



ABmunis discouraged by Alberta Budget 2024

February 29, 2024

EDMONTON – Following a quick review of the provincial government’s proposed 2024-25 budget, Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) is extremely discouraged by the amount of funding the Government of Alberta has allocated towards tackling our province’s \$30-billion municipal infrastructure deficit.

The \$722 million in funding allocated to the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) in the provincial government’s 2024-25 falls far short of what is needed to address current infrastructure needs.

Alberta’s population growth in the last few years has been remarkable, but it is putting tremendous strain on existing roads, bridges, water and wastewater treatment facilities, energy infrastructure, schools, recreation facilities and hospitals. A long-range strategic plan for infrastructure (complete with funding), with input from municipalities, is critical to addressing this extraordinary challenge.

The Government of Alberta had an opportunity, through its 2024-25 budget, to allocate more funding to the LGFF and start tackling Alberta’s infrastructure problems in a more systematic, planned and transparent way. It was a chance to invest now in Albertans’ futures.

By not increasing LGFF Capital funding and increasing provincial education property taxes by \$230 million (an increase of 9.1 per cent), the provincial government continues double-downloading the tax burden onto municipal governments and property owners.

We are pleased, however, to see the Government of Alberta is taking the threats of widespread drought and wildfires seriously by increasing funding for related initiatives.

Alberta Municipalities will have more to say about the Government of Alberta’s Budget 2024 on Friday, March 1, once its policy analysts have finished reviewing everything.

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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 with a united voice. Alberta Municipalities now serves more than 260 of Alberta's 334 municipalities making it the province's largest municipal group.

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.

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