



News Release – AUMA responds to the Government of Canada’s Budget 2021

April 19, 2021

EDMONTON – Budget 2021 brings good news to Alberta municipalities and the hope that the federal and provincial governments might work together to ease the burden on Alberta’s residents, especially those most in need.

Today’s announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland, that an additional \$2.5 billion will be available for affordable housing is the good news that AUMA’s members have been wanting to hear. There has been a desperate need for accessible, affordable housing across many Alberta communities, big and small. This funding will help create jobs, stimulate the economy, and support those most vulnerable to the economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. We hope the province will commit to taking advantage of all opportunities to maximize federal funds for affordable housing so those with complex needs get housed and stay housed. We know this will result in a visible reduction in homelessness and a drastic savings in health, justice, and law enforcement costs.

The Government of Canada’s promise of funds to boost transit in our cities and towns could encourage Alberta’s municipalities to reconsider zoning with a view to revitalizing areas along transit routes. AUMA is advocating for the Government of Alberta to reinstate permanent long-term transit funding that would provide predictable and stable funding so that Alberta municipalities with public transit can maximize the benefits of the strategic investments and contributions from the federal government. The one-time doubling of the Gas Tax Fund this year will be instrumental in creating jobs during the current economic recovery and supporting municipalities to repair needed infrastructure.

“AUMA is pleased to hear the Government of Canada will be making meaningful investments in the economic wellbeing of our communities,” states AUMA President Barry Morishita. “We have heard the commitment from the government that they’re focused on strategic, coordinated investments to stimulate our economy. These are sensible and targeted funding measures intended to help the members of our communities who have been hardest hit by the economic reality of the pandemic. I look forward to hearing how the province intends to take advantage of these federal funds so Albertans can see the best possible future for their friends, neighbours, and themselves,” he adds.

AUMA speaks with a united voice and supports all municipalities, large and small, during our current fiscal reality. We look forward to sharing in brighter times ahead and building strong communities, and a stronger Alberta.

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