



ALBERTA

SENIORS, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

*Office of the Minister*

DEC 05 2022

November 21, 2022

Cathy Heron  
President  
Alberta Municipalities  
300, 8616 - 51 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6E8

Dear Cathy Heron:

Thank you for your congratulations and letter regarding Alberta Municipalities' resolution on Municipal Identified Unique Housing Priorities (B12). As Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services, I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Alberta's government is committed to engaging and working with municipalities and housing providers to determine how best to support local affordable housing needs. With input from municipalities, housing providers and non-profit organizations over the past year, the ministry has developed a standardized approach to needs assessment for affordable housing. More information about this is available at [www.alberta.ca/affordable-housing-needs-assessment.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/affordable-housing-needs-assessment.aspx).

While the needs assessment consists of a standardized template, I recognize that each municipality faces different local challenges and barriers when it comes to housing need. As a result, the needs assessment template provides opportunities for municipalities to indicate additional data and distinct local attributes that may affect affordable housing needs in the area. We will use the needs assessment to help target funding to address the requirements of each community.

Additionally, while the housing needs assessment is not mandatory, I encourage all municipalities to use it to understand local housing needs and support long-term community planning. I also encourage collaboration between municipalities, local housing management bodies, housing operators and non-profit organizations when completing the assessment. Local needs assessments will require endorsement from the municipality (or group of municipalities) prior to submission.

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Municipalities will be able to access, complete and submit the needs assessment template through a secure web portal. The template will be auto-populated with the most current data available from Statistics Canada. The department can provide assistance with data sources and guidance on the data collection. Ministry staff will be conducting engagement sessions with municipalities to provide information and guidance on how to complete the needs assessment template in the near future.

Thank you again for writing and for your ongoing work in support of municipalities across the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Nixon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeremy Nixon  
Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services