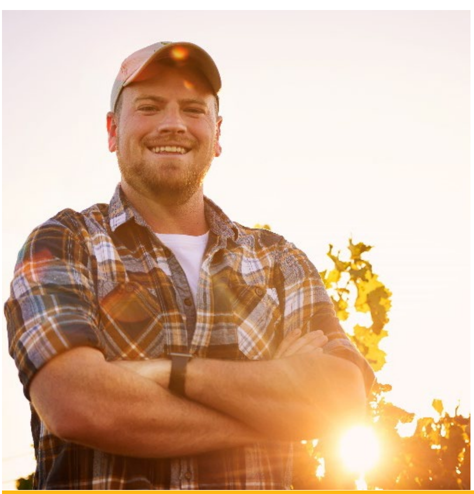
2026 Resolutions Book



Alberta Municipalities
Strength In Members

Version 1: July 29, 2026

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About Resolutions

Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) conducts an annual resolutions process. This enables Regular Members[1] to bring forward common issues and solutions and seek member approval. Approved resolutions direct ABmunis' Board of Directors advocacy positions on those issues, opening conversations with the Government of Alberta or other organizations and governments.

ABmunis' resolution process is guided by our Resolutions Policy.

How to use this Resolutions Book

Each elected official of a Regular Member municipality who registers for ABmunis' Convention has the right to vote on each resolution at ABmunis' Convention. If one or more members of your council are attending this year's Convention & Trade Show in Edmonton on September 23 - 25, 2026, then we encourage you to:

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

Note: During the Convention resolution session, each elected official votes individually. Therefore, your council member(s) can choose to vote in accordance with the majority position of your council or their own personal view, if different.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Can we still submit a resolution?

Yes, but only for emergent issues that:

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

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

How do I participate in the Resolution Session?

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

Who can speak to a resolution?

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

How to speak to a resolution

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

Attendees wishing to speak to a resolution will be invited to go to microphones clearly marked for those wishing to speak in favour or in opposition. Speakers will have ninety (90) seconds to speak. Except for the mover of the resolution, a representative may not speak more than once on each resolution.

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

How to propose an amendment to a resolution

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

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

Notifying the Mover and ABmunis

ABmunis encourages members to discuss the proposed amendment with the moving municipality[2] prior to Convention, or as early as possible and notify ABmunis (resolutions@abmunis.ca) at the same time. This is a courtesy to the mover and enables ABmunis to be prepared to present the proposed amendment visually on the screen to help all attendees during the voting process and avoid delays in the Convention schedule.

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

Seconders for an Amendment
Unless it is deemed a "friendly amendment" the mover of the amendment must have a seconder from another municipality.[3]

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

If prior to the Resolutions Session	If during the Resolutions Session
Email resolutions@abmunis.ca. This helps avoid delays during the resolution session.	Hand-deliver your proposed amendment in writing to both the ABmunis staff sitting in the audio booth at the back of the room and to the Resolution Session Chair on stage.

How to vote

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

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

> You are registered to vote during the ABmunis Convention, taking place September 23-25. Below, you will find your login instructions for the vote.
>
> **There is a test vote that is open now. Please check your credentials and cast a vote on the test question as soon as possible so that we can be sure you received your credentials.**
>
> If you need any assistance, please contact: credentials@dataonthespot.com.
>
> To vote, please visit: https://www.dataonthespot.app/.
>
> Then enter:
> Registered email - *******
> Password - *******
>
> Please note that these are only the voting credentials. Further information will be sent out by Alberta Municipalities prior to Convention.
>
> Regards,
> Alberta Municipalities

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

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

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

Bring an electronic device to vote
Bring a laptop, smartphone, or other device that is internet enabled to the resolution session. You will be asked to log in to the Data on the Spot website to vote. When instructed by the Resolution Session Chair, you will follow the steps on your device to vote. After you have cast your vote, you will receive confirmation that your vote has been counted. Once the vote result is posted, we will move on to the next resolution.

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

What happens after members adopt a resolution?

Step 1
ABmunis sends the resolution by letter to the relevant government ministry and asks for a response.

Step 2
The ministry responds, typically by email or letter.
(about 1-6 months later)

Step 3
An ABmunis committee rates the government's response, assigns a priority level, and if applicable, recommends actions to ABmunis' Board.

Step 4
ABmunis' Board reviews the committee's recommendation and approves or amends the rating, the priority level, and the advocacy strategy.

Step 5
ABmunis implements the advocacy strategy.

Step 6
ABmunis reports on the status of all resolutions to members through our resolutions library, report cards, and events.

Step 7
The ABmunis committee and Board monitor the outcomes of ABmunis' advocacy and adjusts the plan accordingly.

Step 8
After 3 years, the resolution is deemed inactive and is removed from ABmunis' committee workplans.

Optional Step 9
If the Board deems the issue a high priority and the government's action as insufficient, ABmunis may continue to advocate. Members may also bring forward a new resolution on the issue.

Are some resolutions given more priority?

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

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

*may involve a combination of the listed actions

Status of previous resolutions

Since 2009, ABmunis has posted all member resolutions in our online Resolutions Library, which shows:

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

The status of resolutions can also be viewed through ABmunis' annual resolution report cards.

Tips from past councils

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

2026 RESOLUTIONS

Category B: Issues Related to ABmunis' Strategic Initiatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[1] Alberta Medical Association, AB's Family Medicine Crisis
[2] Alberta Municipalities, Attraction and Retention Strategy for Rural Health Care Professionals (2024)

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

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

The Government of Alberta has invested in physician recruitment, training and compensation, including more than $7 billion in the 2026–27 budget[6]. The province has also offered the Rural and Remote Family Medicine Resident Physician Bursary, which is now fully allocated. However, the bursary was not limited to permanent, community-based practice; recipients could commit to a single community, move between communities or practise as locums in eligible communities.[7]

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

To keep incentives fair and sustainable, Alberta should review and amend physician and other healthcare worker incentive frameworks to reduce disparities between locum and community-based physicians. Where locum physicians receive benefits including no overheads paid for weekend coverage, travel honoraria, and accommodations[9], community-based physicians could be incentivized by general reduced overhead costs and relocation and accommodation subsidies. Additionally, the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences suggests that financial incentives could be part of a larger, comprehensive strategy to improve the attractiveness of rural practice settings [10].

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

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

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

[3] Alberta Medical Association, Information for Locum Physicians

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

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

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

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

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

[9] Alberta Medical Association, Information for Locum Physicians

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

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

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

Fuchsia Dragon
Legislative & Corporate Initiatives Manager
Town of Hinton
fdragon@Hinton.ca

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sharon Wadi
Senior Policy Advisor, Intergovernmental Affairs
City of Edmonton
sharon.wadi@edmonton.ca

B3: Derelict Non-Residential Tax Subclass

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:
As mentioned in the background section, this resolution aligns with ABmunis' broader work on Property Taxes Reimagined to ensure municipalities have adequate financial tools to address local needs. If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the relevant policy committee(s) within the context of related priorities and positions.

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

Sharon Wadi
Senior Policy Advisor, Intergovernmental Affairs
City of Edmonton
sharon.wadi@edmonton.ca

B4: Modernization of Municipal Investment Authorities Under the Municipal Investment Regulation

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

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

WHEREAS the Municipal Investment Regulation[1] establishes a prescriptive investment framework that limits the range of eligible investment instruments available to most municipalities, effectively restricting portfolios to fixed-income investments and limiting opportunities to enhance long-term investment returns in support of municipal financial sustainability;

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

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

WHEREAS modern public sector investment practices increasingly emphasize a "prudent investor" approach, which enables diversification within a strong governance and risk management framework rather than relying solely on a prescriptive list of allowable investments[2]; and

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

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

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

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT any amendments to the Municipal Investment Regulation maintain appropriate safeguards to ensure:
- preservation of capital,
- prudent risk management, and
- transparency and accountability to Council and the public.

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[1] Alberta Regulation 149/2022 – Municipal Investment Regulation
[2] Municipal Government Act Section 250 – Investments

BACKGROUND:
Under the *Municipal Government Act*, the Municipal Investment Regulation[3] governs how Alberta's municipalities may invest public funds. While the regulation was modernized in recent years, it continues to apply a largely prescriptive approach for most municipalities, limiting investments primarily to highly conservative instruments.

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

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

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

In Saskatchewan, recent legislative and policy changes have enabled municipalities to improve the management of municipal reserves through pooled and diversified investment structures[6]. In partnership with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Saskatchewan municipalities may now invest a limited portion of unappropriated reserves through SUMAInvest, a provincially approved pooled investment program overseen by professional investment managers. This framework allows municipalities to access diversified portfolios, including equities, real assets, and fixed income, while maintaining governance safeguards, investment limits, and transparency requirements. Saskatchewan's approach demonstrates that limited, well-governed diversification of municipal reserves can be implemented without replacing provincial funding programs or compromising fiscal oversight.

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

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

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[3] Alberta Regulation 149/2022 – Municipal Investment Regulation
[4] CESifo Working Papers 11634-2025 January 2025 (Private Investment and Public Investment: Total Rates of Return and Global Balances in the OECD)
[5] CIBC Asset Management – 2025 Long-term Annualized Capital Market Expected Returns
[6] SUMAInvest Booklet April 2026

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

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS

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

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

British Columbia provides an example of a long-standing, productivity-focused funding model through the Peace River Agreement[1], which evolved from the original Fair Share Agreement established in 1994. Under this negotiated, multi-year framework, the Province of British Columbia reinvests a portion of provincial resource revenues into municipalities and regional districts that provide infrastructure and services supporting economic activity occurring largely outside municipal boundaries. The Peace River Agreement recognizes the role of local governments as service delivery partners for provincial resource development and economic growth, while providing predictable, formula-based funding that supports long-term capital planning, infrastructure investment, and community sustainability without reallocating municipal tax capacity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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City of Grande Prairie
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B6: Budget Surplus and Municipal Infrastructure Investment

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS infrastructure is a shared responsibility between provincial and municipal governments, with municipalities owning and maintaining close to 60 per cent of Alberta's public infrastructure[1], including essential systems that support the province's economic prosperity and community sustainability;

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

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has recorded a year-end surplus in 13 of the last 25 provincial budgets[2], creating opportunities for strategic one-time investments in municipal infrastructure without compromising ongoing program funding or fiscal sustainability; and

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

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

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

BACKGROUND:
Infrastructure challenges affect municipalities of all sizes across Alberta, from major urban centers experiencing rapid population growth to smaller rural communities managing aging systems and facilities with limited tax bases. During budget surplus years, a commitment to additional funding for municipal infrastructure investment would mean more support for critical projects that may have otherwise been deferred. Since 2000, Alberta has recorded a year-end surplus in 13 provincial budgets[4], demonstrating recurring opportunities to establish a pathway for one-time investments, in addition to the funding already provided to municipalities by the province.

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[1] ABmunis website (2026, April). Infrastructure.
[2] Government of Alberta website (2026, April). Budget documents.
[3] Government of Alberta Open Data Resources (2026, April). Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act.
[4] Government of Alberta website (2026, April). Budget documents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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B7: Broadening Scope of Off-Site Levies

Moved by: Town of Cochrane
Seconded by: Town of Penhold

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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B8: Expanded Grant Eligibility for Water Infrastructure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regional Hubs

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

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

Risks of Disruption

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

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

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

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

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

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

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

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

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B9: Limiting the Use of Fresh Water in Hydraulic Fracturing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BACKGROUND:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

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

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

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

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Rick Pankiw
Mayor
Town of Rimbey
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B10: Police Fines and Penalties Revenue Sharing

Moved by: Town of Mundare
Seconded by: Town of Hanna

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

> **Disposition of fines and penalties** (***in effect prior to October 31, 2005***)
> **162(1)** Subject to subsection (2), any fine or penalty imposed under this Act belongs to the Crown in right of Alberta.
>
> **(2)** Any fine or penalty imposed under this Act in respect of an offence occurring in
>
> (a) a municipality that is an urban area, belongs to that municipality,
>
> (b) a municipal district or Metis settlement, other than on a highway designated as a primary highway pursuant to the *Public Highways Development Act*, belongs to the municipal district or Metis settlement, and
>
> (c) an Indian reserve, other than on a highway designated as a primary highway or a highway designated as a secondary road pursuant to the Public Highways Development Act, belongs to the band.

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

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

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

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

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

Based on estimates received from the Government of Alberta:

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

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

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

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

Colin Zyla
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Mundare
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2026 RESOLUTIONS

Category C:
Other Issues of Potential Interest to Municipalities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BACKGROUND:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Anna Cooper-Abel
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Town of Sylvan Lake
acooperabel@sylvanlake.ca

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:
ABmunis does not currently have a position on this particular issue.

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

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

Rick Binnendyk
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rbinnendyk@townofpenhold.ca

C5: Door-to-Door Solar Sales

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BACKGROUND:

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

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

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

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

- Windows
- Air conditioners
- Energy audits

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

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

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

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:
ABmunis does not currently have an established policy position on this issue.

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

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

Monty Killoh
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City of St. Albert
mkilloh@stalbert.ca

C6: Restoring Provincial Support for Perpetual Conservation Easements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Christine Raves
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Town of Cochrane
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C7: Remediation of Contaminated Properties

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shannon Harrower
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Town of Vermilion
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C8: Equitable Provincial Charitable Gaming Model

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

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

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

WHEREAS Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) helps to ensure the sustainability of charitable organizations through revenue generation made possible by volunteer charitable casino events, known as Alberta's Charitable Gaming Model[1];

WHEREAS Alberta's Charitable Gaming Model was responsible for over $422.8 million in revenue raised by thousands of Alberta charitable organizations in 2024-25[2];

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

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

WHEREAS Since the latest review, the gaming landscape has evolved with the introduction of the province's iGAming Strategy for online gaming[4] and Play Alberta.

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

BACKGROUND:
Under Alberta's current Charitable Gaming Model[5], adopted in 2003, charitable groups may be licensed by the AGLC to conduct charity casinos in coordination with licensed private casino facilities as a revenue generating opportunity. These revenues are critical for charitable organizations' sustainability and ability to provide services to communities across Alberta.

There are 19 casino facilities[6] located throughout Alberta, each of which belongs to a "casino region." Charities are generally assigned to their nearest casino facility. While charities located within Edmonton and Calgary and charities that provide province-wide services are permitted to receive a license for a casino event in Edmonton or Calgary casino facilities.

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[1] https://aglc.ca/gaming/charitablegaming/albertas-charitable-gaming-model
[2] https://aglc.ca/gaming/charitablegaming/albertas-charitable-gaming-model
[3] https://aglc.ca/sites/aglc.ca/files/aglc_files/CGR-What_We_Heard.pdf
[4] https://www.alberta.ca/albertas-igaming-strategy
[5] https://aglc.ca/gaming/charitablegaming/albertas-charitable-gaming-model
[6] https://aglc.ca/about-us/publications/quick-facts

In a 2010 MLA Advisory Report[7] on "Eligible Organizations' Access to and Distribution of Proceeds from Licensed Casino Events," it was identified that inequities exist because:

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

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

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

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

The increased emphasis on this issue in recent years – reflected in two historic resolutions approved by Alberta Municipalities members (with 88% member support in 2018, and 92% member support in 2022)[8] as well as resolutions approved by Rural Municipalities of Alberta[9] – creates a strong foundation for Alberta Municipalities to continue advocating on this issue to the Government of Alberta and AGLC with the support of a diverse range of municipalities.

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

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

[8] AB Munis Resolutions:
- https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/resolutions-library/gamingcasino-funds
- https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/resolutions-library/equitable-provincial-charitable-gaming-model
- https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/resolutions-library/equitable-provincial-charitable-gaming-model-0

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

The following table outlines the wait times and revenues each casino-region received as of December 31, 2024[10].

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

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS

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

RESOLUTION CONTACT:

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

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City of St. Albert
mkilloh@stalbert.ca

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

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

Moved by: Town of Penhold
Seconded by: Strathcona County

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[1] Alberta Municipalities, *Resolutions Policy No. AP002*, approved December 19, 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rick Binnendyk
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2026 RESOLUTIONS

Emergent Resolutions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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[1] See: Alberta Municipalities, June 2026, *FCSS Advocacy Toolkit*.
[2] Red Deer & District FCSS, *Trends in Review 2025: A Review of Social Trends in the Red Deer and District Area, p. 2-10.*

at the same time, increasing pressure on local service providers and municipalities. Examples from both rural and urban communities show significant increases in demand for FCSS services, referrals, and support requests. For example, in 2023 the Kneehill Regional FCSS noted a general increase in referrals to Alberta Supports and local food, clothing and furniture banks, housing supports and mental health supports[3] and in 2024 provided 23,795 service hours which is about a 22 percent increase over their benchmark.[4] The City of Edmonton found in 2024 individuals accessing supports were facing multiple challenges at once: mental health, addiction, instable housing and financial difficulties which required more intensive and integrated support.[5] Based on discussions among municipalities, these specific examples represent the experience of many communities throughout Alberta.

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

Municipalities and FCSS programs have identified opportunities for additional needs-based, prevention-focused investments that would complement, rather than replace, FCSS. Expanding access to practical community supports and early intervention[8] services could help address emerging needs before they escalate, improve residents' quality of life, and reduce pressure on more costly health and social service systems. One potential model is Healthy Aging Alberta, which has demonstrated success in providing early intervention and community-based supports for older adults. Similar complementary programming could be adapted to serve Albertans of all ages and help address prevention-related gaps that municipalities and FCSS programs have consistently identified.

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

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

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

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[3] Kneehill Regional FCSS, *Annual Report 2023*, p. 3.
[4] Kneehill Regional FCSS, *Counselling Report to Municipalities 2025*, p. 3.
[5] City of Edmonton, 2024 Family and Community Support Services Annual Report, p. 9.
[6] See: University of Alberta and RMA, 2023, *Understanding and Responding to the Challenges Faced by FCSS Programs in Rural Alberta*, pp. 1-37.
[7] University of Alberta and RMA, 2023, p. 12.
[8] The definition of early intervention in the Government of Alberta often means addressing an issue at an early stage, after the issue has surfaced or presented itself, but before full blown crisis. These interventions tend to be intensive and directed at specific individuals experiencing significant adversity. See: Government of Alberta, March 2019, *Well-being and Resiliency: A Framework for Supporting Safe and Healthy Children and Families*, p. 22.

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

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