

GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Date: **November 16, 2021**
Call to Order: **10:00 a.m.**
Location: **Community Centre - Meeting Room 310**
401 Festival Lane
Sherwood Park, AB

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA
3. ADOPT AGENDA
4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

- 4.1. Resolution Review - AUMA and RMA 2021 Convention

2 - 123

To provide the Governance Advisory Committee with an overview of the resolution process and to review the resolutions going forward at the fall 2021 AUMA and RMA conventions.

5. ADJOURNMENT

2021 Resolutions Book

VERSION 2 – NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Resolutions for discussion at the 2021 Annual Convention

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association

2021 Convention

Edmonton, Alberta

November 17-19

Resolutions Session

Thursday, November 18

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About Resolutions

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (“AUMA”) represents over 260 municipalities that face a wide variety of complex issues. AUMA’s vision is to be a change agent that enables municipalities to be a fully engaged order of government with the capacity to build thriving communities. AUMA’s mission is to be the voice of our member municipalities and provide visionary leadership, solutions-based advocacy and service excellence.

As part of fulfilling our vision and mission, AUMA conducts an annual resolutions process that enables member municipalities to identify and prioritize common issues and solutions and empower AUMA’s Board of Directors to advocate to the federal and provincial governments on members’ behalf. This process includes a Resolutions Session at AUMA’s Convention where members vote on the resolutions submitted.

As set out in AUMA’s [Resolutions Policy](#), a resolution must address a topic of concern affecting municipalities on a regional or provincial level, and must be approved by the council of the sponsoring municipality and seconded by an additional municipal council. A resolution must not direct one or more municipalities to adopt a particular course of action or policy but must be worded as a request for consideration of an issue, including a call for action, by the AUMA.

Resolutions adopted by members annually at Convention are typically active for three years. AUMA administration, standing committees and the Board take action to develop and implement advocacy strategies for each resolution. Given the scope, complexity and volume of issues facing municipalities, AUMA uses a [framework](#) to prioritize where it invests our collective efforts.

All resolutions from the current year and the six previous years, including those that are both active and expired, are posted in the [Resolutions Library](#) on AUMA’s website. Resolutions are categorized under [five advocacy subject areas](#):

- Economic
- Environment
- Governance
- Infrastructure
- Social

AUMA Resolutions Policy

POLICY NO. AP002 – Revised December 2020

PURPOSE

1. AUMA represents over 260 municipalities that face a wide variety of complex issues. AUMA's vision is to be a change agent that enables municipalities to be a fully engaged order of government with the capacity to build thriving communities. AUMA's mission is to be the voice of urban municipalities and provide visionary leadership, solutions-based advocacy and service excellence.
2. As part of fulfilling our vision and mission, AUMA conducts a resolutions process that enables Member municipalities to identify and prioritize common issues and solutions that empower AUMA's Board of Directors to advocate to the federal and provincial governments on Members' behalf.
3. The purpose of the Resolutions policy ("the Policy") is to establish a clear and consistent process for resolutions that aligns with AUMA's broader advocacy initiatives.

DEFINITIONS

4. In this Policy:
 - a. "**Advocacy**" means the wide variety of actions undertaken by AUMA to address municipal issues.
 - b. "**AUMA**" means the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.
 - c. "**AUMA Administration**" means AUMA employees.
 - d. "**Board**" means the AUMA Board of Directors.
 - e. "**Board Member**" refers to a Member of the AUMA Board of Directors.
 - f. "**CEO**" means the Chief Executive Officer of AUMA.
 - g. "**Committee**" means a standing Committee of the Board or an ad-hoc Committee established by the Board.
 - h. "**Convention**" means the annual Convention held by AUMA to conduct the business of the Association, consider resolutions, and provide opportunities for education and networking.
 - i. "**Elected Representative**" refers to an elected representative of a Member of AUMA.
 - j. "**Member**" refers to a Regular Member of AUMA.
 - k. "**Political Capital**" refers to the goodwill, trust and influence a political figure/organization has with the public and other political figures/organizations.
 - l. "**Regular Member**" means any city, town, village, summer village, and specialized municipality that has been classified as a Regular Member in accordance with Article IV of the AUMA Bylaws.

- m. **Resolutions Book**” means the electronic document that includes resolutions to be considered at Convention.

POLICY

Call for Resolutions

- 5. No later than January 31 of each year, AUMA issues a call for resolutions to be considered at AUMA’s Convention during the Resolutions Session.
- 6. The call includes information on:
 - a. AUMA’s resolutions policy and process, including a resolution writing guide and template;
 - b. AUMA’s prioritization policy and process, so that Members understand how AUMA identifies the level of engagement it invests in various issues;
 - c. Strategic initiatives approved by the Board, so Members are aware of where AUMA is focusing its attention and resources; and
 - d. The Resolutions Library, so Members are aware of past resolutions and AUMA activities, as well as resolutions that are due to expire at that year’s Convention as per Section 61 of this policy.

Movers and Seconders

- 7. Resolutions may be sponsored by:
 - a. A single Member’s council. Resolutions sponsored by a single Member must be seconded by another Member’s council;
 - b. The councils of a group of Members. All group-sponsored resolutions are deemed to be seconded; or
 - c. The Board.
- 8. The sponsor of a resolution is deemed to have moved the resolution and is referred to as the “mover”.

Research and Writing

- 9. As outlined by the template in Appendix A, each resolution shall be written in the following format:
 - a. A concise title, which specifies the issue in the resolution;
 - b. A preamble of “WHEREAS” clauses, which provide a clear, brief, and factual context for the operative clause;
 - c. An operative clause, which clearly sets out what the resolution is meant to achieve and the proposal for action; and
 - d. Background information, which provides further context as to why the issue is important to Alberta municipalities.

10. The mover has primary responsibility for researching and drafting the resolution.
11. Members are encouraged to seek initial advice from AUMA Administration on resolution topics and sources of information, as well as feedback on the format, accuracy, and clarity of draft resolutions.

Submission

12. Resolutions must be submitted to AUMA Administration no later than May 31 of each year.
13. AUMA's CEO may grant an extension of the deadline if:
 - a. Convention is scheduled later than Thanksgiving Day in any year; or
 - b. Conditions prevent Members from submitting resolutions by the deadline (e.g. emergency events.)
14. Resolutions must be submitted:
 - a. Electronically, as specified in the call for resolutions;
 - b. In the format specified by the template in Appendix A;
 - c. With minutes that show proof of the moving and seconding councils' approvals as required in Section 7; and
 - d. In adherence to the guidelines presented in this policy.

Emergent Resolutions

15. A resolution related to a matter of an urgent nature arising after the resolution deadline may be considered as "emergent" on a case-by-case basis.
16. The criteria of an emergent resolution are that it **must**:
 - a. Deal with an issue of concern to Alberta municipalities that has arisen after the resolution deadline, or just prior to the resolution deadline, such that Members could not submit it as a regular resolution;
 - b. Have a critical aspect that needs to be addressed before the next Convention; and
 - c. Comply with the guidelines for resolutions set out in this policy.
17. Members wishing to move emergent resolutions shall provide notice to AUMA Administration as soon as possible with a deadline of the first day of Convention.
18. Emergent resolutions must be submitted:
 - a. Electronically, as specified in the call for resolutions;
 - b. In the format specified by the template in Appendix A;
 - c. Along with minutes that show proof of the moving council's approval and
 - d. In adherence to the guidelines presented in this policy.

19. The proposed resolution will be deemed to have met the criteria of an emergent resolution by either:
 - a. AUMA's Board, if the proposed emergent resolution is submitted before the final Board meeting prior to Convention; or
 - b. AUMA's Executive Committee, if the proposed emergent resolution is submitted after the final Board meeting prior to Convention.
20. If the Board or Executive Committee determines the resolution meets the criteria of an emergent resolution, the Board or Executive Committee will second the resolution.
21. If the resolution receives approval for consideration after the Convention Guide is sent to be published, the mover will provide AUMA with 1,000 printed copies of the resolution.
22. Emergent resolutions accepted by the AUMA Board or Executive Committee shall be added to the Resolution Session Agenda following the Category C resolutions as defined in Section 24(a).

AUMA Review

23. AUMA Administration will review resolutions as they are submitted and advise movers if a resolution:
 - a. Could trigger any of the criteria set out in Section 27;
 - b. Addresses a topic covered by an already active resolution;
 - c. Contradicts existing AUMA policy;
 - d. Should be combined with a similar resolution being moved by another municipality;
or
 - e. Has any further deficiencies such as:
 - i. Absence of any indication of the resolution being endorsed by the council of the moving and seconding municipality;
 - ii. Unclear, contradictory, incorrect, or misleading statements;
 - iii. Lack of enough background information to justify the action being proposed;
or
 - iv. Incorrect formatting.
24. AUMA Administration will compile resolutions into a draft Resolutions Book that:
 - a. Categorizes resolutions as follows:
 - i. Category A – position papers moved by the Board;
 - ii. Category B – issues that relate to AUMA's strategic initiatives; or
 - iii. Category C – other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities.

Resolutions within these categories may be grouped by theme. (e.g. governance, infrastructure, safe and healthy communities)

- b. Proposes AUMA comments on each resolution relating to:
 - i. Whether and how the resolution relates to an existing AUMA position or strategic initiative; and
 - ii. Other considerations that may affect AUMA's ability to act on the resolution.
 - c. Identifies resolutions that potentially trigger the criteria set out in Section 28.
25. AUMA's Municipal Governance Committee will review and recommend any amendments to the draft Resolutions Book as required, including proposed comments and any Section 28 concerns.
26. The draft Resolutions Book will then be forwarded to the Board for consideration.
27. To preserve AUMA's credibility, the Board reserves the right to ensure issues raised by resolutions to be considered at Convention are related to municipal interests and do not:
- a. Involve conflicts between individual municipalities;
 - b. Involve conflicts between individual municipalities and citizens, other organizations, etc.;
 - c. Involve internal issues of a municipality;
 - d. Promote the interests of individual businesses;
 - e. Direct a municipality to take a course of action;
 - f. Result in the perception that AUMA is partisan and supports a political party or candidate; or
 - g. Lack the clarity required to determine the issue and/or what is being asked of the AUMA.
28. If Section 27 conditions exist, the Board may reject the proposed resolution and notify the mover with an explanation of why the resolution will not appear in the Resolutions Book.
29. The mover of a rejected resolution may appeal the decision by bringing forward a motion at the Resolutions Session for the resolution to be considered, and the decision can be reversed by 2/3 majority of votes cast.
30. The AUMA will electronically publish and distribute the Resolutions Book to Members at least eight (8) weeks prior to Convention to give councils enough time to review and discuss the resolutions.
31. Resolutions are also published in the Resolutions Library on AUMA's website and distributed at Convention.

Resolutions Session

32. All procedures at the Resolutions Session will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order as modified by this policy.
33. As provided in AUMA's Bylaws, quorum for all proceedings at a Resolutions Session will be comprised of Elected Representatives of 25% of AUMA's Regular Members.
34. Prior to the beginning of the Resolutions Session, the Resolutions Session Chair will ask for a motion from the floor to adopt the Resolutions Session Agenda as presented in the Convention Guide, with the addition of any emergent resolutions submitted after the guide was published.
35. Amendments from the floor to the Resolutions Session Agenda will be accepted when duly moved and seconded.
36. The motion to approve the Resolutions Session Agenda will be passed by a simple majority of votes cast. A 2/3 majority of the votes cast will be required to approve amendments to the Resolutions Session Agenda.
37. If there are no amendments to the Resolutions Session Agenda, resolutions will be debated in the order they are presented in the Convention Guide. No further amendments to the approved Agenda will be accepted.
38. So long as there is quorum (Section 33), the Resolutions Session shall not be closed until all resolutions listed in the agenda are debated and voted upon, or the allotted time for the Resolutions Session has expired, unless the majority of delegates present vote to extend the allotted time.
39. Resolutions which are not debated at a Resolutions Session because of insufficient time or lack of quorum will be considered by the Board following the Convention.

Adoption

40. The Resolutions Session Chair will introduce each proposed resolution by indicating its number, title, the names of the mover and seconder, and the operative clause.
41. A mover may withdraw a proposed resolution when the resolution is introduced. In this event, the Resolutions Session Chair shall declare the resolution withdrawn and no further debate or comments will be allowed.
42. Resolutions that are moved by the Board must be seconded from the floor by an Elected Representative of a Member.

43. A spokesperson from the mover will then have up to two (2) minutes to speak to the resolution.
44. Next, AUMA comments on member-moved resolutions may be presented by a Board Member.
45. These comments must be approved in advance by the Board.
46. The Resolutions Session Chair will then open debate by calling for a speaker in opposition, seeking clarification or proposing an amendment.
47. Speakers will have a two (2) minute time limit and shall not speak more than once on any one question.
48. If no one rises to speak in opposition, for clarification, or to propose an amendment to a resolution, the question will be immediately called.
49. As provided in the AUMA Bylaws, the persons entitled to speak to a resolution during the Resolutions Session are:
 - a. Elected Representatives in attendance whose municipalities are Regular Members of AUMA in good standing.
 - b. In the event a Regular Member is unable to be represented at the Resolutions Session by an Elected Representative, an official appointed by motion of the Council to represent it, if notice of such appointment is submitted in writing to AUMA's CEO at least three (3) days prior to the date of the Resolutions Session.
 - c. Upon a motion from the floor, or at the discretion of the Resolution Session Chair, a representative of an Associate Member as defined in AUMA's bylaws.
50. No debate on accompanying background material and information for resolutions is allowed.
51. When no opposing position speaker is available, the Resolutions Session Chair will declare the end of the debate and the spokesperson from the mover will be allowed one (1) minute for the closing of debate.
52. Amendments, including "minor amendments" should be submitted in writing to the Resolutions Session Chair prior to the amendment being introduced, but verbal amendments will also be accepted from the floor.
53. Amendments must be seconded from the floor or they do not proceed.
54. Debate procedures for an amendment shall be the same as for a resolution as set out in Sections 43 to 51.

55. The conflict of interest guidelines for council votes, as outlined in the *Municipal Government Act*, shall also apply to Convention resolution votes for all delegates. It is incumbent upon each delegate to adhere to these guidelines.
56. Voting may, at the discretion of the Resolutions Session Chair, be by:
 - a. electronic device;
 - b. a show of hands of eligible voters; or
 - c. paper ballot.
57. The number of votes necessary for any resolution to pass is a simple majority of votes cast for that resolution (50% plus one vote).

Action on Adopted Resolutions

58. All adopted resolutions will be sent to the relevant provincial and/or federal ministry or organization for response.
59. Further advocacy on resolutions will be recommended to the Board by the relevant Committee based on analysis completed using the Prioritization and Levels of Engagement Frameworks in Appendix B.
60. Category A resolutions are considered active until the Board deems them to be complete or inactive.
61. Category B and C resolutions have an active life of up to three (3) years if not completed before then, following which they are deemed inactive.
62. Members or the Board may sponsor renewal of a resolution that is going to expire.

POLICY REVIEW

63. This Policy will be reviewed annually. Any required changes will be presented to the AUMA Board for approval.

APPENDICES

- A. Resolution Template
- B. Prioritization and Levels of Engagement Frameworks

APPENDIX A Resolution Template

Title of resolution:

Moved by:

Seconded by:

WHEREAS *the purpose of the “Whereas” clauses is to clearly and succinctly describe the issue or opportunity that the resolution is bringing forward, and identify why the subject is relevant to Alberta municipalities;*

WHEREAS *the clauses should identify whether the issue involves the need for information sharing, policy changes, legislative/regulatory change or a combination thereof, and refer to specific documents and sections whenever possible;*

WHEREAS *depending on the complexity of the issue, including roughly five “Whereas” clauses is ideal;*

WHEREAS *further information can be included in the background; and*

WHEREAS *these clauses should lead logically to the operative clause.*

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT *the AUMA advocate forThis operative clause is the call to action. It usually includes a request for the Government of Alberta, Government of Canada or another organization to act. This is the most important part of the resolution and should be written clearly, so there is no doubt as to what action is being requested.*

BACKGROUND:

No preamble can be comprehensive enough to give a full account of the situation that gave rise to the resolution. In all cases, supplementary or background information (1 to 2 pages max.) is necessary.

The background should answer the following questions:

- *What is the impact of the issue on Alberta municipalities and how many municipalities are impacted? (Provide examples and/or statistics where possible.)*
- *What priority should the resolution be given?*
- *Does the issue and call to action relate to one of AUMA’s strategic initiatives?*
- *Has the issue been addressed by AUMA in response to a resolution or otherwise in the past and what was the outcome?*
- *Have other associations or groups acted on this issue, or are they considering action? (e.g. Is a similar resolution being considered by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta?)*
- *What other considerations are involved? (e.g. Does the proposed action align with goals of the provincial or federal government, or other organizations?)*

APPENDIX B

Prioritization Framework

Questions	Sample considerations	Analysis
Does the issue relate to AUMA's strategic initiatives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will action on the issue contribute towards realizing the goals of the strategic initiative or will it lead to scope creep without adding value? 	
Is the issue within municipal jurisdiction?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the issue exclusive to municipalities or does it also involve federal or provincial government? 	
What is the impact on Members and how many Members are impacted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this a significant issue to a single Member or to many Members? • If the issue only impacts a few Members today, does it have the potential to impact more Members in the future? 	
Will engagement in this issue build or deplete political capital?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the issue align with the priorities of the government of the day? • Or, will we have to push to get it onto the agenda or actively counter their agenda? 	
Does the issue involve the need for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing? • Funding? • Policy Change? • Legislative/regulatory change? • All of the above? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The answer to this question will influence the time, resources and chances for success. • In general, changes to legislation requires more time and effort than changes to regulations. • Requests for funding must consider that federal and provincial governments face funding constraints. 	
Is there an opportunity for AUMA to add value to this issue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does AUMA have the expertise on staff, on the Board/Committees, among Members to add value? 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUMA is often best positioned to provide input on higher level principles and only has the capacity to engage at a detailed technical level on a limited number of issues. • Are there other organizations that have greater expertise and credibility on the issue? • Is it better for municipalities to respond directly, or is a collective response needed? 	
What are timelines involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there time to seek input from Members/Committees and seek approval from the Board? • In other words, is there time to determine a collective response, or should AUMA just let Members know about an issue and let them respond individually? 	
What are the chances of success?	<p>Given the answers to the above questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How likely will AUMA’s advocacy on an issue result in tangible benefits for Members? • Has the relevant decision maker (i.e. provincial or federal government) indicated they are open to making changes? Has a consultation process been initiated? 	
Does AUMA have the capacity to respond effectively?	<p>Given the answers to the above questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would action on this issue take time and resources away from key priorities? • Does AUMA have the time and resources to conduct appropriate analysis, engage Members, build partnerships, create meaningful solutions and report back to Members on this issue? 	

<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Based on the analysis above, what should AUMA’s level of engagement* be on this issue?</p> <p>What action should be taken?</p> <p>How will the action be reported?</p>

*As outlined in the Levels of Engagement Framework

Levels of Engagement Framework

Level of Engagement	Potential Actions	Reporting
Low – Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article in AUMA’s newsletter. • Informal email or phone call at the administrative level on issues that can be quickly resolved. • Monitoring for potential future impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information item for a Committee or Board • Update to AUMA’s Resolutions Library
Medium – Contribute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing Note or Request for Decision through a Committee seeking direction or a recommendation to AUMA’s Board. As a result, further action may be taken including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Letters ○ Meetings ○ Presentations to Committees ○ Webinars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to the relevant AUMA Committee. • Updates to Members through the AUMA’s newsletter and Resolutions Library.
High – Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement an advocacy strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular updates at to Board and relevant AUMA Committee. • Updates to Members through AUMA’s newsletter, website and events.

2021 Resolutions

Category B - Issues related to
AUMA's strategic initiatives

AUMA Resolution 2021.B1: Creating Jobs Through Remediating and Redeveloping Brownfields

Moved by: Town of Calmar

Seconded by: City of Medicine Hat

WHEREAS the Alberta government has not provided support and funding to local governments to remediate brownfields;

WHEREAS the current process to discover, investigate, remediate, and redevelop brownfields is onerous, costly, and frustrating for local governments and does not encourage and incentivize the private sector to redevelop brownfields;

WHEREAS Alberta's *Municipal Government Act* enables local government to cancel, defer, or reduce the municipal taxes on brownfields through a property tax bylaw. However, the province portion of education taxes remain on property; and

WHEREAS Legislation and regulations for remediation and reclamation changes over time. Old reclamation certificates are deemed null and void because they do not meet the current requirements. The change of standards creates significant barriers for brownfield redevelopment.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA call on the Government of Alberta to immediately implement all recommendations from the 2011 Brownfield Redevelopment Working Group. The first priority is to provide financial incentives to support municipalities in conducting environmental site assessments.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUMA ask the Government of Alberta to create a red tape reduction task force making recommendations on removing barriers for local government and the private sector to discover, investigate, remediate, and redevelop brownfields.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate the Government of Alberta develop a policy to manage old reclamation certificates deemed null and void and re-define the Orphan Well Association mandate to support legacy sites.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUMA call for a provincial brownfield tax incentive program that matches the province's education tax with municipal property tax to encourage eligible property owners to clean up brownfield properties.

BACKGROUND:

More than 1,700 brownfields sit abandoned on main streets and in neighbourhoods in almost every municipality across Alberta. The cost to remediate brownfields is quite onerous, often costing more than the property's value, resulting in private property owners choosing to

leave brownfields vacant/dormant to avoid these costs, leaving brownfields and contaminated sites a detriment to business development, community growth and aesthetics in many communities.

At a time of economic uncertainty and increased concern about the state of the environment and our economy, brownfield redevelopment provides a business opportunity for Alberta. Municipalities, the province, and the private sector need to collaborate on solutions that promote economic development, protect the environment, and improve Alberta's reputation as a responsible steward of natural resources.

In 2011, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) established a working group to identify required actions to encourage brownfield redevelopment. AUMA participated in this working group along with Municipal Affairs, the Cities of Edmonton and Calgary, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and industry stakeholders such as the Canadian Fuels Association and BILD. The group's final report, which included recommendations relating to financial tools, liability closure and educational programs, was submitted to responsible Ministers in April 2012.

Since the final report, AEP has implemented several recommendations but not all of them. A successful example coming from the report is enabling *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) to grant municipalities to offer multi-year property tax exemptions for brownfields. However, the province's education tax portion remains despite that municipal property tax exemption, and municipalities will continue to collect the education tax on behalf of the provincial government.

The provincial government also has not enacted several important recommendations, including, recommendations on providing financial offsets to support local government for environmental site assessment or financial incentive for the private sector to redevelop brownfields.

Financial incentive and support are especially important for smaller rural communities, who do not have the knowledge, engineering expertise and resources to investigate, reclaim and reuse contaminated sites. An example of this is Calmar, a small rural community home to 2,300 people, 100 local businesses and a robust oil and gas industry. There are 13 oil sites defined as legacy sites in Calmar. Many of the recertified sites have certificates from the 1950s-1970s, which according to the Alberta Energy Regulator, these certificates are not valid today.

Calmar has been working with a business looking to relocate to the town. According to the business plan, the company plans to relocate and create upwards of 300 jobs and several of their subsidiary companies to the community. The business is experiencing challenges through this process because the land it is interested in has six legacy oil wellsites. This parcel of land has direct access to highway and rail, and it is suitable for highway commercial and light industrial development.

Many years ago, these six oil wells were abandoned, and the property eventually went into receivership due to tax forfeiture for years. Through exhausting and frustrating two-year-long research, it was discovered that three of six oil sites are in the final remediation phase. The other three have unknown liabilities, and they would require a Phase 1 and 2 Environmental Site Assessment. The estimated cost of both assessments is approximately \$25,000 - \$50,000 per site not including reclamation costs. An amount that many communities cannot afford.

Alberta needs a better system to allow local governments and businesses to discover, investigate, remediate, and redevelop brownfields, and we need the provincial government to be a partner in this. Brownfields are barriers to job creation, local investment, tax revenue generation, sustainability of communities, and entrepreneurs to start new businesses. Today's regulatory system is burdensome, red-tape-ridden, slow and confusing. Streamlining the system is equally important as having financial incentives for local government and businesses to redevelop brownfields. Reclaim brownfields are more than just about protecting our environment. It is also about job creation and viability of our communities.

AUMA Comments:

As noted, this resolution builds on AUMA's previous work and advocacy on brownfield redevelopment, further background can be found on its [Brownfield Redevelopment Hub](#). Should this resolution be adopted, AUMA will pursue implementation of its recommendations within the context of our red tape reduction, economic development and assessment and taxation related initiatives.

AUMA Resolution 2021.B2: Provincial Commitment to Transition to an Extended Producer Responsibility for Household Hazardous Waste Program

Moved by: AUMA Board of Directors

Seconded by: N/A

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program has provided funding to encourage municipalities to separate household hazardous waste from the overall municipal waste stream since 1998;

WHEREAS Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) launched a public engagement seeking stakeholder input to enable an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy on packaging and paper products, and HHW;

WHEREAS Alberta Infrastructure (AI) decided to end its financial support to the Swan Hills Treatment Centre effective June 1, 2021, and in doing so it ended 30 years of support for helping properly dispose of HHW materials in Alberta; and

WHEREAS municipalities are concerned that AI's cancellation of financial support is leaving municipalities to make up for an approximately \$2 million shortfall to continue this service at the exact time the province is transitioning to a permanent EPR HHW Program.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA request the Government of Alberta provide bridge funding to support the HHW collection until a permanent EPR household hazardous waste program is in place.

BACKGROUND:

The HHW Program has traditionally been funded by three entities:

- AEP provides funding for two aspects of the program:
 - Approximately \$1.5 million (2016-17¹) for material consolidation from municipalities and transportation to the Swan Hills Treatment Centre (The Centre),
 - Approximately \$480,000 (2016-17) for material disposal at the Centre.
- AI has subsidized (about \$1.5 million in 2016-17) the cost of material disposal at the Centre by waiving the disposal fees.
- Municipalities fund a significant portion of HHW collection and are often a part of material transportation.

On June 1, 2021, AI reduced funding to the Centre. The decision led to layoffs impacting all local communities in the area. Prior to the layoffs, the Centre employed around 100 employees, with the majority living in Swan Hills. AI's decision also affected the province-wide collection of HHW

¹ Available data published by the Government of Alberta: <https://www.alberta.ca/household-hazardous-waste-program.aspx>

materials. The cut has resulted in downloading approximately \$2 million per year to municipalities. Municipalities already contributing are now expected to carry an additional financial burden to transport the materials out of the province. In the past, the HHW created in Alberta was treated properly here and was not directed to local landfills and transfer stations.

The Government of Alberta is sending contradictory policy directions to Albertans. One ministry is creating EPR policies to expand recycling while another is putting up barriers to Albertans wanting to do the right thing by recycling their HHW.

Municipalities support an EPR HHW program, but a program could be a few years away. Local governments are already one of the funding partners of the HHW Program. They need the provincial government to partner to encourage Albertans not to dispose of HHW in their garbage during this transition period and develop a transition plan to ensure an EPR program can be launched as soon as possible.

AUMA Comments:

Should members adopt this resolution, AUMA will advocate for a bridge funding program to support the existing HHW Program within the context of our EPR initiative. For more context on this priority initiative, visit [AUMA's Waste Management Hub](#).

AUMA Resolution 2021.B3: Advocacy on Financial Measures

Moved by: City of Calgary

Seconded by: Town of Okotoks

WHEREAS Alberta’s municipalities have long advocated for long-term, stable, predictable and appropriate funding in order to remain financially viable and continue to provide the services and infrastructure needed by our citizens;

WHEREAS the AUMA in 2020 passed a resolution, submitted by the City of Edmonton, advocating for the Government of Alberta to reshape municipal finance for a new time and provide municipalities with reasonable measures and tools, and the responsibility that goes with them, to enable cities, towns, and villages to sustainably meet their operating and capital budget needs;

WHEREAS to support Calgary’s economic recovery and financial resiliency, Calgary City Council identified the need for a Financial Task Force with a mandate to identify and assess innovative solutions for short-term economic mitigation, long-term economic recovery, and revenue options to improve the City of Calgary’s financial resilience;

WHEREAS several of the Financial Task Force’s recommendations are of interest to all of Alberta’s municipalities in our on-going advocacy with the Government of Alberta on municipal financial reform;

WHEREAS the Financial Task Force recommended working with the Government of Alberta on municipal financial reform such as:

- Expansion of revenue tools;
- Property tax flexibility;
- Taxation of non-property related activity; and
- Non-residential sub-classes;

WHEREAS without changes to legislation, there is limited opportunity for change in these areas;

WHEREAS research and analysis are needed that documents the extent of the decline in bricks and mortar retail and the current transition to new models of goods and services delivery to demonstrate that municipalities’ traditional real estate tax revenues cannot capture the transition to e-commerce transactions;

WHEREAS research and analysis identifying a comprehensive list of services and associated costs redirected to municipalities is required to support AUMA and Alberta municipalities advocacy and dialogue with the Government of Alberta in determining the fiscal tools necessary to allow effective delivery of those services by the municipality; and

WHEREAS incorporating some of the Financial Taskforce recommendations can focus and improve AUMA's ongoing advocacy and work.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association continue to advocate to the Government of Alberta for municipal finance reform, including:

- The expansion of revenue tools to reduce reliance on property taxes as opportunities allow;
- The expansion of property tax flexibility as opportunities allow;
- The expansion of revenue tools to non-property related activities as opportunities allow;
- The development of non-residential property sub-classes that are efficient and easily administered to allow municipalities a tool for targeted financial relief;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT to support our advocacy, the AUMA, in collaboration with Alberta's municipalities, and if possible, the Government of Alberta undertake research studies and/or collect information on:

- The impact of e-commerce and the new models of goods and services delivery on municipal economies and finances; and
- Identifying a comprehensive list of services and associated costs redirected to municipalities.

BACKGROUND:

To support Calgary's economic recovery and financial resiliency, Calgary City Council identified the need for a Financial Task Force (FTF) with the mandate to identify and assess innovative solutions for short-term economic mitigation, long-term economic recovery, and revenue options for The City of Calgary's financial resiliency. The FTF worked for nine months over 2019-2020 and made 35 recommendations, all of which were adopted by Calgary City Council in June 2020.

The City of Calgary sees alignment with AUMA's advocacy on municipal finance reform, a policy that was adopted at the 2020 AUMA Convention, and several of the FTF's recommendations. The proposed resolution directs the AUMA incorporate several of the FTF's recommendations into AUMA municipal finance reform policy to help support our collective municipal advocacy towards the Government of Alberta. The resolution asks that the AUMA to include specific policies such as:

- Expansion of revenue tools – The revenue sources available to municipalities are restricted by provincial legislation and AUMA and Alberta's municipalities have long advocated for the ability to use alternate revenue tools – if municipalities could improve the diversity and reliance on other, non-property tax revenue sources this would help create long-term,

stable, predictable municipal funding and lessen the reliance of municipalities on property tax and the need for sustained property tax increases;

- Property tax flexibility – The ability to differentiate taxation for businesses and organizations that make significant contributions to the character and fabric of a municipality including organizations like Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), non-profit organizations and owner-operated small businesses with limited financial means;
- Taxation of non-property related activity – Our economy is everchanging with the rapidly growing e-commerce activity that is transforming behaviours within society and municipalities need the capacity to adjust and adapt to changing demands and uses on municipal infrastructure and on municipal economies;
- Non-residential sub-classes – Work with the Government of Alberta to expand the tools available for responses when tax circumstances that are unique to certain nonresidential taxpayer groups emerge and provide the capacity for targeted property tax relief because the current sub-class definition makes for a blunt tool for property tax relief; and
- Calls for the AUMA and municipalities to either do further research and analysis and/or collection information to document:
 - The extent of the decline in bricks and mortar retail and the current transition to new models of goods and services delivery to demonstrate that municipalities’ traditional real estate tax revenues cannot capture the transition to e-commerce transactions; and
 - A comprehensive list of services and associated costs redirected to municipalities by the Government of Alberta.

Adding these polices into AUMA’s advocacy on municipal finance reform would help support and focus AUMA’s and Alberta’s municipalities in their on-going advocacy and dialogue with the Government of Alberta. It would assist in helping our collective advocacy for the fiscal tools necessary to allow municipalities to continue to provide effective delivery of services into the future, and help Alberta’s municipalities towards meeting the challenges of a rapidly evolving economy and society.

AUMA Comments:

As noted, this resolution aligns with an existing 2020 resolution and ongoing work of AUMA to advocate to the Government of Alberta for municipalities to have an expanded suite of revenue tools to address the current and future scope of services that municipalities will be responsible for. The continual change in expectations of local public services along with changes in demand for non-residential property, and the downloading of public services by other levels of government, highlight the importance of municipal governments having the appropriate fiscal tools to sustainably serve Alberta communities into the future.

If this resolution is adopted, given the complexity of this issue and its linkages to other AUMA positions, AUMA would approach this issue with a high level of engagement with members to define priority financial tools, measures, and targeted outcomes and then engage the Government of Alberta on members’ recommendations.

AUMA Resolution 2021.B4: Online Voting for Municipal Elections

Moved by: City of Lethbridge

Seconded by: City of St. Albert

WHEREAS online voting, as an option, could be deemed as a convenience by many voters, with the potential to increase voter participation;

WHEREAS the technology now exists to provide secure and auditable online voting processes;

WHEREAS the general population is increasingly embracing the use of technology for a wide variety of uses;

WHEREAS the use of online voting would provide opportunities for efficiencies and lower costs for municipalities by reducing the number of polling stations and associated staffing; and

WHEREAS voters could participate in a barrier-free election process, unimpeded by mobility challenges, parking issues, traffic jams, line-ups to vote, ballot shortages or adverse weather.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association enter into discussions with the Government of Alberta and advocate for the necessary legislative changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act* to permit secure online voting.

BACKGROUND:

Online voting has long been considered high risk because internet systems and databases can be hacked. As technology advances and the need for online voting becomes more appealing, exploring online voting for Alberta could increase voter turnout and enable voters who are not living within their riding or close to a polling station to vote. Online voting would allow for military and overseas residents, Indigenous voters, students studying outside of their riding, the elderly and those with disabilities to easily vote. In addition, with the COVID-19 pandemic as a prime example of potential scenarios that prohibit the ability to gather in large groups, those who do not wish to leave their homes and be in a public space would be enabled to vote. This would also be very appealing to the younger generations or those with a busy life-work schedule to vote from the comfort of their computers. The issue of online voting has been discussed extensively around the world and tried in a few jurisdictions in Canada and various other countries. Although the option of online voting is fairly new, we believe there are now companies that have developed safe technologies that would support effective and transparent elections in Alberta.

Advantages of online voting include but are not limited to:

- Convenience and accessibility for all voters. Voters do not need to travel to polling stations within defined periods or line up to register and vote;
- Those with health or mobility restrictions can participate,

- Lower cost of voting than traditional methods;
- Potential to increase voter turnout;
- Decreases the time spent tallying votes when automated electronically;
- Instant absentee ballot; and,
- Avoids issue of a limited number of printed ballots (ballot shortages).

Disadvantages of online voting include but are not limited to:

- Hacks or viruses being used to corrupt the results;
- Potential to open the election process to cyber-terrorism,
- Identity theft or misrepresentation;
- Technical difficulties such as server crashes;
- Difficulty verifying voter identification;
- Internet connectivity in rural areas or limited access to the internet; and,
- Limited understanding of how to online vote or distrust of the system.

We encourage the Alberta government to review and analyze the technology and tech companies that have been working diligently to address cybersecurity concerns for the implementation of the 2025 Alberta election. For example, some companies have developed blockchain as a security mechanism to ward off hackers online and decrease the risk of manual manipulation. Blockchain distributes data to several servers; therefore, if one server is hacked, it will signal the other servers that there has been a change. This significantly enhances the cybersecurity of online voting and protects voter personal information. There are fingerprint and facial recognition options that could be implemented as an additional security feature.

We encourage and advocate for the support of Albertan companies that are developing technologies for online voting. Alberta could be a leading example for other jurisdictions of successful online voting. The ability to access online voting on home computers and mobile devices is now an available option and could be tested over the next four years to make it available for the 2025 Alberta municipal elections. In addition, there would need to be amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act* to permit online voting. Online voting is currently precluded by Alberta legislation.

The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association would need to begin early discussions with the Alberta government to receive verification processes and begin changes to legislation for potential implementation of October 2025.

AUMA Comments:

If this resolution is adopted, AUMA would advocate for online voting within the context of the broader review of the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA) which the province typically does after each municipal election.

AUMA Resolution 2021.B5: Expansion of Authority to Support Affordable Housing

Moved by: Town of Okotoks

Seconded by: Town of Canmore

WHEREAS the cost of housing has been consistently increasing across Alberta and Canadian municipalities, and lower income Albertans seem to be disproportionately affected especially with economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS affordable housing for families, seniors and individuals is defined as housing that costs not more than 30% of a household's total annual income, including heat, water and sewer expenses;

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has a housing advocacy program which states "housing is the bedrock of livable and prosperous communities. We advocate for action on social and affordable housing, so all Canadians have a decent place to call home. Housing is more than just a roof over your head. Safe, affordable housing makes our cities and communities welcoming places to live, work and start a business. It's also key to retaining workers and attracting newcomers to enrich our neighbourhoods and drive economic growth";

WHEREAS section 264(2) of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) prescribes the authorities for all municipalities under which loans may be provided to non-profit organizations for affordable housing initiatives and limits this authority to provides these types of loans; and

WHEREAS the local improvement tax process under Section 390.1-390.9 of the MGA was expanded to create additional authorities to make loans to individual homeowners for the purposes of encouraging environmental improvements under the Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP).

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to make amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* to provide additional financial tools, through expansion of the local improvement tax process, that enable individuals to increase affordable housing options, such as secondary suites and accessory buildings.

BACKGROUND:

In support of providing safe and affordable housing for all residents of Alberta, tools under the MGA need to be expanded to provide homeowners similar local improvement tax options that were provided for the purposes of environmental improvements. The CEIP program was accomplished with amendments to the MGA and the development of a corresponding regulation to provide municipalities with the discretionary authority to cover all or part of the costs for homeowners of environmental improvements. This municipal authority could be expanded to include providing similar financial supports to implement affordable housing initiatives, like secondary suites or accessory buildings. Affordable housing options, especially

for lower income individuals and families, are key for the health and economic development of all municipalities.

Secondary suites (including basement suites, granny suites, and lane housing) can provide additional rental product in a community. Homeowners are often not aware of the opportunity that this type of housing provides in assisting with their mortgage and may be motivated through this type of support or loan program to spend money to do so.

Municipalities are able to create the environment to enable the availability of this type of rental product through regulatory approaches but are not able to “loan” money to residents to introduce this housing into the community. Some municipalities have introduced limited grant programs to legalize existing illegal secondary suites or allow for new suites. This approach also requires cash contributions from the tax base to allow for the construction of these types of housing, rather than being directly costed to the homeowner.

The proposed program would work in a similar fashion to the CEIP where property owners could finance suites using competitive interest rates and repayment terms of up to 20-25 years and have the option to pay the project off at any time. Repayment would be made through their regular property tax bill. The Town of Okotoks is not aware of any other province that currently has this type of program to encourage affordable housing options.

AUMA Comments:

Municipal Affairs will be completing its red tape reduction review of Parts 9 and 10 of the MGA on Assessment and Taxation in 2022. Should this resolution be adopted, AUMA will include the proposal in this resolution as part of its input during the stakeholder engagement process.

AUMA Resolution 2021.B6: Police Funding Model Accountability & Transparency

Moved by: Village of Stirling

Seconded by: Town of Magrath

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta began issuing annual invoices in March 2021 to municipalities for the purposes of collecting the municipal cost share under the new Police Funding Model Regulation;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Municipal Affairs 2021-2024 Business Plan (February 2021) notes that Key Objective 2.2 is to “encourage municipal accountability and transparency”;

WHEREAS key Objective 2.3 of the Municipal Affairs Business Plan clearly delineates the role of the Ministry to “oversee the property tax and assessment system”;

WHEREAS the requisition by the province under the Police Funding Model Regulation is neither transparent or accountable to individual property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS a [request for decision](#) sponsored by the Town of Forestburg was adopted at the Spring 2021 Municipal Leaders’ Caucus that proposes AUMA lobby the provincial government to make the necessary amendment to section 382(1) of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* to allow municipalities the ability to pass a special tax bylaw to raise revenues for police service costs should they deem it appropriate to do so.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA also advocate for the Government of Alberta to treat the Police Funding Model requisition to municipalities like the education and housing authority requisitions by mandating their inclusion on assessment and tax notices provided to property owners.

BACKGROUND:

A minor legislative change to the definition of “requisition” in section s. 326(1)(a) of the MGA would permit municipalities to clearly communicate the costs associated with policing to residents. Unlike other municipal expenses, the cost share portion of the Police Funding Model is outside of the municipality’s control.

The Police Funding Model is in effect an external requisition that does not take into account other related expenses like shared regional peace officer programs, and it is important to ensure transparency of policing costs being imposed on municipalities.

The Police Funding Model also will not result in additional front-line resources being deployed to many communities. Adding a line for the Police Funding Model requisition to the tax assessment notice would ensure a clear line of sight for residents on this additional cost.

It is unclear if the Government of Alberta will act on the recommendation from the Spring 2021 Municipal Leaders' Caucus request enabling the mechanism for a special tax bylaw and even if approved, some communities may choose not to adopt such a bylaw but may wish to be able to directly communicate the impact of the Police Funding Model to local rate payers.

AUMA Comments:

Municipal Affairs will conduct a red tape reduction review of Parts 9 and 10 of the MGA on Assessment and Taxation in 2022. Should the resolution be adopted, AUMA will include the proposal in this resolution as part of its input during the stakeholder engagement process.

AUMA Resolution 2021.B7: Regional Centre Funding

Moved by: City of Grande Prairie

Seconded by: City of Lethbridge

WHEREAS some municipalities serve as regional service centre hubs for commerce, recreation, health care, social services, and provincial amenities;

WHEREAS there are unique challenges that are disproportionately faced by regional centres;

WHEREAS these unique challenges result in a disproportionate tax burden being placed on residents of these communities; and

WHEREAS the Alberta government's 50% reduction in GIPOT funding disproportionately impacts regional centres which typically have more provincial facilities such as court houses, hospitals, schools, etc.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for a dedicated funding stream for municipalities who serve as regional service centres.

BACKGROUND:

Some municipalities in the Province serve as regional centres where a variety of services are located. As a regional service centre, a municipality has increased costs due to the variety of municipal services it must provide while not receiving offsetting revenue for these costs.

For example, regional service centres are typically where community halls, churches, non-profits, and social housing projects are located. None of these facilities generate property tax, yet the municipality still has to provide snow removal, fire services, storm drainage, etc. to these properties.

These services are also provided to provincial properties such as court houses and health facilities. While some funding for these services are provided by the Province through GIPOT, in recent years this funding has been cut by 50%.

Additionally, regional service centres attract a greater number of street engaged and at-risk individuals. This increases the demand for the social services provided by these municipalities. While the Province does support many of the direct costs of providing services to this population, there are many indirect costs that are borne by the municipalities such as increased policing/enforcement costs and funding to non-profits operating in the sector.

Having a dedicated funding stream for regional centres would address the disproportionate burden that is placed on their taxpayers.

AUMA Comments:

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

AUMA Resolution 2021.B8: National Flood Insurance Strategy and Community Resiliency Advocacy

Moved by: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Seconded by: Lac La Biche County

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has created a National Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation, including representation from the federal, provincial, and territorial governments and the insurance industry;

WHEREAS the Task Force will look at options to protect homeowners who are at high risk of flooding and do not have adequate insurance protection and examine the viability of a low-cost national flood insurance program, among other goals;

WHEREAS at the same time, Indigenous Services Canada will work with First Nations partners on a dedicated Steering Committee on First Nations Home Flood Insurance Needs to examine the unique context on reserves;

WHEREAS flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster in Canada, causing over \$1B in direct damage to residential property and impacting thousands of Canadians every year; and

WHEREAS according to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, only 39 percent of residential property owners had access in 2019 to overland flood insurance with these property owners in high-risk flood areas being increasingly unable to access flood insurance, affordable or otherwise.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to participate in and contribute to the work of the National Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation, with the goal of developing a national high-risk residential flood insurance program and to secure sustainable, long-term funding for provinces, Indigenous communities and municipalities for flood mitigation programs, projects and initiatives that increase overall community resiliency.

BACKGROUND:

Government of Canada Creates Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation From: Public Safety Canada news release (November 23, 2020)

“The cost of climate change is undeniable. Flooding continues to be the most frequent and costly natural disaster in Canada. Water damage goes beyond the destruction of property; it also places an emotional toll on individuals as their homes are destroyed and families are displaced. Each year, too many Canadians, including Indigenous communities, are exposed to the worst effects of climate change. To help people get ready for climate risks and realities, the Government of Canada is taking action to create a more resilient and sustainable approach to

floods in Canada.

Today, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, the Honourable Bill Blair, and the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, announced the creation of an interdisciplinary Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation. As a first step in creating a National High Risk Residential Flood Insurance Program, the Task Force will look at options to protect homeowners who are at high risk of flooding and don't have adequate insurance protection and examine the viability of a low-cost national flood insurance program. The Task Force will also consider options for potential relocation for residents of areas at the highest risk of recurrent flooding.

The Task Force will be composed of representatives from federal, provincial and territorial governments and the insurance industry. At the same time, Indigenous Services Canada will work with First Nations partners on a dedicated Steering Committee on First Nations Home Flood Insurance Needs to examine the unique context on reserves.

The Government of Canada is also committed to ensuring that broad Indigenous perspectives are included in flood risk management in Canada. The Task Force and Steering Committee will share information with one another, and work closely together to engage with various partners, including with First Nations off-reserve, Inuit, and Métis communities and organizations. Both entities will begin their work by January 2021 and will report on their findings by Spring 2022.

We will continue to help people whose jobs and livelihoods are affected when disasters strike and help people and communities deal with the realities of increased climate related risks and disasters and ultimately, increase the country's resiliency to natural disasters. To further support communities in effectively managing, mitigating, preparing, and responding to all sorts of hazardous events, including flooding, Public Safety Canada will also be undertaking a review of the Disaster Financial Assistance arrangements, in order to assess and improve the sustainability of this program.

Further, as committed in the July 2020 Economic Update, the National Disaster Mitigation Program will be extended through to 2022, to cost-share flood mitigation projects with provinces and territories. A call for proposals will soon be launched to continue this important work."

Quick Facts:

Flooding is the most common and costly occurring natural hazard in Canada, causing over \$1 billion in direct damage to households, property and infrastructure and affecting thousands of Canadians each year.

As announced in the Speech from the Throne, the Government of Canada is investing in reducing the impact of climate-related disasters, like floods and wildfires, to make communities safer and more resilient.

The Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation is tasked with examining a national residential flood insurance program for homeowners living in areas of high-risk flooding and measures for a national action plan to assist high-risk homeowners with potential relocation to safer areas.

In the event of a large-scale natural disaster, the Government of Canada provides financial assistance for recovery to provincial and territorial governments through Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA). In order to assess the sustainability of the DFAA, Public Safety Canada is undertaking a review of its terms and conditions.

According to an estimate by the Insurance Bureau of Canada, approximately 39 per cent of homeowners had access in 2019 to overland flood insurance. While the availability of flood insurance in Canada has grown since the insurance industry introduced it in 2015, it is mostly homes in low and medium risk areas that have been insured against flood damages. Homeowners in high-risk flood areas cannot access flood insurance because the high costs make it challenging for the industry to offer insurance at an affordable rate for homeowners.

According to Canadian Voices on Flood Risk 2020, a report by Partners for Action, only 6% of respondents knew that they live in a designated flood risk area.

AUMA Comments:

This resolution aligns with previous AUMA advocacy on flood mitigation. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA's Board by AUMA's Infrastructure and Energy Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2021.B9: Improved Provincial-Municipal Emergency Collaboration and Communications

Moved by: The City of Calgary

Seconded by: Town of Okotoks

WHEREAS Alberta and its municipalities have been recognized nationally and internationally in the past for their collaborative, inter-governmental and inter-agency approach to emergency response;

WHEREAS Alberta's traditional emergency management processes involve the Government of Alberta (through the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)) providing support in a collaborative and timely manner to Alberta's municipalities who play an essential leadership role within their jurisdiction in responding to the emergency event occurring in their community;

WHEREAS throughout the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a lack of proactive communication and meaningful engagement and collaboration from the Government of Alberta towards Alberta's municipalities, and this has resulted in negative outcomes for municipalities and their citizens;

WHEREAS during the COVID-19 pandemic there has been very little opportunity for Alberta's municipalities to provide advanced input on public health measures or decisions, even though these have significant consequences at the local level and local advice, in many cases, could have improved the effectiveness of provincial measures;

WHEREAS during the COVID-19 pandemic, Alberta's municipalities rarely received formal advance notice of the details and timing of public health measures before they were announced and had to find out details of measures through press conferences at the same time as the public;

WHEREAS official Public Health Orders and Ministerial Orders were typically not published until often several days after the restrictions were implemented; and

WHEREAS this lack of collaboration has been the source of major challenges for implementation of public health measures for municipal services, communications and public engagement, and enforcement of public health measures by local enforcement agencies. The result has been confusion, reputational impacts, financial loss, and impacts to service delivery.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Government of Alberta to:

- Work collaboratively with municipalities and their emergency management organizations on conducting a comprehensive lessons-learned review of the COVID-19 pandemic response and incorporate those lessons in an improved Provincial emergency response and communications plan;
- Commit that going forward Alberta’s municipalities and their emergency management organizations will be treated as trusted and valued partners in Provincial emergency response; and
- Establish an advisory group of municipal emergency management organizations and other key stakeholders to better advise and support the Government of Alberta’s decision making and emergency order drafting and to improve emergency communications, coordination and collaboration.

BACKGROUND:

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a lack of proactive communication and meaningful engagement from the Government of Alberta towards Alberta municipalities and their emergency management organizations. This has resulted in negative outcomes for Albertans.

Alberta’s municipalities and their emergency management agencies have positive working relationships with their operational counterparts within the Government of Alberta, however, the decision-making process that was adopted by the Government of Alberta for the pandemic limited the ability of both orders of government to effectively collaborate. In traditional emergency management processes, local authorities play a leadership role within their jurisdiction and are provided support by the Government of Alberta (through the AEMA) in a collaborative manner through a well-established framework. During the pandemic, there has been very little opportunity for municipalities to provide advance input on public health measures, Ministerial Orders and provincial decisions even though these have had significant consequences at the local level and Alberta’s municipalities are required to implement and enforce them.

There have been several occasions over the past 15 months where if municipalities had been given either the opportunity to provide input into the drafting of orders, or advance notice of their issuing, confusion would have been prevented and the efficiency of implementation of orders improved.

Alberta’s municipalities recognize the Government of Alberta’s mandate to lead on public health issues and pandemic response, and that protracted engagement with every municipality in Alberta would be a challenge. Despite this challenge, communication flow and coordination needs to be improved for future emergency events.

The pandemic response did not just include issues requiring the timely communication between different orders of government, the drafting and execution of public health orders, and public communications. The wider pandemic response also included supports and financial aid for individuals, businesses and municipalities to meet immediate short-term challenges and

support long-term post-pandemic recovery. During the pandemic, both location-specific and province-wide orders and measures were enacted (in urban, rural, and Indigenous settings) and their utility and effectiveness must be understood to improve future responses in similar emergency situations.

The wider pandemic response also required Alberta's municipalities to make difficult decisions regarding their own local pandemic response. Municipal councils and administrations had to determine, under difficult financial and health circumstances, which services should be prioritized and at what level of service (i.e. continued or reduced). During the pandemic, municipal governments worked hard to find innovative solutions to support the welfare and safety of their citizens and businesses while advocating to the Government of Alberta for financial support and stimulus investments.

As the pandemic ends, it is important for organizations to review their emergency response, to proactively conduct a lessons learned review to identify issues and deficiencies and look towards improving their plans and best practices, in order to be better prepared when a similar emergency occurs in the future. In the municipal emergency management context this includes, but is not exclusive to, reviewing issues of emergency response, the drafting and issuing of health orders, improved communication between orders of government, business supports, clarification of essential services, review of financial aid programs, value of municipal stimulus program, consideration of multiple scales of response and recovery (urban, rural, Indigenous) and review of vaccination and mass casualty planning.

This resolution is proposing to AUMA members that the Government of Alberta and Alberta's municipalities conduct a comprehensive review of the pandemic response together to find solutions to these issues, improve provincial-municipal cooperation and collaboration, and improve emergency communications and coordination going forward into any similar emergency event. A permanent advisory group is needed, made up of members from Alberta's emergency management organizations and other key municipal stakeholders, which could provide a resource to aid the Government of Alberta's decision making and improve municipal-provincial collaboration, coordination and communications.

AUMA Comments:

This resolution aligns with previous AUMA advocacy on emergency management. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA's Board by AUMA's Infrastructure and Energy Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2021.B10: Provincial Broadband Strategy

Moved by: AUMA Board of Directors

Seconded by: N/A

WHEREAS the digital divide is increasingly limiting access to economic, health, social, and educational opportunities across Alberta;

WHEREAS the availability of high-speed, reliable internet is key to attracting business and residents and this has an impact on economic development and viability of municipalities;

WHEREAS there exists provincially a piecemeal approach with municipalities, non-profits and private sector individually trying to solve this issue with a lack of resources and coordination, and limited opportunities to share lessons learned; and

WHEREAS development of a broadband strategy has been listed as a provincial business plan initiative since 2019.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to immediately engage municipalities and other stakeholders in developing a provincial broadband strategy with measurable goals, concrete actions and a dedicated budget that recognizes broadband as an essential utility.

BACKGROUND:

Broadband is an essential service that provides communities access to education, healthcare, government, and the marketplace. In the 20th century, provincial governments directly invested in expanding access to telephone. A similar effort is required to bridge the digital divide in the 21st century.

The federal government aims to have 98 per cent of Canadian households connected with 50 megabits per second (Mbps) download speeds and 10 Mbps upload speeds (commonly referred to as the 50/10 threshold). According to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), only 45.6% of small towns, villages and other areas defined as rural in Canada can access these speeds¹. Yet even this low number is likely overinflated as the current method of capturing Broadband access is based on one connection in an area meeting the 50/10 threshold.

The federal government provides funding through programs like the Universal Broadband Fund to attempt to address this divide, however the fund is \$1.75 billion Canada-wide, of which Alberta expects around \$200 million. Service Alberta estimates it would cost \$1 billion to connect all Albertans to the target internet speed.² Municipalities are also limited in applying for

¹ <https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/internet/internet.htm>

² From: [Alberta broadband strategy unclear despite push from province, feds for connectivity, www.cbc.ca](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/alberta-broadband-strategy-unclear-despite-push-from-province-feds-for-connectivity-1.5988888), March 30, 2021

this funding because the maps that determine eligibility are often inaccurate due to the issues mentioned above.

Even newer technology, such as 5G may have limited success at narrowing the digital divide, if it is deployed using existing infrastructure which leaves gaps in both cellular and internet coverage. While other technologies, such as satellite, are currently cost prohibitive for many users.

Municipalities can be stymied when they try to drive their own solutions for broadband. Telecommunications companies require significant financial contributions to upgrade infrastructure ahead of their internal schedules. Some municipalities look to establish their own community Internet Service Provider (ISP). However, municipalities often lack the capacity to source infrastructure and gather the information to build a business case. In addition, there is a great deal of risk associated with municipal investments in broadband, including that local infrastructure will be taken advantage of by ISP providers without adequate compensation.

There are successful examples of community broadband in Alberta. Communities like Olds, Delburne, and Kainai (Blood) First Nation have managed to develop successful ISPs, and a provincial broadband strategy would help municipalities to emulate these successes. A strategy is needed from the provincial government to provide coordination among municipalities, non-profits and telecommunications companies to support broadband access across the province for the benefit of all communities. A strategy will also provide the data needed to confirm the essential nature of broadband in Alberta. A provincial strategy would provide utility to municipalities that are wanting to pursue a broadband project by establishing resources for financial analysis, mapping of existing infrastructure, and metrics for developing business cases.

In 2015, AUMA members passed a resolution co-sponsored by 14 towns and villages emphasizing the importance of affordable internet access and advocating for the province to advocate for a broadband policy. In 2016, the City of St. Albert sponsored requesting the province include municipalities as key stakeholders in the development of broadband programs and provide funding for municipalities to increase access to high-speed internet. Municipalities small and large from across Alberta continue to emphasize the essential nature of broadband infrastructure in supporting the economic and social wellbeing of communities.

Since 2019, the Government of Alberta's business plans have indicated that Service Alberta will develop a broadband framework or strategy, but to date there has been no concrete engagement of municipalities or other stakeholders in its development.

It is essential that the strategy be completed in advance of the next provincial election so that progress can be made to measurably improving broadband access without further delays.

Business Plan Excerpts:

- [Service Alberta Business Plan 2021-24](#)
The ministry is committed to building a framework to support widespread access to high-speed broadband across the province to ensure that all Albertans can take advantage of online services and remote learning. Making connectivity a foundational part of the province will encourage investment, job creation and economic diversification.
- [Service Alberta Business Plan 2020-23](#)
Improve connectivity services to public sector facilities, and collaborate with business and partners to develop a framework to support widespread access to high-speed broadband.
- [Service Alberta Business Plan 2019-2022](#)
Develop a strategy to support widespread access to high-speed broadband and realize the opportunities for innovation and efficiency inherent in digital service delivery

AUMA Comments:

Advocating for increased access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet is a high priority for AUMA and closely related to our work on municipal viability as well as economic recovery and resiliency.

AUMA Resolution 2021.B11: Mental Health and Wellness for Public Safety Personnel

Moved by: City of Fort Saskatchewan

Seconded by: Wetaskiwin

WHEREAS public safety personnel are defined as those professionals who work in a field that, due to the nature of their operational duties to protect the safety of others, are necessarily exposed to potentially psychologically traumatic events with exceptional frequency (*Carleton et al., 2019*);

WHEREAS public safety personnel appear to be at an increased risk for developing a psychological injury due to their nature of their work (*Carleton et al., 2019, 2020*) and 44.5% meet the criteria for one or more mental disorders (*Carleton, 2018a*);

WHEREAS posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a potentially disabling condition that is now a widely recognized public health issue, particularly among public safety personnel. A recent study conducted by Carleton et al. (2018) investigated the proportion of Canadian public safety personnel reporting symptom clusters consistent with various mental disorders. The results indicated that 23.2% of the total sample screened positive for PTSD (in contrast, estimates of the prevalence of PTSD among the general population range from 1.1 to 3.5%);

WHEREAS public safety personnel report suicidal behaviours at rates up to three times the rates for the general population (*Carleton, 2018b*);

WHEREAS significant stigmas associated with mental health remain, despite relatively recent improvements (Krakauer et al., 2020; McCall et al., in press; Ricciardelli et al., 2020). Public safety personnel require resources that are confidential and career specific; policies and procedures that normalize mental health disorder as a job hazard, not a personal failure; effective education to increase awareness and buy-in (beginning with leadership); social support from peers and leaders; and integrative return-to-work policies; and

WHEREAS Municipalities are the employers of public safety personnel and derive community safety benefits from an engaged mentally healthy and resilient workforce, which requires coordinated evidence-based solutions to support the best interests of these jurisdictions.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request that the Government of Alberta work cooperatively with public safety personnel organizations and allied stakeholders to research, develop and implement evidence-based solutions to address mental health and wellness of public safety personnel in the Province of Alberta.

BACKGROUND:

***They run in when everyone else runs out.**

Public safety personnel are people who respond to the scenes of emergencies, and include police, firefighters, and paramedics, among other emergency personnel. Public safety personnel work by definition involves frequent exposures to potentially psychologically traumatic events, such as witnessing deaths and injuries, including the deaths or major injuries of children and mass casualty events; as such, the number of exposures public safety persons can have in one week may be more than what members of the general public experience in a lifetime! Public safety personnel report having varied responses to the events depending on numerous dynamic factors, Public safety personnel have typically worked in a “suck it up” culture – for themselves and for others – often facing problematic and punitive comments for the public, such as “you knew what you signed up for”. Thus, various types of stress reactions, including posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms, can gradually and progressively build up over time. Increasing exposures can result in *cumulative trauma*. The stigma associated with being a “helper” who then asks for help has been and remains unacceptably prevalent in public safety personnel organizations, and can be a significant barrier to seeking much needed help.

Other factors can impact the mental health of public safety personnel, including shift work, disruptions to family and social lives, and perceived levels of organizational support.

Public safety personnel have often continued to work for a long time after becoming injured, despite reduced ability to cope and continued subsequent exposures to potentially psychologically traumatic events. Eventually, public safety personnel may reach a “breaking point”, even after what may appear to be a relatively common place exposure, as a result of the cumulative stressors. A comparison can be made to injuring one’s ankle. If one continues to walk on the ankle without allowing time for healing, the ankle may become increasingly vulnerable to re-injury.

Historically, public safety personnel have, at times, experienced difficulty having the cumulative impact of exposures and stress be recognized by employers and worker’s compensation boards. Some have even had compensation claims denied due to difficulty identifying a singular work-related event that could be considered “uncommon enough” relative to their other work experiences to “explain” or “justify” a mental health diagnosis, such as Posttraumatic Stress Disorder.

In a 2016 study, the Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment (CIPSRT) found that 75% of public safety organizations who reported having a mental health program in place failed to meet the basic standards of the program’s model (Authors, 2016). Another study warned against such variations from a model’s validated protocols with the potential of such unfounded variations causing iatrogenic harm (Fikretoglu et al., 2019). In another 2019 study, CIPSRT found that most programs overlook the type of help public safety personnel are most willing to access (Carleton et al., 2019b). Thus, with the current research, we have never been more informed to improve the mental health and wellness programming we provide to our public safety personnel - those persons whose every workday is responding to the worst days of the public’s lives.

*Canadian Mental Health Association

AUMA Comments:

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

SOURCES:

Authors et al., (2016). Peer Support and Crisis-Focused Psychological Intervention Programs in Canadian First Responders: Blue Paper. University of Regina. Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment.

Bikos, L.J. (2020) "It's all window dressing:" Canadian police officers' perceptions of mental health stigma in their workplace. Policing: An International Journal, 44(1), 63-76. <https://doi.org/10.1108/PIJPSM-07-2020-0126>

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Krakauer, R. L. et al. (2020). Examining mental health knowledge, stigma, and service use intentions among public safety personnel. Front Psychol, 11, 949. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.00949>

McCall, H. C. et al. (in press). Stakeholder perspectives on Internet-delivered cognitive behavioural therapy for public safety personnel: A qualitative analysis. Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science. doi: 10.1037/cbs0000242

Ricciardelli, R. et al. (2020). "Playing the system": Structural factors potentiating mental health stigma, challenging awareness, and creating barriers to care for Canadian public safety personnel. Health, 24(3), 259-278. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1363459318800167>

Summary prepared by E. Kossick Reviewed & edited by B. Barootes and Bikos, L.J

AUMA Resolution 2021.B12: Alberta Health Services Emergency Ambulance Dispatch – Independent Review

Moved by: The City of Red Deer

Seconded by: Town of McGrath

WHEREAS on January 12, 2021, emergency ambulance dispatch was fully consolidated into the Alberta Health Services (AHS) provincial dispatch system. This removed it from the four integrated satellite centers, which were used to assist in providing this vital health service. Since the move to a total provincial dispatch system, there have been several cases of increased response times and technical errors, which put Albertans' lives at risk¹;

WHEREAS the Alberta integrated satellite centres dispatch approach is proven to be an effective system in delivering prompt, efficient, and accurate emergency dispatch to the residents of Alberta;

WHEREAS past centralizations have degraded emergency response, but as this is the final consolidation, the real consequences have yet to be fully experienced by Albertans; and

WHEREAS many municipalities have experienced numerous errors and delays that affected emergency response times, these errors would not have occurred under the integrated satellite model. It is clear that AHS alone cannot meet the emergency dispatch demands for Alberta, thus putting lives at risk.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate to the Government of Alberta and the Minister of Health to undertake an independent third-party review of the AHS emergency ambulance dispatch system and to investigate the increase in response times and the technical outages that have occurred since January 12, 2021.

BACKGROUND:

AHS Emergency Ambulance Dispatch is an issue that impacts all municipalities across the province. Red Deer, Lethbridge, Calgary and Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo have been at the forefront in attempting to convince the Government of Alberta to reverse its decision to fully centralized ambulance emergency dispatch services.

The AUMA issued a statement on this matter back in August 2020. Key issues that were raised included that more information about the impact of consolidation on response times was required and that municipalities are totally frustrated regarding the lack of consultation on the

¹ <https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/i-was-completely-shocked-dispatch-nightmare-operator-hangs-up-as-parents-call-to-save-dying-southern-alberta-teen-1.5409960>

matter. This new resolution speaks directly to the performance issues that AHS is experiencing with the centralized service model, and that an independent review of performance measures is required.

AHS officials have stated that dispatch centralization will not result in a degradation of service. This commitment was also made in previous consolidations, but to date 39 Alberta communities have gone on record that their communities experienced a degradation of service, both in timing and coordination of emergency dispatch, and in the number of ambulances available in their communities. In the words of a fellow Alberta Mayor whose community dispatch was consolidated into the provincial system in 2014, "We should have fought with you harder in 2013". In other words, had they known what was going to happen, instead of believing the appeasing assurances that emergency ambulance service would not degrade for their community, they would have done more to stop it.

Past centralizations have degraded emergency response, but as this is the final consolidation, the real consequences, intended and unintended, have yet to be fully experienced by Albertans. May we learn from other provinces' life and death experiences, instead of being forced to learn through the consequences that are on the horizon for Albertans.

This is an important municipal issue. It speaks to the safety and wellbeing of our residents, and the fact that municipalities were providing this dispatch service at a much higher standard before it was centralized.

Further background on the benefits of an integrated dispatch approach:

- Integrated dispatch services allow fire, EMS, and for Lethbridge and Calgary (and in the future for Red Deer), police communications operators to be in the same room.
- When a dispatcher learns a critical piece of information, the other dispatcher is immediately made aware through verbal communication within the room.
- When fire and EMS communicate in the same room, they provide for a faster response.
- Integrated dispatch services allow emergency response units to leave the station earlier in critical situations where seconds matter, or as often occurs, in advance of an ambulance.
- Integrated approach in emergency services means that individuals are cross-trained in both firefighting and emergency medical services response, providing a seamless response to any emergency by any and every member. Integration between fire and ambulance is critical for patient outcomes.
- Municipal dispatch staff are cross-trained 911 call takers, and both fire and medical dispatchers.
- The cross-training provides the most efficient and effective services to patients in need. This is imperative for patient outcomes.
- Integrated service allows fire units to be dispatched simultaneously as ambulances.

AUMA Comments:

This resolution aligns with previous AUMA advocacy on emergency medical services and response times. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA's Board by AUMA's Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

2021 Resolutions

Category C – Other issues of potential
interest to Alberta Municipalities

AUMA Resolution 2021.C1: Advocacy for a National Early Learning and Care Program

Moved by: City of Lethbridge

Seconded by: City of Spruce Grove

WHEREAS a well-designed, National Early Learning and Care Program, that is affordable, high-quality, inclusive, and accessible, will support families economically and support more women in joining and staying in the workforce; and

WHEREAS the COVID pandemic has shown how communities and families are negatively impacted when early learning and care is not accessible, inclusive or affordable and should make us strive to fix this problem on behalf of parents, families and communities.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate to the Provincial Government for a National Early Learning and Care Program that will be high-quality, inclusive, affordable and accessible, developed with significant long-term sustained funding and which will create a Canada-wide early-learning and child-care system.

BACKGROUND:

Families and children across Canada have been impacted by insufficient childcare and learning during these uncertain times. This is further compounding poverty impacts, wage gaps and employment implications. While these concerns are being particularly felt during the pandemic, they will not disappear in the years ahead. It is vital for all orders of government to advocate on behalf of our residents for the programs that will best support families, our communities and our country. Provincial support and allocation of the funds from the federal "*A Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan*" starts with the fundamental idea that early learning and care programs are essential for families and municipalities at large. Communities and residents across Alberta and Canada will benefit both economically and socially because of such a program.

Economically there are many reasons to support such a program. According to the Alberta Child Services Annual Report 2020-2021, there are 143,469 licensed and approved childcare cases for a total Albertan population of 4,444,277. The provincial government is incrementally increasing these spaces, however availability and affordability continue to be an issue for Alberta. First, without such a program, employers in Alberta and Canada could face low productivity due to parents missing work. There are also the lost wages to parents and sometimes a complete inability for parents to join the workforce. This results in a loss of income tax to governments, and from a municipal perspective could impact the ability of the low income to pay their property taxes. A parent should not be forced to choose between employment and childcare; employed parents contribute to the economy and early-educated children contribute to the future success of our economy. Second, local businesses cannot

recover without workers and some workers cannot return to work because they cannot afford childcare. The local restaurants rely heavily on these individuals and were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ensuring all have access to affordable childcare will help boost the productivity of the local economy. If families are supported by such a program, they will have more disposable income which can be used to support local businesses, to save for the future, to create educational opportunities for the parents and their children. Third, childcare is a municipal issue because every city, town, village, or rural area has different needs. A “one-size-fits-all” approach without advocacy and consultation with municipalities may result in the exclusion of key economic contributors such as Indigenous workers, shift workers, and rural/agriculture workers, all of whom are increasingly important for today’s economy and arguably are now supporting Alberta’s economy as the energy industry economic influence is strained. We also believe that pandemic times have demonstrated childcare is necessary for essential workers (the leading cohort of the Lethbridge economy) to continue effectively working as we navigate battling COVID-19 and maintaining access to all other healthcare. Finally, in Alberta, the average daily fee for centre-based child care businesses is higher than the national average:

	Alberta 2021				Canada 2021			
<i>Child care businesses by type</i>	Less than 18 months old children enrolled	18 months to less than 36 months old children enrolled	3 years to less than 5 years old children enrolled	5 years and older children enrolled	Less than 18 months old children enrolled	18 months to less than 36 months old children enrolled	3 years to less than 5 years old children enrolled	5 years and older children enrolled
	<i>Dollars</i>				<i>Dollars</i>			
Centre-based child care businesses	50.0A	46.0A	41.0B	33.0B	46.0A	41.0A	37.0A	29.0A
Licensed home-based child care businesses	33.0D	35.0B	37.0B	27.0D	37.0A	34.0A	33.0A	28.0B
Unlicensed home-based child care businesses	35.0C	35.0B	36.0B	27.0C	37.0A	38.0A	36.0A	30.0B

Statistics Canada. Table 42-10-0019-01 Average daily fee per child by child care business type and age group, January 2020 and January 2021

From a social perspective, such a program will support families during these uncertain times and into the future and will help with poverty reduction. For example: according to Statistic Canada, in 2015, 14% of Lethbridge households were low-income, compared to 11% in Alberta and other cities of the same size (Grande Prairie and Red Deer). These rates were higher for single persons (27%), lone parents (26%), new immigrants (18%), Indigenous people (27%), and children (16%). Although childcare is provincially legislated jurisdiction, every municipality, including our own, has specific early learning and childcare needs. Ensuring high-quality, affordable programs would help us combat financial and social inequality. The

early years of a child's life are instrumental in their development. Children who attend high-quality early learning and care programs are more likely to succeed in future educational endeavours, attain employment, and develop the social and emotional skills required to help them be successful. Additionally, obtaining childcare for low-income earners is now not only a considerable burden to residents in Alberta but also a crisis to those who simply cannot afford childcare or do not have alternate options while navigating the current economic crisis. At a municipal level, this is a community development issue as much as it is a family issue; childcare contributes to community development plans. For example, a municipality would consider including childcare businesses in community plans; the same a municipality would consider location and need for schools. Communities largely impacted by low income, shift workers, etc., would be considered for specific childcare centres to support the families and economy as required.

A national program such as this is supported by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce as they realize that a lack of good childcare is holding back entrepreneurs and without childcare, businesses cannot be opened, which is holding back the economy and the economic recovery that our province and country are needing. A National Early Learning and Care Program that is high-quality, inclusive, affordable, and accessible, created with long-term, sustained funding, will provide solutions to many economic and social issues we face locally and nationally and is a fundamental next step to permanently pivoting our economy today and for generations to come.

AUMA Comments:

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

AUMA Resolution 2021.C2: Elder Care Model

Moved by: Town of Strathmore

Seconded by: Town of Okotoks

WHEREAS it is the role of the government to provide for the safety, health, and welfare of people;

WHEREAS in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic the Government of Alberta has identified a growing crisis to maintain an acceptable level of care for our aging population;

WHEREAS changing demographics in the population growth of Alberta Seniors significantly influence the demand for and provision of aged care;

WHEREAS people seeking aged care should have the right to equitable access to services, the right to exercise choice between available services, the right to freedom from degrading treatment, or any form of abuse, the right to liberty, the right of autonomy and the right to make decisions about their care, the right to fair and non-discriminatory treatment and the right to offer opinions and make complaints; and

WHEREAS seniors in Alberta are demanding enhanced choices in the care and services they received.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association encourage the Government of Alberta to create and develop an elder care model in our Province that will offer client directed services focused on standards of care.

BACKGROUND:

Demographics

- In 2046, Alberta's population is expected to:
 - Reach over 6.3 million people, an increase of roughly 2.0 million people from 2019, and
 - Become older, with an average age of 41.5 years, up from 38.3 years in 2019.
- Albertans are expected to live longer on average, a girl born in Alberta in 2019 could expect to live to 83.6 years of age, while a boy could reach 79.0 years. Under the medium growth scenario, life expectancy at birth for females is projected to rise to 87.0 years by 2046, while for males it is expected to reach 83.7 years.
- In 2019, people aged 65 and older represented about 13% of the population. Under the medium growth scenario one in five, or 20%, is expected to be 65 years or older by 2046. The number of seniors is expected to exceed 1.2 million by 2046

[Alberta Population Projections - Alberta and Census Divisions, 2020-2046 \(August 28, 2020\)](#)

Health Issues/Pandemics and the Impact on Age Care

“The coronavirus pandemic, which particularly affects seniors, could prove to be a great opportunity to rethink the relationship our societies have with them”, notes Martine Lagacé, a professor in the Department of Communication of the Faculty of Arts. “If, as a society, we learn the lessons from this health and social crisis, this pandemic could act as a trigger for developing public policies that further the social inclusion of seniors and fight ageism,” says Lagacé, who specializes in social gerontology.

The large numbers of seniors who died in age care facilities during this COVID crisis has served to highlight issues for aged care in Alberta. The reported figures have inadvertently stigmatized Seniors who were already associated with fragility, end of life and other vulnerabilities. What value do we place on Seniors in our society? The hashtag, “Boomer-remover” widely utilized on social media to highlight the horrific rates of mortality among Seniors, is an example of ageism that we need to address overtly and systemically.

The evidence-based research regarding the isolation of Seniors has emphasized the extraordinary hardship experienced by Seniors during forced lockdowns; measures that were broadly applied because buildings were not sufficiently equipped for sectional isolation. New measures are needed to address the social, mental/emotional, financial, and technological inequities that have impacted Alberta’s Seniors.

[The impact of COVID-19 on seniors: Lessons to be learned | Research | University of Ottawa \(uottawa.ca\)](#)

Standards of Care

Under a Ministry responsible for Seniors, specific responsibilities for the important functions should be assigned to a Senior’s Advocate or Commissioner whose duty would be to oversee and ensure:

- quality, safety, and prudential regulation
- system management functions and funding administration
- ensuring that appropriate aged care services are widely available for BIPOC populations
- planning and development of the aged care workforce
- investigation and resolution of complaints

Systemic problems are serious and recurrent issues that stem from problems inherent in the design and operation of the aged care system. They may be funding, policy, cultural or operational issues. These systemic problems are interconnected. None of them exist in isolation and they often have a compounding effect on the quality and accessibility of aged care.

[Aged Care Royal Commission Final Report: Summary](#) (Australian example of a widely applied standard of care)

[Aged care residents’ prioritization of care: A mixed-methods study - Ludlow - 2021 - Health Expectations - Wiley Online Library](#)

AUMA Comments:

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

AUMA Resolution 2021.C3: Long Term Care

Moved by: Town of Strathmore

Seconded by: Town of Okotoks

WHEREAS hospital and physician care are covered by Medicare, long-term care and home care are not, there are long wait lists for subsidized care and inequity in our system where those who can pay more get better access;

WHEREAS costs borne by both the province and by the families of Alberta in caring for aging parents continue to increase and are unsustainable in the long-term; and

WHEREAS the aging demographic and chronic lack of adequate housing and care solutions for seniors demands innovative solutions and the development of creative alternatives.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge our provincial government to petition the Government of Canada to make long term care and home care “medically necessary” services under the terms of the *Canada Health Act*.

BACKGROUND:

- The aging population in Alberta represents a growing need and concern for the care of seniors. There is an ongoing shortage of living facilities for seniors who require assisted living and support, and the private opportunities can be financially out of reach for many Albertan families. Families placing their aging parents into assisted living facilities can find their resources significantly stretched by the enormous associated costs.
- Evidence-based research indicated that the fundamental causes of inferior or deficient care in aged care, particularly residential aged care, is that individuals do not reliably get the health care they deserve and need. The causes for substandard access to health care encompass lack of funding for proactive health care services provided to people at their place of residence, and an unwillingness by some health care providers to attend a person at their residence. A lack of clarity, and inconsistencies around the responsibilities of aged care and health care providers exists. These systemic issues are partly a result of the split in responsibilities for health care and aged care between federal and provincial governments.

[S0144686X19001806jra 1145.1162 \(cambridge.org\)](#) “In conclusion, we believe that the evidence presented here of life course trajectories of family care provides a foundation for understanding better patterns of care work across the life course”.

[Delivering, funding, and rating safe staffing levels and skills mix in aged care - ScienceDirect](#)
[Care workers' perspectives of factors affecting a sustainable aged care workforce - Xiao - 2021 - International Nursing Review - Wiley Online Library](#)
[Our Aging Population: Statistics \(comfortlife.ca\)](#)

[Infographic: Canada's seniors population outlook: Uncharted territory | CIHI](#)

AUMA Comments:

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

AUMA Resolution 2021.C4: Tobacco Industry Health Cost Recovery Fee

Moved by: City of Airdrie

Seconded by: City of St. Albert

WHEREAS tobacco use results in 4,000 premature deaths and 80,000 residents suffering with Related illnesses each year in Alberta;

WHEREAS the cost of tobacco use in Alberta exceeds \$1 billion annually including health care costs, reduced productivity, fire and environmental damage;

WHEREAS a substantial portion of these costs are a direct result of the harmful health impacts from the use of tobacco and tobacco products;

WHEREAS tobacco companies are not required to pay any compensation to Alberta taxpayers beyond general corporate and payroll taxes; and

WHEREAS many Alberta industries are required to compensate Alberta taxpayers for negligence and third party damages including automobile insurers; transportation companies; oil, gas and mining operators; and agricultural producers (i.e., polluter pays principle).

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate to the Alberta government to use the [Crown's Right of Recovery Act](#) to establish a five percent (5%) levy on all Alberta revenues collected by major tobacco manufacturers and importers. Funds collected would be redirected to support effective programs and strategies to reduce and prevent tobacco use in Alberta.

BACKGROUND:

Tobacco use affects every Alberta municipality and their residents from a clean-up, environmental and health perspective. Taxes collected on tobacco products in Alberta raises approximately \$750 million annually. As the cost of tobacco use exceeds \$1 billion annually, all Albertans pay for the negative consequences of tobacco use.

Despite the enormous burden that tobacco places on society and our healthcare system, tobacco companies are presently not required to pay any compensation for harm beyond general corporate and payroll taxes. These companies are located outside of Alberta so consequently the provincial taxes that they do pay are negligible. The vast majority of tobacco taxes are paid for by consumers, not tobacco companies.

The Government of Alberta's \$10 billion lawsuit filed against fourteen Canadian and international tobacco firms in 2012 outlines the harmful activities conducted by the tobacco industry. The lawsuit is an attempt by the Government of Alberta to recover decades worth of public harm and the resulting healthcare costs.

Many Alberta businesses are required to pay for the provincial clean-up costs resulting from their harmful and negligent activities, whether the damage is deliberate or not. Examples include:

- Oil and gas companies – are required to pay for the mitigation of environmental damage and emissions resulting from mining, extraction and refining.
- Trucking and rail companies – are required to pay for the clean-up costs resulting from collisions, derailments, and chemical spills.
- Utility companies – are required to mitigate air pollution including CO₂ and SO₂ emissions resulting from power production.
- Auto insurance carriers – are required to pay for the healthcare costs resulting from motor vehicle collisions. ⁽¹⁾

This same “polluter pays” principal can be applied to tobacco companies. Like the examples provided above the Government of Alberta can recover the cost of health services caused or contributed to by a tobacco-related wrong under the *Crown’s Right of Recovery Act*. It is under this Act that the Government of Alberta sued the tobacco companies in 2012. The *Crown’s Right of Recovery Act* can also be used to recoup current health care costs and the annual cost of implementing initiatives outlined in the [Alberta Tobacco Reduction Strategy \(ATRS\)](#).

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH Canada) has determined that a tax of 5% on tobacco industry revenues (\$573 million in 2018⁽²⁾) would cover the \$28 million annual cost of implementing the Alberta Tobacco Reduction Strategy. This strategy outlines steps to:

- help Albertans to quit using tobacco
- reduce second-hand smoke exposure
- make tobacco products less attractive to youth
- educate youth on the dangers of tobacco use

ATRS focusses on reducing the number of Albertans who use tobacco. The original 2002 strategy is credited with significantly decreasing the number of people who start to use tobacco and helping people who use tobacco to quit. The goal of the strategy is to create a smoke-free Alberta. Funding for the ATRS is no longer included in the provincial budget. When the strategy was first introduced it was funded at a level of \$12 million annually. Since 2008 approximately \$4 million, or one dollar per capita, is spent on anti-smoking efforts in the province.

The ATRS expires in 2022. The Government of Alberta should begin consultations on next steps to develop a new strategy in late 2021 that will potentially also address vaping and vaping products.

AUMA Comments:

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

Notes:

- (1) Campaign for a Smoke-Free Alberta, Tobacco Industry Health Cost Recovery Fee, August 2020
- (2) Health Canada, August 2019

2021 Resolutions

Emergent Resolutions

Criteria

The criteria of an emergent resolution, as set in the Resolutions Policy is that it must:

- a. Deal with an issue of concern to Alberta municipalities which has arisen after the resolution deadline, or just prior to the resolution deadline, such that Members could not submit it as a resolution in time;
- b. Have a critical aspect that needs to be addressed before the next Convention; and
- c. Comply with the guidelines for resolutions set out in this policy.

Seconding

The policy also stipulates that, if the AUMA Board determines the resolution meets the criteria of an emergent resolution, the Board will second the resolution.

AUMA Resolution 2021.Emergent 1: Responsibility of Ambulance Service Delivery

Moved by: City of Airdrie
City of Chestermere
Town of Okotoks
Town of Strathmore
Town of Turner Valley

Seconded by: N/A

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta took responsibility for the delivery of ambulance service as it was a provincial health responsibility;

WHEREAS at the time the ambulance service transitioned from a municipal responsibility to a provincial responsibility there was a commitment that there would be no degradation of service to citizens;

WHEREAS the entire provincial health system has been operating on overdrive because of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS the number of code reds, where no ambulances are available in the Province is impacting the ability of Albertans, especially rural Albertans, to access emergency medical care;

WHEREAS municipalities continue to provide support to the provincial health care system with the operation of our fire departments;

WHEREAS the health and safety of citizens continues to be a priority for municipalities as we arrive on scene as first responders to medical calls approximately 40% of the time;

WHEREAS the length of time, fire is on scene until an ambulance arrives is trending upwards exponentially, in some areas up over 50% and some rural areas as much as a 200% increase in wait time for fire services over the last year or 2 years;

WHEREAS municipalities are acting as a stop gap in the provincial health system with no compensation, and it is impacting the ability of municipalities to meet their own operational requirements; and

WHEREAS everyday Albertans' access to health is being compromised due to a lack of emergency health care.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT that the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta, immediately consult with municipalities, to develop a plan to make urgently needed improvements to the delivery and performance of the ambulance system where municipalities

are recognized and compensated for the role they play in support of the provincial health care system.

BACKGROUND:

When the province transitioned ambulance service from a municipal responsibility to a provincial responsibility there was a commitment that there would be no degradation in the capacity of these services. Since that transition and especially over the last several months the impact on municipal fire services include:

- o Increasing need for fire services to be the first response and first to arrive on the scene;
- o Increasing need for co-response when EMS are more than 10 minutes out;
- o Municipal fire crews are tied up at incidents longer and are required to stay until they can pass the patient to someone with at least the same level of qualification or higher which means fire crews once on scene cannot leave until EMS arrives;
- o Increasing number of concurrent calls, which is affected by increased response times for lower level incidents (more than 10 minutes) and results in fire being dispatched; and
- o Increasing need for call outs to protect the municipality from other occurrences which increases staffing costs for over time and relies on the availability of off duty staff. There is no contractual requirement for staff to attend call outs outside of their scheduled hours.

The effects on municipal staff include:

- o Increasing stress on staff being exposed to more medical incidents;
- o Dealing with patients and families concerned about delayed EMS transportation;
- o Not being able to deliver the scope of practice of an Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP);
- o Reduction of availability for other incidents, impacts capability, staffing and safety.
- o Not being able to respond to other emergency situations.
- o Experiencing delayed response of care for family members when seconds in response can affect long-term health outcomes;
- o Potential increase in mental health issues; and
- o Burn out.

Every citizen experiencing a medical crisis across Alberta is impacted, as the time of EMS response increases the survival rate of patient's decreases. EMS are usually staffed with an ACP with a higher scope of practice than Firefighters Primary Care Paramedic (PCP), this restricts the care provided which could prove critical.

Ambulance service levels have become an urgent, emergent issue. As an example, in Okotoks, within the space of four days, July 28 – 31, two incidents required the use of the STARS helicopter. On one of these occasions, Okotoks did not have a ground ambulance available. On another occasion, August 3, dispatch informed the Incident Commander that EMS was 45 minutes out, eventually arriving from Strathmore. This is an unacceptable level of service

provided by AHS and has shifted the burden substantially to municipalities across Alberta with dire health outcomes for citizens.

AUMA Comments:

This resolution aligns with previous AUMA advocacy on emergency medical services and response times. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA's Board by AUMA's Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of related priorities and positions, and in coordination with any other related resolutions that are adopted.

AUMA Resolution 2021. Emergent 2: Provincial Health Restriction Decisions

Moved by: Lac La Biche County

Seconded by: AUMA Board of Directors

WHEREAS on September 15, 2021, the Government of Alberta implemented new COVID-19 Restrictions, including a Restriction Exemption Program that allowed municipalities to decipher which route they wish to take on their facilities for programming and events;

WHEREAS starting September 20, in-scope businesses, entities and events must follow one of the 2 options: implement the Restrictions Exemption Program requiring proof of vaccination or negative test result, plus mandatory masking, to continue operating as usual, or comply with all public health restrictions as outlined in [Order 42-2021](#);

WHEREAS the responsibility for provincial health measures lies with the provincial government and not with the local municipalities or businesses;

WHEREAS the requirement to choose between the two options is a download from the provincial government to municipal governments;

WHEREAS municipalities are struggling to continue to change and implement restrictions to large community facilities, recreation centers, and other municipal offices;

WHEREAS the decision by the provincial government to force municipalities and businesses to divide residents based on vaccination history is further dividing our communities; and

WHEREAS municipalities are currently campaigning under a municipal election to be held on October 18, 2021, forcing the discussion and debate to be centered on provincial downloading and away from the core functions of municipal government.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA contact the Premier and the Minister of Health of the Government of Alberta to advocate for provincial health restrictions and decisions to be made by the provincial government and not downloaded onto municipalities.

BACKGROUND:

AUMA member municipalities across Alberta are being forced to make operational decisions based on the current COVID-19 Health Restrictions announced September 15, 2021. This amounts to downloading of provincial responsibilities to municipalities.

Rural Municipalities of Alberta has passed this resolution unanimously at their District 5 Meeting on September 24, and it will be considered at RMA's Annual Convention in November.

AUMA Comments:

AUMA consistently facilitates and advocates for improved communication and coordination with the provincial government on pandemic response and recovery. However, we do not currently have a position on this specific issue. Should this resolution be passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA's Board by AUMA's Executive Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2021. Emergent 3: Alberta Supports and Children’s Services Closure to Walk in Clients

Moved by: Town of Westlock

Seconded by: AUMA Board of Directors

WHEREAS one of the main services of Alberta Supports is to provide access to emergency social services;

WHEREAS Alberta Supports and Children’s Services have closed their doors to the public and moved to a centralized call center preventing vulnerable populations from accessing key services;

WHEREAS clients who are no longer able to access these services are now dependent upon municipal services that are unequipped to handle intervention related challenges;

WHEREAS the COVID 19 pandemic has impacted vulnerable populations more than any other group;

WHEREAS municipalities have evolved to ensure that critical services continue to be offered accessibly during the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS municipal services, such as FCSS, Community Services, Libraries, and Enforcement, are overwhelmed with an increase of clients needing assistance in accessing services provided directly by the provincial government; and

WHEREAS FCSS staff are being forced to engage in intervention services outside the scope of their provincial mandate, training, and funding.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to immediately resume walk in services for Alberta Supports and Children’s Services and include municipalities as part of a consultation process to better serve Albertans at the local level.

BACKGROUND

What services are offered by Alberta Supports?

- Income support (welfare)
- Emergency Financial Supports
- Emergency supports for those fleeing abuse
- AISH
- Financial support to families with children with disabilities
- Alberta Senior's benefits. They can look up personal information that FCSS does not have access to.
- Health benefit applications for low income families
- Employment services (resume writing, job application)
- Canada Revenue was there once a month to help with social insurance numbers, CPP, Old Age Security application and questions.
- Children's services
 - Reporting suspected abuse
 - Family/supervised visits
 - Foster care support
 - Adoption support
 - Counselling for kids in care
 - Independent living supports for qualifying youth

When did the closure start?

The closures began in March 2020, during the first provincial COVID restrictions. Alberta Supports walk-in service did not resume in July 2021 with the opening of other provincial offices. In September 2021, Alberta Supports opened for 4 days. During this time, they were not accepting walk-in clientele. Clients that required Alberta Supports services needed to make an appointment via phone or online.

What is the direct impact to the clients of Alberta Supports?

Vulnerable populations often have minimal access to technology and have depended on the walk-in nature of Alberta Supports to address emergent needs. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alberta Supports closed their doors to walk in traffic allowing for services to be offered through a centralized call center or website. Many of the clients accessing the services provided by Alberta Supports/Children's Services don't have access to a phone or computer to begin this process. Additionally, individuals with capacity challenges, struggled to get through to an agent using the automated phone system.

The centralized call system also hindered local referrals to agencies that might be able to assist with issues outside of the scope of the provincial office. This came as a result of assessments made on a local level and the relationships that agencies like FCSS had with agents in the local offices.

Vulnerable populations have been frequenting other municipal agencies like FCSS in desperation for assistance that is unobtainable by the provincial office due to the change in intake process.

What is the direct impact to municipalities?

Municipalities have shouldered the burden associated with assisting these individuals that are unable to get assistance from the closed Alberta Supports offices. Municipalities have seen a rise in homelessness and crime. Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) offices are most heavily impacted, and a separate section has been included to summarize their direct impact.

What steps have been taken since the closure?

In March 2021 the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta met with key stakeholders from Alberta Supports to discuss the future of support offerings from Alberta Supports. FCSSAA board members stressed the need for walk-in services and that a consistent approach would not meet the needs of the individuals accessing these services.

The Town of Westlock met with MLA Glen Van Dijken in August 2021 about the issue raising the concern and requesting the re-opening of the building.

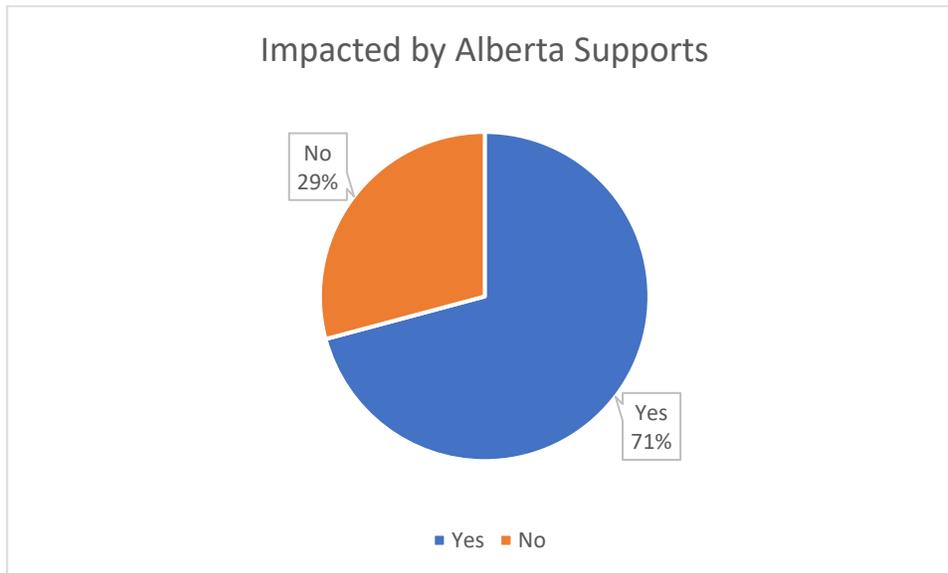
In September 2021, Alberta Supports re-opened their doors to the public however services are by appointment only. Clients must still call to make an appointment prior to their visit. This model still creates the same barriers to vulnerable populations and this re-opening half measure does not resolve the concerns with Alberta Supports accessibility. Children's Services has still not resumed in-person services.

Whilst there is a need to ensure the safety of front-line staff, masking, social distancing, and safety barriers have allowed for other municipal departments to continue to provide critical services to the public.

Alberta Supports Impact to FCSS

The Town of Westlock has worked with the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta to collect data about the FCSS impact across the province. Three questions were sent out to various programs across the province. The data has been summarized below and includes a variety of programs from small towns to big cities.

1. Has the Alberta Support closure impacted your local FCSS?



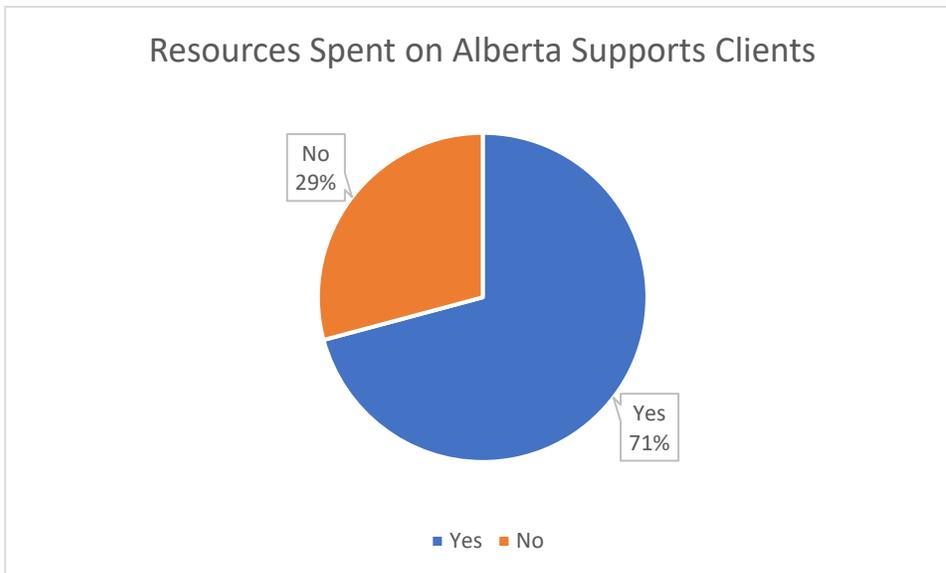
The answer to this question is predominantly yes. Some of the common reasons we see local programs impacted are:

- A higher intake of clientele that are in crisis
- A rise in homelessness
- Dedicating staff at the expense of other programming to walk-in Alberta Supports clients

Several programs stated they weren't impacted as their programs are limited to administering funding only. Still, they indicated that the programs they funded were likely impacted. Two programs responded that they were already doing intake through an Alberta Supports partnership and were already being funded to help with career services outside of their FCSS mandated programming.

One program responded that when Alberta Supports was open for walk-in only, they were often overwhelmed by walk-in traffic. Opening up to phone and online assessments has increased privacy and the number of clients that can be assisted by the program. They saw the change as positive.

2. What resources have been spent in attempting to assist Alberta Support clients (Money, time etc.)?



71% of programs responded that they had committed additional time and resources to assisting Alberta Supports clients. Some programs allocated the time to a dedicated individual within the organization or a summer student. In some programs, the director was assisting walk in clients.

Outside of staff wages, many programs used office supplies, phone lines, and fax lines to support clientele. Some organizations responded that they had provided food cards to those in crisis. One program estimated that the closure was resulting in a cost of \$2,000.00/week to their local FCSS.

3. Can you provide anecdotal examples of situations where you have needed to intervene to support Alberta Supports Clients?

Countless examples were provided by respondents to the questions. The example provided illustrated a few recurring scenarios:

- Clients did not have cell phones or computers to make calls or fill the forms online. FCSS staff assisted them in navigating the phone process. In multiple examples, FCSS staff had to commit to multiple appointments with the clients due to the inability to reach someone through the call centre.
- Clients do not have the capacity to navigate complicated phone menus or online forms. Many of them don't have online banking to be able to print bank statements or submit financial documents.
- Clients with disabilities are unable to hear the agents via phone.

- Clients are looking for career assistance services like resume building/printing.

AUMA Comments:

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

RMA Fall 2021 Submitted Resolutions

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Acceptance of Order Paper
- 3) Resolution Session

- 1-21F** **Emergency Medical Services Capacity and Service Delivery in Rural Alberta** (*Wheatland County*)
- 2-21F** **Disaster Recovery Program Cost Allocations** (*Brazeau County*)
- 3-21F** **Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways** (*County of Two Hills*)
- 4-21F** **Provincial Health Restriction Decisions** (*Lac la Biche County*)
- 5-21F** **Seniors' Foundation Requisitions** (*Wheatland County*)
- 6-21F** **Historical Resources Impact Assessments** (*MD of Willow Creek*)
- 7-21F** **Awareness Campaign for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** (*Starland County*)
- 8-21F** **Privatization of Land Titles** (*County of Barrhead*)
- 9-21F** **Increasing Knowledge-Sharing Among Regulators of Cannabis Production Facilities** (*Kneehill County and Wheatland County*)
- 10-21F** **Site C Dam – BC Hydro** (*County of Northern Lights*)

- 4) Vote on Emergent Resolutions
- 5) Closing of Resolution Session

Emergency Medical Services Capacity and Service Delivery in Rural Alberta

Wheatland County

Endorsed by District 2 (Central)

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta took responsibility for the delivery of **emergency medical services (EMS)** as it was a provincial health responsibility; and

WHEREAS at the time EMS transitioned from a municipal responsibility to a provincial responsibility the Government of Alberta committed to maintaining service levels; and

WHEREAS even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic the capacity of the provincial EMS system had not increased adequately to meet escalating needs; and

WHEREAS this capacity issue has been exacerbated, both directly and indirectly, by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS the number of “code reds”, where no ambulances are available in a community or in larger geographical areas of the province, is increasing; and

WHEREAS the health and safety of citizens continues to be a priority for municipalities; and

WHEREAS municipalities continue to frequently support the provincial health care system by providing medical first response through fire departments; and

WHEREAS there has been a recent upward trend in fire service wait times due to the increased length of time it takes for EMS to arrive on scene in municipalities that provide medical first response; and

WHEREAS a lack of EMS capacity is compromising timely access to emergency healthcare for all Albertans, and particularly those in rural areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request the Government of Alberta to immediately consult with municipalities to develop a plan to make urgently needed improvements to the capacity, delivery, and performance of the emergency medical services system.

Member Background

When the Government of Alberta transitioned EMS service from a municipal responsibility to a provincial responsibility there was a commitment to maintaining service levels. However, as populations have grown, and demand for EMS has increased, a historical lag in corresponding capacity has created intense pressure on the emergency care system.

Provision of emergency health care in rural communities has significant, unique challenges, including low population densities and large geographic areas. Large geographic areas inherently result in longer EMS transport times, making EMS response times even more critical where timely care is critical, and delays may result in compromising patient care and safety.

The borderless provincial delivery model utilizes system status management, where resources are shared across jurisdictions, and deployed where statistical probabilities project they will be required. Therefore, when resources are exhausted in major urban centres resources are drawn from surrounding communities. While attempts are made to provide cross coverage, lack of capacity frequently results in large areas lacking adequate EMS resources and facing longer response times.

In rural areas, the repositioning of resources to more densely populated urban areas amplify response time issues where large geographic areas already create challenges. The full benefit of a provincial model can only be realized when resources are adequate to provide timely response and performance for all Albertans.

The transition to a provincial EMS system has also impacted municipalities, who support emergency medical care by providing medical first response. Impacts include an increasing need for municipal fire services to provide medical first response due to a lack of EMS presence, which can result in increased stress on firefighters responding to medical incidents and increased costs.

Though a provincial EMS dashboard has been recently established to measure EMS performance, up to date information is challenging to access. Transparent reporting regarding performance indicators, in which municipalities do not have to use of freedom of information requests to access data for their communities, is key to trust in the emergency care system. Analysis of this data will assist in determining impacts of decisions on patient safety and quality of care.

EMS service levels have become an urgent, even critical issue with potential life and death consequences. Every citizen experiencing a medical crisis across Alberta is impacted, as the time of EMS response increases, the survival rate of patients decreases. Service delivery improvements will require an innovative multidimensional strategy. Timely access to emergency care has both direct health benefits and broader community benefits. These include attracting new residents, stimulating economic growth, and ultimately supporting viability and contributing to the sustainability of rural communities.

RMA Background

14-19F: Provincial Funding for Regional Air Ambulance

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Alberta provide funds to locally- and regionally-operated emergency response air ambulance services at the same ratio as Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS) funding;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta commissions an independent review, which includes engagement with the public, industry stakeholders and municipalities across Alberta, of the helicopter emergency medical services system in Alberta.

[Click here](#) to view the full resolution.

Disaster Recovery Program Cost Allocations

Brazeau County

Endorsed by District 3 (Pembina River)

WHEREAS rural municipalities have recently experienced reductions in revenue and financial support from the Government of Alberta, including but not limited to changes to or the elimination of linear assessment, well drilling equipment tax, grants in place of taxes, and reductions to Municipal Sustainability Initiative program funding; and

WHEREAS rural municipalities have recently absorbed increased expenditures due to the downloading of provincial costs in areas such as policing and augmenting Alberta Health Services through medical first response programs; and

WHEREAS rural municipalities do not have direct access to any federal disaster relief funding or resources; and

WHEREAS in March 2021 Alberta Municipal Affairs introduced changes to the **Disaster Recovery Program (DRP)** that require municipalities to contribute 10% of the costs of eligible claims made under the DRP;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta urge the Government of Alberta to remove the requirement for municipalities to contribute 10% of the costs of eligible claims made under the Disaster Recovery Program for disasters within their boundaries.

Member Background

Brazeau County, like other rural municipalities across the province, is concerned with the Government of Alberta's decision to now require municipalities to contribute to disaster relief funding under the Disaster Recovery Program.

Brazeau County, like other rural municipalities across the province, have had revenues streams significantly reduced and/or eliminated by the Government of Alberta while being forced to take on additional expenditures to augment the funding to support provincial services. Brazeau County is strongly opposed to and will not accept further downloading from the Government of Alberta.

RMA Background

13-20F: Provincial Government Disaster Recovery Program Payments

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate that the Government of Alberta review its Disaster Recovery Program processes to ensure municipalities receive payments within a defined timeline for resources deployed to assist during regional disasters.

[Click here](#) to view the full resolution.

16-20F: Federal and Provincial Disaster Support

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta for continued Disaster Recovery Program funding to support community resilience and enable the relocation of affected property owners where re-construction is impractical or inadvisable.

[Click here](#) to view the full resolution.

Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways

County of Two Hills

Endorsed by District 5 (Edmonton East)

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has not adequately maintained control of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds within provincial highway rights of way in recent years; and

WHEREAS this lack of control is affecting neighbouring landowners, as these invasive weeds are spreading into their fields; and

WHEREAS due to this lack of control, landowners adjacent to provincial highways are faced with increased costs to their vegetation control programs; and

WHEREAS invasive plants cause significant changes to ecosystems which may result in economic harm to agricultural and recreation industries; and

WHEREAS highway corridors facilitate the spread of invasive plants both locally and internationally; and

WHEREAS allowing noxious and invasive plant growth along highways increases the risk to human health (poisonous plants) and public safety by reducing visibility along road shoulders where wildlife is crossing or grazing; and

WHEREAS the most cost-effective strategy against invasive species is preventing them from establishing rather than relying on eliminating them after an infestation has begun; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is responsible for weed control within the rights of way of the 31,000 kilometres of provincial highways in the province, as per the *Weed Control Act*; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta must allocate sufficient funds and capacity to meet its weed control requirements along provincial highways; and

WHEREAS in 2017, Alberta Transportation developed a four-year provincial vegetation management plan, which included a plan to manage noxious weeds in highway rights of way; and

WHEREAS the provincial vegetation management plan expires in 2021;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta to reinstate a provincial vegetation management plan;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA request that the provincial vegetation management plan enhance the previous plan's approach to managing noxious weeds, prohibited noxious weeds, and any unsafe vegetation on the full rights of way of all primary and secondary provincial highways;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the enhanced plan should include but not be limited to an appropriately timed herbicide application in order to control all legislated weeds and a focus on mowing of the full right of way at a time that limits the spread of weed seeds.

Member Background

This is not a new issue, as municipalities across the province have been dealing with inconsistent vegetation management since the province privatized Alberta Transportation services in the mid 1990s. There has been less and less vegetation management along provincial highways every year since.

Adjacent landowners are frustrated with the weeds in the provincial rights-of-way because the weeds are propagating onto their lands causing financial burden and the overgrowth is impacting the safety of travelling motorists and migratory wildlife along Alberta highways.

Specific concerns with the current inconsistent vegetation management practices include:

Expense:

Landowners are spending large sums of money on weed control, but are also seeing their results diminished because of a lack of responsibility by the Government of Alberta regarding the *Weed Control Act*. The *Weed Control Act* was introduced in 1907 to ensure landowners practice good land husbandry and stewardship. As a fellow landowner, the Government of Alberta, by not proactively controlling weeds on public lands, is insinuating private landowners should wait until a weed notice is issued before conducting any weed control. Additionally, the amount of time taken to respond to a weed infestation has increased recently, leading to larger infestations. This affects ratepayers/landowners and municipalities, as both must increase their budgets for weed control.

Potential transfer of weeds provincially, nationally and internationally:

Inconsistent vegetation management has local, provincial, national, and possibly international impacts as hay, grain, and other commodities are transported via Alberta's highway network daily. Any vehicle that stops on the side of the highway could potentially transfer weed seeds anywhere. The impact is two-fold: increased weed control costs within Alberta and dockage to grains and forages sold into the marketplace. The added costs affect the overall net profits at the farm level.

Safety:

In addition to not controlling weeds in highway ditches, the Government of Alberta has reduced its mowing program along highway ditches. Mowing, also a method of controlling weeds, used to be conducted twice per year along highway shoulders, and every four to five years as prescribed from shoulder to fence-line. In 2021, the Government of Alberta informed the County of Two Hills that no funds had been budgeted for ditch mowing. After raising concerns to Alberta Transportation, provincial roads within the County received one mow during the 2021 season, of only one pass along the shoulder of the highway. Not only does this impact control of the weeds along highways, but also leads to safety concerns for the public travelling these highways. The visibility of wildlife crossing the highways is hindered by the tall weeds and grass. Several county residents have reported increased wildlife and bird strikes along two- and three-digit highways and are concerned about their own safety, as well as that of wildlife. Furthermore, this has a financial impact from the aspect of automobile insurance rates and premiums.

Government of Alberta ignoring its own Act:

The best control of weeds comes from prevention, not reaction. The Government of Alberta is not abiding by its own legislation intended to control the spread of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. By not controlling the ditches, municipalities are put in the uncomfortable position of having to issue weed notices to the Government of Alberta.

History and legislation:

Alberta highway shoulders have historically been mowed twice per season. Approximately every four years, a manager would prescribe additional shoulder to fence-line mowing. In 2015 Alberta Transportation stopped mowing along all highways. Alberta Transportation proactive weed control plans changed in 2014. Alberta Transportation stopped spraying weeds proactively, and would only spray if they were issued a weed notice.

The Alberta *Weed Control Act* was proclaimed in the Province of Alberta in 1907. It is reviewed and proclaimed every four or six years. It was last reviewed and proclaimed in 2016. The Alberta *Weed Control Act* aims to regulate noxious weeds, prohibited noxious weeds, and weed seeds through various control measures, such as inspection and enforcement, together with provisions for recovery of expenses in cases of non-compliance. Additionally, it mandates the licensing of seed cleaning plants and mechanisms. An excerpt is included:

Part 1:

Noxious weeds — control

2 A person shall control a noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies.

Prohibited noxious weeds — destroy

3 A person shall destroy a prohibited noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies.

Spread of weeds prohibited

4(1) Subject to the regulations, a person shall not use or move anything that, if used or moved, might spread a noxious weed or prohibited noxious weed.

Other Stakeholders

Alberta Invasive Plants Council - This group of individuals and organizations work hard to educate, the public on invasive species (plants, and organisms) not only in our province, but also those that can potentially be introduced in our province. This group tries very hard to stop the spread of invasive species.

Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen - This is a group of about 160 members from across the province, these men and women work hard every day to try and reduce or eradicate the invasive species in their respective Counties or MD's. We are bound by the Alberta Weed Act in our own jurisdiction to both keep Right of Ways clean, but also educate and enforce weed concerns to local producers.

Agricultural Services Board - There are 69 municipalities that have an Agricultural Services Board, this board and its members create and uphold strategic plans that include proactive measures to reduce invasive populations in their jurisdiction. We work hard every year to improve our stewardship on the lands around us.

Alberta Transportation - Alberta Transportation has a very high invested interest as they are in control of the highways, these roads must be kept safe for all travelers. Letting unwanted vegetation stay on the shoulders of the roads, growing tall allows for very unsafe driving conditions, as wildlife can emerge with little notice, as well as, travelers when stopping on the sides of the roads can unknowingly transfer invasive species.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry – The Alberta Weed Act is an act that has been around since 1907. This is an act that was created by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. If the expectation is to educate and enforce this act upon the public, they must abide themselves.

CP and CN rail lines - The rail lines cross over provincial highways all over the province, when the two cross, there is a chance of transferring weeds further on, even out of province.

Past Advocacy Efforts

Provincial Agricultural Services Board Conference Resolutions:

- 2006: Resolution #10 - Weed Control Along Primary and Secondary Highways

A resolution was passed that requested “the Provincial Government allocate sufficient funds to control the weeds and undesirable vegetation along their primary and secondary highways within the province.”

At that time Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation indicated that they placed a “high priority on weed control within all highway rights-of-way.” The department also stated that in 1999 a process was initiated “to involve the Fieldmen more directly in the weed control programs by allowing them, in urgent situations, to order work directly from highway maintenance contractors or to undertake weed control using their own forces. This process has been quite successful on a provincial basis.”

- 2008: Resolution #15 - Weed Control of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation Roadways

Agricultural services boards across Alberta are/were interested in providing weed control along provincial highways in their municipality in the most effective and efficient way possible. Weed control within all highway rights-of-way is a priority for government. The department has contractual obligations to have weed control work done by the highway maintenance contractors. Staff from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation (INFTRA) and Alberta Agriculture and Food work closely with agricultural fieldmen and highway maintenance contractors to determine the weed spraying and mowing requirements along each roadway within their jurisdiction. Also, agricultural fieldmen identify problematic locations that need special attention and ensure they are addressed.

- 2010: Resolution #4 - Alberta Transportation Roadside Weed Control

A resolution was passed that requested “Alberta Transportation review their current weed control program to ensure the effectiveness of the program and give consideration to an increase in the current width of ditch that is

sprayed as well as implementing a monitoring and assessment program to ensure that severe populations are dealt with proactively not reactively.”

RMA Background

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Provincial Health Restriction Decisions

Lac la Biche County

Endorsed by District 5 (Edmonton East)

WHEREAS on September 15, 2021, the Government of Alberta implemented new COVID-19 restrictions, including a **Restrictions Exemption Program (REP)** that require municipalities to determine whether to opt into the REP for their facilities for programming and events; and

WHEREAS starting September 20, 2021, in-scope businesses, entities and events must follow one of two options: implement the REP, which requires those entering facilities to provide proof of vaccination or negative test result, plus mandatory masking, or operate at a reduced capacity in compliance with all public health restrictions as outlined in Order 42-2021; and

WHEREAS the responsibility for provincial health measures lies with the Government of Alberta and not with local municipalities or businesses; and

WHEREAS the requirement to choose between the two options is a download from the Government of Alberta to municipalities; and

WHEREAS municipalities are struggling to continue to implement frequently changing restrictions to large community facilities, recreation centres, and other municipal offices; and

WHEREAS the decision by the Government of Alberta to force municipalities and businesses to divide residents based on vaccination history is further dividing communities; and

WHEREAS the complex rules and restrictions resulted in a shift in focus from municipal issues to provincial public health decisions during the campaigning period prior to the 2021 municipal elections;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta for provincial health restrictions and decisions to be made at the provincial level and not downloaded onto municipalities.

Member Background

Municipalities in Alberta have been given direction from the Government of Alberta to make decisions relating to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, the Government of Alberta has increased its expectations of municipalities to decipher and enforce new and changing pandemic-related regulations. This delegation of what are typically provincial decisions onto municipalities includes decisions as whether to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program in municipal facilities.

The responsibility for provincial health measures lies with the provincial government and not with the local municipalities or businesses. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, municipal governments have had to make decisions regarding the implementation of the Restrictions Exemption Program but are further struggling to adapt to continually changing restrictions to large community facilities, recreation centres, and other municipal offices.

Local businesses are also struggling to provide services to residents and industries. The division created with the Restrictions Exemption Program has not only divided residents, but also municipalities.

In addition to RMA, Lac la Biche County has submitted this resolution to the AUMA and ASB.

CMOH Order 42-2021 is attached as further background on this issue.

RMA Background

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

RECORD OF DECISION – CMOH Order 42-2021

Re: 2021 COVID-19 Response

Whereas I, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) have initiated an investigation into the existence of COVID-19 within the Province of Alberta.

Whereas the investigation has confirmed that COVID-19 is present in Alberta and constitutes a public health emergency as a novel or highly infectious agent that poses a significant risk to public health.

Whereas under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act* (the Act), I have the authority by order to prohibit a person from attending a location for any period and subject to any conditions that I consider appropriate, where I have determined that the person engaging in that activity could transmit an infectious agent. I also have the authority to take whatever other steps that are, in my opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Whereas a state of public health emergency for the province of Alberta was declared on September 15, 2021.

Whereas having determined that additional measures are necessary to protect Albertans from exposure to COVID-19 and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, I hereby make the following order:

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Part 1 – Application

- 1.1 This Order applies throughout the province of Alberta.
- 1.2 This Order comes into force on September 16, 2021 except where otherwise stated in this Order.
- 1.3 If a section of this Order is inconsistent or in conflict with a provision in Record of Decision – CMOH Order 37-2021 or 38-2021, the section in those Orders prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.
- 1.4 This Order rescinds Record of Decision – CMOH Order 40-2021.

Part 2 – Definitions

- 2.1 In this Order, the following terms have the following meanings:
 - (a) “adult” means a person who has attained the age of eighteen years.
 - (b) “authorizing health professional” means one of the following regulated members under the *Health Professions Act* who holds a practice permit:

- i. nurse practitioners;
 - ii. physicians;
 - iii. psychologists.
- (c) “child care program” means any of the following:
- i. a facility-based program providing day care, out of school care or preschool care;
 - ii. a family day home program;
 - iii. a group family child care program;
 - iv. an innovative child care program.
- (d) “Class A, B or C liquor licence” has the same meaning given to it under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation, AR 143/96*, under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*.
- (e) “cohort”, as the context of this Order requires, means:
- i. for a person who resides on their own, one or two other persons with whom the person who resides on their own regularly interacts with during the period of this Order;
 - ii. for a household, the persons who regularly reside at the home of that household;
 - iii. for a household in which all eligible persons who regularly reside at the home are fully vaccinated, the members of that household and the members of a second household whose eligible members are fully vaccinated, up to a maximum of 10 fully vaccinated persons, excluding children eleven and younger who are not vaccinated;
 - iv. for a fully vaccinated person who resides on their own, the person who resides on their own, and up to a maximum of nine fully vaccinated persons of a household, excluding children eleven and younger who are not vaccinated;
 - v. for a person attending an overnight camp, the group of campers and staff members assigned to them who stay together throughout the day, day to day, and overnight;
 - vi. for a school, the group of students and staff who primarily remain together for the purposes of instruction as a COVID-19 safety strategy.
- (f) “commercial vehicle” means a vehicle operated on a highway by or on behalf of a person for the purpose of providing transportation, but does not include a private passenger vehicle.
- (g) “day care” has the same meaning given to it in the *Early Learning and Child Care Regulation*.
- (h) “drive-in activities” means outdoor activities that a person can participate in or observe while remaining in a motor vehicle including the following:
- i. a worship service;

- ii. a drive-in movie;
 - iii. a graduation ceremony;
 - iv. physical activity, performance activity or recreational activity;
 - v. any activity similar in nature to those listed in this definition.
- (i) “eligible person” means a person born in 2009, or before 2009, who is living, working or going to school in Alberta who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- (j) “face mask” means a medical or non-medical mask or other face covering that covers a person’s nose, mouth and chin.
- (k) “facility-based program” has the same meaning given to it in the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*.
- (l) “Facility Licence” has the same meaning given to it under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation, AR 143/96*, under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*.
- (m) “family day home program” has the same meaning given to it in the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*.
- (n) “farming or ranching operation” means the primary production of eggs, milk, grain, seeds, fruit, vegetables, honey, livestock, diversified livestock animals within the meaning of the *Livestock Industry Diversification Act*, poultry or bees, an operation that produces cultured fish within the meaning of the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*, and any other primary agricultural operation specified in the regulations, but does not include the operation of a greenhouse, mushroom farm, nursery or sod farm.
- (o) “fitness activity” means a physical activity that occurs at a gym, fitness studio, dance studio, rink, pool, arena or recreation centre and includes dance classes, rowing, spin, yoga, boxing, boot camp, Pilates and other activities of a similar nature.
- (p) “food-serving business or entity” means a restaurant, café, bar, pub or similar business or entity.
- (q) “fully vaccinated” means a person who is eligible for vaccination who has:
- i. received two doses of a World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine in a two dose vaccine series or one dose in a one dose vaccine series; and
 - ii. had fourteen days elapse since the date on which the person received the second dose of the World Health Organization approved COVID-19 vaccine of a two dose series or one dose of the vaccine in a one dose vaccine series.
- (r) “Gaming Licence” has the same meaning given to it under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation, AR 143/96*, under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*.
- (s) “group family child care program” has the same meaning given to it in the former *Child Care Licensing Regulation*.

- (t) “health condition” means the following mental or physical limitations:
- i. sensory processing disorders;
 - ii. developmental delays;
 - iii. mental illnesses including: anxiety disorders; psychotic disorders; dissociative identity disorder; and depressive disorders;
 - iv. facial trauma or recent oral maxillofacial surgery;
 - v. contact dermatitis or allergic reactions to face mask components; or
 - vi. clinically significant acute respiratory distress.
- (u) “highway” means any thoroughfare, street, road, trail, avenue, parkway, driveway, viaduct, lane, alley, square, bridge, causeway, trestleway or other place or any part of any of them, whether publicly or privately owned, that the public is ordinarily entitled or permitted to use for the passage or parking of vehicles and includes:
- i. a sidewalk, including a boulevard adjacent to the sidewalk;
 - ii. if a ditch lies adjacent to and parallel with the roadway, the ditch; and
 - iii. if a highway right of way is contained between fences or between a fence and one side of the roadway, all the land between the fences, or all the land between the fence and the edge of the roadway, as the case may be,
- but does not include a place declared by regulation not to be a highway.
- (v) “innovative child care program” has the same meaning given to it in the former *Child Care Licensing Regulation*.
- (w) “masking directive or guidance” means, as the context of this Order requires, either:
- i. a directive or guidance document made by a regional health authority, or a contracted service provider of a regional health authority, which sets out directions or guidance respecting the use of face masks in facilities or settings operated by the regional health authority or the contracted service provider; or
 - ii. a directive or guidance document made by Alberta Health and posted on the Government of Alberta website which sets out directions or guidance respecting the use of face masks in the child care program setting.
- (x) “medical exception letter” means written confirmation provided to a person by an authorizing health professional which verifies that the person has a health condition that prevents the person from wearing a face mask while attending an indoor public place and
- i. clearly sets out the information required by section 3.6 of this Order; and
 - ii. is valid for a period of one year from the date on which it is made.
- (y) “outdoor food and beverage services” means services which an operator of a food-serving business or entity provides in an outdoor area to persons who remain at the food-serving business or entity while consuming food or beverages. For greater

certainly, outdoor food and beverage services are provided in an area that meet the following requirements:

- i. patios and dining areas with a roof must not have more than one enclosing wall;
 - ii. patios and dining areas without a roof may have one or more enclosing wall;
 - iii. for the purposes of this Order umbrellas and pergolas are not considered to be roofs;
 - iv. for the purposes of this Order, a fence or a half-wall is not an enclosing wall.
- (z) “out of school care” has the same meaning given to it in the Early Learning and Child Care Regulation.
- (aa) “performance activity” means singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, acting or other activities of a similar nature and includes, but is not limited to, a rehearsal, concert, theatre, dance, choral, festival, musical and symphony events.
- (bb) “person who resides on their own” means a person living on their own or a person living on their own who has one or more youth living with them and under their care.
- (cc) “physical activity” means a fitness activity or sport activity.
- (dd) “preschool care”, has the same meaning given to it in the *Early Learning and Child Care Regulation*.
- (ee) “post-secondary institution” means a public or private post-secondary institution operating under the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* and includes the physical location or place where the post-secondary institution provides a structured learning environment through which a program of study is offered.
- (ff) “private place” means a private place as defined under the *Public Health Act*.
- (gg) “private social gathering” means any type of private social function or gathering at which a group of persons come together and move freely around to associate, mix or interact with each other for social purposes rather than remaining seated or stationary for the duration of the function or gathering, but does not include a cohort consisting of persons referred to in section 2.1(e) of this Order.
- (hh) “public place” has the same meaning given to it in the *Public Health Act*, and for greater certainty does not include a rental accommodation used solely for the purposes of a private residence.
- (ii) “recreational activity” means any structured or organized activity or program where the purpose of the activity or program is intended to develop a skill, including but not limited to, Girl Guides, Scouts, choir, arts and crafts, pottery or other substantially similar activities.
- (jj) “school” has the same meaning given to it in the *Education Act*.

- (kk) “school building” has the same meaning given to it in the *Education Act*.
- (ll) “Special Event Licence” has the same meaning given to it under *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation*, AR 143/96, under the *Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act*.
- (mm) “sport activity” means sports training, practices, events, games, scrimmages, competitions, gameplay, league play, and other activities of a similar nature.
- (nn) “staff member” means any individual who is employed by, or provides services under a contract with, an operator of a school.
- (oo) “student” has the same meaning given to it in the *Education Act*.
- (pp) “visitor” means any individual who attends a school, but who is not a student or staff member.
- (qq) “youth” means a person under eighteen years of age.
- (rr) “youth activity” means any physical activity, performance activity or recreational activity youth are participating in.

Part 3 – Masking

A. Indoor masking requirements

- 3.1 Except as set out in this Order, a person must wear a face mask at all times while attending an indoor public place.
- 3.2 For greater certainty, indoor public places include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) a school building;
 - (b) commercial vehicles transporting the driver and one or more other persons who are not members of that persons household, or if the person is a person living alone, then the person’s close contact;
 - (c) the common areas of a day camp or overnight camp; and
 - (d) all indoor spaces under the control of a business or entity, including all areas where the public or employees of the business or entity may attend.
- 3.3 For greater certainty, except as otherwise set out in this Order:
 - (a) face masks must be worn at a wedding ceremony or funeral service that is held in an indoor public place; and
 - (b) a person must comply with all masking directives or guidance while attending at:
 - i. a facility operated by a regional health authority under the *Regional Health Authorities Act* or a facility operated by a contracted service provider of a regional health authority; or
 - ii. a childcare program.

B. General exceptions to indoor masking

- 3.4 Despite this Part of this Order, a person is not required to wear a face mask at all times while attending an indoor public place if the person is:
- (a) a youth under two years of age;
 - (b) a youth participating in an indoor performance activity in circumstances where it is not possible for the youth to wear a face mask while participating in the indoor performance activity;
 - (c) a youth participating in an indoor physical activity;
 - (d) an adult participating in an indoor physical activity or performance activity;
 - (e) unable to place, use or remove a face mask without assistance;
 - (f) seated at a table while consuming food or drink or, if standing at a standing table while consuming food or drink, as long as the person remains at the standing table at all times while consuming the food or drink;
 - (g) providing or receiving care or assistance where a face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance;
 - (h) alone at a workstation and separated by at least two metres distance from all other persons;
 - (i) the subject of a workplace hazard assessment in which it is determined that the person's safety will be at risk if the person wears a face mask while working;
 - (j) separated from every other person by a physical barrier that prevents droplet transmission;
 - (k) a person who needs to temporarily remove their face mask while in the public place for the purposes of:
 - i. receiving a service that requires the temporary removal of their face mask;
 - ii. an emergency or medical purpose, or
 - iii. establishing their identity.

C. Exceptions for health conditions

- 3.5 Despite this Part of this Order, a person who is unable to wear a face mask due to a health condition as determined by an authorizing health professional is excepted from wearing a face mask while attending an indoor public place.
- 3.6 For the purposes of section 3.5, the health condition must be verified by a medical exception letter that includes the following:
- (a) the name of the person to whom the exception applies;
 - (b) the name, phone number, email address, professional registration number, and signature of the authorizing health professional; and
 - (c) the date on which the written confirmation was provided.

- 3.7 For greater certainty, although the medical exception letter must verify that a health condition applies, the medical exception letter must not include specific information about the health condition.

D. Exception for child care programs

- 3.8 Despite this Part of this Order, a youth attending at a child care program is not required to wear a face mask except in accordance with any masking directive or guidance issued by the child care program operator.

E. Exceptions for performance activities

- 3.9 Despite this Part of this Order, a person participating in a performance activity during a worship service is not required to wear a mask.

F. Exceptions for professional physical activities and performance activities

- 3.10 Despite this Part of this Order, a member of, or for, a professional or semi-professional sports team or as a professional or semi-professional athlete, is not required to wear a mask while participating in a physical activity related to their professional or semi-professional sports team or athletics.
- 3.11 Despite this Part of this Order, a member of, or for, a professional or semi-professional performance organization, is not required to wear a mask while participating in a performance activity related to their professional or semi-professional performance.

G. Exceptions for farming or ranching operations

- 3.12 Despite this Part of this Order, a person does not need to wear a face mask while working at a farming or ranching operation, unless the person is interacting with a member of the public.

Part 4 – Physical distancing

A. Two metres physical distance required

- 4.1 For all indoor and outdoor activities, a person must maintain a physical distance of two metres from any other person who is not part of the person's cohort as referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.
- 4.2 For greater certainty, a person must maintain a physical distance of two metres from any other person who is not a member of the person's cohort as referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order, when the person:
- (a) is attending as a spectator at an indoor location of a business or entity for the purposes of observing indoor physical activity, performance activity or recreational activity;
 - (b) is attending as a spectator at a school building for the purposes of observing indoor youth activity;

- (c) is participating in an outdoor private social gathering including a wedding ceremony or reception and a funeral service or reception where the only indoor spaces are washroom facilities;
 - (d) is a youth or staff member attending at a day camp;
 - (e) is attending a place of worship.
- 4.3 For greater certainty, staff and students at post-secondary institution must maintain a physical distance of two metres from any other person who is not a member of their cohort as referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.
- 4.4 Despite section 4.1 of this Order, an adult or youth can participate in outdoor group physical activity, performance activity or recreational activity.

B. General exceptions to two metre physical distance requirement

- 4.5 Despite this Part, a person is not required to maintain a physical distance of two metres from any other person when the person is receiving a service from a business or entity that the person cannot receive while maintaining a physical distance of two metres.
- 4.6 Despite this Part, a coach, instructor or trainer is not required to maintain two metres physical distance from the person being coached, guided or instructed for physical activity, performance activity, or recreational activity if doing so inhibits the guidance or instruction being provided.
- 4.7 Despite this Part, a youth is not required to maintain two metres physical distance while participating in a physical activity or performance activity.
- 4.8 Despite this Part, an adult is not required to maintain two metres physical distance while participating in an outdoor physical activity or performance activity.

C. Three metres physical distance required

- 4.9 An adult must maintain a physical distance of three metres from any other person who is not a member of their cohort, referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order, when the person is participating in indoor solo or 1:1 physical activity.
- 4.10 An operator of a business or entity providing a place for indoor solo or 1:1 physical activity must ensure that an adult who is participating in indoor solo or 1:1 physical activity maintains three metres distance from any other person who is not a member of their cohort, referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.

D. Exceptions to three metre physical distance requirement

- 4.11 Despite this Part, a coach, instructor or trainer is not required to maintain three metres physical distance from the person being coached, guided or instructed for physical activity, performance activity, or recreational activity if doing so inhibits the guidance or instruction being provided.

Part 5 – Work from one’s private residence

- 5.1 An employer must require a worker to work from the worker’s own private residence unless the employer determines that the worker’s physical presence is required at the workplace to effectively operate the workplace.

Part 6 – Private Residences

- 6.1 Subject to sections 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 of this Order, a person who resides in a private residence must not permit a person who does not normally reside in that residence to enter or remain in the residence.
- 6.2 Section 6.1 of this Order does not prevent a person from entering the private residence of another person for any of the following purposes:
- (a) to provide health care, personal care or housekeeping services;
 - (b) for a visit between a child and a parent or guardian who does not normally reside with that child;
 - (c) to receive or provide child care;
 - (d) to provide tutoring or other educational instruction related to a program of study;
 - (e) to perform construction, renovations, repairs or maintenance;
 - (f) to deliver items;
 - (g) to provide real estate or moving services;
 - (h) to provide social or protective services;
 - (i) to respond to an emergency;
 - (j) to provide counselling services;
 - (k) for a visit between a person who is at the end of their life (last four to six weeks, as determined by that person’s primary health care provider) and a family member, friend, faith leader or other person as long as no more than three visitors enter the private residence of the dying person at one time;
 - (l) to provide or receive personal or wellness services;
 - (m) to provide physical activity or performance instruction; or
 - (n) to undertake a municipal property assessment.
- 6.3 A person who resides on their own may have their cohort described in section 2.1(e)(i) of this Order attend at their own private residence and may attend at the private residence of the one or two other persons described in section 2.1(e)(i) provided the following conditions are met:
- (a) each person whose residence the person is attending at lives alone at their private residence; or
 - (b) each of the two people at the residence the person is attending at live together.

- 6.4 A cohort for a household as defined at section 2.1(e)(iii) of this Order, can choose one other household to visit with at each other's private residences provided that the following conditions are met:
- (a) the two households, when meeting together, are limited to a maximum of ten eligible persons; and
 - (b) all eligible persons who are part of the household must be vaccinated.
- 6.5 A cohort for a fully vaccinated person who resides on their own, as defined at section 2.1(e)(iv) of this Order, can choose one other household to visit with at each other's private residences provided that the following conditions are met:
- (a) the two households, when meeting together, are limited to a maximum of ten eligible persons; and
 - (b) all eligible persons who are part of the household must be vaccinated.

Part 7 – Private social gatherings

- 7.1 Sections 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 of this Part of this Order come into effect on September 20, 2021.
- 7.2 All persons are prohibited from attending a private social gathering at an outdoor private or public place except in accordance with this Part of the Order.
- 7.3 All persons are prohibited from attending a private social gathering at an indoor public place.
- 7.4 For greater certainty, an indoor wedding reception or a funeral reception is a prohibited private social gathering.
- 7.5 Despite Part 6 and section 7.3 of this Order, a private social gathering of fifty persons or fifty percent of the total operational occupant load, whichever is less, as determined in accordance with the Alberta Fire Code and the fire authority having jurisdiction may occur at an indoor public or private place for the purposes of a wedding ceremony or a funeral service.
- 7.6 A private social gathering of two hundred persons or less may occur at an outdoor public or private place including for the purposes of a wedding ceremony or reception or a funeral service or reception.

A. Private social gatherings for protests

- 7.7 Despite this Part of this Order, a person may attend at an outdoor public place to exercise their right to peacefully demonstrate for a protest or political purpose without limit to the number of persons in attendance if the person:
- (a) remains outdoors except where necessary to use the washroom;
 - (b) wears a face mask at all times;

- (c) maintains a minimum physical distance of two metres from any other person in attendance, including any other person who is a member of the person's household, unless:
 - i. either the person or the other person is, or both persons are, eleven years of age or younger; and
 - ii. both persons are members of the same household;
 in which case this subsection does not apply;
 - (d) does not offer food or beverages to any other person in attendance, regardless of whether the food or beverage is provided for sale or not; and
 - (e) immediately disperses in a coordinated fashion at the conclusion of the gathering, while at all times adhering to the requirements in this section.
- 7.8 For greater certainty, a protest or political purpose as described in section 7.7 means for the purpose of expressing a position on a matter of public interest.

Part 8 - Places of worship

- 8.1 A faith leader may conduct a worship service at a place of worship if the number of persons who attend the worship service at the place of worship is limited to thirty-three percent of the total operational occupant load as determined in accordance with the Alberta Fire Code and the fire authority having jurisdiction.
- 8.2 A person attending a worship service at a place of worship must remain in a cohort consisting of persons referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.

Part 9 – Businesses and entities

- 9.1 Sections 9.2 and 9.3 of this Part of this Order comes into force on September 20, 2021.
- 9.2 An operator of a business or entity must limit the number of members of the public that may attend the location where the business or entity is operating to the greater of:
 - (a) thirty-three percent of the total operational occupant load as determined in accordance with the Alberta Fire Code and the fire authority having jurisdiction; or
 - (b) five persons.
- 9.3 A person may only attend at a business or entity with a cohort consisting of the persons referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.
- 9.4 Despite this Part of this Order, a business or entity operating exclusively outdoors, excepting washrooms, is not subject to any capacity limits.
- 9.5 Despite this Part of this Order an unlimited number of persons may attend a drive-in activity if the persons who attend the drive-in activity:

- (a) remain within a motor vehicle that is designed to be closed to the elements while attending and observing or participating in the drive-in activity except where necessary to use the washroom or access other amenities; and
- (b) position their motor vehicle at least two metres away from other motor vehicles.

Part 10 – Restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs

- 10.1 Sections 10.2, 10.3, 10.4(a) of this Part of this Order come into effect on September 20, 2021.
- 10.2 An operator of a food-serving business or entity is prohibited from offering or providing indoor food and beverage services.
- 10.3 A person who attends a food-serving business or entity that offers or provides outdoor food and beverage services, may eat or drink alone or with a cohort where the cohorts participating are the persons referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.
- 10.4 An operator of a food-serving business or entity that offers or provides outdoor food and beverage services must:
 - (a) limit the number of persons seated at the same table to a maximum of six persons for persons who are members of same household and a maximum of three persons for persons who reside on their own; and
 - (b) require persons to remain seated while consuming food or beverages and must prohibit persons seated at a table or standing at a standing table from interacting with persons seated at a different table or standing at a different standing table.
- 10.5 An operator of a business or entity with a Class A or C liquor licence, including but not limited to restaurants, bars, lounges, pubs, cafes, legions or private clubs is prohibited from serving liquor after 10 p.m. and must ensure that liquor consumption at the business or entity ends at 11 p.m..
- 10.6 An operator of a business or entity with a Gaming Licence or Facility Licence or a Class B liquor licence, including but not limited to bowling alleys, casinos, bingo halls, pool halls and indoor recreation entertainment centers is prohibited from serving liquor after 10 p.m. and must ensure that liquor consumption at the business or entity ends at 11 p.m..
- 10.7 A person who holds a Special Event Licence is prohibited from serving liquor after 10 p.m. and must ensure that liquor consumption at the event ends at 11 p.m..
- 10.8 For greater certainty, an operator of a food-serving business or entity may, subject to applicable laws, provide food or beverages, including liquor, by take-out, delivery or drive-thru at any time, including after 10 p.m..

Part 11 – Adult physical activity, performance activity and recreational activity

- 11.1 This Part of this Order comes into force on September 20, 2021.
- 11.2 No adult may attend at an indoor location of a business or entity for the purposes of participating in a group physical activity, group performance activity, group recreational activity, or a competition or similar activity.
- 11.3 For greater certainty, despite anything in this Order, an adult is not prohibited from participating in 1:1 or solo indoor physical activities and a business or entity is not prohibited from offering or providing services to, or a location for, an adult to participate in 1:1 or solo indoor physical activities.
- 11.4 An operator of a business or entity is prohibited from offering or providing services to, or a location for, adults to hold a competition or similar activity or participate in group indoor physical activity, group performance activity or group recreational activity.
- 11.5 For greater certainty, this Part of this Order does not apply to indoor group physical activity, indoor performance activity, or indoor recreational activity when the adults in the cohorts participating are the persons referred to in sections 2.1(e)(i) or 2.1(e)(ii) of this Order.

A. Professional physical activities and performance activities

- 11.6 Part 11 of this Order does not apply to:
- (a) a person attending or an operator of a business or entity, providing or hosting a physical activity as member of or for a professional or semi-professional sports team or as a professional or semi-professional athlete;
 - (b) a person attending or an operator of a business or entity, providing or hosting a performance activity as a member of or for a professional or semi-professional performance team or as a professional or semi-professional performer.

Part 12 – Youth activities

- 12.1 A parent or guardian of a youth must screen a youth for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to the youth participating in indoor youth activities in accordance with the COVID-19, Alberta Health Daily Checklist (for children under the age of eighteen).

Part 13 – Schools

A. Physical distancing in schools

- 13.1 An operator of a school must assign each youth enrolled in kindergarten to grade six to a cohort as in accordance with the guidance on the Government of Alberta website.
- 13.2 Students, staff and visitors at a school building must maintain a physical distance of two metres from any other person who is not a member of their cohort as referenced in

sections 2.1(e)(i), 2.1(e)(ii) or 2.1(e)(vi) in accordance with the guidance on the Government of Alberta website.

- 13.3 Despite this Part and in accordance with the guidance on the Government of Alberta website, students and staff at a school building are not required to maintain two metres physical distance if doing so inhibits the guidance or instruction being provided or where it is not possible to maintain two metres physical distance.

B. Masking requirements in schools

- 13.4 All students enrolled in grades four through twelve, staff, and visitors must wear a face mask while attending at a school building.
- 13.5 An operator of a school must ensure that all students enrolled in grades four through twelve, staff, and visitors wear a face mask while attending at a school building.

C. Exceptions to masking in schools

- 13.6 Despite Part 3 and this Part of this Order, students, staff or visitors are not required to wear a face mask at all times while attending at a school building if the student, staff or visitor:
- (a) is unable to place, use or remove a face mask without assistance;
 - (b) is unable to wear a face mask due to a health condition;
 - (c) is consuming food or drink in a designated area;
 - (d) is engaging in a physical activity;
 - (e) is seated at a desk or table
 - (i) within a classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place, and
 - (ii) where the desks, tables and chairs are arranged in a manner
 - (A) to prevent persons who are seated from facing each other, and
 - (B) to allow the greatest possible distance between seated persons;
 - (f) is providing or receiving care or assistance where a non-medical face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance; or
 - (g) is separated from every other person by a physical barrier.
- 13.7 An operator of a school must use its best efforts to ensure that any student, staff member or visitor who is not required to wear a face mask:
- (a) as permitted by section 13.6(a) or (b) of this Order is able to maintain a minimum of two metres distance from every other person;
 - (b) as permitted by section 13.6(c) of this Order is able to maintain a minimum of two metres distance from every other person, if the designated area is not within a classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place.

D. School buses

- 13.8 Subject to section 3.10 of this Order, an operator of a school must ensure that the following persons wear a face mask while being transported on a school bus:
- (a) all students attending grades K through grade 12;
 - (b) all staff members;
 - (c) all visitors.
- 13.9 For greater certainty, section 13.8(b) applies in respect of any individual who transports students attending grades kindergarten through 12 on a school bus to a school, regardless of whether that individual is a staff member.
- 13.10 All students attending grades kindergarten through 12, staff members and visitors must wear a face mask that covers their mouth and nose while being transported on a school bus, unless the student, staff member or visitor:
- (a) is unable to place, use or remove a face mask without assistance;
 - (b) is unable to wear a face mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation;
 - (c) is providing or receiving care or assistance where a face mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance; or
 - (d) is separated from every other person by a physical barrier.

E. Exception to masking where physical distancing can be maintained

- 13.11 Subject to section 13.12 of this Order, sections 13.4 to 13.10 of this of Order do not apply in respect of an operator of a school who is able to ensure that all students, staff members and visitors maintain a minimum of two metres distance from every other person while attending an indoor location within a school or while being transported on a school bus.
- 13.12 An operator of a school must:
- (a) create a written plan that sets out how physical distancing will be maintained;
 - (b) provide the plan upon request from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Medical Officer of Health or Alberta Education; and
 - (c) receive an exemption from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- 13.13 Despite section 13.11 of this Order, an operator of a school does not need to ensure that students, staff members and visitors are able to maintain a minimum of two metres distance from every other person when a student, staff member or visitor is seated at desk or table:
- (a) within a classroom or place where the instruction, course or program of study is taking place, and
 - (b) where the desks, tables and chairs are arranged in a manner
 - (i) to prevent persons who are seated from facing each other, and

- (ii) to allow the greatest possible distance between seated persons.

Part 14 – Exemptions under Alberta Government’s Restrictions Exemption Program

14.1 Notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may, pursuant the Alberta Government’s Restrictions Exemption Program, exempt a person or class of persons from the application of some, or all, parts of this Order.

Part 15 – General

15.1 Notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may exempt a person or a class of persons from the application of this Order.

15.2 This Order provides the minimum standards for public health measures in Alberta for those matters addressed by this Order.

15.3 For greater certainty, nothing in this Order relieves a person from complying with any provision of any federal, provincial or municipal law or regulation or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence covering those matters which are addressed in this Order.

15.4 This Order remains in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Signed on this 16th day of September, 2021.


Deena Hinshaw, MD
Chief Medical Officer of Health

Seniors' Foundation Requisitions

Wheatland County

Endorsed by District 2 (Central)

WHEREAS the *Housing Act* (hereafter referred to as "the Act") provides that a management body may annually requisition municipalities for which the management body provides lodge accommodation for the amount of the management body's annual deficit for the previous fiscal year, and any amounts necessary to establish or continue a reserve fund for the management body; and

WHEREAS the Act provides that the management body shall supply a copy of its calculation of the requisitioned amount to the municipality; and

WHEREAS the Act provides that if a municipality agrees to contribute to the operating costs of any housing accommodation, other than lodge accommodation, provided by a management body, it shall make the contribution agreed to within 90 days after the mailing of the invoice by the management body; and

WHEREAS the Management Body Operation and Administration Regulation (hereafter referred to as "the Regulation") provides that each year, a management body must prepare and submit to the Minister a business plan that includes the operating budget for the upcoming three-fiscal-year period, a capital plan for the upcoming five-fiscal-year period, and any other information required by the Minister; and

WHEREAS the Regulation places limits on reserve funds, including a requirement for ministerial approval to establish reserves and limits on the amount of reserves in relation to the management body's estimated capital and operational costs; and

WHEREAS the current Act and Regulation lacks clarity regarding the scope of housing management body requisitions, specifically relating to capital project costs; and

WHEREAS this lack of clarity has resulted in situations in which housing management bodies have attempted to requisition municipalities for capital costs, expenses based on the current year's budget, and to contribute to reserve funds not approved by members, all of which do not align with the intent of the Act and Regulation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request the Government of Alberta to engage municipalities, and membership associations such as the Alberta Seniors and Community Housing Association in a review of the *Alberta Housing Act* to provide clarity on requisitioning for capital assets, associated interest costs and debenture payment obligations for member municipalities; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA request the Government of Alberta to review the oversight of the Ministry of Seniors and Housing over housing management bodies (HMBs) to ensure that all HMBs are correctly and consistently requisitioning municipalities under the requirements of the *Housing Act*; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA request that the Government of Alberta provide enhanced training and education, including a training guide to municipal councils and HMBs on the *Housing Act* and the Management Body Operation and Administration Regulation to ensure they have a clear understanding of their financial powers, limitations and responsibilities, including related to requisitioning and reserve creation; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA request the Government of Alberta to amend the *Housing Act* to clearly state the ability of municipalities to approve or deny requests for capital projects.

Member Background

The *Housing Act* provides parameters for how housing management bodies may requisition member municipalities for operating deficits and reserve funds. It is the general understanding that housing management bodies may requisition funds for the operating deficit of the previous year as well as any reserve funds, both capital and operating, as agreed upon between the management body and the member municipalities. There are some housing management bodies across the province that have been requisitioning municipalities for capital funds outside of

any agreement that creates an operating or capital reserve between member municipalities and the housing management body.

The discrepancies between housing management bodies' understanding of their requisitioning abilities may be due to a lack of oversight and clarity in the Act and Regulation from Alberta Seniors and Housing. While many housing management bodies appear to be following the correct process in working with their municipal partners to raise capital funds through official agreements for reserve contributions and operating deficits, there are other housing bodies that are not following the proper process and approaching capital projects as a requisition, to which the municipality has no ability to deny.

Further, some housing management bodies have been requisitioning municipalities based on the current year's operational budget. The Act states that the operating requisition must be based on the previous year's operating deficit. This discrepancy should also be rectified under the oversight of Alberta Seniors and Housing or clarified in the Act and Regulation.

RMA Background

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Historical Resources Impact Assessments

MD of Willow Creek

Endorsed by District 1 (Foothills Little Bow)

WHEREAS the Historical Resources Management Branch of Alberta Culture administers matters related to the *Historical Resources Act*; and

WHEREAS historical resources fall into four categories: archaeological sites, paleontological sites, historic buildings and other structures and aboriginal traditional use sites; and

WHEREAS approvals for new surface material operations are administered through the Code of Practice for Pits by Alberta Environment and Parks which requires compliance to Section 37 of the *Historical Resources Act*; and

WHEREAS for surface material operations less than five hectares in size on public land or Class 2 pits on private land (as defined in the Code of Practice for Pits), the applicant must consult Alberta Culture's Listing of Historical Resources prior to initiation of any development activities; and

WHEREAS the Listing of Historical Resources administered by Alberta Culture identifies lands as containing or having high potential to contain historic resources; and

WHEREAS designation of the historic resource value on lands (which evaluates the potential of the land to contain historic resources as determined by the Alberta Historic Resources Management Branch) is made without widespread public consultation; and

WHEREAS many landowners are unaware of the regulatory requirements that exist as a result of historical resource designations placed without notification on private lands; and

WHEREAS the regulatory requirements linked to the designation of lands as having potential for a high historic resource value places a high financial risk upon those developing resources upon those lands, as development requires a historical resources impact assessment and approval from Alberta Culture; and

WHEREAS existing gravel pits that expand beyond five hectares require *Historical Resource Act* approval, which may require numerous historical resources impact assessments to be undertaken despite the disturbances that have already occurred in the immediate area; and

WHEREAS all costs to undertake a historical resources impact assessment are the responsibility of the landowner or developer; and

WHEREAS all historical resources are the property of the Crown;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request the Government of Alberta to review the requirements and costs for historical resources impact assessments be funded by the Government of Alberta;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta develop a formula for financial compensation to landowners should discoveries of historical resources on the land result in restrictions to land use.

Member Background

The Historical Resources Management Branch (HRMB) of Alberta Culture administers matters related to historical resources including archeological resources in Alberta.

Alberta Culture's Land Use Procedures Bulletin for Surface Materials Historical Resources Act (HRA)

Compliance Section B, requires that applicants must apply for HRA approval for all proposed surface materials developments over 5.0 hectares in size. At Alberta Culture's discretion, a historical resources impact assessment (HRIA) may be required.

For surface material operations five hectares or larger on public land or Class 1 pits as defined in the Code of Practice for Pits on private land applicants must apply for HRA approval through Alberta Culture's online permitting and approval system for ALL proposed surface materials developments over five hectares in size. Development activities cannot proceed until HRA approval has been obtained.

At Alberta Culture's discretion, activities that are targeted for lands that will, or are likely to, contain significant historic resource sites MAY require an HRIA prior to the onset of development activities.

A copy of the HRA approval document must be included with the Conservation and Reclamation Business Plan that is submitted to Alberta Environment and Parks. This plan is mandatory for registration of a gravel pit under the Code of Practice. In 2021, during the application stage to expand an existing gravel pit the Municipal District of Willow Creek undertook an archaeology survey as part of a Stage 1 historical resources impact mitigation review which is a requirement of the HRIA.

During the review of the lands upon where the existing gravel pit was located it was determined that the "Listing of Historical Resources" index described the land as having Historic Resources Value (HRV) of five. Given that lands with an HRV of five are considered to have "high potential" but do not contain known historic resource sites, there is no requirement to seek HRA approval for development on such lands. However, Section 31 of the HRA requires that anyone who discovers an historic resource during the course of development must notify Alberta Culture for direction on the most appropriate action.

Through the HRIA a historical resource site was newly discovered consisting of heated stones and stone chips. It was determined that additional archaeology work would be required which would consist of excavation of an area approximately 80 m² with work expected to take approximately 14 days. The cost for this work was expected to be \$139,941.51. Following the completion of the field work an interim report would be issued summarizing the results of the HRIM fieldwork which would be provided to the HRMB that would guide their regulatory review of the gravel pit expansion application and provide the basis for the regulatory response which may include an HRA approval or alternatively the issuance of a Stage 2 historical resources impact mitigation study which would require an unknown amount of additional archaeology work at a unknown additional cost.

The Historical Resources Management Branch Schedule requirements state that "depending on the results of the Stage 1 investigation, Stage 2 investigation may be required." This caveat is intended by the HRMB to reserve the possibility that during the required fieldwork materials may be found that warrant additional work however this placed a significant and unknown risk to the municipality and the landowner in terms of cost and as such the expansion of the application to expand the gravel pit did not proceed.

As a result of the requirements of the Historical Resource Management Branch substantial costs already spent by the Municipal District and the landowner on the application process were lost and more significantly scarce gravel resources immediately adjacent to a working gravel pit have been permanently sterilized from future development and use.

Maps of Southern Region

Alberta Historic Resources Management Branch – Listing of Historic Resources (Map)

<https://geoculture.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=068e8b3b073d477caffdfcd7a9a52a92>

Blue areas indicate HRV of five which result in a requirement for reporting of any historic resources and potential for Alberta Culture to order additional work as a condition of its approval.

Note that the HRV five follows every river, stream or major coulee feature in southern Alberta: an area where gravel resources are prominently found.

Historical Resource Impact Assessment Process

<https://www.alberta.ca/historic-resource-impact-assessment.aspx>

If an activity is likely to result in the alteration of, damage to or destruction of a historic resource, the person or company undertaking the activity may be required by the Government of Alberta to:

- conduct a historical resources impact assessment (HRIA)
- submit a report of the HRIA results
- avoid any historic resources endangered by activity
- mitigate potential impacts by undertaking comprehensive studies
- [document historic structures](#)
- [consult with First Nations](#)

Project-specific requirements are issued in response to a [Historic Resources Application](#), but all assessments must comply with some standard conditions.

See the following Standard Conditions document for details:

[Standard Conditions under the *Historical Resources Act*](#)

RMA Background

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Awareness Campaign for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

Starland County

Endorsed by District 2 (Central)

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has now joined forces with the governments of New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan as a signatory to the **Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Memorandum of Understanding**; and

WHEREAS these provinces have collectively agreed to collaborate on the advancement of SMRs as a clean energy option to address climate change and regional energy demands, while supporting economic growth and innovation; and

WHEREAS the SMR feasibility study concludes that the development of SMRs would support domestic energy needs, curb greenhouse gas emissions and position Canada as a global leader in this emerging technology; and

WHEREAS there is a need for the public to be provided with more information and education on SMRs which is essential in helping them to understand, comprehend and support this emerging and innovative technology;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta encourage and collaborate with the Government of Alberta to create an awareness campaign to engage with the public on information related to nuclear technology and small modular reactors specifically.

Member Background

Small modular reactors are nuclear fission reactors, small in size and power output and portable, which function as a power source. SMRs produce significant energy while using a small footprint without emitting greenhouse gases during generation. Given Canada's commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 40-45% from 2005 levels by 2030, SMRs may provide one feasible solution to meeting this ambitious goal.

In August of 2020, Alberta signed on to a memorandum of understanding with Ontario, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick, supporting the advancement and deployment of SMRs. Premier Jason Kenney noted the potential to power remote communities, the opportunity for economic diversification and the potential for job creation and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

With both the federal and provincial governments supporting SMRs, it will be essential that a strong partnership between government, industry and stakeholders be forged. Public acceptance will also be crucial and there is a strong need to educate Albertans about the merits and benefits of this form of energy.

If nuclear technology is to advance within Canada, the need to educate the public is of the utmost importance starting now.

RMA Background

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Privatization of Land Titles

County of Barrhead

Endorsed by District 3 (Pembina River)

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is considering the outsourcing of registry services including Alberta land titles, corporate registry and personal property registry to the private sector; and

WHEREAS in January 2021 Service Alberta posted a request for expression of interest in connection with the proposed transaction; and

WHEREAS registries support economic activity in Alberta by providing essential registration and search services; and

WHEREAS the current registry model generates ongoing and sustainable revenue for the province; and

WHEREAS municipalities currently have access to land title certificates and registrations free of charge through the Government of Alberta's **Spatial Information Search System (SPIN)** search application; and

WHEREAS other provinces have privatized similar registry services and report an increase in costs to municipalities and landowners; and

WHEREAS there is currently no information as to whether municipalities will lose free access to the SPIN search application if the privatization of registries is finalized; and

WHEREAS if privatized, the costs of accessing land titles services could have significant impact on municipal budgets;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Alberta engage with municipalities and municipal associations to explore, assess and mitigate the impacts of privatization of Alberta land titles registry on municipalities prior to a decision on privatization being made.

Member Background

- January 18, 2021 – Service Alberta posted to its online procurement site a request for expressions of interest (REOI) for sale of a concession which expects to modernize, operate, and maintain the province's land titles office, corporate registry and personal property registry with a response deadline of February 12, 2021 (SA-RFEI-001).
- From the REOI the following information was obtained:



- Service Alberta REOI is the first stage of three stages in the sale process.
 - Subsequent stages cannot be confirmed but are outlined in the REOI as follows:
 - Stage two (Request for Non-Binding Proposals) scheduled to occur from late February 2021 – late March 2021.
 - Stage three (Request for Binding Proposals) which was scheduled to occur from April 2021 – late 2021.
- Service Alberta indicates that some of the systems that support the registries are decades-old and in need of technology and security upgrades, so the government is looking to see if the private sector could assume responsibility for those upgrades while operating, maintaining, and managing them on behalf of the province which would involve collecting and retaining fees.
- Land Titles services used by most municipalities include:
 - Document and plan registrations
 - Document and plan searches
 - General register searches
 - Historical title searches
 - Certified title searches
- MILENET is a program which provides municipalities access to financial reporting forms and the Municipal Financial Indicator Graphs as well as ASSET (assessment data).
 - A link to the land titles search application (SPIN) is located within the ASSET module of MILENET and allows municipalities to access land title certificates and registrations free of charge.
 - County of Barrhead started using ASSET for SPIN access in 2019 and saw land title charges reduced 40-50%.
 - Currently there is no information as to whether municipalities will lose access to SPIN if land titles is privatized.
- March 26, 2014 – “Resolution 1-14S: Privatization of the Alberta Land Titles Registry System” was approved providing direction to RMA (then known as AAMDC) to request the Government of Alberta to retain the Alberta land titles registry system status quo or as a public system as a statutory non-profit corporation.
 - Service Alberta’s response to the 2014 resolution and through a discussion between the Minister of Service Alberta and the RMA (AAMDC) Board of Directors at that time was that the privatization of the province’s land title registry system is not being considered.

RMA Background

RMA has no active resolution directly related to this issue.

Increasing Knowledge-Sharing Among Regulators of Cannabis Production Facilities

Kneehill County and Wheatland County

Endorsed by District 2 (Central)

WHEREAS governing, managing, and enforcing cannabis legislation is a joint responsibility shared by the federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal levels of government; and

WHEREAS under the *Cannabis Act*, cannabis may be grown in various quantities depending on the specified purpose, as permitted by Health Canada, creating significant variance in the size of cannabis operations that may be deemed “legal”; and

WHEREAS all individuals wishing to obtain any of the available federal licences to grow, process, or sell cannabis are expected to comply with all applicable provincial or territorial laws, as well as municipal bylaws (e.g., zoning and building permits); and

WHEREAS individuals seeking licences, or having obtained licences, to cultivate, process, or sell cannabis from Health Canada for medicinal purposes are expected to notify the municipality of planned growing activities, however, are not required to obtain confirmation that municipal requirements have been met; and

WHEREAS instances of non-compliance or contravention of existing land use regulations have been difficult for municipalities to observe and/or take action against, due to a lack of knowledge of legal sites of cannabis production currently operating within the municipality’s borders; and

WHEREAS the lack of information available to municipalities related to cannabis production sites has allowed for individuals licensed to grow small quantities of medical cannabis to abuse this license to grow excessive quantities; and

WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for land-use zoning and permitting of activities within their borders, which includes where cannabis can be commercially grown, processed, sold, and consumed; and

WHEREAS municipalities often struggle to manage land-use activities and conduct compliance monitoring on facilities producing cannabis because consistent information on the nature of such facilities is not available to municipalities; and

WHEREAS the risks to individuals or property related to the production of cannabis cannot be addressed or mitigated by municipalities without the municipality being aware of such activities taking place within its borders; and

WHEREAS there is currently no system available for municipalities to acquire information on planned or existing sites of cannabis production from other levels of government that currently possess that information; and

WHEREAS the only means by which municipalities may learn of sites of cannabis production come in the form of voluntary disclosure from the cannabis producer to the municipality, or if an individual lodges an official complaint to the municipality; and

WHEREAS existing gaps in cannabis legislation prevent municipalities from accurately distinguishing between legal and illegal growing operations; and

WHEREAS municipalities recognize that individuals have a right to privacy, particularly as it relates to medicating for medical conditions or ailments, and that the enforcement of local legislation must respect these rights to privacy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) collaborate with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to advocate to Health Canada that municipalities be given open and continuous access to information on all licensed sites of cannabis production within their boundaries;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA advocate to Health Canada that municipalities be given open and continuous information for the purposes of compliance monitoring and enforcement, including the results of any investigation conducted by an “inspector,” as described within the *Cannabis Act*.

Member Background

At present, regulations surrounding cannabis cultivation are problematic, with each level of government responsible for various capacities in regulating the cannabis industry, from growing and cultivation down the supply chain to consumers of cannabis products. Within the current cannabis regime, there is nuance and complexity within each facet of the industry. From the number of licences available for producers to grow, cultivate, and distribute cannabis products to the rules governing processors and retailers, there is a need to provide accurate and dependable information to all involved in this industry. However, there are currently significant gaps in legislation that prevent this reliable information from being accessed by municipalities.

This resolution aims to uncover the significant challenges currently experienced by municipalities to regulate land use applications and permit issues related to sites of cannabis production. Specifically, this resolution aims to address:

- a) The limited ability municipalities have to determine the existing scope of cannabis producers within their borders, and
- b) The challenges municipalities face to enforce land use bylaws due to lack of information necessary to enforce zoning and permitting regulations, where applicable.

Under the *Cannabis Act*, the federal government is responsible for setting industry-wide standards for the cannabis industry, such as the legality of the substance, health and safety requirements, and rules surrounding medical cannabis, and others, which Health Canada fulfills. Licences for cannabis cultivation from Health Canada often include an expectation that license holders notify local authorities. However, this requirement is problematic because only some, but not all, licences for sites of cannabis production require notification to be provided to municipalities. In addition, the nature of the “requirement” itself would better be described as an “expectation,” as no communication is conveyed to the municipality that Health Canada has received an application, or provided approval, for sites of cannabis production to operate within the municipality. Within the Cannabis Licensing Application Guide, “notice to local authorities” is a requirement of only a fraction of prospective cannabis growers. Furthermore, there is currently no way for the “local authorities” to ascertain who has been granted a license by Health Canada who has not, leaving uncertainty as to who may be growing cannabis legally, and who may be growing cannabis illegally.

Specific to Kneehill County, anecdotal accounts have indicated that individuals within the County are growing cannabis in greater amounts than what is permitted under “recreational use,” as identified by the *Cannabis Act*. By consequence of the County not being effectively included in the approval process nor having reliable access to up-to-date information of what standards one is expected to abide by as a condition of one's federal license, the County is left struggling to manage these sensitive activities that require effective government oversight. Specific issues that have arisen included suspected cannabis growing through inaccurate or disingenuous development applications, suspected alterations made to buildings that would not satisfy current building codes, and concern of criminal activity operating within the municipality's borders. Without having information on who is permitted to grow cannabis and details pertaining to the quantities and other logistical information, the municipality can only attempt to manage from what is disclosed to them by cannabis growers voluntarily providing this information. Voluntary disclosure, however, is not the norm, which prompts Kneehill County to raise these concerns with other RMA members and with Health Canada.

In discussing the issues experienced within Kneehill County, specific details have been identified by the County as worthy of consideration for what specific site information would likely benefit all municipalities. These details include:

- The name of the individual permitted to grow cannabis plants.
- The date an individual was granted a license to grow cannabis for medicinal purposes.
- The expiry date of said license.
- The location of the site.

- The number of plants permitted to be grown on the premises.
- Any alterations made to previously held agreements between an individual and Health Canada, that would affect the application of local legislation.

In conjunction with this resolution, two other resolutions pertaining to cannabis legislation have been identified as relevant to the issues proposed and remedies discussed. First, *Personal Cannabis Production for Medical Use* has been put forward by Wheatland County as an RMA resolution. This resolution seeks to include municipal governments in the approval process of growing cannabis for medicinal purposes by proposing that all municipalities "sign off" on the proposed Cannabis Production Facility as a prerequisite to receiving approval from Health Canada.

Second, *Improving the Medical Cannabis Regime* was a FCM resolution put forward by the Town of East Gwillimbury, Ontario, which sought to "propose amendments to the *Cannabis Act* that will remedy the problems experienced by municipalities." These issues are wide-ranging but largely stem from the system of licensing and regulation put in place by the federal government to oversee the cannabis industry. Included in these issues is a lack of communication between Health Canada and municipalities, where advance notice to municipalities need not be required for planned growing activities, nor evidence provided that cannabis growers are compliant with local regulations, which has led to issues of non-compliance with zoning bylaws and failing to meet building codes within municipalities.

The resolution proposed here within aims to supplement each of these previous resolutions by expanding on the access to information made available to municipalities by Health Canada to a permanent form of access to information, and expand on the existing compliance monitoring taking place for currently-approved sites of cannabis production.

As a result of the issues identified, there is a profound need for Health Canada and the municipalities across Canada to create a more effective way for municipalities to access information on sites of cannabis production. Recognizing that individuals have a right to privacy, this resolution puts forward that only the information necessary to enforcing land-use regulations would be made available to municipalities to mitigate any concerns over personal, sensitive information. Furthermore, if all sites of cannabis production within a municipality were made available to the municipality, sites of illegal activity could be easily identified, and proper courses of action could be taken. As Canada contends with the effects of changes in federal drug policy, this resolution advocates for recognizing cannabis as a legalized substance, not deregulated. With this distinction comes the need for greater coordination among various branches of government to ensure the safety and well-being of all individuals.

RMA Background

3-21S: Personal Cannabis Production for Medical Use

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta collaborate with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to advocate to Health Canada that confirmation of municipal compliance for personal medical cannabis production facilities be required for existing license holders, and prior to approval for all future license applicants.

[Click here](#) to view the full resolution.

Site C Dam – BC Hydro

County of Northern Lights

Endorsed by District 4 (Northern)

WHEREAS BC Hydro is constructing a hydroelectric dam (known as the “Site C Dam”) on the Peace River near Fort St. John, British Columbia; and

WHEREAS the project is experiencing unprecedented geotechnical challenges including downstream movement of the spillway and powerhouse foundation due to weak and unstable geology underlying the site; and

WHEREAS BC Hydro and the Government of British Columbia are not forthcoming with important technical information regarding unprecedented efforts to reinforce the foundation to prevent further movement or failure of the dam itself; and

WHEREAS BC Hydro failed to undertake sufficient vital geotechnical surveys of material in the riverbed underlying the earth fill dam prior to beginning construction, despite the site being rejected in the 1990s for geotechnical concerns; and

WHEREAS Alberta has thousands of people residing in the Peace River valley downstream from this structure, and billions of dollars in vital infrastructure at risk in the event of a catastrophic dam failure; and

WHEREAS BC Hydro has not responded to questions regarding their financial liability in the event that their actions result in downstream damage in Alberta;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request the Government of Alberta to obtain from the Government of British Columbia all technical reports and other relevant information from the BC Hydro Site C project that is currently being withheld from the public;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta use the information collected to conduct an independent safety assessment of the structure to ensure that Albertans, as well as extremely important infrastructure, are not being subjected to unacceptable risk.

Member Background

Site C, just outside Fort St. John, BC, was first considered as a potential hydro power site in the 1950s. In the late 1980s the project was rejected by the BC Utilities Commission as being too expensive, controversial, and not in the best interest of the public.

In 2010 the BC Liberal government (under Premier Christy Clark) passed the *Clean Energy Act*, which removed the BC Utilities Commission’s authority to cancel projects deemed to be not in the public interest. BC Hydro could now proceed without interference and independent oversight. In place of the BC Utilities Commission, project oversight would now be provided by the Project Assurance Board, which included board members employed by BC Hydro. In 2014 the Government of British Columbia announced that the project would proceed at a cost of \$8.3 billion.

In 2017, the BC Liberal government was replaced by the NDP. Newly elected Premier John Horgan, who had been a vocal critic of the project, ordered a review by the BC Utilities Commission. It was ultimately decided that too much had been spent at this point to turn back so the project continued.

In late summer of 2020 reports surfaced that there were problems with weak material underlying the powerhouse and spillway as well as both riverbanks. The foundation had actually slipped a few centimeters downstream in 2018 but that did not become public until two years later. In response Horgan appointed former Deputy Finance Minister Peter Milburn to conduct a review of the project and write a report on the escalating costs and safety issues stemming from the foundational problems.

A condensed/redacted version of Milburn’s report was made public six months later and was critical of BC Hydro in that he found that they repeatedly downplayed geotechnical risks and cost estimates when reporting to the government prior to approval of the project.

After publication of Milburn's report, the BC government hired two independent dam experts (France and Hoeg) to assess the unprecedented plan proposed by BC Hydro for reinforcements using pilings to stabilize the powerhouse/spillway foundation. The report concluded that the foundation reinforcements were viable based on information they received from BC Hydro, but they made it clear that there were no guarantees and they assumed no liability. The information provided by BC Hydro that was used to compile the report is also not available to the public.

We now know the geology under Site C consists of shale which becomes mud when exposed to water. It also contains vertical and horizontal fractures as well as bedding planes which allow the passage of water throughout the material. Any excavation or disturbance can potentially create a path for water to infiltrate and weaken the foundation. Considering that the dam will be holding back a reservoir 200 feet deep, if anything goes wrong the consequences could be severe. The fact that there is no real bedrock under the site was not revealed until the project was well under way and after billions of dollars were spent.

On June 8, 2021, BC Hydro community relations manager Dave Conway, Site C project manager Mike Clark and planning director Martin Jaseck accepted an invitation to virtually attend a County of Northern Lights council meeting to answer questions on downstream safety concerns.

One question asked was "What would have happened if the slippage of the foundation had occurred after the reservoir had been filled?" Mr. Clark assured council that the movement would be "minimal." He also went on to describe the foundation piling reinforcements as "elegant". Mr. Clark could not identify another dam project on the scale of Site C that was built on similar shale material nor could he give an example of another similar structure that had to be reinforced using pilings.

Mr. Conway refused to answer any questions regarding the Milburn report. He also would not answer any questions regarding liability for potential downstream damage in Alberta stemming from BC Hydro's actions.

During the meeting, County of Northern Lights Council requested three informational items from BC Hydro: the full unredacted Milburn report, the unredacted France and Hoeg report and technical Advisory Board reports from 2021.

The Milburn report was provided in a more complete form that had been originally made public but the appendix which contains all the information used by Milburn to compile the report was redacted. This represents 296 pages of material.

The unredacted France and Hoeg report was not provided. Instead, a summary of the report and select excerpts that BC Hydro deemed worthy of release were shared. In the report summary it was revealed that material under the earth fill dam itself was not tested or sampled prior to diversion of the river. As with the Milburn Report the vast majority of information used to compile the report is being withheld.

The Technical Advisory Board reports for 2021 were not provided. What was provided were reports from 2020 with all the names of the meeting attendees redacted. The 2021 reports would inform how the foundation reinforcements are progressing.

Latest cost estimates for Site C are at \$16 billion which is double the figure provided when the project was announced, and the completion date of 2025 is two years later than originally forecast. Sarah Cox at Narwal magazine has reported that engineering giant SNC Lavalin, which has been financially supportive of the BC Liberal party, has received \$453 million from BC Hydro from 2010 to 2018. Much of that is from no bid contracts.

RMA Background

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

2021 Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Resolutions

#	Title	Resolution Summary	Internal Comments	GAC Input	Vote
Category B					
B1	Creating Jobs Through Remediating and Redeveloping Brownfields	Calmar The resolution asked for the remaining recommendations from a 2011 GoA Working Group be implemented. Key elements would include incentives to municipalities to conduct environmental assessments, deferrals of Education Tax to align with municipal tax incentives, include brownfields in the Orphan Well Association's mandate, and create a new GoA Task Force tasked with removing barriers to redevelopment.	SUPPORT Brownfield site assessment and remediation is costly and time consuming. Often these are privately-owned parcels but can become issue for municipalities through tax recovery process. GOA financial incentives for municipalities to collaborate with private owners to remediate could benefit the community. Currently, MGA gives municipalities ability to exempt/defer taxes on brownfield sites by bylaw. In Heartland, parcels are largely littered with abandoned wells, rendering prime industrial land useless as too expensive and time consuming to remediate. We have a Contaminated Sites Management Program for County owned sites with historic contamination due to our own operations. AT, EDT, PDS	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
B2	Provincial Commitment to Transition to an Extended Producer Responsibility for Household Hazardous Waste Program	AUMA Board The resolution requests bridge funding while GoA completes transition to EPR program, consults on hazardous waste disposal and has new program in place. Recent cuts to GoA funding for Swan Hills Treatment Centre have downloaded up to \$2 M in additional costs to municipalities irrespective of ongoing provincial consultation on hazardous waste disposal.	SUPPORT County has built recognizable and respected household hazardous waste collection program at our Broadview Enviroservice Station. Residents value ability to safely dispose of these materials and ensure environmental protection/diversion from landfill. GoA funding cancellation forced municipalities to choose between higher program or environmental costs. (backgrounder on HHW program attached) Util	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
B3	Advocacy on Financial Measures	Calgary Requests that AUMA advocate to GoA for municipal finance reform as recommended by Calgary's Financial Task Force and undertake studies to determine impacts of e-commerce on municipal finances and assess impacts of downloaded services on municipalities.	SUPPORT Additional revenue opportunities (including ecommerce taxation), increased flexibility within current legislative property tax regime (including non-residential sub-classes) could provide municipalities more stable and functional means to fund unique service and infrastructure needs. GOA study to evaluate changing economy and impacts on a traditional property tax base would help identify resulting services/costs transferred to municipalities and impacts. AT, FIN	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here

#	Title	Resolution Summary	Internal Comments	GAC Input	Vote
B4	Online Voting for Municipal Elections	Lethbridge The resolution asks for AUMA advocate for legislative changes that would enable secure online voting in municipal elections.	NEUTRAL Last exploration was in 2013. County participated in online voting pilot with Edmonton and St. Albert. After pilot, Edmonton and St. Albert decided against and MA minister told County GoA not prepared to support internet voting based on public discussions and other municipal Council decisions. For Administration to make recommendation now would require new research based upon direction from our current Council. Recent discussions at MCMC included increased security due to technology changes. (IA, LLS)	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
B5	Expansion of Authority to Support Affordable Housing	Okotoks Requests changes to the MGA to expand options under local improvement tax process to include financial assistance to homeowners for secondary suites and accessory building housing, similar to the changes made to enable homeowner environmental improvements.	SUPPORT Looks like logical extension to CEIP (Clean Energy Improvement Program) to enable homeowner financing towards affordable housing units on private property with repayment through local improvement tax and merits further study. Caution would be keeping it focussed. Resolution aligns with County social framework and work on community-led affordable housing strategy which is looking for municipal levers as part of solution. AT, FCS, PDS	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
B6	Police Funding Model Accountability and Transparency	Stirling Request is for MGA amendments that places policing requisition on assessment and tax notices, similar to education tax and housing authority requisition, for taxpayer transparency.	NON-SUPPORT As specialized municipality in different position than small urbans or rural municipalities. County has always paid for urban police service. Here change was paying for rural policing and problematic to differentiate this on tax notices, problematic to urban-rural hybrid. AT, IA	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
B7	Regional Centre Funding	Grande Prairie Requests special municipal funding for regional centres. Part of the reasoning is that Grants in Place of Taxes have been reduced by 50% and these municipalities provide regional services to a broader population.	NEUTRAL Urban service centre hubs often provide many government, social, educational & health care services without benefit of property taxes on associated facilities. A separate, consistent and secure GoA funding source to support these urban centres would recognize inherent costs to municipalities who are hubs and role they play in regions and the province. AT, FIN, IA	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
B8	National Flood Insurance Strategy and Community Resiliency Advocacy	Wood Buffalo Requests AUMA to advocate for GoA participation on national Task Force (2020) on Flood Insurance and Relocation for affordable insurance and long-term funding for flood mitigation programs for provinces and municipalities.	SUPPORT GoA participation and contributions to this federal task force would help sustainable program for flood mitigation that reflects diverse needs across country to benefit of all municipalities and citizens. IA, TAS	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here

#	Tile	Resolution Summary	Internal Comments	GAC Input	Vote
B9	Improved Provincial Municipal Emergency Collaboration and Communications	Calgary Requests AUMA to advocate to GoA for post-pandemic review with a focus on lessons learned, opportunities to improve future responses and communications, consultation and collaboration with municipal emergency management organizations including the establishment of multi-stakeholder advisory body.	SUPPORT Pandemic response has exposed multiple circumstances Alberta Health decisions and rollout would have benefitted from GoA collaboration with municipalities to identify gaps and enhance a cohesive rollout strategy to Albertans. Post-pandemic, taking similar collaborative approach through consultation & communications with municipalities for future incidents will ensure clarity of intent for all stakeholders but more importantly consistent application to all residents impacted regardless of jurisdiction. SCES	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
B10	Provincial Broadband Strategy	AUMA Board Requests AUMA members to advocate to GoA to complete a provincial broadband strategy in consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders.	SUPPORT Municipalities need to be consulted in development of provincial broadband strategy and criteria for funding corresponding actions. County has communicated this in meeting with Minister and Service Alberta administration. Strategy has been longstanding promise by GoA yet to be completed. IA, ITS	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
B11	Mental Health and Wellness for Public Safety Personnel	Fort Saskatchewan Asks GoA to work with stakeholders to implement evidenced-based solutions to mental health and wellness of public safety personnel.	SUPPORT Access to evidence-based care primarily designed for public safety personnel (PSP) is essential to keep our staff in workplace and support overall well-being at and away from work. There are leading practices in jurisdictions across Canada, i.e. PSPNET which was developed at the University of Regina. A document is enclosed that provides additional detail. PSPNET Internally, community supports are available through FCS has seen growing number and complexity of challenges. FCS, SCES	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
B12	Alberta Health Services Emergency Ambulance Dispatch – Independent Review	Red Deer Requests an independent, third party review of centralized ambulance dispatch, including an investigation on increased response times and technical outages. Qualifier is since January 2021, which puts the focus on the recent service change in Wood Buffalo, Red Deer, and Lethbridge.	SUPPORT This was a significant change with direct implications on public safety, highly appropriate to do detailed and impartial review to determine if change led to better outcomes against the stated success factors. Should also be evaluated against Alberta Quality Matrix for Health (HQCA User Guide Web.pdf). Major changes took place relative to delivery of EMS services in 2009; there has not been a detailed and impartial evaluation of results. EMS system exhibiting significant signs of strain; may be prudent to advocate for an overall evaluation of system performance, in addition to deep dive on the dispatch system. IA, SCES	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here

#	Title	Resolution Summary	Internal Comments	GAC Input	Vote
Category C					
C1	Advocacy for a National Early Learning and Care Program	Lethbridge Requests AUMA advocate for GoA to support and participate in a National Early Learning and Childcare program.	SUPPORT Early Learning and Child Care (ELCCC) aligns with mandate of FCS. County's Social Framework and strategic investment in ELCC, including the programs and services, provided through Strathcona County Family Resource Network. Priority set provincial level through <i>Canada-Alberta Early Learning and Child Care Agreement 2020-2021</i> - "accessible, affordable, quality childcare is essential to positive early childhood development, labour force participation of parents, women's equality, social integration and inclusion of newcomers, and poverty reduction - all aspects of social and economic growth." "Research has shown that quality childcare has a positive impact on children's well-being, especially children from low income households and those living in vulnerable circumstances." (<i>An Examination of Regulatory and Other Measures to Support Quality Early Learning and Child Care in Alberta</i> November 2020 - page 11) FCS	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
C2	Elder Care Model	Strathmore Requests AUMA to advocate for a provincial elder model of care that offers client-directed services focused on standards of care.	SUPPORT Benefits to having guidelines and standards in elder care in order to provide consistency of care, coordinated and cohesive planning and service delivery. Flexibility in implementation is required to support responsiveness to local needs. The Elder Care Model should be principle based - incorporating research, evidence and input from stakeholders, including service recipients (increasingly important due to growing demographic of people 65 years of age and older). FCS	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
C3	Long Term Care	Strathmore Requests AUMA urge GoA to petition the Government of Canada to make long term care and home care 'medically necessary' within the Canada Health Act.	SUPPORT County was contracted by GoA to deliver Home Care services for many decades, proved challenging to provide quality service within contract dollars available. Quality Home Care and Long Term Care are key quality of life services for older adults in need of support. Recognizing these as integral health care service provision will ideally create more federal investment in these provincial services currently challenged by fiscal restraint. FCS	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
C4	Tobacco Industry Health Cost Recovery Fee	Airdrie Requests AUMA to advocate that GoA establish a 5% levy on all revenues collected in Alberta by tobacco manufacturers and importers.	NEUTRAL Outside of municipal scope and direct consumer impact under the jurisdiction of province.	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here

#	Title	Resolution Summary	Internal Comments	GAC Input	Vote
Emergent Resolution					
1	Responsibility of Ambulance Service Delivery	Airdrie, Chestermere, Okotoks, Strathmore, Turner Valley Request that GoA consult with municipalities to develop urgently needed improvement to delivery and performance, recognize role and compensate municipalities. Service degradation is outlined with data about impact on response time, reliance on fire service for medical and fire response repercussions.	SUPPORT Demonstrable degradation in service. Local communities are providing EMS service which is a form of subsidy to provincially operated system which is not performing to an acceptable level. When fire crews are engaged in EMS calls it impairs the community's ability to respond to fire calls. This scenario transfers both cost and risk to the local level. All of stated consequence are applicable to Strathcona County with one exception. Strathcona County has advanced life support (ALS) squads, when an ambulance is not available and our fire resources respond - citizens are still treated by an advanced care paramedic (ACP) with full access to ALS medical equipment and interventions. As operator of an integrated model, County positioned to be part of the solution as integrated departments employ significant portion of ACPs in AB. Solutions need to deliver better system outcomes, ensure community needs are met, improve experience for practitioners all while focused around better patient outcomes. Advocacy is required to enable flexibility required to look for solutions outside of 2009 centralized model that is showing signs of failure. To date integrated departments have been treated as contractors but as partners these unique assets and deployment models can help to solve systemic issues facing EMS in Alberta. IA, SCES	Insert GAC recommendation here	Insert vote outcomes here
2	Provincial Health Restrictions Decisions	Lac La Biche County Asks for AUMA to advocate to the Premier and Minister of Health to stop downloading provincial health restriction decisions onto municipalities.	SUPPORT Although municipalities have a role in public health, data to make informed decisions rests with the province; responsibility and authority should coincide. Higher consistency leads to more clarity and potentially higher rates of compliance, i.e. provincial mask mandate is an example where effectiveness was achieved through consistency, expectation is that results would be similar in other policy areas. With best access to medical advisors, province is best positioned to set and implement science-based policy decisions. Consultation with municipalities will enhance implementation as municipalities are best positioned to review this through an operational lens and support consistent application in province. LLB asked SC to 2nd resolution, IA advice noted conflict with advocacy focus on GoA partnership with same stakeholders IA, SCES	Support	

#	Title	Resolution Summary	Internal Comments	GAC Input	Vote
3	Alberta Support and Children's Services Closure to Walk-in Clients	Town of Westlock Asks AUMA to advocate to GoA to reinstate walk-in services for Alberta Supports and Children's Services and consult with municipalities on future GoA service delivery options in municipalities.	SUPPORT Shift by Alberta Supports and Children's Services to centralized call-line system increased burden on municipal services to support people in need of accessing services when Alberta Supports offices closed. Municipal services must now navigate a central intake system to support individuals rather than relying on local resources. Result is slower service delivery and reduction in effectiveness of interactions. Returning to Alberta Supports service delivery at a local level would improve connections with people and reduce municipal burdens. FCS		

2021 Fall Rural Municipalities of Alberta Resolutions

#	Tile	Resolution Summary	Internal Comments	GAC Input	Vote
1-21F	Emergency Medical Services Capacity and Service Delivery in Alberta	Wheatland County Asks that the GoA immediately consult with municipalities to find solutions to develop plans for improvement to capacity, delivery and performance of emergency medical services.	SUPPORT Challenges in system are being experienced across Alberta. County and other integrated systems have unique perspective as contractor to provide additional expertise in finding solutions. All municipalities are seeing impacts to community health, safety and to their fire services. Consultation will enable better understanding of local impacts and assessment of improvement options. IA, SCES	Insert GAC recommendation here	
2-21F	Disaster Recovery Program Cost Allocations	Brazeau County Asks that the GoA reverse its decision to make municipalities responsible for 10% of Disaster Recovery Program costs, in light of all costs already downloaded from province in other areas.	SUPPORT County has had disasters within its boundaries (wildfire and a storm event in 2009), provided staff/equipment to various municipalities (Slave Lake wildfire in 2011, High River flooding in 2013 and RMWB (Ft. McMurray) wildfire in 2016). Additional costs burden further strain municipal resources with limited revenue sources to handle such costs. Municipalities do not have the ability to operate in a deficit and municipal tax rates or service level changes impact Albertans as a result. Note: AB was only province who did not split costs with municipalities before this change. FIN, IA	Insert GAC recommendation here	
3-21F	Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways	County of Two Hills Asks that GoA replace provincial vegetation management plan along provincial highways expiring in 2021 with better program to manage noxious and invasive weeds adequately.	SUPPORT Vegetation management along highways continues to be concern in Strathcona County. Agriculture Services Board (ASB) members voted in favour of carrying a similar resolution to the Provincial ASB Conference (January 2022) at the recent Regional ASB Conference (Oct 27,2021, Lac Ste. Anne County). Link for reference. (TAS)	Insert GAC recommendation here	
4-21F	Provincial Health Restrictions Decisions	Lac La Biche County Asks RMA to advocate that all provincial health restrictions decisions to be provincially-mandated versus downloading decisions to municipalities.	SUPPORT Although municipalities have a role in public health, data to make informed decisions rests with the province; responsibility and authority should coincide. Higher consistency leads to more clarity and potentially higher rates of compliance, i.e. provincial mask mandate is an example where effectiveness was achieved through consistency; expectation is that results would be similar in other policy areas. With best access to medical advisors, province is better positioned to set and implement science-based policy decisions. Consultation with municipalities will enhance implementation as municipalities are best positioned to review this through an operational lens and support consistent application in province. LLB asked SC to 2nd resolution, IA advice noted conflict with advocacy focus on GoA partnership with same stakeholders IA, SCES	Insert GAC recommendation here	

#	Title	Resolution Summary	Internal Comments	GAC Input	Vote
5-21F	Seniors' Foundation Requisitions	Wheatland County Asks RMA to advocate to GoA to: engage municipalities and AB Seniors and Community Housing Association (ASCHA) members in review of Alberta Housing Act in relation to requisitioning; provide additional oversight by GoA of ASCHA members to ensure adherence to rules; and provide training materials for municipalities and ASCHA members to clarify limitations of powers.	NON-SUPPORT The <i>Alberta Housing Act (AHA)</i> , Section 7, already outlines the process and calculation for fiscal reporting by a Housing Management Body. Section 5(5) of the <i>AHA</i> outlines the roles of Municipalities in the establishment of Housing Management Bodies, and the transparency of the calculation outlined in Section 7. Note: Increasing education and training for municipalities and housing management bodies on the current authorities and roles within the <i>Alberta Housing Act</i> can be strongly supported to build knowledge and understanding.	Insert GAC recommendation here	
6-21F	Historical Resources Impact Assessments	MD of Willow Creek Asks RMA to request GoA review its Historical Resources Act, fund all historical resources impact assessment (HRIA) and compensate landowners if HRIA restricts land use development.	NON-SUPPORT It doesn't seem reasonable to fund such an investigation with public dollars to support a development that will be for private profit. It is widely accepted that historical resource finds can and do happen during development, resulting in unexpected costs. It is a cost of doing business. PDS	Insert GAC recommendation here	
7-21F	Awareness Campaign for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)	Starland County Asks RMA to collaborate with GoA to educate and build public awareness on opportunities of nuclear power generation, in particular Small Modular Reactors.	SUPPORT Educating the public on SMR's will be critical to decarbonize future industrial developments, specifically in the energy sector. As corporations look to decarbonize existing and new projects, the ability to generate significant amounts of power for industrial processes in least environmentally impactful way will become of critical importance. To aid public in understanding power requirements and feedstocks to create energy needed to operate industrial facilities will be an important task and needed towards economic diversification and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. EDT	Insert GAC recommendation here	
8-21F	Privatization of Land Titles	County of Barrhead Asks RMA to advocate for GoA to conduct municipal consultation to explore, assess and mitigate municipal impacts prior to decision on privatization of land title services.	SUPPORT County supports municipal consultation on all decisions that impact municipalities, its residents and local services. Open dialogue enables a better, shared understanding of all potential impacts and benefits of these services changes and leads to the best decisions for Albertans overall. IA, PDS	Insert GAC recommendation here	
9-21F	Increasing Knowledge-Sharing Among Regulators of Cannabis Production Facilities	Kneehill County and Wheatland County Asks RMA to work with FCM and Health Canada to allow municipalities to have access to full information on cannabis production facilities in respective municipalities.	SUPPORT While to date this has not been a local issue, County supports and recognizes potential benefits for municipalities to be advised and provided details on approved cannabis production facilities within its boundaries. This also enables better decision-making for other future developments. Open communication between all three orders of government, particularly in areas of mutual interest and jurisdiction should be the norm. Resolution has identified correct advocacy channels.	Insert GAC recommendation here	

#	Title	Resolution Summary	Internal Comments	GAC Input	Vote
10-21F	Site C Dam – BC Hydro	County of Northern Lights Asks RMA to request GoA obtain GoBC reports on BC Hydro Site C project and conduct an independent safety assessment of project to protect Alberta’s residents and infrastructure.	<p>NEUTRAL</p> <p>After B.C. Hydro management attended a County of Northern Lights Council meeting, Council requested 3 informational items about the project – the full unredacted Milburn report, the unredacted France and Hoeg report and Technical Advisory Board reports from 2021. The first 2 reports were not provided in unredacted form, and the 2021 Technical Advisory Reports were not provided at all, only the 2020 Technical Advisory Reports (minus names of the attendees).</p> <p>Administration interprets Northern Lights wants 2021 Technical Advisory Reports and from a public disclosure perspective, B.C. is governed by its own Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, which is very similar to Alberta’s FOIP. Since the County of Northern Lights made its request for information informally at a Council meeting, B.C. Hydro has no obligation to release the reports in unredacted form (i.e. in the absence of a formal B.C. FOIP Act request). However, the County of Northern Lights has the option to make a formal B.C. FOIP Act request, and then that legislation will apply to what documents must be provided, and whether any of the information can be redacted. B.C. Hydro is a public body subject to the B.C. FOIP Act. If the County of Northern Lights disagrees with any redactions that have been made, it may appeal to the B.C. Privacy Commissioner, in accordance with the processes set out in the legislation.</p> <p>In regards to the secondary request, it would be very difficult for GoA to conduct a full safety assessment of the structure based on information only. It would require interviews of the designers and geotechnical engineers, as well as inspections of the site. They could only do this with support of BC Hydro. It is reasonable to ask for a review of the potential impacts of a dam failure to downstream infrastructure but this may have been undertaken as part of the initial feasibility analysis of the dam. The request also could be harmful to interprovincial relations as contrary to current GoA political leanings regarding provincial autonomy in resource management.</p> <p>IA, LLS, TPE</p>	Insert GAC recommendation here	

Note: GAC meeting will be held before the RMA deadline for emergent resolutions. IA will monitor and supplement information as required to support Council’s participation in the resolutions process.

#	Title	Resolution Summary	Internal Comments	GAC Input	Vote
Emergent Resolutions (if any)					
ER1 - 21F					