

2024 Outstanding Resolutions



 **Alberta
Municipalities**
Strength
In Members

October 30, 2024

Table of Contents

Background3

How to Provide Input on the 2024 Outstanding Resolutions.....3

2024 OUTSTANDING RESOLUTIONS4

C3: Fires on Frozen Lakes5

C4: Increase Capital Funding for Accessible Playgrounds for All New, Replacement or Renovated Alberta Public Schools with K-6 Programming6

C5: Doubling Speed Fines in Playground Zones and School Zones8

C6: Coverage of Mandatory Drivers’ Medical Exam Fees for Albertans Aged 75 and Older.....9

C7: Alberta Learner’s Licence Program Review 11

C8: Review of Provincial Animal Protection Act..... 13

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT RESOLUTIONS 15

What is a resolution? 16

How do I find the status of a resolution?..... 16

Adopted 2024 Resolutions 16

What happens after members adopt a resolution?..... 17

Background

On September 26, 2024, Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) hosted its annual resolutions session at ABmunis' 2024 Convention. Twenty-seven resolutions were submitted for consideration. Due to the high number of resolutions and the lengthy debate on some resolutions, the Resolutions session ended before members could debate and vote on all resolutions, leaving six outstanding. Per section 45 of ABmunis' [Resolution Policy](#), resolutions which are not debated at a Resolutions session are to be considered by ABmunis' Board of Directors following Convention.

How to Provide Input on the 2024 Outstanding Resolutions

Recognizing the unique circumstances, ABmunis Board is interested in receiving input from members before the Board determines whether any of the outstanding resolutions should form part of ABmunis' advocacy. The following outlines how Regular Member elected officials can provide their views on each of the outstanding resolutions.

Provide Input in Writing

Elected officials of Regular Member municipalities may submit input in writing to resolutions@abmunis.ca by **November 18, 2024**. Written submissions must indicate the person's name, position, and municipality and clearly label which resolution the member is addressing by referencing the resolution number. Written input does not require the endorsement of council, similar to how members can speak and vote on resolutions at Convention.

Provide Input via Webinar

Elected officials of Regular Member municipalities may attend a webinar where you will have the opportunity to speak to the Board and give input through poll questions. Administrators may attend only as observers.

Webinar Date & Time

- Date: November 28, 2024
- Time: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. — [Register for the webinar](#).

Webinar Process

The webinar will be held using Zoom and involve the following process:

1. The mover of a resolution will have 2 minutes to make opening remarks.
2. Members who wish to speak to a resolution must click the "Raise Hand" button. The Moderator will call on each speaker in order.
 - Speakers will have up to 1 minute to make a comment or raise a question. After 1 minute, the speaker's microphone will be muted.
3. The moderator will end discussion on a resolution after 10 minutes.
4. At the end of discussion, ABmunis will launch a Zoom Poll where members can indicate their opinion on whether the Board should advocate on the issue.

NOTE: The result of the Zoom Poll does not represent a binding vote because the webinar does not meet the formal requirements of a resolution session and quorum of members. The Zoom Poll is solely intended to provide guidance to ABmunis' Board who has final discretion per ABmunis policies.

Amendments

If you wish to put forth an amendment, you must submit the proposed amendment in writing by **November 18, 2024** to resolutions@abmunis.ca. ABmunis Board will consider any proposed amendments when it votes on the outstanding resolutions.

2024 OUTSTANDING RESOLUTIONS

The outstanding resolutions all relate to
Category C – Other Issues of Potential Interest to Municipalities

C3: Fires on Frozen Lakes

Moved by: Town of Sylvan Lake
Seconded by: Summer Village of Jarvis Bay
Category: C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
Subject: Environment
Status: Outstanding – To be determined

WHEREAS fires directly lit on the surface of frozen lakes results in significant environmental damage due to the debris left behind, including materials such as garbage, tires, and pallets containing nails;

WHEREAS the debris from fires directly lit on the surface of frozen lakes poses a threat to the ecosystem of Alberta lakes and surrounding areas, particularly upon melting, when it enters the lake and contributes to environmental pollution;

WHEREAS the current regulatory framework lacks specific provisions to regulate fires directly lit on frozen lakes, necessitating the development of a new regulation to address this emerging environmental challenge;

WHEREAS there is an urgent need for a regulation to address this issue and prevent further harm to the environment; and

WHEREAS collaborative efforts between municipalities, the provincial government, and other stakeholders have proven effective in addressing environmental concerns in the past.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to develop, implement, and enforce, a regulation that mandates fires be contained within raised containers to mitigate the risk of debris contamination and to prevent environmental damage caused by fires directly lit on the surface of frozen lakes.

BACKGROUND:

The practice of burning fires directly on the surface of frozen lakes, as observed in Sylvan Lake and surrounding areas, has raised concerns due to the environmental damage caused by the debris left behind. The debris often contains harmful materials such as nails, garbage, and tires, posing a significant risk to the ecosystem upon melting. While efforts have been made to address this issue through existing channels, such as 310-PARKS, the current system has proven ineffective in resolving the problem.

To mitigate the environmental impact of fires on frozen lakes, it is imperative to develop a regulation mandating fires be contained and removed when the user concludes their time on the lake. This regulation would not only prevent debris contamination, but also facilitate effective enforcement measures to ensure compliance.

By working collaboratively with relevant stakeholders, including municipalities, the Government of Alberta can address this pressing environmental concern and safeguard the integrity of Alberta's natural resources.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Environment and Sustainability Committee within the context of other priorities and positions.

C4: Increase Capital Funding for Accessible Playgrounds for All New, Replacement or Renovated Alberta Public Schools with K-6 Programming

Moved by: City of Spruce Grove
Seconded by: Village of Amisk
Category: C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
Subject: Social
Status: Outstanding – To be determined

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta announced in June 2020 that any new school with K-6 programming will have funding for a playground included in their capital budgets;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta provides grant funding of up to \$250,000 per school to support the construction of a playground for new or replacement schools; school communities that wish to exceed \$250,000 can use fundraising to supplement the project;

WHEREAS significant fundraising is often required above the Government of Alberta grant funding with schools¹ reaching out to municipalities for additional funding due to insufficient provincial funding for accessible playgrounds;

WHEREAS accessible playgrounds are built to accommodate children of all abilities enabling youth with or without disabilities, their parents, and caregivers to fully participate in all aspects of the playground;

WHEREAS accessible playgrounds require additional funding, above what non-accessible playgrounds cost;

WHEREAS many municipal governments are working towards increasing accessibility in their communities through various measures such as accessibility policies and accessible playground standards for developers;

WHEREAS there is no mechanism that mandates accessible school playgrounds; and

WHEREAS school play time and playgrounds are vital to childhood development, which includes the development of gross motor skills, social interactions, and creativity.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to increase capital funding for all new, replacement, or renovated public schools with K-6 programming to enable the construction of accessible playgrounds to ensure that students with disabilities have equal development opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021/2022, there were 745,770 K-12 students in Alberta with approximately 14% having a coded status that can be related to an identified disability.

Municipalities across the province recognize the importance of creating welcoming, inclusive, and accessible communities. Several municipalities in Alberta have accessibility policies in place or under development; however, school playgrounds are provincially mandated, and therefore excluded from any municipal accessibility policies.

This resolution aligns with Alberta Municipalities' Welcoming and Inclusive Communities (WIC) Initiative, which aims to help municipalities adapt to and celebrate the increasing diversity of Alberta's population. The WIC Initiative works

¹ In the context of this resolution 'schools' refer to school jurisdictions eligible for Government of Alberta capital funding which include a public, separate or Francophone grouping of schools governed by an elected school board.

2024 Outstanding Resolutions

to create communities where all residents and visitors enjoy a sense of belonging and where diversity adds to the social and economic vibrancy of the community, improving the quality of life for all residents, including people with disabilities.

Currently, school boards are eligible for Government of Alberta grant funding for playgrounds either through Alberta Education or Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women; however, school authorities and their fundraising societies are not eligible to receive funding from both sources:

- Alberta Education provides up to \$250,000 for playgrounds, through capital grant funding for new and replacement schools. Schools can use their fundraising societies to supplement playground construction builds that exceed \$250,000.
- Alberta Arts, Culture and Status of Women provides grant funding through the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) of up to \$125,000 to support the construction of a school playground. Matching funds are required, and funding can be used for new, replacement or renovated schools.

Alberta public sector entities have a history of advocating for additional capital school funding:

- In 2014, the Town of Penhold put forward the Provincial Support for School Development resolution requesting “that the Government of Alberta, when developing new schools, fulfill the role of a contractor and share the costs associated with the development of the lands for the placement of a school structure”.
- In 2017, Edmonton Public School Board successfully advocated to the Government of Alberta for funding playgrounds to be committed to in the 2020 Budget proportional to the new schools announced. In June 2020, the Government of Alberta announced that any new school with K-6 programming would have funding for a playground included in their capital budgets.

Alberta interest groups have a history of advocating for consistent accessibility standards:

- The Alberta Advocate for Persons with Disabilities is working towards a proactive approach towards reducing barriers and improving opportunities for those with disabilities.
- The Alberta Ability Network (AAN) is a collaboration of 170 organizations and community advocates located in Alberta, working together to address systemic barriers facing persons with disabilities, and has advocated to the province for mechanisms for enforcement of accessibility standards in the province.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

This issue relates to ABmunis' Welcoming and Inclusive Communities initiative to support all residents to have equitable access to services and facilities, but ABmunis does not currently have a position on whether the province should create a funding system that enables the construction of accessible playgrounds at all K-6 schools. If the resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Infrastructure Committee within the context of other priorities and positions.

C5: Doubling Speed Fines in Playground Zones and School Zones

Moved by:	City of Calgary
Seconded by:	Village of Duchess
Category:	C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
Subject:	Social
Status:	Outstanding – To be determined

WHEREAS ensuring the safety of children, particularly in playground zones near schools, is paramount due to their heightened vulnerability to traffic-related risks;

WHEREAS various public entities, including school boards and parent councils have voiced concerns regarding speeding and pedestrian safety, underscoring the urgency for additional protective measures;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions, such as Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Quebec, and Ontario, have successfully implemented measures to double speeding fines in school zones;

WHEREAS Alberta has already doubled fines for other vulnerable road users such as when workers are present in construction zones or when passing first responders; and

WHEREAS the provincial government holds responsibility for the Traffic Safety Act and associated regulations/specified penalties, including the establishment of school and playground zones with reduced speed limits to safeguard children's well-being.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to make changes to the Alberta Traffic Safety Act to improve safety within designated school zones and playground zones through measures such as double fines for speeding offenses or adjusting demerits to encourage improved compliance.

BACKGROUND:

This issue affects all Alberta municipalities with school zones and/or playground zones. According to a study cited by the Global Road Safety Partnership¹ increasing speeding fines by 50-100 per cent can result in a 15 per cent decrease in violations.

Given the alignment with existing provincial legislation intended to protect vulnerable road users, and the potential to help reduce safety incidents in school zones and playground zones, this resolution should be given a high priority.

While prioritizing the safety of road users in school zones and playground zones does not specifically align with strategic initiatives listed in Alberta Municipalities' 2024 Business Plan, it does align with the general strategy of prioritizing and building common solutions that strengthen municipalities.

Advocacy to increase fines for speeding in school and playground zones was addressed by Alberta Municipalities through a 2011 resolution sponsored by the City of Grande Prairie. Alberta Transportation responded that they were not pursuing an increase in fine amounts at that time. There does not appear to be any other associations or groups acting on this issue currently.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this specific issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of other priorities and positions.

¹ Sakashita, C. Fleiter, J.J, Cliff, D., Flieger, M., Harman, B. & Lilley, M (2021). A Guide to the Use of Penalties to Improve Road Safety. Global Road Safety Partnership, Geneva, Switzerland.

C6: Coverage of Mandatory Drivers' Medical Exam Fees for Albertans Aged 75 and Older

Moved by: City of Cold Lake
Seconded by: Town of Bonnyville
Category: C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
Subject: Social
Status: Outstanding – To be determined

WHEREAS mandatory driver medical exams for Albertans aged 75 years and older were covered by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan until 2020;

WHEREAS many Albertans aged 75 years and older live on a fixed income and are disproportionately impacted by new and increasing personal expenses;

WHEREAS the ability to maintain a driver's license impacts an individual's independence, his or her ability to efficiently attend medical appointments, and care for themselves as well as their families;

WHEREAS seniors who are not able to drive increasingly rely on municipal services, including accessible transportation, door-to-door bus services, and medical travel subsidies; and

WHEREAS it is in Alberta's best interest to encourage and support independent, active, and healthy seniors who are able to age in their communities with dignity and a high quality of life.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to reinstate Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan coverage for mandatory driver medical exams for Albertans aged 75 years and older.

BACKGROUND:

In 2020, the Government of Alberta removed mandatory driver medical exams from the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) as a cost-saving measure. Amongst the reasons cited for the change was that Alberta was the only province to cover such costs.

Alberta's 2024-25 budget contains measures intended to assist seniors with rising costs, including a 25% reduction in personal registry services and a 25% coverage of the cost of mandatory medical exams. These programs are acknowledged and commended by the movers of this resolution as a meaningful step that will reduce the cost of living and help to maintain the independence of Alberta's seniors.

Given the recent and unprecedented rise in the cost of living, and the disproportionate affect that cost of living increases have on people as they age and are more likely to rely on a fixed income, however, it is requested that the Government of Alberta consider resuming its position as a leader in providing access to mandatory drivers' medical exams for its residents aged 75 years and older.

Mandatory drivers' medical exams are required at the age of 75, 80, and every two years thereafter. The requirements for such mandatory drivers' exams are, of course, reasonable given that changes in people's health can impact their ability to drive safely and are more likely to occur as people age.

The costs, however, are not consistent across the province and can range up to \$150, a 75% increase over the rate that was covered under the AHCIP, which was \$85.58. The movers of this resolution feel that it is in our province's best interest to ensure that each Albertan can live as independently as possible where they are able and willing to do so. Significant fees for mandatory drivers' medical exams can represent a barrier to maintaining a driver's license for healthy Albertan's aged 75 and older who would otherwise be medically cleared to drive.

2024 Outstanding Resolutions

The Government of Alberta has noted that the population of seniors in Alberta continues to rise faster than any other age group. According to the Government of Alberta's website, in September 2022, there were 725,000 Albertans over the age of 65 years. That number is expected to double by 2042. Ensuring that Albertans aged 75 and up can afford to maintain their driver's license will also ensure that a greater number of Albertans are able to remain active participants in the communities in which they plan to age. Maintaining independence will mitigate social isolation and exclusion, which the Government of Alberta notes "... can be a significant issue for many seniors and can lead to negative health effects including depression and a reduced sense of well-being." (<https://www.alberta.ca/seniors-resources>)

The benefits of independence and independent mobility that come with maintaining a driver's license are magnified in the context of rural and remote communities. Many seniors living in a rural or remote context must travel to Alberta's larger centres for health care appointments. If these trips cannot be made independently, the burden often falls on public services or more expensive private transportation options.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this issue. On June 18, 2024, the Government of Alberta announced that seniors over 65 years of age now receive a 25 per cent discount on driver's medical exams¹; however, this does not meet the intent of the resolution that seniors should receive full coverage under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.

If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Economic Strategy Committee within the context of other priorities and positions.

¹ Government of Alberta June 18, 2024 News Release: "Another registry discount for seniors." <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=90536BB2B13FF-ADDE-CF3F-70AF076F9D229090>

C7: Alberta Learner's Licence Program Review

Moved by:	City of Brooks
Seconded by:	Town of Sexsmith
Category:	C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
Subject:	Economic
Status:	Outstanding – To be determined

WHEREAS the ability to drive impacts the livelihood of individuals who do not have access to public transportation to go to and from work and other daily needs, especially in rural Alberta;

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta possesses the most restrictive Learner's Licence Program in Canada;

WHEREAS within the Government of Alberta's Learner's Licence Program, a Class 7 Learner's Licence is the first step to legally driving a vehicle per Alberta's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program;

WHEREAS for the first year, a driver with a Class 7 Learner's License may only operate a vehicle if there is a passenger present who is over 18 years old and has a full Class 5 driver's license or higher;

WHEREAS after one year with a Class 7 Learner's License, a driver can complete a series of tests and upgrade to a Class 5 GDL, which no longer requires a licensed passenger, but still carries various restrictions; and

WHEREAS in Alberta, it takes up to three years to get a full, non-GDL Class 5 Driver's Licence.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Provincial Government to review its Learner's Licence Program for legislative changes which includes shortening the Class 7 Learner's Licence period from twelve months to eight months for those 16 years of age and older who take an approved and accredited driver's training course.

BACKGROUND:

In Alberta, there is no ability to shorten the Class 7 Learner's Licence period by taking driver's training. For those 16 and over, the process requires a minimum of twelve months before a road test can be completed to obtain a Class 5 GDL, which enables the license holder to drive without a licensed passenger present.

If a person is 16 years or older when they apply for a driver's license, Alberta's GDL system requires:

1. At least one year with a Class 7 license, which requires the driver to travel with a passenger in the front seat who has a full Class 5 license.
2. After one year, the driver may complete a road test and receive a Class 5 GDL, which allows them to drive without a licensed passenger, but other restrictions still apply.
3. A driver with a Class 5 GDL may only upgrade to a full Class 5 license after they have driven with a Class 5 GDL for at least two years and have had no license suspensions or demerits in the last year. However, a driver can reduce the time they hold a Class 5 GDL by six months if they complete an accredited Class 5 driver training school.¹

If a person is under 16 years old when they apply for a Class 7 learner's license, they will not be eligible to upgrade to a Class 5 GDL until they turn 16 years old.

In most provinces, individuals with a Class 7 Learner's Licence have the opportunity to shorten the required time period to obtain a full Class 5 Driver's Licence by way of an approved and accredited driver's training course that teaches the fundamentals of driving, both in theory and practicality. Should a new driver be successful in completing

¹ Steps to getting an Alberta driver's licence <https://www.alberta.ca/get-drivers-licence-steps>

2024 Outstanding Resolutions

the approved and accredited driver's training course, the driver is able to cut down their probation time anywhere from 12 months to eight months (and even six months in some provinces).

If the Province of Alberta reduced the Class 7 Learner's Licence period with the approved and accredited driver's training course, it would certainly mean safer roads, as it is witnessed too often that Class 7 drivers are driving with individuals who they themselves barely know how to drive or just sit there as a passenger rather than someone who is to be providing supervision. In addition, a lot of Class 7 drivers continue to hold their Class 7 Learner's Licence for a number of consecutive years which is attributed to failing road tests, as the driver likely had no real training and or good supervision.

Giving Albertans the option to take a driver's training course that not only goes over the theory of driving, but the fundamentals of actually driving is crucial to the individual's development as a driver and fellow road user.

Furthermore, it is a great incentive for people to obtain their Class 5 GDL within a shorter period of time, which is so important in aiding in municipal economies, as new opportunities will arise for business across the province. This will also provide an opportunity for those who want to do better and learn how to be better drivers because of it. Drivers may even qualify for cheaper insurance rates with having a driver's training course on file as well.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Economic Strategy Committee within the context of other priorities and positions.

C8: Review of Provincial Animal Protection Act

Moved by:	City of Airdrie
Seconded by:	Town of Didsbury
Category:	C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
Subject:	Governance
Status:	Outstanding – To be determined

WHEREAS Alberta's Animal Protection Act (APA) is a crucial legislative framework designed to safeguard the welfare of animals within the province;

WHEREAS it is imperative to periodically reassess and update existing legislation to ensure it remains effective and aligned with current standards and Alberta's APA has not been substantially changed since 2006;

WHEREAS the current version of the legislation does not differentiate between commercial and companion animals;

WHEREAS societal attitudes and norms have changed, new challenges and risks have emerged and best practices for animal protection may be enacted;

WHEREAS municipalities play a pivotal role in enforcing animal welfare laws within our jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS Alberta's outdated APA lacks clear guidance for when peace officers are empowered to act and what enforcement mechanisms are available such as cases where companion animals are in the care of an animal shelter, rescue, or humane society.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta for a comprehensive review and update of Alberta's Animal Protection Act.

BACKGROUND:

The landscape of animal welfare is dynamic, with new challenges and risks constantly emerging. Public attitudes towards animals and their treatment have undergone significant transformation in recent decades, with an increasing emphasis on compassion, empathy, and ethical stewardship.

Under the current Animal Protection Act (APA) there is no differentiation between commercial and companion animals. This distinction is necessary to provide appropriate guidelines for care and welfare enforcement. Commercial animals can include horses, cattle, sheep, swine and live poultry but usually, they are animals raised for meat production or other products from the animals. A companion animal could be anything that is not a commercial animal, but most commonly include dogs and cats.¹ While a review of the APA may include changes that impact commercial animals, this resolution allows for better protection of companion animals.

In 2006, a major revision to the APA was enacted, only the second update since its inception in 1967. A comprehensive review of the APA is now needed to identify and rectify deficiencies in the legislation, ensuring that it provides clear guidance and consistent enforcement mechanisms across municipalities in dealing with companion animals.

Modernizing legislation and regulation around kennels and rescues is critical to ensuring the welfare and safety of animals in these facilities. With the growing prevalence of companion animals and the increasing demand for adoption and boarding services, outdated regulations fail to address emerging challenges and protect vulnerable animals. Clear and comprehensive regulations can establish standards for housing, care, and hygiene, ensuring that companion animals are provided with adequate nutrition, medical attention, and living conditions. Additionally,

¹ Province of Manitoba, Animal Care Act. https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/_pdf.php?cap=a84

2024 Outstanding Resolutions

updated regulations can mandate regular inspections, licensing requirements, and transparency measures, enabling authorities to monitor compliance and intervene promptly in cases of neglect or abuse.

In addition, over the past decade Alberta has witnessed a significant shift in online animal sales. The increase of online marketplaces, social media platforms and unregulated transactions has transformed the way companion animals are bought, sold, and traded, presenting both opportunities and risks for animal welfare and regulation. While reputable breeders and licensed sellers may utilize online channels to connect with potential buyers, there has also been a surge in informal or backyard breeding operations advertising animals for sale online. These sellers may operate without proper licensing, veterinary oversight, or adherence to animal welfare standards, raising concerns about the welfare and health of the animals involved.

Additionally, the anonymity and convenience of online platforms have created challenges for enforcement agencies tasked with monitoring and regulating animal sales. Unlike traditional brick-and-mortar pet stores or breeding facilities, online sellers can easily avoid scrutiny and oversight, making it difficult to ensure compliance with existing regulations. This lack of transparency and accountability poses risks not only to animal welfare but also to consumer protection, as buyers may unknowingly purchase animals from disreputable sources.

Municipalities play a pivotal role in enforcing animal welfare laws within our jurisdiction. By revisiting the APA, the province can streamline enforcement procedures, provide additional resources, and enhance collaboration between municipalities and provincial authorities, improving compliance with animal welfare standards.

A local business in Airdrie, which was operating as a dog rescue organization, was recently charged under the APA. With complaints dating back to 2016, Airdrie Municipal Enforcement in partnership with the Alberta SPCA seized a large number of dogs in varying states of distress due to the care conditions at the facility. Under the authority of the APA, peace officers are empowered to act when animals are in distress; however, challenges exist as the Act does not provide direction on animal care standards for shelters, rescues, or Humane Societies. Additionally, there are no requirements for registration or oversight of organizations who provide sheltering and care for animals.

In recent years, several Canadian provinces, including British Columbia and Ontario, have taken significant steps to strengthen their animal protection legislation, reflecting a growing recognition of the importance of safeguarding animal welfare. Manitoba's legislation¹ stands out as an example with clear definitions, separation between commercial and companion animals and kennel regulations. The Alberta SPCA and other provincial animal welfare associations agree that the APA is lacking the necessary tools to truly protect animal welfare and could be engaged as stakeholders in the review process.

A comprehensive review of Alberta's APA is essential to ensure that it remains robust, relevant, and responsive to the evolving needs of companion animals and society. From incorporating scientific advancements to addressing enforcement challenges and fostering stakeholder engagement, such a review holds the potential to enhance animal welfare outcomes across the province.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES' COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

¹ Province of Manitoba, Animal Care Act. https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/_pdf.php?cap=a84

**GENERAL
INFORMATION ABOUT
RESOLUTIONS**

What is a resolution?

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

This process includes a resolutions session at ABmunis' annual Convention where Regular Members vote on resolutions that have been submitted by members. When a resolution is adopted by members, ABmunis takes action to develop and implement an advocacy strategy for each resolution.

As set out in ABmunis' [Resolutions Policy](#), for a resolution to be presented at ABmunis' Convention, the resolution must:

- address a topic of concern affecting municipalities on a regional or provincial level,
- be approved by the council of the sponsoring municipality, and
- be seconded by an additional municipal council of different sized population.

A resolution must not direct one or more municipalities to adopt a particular course of action or policy but must be worded as a request for consideration of an issue, including a call for action by ABmunis.

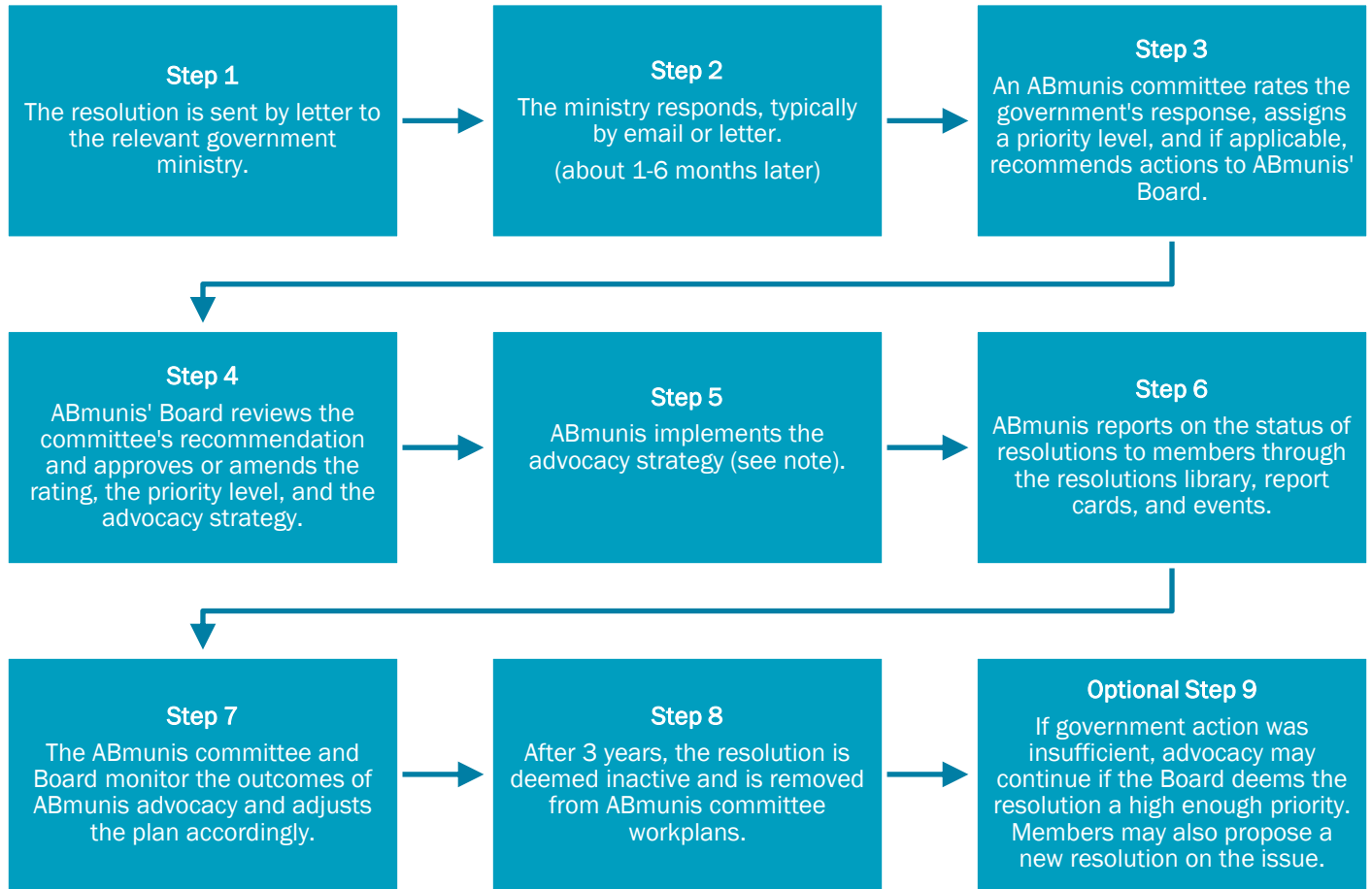
How do I find the status of a resolution?

The status of all resolutions are posted in ABmunis' searchable [Resolutions Library](#) and the status of adopted resolutions can also be viewed in ABmunis' annual [resolution report cards](#).

Adopted 2024 Resolutions

To view the 2024 resolutions that were adopted by members at ABmunis 2024 Convention on September 26, 2024, please refer to the [2024 Resolutions Results](#).

What happens after members adopt a resolution?



Note: ABmunis' advocacy strategy will differ depending on the priority of the issue. If the Board deems a resolution to be a low priority, ABmunis will monitor the issue but may not take other action after sending the initial letter to the government. Whereas a resolution that is considered a high priority may lead to an advocacy strategy such as sending additional letters, seeking a meeting with a minister, premier, or senior staff, conduct research, strike an ad hoc working group, collaborate with other stakeholder organizations, engage media, conduct a public social media campaign, encourage members to take specific action, or other initiatives.



Alberta Municipalities Strength In Members

Connect

300, 8616 51 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6
780.433.4431 ■ 310.MUNI

abmunis.ca

