



Red Tape Reduction Evaluation Framework

Purpose

Municipalities are the level of government closest to the people's daily life and are intrinsically involved in the everyday lives of those they serve. Determining how to provide services and programs effectively and efficiently is essential for all municipal governments. For many municipal governments, reducing red tape is about balancing public protection and safety with effectiveness and efficiency. There are statutes and regulations that are necessary to protect residents, the environment, and maintain a high quality of life in Alberta.

This framework is a principle-based tool to use when assessing the province's red tape reduction initiatives (e.g. developing legislation, amendments to Acts or regulations, program, or process changes). The goal is to use the framework to support AUMA Administration to respond to the provincial government's red tape reduction initiative in a timely, effective, and consistent manner.

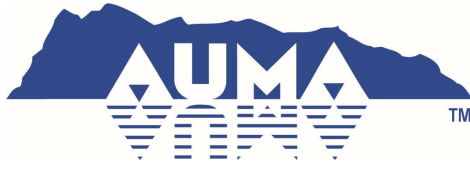
Examples of Red Tape for Municipalities

Red tape is unnecessary time and resources spent by citizens, businesses, and other governments to comply with regulatory and administrative requirements imposed by statutes, regulations, policies, and forms.

AUMA conducted a red tape survey with municipalities in 2019. Here is some direct feedback on their experiences with red tape received in response to the survey:

- *53 per cent of respondents to the survey encountered barriers dealing with provincial grants.*
- *37 per cent of respondents experienced barriers when dealing with provincial water legislation and regulations.*
- *Just far too many regulations, we shouldn't have to contact several departments when we want to obtain approval.*
- *Approval for water permits takes too long.*
- *Various government departments should talk to each other, so they know what is going on.*
- *There are inconsistencies in how the province enforces water regulations.*

When the provincial government reduces red tape impacting municipalities, municipalities can allocate more resources to supporting local businesses and creating economic development opportunities. Municipalities believe that red tape reduction should not compromise requirements that are intended to safeguard public safety, protect our environment, ensure order in the public, establish good governance, and help municipal governments to perform due diligence.



Red Tape Reduction Evaluation Framework

Guiding principles – What should red tape reduction achieve

AUMA believes that the provincial red tape reduction initiative should consistently demonstrate these principles:

- *Clarity of Purpose/outcomes* – The proposed change should have a clear purpose and/or outcomes in terms of improving a governance process, providing value for money and/or improving the quality of life for Albertans.
- *Empowers municipalities* – Municipalities' autonomy or authority to fulfill their purposes will be maintained or increased by the initiative, without overburdening existing financial and administrative resources.
- *Cost and administration reduction* – The initiative will reduce administrative effort and/or costs for the province and/or municipalities.
- *Simplification and streamlining* - Requirements and/or processes will be simplified, without sacrificing effectiveness, as a result of the initiative.
- *Relevance to municipalities* – The initiative is already supported by the majority of municipalities (e.g. AUMA resolutions), and it is a high priority for municipalities (e.g. AUMA Prioritization Policy and/or Strategic Initiatives in Business Plan).
- *Communications and transparency* – The provincial government has shared clear and valuable information about the initiative. Municipalities have been engaged in developing the initiative and have meaningful opportunities to give input.
- *Downloading is avoided* – The initiative will not result in the transfer of financial (and/or administrative) responsibilities from the provincial government to municipalities when the provincial government has previously committed to covering the costs or is required under existing legislation or policy to cover the costs. In other words, the change will not result in an unfunded mandate, where municipalities are expected to deliver a service, but are not provided with the resources to cover the costs.

Appendix

- Evaluation Template



Appendix A: Evaluation Template

Red Tape Reduction Initiative (provide a brief description of the red tape proposal):		
Guiding Principles	Sample Considerations	Analysis
<p><i>Purpose/Benefit</i></p> <p>The proposed initiative should have a clear purpose and/or outcomes in terms of improving a governance process, providing value for money and/or improving the quality of life for Albertans.</p>	<p>Is there a clear purpose for the proposed change or initiative? If so, will the proposed change or initiative achieve the intended results?</p> <p>What is the benefit of the initiative? If applicable, have the regulators assessed and shared the potential positive and negative economic, environmental, and social impacts on municipalities resulting from the proposed initiative or change?</p>	
<p><i>Empowers municipalities</i></p> <p>Municipalities' autonomy or authority to fulfill their purposes will be maintained or increased by the initiative, without overburdening existing financial and administrative resources.</p>	<p>Does the initiative better enable municipalities to fulfill their purpose and core responsibilities?</p> <p>Does the initiative provide authority for municipalities to operate with more autonomy?</p> <p>The purposes of a municipality are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide good government, • foster the well-being of the environment, • provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality, • develop and maintain safe and viable communities, and • work collaboratively with neighbouring municipalities to plan, deliver and fund intermunicipal services. 	
<p><i>Cost and administration reduction</i></p> <p>The initiative will reduce administrative effort and/or</p>	<p>Will the proposed initiative reduce?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • process time? • reporting requirements? • administrative work required? • cost for municipalities? 	



Appendix A: Evaluation Template

Red Tape Reduction Initiative (provide a brief description of the red tape proposal):		
Guiding Principles	Sample Considerations	Analysis
costs for the province and/or municipalities.	<p>Can municipalities estimate the financial saving of the proposed initiative?</p> <p>Has any administrative burden associated with complying with the initiatives (or requirements) been identified?</p>	
<p><i>Simplification and streamlining</i></p> <p>Requirements and/or processes will be simplified, without sacrificing effectiveness, as a result of the initiative.</p>	<p>If applicable, have the regulators considered potential alternatives to regulations, including voluntary standards, guidelines, communication and education campaigns, or other performance-based approaches?</p> <p>If applicable, does the initiative or change align with federal or inter-provincial legislative requirements?</p> <p>Will the proposed initiative make a requirement or a process easier to understand?</p>	
<p><i>Relevance to municipalities</i></p> <p>The initiative is already supported by the majority of municipalities (e.g. AUMA resolutions), and it is a high priority for municipalities (e.g. AUMA Prioritization Policy and/or Strategic Initiatives in Business Plan).</p>	<p>Did municipalities ask for the changes?</p> <p>Is the change applicable to all municipalities?</p> <p>Does AUMA have a resolution on this initiative?</p> <p>Is this a high priority according to the AUMA Prioritization Policy and Strategic Initiatives?</p>	
<p><i>Communications and transparency</i></p> <p>The provincial government has shared clear and valuable information about the initiative. Municipalities have been engaged in developing the initiative</p>	<p>Have municipalities been properly consulted, including having reasonable time to study the proposed change?</p> <p>Have the proposed changes (or requirements) been written in clear, easy to understand language?</p>	



Appendix A: Evaluation Template

Red Tape Reduction Initiative (provide a brief description of the red tape proposal):		
Guiding Principles	Sample Considerations	Analysis
and have meaningful opportunities to give input.		
<p><i>Downloading is avoided</i></p> <p>The initiative will not result in the transfer of financial (and/or administrative) responsibilities from the provincial government to municipalities when the provincial government has previously committed to covering the costs or is required under existing legislation or policy to cover the costs. In other words, the change will not result in an unfunded mandate, where municipalities are expected to deliver a service, but are not provided with the resources to cover the costs.</p>	<p>Will the initiative lead to additional responsibilities and services that municipalities must provide?</p> <p>Can the new requirements be implemented using existing municipal resources?</p> <p>Will municipalities be provided funding or revenue generation tools to cover any additional costs?</p> <p>What are the long-term policy consequences for municipalities?</p>	

Conclusion
<p>Please rank the value of the initiative for municipalities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High value Low value No value/Can't determine <p>Please elaborate:</p>
<p>What actions should be taken next?</p>