



ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister
Government House Leader
MLA, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre*

DEC 09 2020

Barry Morishita, President
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
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Edmonton AB T6E 6E6
president@auma.ca

Dear Barry Morishita:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association's (AUMA's) 2020 Annual Convention resolutions related to Environment and Parks. I welcome the opportunity to provide the following information.

Providing a Long-Term Source of Financial Relief for Albertans (Give it Back)

Environment and Parks staff have reviewed the extended producer responsibility (EPR) resolution and look forward to hearing more about AUMA's efforts to engage member municipalities on this matter. As department staff will be meeting with stakeholders on EPR in the new year, I encourage you to contact Heather von Hauff, Executive Director of Water and Waste Policy, in Edmonton, at 780-399-3499, or at heather.vonhauff@gov.ab.ca, to discuss the resolution in detail.

Sustainable Funding for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Alberta recognizes that the current standards and guidelines for managing drinking water systems are most appropriate for large municipal systems, and financially challenging for smaller municipalities. To help municipalities with less than 45,000 people finance key infrastructure, the Government of Alberta administers two funding programs under Alberta Transportation:

- The Alberta Municipal Water Wastewater Partnership, which funds treatment plants and has a three-year budget of \$57 million.
- The Water for Life program, which supports the development of regional pipelines (often operated by a regional water commission) and has a three-year budget of \$151 million.

Both funding programs are oversubscribed and there are no plans to expand the programs' criteria to include water co-ops. More information on the programs is available at www.alberta.ca.

More than 85 per cent of the province's population receive their drinking water from municipal systems regulated by Environment and Parks. The remainder of Albertans' potable water needs are served by non-municipal drinking water systems regulated by Alberta Health.

To discuss this resolution further, please contact Corinne Kristensen, Acting Director of Drinking Water/Wastewater, in Edmonton, at 780-427-9116, or at corinne.kristensen@gov.ab.ca.

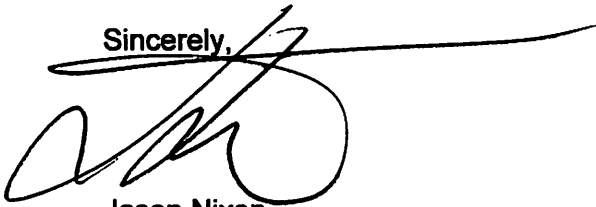
Increase Provincial Flood Mitigation and Mapping Standards

To fully understand the potential implications of the AUMA's proposed flood mitigation and mapping standards, the government would need to engage extensively with internal and external stakeholders. In addition, this policy shift (from the 1:100 to the 1:200 year flood standard) would impact numerous provincial initiatives, such as the Flood Hazard Identification Program, the Alberta Community Resilience Program and the Disaster Recovery Program.

AUMA members can choose to voluntarily exceed the current provincial flood standard within their jurisdiction. I encourage you to contact Carcey Hincz, Executive Director of Environmental Knowledge and Prediction, in Edmonton, at 780-638-3066, or at carcey.hincz@gov.ab.ca, to further discuss the resolution's implications for provincial interests, flood-prone municipalities and the public.

Thank you again for providing me with the AUMA's resolutions. The Alberta government values its longstanding relationship with the AUMA and its membership. I remain committed to working with the AUMA alongside my colleagues, the Minister of Transportation and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, to find long-term solutions to the pressing issues discussed in this letter. Some aspects of these issues may be well-suited to discussion in a working group, which will require participation from AUMA, Environment and Parks, Municipal Affairs, and Transportation.

Sincerely,



Jason Nixon
Minister

cc: Honourable Sonya Savage
Minister of Energy

Honourable Ric McIver
Minister of Transportation

Honourable Tracy Allard
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Honourable Dale Nally
Associate Minister of Natural Gas and Electricity

Carcey Hincz
Environment and Parks

Corinne Kristensen
Environment and Parks

Heather von Hauff
Environment and Parks