

# AUMA Board - 2018 in Review

Over the past year, the AUMA Board has been actively advocating on behalf of Alberta's municipalities and has been developing tools to support Alberta's municipalities to build thriving communities.

## Advocating for Alberta Municipalities

In 2018, the AUMA Board of Directors focused on a number of key issues affecting Alberta municipalities including infrastructure funding, cannabis, policing, waste reduction, broadband, and brownfields.

**New fiscal framework:** AUMA's top priority is advocacy on a new agreement with the province to replace the Municipal Sustainability Initiative when it ends in 2021. Based on input from members, we brought forward recommendations for a fiscal framework to be enshrined in legislation that is adequate, sustainable, and predictable and grows with the long-term needs of municipalities.

Stay up to date with negotiations by [subscribing](#) to AUMA's [Digest](#) and attending [Municipal Leaders' Caucus](#).

**Cannabis legalization:** AUMA has been providing input on the development of legislation and regulations for cannabis legalization. We have also provided supports for municipalities to implement legalization and address related issues. A pressing concern is ensuring municipalities receive a fair share of cannabis tax revenue, particularly in light of the province's Municipal Cannabis Transition Program (MCTP). The MCTP is an under-funded, conditional grant program, which excludes the majority of AUMA members. AUMA does not believe the MCTP is an adequate substitute for a fair share of cannabis tax revenue.

Learn more about AUMA's advocacy and the tools we have developed to support the transition to legalization on our [Cannabis Hub](#).

**Policing:** After successfully advocating for a comprehensive review of the *Alberta Police Act*, AUMA has formed a Police Act Working Group to provide solutions for improving policing services and community safety, and to advocate for a new, more equitable police-funding model.

Visit our [Policing Hub](#) for more information on the review.

**Waste reduction:** Recent changes in recycling programs are having a detrimental effect on Alberta communities, including higher recycling costs along with reduction in materials accepted for recycling, causing an increase in the waste stream. In response, AUMA is working with members and advocating for the province to review regulations and improve recycling programs across Alberta.

Get involved by visiting our [Waste Hub](#).

**Broadband:** AUMA has been working with the province to identify affordable and effective solutions to improve broadband throughout Alberta. As a result, a Provincial Broadband Strategy is expected in early 2019.

View AUMA's [webinar](#) on the broadband strategy and funding to learn more.

**Brownfields:** Brownfields are vacant commercial or industrial lots that are likely contaminated from previous use. AUMA's advocacy efforts have resulted in the provincial government taking steps on the *Brownfield Remediation Certification Regulation*. These steps align with recommendations from AUMA and other stakeholders to make it easier to redevelop these derelict properties. The changes will clarify some existing brownfield redevelopment issues, but there are still actions the provincial government can take in partnership with municipalities on brownfield redevelopment.

Visit AUMA's [Brownfield Hub](#) for information and ideas on redevelopment.



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## Providing Tools to Support Alberta Municipalities

The AUMA Board has also developed tools to support municipalities in their quest to provide citizens and businesses efficient and effective services.

**Intermunicipal collaboration:** Municipalities that share a common boundary must adopt an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) by April 1, 2020. The ICF establishes how municipalities will work together to provide services efficiently to citizens.

AUMA developed a [workbook and templates](#) to support development of these frameworks.

**Indigenous relations:** AUMA is assisting municipalities to build respectful relationships with First Nations, Metis Settlements, and Indigenous people living within municipal boundaries. In November, AUMA and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta launched a [Blanket Exercise Initiative](#), giving municipalities the opportunity to enhance their understanding of Indigenous history and culture in Canada.

Learn more about the [Blanket Exercise Initiative](#).

**Asset management:** Over the past year AUMA worked with partners to deliver a series of courses for elected officials and administration on asset management. Asset management is the process of managing a municipality's assets, such as roads and buildings, in a cost-effective manner. 99.9% of participants reported they would recommend the courses to others, and 98.0% reported a better understanding of asset management as a result of the courses.

Visit our [Asset Management Hub](#) for information on AUMA's program.

Visit [auma.ca](http://auma.ca) to learn more about AUMA's work to support thriving communities.

