

Session Information

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 9:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF RESPECT IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND BEYOND

Wednesday, September 25
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
MARQUIS (HARVEST CENTRE)

Municipal leaders, it's time to turn the tide on disrespectful behaviour! Join us for a session hosted by ABmunis' Municipal Governance Committee where you'll get practical tips from elected officials who actively use social media to discuss issues with residents. The session will also feature tips from the Alberta Ombudsman on procedural fairness and how to respond to residents who make a habit of questioning your municipality's decisions. Elevate your game to inform residents and foster more positive and respectful conversations in your community. Also, hear what ABmunis has planned to encourage civic participation in the lead-up to the 2025 municipal election.

WATER WISDOM: LOCAL CONTEXTS AND CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Wednesday, September 25
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
FRONTIER

Ready to dive into water conservation? This session kicks off with a splash — an overview of ABmunis' refreshed water conservation policy! We will then wade into the diverse strategies that various communities, including First Nations and municipalities, have adopted to conserve water in light of different climates and aging infrastructure. Leave this session with a bucketful of practical ideas that you can pour right into your community's water management efforts.

BUILDING HOUSING TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES & IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY

Wednesday, September 25
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
SALON A

Despite record-setting housing starts, housing supply in Alberta is failing to keep up with rapid population growth and housing affordability is at risk of slipping away for many Albertans. This panel will discuss what is being or can be done in communities across the province to address the challenge and ensure Alberta municipalities remain affordable places for people to live.

YES, AND? IMPROV-ING YOUR WAY TO MUNICIPAL SUCCESS

Wednesday, September 25
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
SALON B

Join Atomic Improv for this lively, interactive workshop focused on embracing the art of improv comedy and how it can help your leadership. Attendees will explore the core principle of "Yes, And" which encourages acceptance and building upon others' ideas. This session is ideal for those leaders looking to boost their confidence, creativity, and ability to think on their feet, all while having a great time. Learn how you can take "Yes, And" back to your community and help with your administration and council dynamics.

Session Information

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

CAO/CFO SESSION

STEERING THE GOVERNANCE SHIP THROUGH ELECTION WATERS

Wednesday, September 25
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
HEARTLAND (HARVEST CENTRE)

As election season approaches, maintaining strong governance can be challenging, with the natural pressures of political campaigns and increased public attention. This session is designed to explore practical strategies for preserving the integrity, stability, and operational efficiency of local governments during this critical period to make sure the final year of the term is highly productive.

We will discuss:

- The importance of maintaining non-partisan operations during campaigns, and processes to support this.
- Strategies for upholding transparency, accountability, and trust with the public and stakeholders.
- Managing council dynamics when political agendas intensify.
- Best practices for transitioning governance structures to prepare candidates and to onboard.

This session will offer practical advice, real-world examples, and opportunities for discussion to help ensure that governance continues to function effectively, regardless of election outcomes, ensuring the long-term sustainability and credibility of local government operations.

ENABLING HOUSING CHOICE

Wednesday, September 25
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
FRONTIER

Rural housing is a whole different ballgame! Attend this informative session by the Rural Development Network (RDN) to learn how RDN is redefining perceptions of housing choice and diversity in rural communities. RDN will describe the community engagement practices that were used to better understand the local housing situation and its unique barriers, challenges, and opportunities. They will also talk about how they worked with administration to review and update local policy, bylaws, and processes to facilitate diverse housing developments. Lastly, the RDN will share its Guidebook for Enabling Housing Choice in Rural Alberta to help other communities across rural Canada kickstart their own housing developments.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

DUSTING OFF THE BALLOT BOX: PREPARING A SUCCESSFUL AND POSITIVE ELECTION IN A SMALLER COMMUNITY

Wednesday, September 25
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
MARQUIS (HARVEST CENTRE)

Small community, big election? No problem! This session is your roadmap to navigating the unique challenges of municipal elections in smaller communities—from attracting candidates to addressing misconceptions and safeguarding your community’s reputation. We’ll shine a light on practical solutions that will help you deliver a smooth, positive election experience that everyone can be proud of.

ELECTRICITY MARKET UPDATE

Wednesday, September 25
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
SALON B

Feeling in the dark about electricity costs? Flip the switch on your understanding of costs, and what drives the regulated portion of utility bills. Hear from electricity experts explaining their role in the electricity system, sharing new developments that impact costs, and answering your questions on the electricity market. We will also share work that ABmunis has been doing to advocate for more affordable power bills. Plug into this session to energize your knowledge and empower your community!

A COLLABORATION CAROL: THE RED DEER STORY

Wednesday, September 25
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
HEARTLAND (HARVEST CENTRE)

Gather Ye Round! Elected officials and administrators from the City and County of Red Deer will recount how they broke the chains to ghosts of relationships past to summon a collaborative intermunicipal relationship. Panelists will share successes and lessons learned from present initiatives and how they are setting the table for collaboration yet to come. From recreation to reconciliation, hear practical examples of how municipalities can think beyond boundaries to benefit residents one and all!

THE COUNCIL-CAO RELATIONSHIP: ENSURING EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE THROUGH RESPECT AND COLLABORATION

Wednesday, September 25
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
SALON A

The success of a municipality depends heavily on the relationship between council and its only employee, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). This session will feature a panel of seasoned municipal leaders who will discuss the nuances of this critical relationship. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the pressures faced by the CAO, and how council can best support their CAO to achieve the community’s strategic objectives. Through real-world examples, this session will highlight best practices for fostering a healthy working relationship between council and the CAO characterized by clear communication, trust, mutual respect, and strategies. Participants will also leave with strategies on how to avoid common pitfalls that can undermine the CAO’s effectiveness and the council’s ability to govern effectively.

Hosted by LGAA

Session Information

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 1:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.

UNPACKING EPR: CHALLENGES, PROGRESS, AND NEXT STEPS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT

Thursday, September 26
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
SALON A

Join us for an insightful discussion on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as the transition to producers taking more responsibility for waste continues. Industry leaders will share their unique perspectives on EPR, detailing their specific roles in shaping and implementing this initiative. This session provides a valuable opportunity to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of the future of waste management in Alberta and what it means for your municipality.

MAKING THE CASE: ENHANCING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

Thursday, September 26
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
FRONTIER

In an increasingly polarized world, municipal officials of every stripe are having a rough ride. This session will ask participants to talk about current challenges, as well as identify solutions and needs. We will also give a high-level overview of Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association (AMHSA) resources designed to promote both physical and psychological safety in the workplace, so you can stay happy and healthy for your next rodeo. Please bring a smart (but silent!) device to participate in an interactive poll.

VILLAGES AND SUMMER VILLAGES: INNOVATION IN CONVERSATION

SALON B

Thursday, September 26
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Hear from fellow villages and summer villages on the practical ways they are approaching:

- Public engagement
- Housing
- Building networks of listeners and supporters
- Driving the ABmunis bus

This is your chance to swap stories, share ideas, and give feedback on how ABmunis is working on your behalf. Not everyone needs to actively participate, but participation will be rewarded...

Session Information

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 1:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.

TOWNS: COMMUNICATING IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

Thursday, September 26
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
MARQUIS (HARVEST CENTRE)

Your towns' representatives on ABmunis Board will lead an interactive session featuring stories from your peers about how they are effectively engaging with citizens on challenging topics including:

- Infrastructure failures
- Natural disasters
- Polarized communities and misinformation

The session will provide real life examples of how factual dialogue during tense times can support a safe and reliable environment for residents. Come prepared to test your knowledge of your fellow towns for a chance to win prizes.

CITIES GAMESHOW: THE MOST MID-SIZED SHOW ON EARTH

Thursday, September 26
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
HEARTLAND (HARVEST CENTRE)

Attention all cities and large specialized municipalities: join us for the first-ever Cities Game Show - and if V.P. Bresseley has his way, it won't be the last. Be a contestant, or heckle (respectfully) from the crowd, in several mini game shows designed to build and test your knowledge of Alberta's cities, your priorities, and how ABmunis serves you. There's a chance you will come away with a prize and a guarantee you will come away with facts (you didn't know you wanted to know).