August 17, 2018

Honourable Shaye Anderson
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Room 204, Legislature Building
10080 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Anderson:

One of the key municipal responsibilities carried out across the province is the administration of land reserves for essential services such as public parks, recreation areas, and school board purposes. This function is vital to ensuring that Albertans enjoy complete communities, and is relied upon by the Government of Alberta to ensure that adequate school sites are available for school boards across the province.

One of the innovative mechanisms in the *Municipal Government Act* is the ability for municipalities to take additional reserve land for higher density subdivisions given the higher demand in these areas as compared to total available land. This tool is enabled through Section 668 of the Act. Unfortunately, municipalities have expressed concerns that the Section 668 tool has been difficult to implement. Confusion persists about how and when it should be applied during the subdivision process. As well, municipalities are struggling to reconcile application of the tool with their broader community planning practices.

The Section 668 tool is an important addition to the municipal toolbox to ensure that our communities have adequate parks, recreation areas, and school sites. Given the growing need to apply the tool as many of our communities increase in density, AUMA urges the province to create appropriate guidance resources to aid municipalities in understanding how to utilize it. As with other tools and resources, AUMA would be pleased to continue our partnership with your Ministry in the development of supports to assist with Section 668.

Sincerely,

Barry Morishita
AUMA President

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me by email at president@auma.ca or my cell phone at (403) 363-9224.