

**September 23 - 25, 2026**

**Edmonton Convention Centre**

Edmonton, AB | [ABmunis.ca](http://ABmunis.ca)

# Session Information

**WE**   
**MUNIS**

## Session Information

Wednesday September 23 from 10:15 to 11:30

### **Not Everything Belongs on Facebook: Right Message, Right Audience, Right Tool**

10:15 AM  
Salon 4

Effective communication is essential to building trust, managing expectations, and engaging residents. With so many communication channels available, from social media and websites to newsletters, public meetings, and media relations, how do you know which tool is the right fit for the situation?

Hosted by Berlin Communications, this foundational session will help elected officials and municipal administrators navigate today's communications landscape. Participants will explore the strengths and limitations of common communication tools, learn how to match the message to the audience and objective, and work through a practical municipal case study to see these principles in action.

Whether you are new to municipal communications or looking to strengthen your approach, this session will provide practical guidance for making informed communication decisions that support effective local governance.

### **The Pulse Check: Where Municipalities Stand in a Refocused Healthcare System**

10:15 AM  
Salon 8

As Alberta's refocused healthcare system starts to take shape, municipalities are navigating a new landscape of ministries, agencies, networks, pressures, and opportunities to strengthen access to care in their communities. Join deputy ministers from Alberta's four health-related ministries for a panel discussion on the implementation of refocusing health care, emerging priorities, and what these changes mean on the ground. This session is designed for both elected officials and administrators and aims to provide attendees with updates on health care refocusing, opportunities to engage with the new system, and insights into issues affecting communities across Alberta.

### **Come Hail or High Water: Building Resilient Communities in the Face of Natural Disasters**

10:15 AM  
Salon 9

Come Hail or High Water: Building Resilient Communities in the Face of Natural Disasters. Hear from industry experts on recent trends in the property insurance market including losses due to wildfire, flood and hail, what we expect to see in the future, and how you can prepare your community to weather the storm. Designed for both elected officials and administrators, the session will feature industry leaders providing perspectives that will be of interest to communities of all sizes.



## Session Information

Wednesday September 23 from 10:15 to 11:30

### **How We Built It: Delivering on Affordable Housing**

10:15 AM  
Salon 10

A panel highlighting successful affordable housing projects (market, near-market, and non-market), with a focus on how municipalities navigated funding, approvals, and community resistance. Panelists will share practical lessons and approaches that helped move projects forward, and how these strategies can be applied in other communities. Designed for both elected officials and administrators, the session will feature examples from smaller and rural communities, larger urban centres, and Indigenous-led affordable housing initiatives.

### **Fall on Your Face, Get Back Up: The Fails and Flops That Built Canada's Top Public Sector AI Team**

10:15 AM  
Salon 11

Like it or not, the world is changing, and AI is changing how municipalities operate, but success depends on more than technology. In this candid, jargon-free session, City of Edmonton's Applied AI team shares three projects that failed and the lessons learned about defining the right problem, securing stakeholder ownership, and planning for change. Discover the practical approach that has helped deliver nearly 80 AI solutions and how municipalities can apply these lessons to achieve real-world results. This session is designed for administrators from all municipality sizes who are keen to expand their data-driven capabilities, without having to fall on their own faces first.

### **Working Through the Speedbumps: Strengthening the CAO–Council Relationship**

10:15 AM  
Salon 12

The relationship between council and the CAO is essential to effective municipal governance, but it can also involve tension and challenges. Both council and administration play critical roles in a municipality's success and learning how to work through disagreements is key to a productive council term. This session is designed for both elected officials and administrators of all sized municipalities who want to build strong, respectful relationships to set the tone for transparency and accountability across council and administration. Successfully addressing tension and roadblocks supports long-term success for the municipality.

## OPENING KEYNOTE

Wednesday, September 23 from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm



### Opening Keynote Speaker: **ERIC TERMUENDE**

2:00 PM  
Hall A

Eric Termuende is a keynote speaker, bestselling author, and researcher helping leaders and teams navigate uncertainty and change. For nearly a decade, he has studied leadership, trust, culture, team performance, technology, and the changing nature of work to understand what allows people and organizations to adapt when conditions change. Drawing on research, stories, and work with leading organizations around the world, Eric gives audiences practical tools to create direction, build more adaptable teams, and make progress before every answer is obvious.

## Session Information

Thursday, September 24 from 9:00 to 10:15

### **Yes, and? Improv-ing Your Way to Municipal Success**

9:00 AM  
Salon 4

Back by popular demand, Atomic Improv returns with their hit session “Yes, and?”. This lively, interactive workshop focuses on embracing the art of improv comedy and how it can help your leadership. Attendees will explore the core principle of “Yes, And” which encourages acceptance and building upon others’ ideas. This session is ideal for those leaders looking to boost their confidence, creativity, and ability to think on their feet, all while having a great time. Learn how you can take “Yes, And” back to your community and help with your administration and council dynamics.

### **Hard Choices, Clear Case: Talking About Prevention When Priorities Compete**

9:00 AM  
Salon 8

Designed for elected officials and administrators who support FCSS and community prevention initiatives, this practical session will explore how municipal leaders can navigate skepticism, competing priorities, and tight budgets while making a compelling case for prevention-focused investments. Participants will gain practical language, framing, and advocacy tools to support conversations with councils, colleagues, MLAs, and the public, and to strengthen local and provincial advocacy efforts.

### **All Aboard: Addressing Rail Safety in Your Communities**

9:00 AM  
Salon 9

Rail lines operate through municipalities of all sizes throughout Alberta creating important economic connections, but also challenges for transportation, emergency services and infrastructure maintenance. This session provides the opportunity to meet with rail industry leaders to discuss the efficiency and safety of transportation systems and the roles and responsibilities of rail companies and municipalities.

### **Administrator Session (previously the CAO/CFO Session) Admin to Admin: Provincial/Municipal Dialogue**

9:00 AM  
Salon 10

A session exclusively for municipal administrators. Join Deputy Ministers from Executive Council, and Municipal Affairs for a discussion on direction of the government as the province heads into an election year, opportunities to strengthen the working relationship between the province and municipalities and the joys and challenges of being a leader in the public sector.

## **Water Triage Fundamentals – What to Do When Everything Fails**

9:00 AM  
Salon 12

When droughts, wildfires, floods, and infrastructure failures put water systems under pressure, municipal leaders must make critical decisions with limited information and limited options. This session brings together experts and operators to share lessons learned from Alberta's recent water challenges, including drought response, wildfire impacts in Jasper, major flooding events, and Calgary's Bearspaw feeder main breaks. Participants will gain practical insights into emergency response, operational decision-making, and building resilience before the next crisis hits. Whether you're from a small rural municipality or a large urban centre, this session offers practical lessons and decision-making approaches that can be applied in communities of all sizes facing water system emergencies.

### **Session Information**

**Thursday, September 24 from 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm**

## **Plenary Panel: Crude Awakening - The Future of Taxation in Alberta**

1:30 PM  
Hall A

For decades, Alberta has relied on oil and gas royalties to help fund Alberta's public services. While resource revenues have helped Alberta keep taxes low, the boom-and-bust nature of the energy sector has left every Alberta government vulnerable to deficits and difficult spending cuts. Hear from a panel of economists and a former Minister of Finance on the strengths and challenges of Alberta's current fiscal framework. This candid discussion will explore whether Alberta's approach is sustainable and examine the opportunities and trade-offs of alternative tax strategies to support the provincial and municipal services Albertans rely on.