

2025 Resolutions Book



 **Alberta
Municipalities**
Strength
In Members

**Vote Results
November 17, 2025**

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About Resolutions

Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) conducts an annual resolutions process that enables Regular Member¹ municipalities to bring forward common issues and solutions and seek member approval to direct ABmunis' Board of Directors to advocate on those issues to the Government of Alberta, or other organizations and governments.

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

ABmunis' resolution process is guided by our [Resolutions Policy](#).

About this Resolutions Book

This document summarizes the results of member voting on the 2025 resolutions, which took place at ABmunis' 2025 Convention in Calgary on November 13, 2025.

Amendments to Resolutions

This Resolutions Book also reflects the amendments to the following resolutions that were adopted by members at the 2025 Convention:

- C4: Rural Participation on the Integration Council for Refocusing Alberta's Health Care System
- C7: Increased Eligibility and Funding for the Alberta Affordability Grant for Licensed Child Care Programs

Withdrawn Resolutions

The following resolutions were withdrawn prior to the November 13, 2025 Resolutions Session and therefore, has been removed from this Resolutions Book.

- C2: Adoption of Alternative Bacterial Water Testing Methods

All adopted resolutions are considered active for a three-year period.

Status of previous resolutions

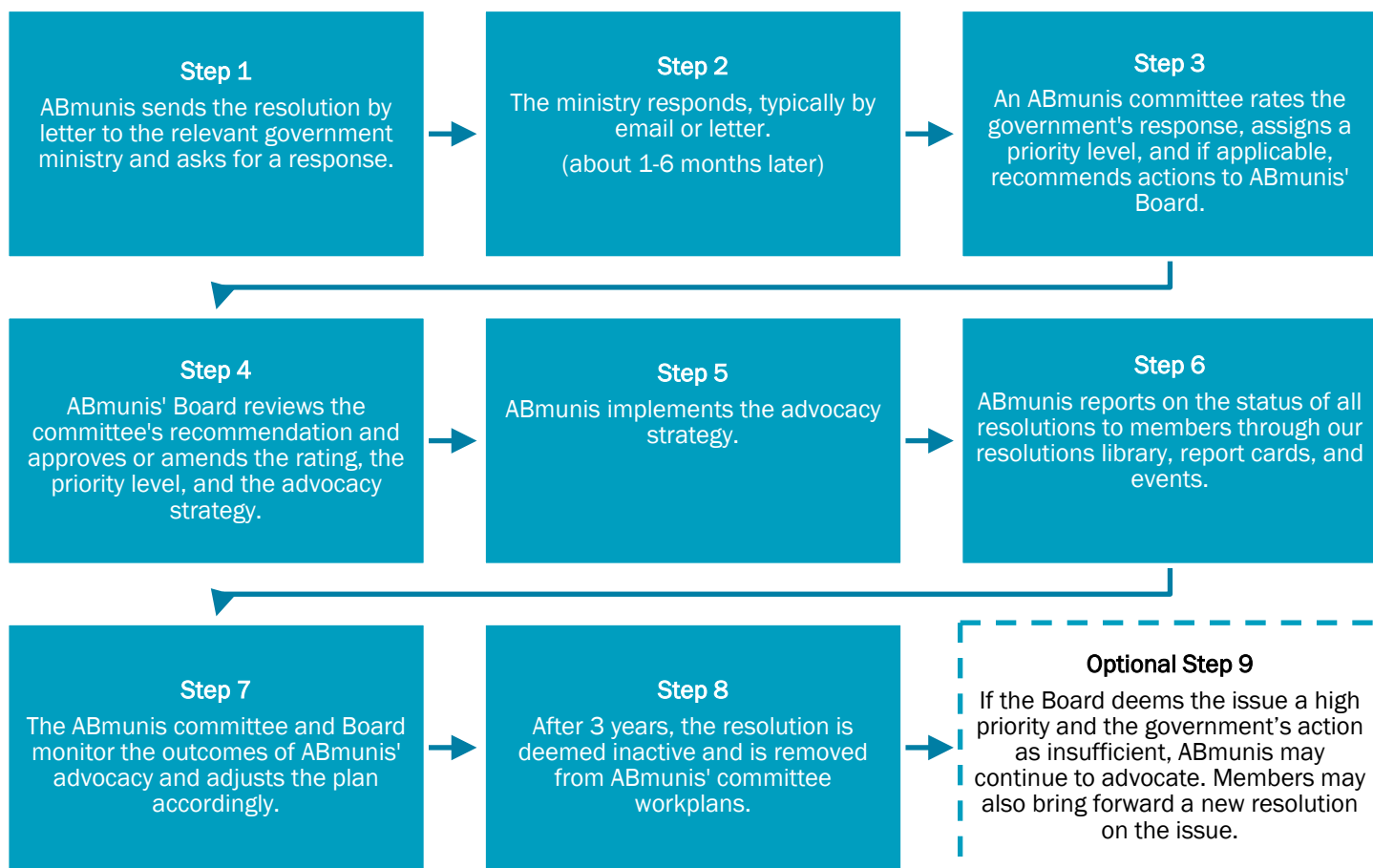
Since 2009, ABmunis has posted all member resolutions in our online [Resolutions Library](#), which shows:

- the resolution,
- the response and any actions by the government,
- ABmunis' rating on whether the intent of the resolution has been met,
- ABmunis' rating on the priority of the issue, and
- ABmunis' actions to advocate for the issue.

The status of resolutions can also be viewed through ABmunis' annual [resolution report cards](#).

¹ A [Regular Member](#) is any city, town, village, summer village, specialized municipality, or other designated municipality in Alberta that has an active membership with ABmunis. References to 'member' generally refers to Regular Members.

What happens after members adopt a resolution?



Are some resolutions given more priority?

Yes. ABmunis assigns a low, medium, or high priority to each resolution based on the criteria in our [Advocacy Prioritization Policy](#). The priority level assigned to a resolution will determine the level of effort ABmunis takes to advocate on the issue.

ABmunis' Actions

Send a letter(s)
Monitor outcomes
Collaborate with other organizations
Conduct research
Meet with a minister(s) or senior official
Strike an ad hoc working group
Meet with the Premier
Engage media
Conduct a social media campaign
Support members to take specific actions
Other initiatives

Low Priority	Medium Priority*	High Priority*
✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓
	✓	✓
	✓	✓
		✓
		✓
		✓
		✓
		✓
		✓

*may involve a combination of the listed actions

2025 RESOLUTIONS

**Adopted:
Active Resolutions**

B1: Removal of the Provincial Property Tax from the Municipal Tax Bill

Moved by: Town of Rocky Mountain House
Seconded by: Town of Mayerthorpe
Category: B – Issues related to Alberta Municipalities' strategic initiatives
Subject: Governance
Status: Adopted - Active

WHEREAS the *Municipal Government Act* and the *Education Act* mandate municipalities to collect education property taxes on behalf of the Government of Alberta;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is currently responsible for establishing the education property tax requisition, yet municipalities are tasked with its collection and remittance;

WHEREAS fluctuations in the education tax requisition can lead to misunderstandings among taxpayers regarding municipal tax increases, adversely affecting the perception of municipal accountability and transparency;

WHEREAS the role of municipalities as collection agents for the provincial government places the financial risk and burden of tax collection on local administrations, jeopardizing other fiscal priorities and service obligations;

WHEREAS municipalities bear the financial responsibility to remit education property taxes to the provincial government prior to the full collection, exposing municipalities to potential fiscal deficits;

WHEREAS K-12 education is fundamentally a provincial responsibility, and it is imperative to ensure that education funding mechanisms are clearly aligned with the appropriate level of government for greater effectiveness and efficiency;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is increasing the amount of education taxes collected, from \$2.7 billion in 2024-25 to \$3.6 billion in 2027-28, representing a shift of the provincial tax burden onto Alberta property owners; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Alberta have been vigilant in observing the fiscal policies impacting their constituencies, particularly regarding education property taxes and there is a growing concern among municipalities over the increases experienced by residential and non-residential ratepayers.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to assume direct responsibility for the collection of provincial education property taxes, thereby relieving municipalities of this obligation and ensuring a more transparent approach to education funding.

BACKGROUND:

Local governments have long carried the responsibility of collecting provincial property taxes, resulting in a blurring of the distinction between municipal taxation responsibilities and provincial education funding obligations.

The current practice of integrating the provincial education property tax within municipal property tax notices leads to misconceptions by the public regarding the accountability and usage of property taxes. By separating the collection of municipal government and provincial government property taxes, both transparency and accountability would be significantly enhanced, fostering clearer delineation between municipal and provincial responsibilities.

Every year the province calculates the amount every municipality must collect from property owners to help fund the K-12 education system based on the municipal assessment data.

The Government of Alberta increased the education property taxes from \$2.56 to \$2.72 per \$1,000 of equalized assessment for residential/farmland properties and from \$3.76 to \$4.00 per \$1,000 of equalized assessment for non-residential properties in 2025-26.

The provincial education property tax requisition increased from \$2.7 billion in 2024-25 to \$3.1 billion in 2025-26, a 14.3% increase with further significant increases projected in 2026-27 and 2027-28. The increases are a result of the Government of Alberta's new plan to have provincial property taxes cover 33% of Alberta Education's operating costs compared to the 2024-25 level of 28.9%.² Municipalities expect that this shift will be compounded with further increases to overall education spending.

Municipalities stress the need for a balanced approach that sustains educational advancements without disproportionately burdening local ratepayers.

Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) has engaged in extensive advocacy for a more transparent tax regime. ABmunis has received many resolutions over the years to advocate for the province to assume direct responsibility for the collection of provincial education property taxes.

- In 2020, ABmunis' members passed a resolution that called on the Government of Alberta to take on the responsibility of collecting the Education Property Tax on a provincial level.³
- In 2014, ABmunis' members passed a resolution that called for the elimination of the provincial education property tax.⁴
- In 2011, ABmunis' members passed a resolution that called for a review on the practice of collecting education taxes.⁵

With the adoption of these resolutions, municipalities have shown their concerns numerous times. Since these previous motions, some openness to the conversation has been signalled by the Premier. The Premier's 2023 commitment, outlined in the mandate letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, to review the education property tax with a view of enabling municipalities to retain more funding for local priorities, represents an opportunity for the province to engage with municipalities on the various aspects of education property taxation.

At ABmunis 2024 Convention, Alberta Premier Danielle Smith asked for feedback from municipalities about the province possibly taking over tax collection from cities and towns and stated that it could be one way for the province to lighten the financial load for municipalities.

This motion is partially being made in acknowledgement of that openness to the discussion.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

As noted in the background, ABmunis has a long history of advocating for a separation of responsibility in the notice and collection of provincial property taxes. Over the past decade, the Government of Alberta has given mixed reasons for declining to explore solutions. However, Premier Smith expressed interest in property taxes and Alberta's approach to property tax collection during her address at ABmunis' 2024 Convention. In general, this resolution aligns with ABmunis' ongoing advocacy to improve municipal government finances and transparency in educating the public about what services and taxes are a municipal responsibility.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the relevant policy committee(s) within the context of related priorities and positions.

² [ABmunis' Preliminary Report on Alberta's 2025 Budget](#)

³ ABmunis 2020 resolution: Education Property Tax Collection - <https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/resolutions-library/education-property-tax-collection>

⁴ ABmunis 2014 resolution: Provincial Responsibility for Education Property Tax Collection - <https://www.abmunis.ca/resolution/provincial-responsibility-education-property-tax-collection>

⁵ ABmunis 2011 resolution: Removal of Educational Tax Requirement - <https://www.abmunis.ca/resolution/removal-educational-tax-requirement>

B2: Municipal Accommodation Tax Implementation in Alberta

Moved by: City of Airdrie
Seconded by: Town of Fox Creek
Category: B – Issues related to Alberta Municipalities' strategic initiatives
Subject: Economic
Status: Adopted - Active

WHEREAS municipalities across Alberta face significant challenges in developing and maintaining infrastructure to support visitor activity while also marketing their communities and strengthening their tourism sectors with limited revenue tools;

WHEREAS numerous provinces across Canada including Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec, and Manitoba have successfully implemented legislative frameworks enabling municipalities to establish Municipal Accommodation Taxes (MAT);

WHEREAS a Municipal Accommodation Tax represents a user-pay system that generates revenue from visitors rather than residents, aligning with principles of fiscal responsibility and ensuring those who utilize municipal infrastructure and services contribute to their costs;

WHEREAS accommodation taxes have proven successful in funding both tourism infrastructure improvements and destination marketing initiatives, supporting local economies and enhancing visitor experiences in jurisdictions where they have been implemented;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has established a goal of growing the province's visitor economy to \$25 billion by 2035, requiring enhanced municipal capacity for tourism infrastructure development and destination marketing; and

WHEREAS the current legislative framework in Alberta does not specifically authorize municipalities to implement accommodation taxes, creating uncertainty and potential legal challenges for communities wishing to establish such revenue tools.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to amend the Municipal Government Act to establish a provincial framework that enables municipalities to implement Municipal Accommodation Taxes through local bylaws, with municipalities having the authority to determine tax rates, collection methods, and revenue allocation based on local infrastructure and tourism development needs while adhering to provincial standards for transparency and accountability.

BACKGROUND:

The absence of a Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) framework affects municipalities of all sizes across Alberta, from growing urban centers like Airdrie to smaller resource communities like Fox Creek that host workers and have tourism potential. Communities throughout the province with accommodation providers could potentially benefit from implementing a MAT, creating opportunities for both infrastructure development and tourism enhancement across Alberta's diverse municipal landscape.

Visitor activity places significant demands on municipal infrastructure and services province-wide, including roads, parking, public spaces, event venues, and visitor amenities, while municipalities also struggle to fund effective tourism marketing and destination development initiatives. Without dedicated visitor-based revenue tools, both infrastructure costs and tourism development needs are typically borne by residential and business property taxpayers across Alberta. A Municipal Accommodation Tax would create a direct connection between visitor activity

and both the infrastructure costs it generates, and the tourism development investments needed to attract more visitors.

The revenue potential varies by municipality size and visitor volume, creating meaningful impact at every scale. Major urban centers could potentially generate millions annually, while medium-sized municipalities like Airdrie with growing accommodation sectors could see \$800,000 to \$1 million yearly based on a conservative 2% tax rate. Smaller communities like Fox Creek, even those with just seasonal visitor activity, could benefit from tens of thousands in dedicated revenue. This creates a sustainable funding source for both infrastructure maintenance and tourism development without increasing the burden on residential taxpayers throughout Alberta.

These funds would support diverse community needs across the province—from destination marketing programs and tourism product development in emerging destinations, to visitor amenities and infrastructure improvements in established locations, to both tourism promotion and infrastructure maintenance in resource communities. The flexibility of the proposed framework allows each municipality to balance infrastructure and tourism investments based on their unique needs and opportunities, while ensuring that visitors contribute fairly to both the municipal infrastructure they utilize and the tourism experiences they enjoy.

This resolution directly aligns with the Government of Alberta's goal of growing the province's visitor economy to \$25 billion by 2035¹. Achieving this ambitious target requires municipalities to have adequate tools and resources for tourism infrastructure development and destination marketing. A Municipal Accommodation Tax framework would provide the sustainable funding mechanism necessary for municipalities to contribute meaningfully to this provincial economic growth objective.

The resolution also supports Alberta Municipalities' strategic priority of "Empowering Municipalities" by advocating for expansion of local revenue authorities and tools. It advances the strategic priority of "Strengthen Municipal Viability" by creating a sustainable funding mechanism for tourism development, economic diversification, and infrastructure enhancement that directly supports provincial economic goals.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with ABmunis 2021 resolution, [Advocacy on Financial Measures](#) and 2020 resolution, [Fiscal Framework](#) that focus on the need for expansion of revenue tools to reduce reliance on property taxes. While those resolutions have expired, they helped shape our ongoing work on municipal finances. ABmunis' current research project highlights the cumulative pressure on municipal property taxes and a municipal accommodation tax would provide an additional option for how a municipality can structure its revenue to fund local services.

If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

¹ [Higher Ground: A Tourism Sector Strategy](#); Government of Alberta, February 2024

B3: Extended Lifespan of Fire Apparatus in Municipalities

Moved by: Town of Sexsmith
Seconded by: City of Brooks
Category: B – Issues related to Alberta Municipalities’ strategic initiatives
Subject: Infrastructure
Status: Adopted - Active

WHEREAS municipalities face significant financial constraints, and the decision to replace fire apparatus at the end of a 20-year cycle can place an unsustainable burden on communities;

WHEREAS fire apparatus in some municipalities are not used as frequently or as intensively as in larger urban centers, leading to a slower rate of wear and tear and a longer effective lifespan for such equipment;

WHEREAS fire apparatus are designed and built to last well beyond 20 years with proper maintenance, and many municipalities maintain their equipment in good condition, extending its useful life without compromising safety or functionality; and

WHEREAS the current 20-year pump recertification mandate and personal insurance implications for residents may force some municipalities to divert valuable resources from other essential services to replace apparatus that are still operational, thus harming the community's overall well-being and development.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta, the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and other relevant bodies to review and amend policies requiring the mandatory pump recertification of fire apparatus every 20 years in accordance with the National Fire Code of Canada and the effect on insurance premiums for residents based on the Fire Underwriters Survey Technical Bulletin Insurance Grading Recognition of Used or Rebuilt Fire Apparatus, with consideration for the unique needs and financial circumstances of municipalities and their residents; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Municipalities recommend that fire apparatus replacement be based on usage, condition, and maintenance records rather than a fixed time frame, allowing municipalities to retain and maintain their equipment for longer periods without compromising safety or compliance with standards.

BACKGROUND:

Recertifications typically range from \$10,000 to \$15,000, representing a significant financial burden for many municipalities – particularly smaller or rural communities that use their apparatus infrequently and maintain them in excellent condition.

For these communities, the 20-year threshold may not reflect actual equipment usage, wear, or condition, yet still triggers costly compliance requirements. Allowing municipalities to extend the service life of their apparatus based on objective factors such as condition, maintenance and usage – rather than an arbitrary age limit – would support more sustainable budgeting while continuing to ensure safe and reliable fire response.

In addition, as outlined in the Fire Underwriters Survey Technical Bulletin Insurance Grading Recognition of Used or Rebuilt Fire Apparatus, apparatus over 20 years old in small and rural communities and over 15 years old in major and medium sized cities will lose their “frontline status” which will increase the insurance premiums for property owners on their next renewal.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with Alberta Municipalities’ advocacy for a legislative and regulatory environment that promotes financial sustainability of municipal governments.

If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

B4: Funding for Sport and Recreation Facilities

Moved by: Town of Nanton
Seconded by: Town of Innisfail
Category: B – Issues related to Alberta Municipalities’ strategic initiatives
Subject: Infrastructure
Status: Adopted - Active

WHEREAS municipalities own and manage existing community recreation infrastructure that requires regular maintenance, repair and renewal to extend an asset’s useful life, funded by limited capital reserves and general taxation;

WHEREAS community user groups and societies often look to the capacity of municipalities to lead rather than facilitate the pursuit of funding and implementation of new recreation infrastructure projects;

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta’s [Active Communities Initiative](#) program makes municipalities ineligible for application while eligible to be an external project management resource and financial contributor;

WHEREAS federal funding programs for recreation infrastructure is irregular and frequently more focused on environmental and social factors around the infrastructure rather than the simple public good of investing in the useful life of community recreation infrastructure assets; and

WHEREAS the limited senior government funding made available under the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) Capital program and the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) should not force small and medium sized municipalities to choose between critical infrastructure needs and priority community recreation infrastructure within the municipal asset portfolio.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to either (i) amend the Active Communities Initiative to make municipalities eligible and increase the budget for application or (ii) create a new annual or bi-annual funding program for municipalities, that enables them to effectively leverage their available capital reserves and local partnerships for new and existing recreation infrastructure for the benefit of their communities.

BACKGROUND:

In April 2024, the Province of Ontario created the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) providing funding to municipalities, Indigenous communities, non-profit organizations and (for new builds only) for-profit organizations through two program streams for projects over three years that:

- i. repair or upgrade existing sport and recreation facilities (Stream 1)
- ii. build new and transformative sport and recreation facilities (Stream 2)

The absence of a program like this in Alberta is notable and impacting the ability of municipalities to effectively leverage cost-share opportunities to simply maintain and improve basic recreation infrastructure like swimming pools, arenas, curling rinks and baseball grounds. If a community does not presently have motivated, organized non-profit organization(s) or external donors, the community is at a disadvantage to access provincial funding and build new recreation projects.

Examples of challenges:

- In today’s money, a new outdoor swimming pool to replace an aging 1960s facility would typically cost over \$5 million while a new pool liner that can extend the life of a well-maintained older pool for another 15 years is still a \$200,000 to 300,000 investment. Both types of projects are equally vital.

- A modest spray park, slowly becoming a citizen expectation rather than a luxury, can run to over \$500,000 for purchase and installation.
- A recreation reserve policy for a small town that sequesters \$50,000 per annum would take ten years to reach \$500,000 available for all recreation infrastructure. A basket of goods and services that cost \$500,000 in 2015, costs \$647,360 in 2025.¹ Few communities can adequately tie their reserve policies to the Consumer Price Index for asset renewal or replacement.

Funds from the LGFF Capital program are required for critical infrastructure projects around roads, water, sewer and more. Leveraging those scarce funds for recreation renewal or investment represents a challenging choice for councils.

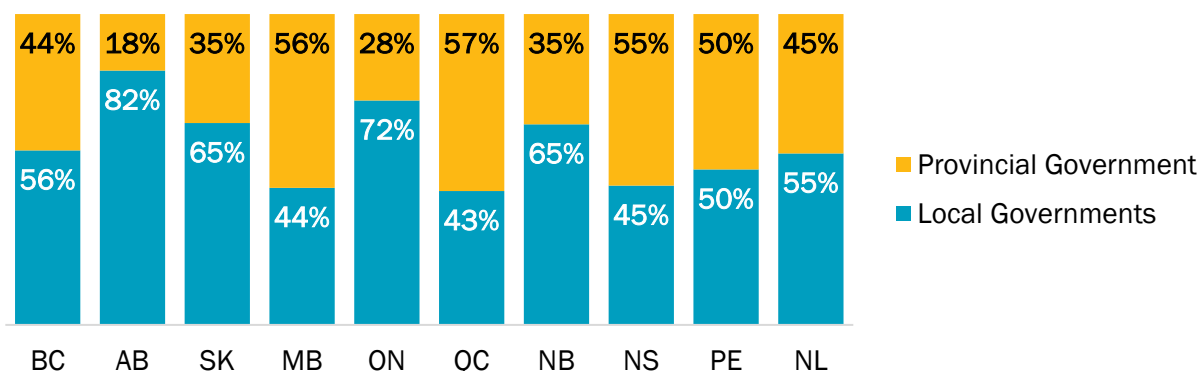
The recent research report titled, “The Price of Inactivity: Measuring the Powerful Impact of Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation in Canada” offers an examination of the comprehensive impact of the same, underscoring the need for all communities, not just those in a high growth vector, to be investing responsibly in their recreation infrastructure.²

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with ABmunis 2023 resolution on [adequate provincial funding for community infrastructure](#) and our current research on municipal finances, municipal property taxes, and the future of Alberta’s communities.

For example, Statistics Canada reports that in 2023, municipal governments in Alberta accounted for 82 per cent of government spending on recreation and culture compared to the Government of Alberta’s 18 per cent. In other provinces, the provincial governments averaged about 45 per cent.

Government Spending on Recreation, Culture and Religion
(2023, Current Dollars)



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 10-10-0024-01 Canadian classification of functions of government, by general government component

If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis’ Board based on input from ABmunis’ relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis’ priorities and positions.

¹ Calculation as of June 25, 2025 using Bank of Canada’s Inflation Calculator, Statistics Canada, Consumer Price Indexes for Canada, Monthly (V41690973 series) <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/related/inflation-calculator/>

² [MI-Press-Release-EN.pdf](#)

B5: Improving Infrastructure at Alberta's Community Airports

Moved by: Town of Spirit River
 Seconded by: City of Lloydminster
 Category: B – Issues related to Alberta Municipalities' strategic initiatives
 Subject: Infrastructure
 Status: **Adopted - Active**

WHEREAS Alberta's 93 community airports are vital to public health, safety, and economic development, including medevacs, firefighting support, and worker, supply, and equipment transports;

WHEREAS most community airports are owned by the municipalities they serve at a time when Alberta faces a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure deficit and with municipal governments already struggling to fund the basics, such as roads, bridges, and wastewater systems, community airports are all too often an afterthought;

WHEREAS aging infrastructure is already significantly undermining operations at many community airports, including impeding aerial firefighting capabilities and year-round medevac access;

WHEREAS member municipalities appreciate the necessary and timely work the Government of Alberta has undertaken to increase air service to regional and community airports to boost economic development, infrastructure is a separate issue; and

WHEREAS the province's Community Airport Program – which is one of the streams within the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) – is the main external source of support for community airports but the current level of funding is inadequate and too restrictive to meet the needs of Alberta's community airports.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to raise the annual Community Airport Program funding under the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program to \$15 million, make more projects eligible for funding, extend funding to all community airport operators, and increase provincial cost-sharing based on need.

BACKGROUND:

From Cardston in the south to Lloydminster in the east, to Mackenzie County in the north, to Grande Prairie in the west, 93 smaller urban and rural communities across the province are served by community airports. They have varying levels of infrastructure, supporting services, and operations and maintenance that determine the level of service they offer. While some are independently or jointly owned, most are owned by the municipality.

Despite their differences, Alberta's community airports have one thing in common – aging infrastructure. According to a [2024 study conducted by HM Aero Aviation Consulting](#), 24 per cent of the province's community airport operators report primary runways that are in very poor, poor or fair condition. Thirty-eight report the same for their taxiway(s). When it comes to terminal buildings, 57 per cent are in either very poor, poor, or fair condition. Only 37 per cent report having perimeter fencing that is in good or excellent condition.

Inadequate infrastructure at the province's community airports is a real and growing threat to public health and safety. When an emergency strikes and every minute counts, safely and quickly connecting Albertans with the health care they need is crucial. Fixed-wing and rotary-wing air ambulance services are essential for delivering health and emergency medical care for those living in smaller urban centres and rural areas. As of between 2018 and 2023, 74 community airports supported fixed-wing air ambulance access.

The use of air ambulances has risen steadily in recent years. Between 2018 and 2023,

fixed-wing transfers grew by 29 per cent, with nearly 6,700 fixed-wing patient transfers to and from Alberta's community airports taking place in 2023. Unfortunately, providing year-round ambulance access is an ongoing struggle for many community airports because of infrastructure deficiencies. In November 2022, for instance, Alberta Health Services (AHS) had to pause operations at three community airports (Ponoka, Spirit River, and Two Hills) because of concerns regarding runway lengths and widths and winter maintenance service levels.

Without a change in course, the ability of the province's community airport to support firefighting efforts will also suffer. The 2023 wildfire season saw the largest area burned in recorded history (2.3 million hectares), while last year's fire in Jasper was the second most costly in Canadian history. Fixed-wing aircraft are critical tools in wildfire suppression due to their unique capabilities. They can quickly reach wildfire sites, delivering resources to contain fires before they grow to an uncontrollable level, while the latter excels at targeted water or retardant drops and accessing remote areas.

The resources required by Alberta Wildfire to mount effective responses are significant. To improve readiness, the Government of Alberta recently undertook an air tanker fleet renewal process that involves purchasing new aircraft, re-engining existing ones, and potentially purchasing new air tankers to improve the fleet's ability to address different wildfire seasons.

The fixed-wing airtanker program is operated from 13 bases throughout Alberta, nine of which are located at community airports (Edson, High Level, Lac La Biche, Manning, Pincher Creek, Slave Lake, Rainbow Lake, Rock Mountain House, and Woodlands). Airtanker bases, which are located at community airports, are developed by Alberta Wildfire and include refueling facilities, retardant loading infrastructure, and supporting facilities. The airport operator is responsible for maintaining the airfield infrastructure required to support airtanker arrivals and departures. Investing in community airport infrastructure will ensure these aircraft can reach communities across the province when they're needed most.

Alberta's community airports are also critical for economic diversification, beginning with worker, supply, and equipment transports. Beyond that, they also support a broad range of economic drivers, including heliskiing, hunting, fishing, other outdoor adventures, and events such as air shows and the Special Olympics.

The province's Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) is the main external source of support for community airports (STIP does not cover heliports, which are usually funded and maintained by the provincial government). Created in 1999, STIP provides funding to municipalities under four funding streams: the Local Road Bridge Program, the Resource Road Program, Local Municipal Initiative, and the Community Airport Program (CAP). Unfortunately, CAP's funding under STIP has not kept up with the growing need. Between 2017 and 2024, the provincial government spent just over \$2.7 million on average on community airports through CAP. This is simply inadequate given the extent of the need. According to HM Aero Aviation Consulting, the province's community airports will need more than \$220 million in capital rehabilitation and replacement projects over the next decade. As Alberta Municipalities' members know well, Alberta is facing a historic multi-billion-dollar infrastructure deficit. Municipal governments manage over \$100 billion in assets and maintain 60 per cent of the province's public infrastructure. Many can't fund the basics, let alone airport infrastructure. In the absence of new funding, the infrastructure at Alberta's community airports will continue to deteriorate, which will further increase the financial burden faced by municipalities.

Beyond the actual funding amount, STIP is too restrictive in terms of eligible projects and eligible applicants. To ensure the viability of community airports, it needs to be expanded to include more projects (e.g., terminal buildings, de-icing equipment, wildlife fencing, aviation weather observation systems) and non-municipal community airport operators, including private organizations, charitable societies, and non-government operating authorities and agencies.

The Town of Edson tabled a resolution at the 2019 Alberta Municipalities' AGM calling for the organization to "advocate for the Government of Alberta to consider review and institution of an aviation fuel fee in order to attribute a portion of the cost of community airports directly to the user."

While the resolution was adopted, the provincial government responded by saying that, in the interests of maintaining a competitive tax environment, no aviation fuel tax increases would be considered. This resolution isn't asking the government to increase taxes on users, but rather to increase STIP funding to ensure community airports can continue to support public health, safety, and economic development.

This resolution supports several strategic initiatives in Alberta Municipalities' 2025 Business Plan, namely emergency/disaster management, asset management, the viability of small communities, economic development, and access to health care.

Further to that, it also strongly supports a broad swath of the Government of Alberta's strategic objectives. In terms of health care, it will help improve access to specialized care not offered in rural areas. It also supports Advanced Education's work to train more pilots (the province is facing a serious and growing pilot shortage). When it comes to Transportation and Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration, the resolution supports Premier Smith's directive to the respective ministers to facilitate the growth and development of key regional airports that allow Albertans to connect themselves and goods to major international airports.

This resolution also aligns with the roles and responsibilities of the Strategic Aviation Advisory Council (SAAC), which was created by the provincial government in 2020. The SAAC's mission supports emergency and fire transport by advising on improvements to aviation services and infrastructure that enhance the province's ability to provide rapid medical, rescue, and firefighting responses through air operations. Additionally, the council focuses on optimizing airport services and infrastructure to better serve remote communities, ensuring reliable air access for essential services, supplies, and emergency support. Together, these efforts help strengthen Alberta's overall resilience and emergency preparedness, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with a request for decision passed by ABmunis' members in 2023, which called for the provincial government to:

- Ensure funding is made available to airports that currently find themselves in the position of needing upgrades to comply with both new Alberta Health Services and provincial standards; and
- Commit to providing funding to other airports who may find themselves in a similar situation in the very near future.

In 2019, ABmunis members passed a resolution calling for an [aviation fuel fee](#) to attribute a portion of the cost of community airports to the airport user. The Government of Alberta's response was that Alberta charges a 1.5 cent per litre aviation fuel tax and that there was no plan to change it in order to maintain a competitive tax environment.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy would be recommended to the ABmunis' Board by the relevant policy committee(s) within the context of related priorities and positions.

B6: Access to Seniors Housing Programs

Moved by: Village of Stirling
 Seconded by: Town of Coalhurst
 Category: B – Issues related to Alberta Municipalities' strategic initiatives
 Subject: Social
 Status: Adopted - Active

WHEREAS there is a shortage of seniors housing in small municipalities in rural areas as evidenced by the waitlists that housing authorities in these areas consistently have;

WHEREAS small municipalities in rural areas need independent living housing and lodges to ensure seniors can age in place without being displaced from their community and losing easy access to the support of friends and family;

WHEREAS lack of appropriate housing for seniors in small rural communities transfers costs and service demand to larger municipalities, who have their own capacity challenges;

WHEREAS the Affordable Housing Partnership Program's current funding structure creates barriers for small, rural municipalities and rural housing authorities to create or add to housing accommodations for seniors; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta's previous funding arrangement enabled municipalities to contribute land and did not require capital contributions.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to engage Alberta Municipalities, member municipalities, and related organizations in reviewing the Affordable Housing Partnership Program to ensure it supports all sizes of communities throughout Alberta so that seniors can age in place close to support networks.

BACKGROUND:

Provincial changes to the [Affordable Housing Partnership Program](#) (AHPP) have limited the ability for Alberta seniors to remain in the communities where they live. There is a trend of seniors being forced to be displaced to other parts of the province in order to meet their housing needs as they age.

The Alberta Housing Partnership Program refers to the program whereby the Government of Alberta will provide one third cost share on projects related to affordable housing and in the context of this motion seniors housing.

With the current split of one third shared costing between the Municipality; the Housing Authority; and the Government of Alberta, the only way a rural housing authority will be able to raise the funds needed to address additional seniors housing development would be to substantially increase the requisition amount paid through property taxes. This would then put an increased financial burden on rate payers across multiple jurisdictions to build a facility in one community.

The purpose of this resolution is to ask the government to engage with Alberta Municipalities, its members, and potentially other related associations such as Rural Municipalities of Alberta and the Alberta Seniors & Community Housing Association, in assessing current programs to support seniors' housing and develop solutions that ensure housing is built in small rural communities so that seniors can age in place. Potential solutions include adjusting AHPP parameters to consider municipal fiscal capacity along with local housing need.

Many municipalities and housing authorities do not have the financial wherewithal to provide the magnitude of capital investment to add housing availability for seniors. The Village of Stirling, with a population of only about 1,300 people, would be expected to contribute approximately \$1.5 million as its one-third funding contribution to a

seniors housing project, to be operated by Ridge Country Housing. These dollars do not include the land investment which was already a prerequisite for project consideration.

Ridge Country Housing currently has a wait list of approximately 50 seniors for their lodge facilities, and this does not include waitlists for their independent living units.

The Village of Stirling currently has no seniors housing units available for their senior population. The 2021 Census shows the Village of Stirling having a senior population of 155 people at age 65 years and older; with 60 of those people being aged 75 years to 89 years old.

This problem is not unique to the Village of Stirling, as the Village of Duchess reported the following data from their FCSS Newell Region Quality of Life Study:

- The Village of Duchess has 4 affordable housing units, none of which have accessibility features for wheelchairs or walkers.
- Currently the 10.4% of the Village of Duchess population is comprised of seniors.
- Seniors' space makes up only 0.0075% of all housing in the Village of Duchess.

Municipalities such as Stirling and Coalhurst have received advice to save their annual Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) Capital allocation to put towards housing. However, LGFF Capital funds face competing municipal priorities, as these funds are used to support a wide variety of projects, from assisting community groups to essential water and road infrastructure. It could take a small community years to save sufficient LGFF Capital allocations to meet the one third cost sharing requirement. For example, the Village of Stirling's 2025 LGFF allocation is \$428,130, meaning it would take over 3 years to save sufficient funding to cover its contribution. This assumes there that the Village does not need to allocate LGFF Capital funding to any other capital needs in this time.

The lack of available seniors' housing is preventing seniors from being able to age in place in their own communities and forcing them to seek housing in larger municipalities. This means seniors are moving far away from their social networks and support, putting pressure on services provided in larger centres. As a result, larger communities are covering the cost of developing seniors' housing that serves seniors who would be better supported in their own communities. Having more access to seniors' housing throughout Alberta benefits all Alberta communities.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with ABmunis' advocacy on increasing access to affordable housing and enabling seniors to age in place.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

B7: Enhancing Housing Opportunities and Affordability Across Alberta

Moved by: Town of Coalhurst
 Seconded by: Town of Mayerthorpe
 Category: B – Issues related to Alberta Municipalities' strategic initiatives
 Subject: Economic
 Status: **Adopted - Active**

WHEREAS the escalating costs associated with residential construction are significantly impacting the feasibility and affordability of housing development throughout Alberta;

WHEREAS a growing demand exists across Alberta for a diverse range of housing options, encompassing affordable housing, market housing, and seniors' housing, which is not being adequately met;

WHEREAS existing policies, regulations, and funding models can inadvertently create barriers and inefficiencies in the development of much-needed housing, particularly in smaller municipalities;

WHEREAS ensuring the safety and quality of new homes through consistent and readily available safety code inspections is crucial for building confidence and protecting homebuyers; and

WHEREAS the current *New Home Buyer Protection Act* and its associated warranty program may have shortcomings and potential avenues for circumvention, requiring thorough review and strengthening of the Act.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to undertake fundamental policy changes aimed at improving access to a diverse range of housing options and enhancing housing affordability across the province through, but not limited to:

1. **Streamlining Regulations and Reducing Red Tape:** Conducting a comprehensive review of provincial policies, regulations, and application processes related to housing development to identify and eliminate unnecessary barriers and inefficiencies, thereby accelerating project timelines and reducing costs.
2. **Enhancing the *New Home Buyer Protection Act*:** Actively reviewing and updating the *New Home Buyer Protection Act* and its regulations, including the new home buyers' warranty program, to address identified shortcomings, prevent circumvention, and ensure robust protection for homebuyers across all municipalities. This review should include consideration of the financial stability and accountability of warranty providers.
3. **Improving the Safety Codes System:** Examining the availability and accessibility of qualified safety codes officers across the province and exploring potential legislative, process (i.e. remote inspections) or regulatory amendments to ensure timely and consistent inspections, regardless of a municipality's size or location.
4. **Re-evaluating Funding Models for Affordable and Seniors' Housing:** Conducting a thorough and ongoing review of existing funding formulas for affordable housing and seniors' housing to ensure equitable access for all municipalities, regardless of size, and to better align funding with the diverse housing needs of communities across Alberta. This review should consider the unique challenges and opportunities faced by smaller communities.

BACKGROUND:

Housing has always been an issue across the province. With all the current changes in the political landscape creating housing opportunities has become a challenge for municipalities. The goal of this resolution is to provide an

open-ended resolution that will allow Alberta Municipalities to be proactive in their approach to meeting housing needs within the province.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

While ABmunis does not currently have a position on each of the issues raised in this resolution, increasing the housing supply is one of ABmunis' 2025 strategic priorities. If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

C1: Electricity Distribution Costs

Moved by: City of Grande Prairie
Seconded by: Town of Drumheller
Category: C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
Subject: Infrastructure
Status: Adopted - Active

WHEREAS the cost of distribution of electricity to customers is causing significant disparity in costs for businesses and residents resulting in economic bias across Alberta communities;

WHEREAS regulated electricity prices, which are becoming extraordinarily high in some service areas, are approved by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for residential, farm and commercial customers in rural and urban areas;

WHEREAS in 2024, annual distribution charges paid by the average residential customer with 600kWh of consumption ranged from \$387.48 (EPCOR service area) to \$1,211.00 (ATCO service area)¹;

WHEREAS the unavoidable cost of transmission and distribution make micro-generation economically challenging in much of the Province; and

WHEREAS 60 per cent of energy demand in the ATCO service area is driven by industrial customers, benefiting the entire province through direct and indirect employment and income taxes.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to review distribution regulations and eliminate the disparity in electricity pricing for distribution charges through an equalization model and more equitable cost sharing across Alberta to build an economically consistent approach that address affordability and catalyzes province-wide economic development.

BACKGROUND:

Because electricity delivery is a fully regulated service, the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) reviews the costs in detail and approves the rates to ensure all the charges are fair and reasonable. However, there is a disparity in these charges depending on where you live in Alberta. Energy delivery charges include two core components: transmission and distribution.

Transmission charges cover the cost of moving electric energy from generating facilities through transmission lines to distribution utility substation transformers. The transmission charge on an electricity bill is based on how much electricity the customer has used and on average is between 14 per cent and 20 per cent of a customer's total bill.

Distribution costs vary with service provider and consumption. Distribution charges cover the cost of moving electric energy from substation transformers through local lines that carry electricity to the customers' meters. If the service area is large and sparsely populated, one kilometer of distribution line may only serve a few customers whereas in an urban centre, one kilometer of line serves a larger number of customers. Distribution charges are on average 24 per cent of a residential customer's total bill.² However, in some parts of Alberta, energy delivery charges compose nearly 70 per cent of a customer's total bill for the sum of the two components: transmission and distribution charges.

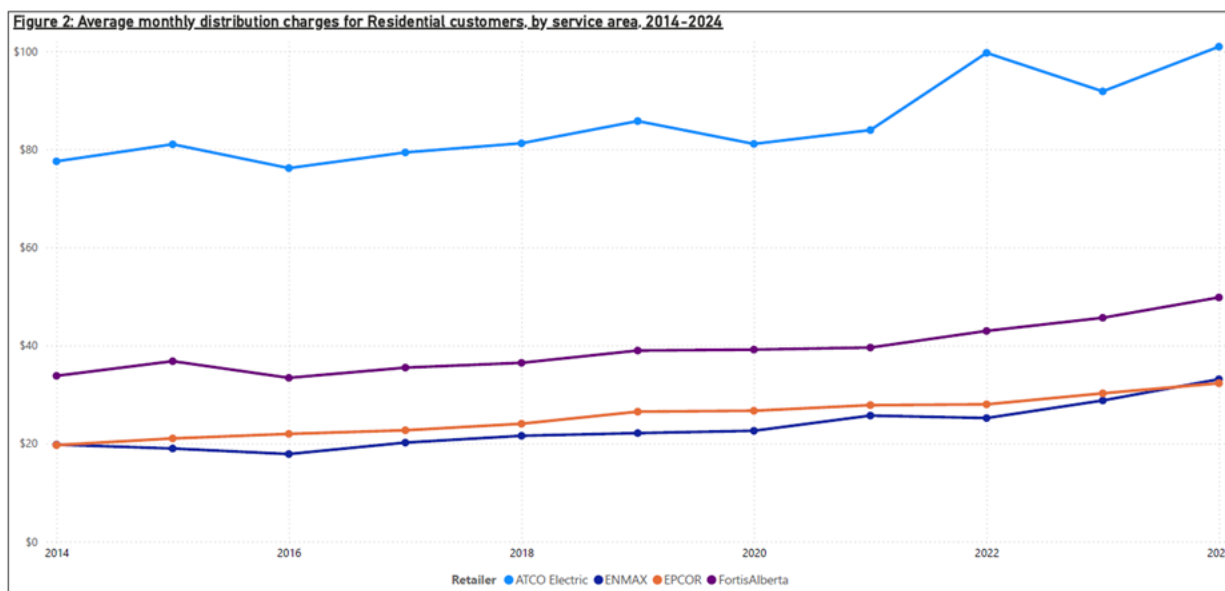
¹ Utilities Consumer Advocate: Electricity Transmission and Distribution Charges
<https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/electricity-transmission-and-distribution-charges.aspx>

² Utilities Consumer Advocate: Electricity Transmission and Distribution Charges
<https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/electricity-transmission-and-distribution-charges.aspx>

In large geographical portions of Alberta, both businesses and residential endure economic penalties based on geographical and population density disadvantages. This disadvantage can be as high as a 4 to 1 ratio as seen in chart comparisons below. In comparison, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have succeeded in building and operating transmission and distribution systems where landed costs of electricity are much more evenly distributed amongst the entire system.

In Saskatchewan, all cities, towns and villages pay one rate that includes transmission and distribution costs regardless of geographic location and all rural areas pay a marginally higher rate. In British Columbia and Manitoba, all electricity costs including transmission and distribution are equalized across the entire Province, resulting in building and operating transmission and distribution systems where landed costs of electricity are much more evenly distributed amongst the entire system.

As the electrical grid for Alberta ultimately operates as a single entity, it is reasonable to distribute those costs equally across the Province. The current system unfairly penalizes communities that are on the border between providers. Competitiveness to attract businesses to Alberta or outside of major urban centers within Alberta is stunted by disparities in the Alberta model, which contribute to the rapid urbanization of the population of Alberta. Continual increases of transmission and distribution rates, especially in areas that are already realizing significant cost disparity, results in an increase in energy poverty for many Alberta families and seniors.



Source: Compiled by the Office of the Utilities Consumer Advocate based on data provided by the Alberta Utilities Commission and Alberta Electric System Operator. [Utilities Consumer Advocate: Residential Electricity Delivery Charges](#)

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

This resolution will direct Alberta Municipalities to continue its advocacy on electricity distribution costs following our work on the [2022 resolution](#) that expires this year. At Alberta Municipalities' Spring 2025 Municipal Leaders' Caucus, the Premier and the Minister of Affordability and Utilities commented on the current challenges and their work to seek improvements in the system. Following submissions by ABmunis and municipalities to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC), municipalities now have automatic standing at AUC regulatory proceedings and are eligible for cost recovery of costs they incur to participate in regulatory hearings.

If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

C3: Increasing Funding for Alberta's Libraries

Moved by: Town of Stettler
 Seconded by: City of Calgary
 Category: C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
 Subject: Social
 Status: **Adopted - Active**

WHEREAS libraries are community hubs that offer free resources, programming, education, and community gathering space, impacting all Albertans;

WHEREAS libraries' ability to meet both basic and expanding range of needs for Alberta's growing population is increasingly constrained by outdated funding levels;

WHEREAS the annual per capita Public Library Operating Grant of \$5.60 per person has increased by only \$0.05 or under a one per cent increase since 2016, while inflation, according to Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index in Alberta, has increased by 25 per cent¹;

WHEREAS if indexed to inflation alone, per capita funding in 2024 would have been \$6.94 per person;

WHEREAS the per capita funding grant for Alberta's libraries is currently based on 2019 population data. Alberta's population has grown by 15 per cent or over 635,000 people between 2019 to 2025; and

WHEREAS a funding increase would directly strengthen Albertan libraries' ability to address the growing demand for job-seeking and language-learning services; assist newcomers to Alberta; improve digital access province-wide wide especially for remote and rural Albertans; create opportunities for Reconciliation and Indigenous learnings; and expand literacy and learning supports for children.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to update the per capita rate component of the Public Library Operating Grant formula to \$6.94 per person, an increase of \$1.34 per person to reflect inflationary increases and commit to indexing the population-based grant using the rate of inflation and the most recent population statistics of the Alberta Municipal Affairs Population Estimate List.

BACKGROUND:

Libraries are community pillars offering services to respond to a wide range of community needs through physical and virtual spaces that prioritize accessibility and democratic rights to access information. Library services directly respond to community needs, ranging from literacy at all ages and stages, adult foundational life skills, career planning, mental health, digital equity, newcomer supports, small business development, civic engagement, and more. Due to the highly accessible nature of public libraries, they act as a critical third space (a space other than home, school or work) for Albertans and are often a successful connection point to other urgent services and supports. This means that investing in libraries is one of the best investments we can make to meet our population's complex pressing needs.

Alberta has 324 library service points and nearly 100 per cent of the population has access to a public library² either through their local library or digital access for those living in more rural locations. A provincial investment in public libraries can impact all Albertans.

The Government of Alberta has highlighted the importance of supporting economic recovery, reducing barriers to

¹ Statistics Canada. [Table 18-10-0005-01 - Consumer Price Index, annual average, not seasonally adjusted](#)

² [Public library statistics | Alberta.ca](#)

public services, supporting new Albertans, and building foundations for a strong future. In addition, as identified in Outcome 2 in the [Municipal Affairs: Ministry Business Plan 2024-2027](#), a key objective of the government is to “Provide operating grants and capacity supports to Alberta’s public library boards and regional library systems, to ensure Albertans are served by accessible, well-managed, and responsive library services”

Alberta Municipalities has looked at the population aspects of this resolution in the past, including the 2020 resolution, [Current Population Funding for Municipal Public Libraries in Alberta](#), in which the intent was not met. At the fall 2024 ABmunis Convention during the open Question & Answer session with ministers, the City of Calgary put the question of per capita funding to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for consideration in budget 2025, and no changes were made to the funding for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Rural Municipalities of Alberta have also addressed the inflation issue in the past including the [2016](#) and [2014](#) resolutions: Provincial Funding for Municipal Public Libraries and Regional Library Systems and the [2008](#) resolution: Immediate Increase in Provincial Library Funding Request. Since this time, many municipalities in Alberta have seen a population increase from the “Alberta is Calling” campaign, which, together with inflationary pressures, is impacting public libraries' capacity to deliver the same level of service. The Public Libraries Service Branch instituted a base operating grant to provide base funding that is less variable for slight population fluctuations that can occur in smaller municipalities.

This resolution aligns with Alberta Municipalities 2025 strategic initiative “Municipal Financial Research Strategies: Conduct new research on municipal finances and inform provincial leaders and Albertans about the potential future of Alberta’s communities (e.g., state of infrastructure, level of municipal services, and level of municipal property taxes) if provincial funding for community infrastructure is not significantly increased”.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

As stated in the background this resolution aligns with previous ABmunis resolutions. In 2020, the former Minister of Municipal Affairs stated that the budget for libraries was held flat for reasons of fiscal constraint and that the allocations were not adjusted for population changes because library grants would increase for larger communities and decline for more rural communities because of the government’s intent to keep the total funding unchanged.³

If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis’ Board based on input from ABmunis’ relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis’ priorities and positions.

³ [November 2020 letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs to ABmunis](#)

C4: Rural Participation on the Integration Council for Refocusing Alberta's Health Care System

Moved by: Town of Sundre
 Seconded by: Town of Mayerthorpe
 Category: C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
 Subject: Social
 Status: Adopted - Active

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta announced the “Refocusing Alberta’s Health Care System Initiative” to improve health outcomes and empower health care workers to deliver quality care across the province on November 8, 2023;

WHEREAS Ministerial Order 300/2024 established the Integration Council and its terms of reference;

WHEREAS the terms of reference states that the Integration Council will be chaired by the Minister of Health, with support from the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services, and will have members from each new sector-specific provincial health agency;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta released the Rural Health Action Plan 2024-2027, in October 2024, which states that “The discrepancies between the health care available to Albertans in and around large urban centres and those who live in rural or remote communities, has been a growing concern for many years. These communities face unique health care challenges that call for creative solutions that create more equitable access to health care that they want and deserve.”;

WHEREAS the Integration Council is missing the voice of health practitioners who have direct experience serving rural and remote areas. For example, a rural generalist is a general practitioner (GP), who provides a broad scope of medical care in a rural or remote setting. This includes comprehensive primary care, emergency medicine, and often specialized services like obstetrics, anesthesia, or mental health, tailored to the unique needs of the community. They are essential for ensuring access to healthcare in areas where resources and specialized services may be limited; and

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate on behalf of rural and remote communities that the Government of Alberta immediately appoint a separate and dedicated general practitioner (GP) Generalist, and/or nurse practitioner as a voting member to the Health System Integration Council and within the new health board leadership structure to ensure that those who serve Albertans who live in rural and remote communities have an appropriate and continuous voice for their health care.

BACKGROUND:

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) adopted a similar resolution at their Spring 2025 Convention, resolution 5-25S, submitted by Mountain View County. The Town of Sundre recommends that ABmunis seek to collaborate with RMA in advocating for the inclusion of a rural based GP on the Integration Council. Rural and remote communities face health care challenges that are distinct from those faced by large urban communities, including limited access to specialists, lengthy travel times for care, and fewer resources to address mental health, continuing care, and addiction services. Additionally, key decision-making bodies lack adequate rural and remote community Generalists which perpetuates systemic inefficiencies and disparities in care for rural and remote communities while failing to acknowledge the distinct needs of these communities.

The province’s shift to a new integrated healthcare system – organized into four divisions: Primary Care, Acute Care, Continuing Care and Mental Health and Addictions – offers an opportunity to address these issues. However, the current structure of the Integration Council does not include a designated Generalist who can provide critical insight into the realities of rural and remote community’s health care.

We encourage and request that Alberta Municipalities advocate on behalf of rural and remote communities for the Government of Alberta to consider their unique needs before making decisions.

The Integration Council's purpose, as defined by M.O. 300/2024 is:

- Identify means of integration of a single functioning health care system at the highest level of governance;
- Identify means of integration of the four new organizations;
- Identify efficiencies and means to remove barriers to the health system integration and to the patient journey;
- Monitor key outcomes of the Refocus initiative and support public reporting on performance of the health system related to the Refocus initiative so Albertans know if their health system is delivering better health outcomes for Albertans; and
- Identify deliberate change management strategies throughout the health system to support the Refocus initiative.

The current structure of the Integration Council is listed below (*subject to change or as amended from time to time*):

VOTING MEMBERS

Minister, Health
 Minister, Mental Health
 Minister, Seniors, Community and Social Services
 Deputy Minister, Health
 Deputy Minister, Mental Health
 Deputy Minister, Seniors, Community and Social Services
 Chair, Alberta Health Services Board
 CEO, Recovery Alberta
 CEO, Primary Care Alberta
 Managing Director, Procurement and Optimization (Health)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Minister, Technology and Innovation
 Deputy Minister, Technology and Innovation
 Chair, Health Quality Council of Alberta Board
 CEO, Health Quality Council of Alberta
 CEO, Canadian Center Recovery Excellence

It is recognized that a member duly appointed to the Integration Council, the Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services (*May 16, 2025*), is also the Member of the Legislature for the Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre electoral district, consisting of rural and remote communities. However, ministerial appointments change and it is important that the council always have a voice of those who provide services in rural areas. The end goal is not just to benefit rural Albertans but also alleviate demand on healthcare services in larger urban areas.

A rural and remote community Generalist on the Integration Council and the new Health Care Leadership Board would provide an invaluable perspective on the challenges faced by patients located in these communities, from communication in referrals to navigating broader social determinants of health. It is crucial that rural and remote communities, which often rely heavily on team-based care models, have a voice in shaping health care policies and systems that affect them. Appointing a dedicated Generalist to the Integration Council and new Health Care Leadership Board will help ensure that Alberta's health care system delivers equitable and effective care for all Albertans, regardless of geography.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis has not previously advocated on this specific issue; however, we have called for the province to meaningfully engage municipalities of all sizes in planning for healthcare needs.

If this resolution is passed, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

C5: Midwifery as an Option of Care for All Albertans

Moved by: Village of Hussar
 Seconded by: Town of Strathmore, City of Grande Prairie
 Category: C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
 Subject: Social
 Status: **Adopted - Active**

WHEREAS Alberta has yet to provide client-centered access to midwifery care for all Albertans, regardless of culture or region;

WHEREAS it is imperative that Albertans be informed of their options for midwifery¹, its safety and exceptional standards of care;

WHEREAS the tools used for predicting demand in Alberta are ineffective for quantifying overall demand;

WHEREAS we must prioritize more courses of care and increase hospital delivery access for midwives;

WHEREAS the current [Alberta Midwifery Strategy](#) does not prioritize provision for rural courses of care for all Albertans to have their preference of provider or provide incentives to retain midwives in Alberta²;

WHEREAS Alberta needs to prioritize funding more courses of midwifery care to benefit from tax savings and midwifery care will help Alberta achieve world renowned total prenatal care; and

WHEREAS we need to allow midwives to adjust and choose how they deliver care to reduce burn out of midwives (e.g., switch to daytime shifts, post-partum follow-ups, etc. when needed due to health or age).

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to develop a comprehensive midwifery strategy that focuses on retention, increased access province wide, and funding that follows the patient for a more well-rounded course of care by giving midwives more autonomy over the structure of midwifery care.

BACKGROUND:

There is a lack of health care professionals, including midwives, which effects all Alberta communities. This issue is more prevalent outside of the major urban centres leading to staff burn out, dissatisfaction, premature retirement, and relocation to better staffed communities³.

Midwives provide holistic, person-centered care, emphasizing natural physiology and minimal intervention. Midwifery care can help reduce the burden on hospital systems, particularly for normal, low-risk pregnancies. In Alberta, midwives work collaboratively with other health providers and follow the Canadian Midwifery Model of Care, which emphasizes continuity of care, informed choice, and collaborative care. Providing full client-centered access to midwifery would:

1. Reduce costs in course of care.
2. Reduce unnecessary interventions leading to a cascade of unnecessary interventions, with the potential to reduce poor outcomes for both patients.

¹ Alberta Health Services' description of [midwife services](#)

² [Health Sciences Association | Recruitment and Retention Initiatives Extended](#)

³ [Rural Health Services Review Final Report \(alberta.ca\)](#), p. 1, Rural Health Services Review Committee, March 2015. Government of Alberta.

3. Reduce the number of patients necessitating hospital beds, leading to less pressure on labour and delivery wards; more individualized care; reduce travel distance for patients to appointments or delivery.
4. Reduce the demand for ambulance transports from rural areas.
5. Create more business opportunities in both urban and rural municipalities for midwifery clinics, birthing centres, and mobile midwifery clinics.
6. Allow obstetricians and gynecologists to focus more on emergent or urgent care cases.

Local efforts to attract and retain service providers may address immediate community concerns but fall short in tackling the broader challenge of addressing the overall scarcity of frontline professionals. Alberta currently funds education of midwives who then leave the province due to financial incentives and career or independent business opportunities. Alberta needs to consider creating a world-renowned midwifery care system that is client-centered and available to all Albertans by expanding Alberta's midwifery programs.

Alberta's current [Midwifery Strategy](#) acknowledges that access to midwifery services are limited in rural and remote communities but does not define initiatives for how that will be overcome.

On June 18, 2025, the World Health Organization called for [global expansion of midwifery models of care](#).

In Alberta, all midwives must have delivery privileges through a hospital with a delivery unit. This can present a barrier for a midwife to open a clinic if approval is not granted by the hospital, thereby, limiting expansion of the service in the region.

Providing midwifery as an option of care for all Albertans is important because it will improve healthcare by reducing the workload of obstetrical care physicians and nurses, which will also help reduce costs on the healthcare system. Ensuring Midwives can be accessed by all Albertans will help improve the viability and sustainability of our rural communities. The benefit to the Province would be higher cost savings, as more patients choose to access midwifery as their primary course of care.

Albertans must be informed and aware of midwifery as a safe option with hospital delivery possible and the demand exceeding midwifery courses of care. Alberta must increase data capture to show the demand of all Albertans seeking midwifery care by including those within one of the qualifying factors (region, urban, within service distance of midwives, within the first weeks of pregnancy). Currently those applying are only patients who know that they can qualify. Anyone outside of the parameters or that is unaware of midwifery as an option, are not being captured.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

Alberta Municipalities does not currently have a position on this specific issue. If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

C6: Canada Consumer Carbon Tax Program (Rebates or Exemptions for Municipalities)

Moved by: City of Red Deer
Seconded by: Town of Olds
Category: C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
Subject: Economic
Status: Adopted - Active

WHEREAS municipalities have been and continue to be leaders in environmental initiatives to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;

WHEREAS municipalities are involved in initiatives such as developing environmental master plans, climate action strategies, GHG inventories, community energy and emissions plans, sustainable building strategies, urban forest management plans, sustainable urban design, waste management improvements, multimodal transportation plans, grant funding for community environmental initiatives, rebates for energy and water conservation fixtures, clean energy financing programs, natural asset management, wildfire mitigation actions, renewable energy projects, and much more;

WHEREAS municipalities incur consumer carbon tax costs providing community infrastructure and services such as heating public buildings, providing public transit, and maintaining community parks and public works;

WHEREAS Alberta's municipalities have paid tens of millions of dollars in carbon consumption taxes since their introduction, limiting the ability of municipalities to provide other vital programs and infrastructure to their communities; and

WHEREAS there have been Canada Carbon Tax Rebates and some exemptions for individuals since the inception of the program and in October 2024 the Government of Canada expanded Canada Carbon Tax Rebates to include small businesses; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has suspended its consumer carbon tax structure.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to work with the Government of Canada to ensure municipal governments are exempt from any future replacement of a consumption-based carbon tax or at minimum, expand the eligibility of Canada Carbon Tax rebates to include municipal governments.

BACKGROUND:

Federal Carbon Pricing was introduced in 2019 and legislated for provinces who had not installed their own consumer carbon tax program. The Federal Fuel Charge began being charged on gasoline, natural gas, and other fuels consumed by Albertans beginning January 1, 2020.

In 2019, the carbon price was \$20 per tonne, which had gradually increased to \$80 per tonne as of April 1, 2024. As of April 1, 2025, the Government of Canada has reduced the carbon price to \$0 for consumers and is exploring the future of the taxation program.

Since its inception, the Government of Canada has provided a rebate for individuals designed to offset a portion of increased expenses due to the new charge. In October 2024, the Government of Canada extended the rebate to small businesses who met certain criteria and made the rebate retroactive to 2020 for eligible businesses.

Direct costs of carbon pricing on municipalities varies by municipality, but the direct costs are in the tens of millions of dollars per year. In 2023 these numbers were collected by the Canadian Energy Centre¹:

- Lloydminster: \$422,248
- Calgary: \$12,303,000 (estimate)
- Medicine Hat: \$876,237
- Lethbridge: \$1,398,000 (estimate)
- Grande Prairie: \$757,562
- Crowsnest Pass: \$71,100
- Red Deer: \$1,495,945
- Bonnyville: \$19,484
- Hinton: \$66,829

Municipalities provide vital services to their communities each day. Including but not limited to, road maintenance and construction, water and wastewater utilities, waste management, recreation facilities, parks and playgrounds and emergency services. Transferring local taxpayer dollars to other levels of government reduces municipalities' ability to provide these critical services.

Every municipality has a different impact; however, for example, the City of Red Deer's cost of the Federal Fuel Charge (approximately \$1.5 million) directly resulted in an estimated 1% property tax increase during the most recent budget.

Municipalities in Alberta are already leaders in environmental stewardship, often at a significant expense to their budgets. Municipalities are reporting regularly to the public on their progress towards reaching GHG emission targets at the community and corporate levels. This demonstrates municipal leadership and commitment to accountable stewardship and sustainable management of our natural resources and the environment.

In October 2024, The City of Bellville, ON, passed the following Council resolution:

THAT Mayor and Council of the City of Belleville requests that the Government of Canada create an efficient administrative program for municipalities to receive full reimbursement on direct carbon tax costs that are incurred providing essential and public safety programs and services, such as fuel purchases for its fleet and equipment as well as natural gas costs for heating facilities²

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this specific issue but there is alignment to ABmunis current research on the cumulative financial impacts on municipal governments as a result of decisions by the provincial and federal governments. If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta to communicate with the Government of Canada on behalf of municipalities. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

¹ Canadian Energy Centre Staff November 22, 2024, "REPORT: Alberta municipalities hit with \$37 million carbon tax tab in 2023" <https://www.canadianenergycentre.ca/report-alberta-municipalities-hit-with-37-million-carbon-tax-tab-in-2023/>

² The City of Belleville - Meeting Information October 28, 2024. "Regular Council Meeting Minutes" <https://citybellevilleon.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=988>

C7: Increased Eligibility and Funding for the Alberta Affordability Grant for Licensed Child Care Programs

Moved by: Town of Hinton
 Seconded by: Town of Nanton, Town of Sylvan Lake
 Category: C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
 Subject: Economic
 Status: **Adopted - Active**

WHEREAS access to stable, high-quality, affordable child care is essential to families, municipalities, and the provincial and national economies;

WHEREAS Alberta is working to support a community-based system of quality, regulated early learning and child care, aiming for all families to have access to high-quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive early learning and child care no matter where they live;

WHEREAS municipalities across Alberta continue to face a child care shortage¹;

WHEREAS Alberta has a unique system in which not-for-profit, public and private/for profit operators play an important role in the delivery of high-quality regulated child care programs and services that Albertans value; and

WHEREAS eligibility for the Alberta Affordability Grant has recently changed to limit which new for-profit spaces will receive the remaining funding allocation.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for increased eligibility and funding for the Alberta Affordability Grant for licensed child care, licensed daycares, licensed preschools, out of school care programs, and group family daycares to ensure better access to high-quality, affordable child care in Alberta.

BACKGROUND:

Access to stable, high-quality, affordable child care is essential to families, municipalities, and the provincial and national economy. Child care is primarily a provincial responsibility, however in recent years, the federal government has provided high-level policy and funding aimed at reducing parent fees, expanding services and strengthening quality. Through the Canada-Alberta Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (CACWELCC), signed in 2021, spaces are increasing, however availability and affordability of child care continues to be an issue.

As part of the CACWELCC, the Government of Canada provides funding to Alberta, and the Province provides Affordability Grants to eligible licensed child care programs which reduce parents' fees to a standardized monthly flat rate. As of June 2025, the cost is \$326.25 per child attending daycare full-time (100 hours or more per month) or \$230 per month for part-time care.² Before the Affordability Grant, full-time centre-based child care spaces were typically upwards of \$1,000 per month.³

Alberta has a mix of not-for-profit and for-profit daycares and under the CACWELCC, there is a maximum number of for-profit child care spaces eligible for the affordability funding. Alberta's government estimates the for-profit spaces cap may be reached by summer 2025 and has decided to limit which new spaces receive the remaining funding allocation. As of May 15, 2025, eligibility for the Affordability Grant changed to existing programs, applicants in the final stage of their licensing process, and new programs in communities with long waitlists (specifically, only Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Fort McMurray or Canmore/Banff). The change does not affect the not-for-profit

¹ [Community Child Care Coverage in Alberta](#)

² <https://www.alberta.ca/about-child-care-in-alberta#fees>

³ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=4210005014>

program stream, nor the process and criteria for licensing. It also does not affect existing programs with an Affordability Grant or Space Creation Grant.

It should be noted that both not-for-profit and for-profit daycare operators that receive the Alberta Affordability Grant are bound by the Cost Control Framework (part of the CACWELCC, implemented in 2023), which states that operators may generate a profit, but the surplus earnings, or other resources, are to be directed towards improving child care services rather than for the personal benefit of owners, members, investors, or to enhance asset growth.

Entrepreneurs across the province⁴ who have invested significant resources into developing for-profit daycare programs, some in the late stages of development and licensing, have recently been notified that they are no longer eligible for the grant, causing stress and financial hardship. This will also negatively affect parents, as any new for-profit child care spaces that do not meet the new Alberta Affordability Grant criteria will not be eligible for the funding, meaning that parents who have children enrolled in those spaces will not see their child care fees reduced.

Access to affordable child care continues to be a challenge in municipalities across Alberta. The Community Child Care Coverage in Alberta⁵ report, released in June 2024, stated that only 32% of communities have adequate child care coverage.

The Province aims to increase the number of licensed child care spaces by 68,700 net new spaces for a total of 171,700 affordable child care spaces for Alberta families by March 2027. Between November 2021 and April 2025, 41,800 new child care spaces opened in Alberta⁶ to make a total of 144,800 spaces. The distribution of these spaces is reported as follows:

- 12,600 facility-based non-profit spaces (46% of the 28,000 non-profit cap)
 - Additional 2,600 non-profit spaces approved but not yet open
- 8,100 family day home spaces (56% of the 14,500 day home cap)
- 21,100 for-profit spaces (80% of the 26,200 non-profit cap*)
 - * Does not include for-profit spaces that have been previously approved for a Space Creation Grant but are not yet open. This is approximately an additional 3,000 allocated spaces.

In order to reach Alberta's affordable child care spaces target and improve access to affordable child care, it is essential for the Province to increase eligibility and funding for the Alberta Affordability Grant for licensed child care.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis successfully advocated for a National Early Learning and Care Program based on a resolution members passed in 2021. ABmunis also successfully advocated for capital grant focused on supporting non-profit and municipally operated child care facilities in response to a Request for Decision passed at our 2024 Spring MLC.

If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

⁴ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-daycare-childcare-federal-agreement-final-for-profit-spaces-1.7540331>

⁵ <https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/jet-community-child-care-coverage-in-alberta-report.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.alberta.ca/federal-provincial-child-care-agreement>

C8: Reducing Barriers to Post-Secondary Education for All Alberta Students

Moved by: Village of Duchess
 Seconded by: City of Brooks
 Category: C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities
 Subject: Economic
 Status: Adopted - Active

WHEREAS participation in post-secondary education is critical to the long-term viability and prosperity of Alberta's communities, enabling individuals to contribute meaningfully to economic development, community leadership, and innovation;

WHEREAS Albertans outside of the metropolitan regions face unique and significant barriers to accessing post-secondary education, including but not limited to financial constraints, geographic isolation, cultural and social challenges, limited access to advanced academic preparation, and inadequate technological infrastructure;

WHEREAS students from rural, remote and urban communities are an equity-deserving group requiring targeted strategies and tailored support to overcome systemic inequities in education access, including resources for financial aid, academic counselling, mentorship, and reliable high-speed internet;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has identified education and workforce development as critical priorities for sustaining economic growth and diversifying Alberta economies; and

WHEREAS existing post-secondary pathways insufficiently address the unique needs of rural and remote Alberta students, contributing to underrepresentation in advanced education and perpetuating inequities that hinder their full participation in Alberta's prosperity.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide dedicated funding for the development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of a comprehensive Pathway to Post-Secondary Education Strategy that will:

1. Identify barriers impacting equitable rural, remote and urban student access to all post-secondary opportunities, including barriers related to housing and overall affordability of post-secondary education;
2. Offer targeted scholarships, bursaries, and financial aid to alleviate the economic burdens faced by rural, remote and underrepresented students, additionally provide financial support for intern students to complete practicum placements away from their usual place of residence;
3. Enhance outreach and support efforts to communities outside of metropolitan regions to increase awareness of available post-secondary opportunities;
4. Provide targeted support for academic preparation, to ensure prospective rural, remote and small urban students meet university prerequisites;
5. Improve technological and broadband infrastructure to improve accessibility to online learning;
6. Establish local and community-based mentorship and guidance programs for students;
7. Promote collaboration between municipalities, school boards, and community organizations to support the transition to post-secondary education for rural, remote and small urban students.

BACKGROUND:

This resolution is being brought forward as a partner resolution to a Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) resolution, passed at the RMA Spring 2025 Convention. This resolution aligns with Alberta Municipalities' Strategic Initiatives on Viability of Small Communities (the need for a diverse workforce to support smaller communities' growth and service delivery) and Economic Development.

The two resolutions represent one of the initiatives coming from the University of Calgary's Inclusive Governance Committee¹ that Alberta Municipalities and RMA participate on. Both organizations are taking an active role in shaping governance changes that will improve access to post-secondary education for all Albertans through the work of this committee.

This resolution also directly aligns with the provincial government priority on workforce development. This resolution is relevant to all municipalities in Alberta. Top talent from within Alberta is not necessarily reaching post-secondary, and the loss of potential skilled workers is an issue that faces all of Alberta, not just those in rural and remote areas, who face shortages.

Albertans outside the major centres face systemic barriers that hinder equitable access to post-secondary education. Financial constraints, such as the high cost of tuition, relocation expenses, and limited part-time employment opportunities, disproportionately affect rural families. Geographic isolation necessitates relocation, further increasing costs and contributing to emotional and cultural challenges. The University of Alberta's current estimates for a first-year student is \$10,500 for tuition and books with an additional \$17,285 for accommodation and food in residence². Students that live in the metro area can eliminate this \$17,285 cost by opting to remain living at home, this gives them a significant cost of living and potential debt advantage over students from families that do not reside in Edmonton.

Additionally, schools outside of larger metropolitan regions often lack resources for academic preparation, including advanced courses, standardized test preparation, and guidance counselling. Limited access to reliable high-speed internet further restricts rural students from fully engaging with online learning and digital application platforms. Many schools are forced by budget constraints to offer key courses such as biology, chemistry and physics at the 20 and 30 level in a rotation making it challenging for students to complete all science options. Without the option to complete these virtually, students may not be able to complete all the necessary courses to apply to STEM based programs in post-secondary.

These barriers contribute to the underrepresentation of students from rural, remote and smaller urban centres in Alberta's post-secondary institutions, limiting their ability to contribute to economic and social growth. Addressing these inequities requires a dedicated pathway strategy that recognizes students from outside of the main metropolitan centres as an equity-deserving community and provides the resources and supports necessary for their success.

Developing this strategy will empower all Albertans to pursue advanced education, fostering stronger, more resilient communities across the province and ensuring meaningful participation in Alberta's long-term prosperity.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

ABmunis does not currently have a position on this specific issue. If this resolution is approved, it will be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response. Further advocacy will be determined by ABmunis' Board based on input from ABmunis' relevant policy committee within the context of ABmunis' priorities and positions.

¹ The purpose statement of the University of Calgary's Inclusive Governance project is "To bring our differences together without erasing them – to create spaces for constructive, productive, and creative dialogue and collaboration on shared goals. We aim to foster strong relationships with different people, communities, knowledges, and the future – which requires that we listen to understand even if we do not agree and view our differences as societal assets to solve our shared problems. The Inclusive Governance project facilitates dialogues to surface and elevate ideas into decision-making spaces and steward the people and ideas through the complex institutional decision-making apparatus to drive new research, education, policies, innovations, market solutions, and shared understanding."

² <https://www.ualberta.ca/en/admissions/tuition-and-scholarships/tuition-and-fees.html>



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