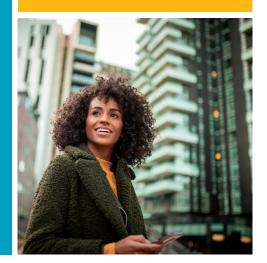
# Report Card on 2020 Expired Resolutions







December 2023 Final Report on the 2020 Expired Resolutions

# **About Resolutions**

Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) conducts an annual resolutions process that enables member municipalities to identify and prioritize common issues and solutions and give direction to Alberta Municipalities' Board of Directors to advocate to the federal and provincial governments on members' behalf.

This process includes a resolutions session at ABmunis' Convention where members vote on submitted resolutions. When a resolution is adopted by members, ABmunis takes action to develop and implement advocacy strategies for each resolution.

Given the scope, complexity, and volume of issues facing municipalities, ABmunis uses a prioritization framework to determine the degree of resources that are invested in advocacy for each resolution.

# **About this Report Card**

Adopted resolutions are considered active for three years. This Report Card summarizes the status of all 2020 resolutions as of fall 2023 when the three-year active period has expired. With the expiration of the 2020 resolutions, this is the final Report Card that ABmunis will publish on the 2020 resolutions.

Depending on the importance and relevance of the issue, ABmunis Board of Directors may continue to advocate for some expired resolutions.

Note: References to "AUMA" are in reference to ABmunis former name, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, which was the association's name when the resolutions were adopted.

# Category B: Issues Related to Alberta Municipalities' Strategic Initiatives

#	Resolution	Active Clause	Status and ABmunis' Actions
Β1	Information Resolution Name Fiscal Framework Sponsors • Town of Okotoks • City of Red Deer ABmunis Committee • Executive • Municipal Governance	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to reshape municipal finance for a new time and provide municipalities with reasonable measures and tools, and the responsibility that goes with them, to enable cities, towns, and villages to sustainably meet their operating and capital budget needs.	<ul> <li>Intent not met</li> <li>ABmunis acknowledges that this resolution is part of a long-term strategy to ensure that municipalities have sufficient revenue tools to build thriving communities. Since the resolution was adopted, ABmunis' key activities have included: <ul> <li>Successfully advocated for future growth of the Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital funding to be directly linked to changes in the Government of Alberta's revenue, which has a direct correlation to Alberta's economy.</li> <li>Partnered with the School of Public Policy through the Future of Municipal Government project to explore financial solutions.</li> <li>Tracked the financial impact of provincial downloading on municipalities and collected stories from members on how that downloading is impacting municipal governments and communities.</li> <li>Supporting the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal Growth Framework campaign.</li> <li>Participating in the Government of Alberta's multi-year review of Alberta's regulated assessment models.</li> <li>Planning a webinar series in 2024 on Alberta's economy and municipal finance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

B2	Resolution Name Continuation of Municipal Bonds Sponsors City of Lethbridge City of Grande Prairie City of Brooks ABmunis Committee Executive Governance Committee	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of capital for local authorities to continue to access low- cost infrastructure loans as needed through the Government of Alberta; and <b>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide a regulatory environment where municipal governments can issue bonds to generate capital for local infrastructure needs and offer an opportunity for local, domestic, and international investors to invest in Alberta communities; and <b>FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT</b> the AUMA advocate to the Government of Alberta to ask the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), through the federal Minister of National Revenue, to consider Alberta municipal bonds as a tax- exempt investment income instrument.	<ul> <li>Intent partially met</li> <li>On April 26, 2022, ABmunis received a response from the Minister of Treasury Board and Finance explaining the province's rationale for dissolving the Alberta Capital Finance Authority (ACFA) and the decision to change the measure for how loan rates for local authorities are set. Notably, the letter also encourages "Alberta Municipalities to explore alternative methods of financing, including using bonds, to generate capital for community infrastructure."</li> <li>Despite advocacy by ABmunis, Budget 2023 did not offer any change to the province's policy on pricing of municipal loans at a premium based on what the Government of Alberta can borrow capital for in the bond market.</li> <li>BILD Alberta hired consulting firm MNP to conduct a comprehensive review of the current off-site levies mechanism and identified alternatives to fund future infrastructure projects. BILD shared the report with ABmunis, and it is available by request through its website. The paper finds that offsite levies are widely used across North America. It also suggests that, given the diversity of municipalities, a variety of tools that include alternative financial measures, such as bonds, should be pursued. In April 2023, BILD presented to ABmunis' Municipal Governance Committee and indicated that it is open to opportunities for aligned advocacy for municipal bonds and similar mechanisms.</li> <li>ABmunis will continue to explore the merits of municipal bonds in how they are used in other provinces and details may be shared in the Future of Municipal Finances Webinar Series that ABmunis plans to launch in 2024.</li> </ul>
B4	Resolution NameEducation PropertyTax CollectionSponsors• Town of Drayton Valley• City of St. Albert	<b>IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT</b> AUMA advocate for relieving Alberta's municipalities from the task of collecting Education Property Tax, and instead urge the Government of Alberta to take on the responsibility of collecting the Education Property Tax on a provincial level.	Intent not met At the April 9, 2021, Municipal Governance Committee meeting, Municipal Affairs' Assistant Deputy Minister of the Municipal Assessment and Grants Division confirmed that the Ministry remains opposed to taking over the collection of education property tax; however, strategies were identified related to collection that Municipal Affairs is open to municipalities using. A <u>newsletter</u> <u>article</u> was published on April 28, 2021 that described these

	ABmunis Committee Municipal Governance		<ul> <li>strategies. This article was published again in The Weekly on April 5, 2022.</li> <li>In December 2021, ABmunis submitted a response to the province's MGA Red Tape Reduction survey and highlighted the need for engagement by the province on ABmunis' resolutions related to property assessment and taxation.</li> <li>Given the importance of property taxes to municipalities, ABmunis will continue to pursue improvements to the property assessment and taxation system as part of our ongoing work.</li> </ul>
B5	Resolution Name Education Tax Rebate Sponsors • Town of Spirit River • Town of Sexsmith ABmunis Committee • Municipal Governance	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT AUMA petition the Alberta Government to provide tax rebates on uncollected education property taxes to the affected municipalities.	<ul> <li>Intent not met In December 2020, the Minister of Municipal Affairs communicated that the MGA provides an effective tax recovery framework and that municipalities can generate interest revenue on education property tax dollars before remitting the funding to the province. At the April 9, 2021, Municipal Governance Committee meeting, Municipal Affairs' Assistant Deputy Minister of the Municipal Assessment and Grants Division, confirmed that the Ministry remains opposed to making changes to the current education property tax framework. Given the importance of property taxes to municipalities, ABmunis will continue to pursue improvements to the property assessment and taxation system as part of our ongoing work.</li></ul>
86	Resolution Name <u>Permanent Transit</u> <u>Funding</u> Sponsors City of Edmonton City of St. Albert ABmunis Committee Infrastructure	<b>IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT</b> the AUMA advocate 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 other orders of government.	Intent not met ABmunis has been advocating for permanent transit funding in our budget submissions and engagements with relevant government ministries. Although this resolution has expired, members have adopted other related transit resolutions and ABmunis' Infrastructure Committee continues to focus on transit related issues. ABmunis has also been contributing to engagement sessions on forthcoming federal transit funding programs that are expected to launch in 2026.

B7	Resolution Name Community Peace Officer/Police Costing Model Sponsors • Town of Raymond • Town of Cardston ABmunis Committee • Safe and Healthy Communities	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT that the AUMA lobby the Alberta Government to reconsider the new Police Funding Regulation to take into account the towns and municipalities that are already financially responsible for Community Peace Officers and other levels of Law enforcement that currently assist in front line policing.	<ul> <li>Intent not met</li> <li>Provincial consultation on the police funding model is now complete and the model was implemented in 2020. During consultations, many municipalities raised the issue of Community Peace Officers and the province indicated that this matter was out of scope for the police funding model.</li> <li>Although the province's response to this resolution was disappointing, the current police funding model expires in 2024-25 and the province has indicated that engagement on a new model will begin sometime in 2024. Accordingly, in upcoming engagements, ABmunis will again advocate for other levels of law enforcement that are provided and paid for by municipalities, such as Community Peace Officers, to be considered in the renewed police funding model.</li> </ul>
88	Resolution Name Resolution Against Quebec's Bill 21 Sponsors • City of Edmonton • City of Calgary ABmunis Committee • Safe and Healthy Communities	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association provides a statement of support condemning and opposing any law that would seek to restrict or limit the religious and cultural freedoms of our citizens and continues to support building and welcoming communities across our province.	Response not required In December 2020, ABmunis sent a letter and the resolution to the Premier of Quebec as well as published a <u>statement on social media</u> . While ABmunis has not received a response from the Government of Quebec, the intent of this resolution has been met. In April 2021, <u>Quebec's Superior Court ruled</u> that Quebec's Respecting the Laicity of the State Act violates the basic rights of religious minorities, but those violations are permissible because of the Constitution's notwithstanding clause. The ruling did exempt English schools from the law as per protections of the minority-language education rights in the Charter Rights and Freedoms. While ABmunis has limited influence over the decisions made by provincial governments in other jurisdictions, we can promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in Alberta through our Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Initiative.

#### B9

Provincial Support for Addressing Affordable Housing

Resolution Name

#### Sponsors

- City of Edmonton
- City of Grande Prairie

#### **ABmunis Committee**

 Safe and Healthy Communities **IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association advocate to the Government of Alberta to:

- Invest immediately in the development of new affordable housing units as a means to create jobs, stimulate the economy, maximize the funding that can be leveraged from the Government of Canada, and support those most vulnerable to the economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Invest immediately in the cost-effective health and support services needed to help those with complex needs get housed and stay housed, resulting in a visible reduction in homelessness and a drastic savings in health, justice, and law enforcement costs.
- Introduce mandatory operation guidelines for all emergency shelters in order to maximize utilization rates through consideration of design and safety best practices and reduce social disorder related to shelter practices and people sleeping outside. These guidelines should address the challenges and barriers that people sleeping outside face when trying to access shelter services, such as the lack of continuous stay options, storage space for personal belongings, accommodation for pets and couples, inappropriate or insensitive cultural practices, fear of violence and for personal safety, and inconsistent barring practices.

#### Intent not met

The response from the Minister of Seniors and Housing states that the province will continue to work with the federal government to access funding for affordable housing under the Canada-Alberta bilateral agreement, but also signals that the province is "taking action now to get spending under control." The Minister's response also references the Affordable Housing Review Panel, as well as the federal Rapid Housing Initiative, which provided \$24.6 million and \$17.3 million in funding to Calgary and Edmonton, respectively, to provide permanent supportive housing. Finally, the Minister outlines the current provincial funding for homeless supports provided through the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Notably, the response does not address the request to introduce mandatory operation guidelines for all emergency shelters.

ABmunis' Board initially approved the following actions:

- Send a letter to the Minister of Community and Social Supports reiterating the need for mandatory operation guidelines for all homeless shelters.
- Monitor the issue and report on the progress of the development of the strategic affordable housing plan (within the context of the Technical Housing Advisory Team's non-disclosure agreement). Once this plan is formally released, the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee will provide feedback and recommendations on the plan for the Board's consideration.

The response from the Minister of Community and Social Supports re: shelter standards indicates that shelters that receive funding through Community and Social Supports are required to comply with the province's Homeless Shelter Accommodation Expectations. The Minister's response does not address shelters that do not receive provincial funding.

As the current government has demonstrated a preference for deregulation across multiple sectors through its various initiatives to "cut red tape", ABmunis is unlikely to be successful in convincing the province to adopt and enforce mandatory shelter guidelines for all

			<ul> <li>shelters. Accordingly, following the receipt of the Minister's response, ABmunis' Board approved the following updated actions: <ul> <li>With respect to the first two bullets in the active clauses of the resolution, categorize the response as "intent not met – further action will be taken".</li> <li>With respect to the last bullet in the active clauses of the resolution, categorize the response as "intent not met – no further action will be taken".</li> <li>Monitor the issue and report on the progress of the development of the strategic affordable housing plan (within the context of the Technical Housing Advisory Team's non-disclosure agreement). Once this plan is formally released, the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee will provide feedback and recommendations on the plan for the Board's consideration.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
B10	Resolution Name Integration of Nurse Practitioners into the Alberta Healthcare System Sponsors • ABmunis Board ABmunis Committee • Small Communities	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to remove the legislative and funding barriers that impede greater integration of nurse practitioners into the healthcare system.	<ul> <li>Intent partially met</li> <li>On October 8, 2023, the Minister of Health announced a new funding model that would allow Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to direct bill and give them the ability to open up their own clinics. The province promises a \$2- million grant over the next three years to implement the compensation model and encourage NPs to open their own clinics. The Nurse Practitioners Association of Alberta (NPAA) is currently negotiating with the Provincial Government and gathering further specifics of how this plan is set to unfold. ABmunis will have a clearer understanding of these changes in the coming months.</li> <li>Although the Minister of Health's initial response did not address removing legislative barriers for NPs, the Government of Alberta did, in addition to the other actions the Minister noted, make some legislative changes that enable NPs to make their expertise more available to Albertans. These legislative changes include: <ul> <li>Updating ambulance regulations to allow NPs to work as medical directors and provide real-time medical advice to paramedics.</li> <li>Allowing NPs to act as independent primary care providers in nursing homes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			ABmunis sent a follow-up letter to the Minister of Health in October 2021 acknowledging the actions taken by province that align with the objective of the resolution and encouraged Alberta Health to continue to engage with stakeholders like ABmunis and the NPAA. ABmunis administration periodically connects with representatives of the NPAA to discuss our resolution, any remaining legislative barriers to integration, and steps that both organizations are taking to promote the greater integration of NPS into the health care system. Representatives of NPAA's Board attend an ABmunis Small Communities Committee meeting annually to provide an update on their advocacy work.
			NPAA shared that they have been in ongoing discussions with Alberta Health about a sustainable compensation model that would not be grant-based and would enable NPs to work in independent practice. They also confirmed that many legislative barriers to fuller integration of NPs into the health care system have been removed and advised that the province has scanned all health care legislation to find language that would limit NPs authority to practice in a manner that is equivalent to physicians. While this resolution has expired. A similar resolution was adopted at the 2023 convention.
B11	<ul> <li>Resolution Name         Providing a Long- Term Source of     </li> <li>Financial Relief for</li> <li>Albertans (Give it Back)</li> <li>Sponsors         <ul> <li>City of Calgary</li> <li>City of St. Albert</li> </ul> </li> <li>ABmunis Committee</li> </ul>	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT should the Government of Alberta adopt Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation, AUMA will work with and encourage every member municipality to pass any and all savings found from the adoption of province-wide EPR directly back to taxpaying and/or ratepaying Albertans.	Accepts government response No further advocacy work is required related to this resolution. However, ABmunis EPR Working Group is working through issues related to the EPR transition, including exploring options for municipalities in the recycling space once this responsibility is taken over by producers. For more information about EPR, please visit the ABmunis Extended Producer Responsibility webpage.

	<ul> <li>Sustainability and Environment</li> </ul>		
B12	Resolution Name <u>Sustainable</u> <u>Funding for Water</u> and Wastewater <u>Infrastructure</u> Sponsors • City of Cold Lake • Lac La Biche County ABmunis Committee • Sustainability and Environment	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Canada and Government Alberta to consider and evaluate the financial impacts that all existing and proposed laws and regulations governing the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment and release of wastewater will have on	Intent not met ABmunis partnered with Alberta Innovates and created an Innovative Wastewater Task Force, which led a discussion on encouraging the use of innovative water and wastewater technologies. ABmunis will continue to advocate for the Innovative Wastewater Task Force's recommendations. The Sustainability and Environment Committee is updating ABmunis water and wastewater policies to support our advocacy with the Alberta government.

# Category C: Other issues of potential interest to municipalities in Alberta

#	Resolution Information	Active Clause	Status and ABmunis' Actions
C1	Resolution Name Support for Alberta Film Industry & Economic Diversification Sponsors • Town of Okotoks • Town of Okotoks • Town of Didsbury ABmunis Committee • Economic Strategy	growing sector into an economic engine for the province.	Intent partially met ABmunis was pleased to see that funding for the Alberta Film and Television Tax Credit was maintained in the provincial budget. ABmunis will continue to advocate to the provincial government to expand the criteria of the Alberta Film and Television Tax Credit. ABmunis' Economic Resiliency and Recovery Task Force also included the importance of promoting Alberta's communities as places to do business as one of their action items.

#	Resolution Information	Active Clause	Status and ABmunis' Actions
		<ul> <li>screen industry in rural Alberta as a tool to leverage for tourism by: <ol> <li>The addition of a "rural location" incentive towards projects that shoot in rural locations</li> <li>Promotion of towns which feature projects</li> <li>Coordinated marketing and infrastructure projects towards screen- based tourism initiatives</li> </ol></li></ul>	
C2	Resolution Name Increase Provincial Flood Mitigation & Mapping Standards Sponsors • Town of Okotoks • Town of High River ABmunis Committee • Safe and Healthy Communities	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to revise the provincial standard from 1:100 to 1:200 for flood mitigation measures for all new development.	Intent not met Following the response from the provincial government, ABmunis met with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas to discuss current flood mapping efforts and how municipalities are being engaged. While the province is still using the 1:100 standard, they are engaging municipalities as they update flood maps. ABmunis Infrastructure Committee has been regularly updated on the progress of the mapping initiative.
C5	Resolution Name Fair Increase to Wireless Device 911 Levy to Modernize 911 Call Centres Sponsors City of Grande Prairie City of Camrose ABmunis Committee Safe and Healthy Communities	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate the Alberta government for an increase to the levy payable outlined in the Emergency 911 Levy Regulation, from 44 cents to 97 cents per month per wireless device, prior to renewing the Regulation, which expires on March 31, 2021, to ensure the modernization of technology in 911 call centers and enhance public safety across Alberta.	Intent partially met* In June 2021, Bill 56, the Local Measures Statutes Amendment Act, was passed and received royal assent. Under this bill, Albertans are required to pay 95 cents for the monthly wireless levy starting in September 2021, more than double the previous amount of 44 cents dating back to 2014. Most of the funding from this levy is going directly towards Alberta's 911 centres, with a portion covering service provider and program area administration costs. This increased funding will help Alberta's 911 centres upgrade to federally mandated Next Generation 911 technology. The increased funding re-establishes a proportionate funding model with municipalities and agencies that run 911 centres

#	Resolution Information	Active Clause	Status and ABmunis' Actions
			sharing the costs. This funding is meant to enhance, not replace existing funding.
			*It should be noted that ABmunis was successful in advocating for this resolution; however, the classification of "Intent Partially Met" is used because the resolution called for a 53-cent increase in the levy and the province implemented a 51-cent increase.
C6	Resolution Name <u>Review of Libraries</u> <u>Act</u> Sponsors • Village of Ryley • Village of Boyle ABmunis Committee • Small Communities	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA request the Government of Alberta review the <i>Libraries Act</i> and Libraries Regulations through a comprehensive public consultation process.	Intent partially met In addition to participating in the stakeholder engagement sessions, ABmunis staff and Small Communities Committee members met with Public Library Services Branch staff in summer/fall 2021 to share the concerns of municipalities related to libraries. ABmunis also sent a follow up letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs once the Ministry completed the feedback gathering stage of its 2021 review process. ABmunis appreciates the efforts made by Municipal Affairs to conduct a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process prior to making any amendments to the <i>Libraries Act</i> and Regulation. However, ABmunis would like to hear from the Ministry on the findings from the 2021 engagement process and is interested to learn if/how the feedback from municipalities will be used. ABmunis staff will continue to follow up with the Ministry to learn if any legislative amendments will ultimately be proposed or if further stakeholder engagement will take place at a future date.

C7	Resolution Name Current Population Funding for Alberta's Municipal Public	IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA requests that Alberta's Department of Municipal Affairs uses current population data in calculating provincial operating grants for	Intent not met In the fall of 2021, during Municipal Affairs' stakeholder engagement process for their <u>review of the Libraries Act</u> and Regulation, Ministry staff indicated that funding for libraries was not within the scope of
	<u>Libraries</u> Sponsors	municipal public libraries serving populations over 3,000.	the engagement discussion topics. At that time, they also advised that the province had no plans to increase the budget for libraries or to base allocation of funding amounts on current municipal populations;
	<ul> <li>City of Spruce Grove</li> <li>Town of Stony Plain</li> <li>ABmunis Committee</li> <li>Safe and Healthy Communities</li> </ul>		allocations would continue to be based on 2016 populations. The ABmunis Board categorized the government's response to this resolution as "intent not met - further action will not be taken" at their September 2021 meeting given the number of members with populations under 3000 that could be impacted by changes to library funding allocation.
			ABmunis noted that Alberta's Budget 2023 increased funding for libraries by \$2.9 million to \$33.4 million. Municipal Affairs also advised that the funding for libraries set out in Budget 2023 will be allocated using the <u>Ministry's 2019 population data</u> . This is an improvement from the previous scenario; however, ABmunis will continue to monitor the Ministry's approach to funding libraries in future years to ensure that the total amount and method of allocation are meeting the needs of municipalities.

# Alberta Municipalities Strength In Members

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