

# 2019 RESOLUTIONS BOOK

AUMA Annual Convention, Edmonton  
September 25-27, 2019

Version 2 – September 11, 2019



TM



TM

WE ARE  
**economies**  
OF SCALE

WE ARE THE  
**support**  
YOU NEED

WE ARE THE  
**experts**  
IN MUNICIPALITIES

WE ARE YOUR  
**advocate**

# 2019 Resolutions Book

## Version 2 – September 11, 2019

**Alberta Urban Municipalities Association**

**2019 Convention  
Edmonton, Alberta  
September 25-27**

**Resolutions Sessions:  
First Session – September 26, 2019  
Second Session – September 27, 2019**

Resolutions for Discussion at the 2019 Annual AUMA Convention

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# AUMA Resolutions Policy

## POLICY NO. AP002

### General

1. Resolutions should address a topic of concern affecting municipalities on a regional or provincial level, and must be approved by the council of the sponsoring municipality.
2. Resolutions must not direct a municipality to adopt a particular course of action, but must be worded as a request for consideration of the issue seeking action by the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (“AUMA”).
3. Each resolution must be submitted:
  - (a) electronically;
  - (b) in the appropriate format;
  - (c) along with council minutes that show proof of the sponsoring municipality’s council approval; and
  - (d) in adherence to the guidelines presented in this Policy.
4. Resolutions may be submitted for consideration at the AUMA annual Convention by:
  - (a) a regular member or group of regular members; or
  - (b) the AUMA Board of Directors.
5. Resolutions shall be in the form:

**WHEREAS ...**  
**AND ...**  
**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (take some action) ...
6. Each resolution shall be written in the following format:
  - (a) A title that is concise yet specific to the issue in the resolution;
  - (b) The Preamble of the resolution (beginning with “WHEREAS” ...);
    - i) must describe the issue or opportunity that the resolution is bringing forward;
    - ii) should outline the applicable legislation and, where possible, the specific section of the Act or Regulation; and
    - iii) should ideally not exceed five clauses.
  - (c) The operative clause of the resolution (i.e. beginning with “IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT” ...) must:
    - i) clearly set out what the resolution is meant to achieve;
    - ii) state a specific proposal for action;

- iii) specify who should be taking the action (e.g. the federal or provincial government, AUMA, or another party) and the role for AUMA that is being requested or proposed; and
  - iv) be straightforward and brief so that the intent of the resolution is clear. Generalization should be avoided. Resolutions that are too general or fail to meet this format may be returned to the sponsoring municipality.
7. Each resolution should be accompanied by background information outlining the issue as it relates to the sponsoring municipality, when and how often the resolution has been submitted in the past, and how the resolution is related to AUMA policy. This material will assist the AUMA Municipal Governance Committee, and later the Resolutions Session, in understanding the issues.
8. Resolutions must be submitted to the AUMA Chief Executive Officer no later than May 31 each year, provided that, the Chief Executive Officer may grant an extension of the deadline:
- (a) if the Convention is scheduled later than Thanksgiving Day in any year; or,
  - (b) if requested by a member, when the Chief Executive Officer is satisfied that valid conditions have made it impossible for the member to submit the resolution by the deadline date.
9. The annual call for resolutions may include information on key issues identified in the AUMA strategic or business plan on which the AUMA Board of Directors wishes to focus and/or information regarding any other matters on which AUMA seeks assistance in the coming year. As well, the annual call for resolutions will remind members that alternatives to Convention resolutions available during the year include bringing Requests for Decisions to the appropriate Municipal Leaders' Caucus and bringing a matter directly to the attention of the AUMA Board of Directors.

## Extraordinary Resolutions

10. A resolution arising from the proceedings of the Convention or related to a matter of an urgent nature arising after the resolution deadline may be considered an extraordinary resolution on a case-by-case basis.
11. A regular member wishing to propose an extraordinary resolution shall provide notice to the AUMA Chief Executive Officer as soon as possible with a deadline of the first day of Convention. The extraordinary resolution must also include:
- (a) a rationale of why the resolution is extraordinary;
  - (b) an electronic copy of the resolution via email that adheres to resolution formatting guidelines presented in Sections 5 and 6;
  - (c) proof of the council's approval for the sponsoring municipality; and

- (d) 1,000 printed copies of the resolution, which requirement may be waived if AUMA determines in advance that there is sufficient time to publish the extraordinary resolution in the Convention handbook, website, or ability to distribute the resolution appropriately in another manner.
12. The determination whether the proposed resolution meets the criteria of an extraordinary resolution will be made by:
- (a) in the case of a proposed extraordinary resolution submitted after the resolution deadline but before the final AUMA Board of Directors meeting prior to the Convention, by the Board on the recommendation of the Municipal Governance Committee; or
  - (b) in the case of a proposed extraordinary resolution submitted after the final AUMA Board of Directors meeting prior to the Convention, by the Executive Committee of the AUMA Board of Directors, in consultation with either the Resolutions Session Chair or Municipal Governance Committee Chair.
13. The criteria of an extraordinary resolution is that it must:
- (a) deal with an emergent issue of concern to the general membership that has arisen after the resolution deadline or just prior to the resolution deadline such that they could not come forward as a resolution in time; and
  - (b) have a critical aspect that needs to be or will be addressed before the next Convention; and
  - (c) comply with the guidelines for resolutions set out elsewhere in this policy.
14. Prior to the merits of any proposed extraordinary resolution being debated, a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s majority vote is required to determine whether it meets the criteria in Section 13 and therefore will be considered at the Resolutions Session.
15. Extraordinary resolutions accepted for consideration by the Resolutions Session shall be presented following debate of the Targeted Scope resolutions.

## Administrative Review

16. The AUMA Chief Executive Officer may return any submitted resolution to the sponsoring municipality to have deficiencies corrected or to clarify details of the resolution.
17. Deficiencies may include but are not limited to:
- (a) absence of any indication of the resolution being endorsed by the Council of the sponsoring municipality;
  - (b) the Preamble includes statements contradictory to the operative clause or lacks necessary details;
  - (c) lack of a clear supporting narrative where the rationale of the resolution is unclear;

- (d) unclear background and Preamble; and
  - (e) incorrect or misleading statements within the resolution or within the supporting background information and/or documentation.
18. Each resolution and accompanying background information may undergo fact-checking to ensure details relating to the resolution are accurate.
  19. The AUMA Chief Executive Officer may request and accept from AUMA staff an opportunity to provide further background material on a resolution.
  20. The return by the AUMA Chief Executive Officer of any proposed resolution for the correction of any deficiencies will not affect its categorization nor will it disqualify a resolution submitted on time.

## Committee Review

21. The Municipal Governance Committee shall serve as the AUMA Resolutions Committee and review each proposed resolution for format and content and may recommend that the AUMA Board of Directors refuse to submit to the Resolutions Session any resolution deemed inappropriate for consideration by the AUMA.
22. The Municipal Governance Committee will notify the appropriate Standing Committee of any proposed resolution(s) related to its policy or policies.
23. The Municipal Governance Committee may:
  - (a) amend the grammar or format of the resolution;
  - (b) consolidate resolutions of similar intent or subject matter;
  - (c) provide comments on each resolution regarding its background;
  - (d) inform the sponsoring municipality where the resolution will materially change or contradict current AUMA policy;
  - (e) recommend to the AUMA Board of Directors that resolutions already adopted and/or forming AUMA policy not be considered at the Convention, and be returned to the sponsor(s) of the resolution(s) with an explanation of the reason for return;
  - (f) refer resolutions back to the sponsor municipalities for deficiencies including but not limited to those outlined in Section 17; and
  - (g) provide comments on each resolution with respect to updates on the policy topic as appropriate and alignment with other AUMA policies.
24. When the Municipal Governance Committee determines that a proposed resolution is appropriate for submission to the Resolutions Session, it shall categorize the resolution as one fitting into the category of either:



- (a) AUMA Strategic/Business Plan Priorities, including matters related to the implementation of the AUMA strategic and/or business plans;
  - (b) Provincial Scope, including resolutions that address matters of significance to all or most municipalities in the province;
  - (c) Targeted Scope, including resolutions that address matters of significance to all or most municipalities located in one area of the Province, region, or municipal members of a similar size;
  - (d) Endorsement Requests, including requests of regular Members to endorse positions they are taking without any advocacy action by AUMA; or
  - (e) Non-Municipal Matters, including matters outside of municipal jurisdiction and therefore not appropriate for presentation to the Resolutions Session shall also be categorized by the Municipal Governance Committee.
25. The Municipal Governance Committee will prepare a Resolutions Book, which will include all proposed resolutions determined appropriate for submission to the Resolutions Session, including the following information on each resolution:
- (a) Number and Title of Resolution;
  - (b) Name of Sponsoring Member(s);
  - (c) Proposed Resolution;
  - (d) Resolutions Category; and
  - (e) Municipal Governance Committee comment (if any).
26. Resolutions will appear in the Resolutions Book along with the Resolutions Session Agenda and Resolutions Policy in the following order:
- (a) AUMA Strategic/Business Plan Priorities;
  - (b) Provincial Scope;
  - (c) Targeted Scope; and
  - (d) Endorsement Requests.
27. The Resolutions Book will be forwarded to the AUMA Board of Directors, and upon the AUMA Board of Directors having approved the Resolutions Book, proposed resolutions assigned to the Non-Municipal Matters category will be returned to the sponsoring member(s) with an explanation of why the resolution(s) will not appear in the Policy and Resolutions Book at the Resolutions Session.
28. The AUMA will electronically publish and distribute the Resolutions Book to members at least eight (8) weeks prior to Convention.

## Resolutions Session Agenda

29. The AUMA Board of Directors, after consulting with the Municipal Governance Committee Chair, will appoint a Resolutions Session Chair.
30. As provided in the Bylaws, quorum for all proceedings at a Resolutions Session will be comprised of representatives of twenty-five percent [25%] of the Regular Members.
31. Prior to the beginning of the Resolutions Session, the Resolutions Session Chair will ask for a motion from the floor to adopt the Resolutions Session Agenda as presented in the Policy and Resolutions Book.
32. Amendments from the floor to the Resolutions Session Agenda will be accepted when duly moved and seconded.
33. A 2/3rds majority of the delegates present will be required to change the Resolutions Session Agenda.
34. If there are no amendments to the Resolutions Session Agenda, resolutions will be debated in the order they are presented in the Resolutions Book. No further amendments to the resolution agenda will be accepted.

## Considering Resolutions

35. The Resolutions Session Chair will introduce each proposed resolution by indicating its number, title, the name of the sponsoring municipality, and the action being voted on.
36. The Resolutions Session Chair will then call on the sponsoring municipality to move the resolution.
37. The Resolutions Session Chair will then call for a supporting municipality to second the resolution. If no municipality seconds the resolution, the resolution dies. Immediately after the resolution is seconded, the spokesperson from the sponsor municipality that moved the resolution will have up to two minutes to speak to the resolution. The spokesperson that seconded the resolution will also have up to two minutes to speak to the resolution.
38. Resolutions must be moved by an elected official from the sponsoring municipality. However, in the event that the elected official moving the resolution is unable to speak on behalf of the resolution, the sponsoring municipality's Chief Administrative Officer may speak on behalf of the resolution at the discretion of the mover.
39. Following a resolution being seconded, Resolution Report comments developed by the Municipal Governance Committee may be presented to the Resolutions Session. These comments must be approved in advance by the AUMA Board of Directors. The

spokesperson shall be the Chair of the Municipal Governance Committee, or the Vice-Chair if the Chair of the Municipal Governance Committee is acting as the Resolutions Session Chair, or a designate as determined by the Chair of the Municipal Governance Committee. Following these comments, the resolution is open for debate.

40. As provided in the AUMA Bylaws, the persons entitled to speak in favour and opposed to a resolution during the Resolutions Session are:
  - (a) those elected representatives in attendance whose municipalities are Regular Members of the Association in good standing;
  - (b) in the event a Regular Member is unable to be represented at the Resolutions Session by an elected representative, an official appointed by motion of the Council to represent it, provided that notice of such appointment is submitted in writing to the AUMA Chief Executive Officer at least three (3) days prior to the date of the Resolutions Session; and
  - (c) upon a motion from the floor or at the discretion of the Resolution Session Chair, a representative of an Associate Member.
41. No debate on accompanying background material and information for resolutions will occur.
42. In the case of a proposed new Policy Position Paper, the Resolutions Session Chair will allow a spokesperson or designate a maximum of five (5) minutes to introduce the new Policy Position Paper and place the resolution on the proposed new policy before the Convention and to name the seconder.
43. Following the initial speaker, the Resolutions Session Chair will then call alternately for persons opposing and supporting the resolution. These speakers will have a two (2) minute time limit and shall not speak more than once on any one question. When no opposing position speaker is available, the Resolutions Session Chair will declare the end of the debate and the spokesperson will be allowed one (1) minute for the closing of debate.
44. If no one rises to speak in opposition to a proposed resolution, the question will be immediately called.
45. A sponsoring municipality may withdraw a proposed resolution when the resolution is introduced but before the motion is seconded and accepted by the Resolutions Session Chair. In this event, the Resolutions Session Chair shall declare the resolution withdrawn and no further debate or comments will be allowed.
46. Amendments, including “minor amendments” from the floor will be accepted when duly moved and seconded. Amendments, including “minor amendments” are encouraged to be submitted in writing to the Resolutions Session Chair prior to the amendment being introduced but verbal amendments will also be accepted from the floor.

47. The Resolutions Session Chair will rule whether or not an amendment complies with the intent of the original resolution.
48. Debate procedures for an amendment shall be the same as for a resolution as set out in Sections 38 to 45.
49. The conflict of interest guidelines for council votes, as outlined in the *Municipal Government Act*, shall also apply to Convention resolution votes for all delegates. It is incumbent upon each delegate to ensure adherence to this rule.
50. Voting may, at the discretion of the Resolutions Session Chair, be by:
  - (a) a show of hands of eligible voters;
  - (b) electronic means; or
  - (c) paper ballot.
51. The number of votes necessary for any resolution to pass is a simple majority of votes cast for that resolution (50 per cent plus one vote).
52. As long as there is a quorum present (Section 30), the Resolutions Session shall not be closed until all resolutions listed in the agenda are debated and voted upon, or the allotted time for the Resolutions Session has expired, unless the majority of delegates present vote to extend the allotted time.
53. Resolutions which are not debated at a Convention Resolutions Session because of insufficient time or lack of quorum will be considered by the AUMA Board of Directors following the Convention.

## Carried Resolutions

54. Resolutions carried by the membership:
  - (a) shall not be amended or modified by AUMA Administration or the AUMA Board of Directors except as provided for below;
    - (i) in the event that AUMA Administration determines that the background information or Preamble are materially incorrect or misleading, Administration may recommend to the Board amendments to the background information or Preamble before further action is taken.
  - (b) which involve advocacy to the provincial or federal governments, or other organizations, will be grouped by topic and submitted to the relevant ministry or organizations. Responses to the resolutions will be referred to the relevant AUMA Standing Committee, which will make a recommendation on any further action to the AUMA Board of Directors; or

(c) which involve other actions by the AUMA, will be referred directly to the relevant AUMA Standing Committee which will make a recommendation on action to the AUMA Board of Directors.

55. The AUMA Chief Executive Officer will collect all advocacy responses and prepare a status of resolutions inventory on the AUMA website. The status of resolutions inventory will include the responses and an indication of what (if any) follow up action AUMA will take with regards to any resolution for which the advocacy was not successful.

56. Resolutions brought forward by regular members have an active life of up to three (3) years if not successfully completed before then, following which they are deemed inactive. AUMA Board-sponsored Policy Position Papers are considered “active” until the AUMA Board of Directors deems them to be completed or inactive.



# 2019 Resolutions

## PROVINCIAL SCOPE CATEGORY

### **AUMA Resolutions Policy:**

The **Provincial Scope** category contains resolutions that address matters of significance to all or most municipalities in the province.

20 resolutions are recommended under this Category.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A1**

**TOWN OF DRUMHELLER**

**Disparity in Transmission and Distribution Charges Across Alberta**

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**WHEREAS** the cost of transmission and distribution of electricity to customers is causing a disparity in prices across Alberta;

**WHEREAS** electricity prices, which are becoming extraordinarily high in some service areas, are regulated by the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for residential, farm and commercial customers in rural and urban areas;

**WHEREAS** in 2018, monthly transmission charges paid by the average residential customer with 600 kWh of consumption ranged from \$19.75 (in more urban service area) to \$24.82 (in a more rural service area);<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS** in 2018, monthly distribution charges paid by the average residential customer with 600 kWh of consumption ranged from \$21.58 (in a more urban service area) to \$81.24 (in a more rural service area);<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS** distribution and transmission rates may be different in each area of the Province because they incur different costs to build, operate and maintain their system depending on how big the system is, how new it is and how many customers are sharing the cost. A distribution company that serves rural areas will cost more than a system that serves urban areas because the utility must build, operate and maintain more poles, wires and facilities to serve each customer.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Province to implement a modernized electrical system that has reasonable and predictable prices in order to support economic development throughout Alberta.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the AUC to reduce the disparity in electricity pricing for transmission and distribution charges across the Province.

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<sup>1</sup> Utilities Consumer Advocate: Electricity Transmission and Distribution Charges  
<https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/electricity-transmission-and-distribution-charges.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> Utilities Consumer Advocate: Electricity Transmission and Distribution Charges  
<https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/electricity-transmission-and-distribution-charges.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> Alberta Utilities Commission  
<https://auc.ab.ca>

**BACKGROUND:**

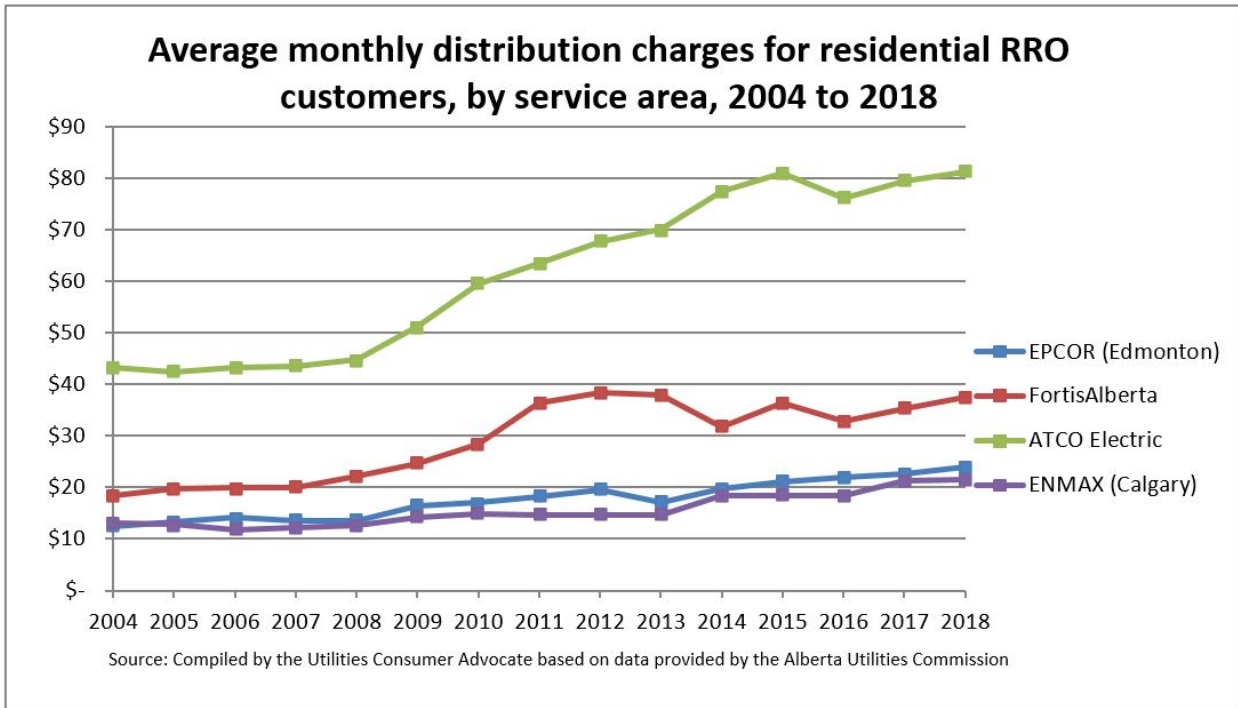
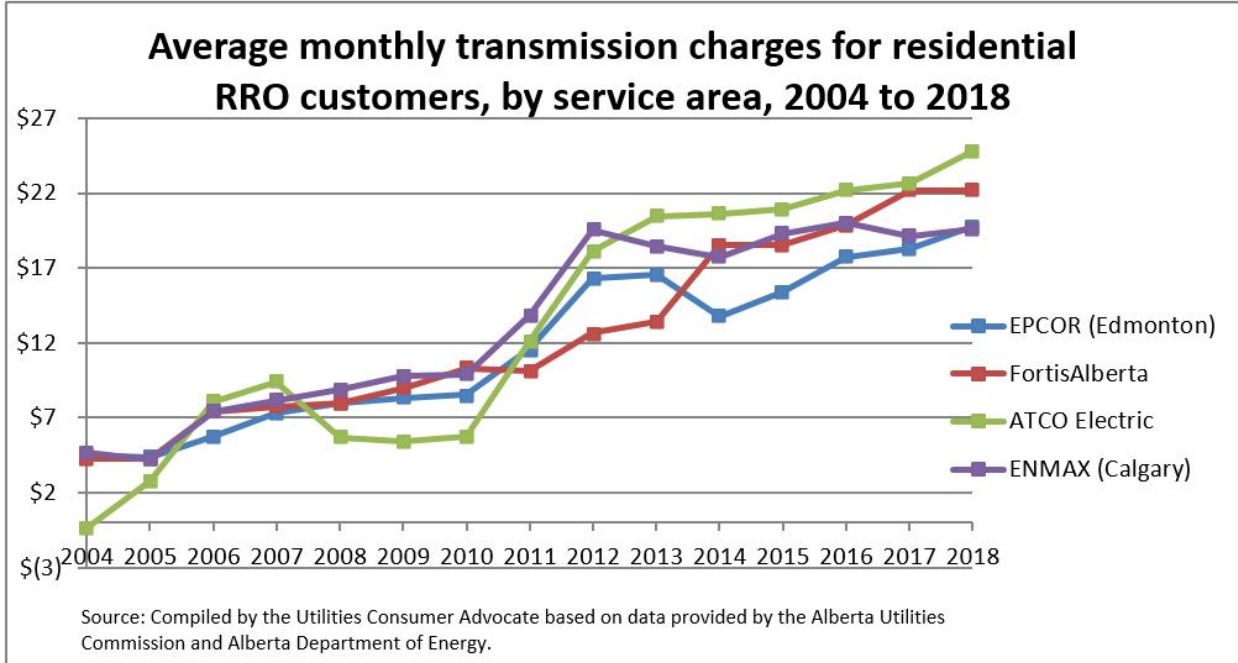
Because electricity delivery is a fully regulated service, the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) reviews the costs in detail and approves the rates to ensure all the charges are fair and reasonable. However there seems to be a disparity in these charges depending on where you live in Alberta. Energy delivery charges include two components: transmission and distribution (in addition to rate riders).

Transmission charges cover the cost of moving electric energy from generating facilities through transmission lines to distribution utility substation transformers. The transmission charge on an electricity bill is based on how much electricity the customer has used and on average is between 14% and 20% of a customer's total bill.

Distribution costs vary with location and consumption. Distribution charges cover the cost of moving electric energy from substation transformers through local lines that carry electricity to the customers' meters. If the service area is large and sparsely populated, one kilometer of distribution line may only serve a few customers where in an urban centre, one kilometer of line serves a larger number of customers. Distribution charges are between 22% and 47% of a customer's total bill.

Energy delivery charges encroach upon 70% of a customer's total bill for the sum of the two components: transmission and distribution charges.

In conclusion, large portions of the Province both businesses and residential endure severe economic penalties based on geographical and population density disadvantages, at a ratio of 4:1 as seen in chart comparisons below. In comparison, local business owners who also have property in British Columbia and Saskatchewan report that both provinces have succeeded in building and operating transmission and distribution systems where landed costs of electricity to end users is 200% - 300% lower than a large portion of Alberta. As the electrical grid for Alberta ultimately operates as a single entity, it is reasonable to distribute those costs equally across the Province. The current system unfairly financially penalizes communities that literally are on the border between providers. Competitiveness to attract businesses to Alberta or outside of major urban centers within Alberta is stunted by disparities in the Alberta model.



**AUMA Comments**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue. We are currently working with distribution companies on developing a new rate schedule for low wattage devices. In addition, AUMA is represented on the Power and Natural Gas Consumers' Panel, which is accountable to the Minister of Service Alberta and responsible for providing advice and guidance regarding current and emerging energy consumer issues.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A2**

**Strathcona County**  
Support for the Energy Industry

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**WHEREAS** in 2017, Canada lost more than \$50 billion in investments through the cancellation of two nation-building energy projects, TransCanada Energy East Pipeline and the Pacific Northwest LNG Project, that represented significant opportunities in capital investment, jobs, tax revenue, and economic growth;

**WHEREAS** the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers estimates the impact of the Western Canadian Select-Brent Crude (WCS-Brent) price differential to be at least \$13 billion since 2016 and as high as \$50 million per day in October 2018, resulting in \$7.2 billion in lost revenue to the Government of Alberta and \$800 million in income taxes to the Government of Canada;

**WHEREAS** the price differential is at least in part due to the lack of pipeline capacity to transport energy products derived from Alberta to international markets;

**WHEREAS** any reduction in the price of Alberta oil in comparison to Brent or world prices has significant impacts on provincial and federal revenue, as well as energy industry investment;

**WHEREAS** many Albertan families and businesses are suffering in lost jobs, income, and property values due in part to the lack of market access for Alberta oil; and

**WHEREAS** Canada’s and Alberta’s energy industries lead the world in environmental responsibility, and human rights and labour standards.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to further develop and implement a targeted, national education and marketing campaign on behalf of Albertans in order to offset foreign protectionism and de-marketing campaigns, regulatory delays, and the combined infrastructure and economic factors that are creating a significant, negative effect on Canada’s local, provincial, and national economies. The elements of the education and marketing campaign include as outlined in “Schedule A.”

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Government of Alberta provide resources to offset the combined negative impacts affecting the energy industry through:

1. the continuation of the Petrochemicals Diversification Program;
2. key energy industry-supporting infrastructure development; and
3. a continued strong presence and advocacy with federal, municipal and foreign governments.

**BACKGROUND:**

The importance of the energy industry to Canada and Alberta are obvious, as is the impact to the local, provincial, and federal economies when changes occur in the energy industry:



- every annual average \$1 increase in the WCS-WTI differential above US \$22.40 per barrel costs the Alberta government \$210 million in royalties;
- for every US \$1 per barrel of oil discounted relative to world prices, there is an opportunity cost to the Canadian energy industry of \$1.4 billion per year;
- for every CAD \$1 million invested and generated in the Canadian energy sector, the Canadian GDP impact is CAD \$1.2 million; and
- for every direct job created in the Canadian energy sector, 2 indirect and 3 induced jobs in other sectors are created in Canada on average.

Given these numbers, the need for the Canadian and Alberta governments to support a strong and vibrant energy sector is clear.

However, a campaign has been evolving over the last decade with the strategy to land-lock the oil sands and prevent it from reaching the international market where it could fetch a higher price per barrel. The US-funded campaign has allegedly given tens of millions to anti-pipeline Canadian green and social justice groups, including Greenpeace Canada and the Pembina Institute, essentially campaigning to rebrand the Alberta oil sands as “dirty oil”. Most recently, references to “dirty oil” were articulated on December 7, 2017 by Quebec’s Premier Legault who talked about “dirty energy” in reference to the oil sands and on December 23, a CBS affiliate in San Francisco reported that tankers may soon be transporting “the heaviest, dirtiest oil on the planet, tar sands crude from Alberta, Canada.”

On October 12, 2018, the Northern Alberta Mayors and Reeves Caucus hosted a presentation by a Canadian researcher. The presentation provided concerns about foreign interests funding environmental work in Canada with the intent to block development in the Canadian energy sector in order to protect foreign investments and market share. Further concerns included foreign charities providing inaccurate and misleading information on the Canadian energy sector via public relations campaigns.

While cross-border market competition and public relations marketing campaigns are an unavoidable reality in the energy sector, it is Strathcona County’s perspective that the best remedy for strong market competition and inaccurate public relations messaging affecting the Canadian energy sector is strong support and investment by the federal, provincial, and local governments. Comprehensive and relevant messaging by these important entities contributes to a more balanced public conversation in the marketplace and in political decision-making circles about the current and future impacts, disadvantages, and opportunities in Canada’s energy industry.

On December 2, 2018, the Government of Alberta mandated a short-term reduction in oil production to defend Alberta jobs and the value of energy resources. Starting in January 2019, production of raw crude oil and bitumen will be reduced by 325,000 barrels per day to address the storage glut, representing an 8.7 per cent reduction. The Alberta Energy

Regulator will review the reduction amount every month to make sure production is in balance with transportation and storage capacity.

A resolution similar to this one was approved by the Rural Municipalities Association on March 20, 2019 with a majority of 98.8%.

Schedule A:

The elements of the properly resourced evidence-based education and marketing initiative include:

- a. promote the world leading environmental, humans' rights, and labour standards of the Alberta energy industry and its importance as an economic backbone of the country for jobs and supporting social programs;
- b. highlight our energy industry as one of one of innovation, economic opportunity, and environmental sustainability;
- c. educate the Canadian public on foreign de-marketing campaigns targeted at the Alberta and Canadian energy industry;
- d. educate the public on the reality that wind, solar and alternative sources of energy are not currently able to supply the world's energy needs;
- e. educate the Canadian public on the unethical and hypocritical aspects of the energy de-marketing campaigns; and
- f. educate the Canadian public on the benefits of the Alberta energy industry beyond traditional uses such as transportation, but as underlying element in over 6000 products from life-saving drugs, to computer components, to supporting alternative sources of energy.

**AUMA Comments:**

In recent years, AUMA members have adopted several resolutions in support of Alberta's oil and gas sector on everything from market access to support for individual pipeline projects. AUMA, in partnership with other provincial and territorial associations and municipalities, launched the Resource Communities of Canada Coalition (RCC) earlier this year. RCC conducted its first major advocacy effort at the 2019 FCM Conference in Quebec City focused on the [Support Canadian Energy Campaign](#). The RCC and campaign continue to build momentum.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A3**

**Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo**  
Procurement Options

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**WHEREAS** the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and the New West Partnership Trade Agreement have been established as domestic trade agreements;

**WHEREAS** these trade agreements are restrictive as they relate to procurement process and do not consider opportunities or options for local sourcing by municipalities;

**WHEREAS** local sourcing could be beneficial for several Alberta municipalities as they would be supporting their own economy; and

**WHEREAS** local sourcing would allow that local contractors that pay taxes and employ local people be given priority based on pricing, capacity and capabilities.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT AUMA** advocate for the Government of Alberta to consider options that would permit greater opportunities for local sourcing when negotiating trade agreements.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is looking for an opportunity to support its local economy by reviewing local sourcing options within its procurement processes. One option to meet this initiative would be that a municipality, when contracting out and awarding projects, could increase the amount of dollars spent within the community if local contractors could be given priority based on pricing, capacity and capabilities.

Local sourcing could increase the amount of dollars spent within the individual municipalities, thereby supporting the local business community.

Trade agreements which govern procurement processes, are negotiated at the provincial and federal governments therefore, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, representing Alberta municipalities, is a natural conduit to lobby the respective governments for support in this initiative.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A4**

**City of Lethbridge  
Town of Okotoks**  
Mortgage Stress Test

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**WHEREAS** the Government of Canada through the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions introduced new mortgage stress test rules in 2016 and again in 2018 which applied to mortgage loans made by all federally-regulated lenders;

**WHEREAS** these rules apply a mortgage benchmark rate that is 2 per cent higher than the rate currently offered by lenders in the market;

**WHEREAS** these rules artificially impose a standard that may be required for specific metropolitan areas such as Toronto and Vancouver, but are not applicable to the rest of the country; and

**WHEREAS** these standards have increasingly placed constraints on homebuyers and had a perverse effect on the housing market.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Canada to eliminate or regionally apply the mortgage stress test and return to a 30-year amortization by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Government of Alberta review the lending practices of the Alberta Treasury Branch (ATB) and Alberta Credit Unions to exempt them from the mortgage stress test.

**BACKGROUND:**

A robust housing market provides significant economic and social benefits to all communities. In 2017 in Lethbridge residential construction contributed to 3,291 on-site and off-site jobs, \$225 million in wages and \$504 million in investment value.

Using price to income ratio Lethbridge is one of the most affordable stable housing markets in Canada but changes in government policies, including the OSFI-mandated mortgage “stress test” in 2018 (B21 & B20), have increasingly placed constraints on homebuyers, especially first-time home buyers, and had a significant negative impact on the housing market in most communities in Alberta.

The Federal mortgage stress test was designed to address two overheated housing markets in Vancouver and Toronto but has created significant issues across Canada and especially in Alberta.

BILD Lethbridge Region and Lethbridge & District Association of Realtors commissioned a report to quantify the impact of the 'stress test' on the Lethbridge housing market. The findings indicated:

- New home sales are at the lowest since 2001;
- Residential resale decreased 3.6 per cent in 2018 from 2017;
- Unabsorbed new homes inventory continues to be above the 10-year average and over 11 per cent increase from 2017;
- Following the stress test homebuyers in Lethbridge saw their purchasing power decrease by 17.3 per cent, and an additional 5.5 per cent due to rising interest rates; and
- Housing starts dropped by 27 per cent in 2018 over 2017.

In Okotoks, as of April 2019, there is a total of 230 residential units for sale. Most Okotoks residents are owner households with children. As noted in the 2019 Okotoks Housing Needs Assessment, the overall housing stock in Okotoks is relatively new with 80% of all dwellings constructed in the last 25 years between 1991 and 2016, which supports a large number of residents employed in the construction industry.

The Calgary Real Estate Board recently released a report with alarming statistics for the Calgary real estate market showing residential sales shrunk by 15 per cent in 2018 relative to 2017 and were down 20 per cent compared to the ten-year average.

Low starts equate to less builds which affects trades, suppliers and service professionals. A reduction in building construction and development directly affects jobs in all our communities. Layoffs have already started.

This affects the entire housing continuum and works at odds with the objectives of the Municipal housing strategy. Without movement across the housing continuum, land developers and builders do not build; residents do not buy and sell properties, and renters stay in place. 80 per cent of rental units become available because of people moving to ownership. If people remain in rental situations, not only are they not building wealth, it puts pressure on the rental market and increases the cost of rent in the city making it more difficult for those with lower incomes to find rental units and increases the need for rental supplements and affordable housing.

Alberta credit unions, such as ATB, are following the federal guidelines of the stress test – even though they are provincially regulated and therefore not mandated to follow them. There is an opportunity for the provincial government to develop Alberta made policies.

The Federal rules have locked more-Albertan families out of home ownership and contributed to historic levels of housing inventory which resulted in fewer homes being built and job losses. Housing markets across Canada are not uniform and policy should reflect that.



At the March Municipal Leaders' Caucus AUMA members passed a motion brought forward by the City of Calgary on the same topic. The purpose of bringing this forward again as a resolution is to highlight the significant impact on communities.

**AUMA Comments:**

As indicated in the background, this resolution aligns with actions AUMA is taking in follow-up to a motion adopted at AUMA's 2019 Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus on Regional-Based Mortgage Financing Stress Tests. Actions include letters to relevant federal and provincial Ministers and meetings with the REALTORS Association of Alberta.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A5****Town of Nanton****Outcomes-based Focus for Provincial Regulation of Municipal Infrastructure**

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**WHEREAS** AUMA's vision is that Alberta's municipalities have an enduring partnership with the Government of Alberta that recognizes the shared responsibility to fund the infrastructure that Albertans rely on to maintain economically, environmentally and socially resilient communities;

**WHEREAS** small municipalities with limited property tax bases and borrowing capacity rely upon adequate and predictable infrastructure funding from the federal and provincial governments, particularly in the areas of water and sewer infrastructure;

**WHEREAS** provincial policies and processes implemented by Alberta Transportation, Infrastructure, and Environment and Parks can have the unintended consequence of municipalities building infrastructure that place an unviable financial burden on local rate payers;

**WHEREAS** community economic growth relies upon reasonable levels of municipal taxation and user fees combined with a high standard of public municipal infrastructure and services that meet the expectations of residents, investors and developers; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities rely on tools and resources developed by AUMA, the Government of Alberta and other partners, such as AUMA and RMA's current Asset Management Initiative, to support building and maintaining local infrastructure, but these programs are often oversubscribed.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to engage AUMA and its members in reviewing and amending regulations and policies related to municipal infrastructure to shift the focus from prescriptive requirements to an outcomes-based system that considers economic, environmental and social factors.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** AUMA, the Government of Alberta, and other partners develop further capacity building tools to help municipalities effectively build and maintain infrastructure.

**BACKGROUND:**

In late 2014, the Town of Nanton's aging Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) wastewater treatment plant was facing an unexpected critical failure. An \$11 million federal/provincial infrastructure capital grant package was ultimately made available for a new membrane bioreactor (MBR) mechanical wastewater treatment plant, beginning operation in 2017. With few alternatives provided to the Town in stakeholder meetings with the province and engineers, this recommended option was green lit. A more typical lagoon wastewater

treatment solution had previously been favoured by the Town for its more dependable operational costs, Level 1 EOCP operational requirements and longevity.

There is no doubt that an MBR facility is an environmental leader in wastewater treatment. Fiscal considerations at the municipal level should, however, be something that the provincial policies and regulations consider when providing regulatory and funding approval for new infrastructure.

To avoid an operating deficit under the new system, the average annual wastewater fees for each resident are estimated to increase by 70% by 2020, compared to the costs to operate the former system in 2015.

Former system	New system	% Change
Annual wastewater user fee revenue for operations (2015)	Estimated annual wastewater user fee revenue for operations (2020)	
\$434,000	\$750,000	73%
Average annual wastewater fee for a resident in 2015	Estimated average annual wastewater fee for a resident in 2020	
\$421	\$714	70%

The scale of user fees increases to cover the operation, maintenance and staffing of this facility, in tough economic times, is unexpectedly high and, with hindsight, required far greater analysis from the financial impact angle by all parties involved before the MBR option was greenlit. For example, a community with a population of 2,200 faces an insurmountable objective of building adequate capital reserves to replace an \$11 million facility with a 20-year useful life.

For small communities with major cumulative needs in infrastructure and operational activities, the capital, operation and maintenance cost impact consideration of a specific investment to the tax base must be considered and discussed thoroughly by all parties, even in a critical situation. The Government of Alberta should engage AUMA and its members in reviewing and amending provincial policies and regulations to:

- Remove prescriptive requirements for a particular type of infrastructure (e.g. type of wastewater treatment plant) and replace them with outcomes based requirements (e.g. water quality)
- Incent asset management and full cost accounting practices and, where possible, greater cost recovery from infrastructure users.

In some cases, work with the federal government may be required to address national standards.

AUMA, the Government of Alberta and other partners such as the Rural Municipalities of Alberta and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities should develop further capacity building tools to support effective management of local infrastructure. This could include:

- Templates and guidance regarding the effective management structure options for a major infrastructure project;
- Compiling and sharing success stories from communities of all sizes with a variety of infrastructure issues; and
- Supporting development and review of asset management and fiscal implication reports.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA is actively advocating for municipalities to receive adequate, predictable and sustainable infrastructure funding that enables municipalities to fulfill local priorities. In addition, we are engaged in capacity building initiatives such as our Asset Management Program, which aims to build the capacity of municipalities to manage and maintain community infrastructure.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A6**

**Town of Edson**  
Alberta Community Airport Program

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**WHEREAS** the Province of Alberta has established the Community Airport Program to assist with the funding of existing network of public use community airports;

**WHEREAS** the Community Airport Program provided \$2 million in funding in 2018 to be divided between 72 paved airports within Alberta, but this funding is not secure and is determined within each Provincial Budget year;

**WHEREAS** the cost of funding a community airport far surpasses amounts provided by the Community Airport Program, leaving municipalities with a considerable funding shortfall; and

**WHEREAS** the burden of that funding shortfall is borne by the municipal ratepayer.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to consider review and institution of an aviation fuel fee in order to attribute a portion of the cost of community airports directly to the user.

**BACKGROUND:**

Community Airports are a necessary part of the transportation, economic and emergency services infrastructure which support the success of Albertan industry and residents. Community Airports support regional fire suppression, timely and safe medical evacuation operations, and are hubs supporting local economic development and linkage to our resource-based economy. A lack of adequate and secure funding jeopardizes the ability for these assets to be properly maintained in the most cost effective, long-term manner undermining the success of these facilities and the regional stakeholders which rely on an ever-increasing need for air-based mobility and linkages. This issue affects facilities throughout Alberta with over 72 paved airports competing for funds which are neither sufficient to address the costs of these programs nor secured in a manner which allows for efficient long-term planning and budgeting at the local and regional partnership level.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue. Previously, AUMA advocated for the resumption of the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) following its termination in 2013. Since its reinstatement in 2015, STIP has been the core program which funds the Community Airport Program. In 2012 AUMA also called for the full implementation of the Alberta Small Airport Strategy and specifically noted the importance of providing funding to airports to address the serious need for capital improvement.



**AUMA Resolution 2019-A7 WITHDRAWN****Town of High River**

Release Revised Flood Mapping and Approved Flood Developed Regulation

**WHEREAS** the Bill 27, *Flood Recovery and Reconstruction Act* was enacted by the Province of Alberta in December of 2013;

**WHEREAS** Section 693.1 of the *Municipal Government Act* provides for the ability to create Regulations regarding controlling, regulating and prohibiting any use or development of land in the floodway, as well as establishing authorized uses and ministerial exemptions for a municipal authority or class of municipal authorities from some or all the general provisions of the Regulation;

**WHEREAS** the Alberta provincial flood hazard mapping has not been updated since 1992 and the release of the new flood hazard mapping along with the enactment of the *Floodway Development Regulation* is essential to effective municipal planning;

**WHEREAS** the absence of revised flood hazard mapping and the *Floodway Development Regulation* will continue to result in costly and destructive natural disasters to municipalities, businesses and people in Alberta.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to release the revised flood mapping and enact the *Floodway Development Regulation*.

**BACKGROUND:**

Flooding is one of the most costly and destructive natural disasters. While flooding has been a historical risk associated with Alberta's multitude of rivers and streams, an increase in extreme weather events and population growth has increased the impact of flooding in terms of public safety and the magnitude of property loss and damage.

Flood damages represent a significant expense in recent years for the public, municipalities as well as provincial and federal disaster assistance programs. While the weather cannot be controlled, action can be taken to reduce flood impacts by restricting development in high-risk areas. It is most effective to keep people and property away from the flood water, rather than attempting to divert the flood water.

For municipalities to plan effectively, the Province of Alberta must release the revised flood hazard mapping. The Government of Alberta has made significant financial investments in flood mapping for Alberta, which is anticipated to be in the amount of \$8.7 million. Flood hazard mapping marks out flood hazard areas along streams and lakes using design flood levels.

The flood hazard mapping is not enough on its own to protect the lives and property of Alberta residents. Since 2013, the Government of Alberta has had the authority to develop Regulations controlling, regulating and prohibiting any use or development of land in the floodway, as well as establishing authorized uses and ministerial exemptions for a municipal authority or class of municipal authorities from some or all the general provisions of the Regulation. The Regulation would ensure a consistent, minimum level of land use control in the floodway throughout Alberta.

Steps have been taken by the Government of Alberta to develop the *Floodway Development Regulation*; however, to date, this Regulation has not been released.

In 2014, Alberta Municipal Affairs established a Task Force of municipal government, including AUMA, and development industry stakeholders to provide input on the creation of the *Floodway Development Regulation*. This Task Force developed a discussion paper that includes views on new development in floodways (prohibitions and authorized uses), existing development in floodways (prohibitions and authorized uses/development), exemption provisions and other related policy considerations. Municipalities and other key stakeholders were invited to comment on the Task Force's discussion paper through the completion of a workbook or by attending a one-day symposium to share their views.

In 2015, the Report of the Auditor General of Alberta was released. The report stated that the Alberta Ministry of Environment and Parks (former Department of Environment and Sustainable Resources) needed to improve its processes to update its flood hazard maps and mapping guidelines and map previously unmapped areas at risk. This report affirmed that Municipal Affairs needed to establish processes for controlling, regulating or prohibiting future land use and development in the flood hazard areas.

Despite multiple calls by AUMA, the Town of High River and other municipalities for the Government of Alberta to update the flood hazard mapping and develop a *Floodway Development Regulation*, the same have not been released to date. Without these critical documents, municipalities cannot effectively plan for future development which increases the likelihood of future public safety concerns and property damage losses to Alberta residents as the result of flooding.

**AUMA Comments:**

As noted in the background, this resolution aligns with AUMA's advocacy on flood mapping and regulation.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A8****Town of Rocky Mountain House**  
Extended Producer Responsibility

**WHEREAS** the purpose of municipalities is to foster the well-being of the environment and to provide services that are necessary or desirable, such as waste management, as per Part 1 Section 3 of the *Municipal Government Act*;

**WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta has authority to enact Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) paper and packaging regulations under Part 9 of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*;

**WHEREAS** EPR paper and packaging regulations incentivize producer to reduce paper and packaging waste, consistent with environmental and sustainability goals;

**WHEREAS** robust EPR paper and packaging regulations shift the responsibility and costs of recycling from local government to producers; and

**WHEREAS** recycling provides more than just environmental benefits. It creates jobs at every step in the recycling process. Collecting, transporting, and processing all need people and equipment to make sure scrap tires, electronics, paint, oil, paper and packaging materials are safely handled and recycled.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to:

- expand the current recycling programs,
- establish robust EPR regulations for paper and packaging, and
- work with AUMA to establish a modern recycling framework that sets Alberta on the path towards comprehensive EPR policies.

**BACKGROUND:**

AUMA is already calling on municipalities throughout Alberta to advocate for the expansion of the provincial recycling program. Its campaign to modernize Alberta's recycling regulatory framework asking AUMA members to send a letter of support to their Members of Legislative Assembly. Currently, there are 35 municipalities that have contacted their MLA. In May 2019, the Minister of Environment and Parks shared that he is interested in exploring program expansion.

In late 2018, AUMA and the City of Calgary worked together on a Notice of Motion advocating for an EPR paper and packaging program in Alberta. There are 31 municipal councils that have passed the Notice of Motion, about 70 per cent of Alberta residents call these 31 municipalities home.

Alberta is the only province in Western Canada that does not have EPR paper and packaging regulations. EPR shifts the cost of managing recyclable materials from municipalities to

producers (think Canadian Tire, London Drugs, Shoppers Drug Mart, Proctor and Gamble, Wal-Mart, etc.). Because so many producers already operate recycling programs in other provinces, producers are already incorporating the costs of EPR in their national product pricing. This means Albertans are paying for recycling twice and paying for recycling programs elsewhere. In 2016, producers provided more than \$367 million to fund other provincial EPR paper and packaging programs. Alberta received \$0. According to the Recycling Council of Alberta, an EPR paper and packaging program would save Alberta municipalities between \$65 to \$70 million annually.

In 2013, the Government of Alberta conducted public consultations on proposed designated material recycling regulations. The summary report of those consultations documented strong support for designated material recycling and EPR paper and packaging regulations. Respondents called for further work on implementing enhanced designated material recycling/EPR policy.

Despite the decisive responses from municipal governments, business and industry associations and the general public, the then-ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development did not implement any recommendations from the report.

Alberta municipalities should not be burdened by the provincial government's continued lack of action. It is time for the Government of Alberta to make producers responsible for their paper and packaging and work with Alberta Recycling to make provincial recycling programs more sustainable.

AUMA is asking the Alberta government to step into its leadership role in environmental protection and sustainability, for the betterment of future generations. Alberta can draw on the success of other jurisdictions to ensure a smooth implementation.

The Government of Alberta can use this resolution as evidence of municipal support for a robust EPR program.

**AUMA Comments:**

As indicated in the background, this resolution aligns with AUMA's existing advocacy efforts.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A9****City of Lethbridge**Recycled Content Threshold Levels in New Plastic Products Manufactured and Sold in Alberta

**WHEREAS** 187 countries including Canada are members of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;

**WHEREAS** the Basel Convention focuses on the reduction of hazardous waste generation and the promotion of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes wherever the place of disposal;

**WHEREAS** the Basel Convention is amending the rules to reduce the amount of plastic in the world's oceans, forcing developed countries to deal with their own wastes; and

**WHEREAS** there is increasing difficulty in finding markets for plastic wastes.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to adopt a standard by which new plastic products made in Alberta would contain a minimum of 15 per cent recycled content by 2023.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT AUMA** advocate for the Government of Alberta to work with the Government of Canada and other provinces to establish a national standard and timeline for increased threshold levels for recycled content in plastic products manufactured and sold in Canada.

**BACKGROUND:**

A recent study by Deloitte for Environment and Climate Change Canada shows that only 9 per cent of the 3.2 million tonnes of plastic waste generated each year in Canada is recycled. As much as 2.8-million tonnes ends up in Canadian landfills.

The Chinese National Sword policy came into effect February 2018. Basically, the policy banned import of foreign recyclables. It banned four categories and 24 types on imports starting in 2018. The policy could potentially ban all incoming recyclable materials by 2020. The shift in policy resulted in the ban of the import of 24 types of recyclable commodities. This has resulted in China cutting its imports of scrap plastic by 96 per cent.

This has created huge challenges for marketing the plastics that were collected for recycling in some Canadian municipalities. The limited market demand for the recyclables has reduced program revenue which affects the financial viability of some municipal recycling programs. In November of 2018, federal, provincial and territorial environment ministers agreed to work collectively toward a common goal of zero plastic waste. To this end, the Canadian Council of the Ministers of the Environment (CCME) approved in principle a 'Canada Wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste'. This strategy outlines a vision to keep all plastics in the economy and out of the environment.

In alignment with the 'Canada Wide Strategy on Zero Waste', it would be prudent for the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) to urge the Government of Alberta to enter into discussions with industry representatives to determine a reasonable threshold level for recycled plastic content in new plastic products manufactured or sold in Alberta. Based on information from North American recycling and compounders, a 15 percent post-consumer recycled (PCR) content in new plastics products is recommended.

To transition from a linear economy to a circular economy, the demand for recycled content must match the production of recyclable materials recovered from the residential and commercial sectors. A circular economy prioritizes the reuse of what is already available over the extraction and disposal of natural resources.

CCME will develop an action plan that sets out the measures and actions needed to implement the strategy for ministers to consider in 2019. The plan will be developed in collaboration with stakeholders from across the plastics value chain and with a range of other interested parties.

The strategy identifies as a key result area the need for strong domestic markets and varied end uses to drive demand for recycled plastics. Creating strong market demand will be achieved by mandating minimum post-consumer recycled content in plastics for products that are sold in Alberta, and in other Canadian jurisdictions.

More information can be found on the "Canada Wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste" from CCME:

<https://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/plastics/STRATEGY%20ON%20ZERO%20PLASTIC%20WASTE.pdf>

**AUMA Comments:**

In general, this resolution aligns with AUMA's advocacy for extended producer responsibility programs, which place greater responsibility on producers of goods to reduce waste, increase recyclability of products and increase the recycled content of products.



## AUMA Resolution 2019. A10

City of Calgary

### Waste Management Storage Site Operational Practices

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**WHEREAS** public expectations for safe and environmentally responsible waste management continue to expand, including services and facilities to support garbage disposal, hazardous waste management, recyclables diversion, and composting;

**WHEREAS** Waste Management Storage Sites are facilities where materials are collected or received from multiple sources, sorted, and then either sold for recycling or sent to landfill;

**WHEREAS** operational practices at these sites, including stockpiling materials, may present a risk to public safety and the environment through garbage landslides, fires, and site contamination;

**WHEREAS** there is a potential for Waste Management Storage Sites to adversely impact adjacent properties, present safety and environmental risks to landowners, and increase financial liability to municipalities;

**WHEREAS** these sites are currently regulated by an uncoordinated set of oversight authorities by Alberta Environment and Parks through notification requirements under the *Activities Designation Regulation*, and by municipal authorities through land use amendments, subdivisions, development permits, business licensing, and enforcement of the *Alberta Fire Code*; with neither Alberta Environment and Parks or municipalities having specific operating guidelines or codes of practice for Waste Management Storage Sites; and

**WHEREAS** in contrast, landfills and hazardous waste storage sites operate under an approval, a registration, a standard and/or code of practice, and oversight of the Province.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to work with municipalities to:

- a) Develop the operational guidelines and management practices for the approval and operation of Waste Management Storage Sites;
- b) Clarify the classification of sites; and
- c) Clarify the roles and authorities of municipalities and the provincial government, to improve public safety and environmental performance.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Appropriate solid waste management is important to all Albertans. Public expectations for safe and environmentally responsible waste management continue to expand, including services and facilities to support garbage disposal, hazardous waste management, recyclables diversion, and composting. This creates new business opportunities in waste management. However, municipalities need to be able to ensure that companies operating within their

boundaries do so safely, while adhering to regulatory requirements and reasonable standards.

Waste Management Storage Sites are regulated under the *Activities Designation Regulation* and require a notification to Alberta Environment and Parks. No provincial environmental legislation applies specifically to the operation of these sites, other than general environmental provisions. While Alberta Environment and Parks does have the ability to inspect sites, this is not done routinely. Municipal authorities for these sites are limited to land use amendments, subdivisions, development permits, business licensing, and enforcement of the *Alberta Fire Code*. The *Alberta Fire Code* does contain requirements for stockpile content, height, and separation distance. This uncoordinated set of oversight authorities leads to confusion in jurisdiction, and may contribute to risks to public safety, environmental performance, and financial liability.

There are challenges in defining and identifying Waste Management Storage Sites in a municipality, due to the various land uses under which they were granted approval, different terminology in regulations, and limited coordination with Alberta Environment and Parks with municipal approvals. This may result in gaps in applying the setback requirements for new and existing sites under the *Subdivision and Development Regulation*.

Challenges with operational management of Waste Management Storage Sites can be a concern for all municipalities. The City of Calgary is undertaking work in 2019 to identify potential policy and regulatory controls for Waste Management Storage Sites. However, without a coordinated provincial approach, improvements in one jurisdiction could serve to shift the problem to other municipalities, or create an inconsistent system for businesses. Poor operational practices at sites may impact adjacent landowners, create financial liabilities for landowners and the municipality, resulting in public safety risks to citizens and emergency responders or environmental contamination.

Waste Management Storage Sites provide many positive benefits to municipalities, and their continued safe and environmentally responsible operation should be supported. Businesses in the growing waste management sector support citizen and industry recycling efforts and support the economic well-being of municipalities.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A11**

**Town of Thorsby**  
Regulatory Clarification on Electronic Attendance

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**WHEREAS** the Minister of Municipal Affairs is responsible to promote and ensure good governance within the municipalities of Alberta;

**WHEREAS** clear expectations of the roles and responsibilities of municipal councilors are beneficial to both Municipalities and Residents;

**WHEREAS** section 153(c) of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* states that the role of a municipal councilor is “to participate in council meetings and council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed by council”;

**WHEREAS** section 174(d) of the MGA states that a councilor is disqualified if absent from all regular council meetings for 8 consecutive weeks; and

**WHEREAS** section 199 of the MGA allows for ongoing electronic attendance of council meetings without clear limits or requirements.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Minister of Municipal Affairs to provide regulatory clarification concerning the intent, purpose and limits to the allowed use of the electronic meeting attendance as outlined in section 199 of the *Municipal Government Act* as it relates to the principles of good governance in Alberta’s Municipal Councils.

**BACKGROUND:**

Allowing unrestricted use of electronic attendance of council meetings effectively creates a set of circumstances whereby an individual councilor may meet required ‘attendance’ of meetings while effectively spending the majority, if not the entirety of their time living or vacationing in other jurisdictions. This situation limits their timely understanding of the issues and concerns being faced by residents and undermines public opinion and the credibility of the rest of council.

While the adoption of electronic communications by councils is not only inevitable, but also desirable in many cases, there needs to be clarification as to the role and purpose of implementing these technologies, as well as practical limits to prevent abuse. Facilitating participation of council members who may be at out of town meetings or conferences, or reducing travel costs in geographically dispersed areas, are beneficial uses of these technologies. However, an open-ended allowance of continuous electronic attendance creates an opportunity for situations where councilors are effectively residents for tax purposes only, spending an unlimited amount of time residing elsewhere if they so choose.

While it could be said that these situations are best left to be resolved at the ballot box, this is not a preferable situation for councilors, candidates or voters. By seeking regulatory

clarification of section 199 of the MGA as it relates to sections 153 and 174 from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, we would hope to achieve clear rules for the extent that electronic meeting attendance is allowable. This would provide councilors with a clear indication of what is or is not expected of themselves and fellow councilors. It would provide clarity to potential candidates for municipal office who may not be sure if the expectations of a council role are compatible with their personal plans, and most importantly, provide voters of Alberta with a clear understanding of what to expect from their municipal elected officials.

Municipalities also have the option to address electronic attendance through their procedural bylaws. However, any restrictions included in the bylaw would be open to challenge through the courts. To resolve this challenge, the MGA could be amended to specifically indicate that municipalities are enabled to set restrictions on electronic attendance through their procedural bylaws.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A12****Town of Morinville**  
School Site Procurement

**WHEREAS** the responsibility to provide school sites falls disproportionately to municipalities in accordance to the Alberta *Municipal Government Act* (Sections 661-677 specifically);

**WHEREAS** schools within an urban municipality not only serve the urban population, but also frequently serve rural populations. This places an inequitable burden on urban municipalities for the costs associated with not only providing the required school sites, but its associated infrastructure and related surrounding development uses;

**WHEREAS** urban municipalities face legislative constraints and market conditions that limit their authority/ability in terms of what can be required of developers in terms of future school sites and their development impacts and surrounding uses. It is often the case, that developers must provide the same;

**WHEREAS** the Province has both the ultimate responsibility and the resources to fund public education facilities, and not municipal tax payers; and

**WHEREAS** early engagement in the school site planning process would assist municipalities in preparing for what is required; for example, development planning, future development considerations, financial planning, and assisting with future school siting and surrounding use considerations in a manner that is timely and does not burden local taxpayers.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the AUMA advocate for the relevant Government of Alberta departments (e.g. Municipal Affairs, Education and Infrastructure) to develop necessary legislation, policy, and procedures to ensure productive engagement with Alberta municipalities in the early stages of planning and announcing new school sites.

**Background:**

The announcement of a new school for a community is great news. However, the excitement that surrounds the prospect of a new school usually puts a municipality in the position of scrambling to ensure a site that meets the expectations and needs of all parties involved – i.e.: the Province and the school divisions. Municipalities too often are not involved in the Province's and school divisions' site planning until late in the process or not until after an announcement. These circumstances can place a municipality under a great deal of pressure of delivery of a school site, development considerations, and the financial resources required, which they often have not prepared for. Working with the Province and the school divisions collaboratively and, earlier in the planning process, would give municipalities a better opportunity to plan and prepare for the provision of future school sites. On-going dialogue would also help inform all parties involved, particularly the Province, of the development realities and financial considerations that urban municipalities face in undertaking their roles in school site provision.

**AUMA Comments:**

This resolution renews an expired resolution AUMA members adopted in 2015, which called for a coordinated approach to School Site Procurement. An overview of AUMA’s advocacy on this issue can be found on the [Resolution’s Library](#). In addition, as part of our ongoing work on Municipal Government Act review and change management, AUMA has advocated for provisions requiring Joint Use and Planning Agreements (JUPA) between municipalities and school boards to be enacted. Once these provisions are enacted AUMA plans to work with Municipal Affairs, Alberta Education, RMA, and the School Boards Association to develop tools to support creating and implementation of JUPAs



**AUMA Resolution 2019. A13**

**Town of Okotoks  
Town of Hinton**  
Mobile Home Sites Tenancy Act

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**WHEREAS** the *Mobile Home Sites Tenancy Act* sets out the rights and responsibilities that apply to people who own a mobile home and rent the mobile home site (pad) from a landlord;

**WHEREAS** Service Alberta is responsible for the enforcement of the *Mobile Homes Sites Tenancy Act* and Regulations;

**WHEREAS** mobile home tenants have limited options for obtaining solutions to ongoing issues regarding targeted rent increases, safety and accessibility within the mobile home parks;

**WHEREAS** mobile home tenants' quality of life, including economic and social impacts, may be at risk through a municipality enforcing mandatory improvements to the property owned by mobile home landlords; and

**WHEREAS** a municipality has limited authority or tools to effectively manage quality of life and safety issues arising between mobile home park landlords and tenants; and

**WHEREAS** Service Alberta offers binding mediated resolution services only to regular landlord and tenant disputes under the Residential Tenancies Dispute Resolution Service;

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the AUMA urge the Government of Alberta to conduct a review and amend the *Mobile Home Sites Tenancy Act* to offer Residential Tenancies Disputes Resolution Services to mobile home site residents, to prohibit the potential practice of "economic eviction" of residents by defining such targeted rental increases as an offence and address the quality of life and safety of mobile home park tenants.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2016, the Town of Okotoks submitted an AUMA resolution regarding an amendment to the *Mobile Home Sites Tenancy Act* to offer Residential Tenancies Disputes Resolution Services (RTDRS) to mobile home park residents. This resolution was passed, but saw a limited response from the Government of Alberta over the last three years.

Residents of mobile home park sites across Alberta should be afforded the same binding mediation services as offered to other landlord/tenant situations to bring effective and efficient resolution to tenancy issues. The Residential Tenancies Dispute Resolution Services is a free service offered under regular tenancy/landlord disputes where a tribunal can make decisions and issue a binding order that is filed at court. This service should be offered under the MHSTA also.

The *Mobile Home Sites Tenancy Act* is in dire need of a substantial review or revision to provide for more protections and address safety concerns for tenants. Through the Act, municipalities have the authority to create Advisory Boards to educate and advise landlords and tenants on rental practices, rights and remedies; and to mediate disputes. The Act does not provide municipalities authority to enforce reasonable solutions to disputes that support the safety and quality of life of the mobile home site tenants, who may have limited income or alternate housing options.

Municipalities therefore have no levers to create remedies to issues that are sometimes decades old, and are unable to effectively support tax paying citizens living within municipal jurisdiction. This is a problem that affects numerous municipalities across Alberta—and is a problem in need of immediate provincial attention through dialogue with the AUMA.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA members adopted a resolution on the same issue in 2016, which expires this year. In response to AUMA's advocacy, the previous government indicated that it was considering expanding the reach of the Residential Tenancy Dispute Resolution Service to mobile home site tenants, and to prohibit the practice referred to as "economic eviction". However, it is not known if the current government is willing to do the same. The current resolution provides the opportunity for AUMA to re-profile this issue and learn about the current government's position on this issue.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A14**

**City of St. Albert**

**Advertisement and Promotion of Vaping Products to Youth**

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**WHEREAS** federal and provincial regulations are in place that restrict the advertisement and promotion of tobacco products and specifically ban any such advertising and promotion that is directed at young people;

**WHEREAS** similar regulations are not in place for vaping products in Alberta, but do exist in other provinces;

**WHEREAS** the federal government is contemplating national regulations related to the advertisement of vaping products, yet no timeline for implementation has been established;

**WHEREAS** vaping rates among Alberta high school students almost tripled from 2015 to 2017; and

**WHEREAS** vaping increasingly poses a threat to the progress made on preventing teen nicotine addiction and tobacco-use, and its related health effects place unnecessary costs on the provincial healthcare system and Alberta taxpayers.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to expeditiously amend the *Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act* and/or regulations under that statute, as required to ban the advertisement and promotion of vaping products to Alberta's youth.

**BACKGROUND:**

Vaping is the act of inhaling or exhaling an aerosol produced by a vaping product, such as an electronic cigarette. Vaping does not require burning like cigarette smoking. The device heats a liquid into a vapor, which then turns to aerosol. This vapor is often flavored and can contain nicotine.

Health advocates have raised concerns regarding rising rates of youth vaping. Health Canada states that:

- There is substantial evidence that e-cigarette (a type of vaping product) use results in symptoms of dependence;
- There is substantial evidence that e-cigarette use increases the risk of ever using combustible tobacco cigarettes among youth and young adults; and,
- Children and youth are especially susceptible to the harmful effects of nicotine, including addiction. They may become dependent on nicotine with lower levels of exposure than adults.

The University of Waterloo notes that the percentage of Albertans who are smokers has been steadily declining since 1999, from 26% in 1999 to 16% in 2015. Given that Health Canada

notes that there is substantial evidence that e-cigarette use increases risk of ever using combustible tobacco cigarettes, and that vaping rates are quickly increasing, vaping poses a threat to the progress made on preventing teen nicotine addiction.

The 2016-17 Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey, administered to Canadians between grades 7 and 12 indicates that:

- The number of Alberta high school students who admit to vaping almost tripled between 2015 and 2017, from 8% to 22%;
- 15% of Canadian students in grades 10-12 used a vaping product in the past 30 days, up from 9% in 2014-15; and
- 53% of Canadian students in grades 7-12 responded it would be “fairly easy” or “very easy” to get a vaping product such as e-cigarettes if they wanted to.

The Conference Board of Canada notes that in 2012, tobacco use resulted in \$6.5 billion in direct healthcare costs, and 45,464 deaths were attributable to smoking in Canada. At the time of development of this resolution (April 2019), the Government of Canada is considering new regulations through the *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act* for vaping products that would restrict the advertisement of products by limiting the locations where advertisements can be placed and the display of vaping products in certain retail locations; limiting the content in advertisements; and informing the public through a health warning on advertisements. These changes would ensure vaping advertising is treated similarly to tobacco advertising. Whether these will be adopted or not, and a timeline for implementation is not known at this time. There are no known FCM resolutions on this topic.

Since there is no timeline on implementation of federal legislation, because of the dramatic increase in youth vaping in Alberta, and that all provinces other than Alberta and Saskatchewan regulate e-cigarette use and restrict the promotion and advertisement of vaping products, the City of St. Albert believes this topic is provincial in scope. In Alberta, vaping advertisements are not restricted, and are on display in locations that youth frequent, unlike tobacco products. This includes at the checkout at convenience stores, and outside the store near schools. The Government of Alberta has an opportunity to be nimble and address this rising issue quickly and effectively.

In the event the Government of Canada has established a timeline for implementation, or implemented nation-wide vaping regulations come Fall 2019, this resolution may no longer be required. Alternatively, there may be gaps in the federal regulations that the Alberta Government can address through amendments to the *Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act*. There is also little precedent for municipal regulation of product advertisement in Alberta, with most examples of product regulation existing at the provincial and federal orders of government. Changes to the Alberta *Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act* to regulate the advertisement of vaping products in a similar manner to that of tobacco would effectively eliminate the kind of advertising and promotion that targets young people, and should help to reverse the trend of rising rates of youth vaping in Alberta.

There are no active or historical AUMA resolutions related to vaping.

#### References

Conference Board of Canada. (2017, October). The Costs of Tobacco Use in Canada, 2012. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/publications/healthy-living/costs-tobacco-use-canada-2012/Costs-of-Tobacco-Use-in-Canada-2012-eng.pdf>.

Government of Canada. (2018, June 12). Detailed tables for the Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey 2016-17. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/canadian-student-tobacco-alcohol-drugs-survey/2016-2017-supplementary-tables.html>

Health Canada. (2019, March 13). Risks of vaping. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/smoking-tobacco/vaping/risks.html>

University of Waterloo. (n.d.) Tobacco use in Canada: Alberta. Retrieved from <https://uwaterloo.ca/tobacco-use-canada/adult-tobacco-use/smoking-provinces/alberta>

#### **AUMA Comments:**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A15**

**City of Lethbridge  
Town of Olds**

**Presumed Consent for Human Organ and Tissue Donation**

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WHEREAS there are over 4,500 Canadians waiting for organ transplants, and the time on the wait list impacts their family lives and their ability to live and work as productively as they could if new organs and tissues were available to them;

WHEREAS consent to donate is addressed under the provincial statutes pertaining to organ and tissue donation;

WHEREAS in 2019 the Province of Nova Scotia unanimously passed Bill 133, The Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act, to make organ and tissue donation an opting-out decision and not an opting-in decision;

WHEREAS the introduction of a presumed consent regime, where consent to donate is presumed unless a person has expressly indicated otherwise during their lifetime, would increase donor rates; and

WHEREAS the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) believes that healthy communities are important to all Albertans, in terms of enjoying a better quality of life, managing health risks for individuals, families and communities, and seeing efficiencies in the cost of health care,

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to follow the Government of Nova Scotia and create legislation that makes organ and tissue donation a program that needs to be opted out of and not opted into for adults in Alberta.

**BACKGROUND:**

On April 6, 2018, Canadians were heartbroken to hear the news of the Humboldt Broncos bus crash. Sixteen people lost their lives and thirteen will suffer with physical and emotional scars for life. The day after the Humboldt Broncos bus crash, Logan Boulet of Lethbridge, Alberta, succumbed to his injuries. His parents, Bernadine and Toby Boulet, offered to donate his organs, resulting in six other lives being saved. The previous year, Logan's coach and mentor, Ric Suggitt passed away and was a registered organ donor. This act prompted Logan to tell his parents that he was registering as an organ donor as well. As news spread of the organ donation by this young hockey player, over 100,000 people registered to become organ donors in the days and weeks that followed. To date, this is the largest number of Canadians registering to become organ donors in Canadian history due to one event or one person. What happened following Logan's selfless act, is nothing less than miraculous and became known across Canada as the "Logan Boulet Effect".



The Boulet family is working diligently to spread Logan's message that organ donation is important and now we all continue to be inspired by this young man and his legacy. Logan Boulet had made the commitment to opt into organ and tissue donation and this act of kindness has inspired many in the Olds community to join in raising awareness of this cause. Logan's dad grew up in Olds and Logan's grandparents still reside in Olds, and many residents in the Olds community are part of continuing the Logan Boulet Effect. The Town of Olds encourages its community members to talk to their families and register as organ donors, but this cause impacts every community.

A gap between the need for organ and tissue donation and the documented consent of available donors is a problem in Canada. Every year, too many people die while waiting for an organ donation, and over 1,600 Canadians are added to organ wait lists. There is a difference between intent to be a donor and legal consent. Often people will consider donating their organs and tissues; however, they wait until the time is right. That is often too late for many to do their generous act. According to the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the deceased donor rate in Canada increased by 42% between 2007 and 2016. The Canadian Transplant Association indicates that almost 90% of Canadians say they support organ donation, but only 23% have registered their intent to donate. Though donation rates have improved over the last ten years, there is more to be done, as approximately 250 Canadians die annually waiting for an organ transplant. One donor can benefit more than 75 people and save up to eight lives.

In Canada, notwithstanding Nova Scotia's passing Bill 133 in April 2019, all provinces and territories operate on opt-in, or explicit consent, or required consent systems whereby an individual expresses the intention to become a donor. Presumed consent is sometimes described as an 'opt-out' system for organ donation. It works by assuming that, unless people express a wish otherwise, they are willing to donate their organs. Proponents of a presumed consent approach note that the clear majority of Canadians are in favour of organ donation when asked, but only a fraction of those who are in favour actually register their intent to do so.

There is currently particular interest in organ donation and the impact a change in legislation or policy can have on donation rates. The lack of organ donation is an issue that impacts individuals and families in every Alberta community.

The Town of Olds and the City of Lethbridge would like to co-sponsor a resolution that reverses the current situation and while the choice of donating is still up to adults over 18, the decision would be to opt-out of the program and not be required to take steps to opt-in.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue.

## AUMA Resolution 2019.16

City of Lethbridge  
Provincial Drug Strategy

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**WHEREAS** all municipalities are contending with the social consequences of addictions; and

**WHEREAS** there is no provincial drug strategy to support local communities with the issues resulting from the opioid crisis in particular, and the addictions crisis in general.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to adopt a provincial drug strategy which develops a strategic response to addictions, including prevention, treatment, harm reduction and community safety.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the provincial drug strategy recognizes the uniqueness of each municipality and is flexible to reflect the individual needs of each community.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the provincial drug strategy focus on balanced solutions that reflect the four pillars of:

1. Prevention and Education;
2. Treatment;
3. Harm Reduction; and
4. Enforcement.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The drug crisis has hit our community, province, and country hard. Overdose deaths have been climbing rapidly over the past two years; so much so, they've impacted a recent [Statistics Canada report](#) which shows life expectancy has stopped increasing in Canada for the first time in four decades.

According to an Alberta Health Services report, [Alberta Opioid Response Surveillance Report 2018 Q4](#), "746 people died from an apparent accidental opioid poisoning in 2018. On average, 2 individuals die every day in Alberta as a result of an apparent accidental opioid poisoning. In the most recent quarter, 159 people died from an apparent accidental fentanyl-related poisoning, compared to 180 people in the previous quarter."

When looking at how this crisis affects emergency department across the province, AHS found "in the third quarter of 2018, there were 2,930 emergency and urgent care visits related to harm associated with opioids and other drug use. In the previous quarter, there were 2,974 emergency and urgent care visits related to opioids and other substances of misuse. In the third quarter of 2018, emergency and urgent care visits related to harm associated with opioids and other drug use occurred among 2,460 unique individuals, of whom 13 per cent had more than one visit."

We know that cities across the province are experiencing an increase in homelessness and this goes hand in hand with the drug crisis. According to the [7 Cities on housing and homelessness 2018 Point-in-Time Homelessness Count](#) report, five of the seven cities counted more people experiencing homelessness in 2018 than in 2016. [Lethbridge](#) has seen more than a 150 per cent increase in homelessness since 2016. Of those who identified as homeless, more than 40 per cent indicated they were homeless due to drug and substance abuse.

We are making headway in saving lives and preventing overdose deaths with resources like safe consumption sites, but we need help to implement an exit strategy for those who are battling drug addiction. We know the issues our cities face and what needs to be done. What we need is the support to implement a solution that works. This includes a model of care that includes intox, detox, treatment where drug replacement therapies are utilized, and lastly a sustainable housing strategy that includes ongoing social supports. There are [municipalities](#) who are showing this integrated model works and they are experiencing success in battling this drug crisis.

We recognize that as individual municipalities, we cannot defeat this drug crisis alone. We urge the provincial government to develop an overall drug strategy in consultation with stakeholders so that we can serve the residents of our cities and province to the best of our abilities, in a focused and proactive direction.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue. However, advocating for improvements to Alberta’s mental health and addictions system, including access to supports through a provincial 211 service and action to address the opioid crisis, is a strategic priority for AUMA’s Safe and Healthy Communities Committee in 2019. AUMA members also passed a resolution in 2017 requesting that the Government of Alberta establish a Provincial/Municipal Working Group on Opioids to directly engage municipalities in addressing the opioid crisis. The government responded by appointing an AUMA Board member to the Opioid Emergency Response Commission to represent municipalities. AUMA is also represented on the Valuing Mental Health Advisory Committee, which is overseeing the implementation of the provincial mental health strategy.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A17****City of Red Deer**  
Needle Debris

**WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta, through various agencies, annually distributes millions of harm reduction needles, province-wide, in response to the opioid/drug addiction crisis in Alberta;

**WHEREAS** needles are used by people with specific health conditions and addictions, and the majority of needles are disposed of safely by the people who have used them; however, work is needed to respond to the increased needle debris;

**WHEREAS** while needle distribution is reducing the number of shared needles used, a growing number of discarded needles are being discovered in public spaces such as parks and recreation areas, causing significant public health and safety concerns; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities are being increasingly burdened by the rising costs of needle debris clean-up, and many citizens are deeply concerned for their health and safety.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate to the Government of Alberta for a province-wide strategy for the clean-up and disposal of used needle debris, and for the Government of Alberta to provide additional resources to municipalities to collect and dispose of used needles;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** that until such time as a strategy is established, the Province provides adequate funding to municipalities to respond to these ongoing costs.

**BACKGROUND:**

This issue is being felt by municipalities across the province. A snapshot of Red Deer's experience is shared below.

The Government of Alberta through its agencies distributes harm reduction supplies in Central Alberta. The Safer Injection tools they distribute include syringes, filters, alcohol swabs, ties (also known as tourniquets), sharps containers, individual waters, cookers, vitamin C, and citric acid. The Safer Inhalation tools they distribute include stems and crystal meth pipes (also known as straight shooters or pipes), mouthpieces, screens, and pushes. There was a distribution of 422,675 new needles in 2014-15 throughout central Alberta, and these numbers increased to 529,863 in 2015-16. Based on harm reduction best practices, this is not a needle exchange program, and thus there is no expectation of needles being returned. Based on a historical context, approximately a third of needles are not returned to agencies, although they may also be disposed of through non-tracked means such as private pharmacies or distributed to other communities.

The needles that are unaccounted for represent a significant community safety issue and lend themselves to a negative perception of the places they are found.

Although Alberta's Health Ministry has implemented an effective Harm Reduction program, they have failed to address the resulting community safety impact their program has on the community. This has left the burden of the resulting cleanup process on the municipal taxpayers.

<http://www.reddeer.ca/whats-happening/our-response-to-social-disorder--community-safety/social-disorder/needle-debris/>

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A18****Town of Strathmore**  
Diagnostic Medical Imaging Guidelines

**WHEREAS** communities outside the 100-kilometre radius of major Alberta cities are not allowed certain medical imaging or interventional radiology, which negatively impacts some communities;

**WHEREAS** the current standards for diagnostic medical imaging are outdated, and technology has now advanced to the point that medical imaging can be done with ease from any place where reliable technology can be accessed;

**WHEREAS** the lack of such resources causes significant stress to rural and suburban populations whose members must expend great amounts of time and effort to travel to cities to access diagnostic imaging and interventional radiology; and

**WHEREAS** communities such as Strathmore must utilize significant amounts of funding for ambulance and other medical transport such as Handi-Bus.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to urge the College of Physicians and Surgeons to change their current practice to allow communities within a 100-kilometre radius of Alberta major cities to install diagnostic imaging and/or interventional radiology as they determine it to be useful, requisite, or fundamental to serving the needs of their respective communities.

**BACKGROUND:**

The current standards of diagnostic medical imaging guidelines prohibit the deployment of diagnostic medical imaging equipment within a one-hundred-kilometer radius of a major city (50,000 population). Sending patients to larger centers for basic services is disruptive, and very costly. Using geography to evaluate safety is very detrimental and creates a gap in service to citizens of rural populations.

Allowing medical imaging within the one-hundred-kilometer radius would provide for ultrasound services to communities such as Strathmore and other rural populations. Advancements in technology have made these services practical and readily available. A change in policy would ensure these services are available to residents without the extra burden of travel which is unsafe and costly.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue. However, analysis and advocacy relating to healthcare outside of metropolitan areas is a strategic priority for AUMA in 2019.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A19**

**City of Grande Prairie  
Town of Vegreville**

**Making Children’s Health Care a Priority in Alberta**

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**WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta is spending \$22.1 billion this year on health care, representing almost 40 percent of total budget expenditures and an increase of 2.2 percent compared to the health budget last fiscal year;

**WHEREAS** Alberta’s population is experiencing a high natural growth rate and twenty-five percent of the province’s population is below the age of 18, and by 2041 the annual number of births in Alberta is expected to grow by 26 percent;

**WHEREAS** it is forecast that communities outside Edmonton and Calgary will see significant growth in the number of young people by 2046;

**WHEREAS** children’s health care is unique and requires a different approach than adult care given that children are particularly vulnerable to illness and infection, many of which can have lifelong ramifications if not properly treated;

**WHEREAS** only two out of 106 acute care hospitals in Alberta are dedicated to children’s health;

**WHEREAS** treating children close to home has proven health benefits and can help bend the cost-curve on the overall health expenditures for the Government of Alberta; and

**WHEREAS** the Stollery Children’s Hospital and Alberta Children’s Hospital treat children from across the province (and beyond) and are able to leverage world-class physicians and technology to support treatment of children in health facilities across Alberta.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to support enhancements to existing infrastructure and programming in regional hospitals outside of Edmonton and Calgary in order to provide an increased level of care to children, while recognizing that the Stollery Children’s Hospital and the Alberta Children’s Hospital serve as critical hubs to this growing network of care for children’s health across the province.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to recognize children’s mental and physical health as a priority by making advanced, specialized pediatric care accessible to all Alberta children, regardless of where they live.

Alberta continues to have the youngest population in Canada with nearly 20 per cent of its population between the ages of 0 and 14.<sup>1</sup> Between 2017 and 2025, the population aged 5 to 17 years is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 2.1%.<sup>2</sup>



Alberta's 2018-2046 population projection shows that many regions outside of the Edmonton and Calgary Metro areas will see significant growth in the 0-14-year-old cohort of their population. Specifically; Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge will all see greater than 30 per cent growth in this demographic; Camrose, Drumheller, and Slave Lake will see 20 per cent and; Wood Buffalo, Rocky Mountain House, Grande Cache, Pincher Creek and Cold Lake will all see greater than 10 per cent growth in this youngest portion of their population.<sup>3</sup>

Last year, 44 per cent of Stollery patients came from outside the Edmonton area, while 24 per cent of The Alberta Children's Hospital came from outside the Calgary area.<sup>4</sup>

**Sources:**

1. Statistics Canada. (2018, May 30). Census Profile, 2016 Census Alberta and Canada. Retrieved June 4, 2019, from <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm>
2. Government of Alberta, Office of Statistics and Information. (n.d.). Population statistics. Retrieved June 4, 2019, from <https://www.alberta.ca/population-statistics.aspx>
3. Government of Alberta, Treasury Board and Finance, Office of Statistics and Information. (2018, July 3). *Population Projection Alberta and Census Divisions, 2018–2046*. Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/90a09f08-c52c-43bd-b48a-fda5187273b9/resource/1748a22b-c37e-4c53-8bb5-eb77222c68d8/download/2018-2046-alberta-population-projections.pdf>
4. Provided by Katherine Sweet, Director of Strategic Partnerships with the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue. However, advocating for improvements to Alberta's mental health, is a strategic priority for AUMA's Safe and Healthy Communities Committee in 2019. AUMA is also represented on the Valuing Mental Health Advisory Committee, which is overseeing the implementation of the provincial mental health strategy.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. A20**

**Town of Okotoks**  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police Day

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**WHEREAS** in 1873 the Parliament of Canada established a police force named the North-West Mounted Police to enforce law in Canada’s newly acquired territory in Western Canada;

**WHEREAS** in 1919 the Parliament of Canada voted to form a national police force by merging the North-West Mounted Police and the Dominion Police of Eastern Canada, and on February 1, 1920, the newly formed force was named the Royal Canadian Mounted Police;

**WHEREAS** the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has continued to grow as a police force having jurisdiction in eight provinces and three territories and, through its national police services, offering resources to other Canadian law enforcement agencies;

**WHEREAS** today the scope of services and operations of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Canada has expanded and includes enforcement against organized crime, terrorism, illicit drugs, economic crimes, and offences that threaten the integrity of Canada’s national borders;

**WHEREAS** the men and women of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have given much to our communities in terms of service and sacrifice; and

**WHEREAS** there is a need to recognize and promote awareness of the important history and role of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Alberta.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to declare, in each year, February 1, as “Royal Canadian Mounted Police Day”.

**BACKGROUND:**

The RCMP was founded in 1873 and was originally known as the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. It later merged in 1920 with the Dominion Police in eastern Canada to be the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The service originally was started to bring law to western Canada in the 1870s.

The members of the RCMP should have a day that recognizes the work they do to provide security in our communities and acknowledge the dangerous situations the men and women of the RCMP deal with every day on our behalves.

Manitoba was the first province in 2017 to declare February 1 as Royal Canadian Mounted Police Day.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA does not have a current policy position on this specific issue.

# 2019 Resolutions

## EXTRAORDINARY CATEGORY

### **AUMA Resolutions Policy:**

An **Extraordinary Resolution** deals with an emergent issue of concern to the general membership that has arisen after the May 31, 2019 resolution deadline, where a critical aspect of the issue needs to be or will be addressed before the next Convention.

Prior to the merits of any proposed extraordinary resolution being debated, a 2/3 majority vote is required to determine whether it meets the criteria in Section 13 and therefore will be considered at the Resolutions Session.

Extraordinary resolutions accepted for consideration by the Resolutions Session shall be presented following debate of the Provincial Scope resolutions.

1 resolution is recommended under this Category to date.

**AUMA Resolution 2019. E1**

**Town of Peace River**  
Taxation of Intermunicipal Cost Sharing Agreements

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**WHEREAS** Section 55(1) of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) permits a municipality to enter into an agreement with another municipality to share grants paid under section 366 or taxes; and

**WHEREAS** the Canada Revenue Agency’s (CRA) GST/HST Technical Bulletin B-067 provides that a transfer payment made for a public purpose does not constitute a taxable supply; and

**WHEREAS** the CRA has recently determined that a cost share agreement may constitute a taxable supply; and

**WHEREAS** Part 17.2 of the *MGA* requires the establishment of intermunicipal collaboration frameworks that include cost sharing agreements for infrastructure and services that provide mutual benefit; and

**WHEREAS** there now exists a situation whereby municipalities are required to enter into agreements with no clear provision for ascertaining the taxation status of matters within the agreements.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the AUMA engage with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, other municipalities and municipal organizations to advocate for the CRA to officially confirm intermunicipal cost sharing arrangements and resulting fund transfers as being made for a public purpose and therefore not constituting a taxable supply; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AUMA provide material assistance in the preparation of the Appeal to the Minister.

**BACKGROUND:**

The CRA Technical Bulletin B-067 exempts payment of GST for grants, subsidies and transfer payments on several grounds, including when:

- a. The transfer is made for a public purpose;
- b. No direct benefit is provided to the grantor or a specified third party;
- c. The payment is not for a purchase purpose;
- d. The transfer payments are part of a regular, on-going program of financial support
- e. The grantor is not a commercial organization; and
- f. No supply was made solely for the purposes of accountability by any party.

In July 2019, the CRA upheld an auditor’s report which found that items on intermunicipal cost share agreements constituted “supply”. Specifically cited was language within the agreement which, while establishing the agreement as being for regional benefit, specified

that the signatories would “provide access to regional assets, programs and services to each other’s residents in a manner that does not discriminate between them.”

The CRA holds that the clause constituted a “supply of access” under the *Excise Tax Act*, S. 146(e) even though no direct benefit was provided such as preferential rates, right of access, purchase of service, nor other form of supply. This ruling contradicted a previous CRA assessment in 2011 when the same clauses were in effect and the auditor at that time did *not* assess the agreements as ‘supply’.

CRA further applies this interpretation to transfers outside the specified agreements. For example, where the cost share agreement covered Recreation Programs and arena operating costs, CRA assessed GST on \$8,000,000 in capital contributions to a new multiplex. Additional examples of areas assessed, but outside the specified agreements, include:

- a. Contributions to the Healthcare Attraction and Retention Committee;
- b. Costs for an RCMP Liaison Officer;
- c. Fire Hall Lease cost share;
- d. Canada Day Fireworks contribution; and

This finding potentially affects all Alberta municipalities given that:

1. There is no longer surety with respect to how CRA is determining ‘public purpose’. With the requirement to develop Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks, it is now unclear as to which items should or will be assessed as taxable supply.
2. Related clauses in any existing agreements expose municipalities and other public bodies to risk of reassessment.
3. Adjustment, collection and remittance of GST assessed under this interpretation imposes a substantial burden on municipalities in terms of manpower and short-term expenditure.
4. The inconsistency within the interpretation of agreements and the Technical Bulletin results in accounting firms being unable to appropriately advise their clients as to their financial obligations. As a result, municipalities are severely hampered in their ability to provide accurate annual financial statements to the Province

While this finding currently rests on a single case, it establishes a precedent which affects any municipality or public body which has entered into a cost sharing agreement. Given that any GST collected in the course of a cost sharing agreement is reflected by an input tax credit, this finding does not affect the balance of GST revenue received by CRA. It does, however, impair the ability of municipalities to enter effective agreements, appropriately collect/remmit GST, and maintain accurate financial statements.

**AUMA Comments:**

AUMA understands that that the CRA is currently assessing the original audit and is preparing further information for the Town of Peace River. Pending the CRA's assessment, the Town of Peace River can file an appeal. AUMA is actively communicating with excise tax experts and FCM to seek more information and an early resolution of this issue. AUMA will stay in close contact with the Town of Peace River as they move through the assessment and potential appeal process and will provide updates to members through the weekly Digest as appropriate.