



# Implementation Fact Sheet

## Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2022

### Legislation

- [Municipal Government Act](#)
- [Local Authorities Election Act](#)

### Regulation

- Subdivision and Development Regulation
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Regulation
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Regulation
- [Matters Related to Subdivision and Development Regulation](#)

## Overview

Both the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) and the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA) were amended through Bill 21, *Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2022*. Bill 21 received royal assent on May 31, 2022, and will come into force on various dates.

The Subdivision and Development Regulation, the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Regulation, and the Subdivision and Development Appeal Regulation were combined into a single regulation. Matters Related to Subdivision and Development Regulation

## Clarifying Amendments in the MGA

### Intermunicipal Business Licences

Previously, the MGA was silent on the development of intermunicipal business licensing programs. While a small number of municipalities in Alberta already do this, by making the MGA an explicit authority, the Alberta government hopes to encourage more uptake to reduce costs and administrative burden on businesses.

#### What's changed?

Explicitly enabling two or more municipalities to enter into an intermunicipal business licence agreement. This amendment supports economic development by making it easier for mobile businesses to operate across the province and reduces the costs and administration involved in applying for licences in each municipality (MGA s.8(2), (3)).

### Compliance Tools after Viability Reviews

Expanding ministerial authorities to provide greater flexibility and tools to enforce municipal compliance (inspections, inquiries, and audits) resulting from a viability review (MGA s.130.3).

#### What's changed?

Previously, the only action available to the Minister, in cases where a municipality failed to comply with the Minister's viability directives, was to dismiss members of council or the Chief Administrative Officer. Bill 21 amends the MGA to include more nuanced actions that will provide motivation to comply with directives, such as withholding provincial grants, repealing policies or procedures, or suspending bylaw-making authority.

### Community Revitalization Bylaws and Amendments

The Minister is authorized to approve Community Revitalization bylaws and amendments to expedite the approval time and ensure that economic development in revitalization areas can begin sooner (MGA s.381.2).

#### What's changed?

Previously, Community Revitalization bylaws and amendments had to be approved by Cabinet. This change will improve procedural efficiency and reduce timelines.

## General Streamlining Amendments (For Information Only)

A variety of general streamlining amendments were made to improve readability, reduce duplication and better align with other legislation and requirements. These changes will generally not require additional action by Alberta municipalities. These changes include:

S.1(1)(x)).	Clarifying that population for the purposes of the MGA will be determined by ministerial order rather than by regulation.
S.3	Adding “to foster the economic development of the municipality” to the list of municipal purposes.
S.22	Clarifying the process regarding road closure bylaws and approval from Alberta Transportation; in particular, clarifying the requirements for public notice and a public hearing prior to second reading of the bylaw.
S.76, 85, 87, 94, 99.1, 108, 120, 120.1, 121, 125	Streamlining and providing additional clarity regarding the procedures for the formation, change of status or dissolution of a municipality, amalgamation of municipal authorities, or annexation of land.
S.143	Streamlining provisions setting out the number of councillors for types of municipalities.
S.145	Providing clarity that if a council chooses to establish a council committee or other body, the establishment and functions of the committee/body must be set out in bylaw.
S.196	Allowing council to approve the method(s) to provide notice for a council or council committee meeting.
S.199	Creating greater flexibility for meetings to be held by electronic means
S.251(2)(b)).	Providing clarity that the rate of interest charged on borrowing must be stated as a percentage within the borrowing bylaw.
S.284, 292).	Updating obsolete references (such as replacing National Energy Board with Canada Energy Regulator).
S.297, 298).	Moving specific rules relating to the assessment and taxation of non-residential property from the Matters Relating to Assessment Sub-Classes Regulation into the MGA.

## LAEA Amendment

### Redaction of Personal Information

The LAEA was amended to require municipalities and school boards to redact personal information (such as addresses and contact information) of candidates and donors from candidate disclosure statements before they are made public (MGA s.147.4). This will apply to forms that are already public from the recent election – municipalities will need to redact those forms before making them publicly accessible again.

#### What’s changed?

Previously, the authority to redact this type of personal information was unclear and interpreted differently by each municipality.

## Matters Related to Subdivision and Development Regulation (Subdivision Development Regulation Consolidation)

While there were no substantive changes to the content of these regulations, the following updates were made to improve clarity and accessibility:

- The Subdivision and Development Regulation, the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Regulation, and the Subdivision and Development Appeal Regulation were combined into a single regulation. (Matters Related to Subdivision and Development Regulation)
  - Combining them into one regulation will make it easier for industry stakeholders, municipalities, and Albertans to find the information they need.
  - The Subdivision and Development Regulation established municipal responsibilities for receiving and deciding on subdivision applications, including the administration of subdivisions, subdivision and development conditions, registration and endorsement, development setbacks for waste and wastewater sites and setbacks for provincial appeals to the Land and Property Rights Tribunal.

The use of this document is for advisory and reference purposes and does not constitute legal advice

©2022 Government of Alberta | June 13, 2022 | Municipal Affairs



- The Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Regulation established training requirements for Subdivision and Development Appeal Board members and clerks as well as municipal reporting requirements.
  - The Subdivision and Development Appeal Regulation clarified processes and ensured subdivision and development permit appeals with limited provincial interest remain with local subdivision and development appeal boards rather than the provincial Land and Property Rights Tribunal.
- 
- Definitions have been updated and added, including the definition of sour gas, food establishments, and roads.
    - For example, the definition of food establishments is removed, as the requirements under the Food Regulation and the Food Retail and Food Services Code already sufficiently address this issue.
  - The new regulation does not include redundant provisions that are already addressed within the MGA or other legislation:
    - The requirement to designate different types of land with specific suffixes is already within the MGA.
    - The requirements for certain forms, such as the deferred reserve form, already exist in other legislation or regulations.
    - Section 577 of the MGA already provides the Minister with the authority to request information from municipalities, and does not need to be replicated for subdivision and appeal board training information requirements.

## For more information

Phone: 780-427-2225  
Toll-free in Alberta: 310-0000  
Fax: 780-420-1016  
Email: [ma.advisory@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.advisory@gov.ab.ca)

## Document information

Title: Implementation Fact Sheet: Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2022  
Date of publication: June 2022  
Copyright: ©2022 Government of Alberta  
Licence: This publication is issued under the Open Government Licence – Alberta (<https://open.alberta.ca/licence>).  
Availability: This document will be available online at [www.open.alberta.ca](http://www.open.alberta.ca)