



NEWS RELEASE

Enough is enough; provincial overreach needs to stop

October 8, 2026

EDMONTON – *The following statement is issued on behalf of Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) President Dylan Bressey and the Board of Directors:*

Today's announcement by the Government of Alberta that it is pausing local infill development is the latest in a series of costly attacks it has made on local democracy.

In the past two years, the current provincial government has stepped in and:

- stopped municipal governments from deciding where, when and how to use automated traffic enforcement in their communities to keep their roads safe.
- told municipalities how to run their 2025 elections and what technologies were and weren't permitted.
- removed municipal council codes of conduct.
- stopped the Town of Canmore from introducing a vacancy tax that was meant to encourage more of the town's existing housing stock to be used by primary residents and generate revenue for housing initiatives.
- forced the City of Calgary to stop construction of its Green Line LRT and realign and redesign it at an additional cost of more than \$1 billion to Calgarians.

Enough is enough. The provincial government's overreach needs to stop.

Alberta Municipalities, which represents 264 municipalities across the province, is deeply alarmed by the steady erosion of local democracy that's being driven by this government. Our call to the Premier and her government is simple: Respect the democratic will of local voters.

Alberta created municipal councils because our founders understood that a member of the legislative assembly living hundreds of kilometres away cannot possibly know what a neighbourhood needs better than local officials who live and work in that community every single day.

The provincial government established this democratic system of local governments. Residents invest time, effort and energy to participate in this system. And this system of local democracy deserves respect.

Today's announcement by the Government of Alberta is insulting to the many thousands of Edmontonians who engaged in good faith through dozens of public consultations, including statutory hearings run strictly under provincial rules. The City of Edmonton spent years and millions of taxpayers' dollars conducting meaningful consultations with residents and key stakeholders.

Worse, today's announcement is offensive to municipal voters across Alberta. When council candidates campaign on core local issues and are elected by their neighbours, the authority that voters gave them must be honoured.

Local councils share provincial goals of building safe, affordable, and prosperous communities. But local decisions belong at the local level.

If, as the Premier and her ministers say, the provincial government believes in grassroots democracy, we call on them to prove it. Rescind this order, halt the assault on municipal autonomy, and start treating local leaders as partners instead of overriding the very voters who sent us here.

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