



## NEWS RELEASE

### Alberta Municipalities' initial reaction to Budget 2022

February 24, 2022

Alberta Municipalities congratulates the provincial government on tabling a 'back to balance' budget earlier today in the legislature.

The Government of Alberta telegraphed its fiscal intentions in the last two budgets, so most of it comes as no surprise to our association and our members. At the same time, it is worth noting that some of the burden associated with balancing Alberta's budget was borne by local governments through multiple and continuous fiscal downloading by the provincial government.

Alberta Municipalities is pleased to see the provincial government is investing a further \$240 million over three years to deliver reliable, high-speed internet service to Albertans who live in smaller, more remote communities across the province. This has been one of our association's top priorities for several years, and we are certain our members will appreciate it.

While we appreciate that the provincial education property tax is increasing by 1.5%, as opposed to the 3.1% increase forecasted in last year's budget, we believe it would have been better if the provincial government had frozen this tax altogether. We believe homeowners and businesses would have benefitted from a break from this tax increase, in light of the difficult economic times Albertans have endured during the pandemic. After all, there is only one taxpayer.

Our analysts are currently reviewing the Budget 2022 documents to determine precisely how our association's 275+ members – communities in which nearly 88% of Albertans live and work – will be affected. We will know more by tomorrow afternoon when we share our preliminary analysis with elected officials and senior municipal employees. This analysis will be publicly available on Alberta Municipalities' website by 5 p.m. tomorrow.

Check [www.abmunis.ca](http://www.abmunis.ca) regularly for more [Budget 2022 analysis](#) and related communications.

NOTE: A more detailed official statement about Budget 2022 will be issued by Cathy Heron, President of Alberta Municipalities, on Friday, February 25. A broadcast-quality video statement will also be posted to our website by 6 p.m. tomorrow.

#### For more information:

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*From the smallest village to the largest city, across every region of the province, Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) represents the communities where over 85% of Albertans live. Previously known as the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), ABmunis was founded in 1905 to provide urban and rural-region communities a united voice.*

*We work with elected and administrative leaders of Alberta's summer villages, villages, town, cities, and specialized municipalities to advocate for solutions to their common issues, which we categorize as economic, environment, governance, infrastructure, or social.*