



## NEWS RELEASE

### ABmunis: Meaningful consultation on all aspects of Bill 20 desperately needed

May 3, 2024

**EDMONTON** – The following statement is issued on behalf of Alberta Municipalities President Tyler Gandam and the association’s Board of Directors:

It has been gratifying to see Albertans – the voting public – speak up and voice their concerns about the provincial government’s controversial Bill 20 since it was introduced in the Legislature on April 25.

Albertans clearly cherish their local democracy, and they have been quick to call out the provincial government for its attempted power grab through Bill 20. They were unwilling to sit back and let Alberta’s blueprint for local democracy be redrawn.

Yesterday’s news release was significant in one respect – it publicly acknowledged that Albertans, municipalities, and associations like ours have succeeded in getting the provincial government’s attention on Bill 20. It mentioned that the powers to recall legally elected local officials and repeal bylaws by Cabinet that were presented in the draft legislation were open to discussion with municipal leaders and could be amended. That’s a good start, but there’s much more that needs to be discussed and amended.

Alberta Municipalities has listened to Albertans, including many of their municipal leaders, and determined that they do not want:

- Political parties at the municipal level
- Corporations and unions influencing municipal elections through political donations
- The ability for cabinet to repeal bylaws and remove councillors out of the public eye.

We want meaningful changes made to Bill 20 that reflect what Albertans want.

To date, we have not received an invitation to meet with provincial government officials to discuss potential amendments. We are not aware of any broad consultation between municipal leaders and the provincial government, either.

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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.*

*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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