February 21, 2019

Craig Curtis

City Manager

City of Red Deer

4914 - 48 Avenue
Red Deer, AB, Canada T4N 3T4

Dear Mr. Curtis:

Every year, AUMA members have the opportunity to submit resolutions on issues of importance to them. These resolutions are then presented, debated, and voted on by our members at the fall convention. If passed, the resolutions remain active for three years, after which time they expire. On behalf of AUMA’s Board, I am pleased to provide information on the outcomes of the City of Red Deer’s expired 2015 resolutions.

The resolution entitled “Enhanced Provincial and Municipal Homelessness Response” called for AUMA to urge the Province of Alberta to:

* Continue to work collaboratively with local communities and organizations toward long-term strategies;
* Focus additional resources and strategies toward enhanced assertive supports for people declining access to housing first supports; and
* Target additional resources for emergency response strategies, including day supports, necessary to address the needs of Alberta’s entrenched in street homelessness.

There was a significant amount of success on this resolution, though AUMA will continue to advocate for municipalities to receive the supports it needs to tackle homelessness. As part of their 2016 budget, the province increased funding for homeless and outreach support services by $3.4 million, bringing the annual total to $127 million. In addition, $1.1 billion was provided over five years for affordable, social, and supportive housing. The province's actions were supported by parallel actions from the federal government, including:

* Increasing funding for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy by $111.8 million over two years;
* Doubling the federal funding under the Investment in Affordable Housing to $504.4 million over two years; and
* Signing an 18-year deal with the province to provide funding to support existing social housing units.

A second resolution entitled “New Building Canada Fund” called for AUMA to urge the Government of Alberta to:

* Honour the intent of the program to facilitate the necessary building of municipal infrastructure in communities across Canada and create a program eligibility list for the New Build Canada Fund that is based on municipal priorities and not the list of capital projects for the provincial government; and
* Provide provincial matching funds to projects that meet the federal government criteria and are successful through the application process.

In their 2016 budget the federal government launched the Investing in Canada Program which committed to invest $180 billion over 12 years in five key infrastructure priorities: public transit, green infrastructure, social infrastructure, trade and transportation infrastructure, and rural and northern community’s infrastructure. In April of 2018 the provincial government signed a bilateral agreement to allocate the roughly 3.8 billion, which would be going to Alberta under the program.

AUMA has been heavily involved with the province throughout the rollout of this program. While we are encouraged by the money being allocated we have raised a number of concerns including a lack of matching provincial funding in some areas, such as recreation and culture. We have also raised concerns about the lack of transparency from the province in how these funds are being allocated and the lack of communication with municipalities that have applied. AUMA held a joint webinar with Alberta Infrastructure to inform municipalities about the program when it was first launched. We have also set up an [information page](https://auma.ca/advocacy-services/programs-initiatives/investing-canada-program) on our website about the program. This will remain an important focus of AUMA going into 2019 and beyond as funding for infrastructure is a top priority for us and our members.

If you have any questions about this resolution, please contact AUMA’s advocacy team at advocacy@auma.ca. Further details on AUMA’s advocacy and the province’s response can be found in AUMA’s resolution library on our website.

Yours truly,



Dan Rude CPA, CGA

AUMA CEO