



NEWS RELEASE

Complete surveys, help shape local government in Alberta

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EDMONTON – Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) encourages all eligible Albertans to take 20 minutes out of their busy lives in the next two weeks to have their say on how politics at the local level will be conducted in our province.

Director Andrew Knack (Cities over 500,000) spoke on behalf of ABmunis' Board of Directors at an online media event held earlier today. He echoed Municipal Affairs Minister Ric McIver's recent call to action, encouraging all eligible Albertans to complete surveys on the [Local Authorities Elections Act](#) (LAEA) and [Municipal Government Act](#) (MGA) and tell the provincial government how it can strengthen local democracy in Alberta.

"The last time the Government of Alberta conducted similar surveys -- in 2020 -- it received about 4,000 responses," said Knack. "That's a very low response rate, considering the population of Alberta hovered around 4.4 million at the time."

Many of ABmunis' members are concerned that the introduction of political parties to local elections could lead to greater divisiveness within municipal governments. Others worry that a growing number of Albertans could be ineligible to vote in local elections because they lack home addresses or government-issued identification.

Alberta Municipalities hopes to motivate more Albertans to take action and complete the surveys on the Government of Alberta website between now and December 6.

"Completing one or two surveys may seem like a small thing, but it can lead to significant outcomes," said Knack. "It takes about 10 minutes to complete each survey. To some extent, the future of local government in Alberta will be shaped by the survey results."

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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. ABmunis was founded in 1905 to provide urban and rural-region communities a united voice. Alberta Municipalities now serves and represents more than 270 of Alberta's 334 municipalities.

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.

And we help them build resilient and thriving communities by providing valuable services. We use our members' combined purchasing power to negotiate the best possible value and competitive pricing on employee benefits, insurance, energy, and other services needed to run an effective and efficient municipality.