number of successful resolutions to 146.

Raising the voting threshold would ensure that ABmunis resolutions reflect strong, broad-based member support. This would result in fewer endorsed resolutions and provide clearer direction to the Board, staff, and provincial and federal decision-makers on where there is true municipal consensus.

A review of other provincial municipal associations shows that approaches to resolution voting thresholds vary, with some organizations maintaining a simple majority while others employ higher or supermajority requirements to strengthen mandate clarity:

Association	Voting Threshold	Relevant Policy
ABmunis	50%+1	abmunis.ca/resources/policies
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)	60%	rmalberta.com/advocacy/resolutions/
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA)	50%+1	suma.org/advocacy/resolutions
Union of BC Municipalities	50%+1	ubcm.ca/resolutions/resolutions-process

Provincial municipal associations take differing approaches to resolution voting, with most using a simple majority while some implement higher thresholds to reinforce stronger consensus and mandate clarity.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis uses the [Advocacy Prioritization Policy](#) to establish a process that engages and serves our members in addressing priority issues within ABmunis capacity. The policy is used to assign a level of priority to each resolution, which determines the level effort ABmunis invests in advocating on the issue.

If this resolution passes, ABmunis will engage with members to provide information, review and make any required amendments to the Resolutions Policy. This engagement will be a significant undertaking, requiring additional ABmunis resources to engage with members and outline options for consideration.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

Rick Binnendyk
 Chief Administrative Officer
 Town of Penhold
rbinnendyk@townofpenhold.ca

2026 RESOLUTIONS

Emergent Resolutions

E1: Investing in Prevention: Strengthening FCSS and Community Well-Being

Moved by: City of Red Deer
Seconded by: Alberta Municipalities Board

WHEREAS Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) was established in April 1966 and has, for 60 years, operated through a unique 80/20 cost-sharing partnership between the Government of Alberta and municipalities, expanding to include Métis Settlements in 1981;

WHEREAS FCSS supports more than 200 programs in over 300 municipalities and Metis settlements across Alberta and is often the only community-based social serving agency physically present in rural, small and remote communities;

WHEREAS FCSS is locally driven and focused on prevention, addressing social challenges before they escalate into crisis, yet stagnant provincial funding, increasing complexity and population growth along with changes within Alberta's broader social service and income support systems have left these programs struggling to meet demand and responding to needs that fall outside their traditional mandate;¹

WHEREAS on June 2, 2026, the Government of Alberta moved FCSS from the Ministry of Assisted Living and Social Services (ALSS) to the Ministry of Arts, Culture, and the Status of Women creating potential challenges for alignment with Alberta's broader preventative social services system;

WHEREAS the former Minister of ALSS had encouraged and facilitated discussions across the ministry from Preventative Community Services to Continuing Care to explore complementary community prevention programming that could help address the increasing complexity and demands, and the ministry transfer may hinder progress on these discussions;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta for:

- long-term, sustainable, needs-based funding for complementary community prevention services to expand access to early intervention and practical community supports; and
- continued collaboration between FCSS and the broader social service and prevention systems to ensure a strong and effective continuum of care.

BACKGROUND:

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is Alberta's primary community-based prevention program. For 60 years, it has helped municipalities and Métis Settlements address social challenges before they become crises. However, communities are facing growing and more complex needs while provincial FCSS funding has remained relatively unchanged for the past decade. For example, between 2022 and 2024 homelessness in the City of Red Deer grew by 235 percent, and in 2024 one in nine of the calls that the City's social diversion team responded to was for a lack of access to basic needs.² Many rural, remote, and smaller communities have limited access to provincially funded social services, requiring residents to travel to neighbouring communities or regional centres for support. This can increase demand on service providers and municipal supports in those communities, while highlighting broader gaps in Alberta's prevention and social service system. As a result, municipalities are increasingly being asked to respond to needs that fall outside FCSS's mandate and available resources.

Communities across Alberta are experiencing increased demand for social supports and more complex social challenges. FCSS programs report growing needs related to housing instability, mental health, addictions, social isolation, food insecurity, and financial pressures. Many individuals and families require support for multiple issues

¹ See: Alberta Municipalities, June 2026, [FCSS Advocacy Toolkit](#).

² Red Deer & District FCSS, [Trends in Review 2025: A Review of Social Trends in the Red Deer and District Area](#), p. 2-10.

at the same time, increasing pressure on local service providers and municipalities. Examples from both rural and urban communities show significant increases in demand for FCSS services, referrals, and support requests. For example, in 2023 the Kneehill Regional FCSS noted a general increase in referrals to Alberta Supports and local food, clothing and furniture banks, housing supports and mental health supports³ and in 2024 provided 23,795 service hours which is about a 22 percent increase over their benchmark.⁴ The City of Edmonton found in 2024 individuals accessing supports were facing multiple challenges at once: mental health, addiction, instable housing and financial difficulties which required more intensive and integrated support.⁵ Based on discussions among municipalities, these specific examples represent the experience of many communities throughout Alberta.

Municipalities' concerns about changes to Alberta's social and income support systems reflect broader concerns about growing service gaps, growing demand for local supports, and the resulting pressure on municipalities and community-based programs such as FCSS. FCSS programs are increasingly being asked to help residents navigate gaps in Alberta's broader social service system. In many communities, FCSS has become the first-place residents turn when they cannot access other supports.⁶ While FCSS plays an important prevention role, many of these needs fall outside its mandate or require services that FCSS is not permitted to fund directly.⁷ Transportation, case management, hands on service coordination, outreach, and practical supports are common examples of services that can prevent crises but may not fit within existing FCSS funding rules.

Municipalities and FCSS programs have identified opportunities for additional needs-based, prevention-focused investments that would complement, rather than replace, FCSS. Expanding access to practical community supports and early intervention⁸ services could help address emerging needs before they escalate, improve residents' quality of life, and reduce pressure on more costly health and social service systems. One potential model is [Healthy Aging Alberta](#), which has demonstrated success in providing early intervention and community-based supports for older adults. Similar complementary programming could be adapted to serve Albertans of all ages and help address prevention-related gaps that municipalities and FCSS programs have consistently identified.

ABmunis is advocating for additional provincial investment in FCSS (See: [ABmunis FCSS Advocacy Toolkit](#)). During discussions with the former Minister of ALSS, opportunities were identified to explore complementary prevention programming that could address gaps not currently met through FCSS while strengthening outcomes for Albertans.

The Government of Alberta's June 2026 transfer of FCSS to the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women has created uncertainty about how these discussions and FCSS connections to Alberta's broader prevention and social service systems will continue. Municipalities remain committed to FCSS's locally driven prevention model and believe continued collaboration across ministries, service systems, municipalities, and community organizations is essential to ensure Albertans can access the right support at the right time.

This issue is being raised as an emergent resolution because the transfer of FCSS occurred after the resolutions deadline. There is a risk that momentum toward increased FCSS funding, recognition of FCSS's role within Alberta's continuum of care, and exploration of complementary prevention programming could be lost if this issue is not addressed urgently.

³ Kneehill Regional FCSS, [Annual Report 2023](#), p. 3.

⁴ Kneehill Regional FCSS, [Counselling Report to Municipalities 2025](#), p. 3.

⁵ City of Edmonton, [2024 Family and Community Support Services Annual Report](#), p. 9.

⁶ See: University of Alberta and RMA, 2023, [Understanding and Responding to the Challenges Faced by FCSS Programs in Rural Alberta](#), pp. 1-37.

⁷ University of Alberta and RMA, 2023, p. 12.

⁸ The definition of early intervention in the Government of Alberta often means addressing an issue at an early stage, after the issue has surfaced or presented itself, but before full blown crisis. These interventions tend to be intensive and directed at specific individuals experiencing significant adversity. See: Government of Alberta, March 2019, [Well-being and Resiliency: A Framework for Supporting Safe and Healthy Children and Families](#), p. 22.

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

Ryan Veldkamp
Executive Advisor, Enterprise Strategy,
Alignment & Governance
City of Red Deer
Ryan.veldkamp@reddeer.ca

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Alberta Municipalities Strength In Members

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MEETING DATE: August 17, 2026
PREPARED BY: Jolene Tejkl, Planning & Development Manager
PRESENTED BY: Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: **Increasing the Authority of the Development Officer**

BACKGROUND

Council has had discussions about the dismantling of the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) to significantly reduce Development Permit Application processing timelines for applications that must be decided upon by the Commission.

Immediately dismantling the MPC is not feasible; Administration will need some time to prepare the necessary amendments to bylaws and internal practices to prepare. In the meantime, amendments to the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) have been identified that will significantly reduce, if not entirely eliminate, the number of applications going before the MPC in the latter part of 2026, with the intention of dismantling the MPC in its entirety by the October 2027 Organizational Meeting.

DISCUSSION

The Town's LUB currently requires every Development Permit Application for a Discretionary Use in all Commercial, Industrial, and public use Districts, along with all Home Based Business 3's to go to the MPC for a decision. In addition, the LUB restricts the variance powers Development Officers have authority to decide upon to 17% of the development standards.

By amending the LUB to allow the Development Officer to render decisions on all Development Permit Applications and variance applications, it will expedite the processing timelines of these applications.

The Planning & Development Department is comfortable with these proposed amendments because there is no reason why the Development Officer's cannot make decisions on all Discretionary Use applications and exercise their discretion on all applications for variances. There is sufficient guidance within the LUB to assist the Development Officer's in making responsible decisions on these types of applications. If the Development Officer receives an application that becomes contentious or would be better decided upon in an open meeting, they will still have the option to refer the application to the MPC for the time being.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / OTHER MASTER PLAN ALIGNMENT**Economic Vitality and
Community Prosperity****Community Life,
Safety, and Inclusion****Leadership,
Engagement and
Advocacy****Sustainable Services
and Infrastructure**

Economic Vitality and Community Prosperity alignment: The Strategic Plan prioritizes attracting and retaining key businesses, supporting economic growth, and preparing policies to enable economic opportunity. Faster Development Permit processing makes it easier for businesses to start or expand operations, which supports job creation and strengthens the local economy.

Leadership, Engagement, and Advocacy alignment: Efficient permitting processes supports public trust and demonstrates Council and Administration's responsiveness to community and business needs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

COMMUNICATION / ENGAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The *Municipal Government Act* requires a Bylaw amending the LUB to be subject to a Public Hearing. The Public Hearing will be advertised in accordance with legislative requirements and will provide the public with an opportunity to speak directly to Council about the proposed amendments.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion:

1. That Standing Committee of Council refer the matter to Administration to prepare amendments to the Land Use Bylaw to increase the authority of the Development Officer and bring the proposed amendments forward for Council's consideration at a future Regular Meeting of Council.

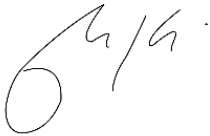
ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council refer the matter back to Administration for more information or amendments.

ATTACHMENTS

- *None.*

APPROVALS



Rick Kreklewich,
A/Chief Administrative Officer



Department Director/Author

MEETING DATE: August 17, 2026
PREPARED BY: Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer
PRESENTED BY: Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: **Proclamation Policy**

BACKGROUND

At present, the Town does not have a formal Proclamations Policy and requests are managed on a case-by-case basis. While this approach has allowed requests to be addressed as they arise, it may result in inconsistencies in how requests are evaluated and approved. Establishing a Proclamations Policy will provide for a standardized framework that promotes fairness, transparency, and consistency of future requests.

DISCUSSION

The proposed policy will provide a clear and consistent framework for the consideration of proclamation requests. In addition to supporting fair and transparent decision-making by Council, the policy will assist community organizations by clearly outlining eligibility criteria, submission requirements, and timelines. This will help applicants better understand Council's approach to proclamations. Combined with the use of annual standing proclamations through the consent agenda, the policy will improve administrative efficiency and streamline Council meeting agendas.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / OTHER MASTER PLAN ALIGNMENT



**Economic Vitality and
Community Prosperity**



**Community Life,
Safety, and Inclusion**



**Leadership,
Engagement and
Advocacy**



**Sustainable Services
and Infrastructure**

The proposed Proclamations Policy aligns with Council's Strategic Priorities of Community Life, Safety, and Inclusion by supporting the recognition of initiatives that foster community well-being, celebrate diversity, and raise awareness of important causes. It also aligns with Leadership, Engagement and Advocacy by establishing a transparent and consistent framework for considering proclamation requests, strengthening governance practices.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the approval of the Proclamations Policy.

COMMUNICATION / ENGAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Following Council, approval, the Proclamations Policy will be posted on the Town's website. Information regarding the application process, eligibility requirements, and timelines will be made available to community organizations and the public.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

That Standing Committee of Council consider the following motion(s):

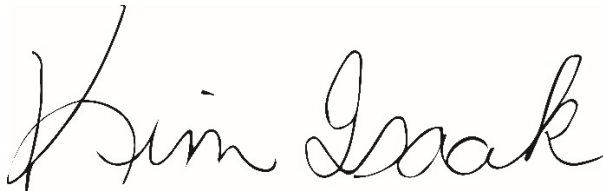
1. That Standing Committee of Council recommend that Council consider the approval of the Proclamations Policy at the September 8, 2026 Regular Meeting of Council.

ALTERNATIVES

- a) That Standing Committee of Council recommends amendments to the Proclamation Policy

ATTACHMENTS

- *Proclamation Policy.*

APPROVALS

Kim Isaak,
Chief Administrative Officer

Department Director/Author

PROCLAMATION POLICY

POLICY NO	
DIVISION DEPARTMENT	Administration
REVIEW PERIOD	Every 3 Years or Upon Legislative Change

1. POLICY PURPOSE

- 1.1 To establish the process and criteria for the issuance of Proclamations.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 Council recognizes the value of supporting charitable initiatives, arts and cultural events, public awareness campaigns, and sporting activities that contribute to community engagement and have a positive impact on the Town of Blackfalds and its residents. Proclamations will be considered and issued in accordance with a clear framework to ensure a consistent, fair, and transparent approach.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 **“Chief Administrative Officer”** (CAO) means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Blackfalds, appointed by Council as per the *Municipal Government Act*.
- 3.2 **“Council”** means all Elected Officials of the Town of Blackfalds
- 3.3 **“Senior Legislative Advisor”** means the Employee assigned to the role of the Senior Legislative Advisor.
- 3.4 **“Mayor”** means the Chief Elected Official for the Town of Blackfalds.
- 3.5 **“Proclamation”** means a formal or official announcement or statement recognizing the importance of a charitable cause or event, an arts or cultural celebration, or a public awareness campaign typically on a specific day, week or month.
- 3.6 **“Standing Proclamation”** means an annual Proclamation prescribed by this policy.
- 3.7 **“Town”** means the municipality of the Town of Blackfalds.

4. SCOPE

- 4.1 This Policy is applicable to all *Proclamations* received by the Town of Blackfalds.

5. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Council to:

- 5.1.1 Adopt and support this Policy by resolution.
- 5.1.2 Consider the allocation of resources for the successful implementation of this Policy in the annual budget process.

5.2 Mayor to:

- 5.2.1 Issue Standing Proclamations based on the criteria outlined in this Policy.

5.3 Senior Legislative Advisor to:

- 5.3.1 Review all Proclamation requests and make a recommendation to the Mayor as to whether the request meets the criteria as outlined in this policy.
- 5.3.2 Ensure all Standing Proclamations are included on the Consent Agenda after signature by the Mayor.
- 5.3.3 Prepare a report for Council on eligible Proclamation requests to be considered at a Regular Meeting of Council.

5.4 Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 5.4.1 Advise Council on the development, implementation, and amendment of this Policy.
- 5.4.2 Ensure Policy review occurs and verify the implementation of this Policy.

6. POLICY

6.1. The following Standing Proclamations may be issued on an annual basis.

- 6.1.1 National Volunteer Week
- 6.1.2 National Youth Week
- 6.1.3 National Public Works Week
- 6.1.4 Seniors Week
- 6.1.5 Alberta Development Officer's Week

6.2. Charitable or Not-For-Profit Organization Requests for Proclamations must be submitted to the Senior Legislative Advisor at least three weeks prior to the Council Meeting date the Proclamation is requested to be made at.

6.3. A request for Proclamation is subject to the Proclamation criteria as indicated in sections 6.7 and 6.8

- 6.4. The requesting organization must provide the wording of the Proclamation for it to be considered.
- 6.5. The Town reserves the right to edit and revise the wording of the Proclamation at its discretion.
- 6.6. Once issued, the Proclamation will be posted to the Town's website, however the requesting organization is responsible for:
 - 6.6.1 Any other advertising of the Proclamation and associated costs; and
 - 6.6.2 organizing related activities and associated costs.
- 6.7. Proclamation Criteria will be based on the following:
 - 6.7.1 public awareness campaign;
 - 6.7.2 charitable fundraising campaign;
 - 6.7.3 arts and culture celebration; or
 - 6.7.4 special honour for an organization or an individual.
- 6.8 If the Proclamation is based on the request of an organization, that organization must have a community presence.

7. EXCLUSIONS

- 7.1. A request for Proclamation will not be considered if:
 - 7.1.1 is political, personal conviction, or religious in nature;
 - 7.1.2 has commercial or profit making purposes;
 - 7.1.3 involves hatred, violence, discrimination, or racism;
 - 7.1.4 is inflammatory, obscene, or supports contentiousness or divisiveness in the community;
 - 7.1.5 is contrary to the Town's bylaws or policies; or
 - 7.1.6 is not related to the community and does not benefit residents.

8. SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- 8.1. None

9. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 9.1. Governance - Framework

10. END OF POLICY

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

Date

Date**POLICY RECORD HISTORY**

	Resolution No:	Date
Policy Adopted		
Policy Reviewed		
Policy Revised		

ADMINISTRATIVE REVISIONS

Date	Description