

2023 Alberta Municipalities Convention and Trade Show

Please note: All agenda items and times are subject to change. Breakout session descriptions can be found on the second page.

Wednesday, September 27

7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Registration
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Hot Buffet Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Morning Announcements
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Education Sessions [sessions listed on next page]
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Education Sessions [sessions listed on next page]
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Buffet Lunch
1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremonies & Keynote Speaker: Kendal Netmaker
3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Trade Show Opens - Trade Show Dessert Reception
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Alberta Municipal Affairs Reception
After 6:00 p.m.	Sponsors' Networking Events

Thursday, September 28

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Hot Buffet Breakfast
8:20 a.m.	Morning Announcements
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Education Sessions [sessions listed on next page]
10:00 a.m.	Trade Show Opens
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Building Respectful Municipal-Indigenous Relations
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Trade Show Buffet Lunch and Prize Draws
1:45 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	Thursday Keynote: Bean Gill
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Resolutions
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Women in Government Reception
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	City of Edmonton Reception
After 6:00 p.m.	Sponsors' Networking Events

Friday, September 29

7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Registration
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Hot Buffet Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Morning Announcements
8:10 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Alberta Municipalities AGM Including Board of Director Elections
9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Leader of the Opposition Address
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Premier's Address
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Minister Dialogue Session
12:05 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.	Closing Entertainment – <i>The Debaters Live</i>
12:50 p.m.	Close Convention
1:00 p.m.	Bag Lunch-to-go

**Wednesday, September 27 – Breakout session #1
9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

Room	Session Title	Session Description
Salons 10/11	Help Wanted: Staffing and the Future of Small Communities	<p>Many small communities struggle to attract and retain Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and other key municipal employees. Join small communities from across Alberta for a discussion on trends impacting municipal administration and practical solutions you can implement to find and keep qualified staff.</p> <p>Sponsor: Colliers Project Leaders</p>
Salon 8	Laughing Matters	<p>Nothing wears you down like job stress and uncertainty, especially these days. You're exhausted. You're cranky. You're losing sleep. And worst of all you feel powerless – you have no control over the changes that are coming at you. That's where LAUGHING MATTERS comes in. In 25 years as a broadcaster, and decades as a comic and writer, Peter Brown has dealt with wave after wave of cutbacks, cancellations, rejection, and restructuring. At times he struggled to cope with all that uncertainty. But he learned to use humour to manage his stress and improve his outlook. He'll share those lessons – and those laughs – in LAUGHING MATTERS. Explore the many ways laughter can help you cope with stress and change. From known physical benefits, to a deeper connection with colleagues and friends, to a greater feeling of control and perspective, learn how to use laughter to make your life better in any situation.</p>
Salon 4	Net-Zero Infrastructure Story Hour	<p>Like all good stories, this session will highlight the beginning, middle and end of a net-zero infrastructure project. You will hear the struggles and successes from our brave trio of elected officials as they go from hero to net-zero. They will share their experiences slaying grants, being wooed by vendors and searching for public buy-in as they deliver net-zero projects for their communities.</p>
Salon 9	Overcoming Roadblocks to Economic Development and Strategic Growth	<p>Overcoming Roadblocks to Economic Development and Strategic Growth – Convention 2023</p> <p>Municipalities of all sizes across the province face similar challenges when it comes to ensuring they are a vibrant, resilient, welcoming and affordable community. This session will explore key challenges related to housing affordability, workforce attention and retraction and quality, affordable childcare and steps your community can take to tackle to overcome them.</p>

Salon 12	Digging up the Roots: Causes of Social Disorder and an Evidence-Based Approach to Prevention and Resolution	Municipalities have been increasingly challenged by issues related to mental health and addictions, homelessness, and crime. Join criminologist Dan Jones to explore the root causes of these issues and what actually works to resolve them. Attendees will also hear from people with lived experience of these issues about the barriers they faced and opportunities for government to enhance supports and services.
Wednesday, September 27 – Breakout session #2 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.		
Room	Session Title	Session Description
Salons 10/11	Code Blue: Municipalities to the Rescue of Healthcare	Technically the healthcare system is outside the jurisdiction of municipalities. However, as access to healthcare is essential to the viability of communities, municipalities are increasingly stepping up to fill gaps in the system. Hear the successes and challenges municipalities are experiencing in taking a leading role in ensuring residents have access to healthcare services.
Salon 8	Fight for Your Right Not to Party: Defending the Local in Local Elections	Mayors and councillors are elected to consider the welfare and interests of municipalities and the people who live in them. ABmunis is concerned that introducing political parties at the municipal level could undermine the ability of councils to effectively fulfil their roles, as well as diminish municipal autonomy. A collective effort is required to ensure local elections enable Albertans to engage on local issues respectfully and constructively as candidates and voters. Join this session to share your thoughts on how Alberta Municipalities can advance our local, non-partisan election principles and learn how you can contribute to the political viability of your municipality.
Salon 12	When It Rains It Pours: Water and Disaster Planning	Changing weather patterns and related extreme weather events have risks for municipalities. Thoughtful long term planning regarding water demand management, stormwater system changes, and other land use planning can mitigate the effects of drought and extreme weather events. Learn how to adapt to lower your water usage through water demand management and how to modernize your stormwater system to deal with extreme storms.
Salon 4	It's Electric! Fleet Electrification and Electric Buses with the City of St. Albert and Roam Transit (Bow Valley Regional Transit Services Commission)	If your organization is considering the switch to electric vehicles, you should attend this panel to hear firsthand experiences from those that have made the transition. Transit specialists from the City of St. Albert and Bow Valley Regional Transit Services will share their experiences operating electric buses in their communities.

Salon 9	CAO/CFO Session: Managing in a Hybrid World	From Teams to Zoom, at home meetings and in-office gatherings, the way we once worked has forever shifted. And for most leaders, things continue to shift. From fully in-office to fully remote, and everything in between, how we adapt impacts the candidates we attract and the talent we retain. Join our panel of leaders as we discuss how managing people has shifted in a hybrid world, and learn how you can adjust your managing to best suit your day-to-day needs.
Thursday, September 28 – Breakout session #3 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.		
Room	Session Title	Session Description
Salons 10/11	Deciphering the Code for Council Behaviour	Join Alifeyah Gulamhusein, Partner with Brownlee LLP and co-author of <i>Councillor Codes of Conduct: A Guide For Municipalities</i> developed for ABmunis and RMA with the support of municipal Affairs. Alifeyah will share her wisdom and experience on how councils can use codes more effectively. The session will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When and when not to use the codes • The importance of understanding a clear process for implementing the codes • How to participate fully in the code process even when things get awkward (which they will) • Dealing with social media • Other tips to help implement codes so that they help, not hinder council's important work
Salon 8	The Council-CAO Bargain	There are different types of CAOs just like there are different types of councils. The question is how well your council and CAO are aligned in understanding the level of advice and service you expect from your CAO. Does your CAO feel empowered, or do they hold back in providing advice and taking action out of caution for the security of their job? This session, hosted by the Local Government Administration Association of Alberta, will feature a panel of experienced CAOs who will share advice on how your council can avoid misunderstandings and get the most out of your CAO. If your council is considering terminating your CAO, the panel will also offer suggestions on how you can set yourself up for success with your next CAO.
Salon 4	Bright Lights, Small Town! Attracting film productions to your municipality	In 2022 the Town of Didsbury, the Town of Sundre, and Mountain View County started a project that was not only meant to leverage the film industry opportunities, but to capitalize on attracting tech talent and companies that cater to the film industry. In 2023 the project was finalized and the first rural Alberta film office opened its doors, the Mountain View Regional Film Office. Learn first-hand if the film industry is a good fit for your community. From being discovered, the challenges and considerations that will have a major impact on your community, your staff, and resources. The movies are here, now what?!

Salon 9	Prepping for EPR: The Time in Now!	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) shifts the physical and financial burden of collecting, sorting, processing, and recycling away from municipal governments and taxpayers to the producers. Producers now have an incentive to reduce packaging waste in products and to use more recyclable materials. EPR is one part of the transition to a circular economy—where waste is designed out of the system. Learn about the issues around transitioning recycling responsibility from municipalities to producers.
Salon 12	Emergency Disaster Management – Presented/Led by the Town of Edson and City of Grande Prairie	Collaboration is essential during an emergency. Looking back at the 2023 hazard season, this session will look at the importance of collaboration within a municipality as well as between municipalities during a disaster. The Town of Edson will highlight the importance of collaboration between council and administration, and the City of Grande Prairie will showcase the city’s relationship with the County of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview.