



# **Bylaws and 2014 Resolutions**

**Alberta Urban Municipalities Association**

**2014 Convention  
Edmonton, Alberta  
September 24 – 26**

**Resolution Sessions:**

**First Session - September 24: 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Second Session - September 26: 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

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# Bylaws

## Article I NAME

- 1.01** The name of the Association shall be the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, referred to in these bylaws as the "Association."

## Article II PURPOSE OF BYLAWS

- 2.01** The purpose of these bylaws is to conform to the provisions of the *Societies Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. S-14 and to set out how the Association will provide leadership in advocating local government interests to the Provincial Government and other organizations, and provide services that address the needs of its membership.
- 2.02** These Bylaws establish, and shall continue to establish in each and every year of the Association's existence, a fundamental and paramount principle that the Association is owned and controlled by the Regular Members of the Association in every material way, and that the Association's Bylaws, or any other document of the Association, shall be interpreted by the Association's Members, any court of competent jurisdiction and any taxing authority having jurisdiction, in a manner consistent with this fundamental and paramount principle.

## Article III GENERAL

- 3.01** The Board of Directors may establish procedures for convening any meeting referred to in these Bylaws by electronic or other communication facilities including a conference telephone call, facsimile, e-mail or such other technology as may become available.
- 3.02** Notwithstanding anything in these Bylaws, if by virtue of severe weather conditions, a pandemic or other emergency reason, it is impossible for a quorum to participate in any scheduled or required meeting
- (a) the time for undertaking any action, and
  - (b) the terms of office of the President, Vice-Presidents and Directors are extended until the meeting can be reconvened.
- 3.03** When written notice is required to be provided under these Bylaws, the notice may be given by mail, facsimile or other electronic means which enables the recipient to review the entire text of the notice.
- 3.04** The classifications of Regular Members are
- (a) Cities over 500,000 population
  - (b) Cities up to 500,000 population
  - (c) Towns
  - (d) Villages
  - (e) Summer Villages
- 3.05** A reference in these Bylaws to "elected representative" means a member of the council of a Regular Member.
- 3.06** A reference in these Bylaws to a "special general meeting" means a meeting of the membership held at a time other than the annual general meeting.

## Article IV MEMBERSHIP

- 4.01** Any municipality, organization or business which
- (a) desires to further the Object of the Association,
  - (b) qualifies under a membership category described in 4.02, and
  - (c) pays the relevant membership fee may become a member of the Association.
- 4.02** The categories of membership are:
- (a) **REGULAR MEMBERSHIP** which shall be available to any City, Town, Village, Summer Village, or municipality located in Alberta; and

- (b) **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** which shall be available to
    - (i) any municipality not eligible for regular membership
    - (ii) any organization wholly owned by one or more municipalities that are **eligible to be** Regular Members or Associate Members, any municipally-related non-profit organization or special purpose board or commission;
    - (iii) any municipally-related non-profit organization or special purpose board or commission that holds a reciprocal membership that has been approved by the Board of Directors; and
    - (iv) any other local authority or related non-profit organization incorporated pursuant to provincial legislation.
  - (c) **AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP** which shall be available to any company, organization or individual, in or outside of the Province of Alberta.
- 4.03** For purposes of determining membership classification, a Specialized Municipality, Municipal District or County which has a population equal to or greater than the population set out in the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, or any amendments thereto, for a
- (a) city shall be considered a city,
  - (b) town shall be considered a town,
  - (c) village shall be considered a village, and
  - (d) if less than the population set out for a village, shall be considered a summer village.
- 4.04** The Townsite of Redwood Meadows, the Special Areas Board and an Improvement District are eligible for inclusion in the classification of Regular Membership appropriate to its population.
- 4.05** The Board of Directors in its sole discretion may appoint any Past President of the Association and any person who has held municipal office or rendered any meritorious service to municipalities in general as a Life Member.
- 4.06** (a) Subject to sub-clause (b), any member may withdraw from membership in the Association at any time by notice in writing.
- (b) A Regular Member which wishes to withdraw from membership in the Association shall provide at least 12 months notice in writing to the Association accompanied by a certified copy of the resolution of council.
  - (c) Any notice of withdrawal of membership shall be presented to the Board of Directors.
  - (d) A member which withdraws from membership is not entitled to reimbursement of any membership fees.
- 4.07** The membership year is the calendar year.
- 4.08** A “**member in good standing**” is a member in respect of whom the Association has received the membership fee for the current membership year or in the case of a Regular Member evidence of intention to pay satisfactory to the Board of Directors has been received.
- 4.09** For purposes of this section “**Association activities**” means all activities of the Association under its mandate other than business services, and “**business services**” means any product or service provided by the Association to its members either directly or indirectly through a service delivery entity owned by the Association.
- (a) **Regular Members** - Regular Members are entitled to participate in all Association activities and business services, including the right to vote as set forth in Article V.
  - (b) **Associate Members** - Associate Members are entitled to participate in business services and may, on conditions set by the Board from time to time, be entitled to participate in some or all Association activities, not including the right to vote.
  - (c) **Affiliate Members** - Affiliate members are not entitled to participate in business services but may, on conditions set by the Board from time to time, be entitled to participate in some or all Association activities, not including the right to vote.
  - (d) **Eligible Members** (Regular and Associate Member Categories) - Municipalities or organizations eligible for the Regular or Associate Membership categories shall not be entitled to participate in Association activities when not a member in good standing, but shall be entitled to participate in the Association’s business services.
- 4.10** If a member ceases to be a member in good standing, at the expiration of six (6) months from the date for which the membership fee was due, the member shall be automatically expelled from the Association and

thereafter shall not be entitled to participate in association activities or enjoy membership privileges until the member has been brought into good standing and reinstated by the Board of the Directors.

## **Article V VOTING RIGHTS**

- 5.01** The persons entitled to vote at any annual general meeting or special general meeting are those elected representatives in attendance whose municipalities are Regular Members of the Association in good standing.
- 5.02** Each person qualified to vote at any annual general meeting or special general meeting shall be entitled to one vote.

## **Article VI NOMINATIONS**

- 6.01** Nominations shall be conducted in accordance with the election procedures established by the Returning Officer.
- 6.02** To be eligible for nomination a person must
- (a) be an elected representative of a Regular Member in good standing,
  - (b) submit a completed nomination in the form prescribed by the Returning Officer, and
  - (c) be nominated by at least two other elected representatives of Regular Members in good standing.
- 6.03** The persons making a nomination and the person being nominated must be eligible to vote in the election for which the nomination is being made.
- 6.04** The persons eligible for nomination as Vice-President for a classification are the persons who are elected or appointed as Directors for that classification provided that, for purposes of electing a Vice-President,
- (a) the City of Calgary shall be considered as one classification
  - (b) the City of Edmonton shall be considered as one classification, and
  - (c) Villages and Summer Villages shall be considered one classification.

## **Article VII ELECTIONS**

- 7.01** The Board of Directors shall appoint a person as Returning Officer who shall be responsible for the fair and proper conduct of elections.
- 7.02** The Returning Officer shall establish and publish election procedures in accordance with these bylaws and generally in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. L-21 or any amendments thereto with any necessary modifications.
- 7.03** Elections shall be held at the annual general meeting.
- 7.04** The election of the
- (a) President shall be conducted among all of the persons.
  - (b) Vice-Presidents shall be conducted among all of the persons from the relevant classification as established in Clause 3.04.
  - (c) Directors shall be conducted among all of the persons from the relevant classification as established in Clause 3.04 and electoral zone if applicable
    - (i) who are eligible to vote and are in attendance at the meeting.

## **Article VIII BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- 8.01** The Association shall have a Board of Directors consisting of
- (a) the President, and
  - (b) 14 Directors.
- 8.02** The number of Directors representing each classification is:
- (a) two Directors appointed by the City of Calgary, one of whom shall be designated by the City as Vice-President for Calgary
  - (b) two Directors appointed by the City of Edmonton, one of whom shall be designated by the City as Vice-President for Edmonton

- (c) three Directors representing Cities up to 500,000 population
  - (d) three directors representing Towns
  - (e) three Directors representing Villages
  - (f) one Director representing Summer Villages
- 8.03** The Directors representing Towns and Villages shall be elected by electoral zone.
- 8.04** For purposes of establishing electoral zones, the Board of Directors shall group
- (a) Towns into three zones in such a manner that the number of Towns in each zone is approximately the same
  - (b) Villages into three zones in such a manner that the number of Villages in each zone is approximately the same and shall publish the zone information by June 30 in each year.
- 8.05** The term of office for each position on the Board:
- (a) commences at the organizational meeting of the Board following the annual general meeting and
  - (b) continues until the end of the next annual general meeting at which time the position is available for election.
- 8.06** The term of office for the position of
- (a) President is one year
  - (b) Vice-President is one year
  - (c) Director is two years.
- 8.07** (a) The term of office for the following Director positions shall begin in odd numbered years:
- (i) 1 Calgary Director
  - (ii) 1 Edmonton Director
  - (iii) 2 Cities up to 500,000 population
  - (iv) Towns East
  - (v) Villages South
  - (vi) Summer Villages
- (b) The term of office for the following Director positions shall begin in even numbered years:
- (i) 1 Calgary Director
  - (ii) 1 Edmonton Director
  - (iii) 1 Cities up to 500,000 population
  - (iv) Towns West and South
  - (v) Villages East and West
- 8.08** (a) A President who no longer remains an elected representative is nevertheless eligible to remain a member of the Board of Directors and to continue in office as President until the next annual general meeting providing such period shall not exceed three months.
- (b) A Director who no longer remains an elected representative is nevertheless eligible to remain a member of the Board of Directors and to continue in office as a Director until the next annual general meeting providing such period shall not exceed three months.
- (c) In the case of either (a) or (b), if the period until the next annual general meeting is longer than three months, the position shall be deemed to be vacant.
- 8.09** Should the legal municipal status change of the municipality of which a Director is an elected representative,
- (a) the Director is eligible to remain in the position until the next annual general meeting, and
  - (b) if the term of office for the position does not expire at the end of the next annual general meeting a by-election shall be held at the next annual general meeting to fill the position for the remainder of the term.
- 8.10** Should the office of the President become vacant, the remaining Board of Directors shall forthwith appoint a member of the Board to serve as President until the next annual general meeting.
- 8.11** (a) Should a vacancy occur in a Director position other than a Director appointed by the City of Calgary or the City of Edmonton or in a Vice-President position
- (i) the Board may appoint a replacement to serve until the next annual general meeting, and
  - (ii) if the term of office for the position does not expire at the end of the next annual general meeting a by-election shall be held at the next annual general meeting to fill the position for the remainder of the term.

(b) Should a vacancy occur in a Director position or a Vice-President position appointed by the City of Calgary or the City of Edmonton, the relevant city may appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term of office of the position.

**8.12** A person appointed to fill a vacancy in any position must be eligible for election to that position if an election were held.

**8.13** In carrying out the responsibilities of a Director, every Director of the Association shall

- (a) act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Association,
- (b) exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances,
- (c) comply with the Societies Act (Alberta) and any regulations under it and with the bylaws and policies of the Association
- (d) maintain the confidentiality of all Association information given to the Director that is considered confidential, except in the following circumstances
  - (i) the confidential information is or subsequently enters the public domain through no action of the Director; or
  - (ii) the confidential information is required to be disclosed by law and if the Director receives Association information that is considered confidential
  - (iii) from his or her own independent sources; or
  - (iv) any third party not under an obligation to keep the information confidential the Director will disclose to the Board that he or she has received that information.

**8.14** A member of the Board of Directors ceases to be a Director if:

- (a) the person is disqualified from Council pursuant to Section 174(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*; R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, or any amendments thereto, or
- (b) the person misses three consecutive regular meetings of the Board, unless authorized by resolution prior to the conclusion of the missed third consecutive regular meeting of the Board.

**8.15** The Board of Directors may by resolution passed by at least three fourths (3/4) of the votes cast declare that a Board Member has ceased to be a Board member. The provisions of Article 9.05 regarding notice and an opportunity to be heard apply to a resolution under this Article.

## **Article IX DISQUALIFICATION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

**9.01** In this Article

- (a) "Board member's family" means the Board member's spouse, the Board member's children, the parents of the Board member and the parents of the Board member's spouse;
- (b) "spouse"
  - (i) includes a party to a relationship between a man and a woman who are living together on a bona fide domestic basis, and
  - (ii) does not include a spouse who is living apart from the other spouse if the spouses have separated pursuant to a written separation agreement or if their support obligations and family property have been dealt with by a court order.

**9.02** (1) A member of the Board of Directors has a pecuniary interest in a matter if:

- (a) the matter could monetarily affect the Board member or an employer of the Board member, or
  - (b) the Board member knows or should know that the matter could monetarily affect the Board member's family.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a person is monetarily affected by a matter if the matter monetarily affects:
- (a) the person directly,
  - (b) a corporation, other than a corporation the shares of which are traded on a stock exchange, in which the person is a shareholder, director or officer;
  - (c) a corporation, the shares of which are traded on a stock exchange, in which the person beneficially owns voting shares carrying at least 10% of the voting rights attached to the voting shares of the corporation or of which the person is a director or officer; or
  - (d) a partnership or firm of which the person is a member.



- (3) A Board member does not have a pecuniary interest by reason only of any interest
- (a) that the Board member or a member of the Board member's family may have by reason of being appointed by the Board as a director of a company incorporated for the purpose of carrying on business for and on behalf of the Association or by reason of being appointed as the representative of the Board on another body;
  - (b) that the Board member or member of the Board member's family may have with respect to any allowance, honorarium, remuneration or benefit to which the Board member or member of the Board member's family may be entitled by being appointed by the Board to a position described in clause (a);
  - (c) that the Board member may have with respect to any allowance, honorarium, remuneration or benefit to which the Board member may be entitled by being a Board member; or
  - (d) that is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence the Board member.
- 9.03**
- (1) When a Board member, or a Regular Member of which the Board member is an elected representative, has a pecuniary interest in a matter before the Board, a Board committee or any other body to which the Board member is appointed as a representative of the Board, the Board member must, if present,
    - (a) disclose the general nature of the pecuniary interest prior to any discussion of the matter;
    - (b) abstain from voting on any question relating to the matter;
    - (c) abstain from any discussion of the matter; and
    - (d) subject to subsection (2), leave the room in which the meeting is being held until discussion and voting on the matter are concluded.
  - (2) If the matter with respect to which the Board member, or the Regular Member of which the Board member is an Elected Representative has a pecuniary interest is the payment of an account for which funds have previously been committed, it is not necessary for the Board member to leave the room.
- 9.04**
- (1) A member of the Board of Directors ceases to be a Board Member if he or she
    - (a) as a Board Member, takes part in a decision knowing that the decision might further a private interest of
      - (i) the Board Member,
      - (ii) a corporation, firm or partnership referred to in section 4.1.2(2) of this Article 4.1, or
      - (iii) a Regular Member of which the Board member is an Elected Representative,
    - (b) where applicable, does not declare an interest and withdraw from a meeting without voting on or discussing a matter before the Board of Directors which might further a private interest referred to in clause (a)(i), (ii) or (iii), or
    - (c) accepts
      - (i) a fee of any amount other than a fee or honorarium paid by the Association for the Board member's services as a Board member, or
      - (ii) a gift or other benefit having a value of more than \$100 that is received because the Board Member is a Board Member.
  - (2) Subsection (1)(c) does not apply if a Board Member is invited to attend an event or function as a representative of AUMA and the Board Member discloses such attendance in a manner approved by the Board from time to time.
- 9.05**
- (1) A meeting of the Board of Directors may be called under section 10.01 to determine whether a Board Member has ceased to be a Board member under this Article.
  - (2) The Board Member
    - (a) shall be given notice of a meeting of the Board of Directors called under this section;
    - (b) upon request
      - (i) shall be given particulars of the grounds on which it is alleged that he or she has ceased to be a Board member;
      - (ii) shall be given an opportunity to make representations to the Board of Directors in writing or in person, or by legal counsel, or any combination of the foregoing;

- (c) is not entitled to be present while the Board of Directors discusses the question whether or not the Board Member has ceased to be a Board Member.
- 9.06** (1) The Board of Directors may by resolution state that the Board Member has ceased to be a Board Member.  
(2) The provisions of Article VIII relating to the filling of vacancies on the Board until the next annual general meeting apply to filling a vacancy under this Article.
- 9.07** A Board Member, by accepting appointment or election as a Board Member, agrees the Board Member will not be entitled to assert any claim or bring any legal action, whether for defamation or any other cause of action, against the Association or any officer, director or employee of the Association, in respect of anything done by any of them in good faith pursuant to this Article.

## **Article X POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD**

- 10.01** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held:  
(a) pursuant to a regular schedule of meetings set by the Board at its organizational meeting following the annual general meeting, or  
(b) at the call of the President, or  
(c) upon the written request of four Directors with at least 72 hours notice.
- 10.02** A quorum of the Board is eight members.
- 10.03** At meetings of the Board of Directors each Board Member present shall have one vote and, in the case of a tie, the motion shall be lost.
- 10.04** The Board of Directors has the authority and responsibility to carry out as appropriate, or delegate to its committees, the powers and duties conferred upon the Association.
- 10.05** If the Board establishes and prescribes the terms of reference for any committee, or delegates that authority to the Executive Committee, the persons appointed as committee members may be:  
(a) Directors,  
(b) elected representatives of members,  
(c) other persons, or  
(d) any combination of the above.
- 10.06** Members of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee shall receive an honorarium for their service and shall be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred in performing their duties on the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

## **Article XI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 11.01** The Executive Committee shall consist of the President and the Vice-Presidents.
- 11.02** A quorum shall consist of three (3) members of the Executive.
- 11.03** The Executive Committee shall have all the powers of the Board of Directors between meetings of the Board on emergent issues in accordance with such rules as the Board of Directors may adopt provided that the Executive may only recommend  
(a) the employment or termination of the Chief Executive Officer of the Association,  
(b) the amount of membership fees under clause 15.04, and  
(c) borrowing money under clauses 15.07 and 15.08.
- 11.04** The Executive Committee shall report any action taken under clause 11.03 at the next meeting of the Board.
- 11.05** The President and Vice-Presidents have the duties and powers commonly assigned to such officers.

## **Article XII MEETINGS**

- 12.01** The annual general meeting of the Association shall be held at such time and place as the Board of Directors may determine.
- 12.02** Written notice of the date of the annual general meeting shall be provided to each member not less than twelve (12) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

- 12.03** A special general meeting of the Association may be held at the call of five (5) percent of the Regular Membership or by two-thirds vote of all the Board and written notice shall be provided to each member not less than fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting.
- 12.04** A quorum at an annual general meeting or special general meeting shall be representation from twenty-five percent of the Regular Membership in good standing and the quorum shall be determined within fifteen minutes of the posted starting time of the meeting.
- 12.05** The President or another member of the Board delegated by the President shall chair the annual general meeting and any special general meeting.
- 12.06** The persons entitled to speak at an annual general meeting or special general **meeting** 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 annual general meeting or special general meeting 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 Chief Executive Officer at least three (3) days prior to the date of the annual general meeting or special general meeting, and
  - (c) upon a motion from the floor, a representative of an Associate Member.
- 12.07** Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the Rules of Procedure to be followed at meetings of the Board of Directors, the annual general meeting and any special general meeting shall be those in "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised."

### **Article XIII CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

- 13.01** The Board shall appoint a Chief Executive Officer to manage the affairs of the Association under the general direction of the Executive Committee.
- 13.02** The Chief Executive Officer shall ensure that:
  - (a) accurate minutes of all meetings of the Association, the Board, the Executive Committee and any other committees are recorded,
  - (b) accurate records of revenues and expenditures are recorded,
  - (c) all money belonging to or held by the Association is deposited in a financial institution or invested in financial instruments approved by the Board, and
  - (d) all records and the Seal of the Association are kept safe.
- 13.03** The Chief Executive Officer may employ any administrative staff required within the expenditure authority included in the Association's budget.

### **Article XIV SIGNING AUTHORITY**

- 14.01** After they are approved, the minutes of all meetings shall be signed by the person presiding at the meeting and the Chief Executive Officer.
- 14.02** The Board of Directors shall designate signing authorities for any financial instrument and the use of the seal.

### **Article XV FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

- 15.01** The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.
- 15.02** Before the end of each fiscal year, the Board of Directors shall approve a budget for the next fiscal year which shall include revenues at least sufficient to pay the estimated expenditures.
- 15.03** The Board of Directors may approve an interim budget for part of the next fiscal year.
- 15.04** The Board of Directors shall annually determine a method of calculating membership fees which will generate the membership fee revenue projected in the budget.
- 15.05** If any number of Regular Members agree to undertake a special initiative, the Board of Directors may levy a special fee on those members to raise the required revenue.

- 15.06** The membership fees in effect on the date that these bylaws are approved are continued until they are changed by the Board of Directors.
- 15.07** The Board of Directors shall have the power to borrow on behalf of the Association and upon the credit of the Association for operating purposes an amount not in excess of sixty percent (60%) of annual fees or special assessments then levied or assessed by the Association to its membership but not yet collected.
- 15.08** By a two-thirds majority vote of the Board, the Association may borrow for capital purposes.
- 15.09** The Association may draw, make, accept, endorse, execute and issue promissory notes, bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments.
- 15.10** The books and records of the Association shall be available for the inspection by any Regular Member of the Association at the Association's office during normal business hours.
- 15.11** In the event the Association is wound up or dissolved, all of its remaining assets after payment of its liabilities shall be paid to such registered and incorporated non-profit organization or organizations with purposes similar to those of the Association as a Majority of the Regular Members determine. In no event shall any Member become entitled to any assets of the Association.
- 15.12** The Board of Directors shall appoint by resolution an auditor and an audited annual financial statement shall be submitted to each annual general meeting.
- 15.13** The Association may acquire by gift or purchase and have, possess and enjoy land, tenements, rents, annuities and other property of any kind whatsoever within the Province of Alberta.
- 15.14** The Association may from time to time sell, alienate, exchange, mortgage, let, lease or otherwise dispose of any part of its real or personal estate.
- 15.15** Every Director and officer of the Association and their heirs, executors and administrators, respectively, shall from time to time and at all times be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the Association from and against:
  - (a) all costs, charges, damages and expenses whatsoever which they sustain or incur in or about any action, suit or proceeding which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against them or in respect of any act, omission, deed, matter or thing whatsoever made, done or permitted by them in or about the execution of the duties of their office; and
  - (b) all other costs, charges, damages and expenses which they sustain or incur in or about in relation to any act, omission, deed, matter or thing whatsoever made, done or permitted by them in or about the execution of the duties of their office;
  - (c) except such costs, charges, damages and expenses as are occasioned by their own wilful act, default or dishonesty.

## **Article XVI AMENDMENTS**

- 16.01** The Board of Directors or a Regular Member may propose a special resolution, as required by the *Societies Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. S-14, or any amendments thereto, to amend these Bylaws.
- 16.02** A proposed special resolution may be considered at the annual general meeting or at a special general meeting.
- 16.03** Written notice of a proposed special resolution shall be provided to each member not less than eight (8) weeks before the meeting at which the special resolution is to be considered.
- 16.04** An amendment to the Bylaws shall not be made unless a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the representatives of Regular Members in good standing present at the meeting vote in favour of the amendment.
- 16.05** Notwithstanding any other provision of contained in these Bylaws, every Special Resolution to amend these Bylaws shall contain the following preamble:  
WHEREAS the following proposed amendment has been submitted to the Association only after taking into consideration:
  - (a) the Association's fundamental and paramount principle of ownership and control of the Association by its Regular Members; and
  - (b) the Association's tax exempt status under para. 149(1)(d.5) of the Income Tax Act, Canada as discussed by the Canada Revenue Agency in its letter dated March 14, 2007

and that the proposed amendment herein will not, by its nature, content or description, compromise, modify, alter, affect or change in any way the fundamental and paramount principle of the Association (the Association being owned and controlled by its Regular Members only) or the Association's tax exempt status under para. 149(1)(d.5) of the Income Tax Act, Canada as same may be amended from time to time.

- 16.06** In 2015 and every subsequent year divisible by five (5), the President shall establish a special committee to conduct a general review of the Bylaws of the Association.
- 16.07** In the event any provision of these Bylaws is in any manner determined to be inconsistent with, or in violation of, the fundamental and paramount principle of the Association set forth in Article 2.02 above, then such provision shall be deemed to be void *ab initio* and of no force and effect, and such provision shall be struck from these Bylaws without further notice or approval by the Regular Members.

# AUMA Resolutions Policy

## Resolutions

### General

1. The Municipal Governance Committee shall serve as the Resolutions Committee of the Association.
2. The responsibilities of the Committee are to review proposed resolutions for format and content, and assign a category.
3. Resolutions may be submitted for consideration at the annual convention by:
  - (a) a regular member or group of regular members or
  - (b) the Board of Directors.
4. Resolutions shall be in the form:  
**WHEREAS ...**  
**AND WHEREAS ...**  
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (take some action)

### Resolution Guidelines

5. Resolutions must meet the following criteria:
  - (a) Each resolution
    - i) must be approved by the council of the sponsoring municipality.
    - ii) should strive to address a topic of concern to municipalities throughout the Province.
  - (b) 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.
  - (c) Whereas clauses should clearly and briefly set out the reasons for the resolutions.
6. 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 Municipal Governance Committee, and later the convention body, in understanding the issues.
7. The operative clause of the resolution (i.e. the one beginning **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT...**)
  - (a) must clearly set out what the resolution is meant to achieve, and
  - (b) state a specific proposal for action.
  - (c) The wording should be straightforward and brief so that the intent of the resolution is clear. Generalization should be avoided.
8. Resolutions are to be in the hands of the 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 annual convention is scheduled later than Thanksgiving Day in any year; or,
- (b) if requested by a member, if the Chief Executive Officer is satisfied that severe weather conditions, a pandemic or other emergency reason, has 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 Board 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 Mayors Caucus and bringing a matter directly to the attention of the AUMA Board.

## 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.
- 11. A regular member wishing to propose an extraordinary resolution shall present it, together with a rationale as to why it is extraordinary, to the Chief Executive Officer after the first day of the convention. The sponsoring municipality(ies) shall provide 1000 copies of the resolution.
- 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 Board meeting prior to the Convention, by the Board on the recommendation of the Municipal Governance Committee,
  - (b) in the case of a proposed extraordinary resolution submitted after the final Board meeting prior to the Convention, by the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Resolutions Session Chair.
- 13. The AUMA Executive Committee, in consultation with the Municipal Governance Standing Committee chair, will determine whether the proposed resolution meets the criteria of an extraordinary resolution.
- 14. Criteria for an Extraordinary Resolutions are:
  - (a) they deal with an emergent issue of concern to the general membership that has arisen after the resolution deadline;
  - (b) they deal with an emergent issue of concern to the general membership that will be addressed by another order of government BEFORE the next AUMA annual Convention; and
  - (c) they comply with the guidelines for resolutions set out elsewhere in this policy (AP002).
- 15. A 2/3 majority vote of the assembly is required prior to any Extraordinary Resolution accepted by the Executive Committee being considered by the assembly.
- 16. No debate on the merits or “urgency” of any Extraordinary Resolution will take place prior to the vote.



17. Extraordinary resolutions accepted for consideration by the assembly shall be presented following debate of the **Targeted Scope** resolutions.

## Administrative Review

18. The Chief Executive Officer may return any submitted resolution to the sponsoring municipality to have deficiencies corrected.
19. 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) preliminary clauses which are contradictory to the operative clause or the absence of preliminary clauses;
  - (c) lack of a clear supporting narrative where the rationale of the resolution is unclear.
20. The return by the Chief Executive Officer of any proposed resolution for the correction of any deficiencies will not affect its categorization nor will it make a timely resolution late.

## Committee Review

21. The Municipal Governance Committee shall review each proposed resolution and may recommend that the Board refuse to submit to the convention any resolution deemed inappropriate for consideration by the Association.
22. The Municipal Governance Committee will notify the appropriate policy committee of any proposed resolution related to its policy.
23. The Municipal Governance Standing 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 with regard to its background;
  - (d) inform the sponsoring municipality where the resolution will materially change or contradict current AUMA policy.
  - (e) recommend to the Board of Directors, that resolutions already adopted and/or forming AUMA policy (see clause 54 of this 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.
24. When the Committee determines that a proposed resolution is appropriate for submission to the convention, the Committee shall categorize the resolution as:
- (a) AUMA Strategic/Business Plan Priorities
  - (b) Provincial Scope
  - (c) Targeted Scope
  - (d) Endorsement Requests
  - (e) Non-Municipal Matters
25. The AUMA Strategic/Business Plan Priorities category would address matters related to implementing the AUMA strategic and/or business plans.

26. The Provincial Scope category would have resolutions that address matters of significance to all or most municipalities in the province.
27. The Targeted Scope category would have resolutions that address matters of significance to all or most municipalities located in one area of the Province or municipal members of a similar size.
28. The Endorsement Requests category would address requests of regular Members to endorse positions they are taking without any advocacy action by AUMA.
29. The Non-Municipal Matters category would address matters outside of municipal jurisdiction and therefore not appropriate for presentation to the convention.
30. When the Board has approved the resolutions report (section 31), proposed resolutions assigned to the Non-Municipal Matters category will be returned to the sponsoring member(s) with an explanation of why the resolution will not appear in the Policy and Resolutions Book at the convention.
31. The Committee will prepare a resolutions report which will include all proposed resolutions determined appropriate for submission to the convention 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
  - (e) Municipal Governance Committee Comment (if any)
32. Resolutions will be presented in the following order:
  - (a) AUMA Strategic/Business Plan Priorities
  - (b) Provincial Scope
  - (c) Targeted Scope
  - (d) Endorsement Requests
33. The Committee will recommend to the Board a Policy and Resolutions Book including the resolutions report together with such other information on bylaws, policies and procedures as the Committee may deem appropriate which shall be provided to members at least eight (8) weeks prior to the Convention.

## Resolution Session Agenda

34. Prior to the beginning of the first resolution session the Chair will ask for a motion from the floor to adopt the Resolution Session Agenda as presented in the Policy and Resolutions Book.
35. Amendments from the floor to the Resolution Session Agenda will be accepted when duly moved and seconded.
36. No debate on the proposed amendments to the Resolution Session Agenda will occur.
37. A 2/3rds majority of the delegates will be required to change the Resolution Session Agenda.

38. If there are no amendments to the Resolutions Session Agenda, resolutions will be debated in the order they are presented in the resolution booklet. No further amendments to the resolution agenda will be accepted.

## Considering Resolutions

39. The Board, after consulting with the Municipal Governance Committee Chair, will appoint a Resolutions Sessions Chair.
40. The Session Chair will introduce each proposed resolution by indicating its number, the name of the sponsoring municipality, and then will move the resolution. The Session Chair will then call on the sponsoring or a supporting municipality to second the resolution. If no municipality seconds the resolution, the resolution dies.
41. If the resolutions report includes a comment by the Municipal Governance Committee on the proposed resolution, the Session Chair will then call on a member of the Municipal Governance Committee to give the views of the Municipal Governance Committee (if necessary).
42. The Session Chair will then call for a spokesperson from the sponsoring municipality(ies) to speak to the resolution and open the debate. The spokesperson will be allowed two (2) minutes for the opening.
43. In the case of a proposed new policy position paper, the 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.
44. Following the initial speaker, the 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 alternate position speaker is available, the Session Chair will declare the end of the debate and the spokesperson will be allowed one (1) minute for the closing of debate.
45. If no one rises to speak in opposition to a proposed resolution, the question will be immediately called.
46. A sponsoring municipality or designate may declare its intent to withdraw a proposed resolution when the resolution is introduced. In this event, the Session Chair shall declare the resolution withdrawn and no further debate or comments will be allowed.
47. Amendments, including "minor amendments" from the floor will be accepted when duly moved and seconded. Amendments, including "minor amendments" must be submitted in writing to the Session Chair prior to the amendment being introduced.
48. The Session Chair will rule whether or not an amendment complies with the intent of the original resolution.
49. Discussion procedures for an amendment shall be the same as for a resolution.

50. 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.
51. Voting may be by
  - (a) a show of delegate accreditation cards, or
  - (b) electronic means.
52. As long as there is a quorum present (as provided in the Bylaws a quorum is comprised of representatives of twenty-five percent [25%] of the Regular Members) the final resolution session shall not be closed until all resolutions listed in the agenda are debated and voted upon, or the allotted time for the 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 Municipal Governance Committee, with its recommendations, to a meeting of the Board of Directors following the convention.
54. Resolutions passed by the membership shall not be amended or modified by the Municipal Governance Standing Committee or the Board of Directors.
55. Carried resolutions will be referred to the relevant Standing Committee which will
  - (a) develop policy statements and make a recommendation to the Board, or
  - (b) in the event that the committee determines that the background information of WHEREAS clauses are materially incorrect or misleading, may recommend to the Board that a resolution be returned to the sponsoring municipality(ies) with an explanation of the reasons for returning it.

## Carried Resolutions

56. Carried resolutions will be referred to the relevant Standing Committee which will develop policy statements and make recommendations to the Board.
57. When the policy statements are approved by the Board, each statement will be sent to the relevant Minister(s).
58. The 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.
59. Resolutions have an active life of three (3) years, then are deemed inactive.

## **AUMA Request for Decision (RFD) Adopted at Mayors' Caucus in 2014**

Receiving input and direction from members is critical to the AUMA. While the resolution process is an effective way for member-municipalities to request that AUMA take action or explore an issue further, there are also other options. One alternative method for gaining AUMA support is through a Request for Decision (RFD) submitted at a Mayors' Caucus. RFDs are discussed, debated, and voted on at Mayors' Caucus meetings. If the RFD is passed, it is then reviewed by AUMA's Board to determine possible next steps. During 2014, one member RFD was accepted by attendees. In an effort to keep all AUMA members up-to-date with issues that AUMA has been asked to consider, the RFD is presented below.

### **The following RFD was adopted in March 2014:**

The Council of the City of Red Deer requests that the AUMA open a dialogue with the Province of Alberta Advanced Education and Education ministries, to ensure that sufficient, quality training opportunities are provided to meet the growing demands of the Early Childhood profession, and to meet Provincial licensing standards and identify root issues such as wage levels as they relate to early learning and care programs across the province.

# **AUMA STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES**

## **2014 Policy and Resolutions Book**

Category AUMA Strategic/Business Plan Priorities

### **AUMA Resolutions Policy:**

The **AUMA Strategic/Business Plan Priorities** category would address matters related to implementing the AUMA strategic and/or business plans.

2 resolutions recommended under this Category.

**WHEREAS** in 2012 the AUMA Board of Directors issued the mandate of developing Municipal Water Policies and approved advancing polices over a number of years with 2014 policies focused on stormwater;

**WHEREAS** AUMA developed policy statements and sought members' input through an online discussion guide and workbook, a workshop, webinars, Digest articles, and discussion at Mayors Caucuses, municipal-related events and the Water Network; and

**WHEREAS** at its June meeting, the AUMA Board of Directors considered members' input and adopted the policies for consideration at the 2014 Convention.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AUMA 2014 General Assembly approve the municipal stormwater policy.





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# 2014 Municipal Water Policy on Stormwater

**Convention Policy Paper**

# 1. Background

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Stormwater management is the planning, design and operation of systems that store, convey, and treat stormwater runoff. By controlling runoff, mitigating flooding and preventing pollutants from entering water bodies, effective stormwater systems can minimize adverse impacts to communities and the natural environment.

With fast-paced population growth, loss of natural areas, and increased development being a common reality for many Alberta communities, concerns related to stormwater management have heightened. With development, more land coverage by impermeable surfaces contributes to increased runoff rates, volumes, and pollutant loadings. These changes can contribute to the degradation of water quality and aquatic ecosystems, urban flooding, erosion and sedimentation, infrastructure deterioration, property damage, and public health risks.

## Policy Objective

The objective of the municipal stormwater policy is to create an enabling environment for municipalities to more effectively manage stormwater to protect local communities and the natural environment by:

- restoring natural drainage capacity to pre-development levels;
- protecting water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, and minimizing impacts on downstream water users; and
- mitigating flooding.

# 2. Policy Statements

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## Stormwater Management Guidelines for the Province of Alberta

### Concerns of Municipalities

*The provincial Stormwater Management Guidelines are intended to support stakeholders in managing stormwater systems that allow development to proceed while protecting communities and the environment. Since the Guidelines were last updated in 1999, municipalities are concerned that they do not provide adequate guidance on recently evolved best practices and design approaches. This is a concern as many municipalities rely heavily on these Guidelines as a source of advice and resources.*

*Municipalities also expressed concerns about information gaps in the Guidelines, suggesting that increased direction be provided on: water quality and volume targets, erosion and sediment control, appropriate levels of service for the current Alberta context, and design methods that consider climatic changes.*

### Policy

- 1) AUMA urges the Government of Alberta to update and strengthen the provincial Stormwater Management Guidelines by:
  - a) providing updated information specific to Alberta on best management practices and appropriate design standards; and
  - b) outlining comprehensive performance based targets that address water quality, volume control, and rate control.

## Municipal Government Act

### Concerns of Municipalities

*The Municipal Government Act (MGA) enables municipalities to regulate development by enforcing legislative tools and to acquire contributions towards stormwater systems through the assessment of levies and taxes. While the MGA does not directly regulate stormwater, it allows municipal authorities to protect water bodies by designating land as environmental reserves.*

*As per section 664 (1) of the MGA, an area of land may be designated as environmental reserve if it consists of:*

- a) a swamp, gully, ravine, coulee or natural drainage course,
- b) land that is subject to flooding or is, in the opinion of the subdivision authority, unstable, or

- c) *a strip of land, not less than 6 metres in width, abutting the bed and shore of any lake, river, stream or other body of water for the purpose of*
  - i. *preventing pollution, or*
  - ii. *providing public access to and beside the bed and shore*

*While section 664 (1) (a) enables municipalities to designate a natural drainage course as an environmental reserve, there is often disagreement between municipalities and development proponents as to what landscape features constitute a natural drainage course. In addition, the defined purpose does not recognize the function of environmental reserves in protecting riparian areas and their services.*

*Municipalities are also concerned that the minimum buffer width of 6 metres identified in section 664 (1) (c) is insufficient to adequately protect water bodies where runoff is discharged. Determination of appropriate buffers is dependent on site-specific parameters such as water body type, purpose, geology, and vegetative cover. While the MGA gives municipalities the authority to increase setbacks, there is a need for increased guidance to determine appropriate buffers that are scientifically and legally defensible.*

#### Policy

- 2) AUMA advocates that the Municipal Government Act be amended to strengthen the definition of environmental reserve by:
  - a) clarifying the definition of natural drainage course as cited in section 664 (1) (a).
  - b) adding 'protecting the function of riparian areas' to the list of purposes outlined in section 664 (1) (c).
- 3) AUMA will work with the Government of Alberta to provide municipalities with increased guidance and tools to determine appropriate environmental reserve dedications based on flood risk and other scientifically and legally defensible data.

### Stormwater Reuse

#### Concerns of Municipalities

*Stormwater reuse has the potential to decrease reliance on drainage infrastructure, reduce runoff volumes and flow rates, and to result in more efficient use of water resources. However, there are regulatory barriers to overcome to enable reuse, particularly in non-residential applications.*

*Under the Water Act, stormwater reuse is interpreted as a diversion requiring authorization from the province as it may result in changes to the flow of water to receiving water bodies and downstream users. This is a barrier to reuse in areas of the province that face challenges due to the increase in runoff due to urbanization but where there is a moratorium on new diversion licences. However, impacts on discharge will vary between municipalities and depend on the specific reuse application and watershed being considered.*

*Another barrier to reuse in Alberta is that where the National Plumbing Code is applicable, non-residential reuse projects are categorized as alternative uses and are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Municipalities must submit proposals for reuse projects that demonstrate achievement of defined performance levels in order to receive variances under the code. Municipalities are concerned that the complexity of steps required to approve projects renders them unfeasible. In the absence of formal guidelines, municipalities have also expressed confusion over the regulatory pathway for approving and implementing projects.*

#### Policy

- 4) AUMA urges the Government of Alberta to review water licence and return flow requirements under the Water Act to establish a regulatory framework that is more supportive of the adoption of stormwater reuse projects.
- 5) AUMA urges the Government of Alberta to develop formal guidelines for non-residential reuse projects to clarify the processes that must be adhered to in preparing proposals and implementing projects.

### Wetlands

#### Concerns of Municipalities

*Wetlands provide valuable ecosystem services to municipalities and natural stormwater management functions by removing pollutants and slowing and retaining runoff. Wetlands also support habitat and biodiversity protection*

*while offering aesthetic and conservation values. While constructed wetlands cannot fully replicate the function of natural wetlands, they are among the most effective engineered stormwater practices.*

*Unfortunately, approximately 64% of wetlands in Alberta have been lost in the last century. To preserve their important stormwater functions and prevent further losses, it is critical that supportive policy frameworks are in place to enable municipalities to protect wetlands.*

#### Policy

- 6) AUMA urges the Government of Alberta to implement the recommendations outlined in AUMA's 2013 Municipal Wetlands Policy given their role as critical components of stormwater management systems.

### **Urban Flooding**

#### Concerns of Municipalities

*Urban flooding results when the designed capacity of stormwater systems is exceeded. This may occur due to aging infrastructure, inadequate design, or when system performance is compromised. When urban flooding occurs, stormwater may flow through neighbourhoods in an uncontrolled fashion, causing overland flooding, property damage due to sewer backup and building seepage.*

*In response to the 2013 floods, the Government of Alberta has developed a suite of mitigation strategies, funding programs, and legislative amendments to reduce the risk of flood damage and support disaster recovery. The focus of these initiatives is on riverine flooding. However, research has indicated that on average, Canadian losses due to urban flooding have historically exceeded riverine flooding. In addition, the interconnectivity of stormwater systems to water bodies may result in synergistic impacts and failures. As a result, it is critical that the provincial approach to flood mitigation addresses both riverine and urban flooding and that municipalities have adequate financial support to implement mitigation strategies.*

#### Policy

- 7) AUMA urges the Government of Alberta to strengthen the provincial approach to flood mitigation by creating a complementary strategy to mitigate urban flooding.
- 8) AUMA advocates that the Governments of Alberta and Canada collaborate to provide dedicated funding to mitigate urban flooding.

### **Climate Change**

#### Concerns of Municipalities

*Municipalities rely on historic climate data to develop models used to design stormwater systems. Changes in climate and in particular the severity of storms have important implications on the design of infrastructure.*

*Stormwater infrastructure is typically designed based on local rainfall Intensity Duration Frequency (IDF) curves. IDF curves for 30 locations across Alberta are available through Environment Canada and provide information on the expected frequency of storms of varying intensities and durations.*

*For many climate stations in Alberta, IDF curves are dated, typically incorporating historic rainfall data from the 1960s to 1990s. This is an issue as climate is not stationary, and recent research suggests that the intensity and duration of extreme storms will be different than historically observed. Use of updated curves is imperative to ensure that appropriate standards are used to design and manage infrastructure that accommodates current and future rainfall events. Further, with only 30 climate stations being used to produce IDF curves, municipalities may lack the information needed to forecast localized storm trends.*

*In addition to IDF curves, long-term precipitation databases made available through Environment Canada are used to conduct water balance analysis and modeling. It is critical that these datasets are updated regularly and error-checked to minimize uncertainty.*

#### Policy

- 9) AUMA advocates that the Governments of Alberta and Canada collaborate to regularly update IDF curves, precipitation databases, and to increase the number of climate stations.

### **Low Impact Development**

#### Concerns of Municipalities

*To complement, address limitations, and reduce strain on conventional stormwater infrastructure, low impact development (LID) practices may be implemented. LID is an approach to land development and design for stormwater management that mimics nature. The premise of LID is that the way to achieve cost-effective control*

*with the most benefit is to manage precipitation close to where it is generated, using natural features and processes wherever possible. LID designs seek to firstly prevent runoff and then to evaporate, infiltrate, store, and treat runoff close to the source through conservation and controls that replicate natural processes. LID practices may reduce reliance and expenditure on hard infrastructure by reducing water volumes and rates, and pollutant concentrations.*

*Municipalities have indicated strong support for the use of LID practices in their stormwater management regimes. However, to be successful in implementing LID, municipalities require engineering expertise and guidance on their successful implementation under local climate, soil, and hydrological conditions.*

#### Policy

10) AUMA will work with relevant organizations to provide municipalities with greater access to low impact development education and expertise.

### **Research and Development**

#### Concerns of Municipalities

*The design and management of sustainable stormwater systems requires municipalities to optimize site design and selection of various control practices. There are numerous practices that can be utilized, and selection of best management practices (BMPs) for a given area therefore requires careful consideration of management objectives and local hydrologic, climatic, and geologic conditions.*

*Ongoing research and development are critical to assessing BMP performance to verify their applicability in Alberta. Previously, Natural Resources Canada and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) jointly funded the EQUilibrium Communities Initiative which provided funding for neighbourhood development projects that improve and showcase performance in the areas of water and stormwater, energy, natural areas protection, land use and housing, and transportation. This is an example of the type of support for research and development that is needed, but unfortunately funding was limited and the program is no longer active.*

#### Policy

11) AUMA urges the Governments of Alberta and Canada to develop a dedicated funding program for local research and demonstration projects that improve stormwater management.

### **Infrastructure Assessment and Planning**

#### Concerns of Municipalities

*To meet desired service levels and to address aging infrastructure and capacity issues, municipalities must understand the life-cycle, value, and condition of all natural and engineered components of stormwater systems. A holistic approach that considers both natural and engineered assets is needed to ensure that their collective contributions to drainage are accounted for in infrastructure planning. This information is needed to understand investment and replacement priorities, to support asset management and full cost accounting, and to protect natural areas that contribute to stormwater management. However, limited financial resources, staff, time, and data accessibility often inhibit municipalities from proactively assessing, inventorying and managing their stormwater assets.*

#### Policy

12) AUMA will work with relevant organizations to provide education and tools to enable municipalities to proactively assess, integrate, and manage natural and engineered components of stormwater systems.

**2014 Municipal Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plan**

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**WHEREAS** in 2009 AUMA members adopted a Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) Plan with a goal to boost municipal capacity to implement CEP initiatives and contribute to the provincial *Water for Life Strategy*.

**WHEREAS** municipalities have made progress in improving water CEP so it is timely to build on these achievements and further advance capacity to protect this vital resource.

**WHEREAS** AUMA developed and communicated targets and actions and sought members' input through an online discussion guide and workbook, webinars, Digest articles, and discussion at Mayors Caucuses, municipal-related events and the Water Network.

**WHEREAS** at its June meeting, the AUMA Board of Directors considered members' input and adopted the plan for consideration at the 2014 Convention.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AUMA 2014 General Assembly approve the 2014 Urban Municipal Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plan.



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# **2014 Urban Municipal Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plan – Targets and Actions for the Urban Municipal Sector**

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*July 2014*

## Executive Summary

Building upon the direction set out in the Water Conservation, Efficiency, and Productivity Plan of 2009, the renewed plan reflects an overall goal that Alberta's urban municipal sector<sup>1</sup> is recognized as a significant contributor to safeguarding the reliability of our water supplies, the stewardship of our aquatic ecosystems, and the health and well-being of Albertans, as set out in the provincial Water for Life Strategy.

The renewed plan proposes an outcomes-based approach to achieving water savings. The inclusion of volume-based water use and water loss targets further enables measuring and reporting of the urban municipal sector's contributions toward achieving the goals of the province's *Water for Life Strategy* (i.e., safe secure drinking water; healthy aquatic ecosystems; and reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy).

Targets of the renewed AUMA plan are:

- 1) Alberta's urban municipal sector will achieve an average per capita residential water use of 195 litres/person/day and a total per capita water use of 341 litres/person/day (30% below reported water use 2001-2006) by 2020.
- 2) Alberta's urban municipal sector will maintain the volume of "unaccounted for" water at 10% of total water use (reported to be 10.1% in 2009).

In order to achieve these targets, the following actions are required:

- 1) AUMA member municipalities holding a water license(s) for municipal use will report water use data through the Government of Alberta's (GoA) Water Use Reporting System.
- 2) AUMA member municipalities will share water use information with AUMA so that AUMA may report on the aggregate water use and water savings of the urban municipal sector and work with the GoA to track and report on contributions of urban municipalities as a whole to the goals of the province's *Water for Life Strategy*.
- 3) AUMA will continue to partner with the GoA and other organizations to develop tools and share information to assist municipalities to achieve water conservation, efficiency and productivity, to measure their own water use and water loss, and to set targets for these.
- 4) AUMA member municipalities will continue to take action to increase water conservation by users, the efficiency of water distribution systems, and productivity of water and wastewater treatment systems, so as to contribute to the urban municipal sector collectively achieving its water use and water loss targets.
- 5) AUMA will advocate that the Government of Canada resume the Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey program as it provides a valuable benchmark for assessing the efforts of municipalities across the country and the effectiveness of water and wastewater management policies from other jurisdictions.

AUMA will work with our members to renew the targets and actions of this plan in 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> The CEP plan only applies to municipalities with municipal water systems. It does not apply to summer villages whose residents have individual wells, as it is not possible for the municipality to track water use in this case.



## 1.0 Introduction

Water is expected to be an increasingly scarce resource given Alberta's rapid population and industrial growth, limited availability of water supplies in many regions, impacts of climate change, concerns over aquatic health, and escalating cost associated with maintaining aging water systems. Having a reliable supply of safe water is critical for our communities.

Adopting a water conservation, efficiency, and productivity (CEP) plan is one the most effective means of managing demand within existing available supplies, and contributing to long-term municipal sustainability and environmental stewardship. It is therefore timely to renew the Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plan that was launched in 2009 for the urban municipal sector.

The renewed CEP Plan presents a path forward based on extensive consultation with municipalities. Additional direction came from an assessment of the current status of municipal water CEP efforts (as documented in the [AUMA Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plan - Interim Report on Implementation](#) released in October 2013), municipal feedback obtained through the [Renewing AUMA's Water Conservation and Efficiency Targets Discussion Guide and Workbook process](#), and research into the reporting of municipal water CEP activities in other jurisdictions. Feedback obtained from the workbook process and follow-up discussion with municipalities is documented in the [Renewing AUMA's Water Conservation and Efficiency Targets – What We Heard Report](#).

## 2.0 Background on Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity

### 2.1 Provincial Water for Life Strategy

The Government of Alberta (GoA) identified water conservation as a strategy to help achieve the goals of its *Water for Life Strategy*, emphasizing that "water conservation, efficiency and productivity are fundamental to any provincial water strategy". The *Water for Life Strategy* (renewed in 2008) further set a target of achieving a 30% improvement in overall water CEP from 2005 levels by 2015, and called on all sectors, including urban municipalities, to contribute to this goal by demonstrating best management practices, and developing plans.

### 2.2 Alberta Water Council – Water CEP Planning

As a key body monitoring progress toward achieving the goals and outcomes of the *Water for Life Strategy*, the Alberta Water Council developed 2008 recommendations for water CEP sector planning and identified the seven major water-using sectors tasked with building water CEP plans for their respective sectors. These include: irrigation; upstream oil and gas (including oil sands mining); downstream petroleum products; chemical producers; forestry; power generation; and the urban municipal sector<sup>2</sup>. Together these sectors account for most of the allocated water in Alberta.

Having developed their respective water CEP plans, each sector is required to report its progress to the Alberta Water Council. AUMA provided its

From a municipal perspective, **water conservation** refers to a reduction in the total amount of water used by customers, while **water efficiency** refers to the amount of water being withdrawn from the source to satisfy a specific need. **Productivity** refers to what is done (or produced) with the water by the end-user.

<sup>2</sup> Rural municipalities represented by AAMDC do not have a CEP plan and are not part of this plan because the major water users in their boundaries such as the irrigation and energy industries have plans of their own. Rural municipalities with water licences are required to provide water use data through the province's Water Use Reporting System so that usage trends can be tracked. AUMA's CEP resources have also been promoted to rural municipalities to use where applicable.

interim report on the efforts and achievements of the urban municipal sector in October 2013 (see section 2.3); the next report to the Alberta Water Council is due in 2015.

### 2.3 AUMA's 2009 Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plan

In 2009, following extensive member engagement, AUMA members adopted a CEP plan. As a framework for future action, the plan identified a number of water conservation and efficiency actions to be implemented by urban municipalities, and put forth a number of aggressive implementation targets.

To assist municipalities, the AUMA developed a suite of municipal water management tools. One of these resources, [\*Planning for Water Conservation and Efficiency: A Handbook for Small Municipalities\*](#), released in September 2013, showcases a number of the more common supply-side and demand-management tools available to municipalities pursuing water conservation and efficiency.

While much progress was made, actual performance as of October 2013 fell far short of the targets (see Table 1).

**Table 1: Status of Municipal Implementation of AUMA Water CEP Plan Targets (2013)**

	Target >10,000	Actual >10,000	Target 2,500-10,000	Actual 2,500-10,000	Target <2,500	Actual <2,500
Report water use data through Water Use Reporting (WUR) System by December 31, 2010	100%	17/20 <b>85.0%</b>	100%	27/37 <b>73.0%</b>	100%	51/125 <b>40.8%</b>
Develop Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plans by Dec 31, 2011	100%	12/28 <b>42.9%</b> <i>(additional 3 plans in progress)</i>	75%	4/46 <b>8.7%</b> <i>(additional 2 plans in progress)</i>	50%	4/149 <b>2.7%</b> <i>(additional 2 plans in progress)</i>
Complete a water audit and identify ways to reduce leaks by December 31, 2012	100%	11/28 <b>39.3%</b> <i>(additional 6 audits in progress)</i>	75%	14/46 <b>30.4%</b> <i>(additional 4 audits in progress)</i>	50%	5/149 <b>3.4%</b> <i>(additional 5 audits in progress)</i>
Implement initiatives to increase the uptake of water efficient fixtures by Dec 31, 2011	100%	21/28 <b>75.0%</b>	75%	18/46 <b>39.1%</b> <i>(additional 2 municipalities in progress)</i>	50%	7/149 <b>4.7%</b> <i>(additional 3 municipalities in progress)</i>
Completed CEP Update Survey (original target April 2011)	100%	11% - May 2011 57% - Jan 2012 53.6% - Mar 2013	75%	5% - May 2011 9% - Jan 2012 30.4% - Mar 2013	50%	2% - May 2011 10% - Apr 2012 9.6% - Mar 2013

### 3.0 Measuring Municipal Water Use

Accurate water use information is one of the foundational elements that will help improve the management of Alberta's water resources. The ability to set meaningful water conservation and efficiency targets, and to

measure progress toward the achievement of those targets, requires that municipalities have a thorough understanding of current water use.

All of this hinges on water withdrawal, demands, and releases being metered. Universal metering is common practice in most Alberta municipalities, but to effectively plan for and monitor progress toward water conservation and efficiency goals, the information being collected needs to be used for more than just billing purposes.

There are a number of ways that a municipality can measure, monitor, and report its water use; the challenge is achieving some consistency in how this is done.

### 3.1 Overall Water Use

**Water use** (in the municipal context) refers to the gross diversion of water withdrawn from all licensed sources and introduced into the municipal system for use. It is important to note that although referred to as 'use', the volume withdrawn may not be entirely consumed and some portion of it may be subsequently returned to the environment after treatment. For this reason, this volume of water is probably more appropriately referred to as 'water demand' but the terms are often used interchangeably.

In Alberta, roughly 90% of the population is served by a municipal water distribution system. Approximately 96% of the water in these distribution systems came from surface water sources such as lakes and rivers, while 4% came from groundwater sources<sup>3</sup>. The reporting of water use information by those who operate these utilities provides governments and the public with a better understanding of how water is being used in this province.

Municipal water use data submitted to the provincial government's Water Use Reporting (WUR) System will be used to monitor overall water use

volumes and trends and to report the urban municipal sector's contribution to achieving the GoA's target of a 30% improvement in overall water CEP from 2005 levels.

### 3.2 Use of Municipal Water

According to the findings of Environment Canada's most recent Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey, the residential sector accounts for the bulk of municipal water use (57.1%) in Alberta. The commercial/institutional sector (including water used by the municipality) follows with 20.9%, while industrial and agricultural operations that are connected to municipal water supplies account for 11.9% of water used. The remaining 10.1% is that lost as a result of leakage and system flushing/maintenance.

The proportion of water used by the above noted sectors varies considerably from one municipality to the next. Typically smaller communities tend to have less commercial and industrial water use,

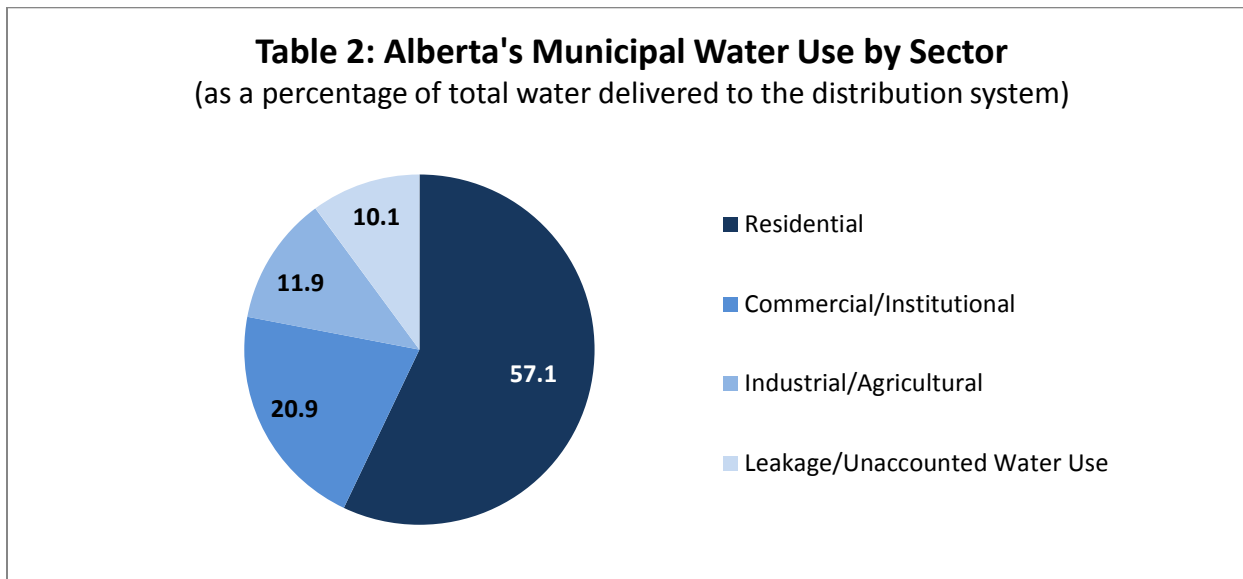
Recent amendments by the provincial government to Water Act licenses for municipal use now require that license holders report water use on a regular basis as a condition of that license.

A water audit refers to an assessment of the integrity of the overall water distribution system. A water audit measures and tracks the flow of water from the site of withdrawal or treatment through the water distribution system and into customer properties. In doing so, it calculates the volumes and variety of consumption and losses that exist in the system. This information enables a municipality to determine the most effective and efficient course of action to mitigate losses and improve the overall efficiency of the system. Further information on municipal water audits is available at <http://water.auma.ca>.

<sup>3</sup> Source: [Environment Canada Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey](#) (2009)

and so the residential sector accounts for a greater percentage of water use than in larger communities.

Understanding who is using what, and how that water is being used is important in identifying appropriate water conservation and efficiency measures for achieving water savings. This is the type of information that is derived from developing a municipal water use profile (an important early step in water CEP planning) or conducting a municipal water audit. To do so requires that a community be universally metered.



Source – Environment Canada Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey (2009)

### 3.3 Per Capita Water Use

One of the most common measurements for monitoring and reporting water use is total per capita water use. **Total per capita water use**, typically calculated on a per day basis, is simply the total volume of water delivered through the water distribution system divided by the municipality's population served, and is presented in litres per capita per day (l/c/d). Although this measurement provides a general indication of the intensity of water usage in a municipality, it does not take into account the composition of the municipality in terms of its water-users. For example, a community that services a water-intensive industrial or commercial operation is likely to have a higher total per capita water usage than one that doesn't.

A more accepted measurement used as a basis for water use comparisons between communities, provinces, and even countries, is **residential per capita water use**. This measurement considers only the water usage of the residential sector, and thus captures an element common to every community. It is also the measurement typically used in establishing a water use benchmark to assess subsequent progress toward achieving water conservation and efficiency targets.

It is important to ensure consistency in the manner in which residential per capita water use is calculated – for example, to accurately reflect residential water use, the water use of multi-family residences should be included in residential sector calculations. At present, some municipalities consider these users as a component of the commercial sector.

In Alberta, total per capita water use in 2009 was 395 l/c/d, and residential water use 209 l/c/d. In comparison, the Canadian average for these same measures was 510 l/c/d and 274 l/c/d, respectively (Environment Canada, 2011). Alberta's per capita water use was (and continues to be) well below the Canadian average – a reflection of the success of municipal programs

Despite improvements in water conservation, Canadians have consistently ranked among the world's most profligate users of water, with per capita water use well above that of European and many other industrialized nations. Only the U.S. has a higher per capita water consumption level (Environment Canada, 2011).

and efforts to date and of the commitment of this province's water users to achieve water savings.

In fact, the findings of Environment Canada's 2009 Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey reveal that of the provinces, Manitoba, Alberta, and Ontario have the lowest total water use per capita. Alberta, Manitoba, and PEI also have the lowest residential water use per capita (See Table 3).

**Table 3: Total and Residential per Capita Water Use, by Province/Territory and Municipal Population**

	Total Water Use		Residential Water Use			
	Number of Responding Municipalities	Responding Population	Total Water Use per Capita (litres per capita per day)	Number of Responding Municipalities	Responding Population	Residential* Water Use per Capita (litres per capita per day)
<b>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador</b>	24	278 549	804	22	189 235	385
<b>P.E.I.</b>	4	52 582	505	4	52 582	189
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	18	436 981	512	17	436 120	292
<b>New Brunswick</b>	30	267 352	821	27	263 986	394
<b>Quebec</b>	272	5 465 132	706	225	4 393 874	386
<b>Ontario</b>	165	10 470 997	409	159	10 401 245	225
<b>Manitoba</b>	54	847 025	355	49	842 461	199
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	80	609 177	518	75	607 131	238
<b>Alberta</b>	124	2 837 712	395	115	2 756 461	209
<b>British Columbia</b>	87	2 766 835	606	86	2 764 564	353
<b>Territories</b>	6	39 448	599	6	39 448	391
<b>Municipal Population</b>						
<b>Under 1000</b>	154	74 099	756	136	65 249	426
<b>1001-2000</b>	142	159 338	528	120	135 276	371
<b>2001-5000</b>	172	446 134	712	157	410 304	385
<b>5001-50 000</b>	322	3 586 411	570	302	3 384 172	313
<b>50 001-500 000</b>	64	8 747 123	489	60	7 816 692	280
<b>More than 500 000</b>	10	11 058 686	497	10	10 935 416	251
<b>Total, 2009</b>	864	24 071 791	510	785	22 747 109	274
<b>Total, 2006</b>	1 082	25 183 363	591**	1 043	25 074 414	327**

Source - 2009 Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey. Aggregated to municipal level and imputed for non-response using 2006 MWWWS. Sustainable Water Management Division, Environment Canada.

\* Includes single-family and multi-family

The above table also shows that across Canada, larger communities continue to have relatively lower per capita water use than do smaller communities. This characteristic is consistent with the AUMA survey finding that most larger communities in Alberta have already taken (and continue to take) deliberate action toward achieving water conservation and efficiency targets, while smaller communities tend to comprise the next wave of implementation. This reality is often a reflection of municipal capacity, and highlights the opportunity that exists in continuing to extend support to Alberta's smaller municipalities.

### 3.4 Leakage and Other Water Loss

Every water system leaks. The extent of this loss can, however, vary considerably from one municipality to the next.

As implied in Section 3.2, the process of accounting for water usage by each sector also allows for calculating leakage and otherwise unaccounted for volumes. This "non-revenue" water is an important indicator of the condition and efficiency of the overall system.

In 2009, Environment Canada estimated that, on average, 13.3% of water from municipal systems across Canada, and 10.1% of water from municipal systems across Alberta, was unaccounted for. To help visualize this loss and opportunity, consider that in the U.S., the losses are higher at 14-18% which translates to 22.3 billion litres of expensive, treated water lost each day - that's enough water to meet the daily water needs of 61 million Americans (Centre for Neighborhood Technology, 2013).

Identifying and mitigating water loss represents the single greatest supply-side opportunity for water providers to conserve water, recover lost revenues, and improve overall operational efficiency.

## 4.0 New Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Targets

Recognizing that the sustainability of our communities is tied to the sustainability of our water supplies, and that municipalities are one of the province's largest water using sectors, AUMA has established the following goal to guide the renewed water CEP plan:

- **That Alberta's urban municipal sector is recognized as a significant contributor to safeguarding the reliability of our water supplies, the stewardship of our aquatic ecosystems, and the health and well-being of Albertans, as set out in the provincial Water for Life Strategy (2008).**

The renewed plan proposes an outcomes-based approach in setting water conservation, efficiency and productivity targets for the urban municipal sector. This approach allows for flexibility in how municipalities, water utilities and water users contribute to achieving the targets.

Setting clear volume-based water use and water loss targets for the urban municipal sector as a whole further allows AUMA to measure and showcase the collective efforts and successes of its members, rather than reporting on the status and/or actions of individual municipalities.

Proposed targets are:

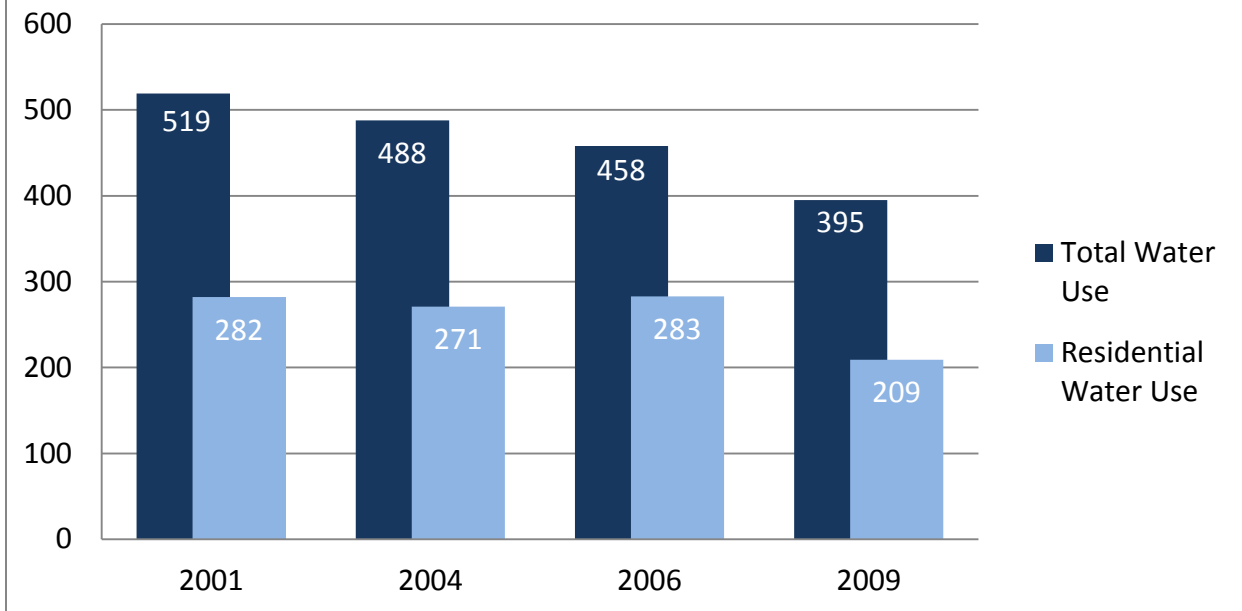
- 1) Alberta's urban municipal sector will achieve an average per capita residential water use of 195 litres/person/day and a total per capita water use of 341 litres/person/day (30% below reported water use 2001-2006) by 2020.**

The total and residential water use targets listed above were calculated using the water use volumes reported for Alberta's municipal sector in Environment Canada's Water and Wastewater Survey (2001, 2004, 2006) as a baseline (see Figure 2). Alberta Water Council's *Recommendations for Water Conservation, Efficiency, and Productivity Planning* (2008) suggests that "a base year for documenting and measuring CEP gains be an average of any three years in the period 2000 to 2005"; in this case, data from 2001-2006 was used.

The proposed residential target of 195 l/c/d (30% below reported water use 2001-2006) by 2020 is also comfortably within the range of residential water use targets set by individual Alberta municipalities within their own water conservation and efficiency plans. The total water use target of 341 l/c/d by 2020 emphasizes the opportunity that exists to improve water conservation, efficiency and productivity amongst all municipal water users.



**Table 4: Alberta Municipal Water Use  
(litres per capita per day)**



Source – [Environment Canada Municipal Wastewater Survey](#) (2009, 2006, 2004, 2001)

**2) Alberta’s urban municipal sector will maintain the volume of “unaccounted for” water at 10% of total water use.**

“Unaccounted for” water, also referred to as “non-revenue water” refers to water that has been produced and is “lost” before it reaches the customer. Losses can be real (as a result leakage) or apparent (through theft, metering inaccuracies, or authorized unmetered consumption). As reported in Section 3.4, unaccounted for water can amount to considerable losses for a municipality.

There are, however, limits to what even the most well-run water loss management program can achieve; zero water loss is not realistic or economical. Once the marginal cost of reducing non-revenue water exceeds the marginal benefits or water savings, there is often little incentive to further reduce water loss. Environment Canada suggests that in most cases a municipal leak detection and repair program is only cost-effective when the volume of unaccounted for water in a municipal system exceeds 10 to 15%. For this reason, the AUMA is proposing an “unaccounted for” water target of 10% for the urban municipal sector. Environment Canada’s 2009 reporting of Alberta municipalities as having 10.1% total unaccounted for water illustrates that this target is achievable (See Table 5).

**Table 5: Municipal Water Loss by Province/Territory and Municipal Population**

	Number of Responding Municipalities	Responding Population	Percent Residential Water Use <sup>a</sup>	Percent Commercial / Institutional / Municipal Water Use <sup>a</sup>	Percent Industrial / Agricultural Water Use <sup>a</sup>	Percent Leaks / Unaccounted Water Use <sup>a</sup>
<b>Newfoundland &amp; Labrador</b>	29	204 324	66.2%	13.9%	10.4%	7.5%
<b>P.E.I.</b>	4	52 582	40.0%	33.6%	13.8%	12.6%
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	19	437 291	58.2%	15.1%	7.2%	19.5%
<b>New Brunswick</b>	33	216 896	56.4%	23.3%	10.8%	9.6%
<b>Quebec</b>	248	4 498 065	52.7%	14.0%	11.2%	22.1%
<b>Ontario</b>	166	9 444 735	58.8%	20.2%	10.4%	10.6%
<b>Manitoba</b>	51	844 428	57.8%	18.6%	9.1%	14.5%
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	90	594 688	43.2%	30.7%	13.1%	12.9%
<b>Alberta</b>	125	2 712 552	57.1%	20.9%	11.9%	10.1%
<b>British Columbia Territories</b>	90 5	2 939 748 38 690	62.5% 60.1%	16.8% 26.1%	9.3% 5.0%	11.4% 8.9%
<b>Municipal Population</b>						
<b>Under 1000</b>	156	73 309	68.0%	18.5%	5.9%	7.6%
<b>1001-2000</b>	147	164 845	70.9%	13.8%	7.2%	8.1%
<b>2001-5000</b>	167	413 881	65.4%	15.3%	11.2%	8.2%
<b>5001-50 000</b>	318	3 506 009	58.2%	17.4%	12.1%	12.3%
<b>50 001-500 000</b>	62	7 979 774	58.1%	19.5%	10.2%	12.2%
<b>More than 500 000</b>	10	9 846 181	56.0%	18.7%	10.4%	14.9%
<b>Total, 2009</b>	860	21 983 999	57.4%	18.7%	10.6%	13.3%
<b>Total, 2006</b>	1 009	24 021 196	57.0%	19.3%	11.5%	12.8%

Source - 2009 Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey. Aggregated to municipal level and imputed for non-response using 2006 MWWWS. Sustainable Water Management Division, Environment Canada.

<sup>a</sup> For properties connected to a municipal water system only. Does not include self-serviced residences, businesses or industries.

## 5.0 Imperative for Water Use Information

The greatest challenge associated with the adoption of the proposed targets will be the general lack of municipal water use information.

Accurate water use information is one of the foundational elements that will help improve the management of Alberta's water resources. The ability to set meaningful water conservation and efficiency targets and to measure progress toward the achievement of those targets requires that municipalities have a thorough understanding of the user and use of the water. Unfortunately, not all municipalities report their water use to the Government of Alberta, and fewer yet actually calculate water-use by the sectors (residential, ICI, municipal, non-revenue) served within the municipality. The lack of a complete data set complicates the process of calculating water use and the success of Alberta's municipal sector water conservation efforts. This data gap was acknowledged as a shortcoming in the 2009 AUMA CEP Plan, and also by ESRD, recommending that water use reporting by municipalities be improved so that water use and water loss measurements may be used as an indicator of the success of municipal water CEP efforts.

Until the program was terminated with the release of the 2009 report, Environment Canada regularly (every two or three years) conducted a municipal water and wastewater survey that provided much information concerning municipal water use, metering, population served by water and wastewater services, water sources, and wastewater treatment categories, presented by province/territory and size of municipal population. The response rate varied, but the survey typically collected information from 140 – 180 Alberta municipalities (rural and urban). Although incomplete, the information provided insight into municipal water use and management, and served as a benchmark for and performance indicator of the water conservation, efficiency, and productivity efforts of the municipal sector in this province and across the country. In the absence of the national survey, the impetus falls on AUMA, in cooperation with ESRD, to collect and report on municipal water use within this province.



## 6.0 Actions

In order to achieve the targets set out in this renewed AUMA Water Conservation, Efficiency, and Productivity Plan, the following actions (directed at both the AUMA and its member municipalities) are required:

- 1) AUMA member municipalities holding a water license(s) for municipal use will report water use data through the Government of Alberta's (GoA) Water Use Reporting System.
- 2) AUMA member municipalities will share water use information with AUMA so that AUMA may report on the aggregate water use and water savings of the urban municipal sector and
- 3) work with the GoA to track and report on contributions of urban municipalities as a whole to the goals of the province's *Water for Life Strategy*
- 4) AUMA will continue to partner with the GoA and other organizations to develop tools and share information to assist municipalities to achieve water conservation, efficiency and productivity, to measure their own water use and water loss, and to set targets for these.
- 5) AUMA member municipalities will continue to take action to increase water conservation by users, efficiency of water distribution system, and productivity of water and wastewater treatment systems, so as to contribute to the urban municipal sector collectively achieving its water use and water loss targets.
- 6) AUMA will advocate that the Government of Canada resume the Municipal Water and Wastewater Survey program as it provides a valuable benchmark for assessing the efforts of municipalities across the country and the effectiveness of water and wastewater management policies from other jurisdictions.

AUMA will renew the targets and actions of this plan in 2020.

## **2014 Policy and Resolutions book**

### **Category Provincial Scope**

#### **AUMA Resolutions Policy:**

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

20 resolutions recommended under this Category.

Note: Where member resolutions address topics also addressed by AUMA's MGA Submission, an AUMA comment has been added detailing the alignment of that resolution with AUMA's MGA Submission.

**WHEREAS** studies show that more children are being driven to school and have less options for walking and biking;

**WHEREAS** the planning of school sites must take into consideration the transportation requirements and needs of the families that will be attending the school;

**WHEREAS** school site planning should not have to make a choice between playgrounds and parking lots to ensure safe transportation and address congestion;

**WHEREAS** changing behaviors of children and parents require creative solutions that are safe and fun;

**WHEREAS** a walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults and can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school to as structured as a route with meeting points, a timetable and a regularly rotated schedule of trained volunteers;

**WHEREAS** parents often cite safety issues as one of the primary reasons they are reluctant to allow their children to walk to school and providing adult supervision may help reduce those worries for families who live within walking or bicycling distance to school;

**WHEREAS** a goal of The City of Red Deer's Environmental Master Plan (2011) in the area of Transportation is to partner with school boards to implement a walking school bus to encourage children to walk, recognizing the health and environmental benefits; and

**WHEREAS** vehicular congestion at school sites continues to be identified as a significant health, safety and environmental concern.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association raise this issue to the Province of Alberta, specifically the Minister of Education, in collaboration with local authorities, to request leadership in developing policy direction with respect to safe transportation initiatives including but not limited to the walking school bus that can:

- enhance student safety,
- resolve congestion concerns,
- support environmental initiatives, and
- reduce the need for larger school sites to accommodate parking.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** in the absence of policy direction, the province look at appropriate school site planning that considers catchment areas, the need for increased parking and drop off areas that increase safety and decrease congestion.

**BACKGROUND:**

A walking school bus provides a focus on a safer way to get to school. Protecting our environment through the reduction of automobile use and encouraging alternatives such as cycling, walking or public transit will promote healthy lifestyles.

<http://www.reddeer.ca/City+Government/City+Services+and+Departments/Environmental+Services/Environmental+Initiatives/Environmental+Master+Plan.htm>

<http://www.walkingschoolbus.org/>

<http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/walking-school-bus>

**WHEREAS** Alberta Education requires school sites to be available and serviced to the property line by the municipality prior to a new school project being announced for a community;

**WHEREAS** the current provision of school sites through the dedication of municipal reserve (MR) works well for elementary and middle schools;

**WHEREAS** the necessary land for a high school is larger than the Municipal Reserve (MR) dedication;

**WHEREAS** this need for a larger site for high schools necessitates the purchase of additional land and servicing costs to enable the necessary high school to be built with this cost being borne by the municipal tax payers;

**WHEREAS** municipalities and local school authorities must continue to work together to identify appropriate sites for schools in their communities; and

**WHEREAS** education is a community benefit but a provincial responsibility.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request that Municipal Affairs and Alberta Education develop the necessary policy and legislation to ensure all costs related to the provision of the larger high school sites, land, services, and other school related infrastructure such as parking lots and playing fields be the responsibility of the provincial government.

**BACKGROUND:**

The School Capital Manual of the Alberta Education/Alberta Infrastructure dated January 2012 states that “the approved budget for Building Construction Costs is to be used for the physical construction of the school facility and normal site development costs incurred when undertaking a typical school construction project... (Page 21).” Furthermore it states: “The Total Project Cost does NOT include extraordinary site costs, site acquisition, access roads to the site, services to the site, or any other landscaping features beyond a five-metre perimeter of the building envelope. The school jurisdiction should work with the local municipality and the site developers to ensure these items are addressed.”(Page 22)

**AUMA COMMENT:**

The City of Red Deer’s resolution regarding the provision of high school sites is consistent with AUMA’s recommendation that the allocation of school reserves under the MGA be increased. In addition, the resolution is consistent with AUMA’s recommendation that the new MGA should “facilitate greater cooperation between municipal authorities and school boards, particularly in regard to school reserves and the planning and servicing of schools and the disposition of school property and school reserves.” Finally, the resolution’s recommendation that the province cover the costs of school-related infrastructure is consistent with AUMA’s recommendation that any provincial downloading of responsibilities is matched with appropriate resources.

**WHEREAS** The Province of Alberta is responsible for providing educational facilities within our province;

**WHEREAS** municipalities desire to work with the Province of Alberta in the development of school facilities within our jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS** planning and funding of schools has been traditionally the role of the province.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request that the Government of Alberta, when developing new schools, fulfill the role of a contractor and share the costs associated with the development of the lands for the placement of a school structure; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Province of Alberta, when developing within a municipality, give clear information/policy identifying what the municipality is expected to financially contribute to the project prior to construction of the structure.

**BACKGROUND:**

Every school that is being developed requires the following: Land, Structure, Services, Access and Play area.

Penhold worked with our local school jurisdiction over the past eight years to solidify a new school within our community. We were fortunate to obtain a Regional High School serving the urban and rural population. The news was exciting to the community.

Once we began discussions on the design, it became apparent that the province did not act as a contractor or partner. In discussion with the representatives from Alberta Infrastructure and Alberta Education they clearly identified their role was to simply construct a structure and the immediate perimeter around the structure, nothing more. This was a total surprise to our municipality.

As a result the town is responsible for:

- acquiring the land;
- providing water and sewer utility servicing to property line;
- providing parking at the school;
- the construction of an access to the parcel;
- the upgrades to the intersection - in our situation being in close proximity to a highway; and
- providing and developing a school play yard.

This school is a joint urban/rural school serving the surrounding area. Our community appreciates the opportunity to provide a high school to the residents in the area however the anticipated costs to the town were not disclosed prior to the start of the project. This project has created a financial hardship to our urban citizens.

**AUMA COMMENT:**

The Town of Penhold's resolution regarding school development is consistent with AUMA's recommendation that the new MGA should "facilitate greater cooperation between municipal authorities and school boards, particularly in regard to school reserves and the planning and servicing of schools and the disposition of school property and school reserves."

**WHEREAS** the Municipal Government Act and the School Act require municipalities to collect the education property tax on behalf of the Alberta Provincial Government;

**WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta is the taxing authority for the purpose of applying the education property tax;

**WHEREAS** municipalities do not have full control over the ongoing significant reliance on property taxes to fund education by the Government of Alberta;

**WHEREAS** municipalities rely on property taxes to generate revenue at the local level due to limited tools and resources at their disposal;

**WHEREAS** municipalities may need to adjust their yearly budget and reduce their level of service to their citizens to mitigate the impact of the education property tax on the individual property taxes;

**WHEREAS** municipalities are often criticized for unduly raising taxes due to the fluctuation in the education mil rate that can significantly impact the overall tax payer's rate applied to property assessments;

**WHEREAS** municipalities act as collection agents for the provincial government with the responsibility to remit full payment of the education property taxes prior to full collection at the local level;

**WHEREAS** municipalities that default on the education property tax payments may lose their ability to access grant funding earmarked for services to their citizens other than education; and

**WHEREAS** education is a provincial responsibility and all of society benefits from it.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association call upon the provincial government to revise the Municipal Government Act and School Act so that the province is solely responsible for the collection of education property taxes.

**BACKGROUND:**

Both the Municipal Government Act and the School Act have historically required municipalities in Alberta to collect education property taxes on behalf of the province in one form or another. This is reflected in the following comments offered in 2011 by the government to AUMA regarding education and taxes: "An accessible, quality education system is a priority for the government, and for all Albertans. All Albertans benefit from a quality basic kindergarten-to-grade-12 education system. About two thirds of the funding for Alberta's basic education system comes from provincial general revenues. The remainder comes from the provincial education property tax requisition. Property taxes have been used to help fund education in Alberta since the early 1900s. Prior to 1994, school boards received education funds from both the provincial government and from local property taxes." (3)

The collection of the education property tax is based on the following model: The province calculates how much money each municipality must contribute towards the public education system, based on the municipality's equalized assessment. The amount residents are required to pay into the education system is based on the assessed value of their property and the education tax rate established by the province. Once the municipality collects the education property tax, it is forwarded on to the province and into the Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF).

The 2013-2014 provincial budget saw the following changes (4): "The Government of Alberta has now standardized the education property tax; it is now set at 32 per cent of education operating costs. In government's view, basing this

tax on the cost of funding for education will achieve greater transparency, fairness and equity. In addition we will be removing the mitigation measures, ensuring the equitable distribution of the tax across the province so that similarly valued properties of the same classification pay similar amounts of taxes, no matter where they're located. Each municipality's 2013 education requisition will be determined by applying the provincial uniform tax rates to its 2013 equalized assessments."

In consequence, the changes in percentage from 2012-13 to 2013-14 budget is for the fiscal year, 2.1% for residential and 7.3% for non-residential and for the calendar year 2% increase in 2013 for residential and 7.2% for non-residential.

Although, the standardized formula might offer more predictability, it restores a connection between education spending and property taxes, removing incentives for School Boards to have a conservative approach when negotiating salary contracts or when establishing their annual budgets. As former Municipal Affairs Minister Doug Griffiths astutely said in an interview with the Calgary Herald (5) "If you increase the education funding because there are salary demands — through the roof — well, 32 per cent of that will come on to your tax bill." Logic would say that if municipalities need to sharpen their pencils so should all organizations that require tax dollar moneys to operate and sustain themselves.

Municipalities have limited sources to financially sustain their operations: property taxes, grants, levies, fees and fines. Citizens are expecting a certain amount of services and programs for their tax dollars. When municipalities establish their budgets, they don't know the true impact on the tax payer until the property assessments, the education property tax requisition and the senior housing requisition have been factored in. All things being equal, what is certain is that a small fluctuation in the education mil rate has a significant impact on the overall taxes for a tax payer, residential and/ or non-residential. In consequence, to keep taxes at an affordable level, municipalities may need to adjust their yearly budget to soften the impact of the education property tax on the individual property taxes.

For the Alberta taxpayers, the present system of education property tax collection blurs the lines of accountability and transparency and leads to misconception in regard to municipal government taxation policy and responsibility.

Under the current system, municipalities are required to be collection agents for the provincial government and to make quarterly payments for education property taxes that may not yet have been collected in full at the local level prior to remittance to the government. Furthermore, it leaves the municipalities to assume the full responsibility and lengthy process of collection of default education property tax accounts, money that could be allocated towards other programs and services.

But, if municipalities fail to remit the Education Property Tax as per the prescribed schedule, then Section 175 of the School Act (2) may be activated by the government with serious short and long term financial consequences to the municipality: "Where a municipality defaults in making a payment required under this Division, the Minister may pay into the Alberta School Foundation Fund to the credit of the municipality any grants payable to that municipality for that year or any succeeding year until the amount owing by the municipality has been received."

Education is a provincial responsibility. The assumed reasoning behind this system of tax collection is that the municipality, being the level of government closest to the people, is best suited to collect taxes based on property assessment and because municipalities possess the information to collect the taxes in the most efficient manner. This belief should be demystified and changes to the MGA and Education Act should be actively pursued.

#### Sources:

- (1) School Act – Section 173 –verbatim
- (2) School Act- Section 175 - verbatim
- (3) Response of Government dated Nov 2011 to AUMA Resolution #16 requesting a review of Education Taxes paid by all property owners of Alberta.
- (4) Answer to Question #3 asked by AUMA on the 2013-2014 Budget Presentation

(5) Calgary Herald of March 8, 2013- Article by Jason Markusoff

**AUMA COMMENT:**

The Town of Cardston's resolution regarding the education property tax differs from AUMA's MGA recommendation that the provincial property tax be eliminated completely and that property taxes should be exclusively used for municipal purposes.



**WHEREAS** a successful province is based on successful communities;

**WHEREAS** urban municipalities are increasingly questioning their financial viability and community sustainability as infrastructure deficits continue to grow and service levels continue to be more difficult to sustain;

**WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta needs to adopt a more modern approach to municipal government recognizing the concept of a “complete community” that incorporates urban centers including rural counterparts as a community node where people live, work, play and do business;

**WHEREAS** prosperity and assessment disparities between municipalities continue to raise concern;

**WHEREAS** many of the Government of Alberta’s granting formulas do not properly reflect the inequities between municipalities;

**WHEREAS** other legislation and technologies affecting municipal governments continue to evolve, in turn impacting service delivery in municipalities;

**WHEREAS** municipalities need to have adequate and appropriate population, supply and mix of assessment, and supply of various land uses to provide essential infrastructure and services to their citizens and anticipated future economic growth; and

**WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta is conducting a review of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) to ensure that modern, effective and leading-edge legislation is in place for the municipalities, citizens, and businesses of Alberta.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipal Association request the Government of Alberta to create legislation that provides incentives and financial support that encourages municipal amalgamations to create specialized municipalities and regional municipal governments; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request the Government of Alberta to seek expressions of interest from municipalities that would consider amalgamation; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** that the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request the Government of Alberta to recognize an independent expedited amalgamation process for those interested municipalities.

**BACKGROUND:**

Currently, municipalities including villages, towns, cities, counties, and municipal districts are service delivery corporations. They are corporate entities based on an antiquated model that today no longer serves purpose to the true definition of communities.

Hundreds of years ago with limited transportation, urban municipalities were hubs where people lived, worked, played and did business. Communities often grew centered around train stops, or popped up in relation to how far one could travel in a day’s time. Eventually municipal corporations were formed to provide services and planning for these communities and thus premised the system of governance that the Province of Alberta is centered around today.

Times have changed, however, and humanity has too evolved whereby technology is rapidly making the world a much smaller place. The definition of a “complete community” bears little resemblance to the boundaries of the corporate entities we use today. Large cities may be made up of many different communities, or neighborhoods, each with very distinct identities. In other areas of the province, the population of a number of urban centers and a rural area may blend together to form one community, one that works together, recreates together, and supports one another both economically and socially.

This evolution has caused a major shift in how the municipal corporate entities function, often times having several municipal corporations providing services to what is actually a “complete community”. Municipal boundaries have become nothing more than a hindrance to an economy, an environment, and a community that clearly lives, works and plays across municipal boundaries.

To this point, the provincial government has done nothing more than the ‘propping up’ of a system of century old corporate units that no longer make sense. Measures such as redistribution of revenue, additional grants or encouraging partnerships only serve to paper over the inherent inefficiency of the current structure and can leave municipalities wasting precious time and resources offering a duplication of services and navigating what can be tenuous relationships.

To continue along this path no longer makes sense and we must be willing to examine the possibility of starting over, creating municipal corporations that can be best managed in a way that will provide long-term viability and sustainability, as well as planning that supports economic growth, environmental stewardship, and a more functional and fluid system of service delivery.

The Government of Alberta is reviewing the MGA to ensure that *modern, effective, and leading-edge legislation is in place for municipalities, citizens and businesses*. Providing an avenue for willing participants to investigate options that will better serve our regions and our people is the first step in ensuring we build a system that is meant to serve for the realities of today, and for the future.

**AUMA COMMENT:**

The City of Cold Lake’s resolution regarding incentivizing regionalization and amalgamation is generally consistent with the changes requested in AUMA’s MGA submission. Similar to the resolution, AUMA’s MGA submission requests an expedited process for amalgamations. In addition, the submission calls for incentivizing regional collaboration, similar to the recommendation of the resolution.

**WHEREAS** the *Local Authorities Election Act* prescribes rules regarding financial disclosure for the campaigns of candidates in municipal elections;

**WHEREAS** the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* prescribes rules regarding financial disclosure for the campaigns of candidates in provincial elections;

**WHEREAS** the *Local Authorities Election Act* lacks the rigour of the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* when it comes to financial reporting and transparency;

**WHEREAS** it is possible that candidates in some municipalities in past municipal elections have benefitted from donations and fundraising of third parties, including unions;

**WHEREAS** the *Local Authorities Election Act* is also silent on who is responsible for verification of the accuracy and completeness of campaign disclosure statements; and

**WHEREAS** public confidence can suffer if municipal campaign revenues and expenses are not reported in a consistent and transparent manner, particularly regarding third party contributions or spending to support a particular candidate(s).

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Government of Alberta to amend the *Local Authorities Election Act* to strengthen campaign financial reporting transparency, particularly with respect to third party contributions or expenses to support a particular candidate, such as exists for provincial election candidates pursuant to the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*.

**BACKGROUND:**

The *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA) prescribes rules for the conduct of municipal elections in the province of Alberta, including requirements for the reporting of candidate campaign contributions. Financial reporting requirements for provincial election candidates are contained within the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*.

Across Alberta, some candidates for municipal election also receive direct or indirect contributions or expenses by third parties. Under the current requirements of the LAEA, these contributions or expenses are not required to be reported. Notwithstanding the associated ethical questions, this results in an inconsistency between local authority candidates, an inconsistency with rules at the provincial level, and a lack of transparency overall. Furthermore, the LAEA is silent on the responsibility / accountability for verification of the accuracy and completeness of campaign disclosure statements. Without such language, the effectiveness of the LAEA in regulating campaign financial reporting is seriously compromised.

**Exemption from Financial Information Return Requirements for Public Bodies not providing Services**

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**WHEREAS** Sections 277 and 278 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) require clauses that each municipality annually prepare the Financial Information Return (FIR) and send it, together with an auditor's report, to the Minister by May 1 of the following year;

**WHEREAS** Section 276 of the MGA requires that each municipality prepare annual financial statements of the municipality in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for municipal governments recommended by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants;

**WHEREAS** it is established in the Alberta Municipal Affairs Conditional Grant Agreement itself that the Government of Alberta Municipal Affairs has the right to conduct an evaluation or audit of the Project at any time; and

**WHEREAS** the creation of FIR is an onerous and significant undertaking that can expend a substantial portion of the grant funding received by these agencies in their initial phases.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the provincial government to provide an exemption from the requirement for submission of FIR for public bodies established by provincial statute, whose total annual operating budget is less than \$50,000 which are not in the process of delivering services, conducting engineering, or construction activities, for the provision of services, whose only source of funding is provincial grant funding.

**BACKGROUND:**

Many commissions in the initial phases, where the only sources of funding is provincial grant funds, are not in the process of delivering services, or conducting engineering or construction activities for the provision of services. These commissions must provide the required grant reporting documentation, and are subject to audits at any time. Submission of a complete FIR, together with an auditor's report, is also required under the Municipal Government Act. The financial impact on commissions in the initial formation phase can sum up to 20 per cent of the funds for audit fees, leaving fewer funds towards the projects actual intention.

**AUMA COMMENT:**

The Town of Blackfalds' resolution regarding reporting requirements aligns with AUMA's position in the MGA Submission on making the legislation more enabling and less restrictive. The scope of the resolution is much more detailed than that of the submission's inventory of required changes, but it does not conflict with any of the recommendations.

**WHEREAS** the infrastructure deficit and long-term debt of Alberta municipalities continues to grow;

**WHEREAS** municipalities have limited revenue sources to fund this infrastructure deficit;

**WHEREAS** despite the potential inequities in property tax revenues between some rural municipalities as compared to urban municipalities, rural municipalities depend on these revenue sources. Any redistribution of this revenue would have a significant impact on those rural municipalities which is neither achievable nor desirable;

**WHEREAS** the MSI capital program is a welcome program that helps aid in attacking the infrastructure deficit, but it is not sufficient to eliminate this deficit; and

**WHEREAS** a 1% increase in the provincial income tax rate generates approximately \$1.5 billion.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** that the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the provincial government to implement a 1% increase in the provincial income tax rate and distribute this funding as an unconditional transfer payment to municipalities on a per capita basis including a minimum unconditional transfer payment providing all municipalities the opportunity to be financially viable.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** that the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the provincial government to maintain the existing MSI capital program utilizing its existing funding criteria; fund it annually as originally intended at \$1.4 billion; and institute it as an ongoing program.

**BACKGROUND:**

The infrastructure deficit of Alberta municipalities is difficult to determine but it continues to grow as does long-term municipal debt. This results from growth pressures in the province making it more difficult to fund required new infrastructure let alone maintain existing infrastructure. Adding to this pressure is that according to a 2012 AUMA submission to the Federal Infrastructure Round Table, Alberta municipalities were already responsible for 54% of the infrastructure in Alberta in 2006-07 but were only collecting 10% of the tax dollars in Alberta.

Municipalities have limited revenue sources with the major one being property tax. This source is reaching its capacity in many urban municipalities. Smaller urban centers are forced to dissolve and become part of their surrounding rural municipality hoping for a better financial future. The fact remains that the citizens of these municipalities continue to be responsible for the heavy debt loads that they come to their new municipality with and are still faced with enormous infrastructure deficits that will remain their responsibility as rural municipalities do not have the means to absorb this burden.

A transfer payment of an additional 1% of provincial income tax would be predictable sustainable funding for municipalities and improve their long term planning processes. This funding would increase and decrease with the state of the economy and therefore would not force the province to look for cuts during economic downturns. Although this form of funding is new for Alberta, it is not a precedent in Canada.

There is a need to ensure the viability of all municipalities in the province. A straight per capita allocation of the transfer payment will not provide adequate funding for those municipalities with a smaller population base. Although the scope of their projects may be less, the dollars required for these projects is a significant burden on these municipalities. In addition, they have less opportunity to take advantage of economies of scale because of the smaller project scope.

It is one thing for a municipality to decide freely whether or not they are viable or whether they should dissolve, but it is tragic to think that this decision is not made without the heavy burden of financial restrictions weighing in as the biggest factor. All communities, especially smaller ones, provide a sense of community and pride for those that live within it and those that live within the surrounding area.

Providing a base level of \$500,000; \$750,000; \$1,000,000 or even \$1,500,000 on an annual basis would allow these smaller municipalities to plan for larger projects over a period of time, to get them completed and to maintain manageable debt levels.

Instituting this transfer payment would allow for the elimination of some grants that are on an application basis and which many times are awarded to municipalities with the best grant writers.

Some suggest that the province remove the requirement for municipalities to collect the school tax to create more room in the property tax system, this will just add cost for all Albertans as the province would need to set up and implement its own redundant system to collect school taxes.

Although there may be inequities in the property tax system that benefit some rural municipalities, especially when it comes to power and pipeline taxes, and a redistribution of these revenues appears to make sense, this will place additional strain on those rural municipalities who rely on these funds. Additionally, such a redistribution would do nothing to ease the infrastructure deficit of Alberta municipalities. More dollars in total are needed to mitigate the deficit, not merely a redistribution of the same inadequate pool of funds.

In some cases a forced redistribution may be detrimental to intermunicipal relations. Many relationships with our urban neighbors have improved vastly over the past years and to suggest anything that may cause a regression in this area would be discouraging. Furthermore, it is difficult to conceive of the province wanting to step in and cause this type of forced redistribution as they prefer, and rightly so, for municipalities to recommend solutions that are mutually beneficial.

The current MSI system allocates funds based 48% on population, 48% on the education requisition and 4% based on kilometers of roads. We are suggesting that the MSI program be made a permanent program and that it be funded at \$1.4 billion annually as originally set out and that a new transfer payment to municipalities needs to be instituted based on population to encompass the population impact on infrastructure.

**AUMA COMMENT:**

The City of Brooks' resolution is consistent with the recommendation of AUMA's MGA submission in that AUMA has stated that municipalities should receive a share of provincial revenues. AUMA has emphasized that grants and transfers need to be adequate and stable and provide for citizens' requirements. AUMA did not take a formal position on a minimum threshold transfer for smaller municipalities.

**WHEREAS** the Community Revitalization Levy was introduced into the Municipal Government Act (MGA) in 2005 as a financing tool for municipalities under Part 10, Division 4.1 and Section 381.1;

**WHEREAS** five (5) levies have been approved for three municipalities, the latest in 2013;

**WHEREAS** while the Municipal Government Act is under review, the legislation and all of its components are in force as enacted legislation;

**WHEREAS** the Community Revitalization Levy was arbitrarily suspended without notification to municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** the Province of Alberta, as recent as April 2014, have expressed that the Community Revitalization Levy is an empowering tool for municipalities.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Province of Alberta to immediately lift the suspension and allow the Community Revitalization Levy to remain as an option for smaller municipalities.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2005, the MGA was amended to introduce a new financing tool for municipalities. It is a form of incremental tax financing and is referred to as a community revitalization levy (CRL). This levy was incorporated into Part 10, Division 4.1, and Section 381.1 of the MGA to aid municipalities to help accomplish infrastructure redevelopment.

*What is a community revitalization levy?*

A community revitalization levy (CRL) is a funding initiative that allows a municipality to redirect a portion of provincial tax revenues from a designated revitalization area and direct the revenues towards approved municipal expenditures in the specified area. The revenue that is redirected is a portion of the provincial (education) share of the property tax revenue. The approved expenditures must have a direct role in fostering redevelopment of the area and tend to be capital improvements and one-time investments. These municipal improvements encourage property owners to invest in their properties resulting in a renewal and revitalization of an existing area.

Incremental tax financing refers to a process that sets a benchmark assessment/taxation level and every tax dollar collected above the benchmark is redirected to fund targeted investments. In the case of CRL it takes any increase in the provincial school property tax revenue over the benchmark year and provides these funds to the municipality for a 20 year period. For example, if provincial school tax revenue for a property was \$50 in the benchmark year and re-investment in the property occurs in a future year that increases the revenue to \$75, then the added \$25 would be available to the municipality.

The above system does not increase municipal taxes for the ratepayer. What changes is the jurisdiction that gets to use the funds. It is not a new tax and operates as a self-funding mechanism for revitalization efforts.

Before a municipality can create a community revitalization levy there is a considerable amount of planning and preparatory work that must be completed. This process can take up to two years to complete.

The Town of Olds approached the development of a community revitalization levy with the community in mind. Identified as a CRL area was the Uptowne core that had been denoted in the Town's Municipal Development Plan as a candidate for an Area Redevelopment Plan.

Consideration of other initiatives that were underway that would support the information needs of the community revitalization plan included the Heritage Resources Inventory of historically significant buildings in the identified area of Uptowne, the Transportation and Utility Master Plan, the Highway 27 Functional Transportation Plan, the Olds Strategic Sustainability Plan, and the East Olds Area Redevelopment Plan. Use of these existing materials would be utilized to fill in the gaps to result in a community revitalization plan that meets the province's expectations.

Numerous community consultations for contributions into the Uptowne Olds Area Redevelopment Plan took place over the last 18 months that included community visioning and design options workshops. Input was also gathered from referral agencies, residents and the general public through open houses and public meetings.

In November of 2010, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association called for the development of a provincial Brownfield redevelopment strategy. In the AUMA Municipal Connection Newsletter of November 2013, one of the recommendations for redevelopment of Brownfield's included the provision of financial tools, such as the Community Revitalization Levy, to enable such redevelopment.

In April 2014, the Government of Alberta issued a press release regarding the Edmonton CRL and the quote provided by then Acting Minister of Municipal Affairs did not convey the suspension of this program, thus making the suggestion that the program is still available.

As late as May 27, 2014, a webinar on Brownfield Development hosted by the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association makes reference to the CRL financial tool for municipalities.

A letter of intent was sent to the ministry in January of 2014, to which the Minister responded that the province is not accepting any new applications for the CRL at this time. A second letter was sent requesting reconsideration and the response from the province was the same. The reason for this suspension is stated to be a review of the Community Revitalization Levy as it is affected by a redistribution of the provincial education property tax to support the CRL.

Countless hours of time and resources have been realized in preparation to request application to Municipal Affairs for a Community Revitalization Levy for the Town of Olds. Not only the skill sets of property assessment, financial management, engineering, planning, landscape design, public facilitation, intergovernmental liaison and report writing were utilized, and the engagement and citizen guidance have been significant. Not having access to the CRL program has been disheartening to our community.

For many years, AUMA has advocated for the education portion of the property tax to be removed as shown by the AUMA membership supporting the 2011 Resolution of the Removal of Educational Tax Requirement. The province has resisted this advocacy for various reasons. The CRL is a tool that gives some temporary (20 years) relief from provincial funding from the property tax. Programs like the CRL show provincial support for innovation in responding to municipal infrastructure renewal.

**AUMA COMMENT:**

The Town of Olds' resolution regarding the Community Revitalization Levy addresses a financing tool present in the MGA but suspended by the province. Insofar as the revitalization levy provides broader revenue options to municipalities, it is consistent with AUMA's MGA submission.



**WHEREAS** it is the role of Government is to provide safety, health and welfare of people;

**WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta has identified a growing crisis to maintain an acceptable level of care for our aging population;

**WHEREAS** the Premier has on numerous occasions expressed concern and a desire to find alternative solutions to care for and maintain the dignity of our aging population;

**WHEREAS** in general people are more contented, healthy, and well cared-for when care is provided in a family home and by relatives;

**WHEREAS** costs borne by both the province and by the families of Alberta in caring for aging parents continue to increase and are unsustainable in the long-term;

**WHEREAS** the aging demographic and chronic lack of adequate housing and care solutions for seniors demands innovative solutions and the development of creative alternatives;

**WHEREAS** many families, if given an opportunity, would like to provide direct, in-home care for their aged parents but need options for maintaining income levels and/or standard of living; and

**WHEREAS** significant provincial and family cost savings could be realized by permitting family members to provide, when appropriate and within a good regulatory environment, direct in-home care and accommodation for aging relatives.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Alberta Urban Municipalities Association encourage the government to develop creative programs and solutions that will offer family and extended family members the option to provide care for aging parents in a fashion similar to that offered through the "Kinship" Child Care Program.

**BACKGROUND:**

The aging population in Alberta represents a growing need and concern for the care of seniors. There is an ongoing shortage of living facilities for seniors who require assisted living and support, and the private opportunities can be financially out of reach for many Albertan families. Most two-parent families are also two-income families, which the continual increase in cost-of-living necessitates. Families placing their aging parents into assisted living facilities, however, can find their resources significantly stretched by the enormous associated costs.

In Alberta there is a program called "Kinship Care" which offers parents requiring child care the option to pay family members for the provision of child care, and receive the same subsidies and tax breaks that are available to parents to place children in registered child care.

A program similar to "Kinship Care" could be developed that offers family members an option to provide care to their parents and be compensated for this care. This concept would create a substantial savings potential to the overburdened health care system, allow family the ability to have compensation so they can stay at home and care for their loved ones and most importantly, allow the family who knows the aging family members best the ability to have time, respect and compassion in their closing days.

**WHEREAS** pedestrian collisions and fatalities in residential areas have increased in recent years;

**WHEREAS** the public has expressed a growing concern over excessive speeding and the safety of pedestrians in their communities;

**WHEREAS** vehicular speed is directly related to the severity of injury in a vehicular/pedestrian accidents;

**WHEREAS** exceeding the speed limit in a residential area by 15 km/hour has potentially more serious consequences than exceeding the speed limit on a highway by 15 km/hour, the fines are still currently the same;

**WHEREAS** increasing speeding fines are another tool to change driver behaviour; and

**WHEREAS** speeding fines are under the jurisdiction of The Government of Alberta through the Traffic Safety Act.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Government of Alberta to amend the the Traffic Safety Act to increase fines for speeding offences on residential streets.

**BACKGROUND:**

According to some traffic safety experts, the risk of death for a pedestrian in a motor vehicle collision increases dramatically when the speed of a vehicle is greater than 30 km/hour. In Calgary, the number of pedestrian fatalities has increased with three already occurring in a residential context for 2014.

The current legislation does not penalize speeding based on the likelihood of impact to public safety nor does it distinguish the type of environment from where the violation occurred. Although pedestrian crossings and other traffic safety calming measures may be in place, they do not work to their optimum potential if there is excessive speeding.

Higher fines may help to discourage drivers from speeding in residential zones. The speed limit for all urban areas in Alberta is 50 km/hour unless otherwise posted. If a violation is 15 km/hour more than the maximum speed limit, the fine is \$89 while the current penalty for distracted driving including texting is a fine of \$172.

**WHEREAS** ventricular fibrillation is the most common cause of cardiac arrest, and is treated with electrical shock using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED);

**WHEREAS** approximately 40,000 people in Canada experience a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) each year, representing one SCA every 12 minutes;

**WHEREAS** studies have shown that 92% of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest patients may survive if shocked in the first two minutes; and

**WHEREAS** 75% of Sudden Cardiac Arrest deaths in children occur on school property.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request that the Government of Alberta amend the Alberta Safety Code to recommend the installation of Automated External Defibrillators in public facilities and schools.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Council of the Town of Fairview has been presented with information regarding the importance and the lack of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in Alberta schools. The Sudden Cardiac Arrest death of a local high school student while participating in school sports function has prompted the establishment of The Project Brock Society. One purpose of the Society is to advocate for the placement of AED units in all schools in Alberta as well as all public facilities. A study of Sudden Cardiac Arrest events in the United States showed a 64% survival rate in schools with AEDs and training compared with the usual 5% survival rate. There are no statistics available in Canada.

The public awareness campaign of the Project Brock Society has brought the importance of the quick use of an AED to the minds of many people. A number of publicly documented incidents where the immediate availability and use of an AED has made a difference to a life have been reported. There are also reports of citizens now keeping AEDs in their private residences. While some school divisions in the province have voluntarily adopted a requirement for AEDs in their schools, there is no legislation within the Alberta Safety Code buildings code and in the Alberta education system would certainly benefit all Albertans, including our students.

**WHEREAS** The Province of Alberta encourages long term planning by municipalities in developing around provincial highways;

**WHEREAS** municipalities desire to work with the Province of Alberta to ensure positive, focused planning around intersections;

**WHEREAS** currently the Regional Transportation Districts are required to provide comment at each planning stage of development; and

**WHEREAS** The Regional Transportation Districts do not give much consideration to intersections until subdivision adjacent to the intersection occurs.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request that Alberta Transportation amend their current policy to make constructive comments at the preliminary stages of planning. There are Inter-municipal Development Plans (IDP), Area Structure Plans and Outline plans for longer term planning documents.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the comments made by the department at the planning stages be considered the guiding principles for future development adjacent to highways.

**BACKGROUND:**

What is identified at the initial stage of planning should be consistent.

A development group came forward to develop a ¼ section of land in the Town of Penhold. This land is situated adjacent to a primary highway. During the Area Structure Plan/outline plans stage, the town identified the population density anticipated at full build out on this parcel of land. Alberta Transportation responded that this intersection was identified “as an intersection that will operate at an acceptable level in the planning future”. The subdivision for phase one proceeded, followed by subsequent subdivision applications for phases two through six. During the subdivision referral for phase seven, Alberta Transportation indicated that the municipality would be responsible for upgrading the intersection. It was suggested that these costs be passed onto the developer. This comment did not sit well with the development group. They argued their business plan did not account for the additional costs and wondered why this change was left so late in the development of the area.

The only responses received by the Town of Penhold from Alberta Transportation was if the developers were to proceed, the town must give assurance to Alberta Transportation that the intersection will be upgraded to the recommended intersection as outlined in a traffic impact assessment.

**WHEREAS** in 2010 AUMA adopted the following resolution as submitted by The City of Red Deer;

**WHEREAS** 211 is an easy to remember three-digit telephone number that connects callers to a full range of social, health, community and government services;

**WHEREAS** 211 is an information service available to many Albertans and a provincial strategy exists to extend the service to all Albertans;

**WHEREAS** the strategy to extend services to all Albertans has been built on the engagement of communities and local volunteer centres; and

**WHEREAS** a provincial 211 service is expected to cost approximately \$3M to start-up and ongoing costs of approximately \$3.8M annually.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Province of Alberta to consider a provincial funding source that would provide for 211 services to all Albertans, including, but not limited to advocacy with the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to permit telephone service fees for 211 in a manner similar to 911; and

**WHEREAS** in 2011 the Minister of Municipal Affairs provided the following response;

211 Alberta currently covers approximately 70 per cent of the citizens of Alberta and supports recommendation 17 of Alberta's Crime Reduction and Safe Communities Task Force report; establish a family source within the provincial government to provide a central source for information, resources and community connections.

While there are merits to expanding 211 Alberta to the rest of the province, there are significant costs as well. As a result, the Government of Alberta is looking further into this issue with a review to identifying opportunities to:

- Increase efficiencies and reduce duplication of effort;
- Eliminate unnecessary wait times;
- Manage the escalation of issues to crisis by providing the right supports at the right time;
- Increase collaboration and cost-sharing; and
- Slow cost increases and reduce costs.

**WHEREAS** since 2011 there has been no movement provincially on expanding 211; and

**WHEREAS** Alberta 211 will provide a one-stop shop, single point of entry for all citizens in the province once the provincial network has been established but currently only select areas of the province can access this service.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association again urge the Province of Alberta to again consider a provincial funding source that would provide for 211 services to all Albertans.

**BACKGROUND:**

**What is 211?**

211 is an easy to remember three-digit telephone number that connects callers to a full range of social, health, community and government services. It is free, confidential, multilingual and available 24 hours a day.

## **The 211 Alberta Initiative**

The 211 Alberta Initiative was established through a partnership between United Way of Calgary and Area, United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, The Support Network in Edmonton and the Distress Centre Calgary. Additional partners have come on board representing Information and Referral (I&R) services from across the province as well as contacts from FCSS and Health Link.

In Alberta, the 211 service is currently being delivered to residents of Calgary, Cochrane, Edmonton, Parkland County, Leduc and Strathcona County. The Calgary service is provided by the Distress Centre Calgary, and in Edmonton the service is provided by The Support Network. The goal for 211 Alberta is to link these two 211 centres and extend the service to all communities and all citizens of Alberta. Establishing 211 dialing across the province and utilizing a single, comprehensive database of human services information that can be utilized by 211 I&R Specialists to make referrals will provide significant benefits to Albertans and the province. This would be done by:

- developing partnerships with local I&R agencies and/or other community service providers to maintain information on community and social services available in their communities, thereby extending the existing InformAlberta human services database to include data for all communities in the province;
- understanding and assessing the specific requirements of information and referral services for the rural Alberta communities and where necessary, identifying local I&R agencies to partner with 211 Alberta to deliver the service; and
- linking the 211 Calgary and 211 Edmonton centres and creating a single virtual call centre able to answer calls for the entire province 24 hours per day. The concept and benefits of 211 Alberta has received initial support from I&R agencies and other community service providers and stakeholders. Additional work in this area is required to further engage communities in the planning to ensure a comprehensive, community based service for all areas of the province.

## **References**

Association of Information and Referral Services of Alberta (2009). *211 Alberta Overview*. Retrieved June 21, 2010, from <http://www.airsa.ca./default.html>

**WHEREAS** municipalities in Alberta are concerned about economic, social, and environmental sustainability;

**WHEREAS** these same municipalities commonly wish to show leadership and responsibility in acting sustainably;

**WHEREAS** energy purchase to heat, operate, and power facilities is one of the significant costs facing municipalities;

**WHEREAS** economic strength is dependent on innovation, business and manufacturing diversity and is part of municipalities' sustainability strategies;

**WHEREAS** municipalities may wish to consider sustainability relating to their energy purchase choices, commonly referred to as "greening" energy purchases<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS** municipalities may have limited expertise, awareness of options, and background knowledge about green energy or renewable energy options;

**WHEREAS** The Province of Alberta has jurisdiction over the management, exploration, development, and conservation of non-renewable resources<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS** municipalities need to respond to different pressures, expectations, and regulations than independent consumers in considering their purchasing decisions, and must act responsibly and prudently with limited public resources;

**WHEREAS** renewable energy options are often available only at a premium cost or at a tremendous upfront investment with an unrealistic pay-back period;

**WHEREAS** Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) do not credit municipalities as a purchaser with any benefit from the associated carbon credit offsets which in turn can limit the appeal or the direct/tangible benefit;

**WHEREAS** consumers must rely on third party certification as a means of ensuring the are RECs appropriately sourced and accounted for and funds from REC purchases are returned to renewable energy producers to further stimulate investment on a voluntary basis<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS** municipalities may need support to understand and frame options around the purchase of renewable energy in Alberta beyond the primary means of purchasing RECs;

**WHEREAS** The Government of Alberta reports that in the recent past renewable energy sources were more expensive sources than non-renewable, but the rising prices of fossil fuels has leveled the playing field<sup>4</sup>, municipalities may not be experiencing this leveling of costs as they try to purchase green power;

**WHEREAS** there is a specific need for Provincial leadership in renewable energy certificate purchase or a renewable energy strategy involving municipalities;

**WHEREAS** other provincial governments including Quebec and Ontario have developed renewable energy strategies;

**WHEREAS** the release of the Province of Alberta's renewable and alternative energy policy framework continues to be delayed<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS** many municipalities have been investing time and resources into local sustainability plans and initiatives to reduce their environmental footprint, and put significant effort and pride into building more sustainable communities, but would benefit from a solid provincial framework on renewable energy in which municipalities are key stakeholders in developing; and

**WHEREAS** the current choice to purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) seemingly pits higher monetary “premium” costs against environmental costs, or in other words municipalities are often forced into a decision between fiscal restraint and environmental responsibility.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Province of Alberta to prioritize the implementation of the green energy purchase strategy and an alternative and renewable energy framework that specifically identifies municipalities as unique consumers and empowers and equips municipalities to exercise choice within the market-based electricity system.

## **BACKGROUND:**

### Alternative and Renewable Energy Framework

- The electric system in the Province of Alberta is made up of power generation, transmission and consumption. Over 80% of Alberta’s power generation is met through coal and gas fired plants. Renewable energy (predominantly wind) makes up 14%<sup>6</sup>.
- Municipalities are interested in green energy purchase. For instance, in 2012, the City of Edmonton spent \$38.4 million on electricity to run all City of Edmonton buildings. However, they announced a new contract in January 2014 with ENMAX commercial services. Under this contract, the City will be able to pursue green energy strategies, such as self-generation alternatives to providing electricity. This contract will also allow the City to call on industry experts, in a cost-effective manner, to explore opportunities such as energy alternatives, conservation and utilization<sup>7</sup>.
- When a green electricity plan is purchased from a renewable energy company, it's not as though the purchaser actually has wind or solar electricity pumped directly to their outlets. Instead, the supply purchased from renewable energy companies is simply added to the giant pot that is the energy grid. Purchasing a green energy plan means that amount of energy use will be offset in the grand scheme of things because an equivalent to your usage was produced by a renewable energy company<sup>8</sup>.
- Green Energy electricity plans are often purchased at a higher cost or premium over non-green plans<sup>9</sup>.
- The province has experience in green energy purchase. Alberta Infrastructure began using electricity from renewable sources in 2006 and its commitment to using renewable energy was instrumental in helping establish some of Alberta’s first Wind Farms. Since 2009, Alberta Infrastructure has supplied government owned facilities with 100% “Eco Logo” certified electricity. The government website reports that purchasing Green Power reduces their carbon footprint by an estimated 150,000 Metric Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year – the equivalent to taking over 40,000 vehicles off Alberta’s road.<sup>10</sup>
- Renewable energy options are growing in range and complexity. Many municipalities will have heard of the popular types of green energy, such as a solar energy or wind energy, but there are other emerging options. In the near future these may include harvesting oils from algae or waste or putting new types of buoys offshore to capture energy of tides, and there is a wide variety of clean energy companies experimenting with new sources of energy.<sup>11</sup> A provincial framework on renewable energy would help municipalities to navigate this emerging industry.
- The need for a comprehensive plan governing wind, solar, and geothermal electricity generation in Alberta has been discussed since 2007 and was recently identified within the throne speech of the current Government. But the role of municipal green energy purchase has not been specified.<sup>12</sup> The goal of such a framework has previously been recommended as helping to increase Alberta’s supply of and demand for renewable and alternative electricity sources.
- Some experts have called for Alberta to hasten the introduction of “an alternative and renewable energy framework that empowers consumers to exercise choice within the market-based electricity system.”<sup>13</sup>



- The Pembina Institute reports that Alberta has significant renewable energy potential – including wind, bioenergy, geothermal and hydro – but requires the implementation of strong provincial policies designed to support renewable energy and energy efficiency deployment in the province. As these policies are developed municipalities need to have a distinct and clear voice to ensure that specific needs and supports are met.<sup>14</sup>
- The Alberta Municipal Services Corporation (AMSC), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), provides energy services. The AMSC Energy Program was launched at the time Alberta deregulated its electric utility industry in response to members’ needs. The AUMA membership participating in the program has benefited since the program’s inception in 2001 through the cost effective supply of aggregated energy including optional Green Power. The 2014 AMSC Energy Program is the RIGHT PRODUCT, the RIGHT PARTNERSHIP, and the RIGHT PRICE to Municipalities, Municipally Related Organizations and Not for Profit Organizations in Alberta for Natural Gas, Electricity and Green Power.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> City of Edmonton. 2014. [http://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/news/2014/city-of-edmonton-plugs-in-new-electricity-contract.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/news/2014/city-of-edmonton-plugs-in-new-electricity-contract.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> Government of Alberta, Alberta Energy. “Alberta’s Provincial Energy Strategy” page 7.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/gpmarket/rec.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Government of Alberta, Alberta Energy. “Alberta’s Provincial Energy Strategy” page 10

<sup>5</sup> Edmonton Journal. “Long-awaited Alberta renewable energy strategy still in limbo”

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/Long+awaited+Alberta+renewable+energy+strategy+still+limbo/9683671/story.html>

<sup>6</sup> AUMA, Energizing **Municipalities**: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association –Draft Energy Reference Guide- page 4.

[http://www.auma.ca/live/digitalAssets/65/65867\\_Energy\\_Reference\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.auma.ca/live/digitalAssets/65/65867_Energy_Reference_Guide.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/news/2014/city-of-edmonton-plugs-in-new-electricity-contract.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/news/2014/city-of-edmonton-plugs-in-new-electricity-contract.aspx)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.albertaenergyproviders.com/renewable-energy-alberta.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.pollutionprobe.org/whatwedo/greenpower/consumerguide/alberta.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Government of Alberta, <http://www.infrastructure.alberta.ca/3813.htm>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.albertaenergyproviders.com/renewable-energy-alberta.html>

<sup>12</sup> Calgary Herald. “Wind, solar proponents have high hopes for Alberta renewable energy framework Policy promised in throne speech.” By Amanda Stephenson, March 4, 2014

<sup>13</sup> Calgary Herald. “Wind, solar proponents have high hopes for Alberta renewable energy framework Policy promised in throne speech.” By Amanda Stephenson, March 4, 2014

<sup>14</sup> Pembina Institute, <http://www.pembina.org/re/work/provincial-policy> May 2014

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.auma.ca/live/digitalAssets/70/70898\\_Template\\_-\\_2014\\_AMSC\\_Energy\\_Program\\_-\\_Council\\_RFD\\_-\\_Feb\\_5\\_\\_2013.pdf](http://www.auma.ca/live/digitalAssets/70/70898_Template_-_2014_AMSC_Energy_Program_-_Council_RFD_-_Feb_5__2013.pdf)

**WHEREAS** chemicals and biochemicals are used for health care and other purposes and contribute to improved living standards for society;

**WHEREAS** there is a growing concern of the impacts that these substances have on the environment and potentially human health as they become contaminants within terrestrial and aquatic environments;

**WHEREAS** contaminants, including pesticides, herbicides, hydrocarbons, Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) (e.g., flushable wipes), enter the aquatic environment through a variety of sources including municipal wastewaters, industrial releases, agribusiness and other sources;

**WHEREAS** PPCPs comprise a diverse collection of chemical and biochemical substances, including antibiotics, hormones, medications, fragrances, cosmetics and products used by agribusiness to boost growth or health of livestock; and

**WHEREAS** in the past decade analytical methods have been developed to identify and quantify the presence of PPCPs and other contaminants in water and research has begun on the potential impact these contaminants may have on the aquatic environment.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association advocate that the province, in collaboration with the federal government:

- Inform municipalities with respect to current knowledge related to the risks associated with PPCPs and other contaminants in Alberta's aquatic environments;
- Consult with municipalities with respect to government plans to advance knowledge and develop best management practices, guidelines and regulations related to PPCPs and other contaminants; and
- Collaborate with municipalities to identify, study, and monitor contaminants within Alberta aquatic environments, particularly surface waters used as drinking water sources or wastewater receiving streams, and to evaluate the potential risks associated with each water body.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** once guidelines and regulations have been established, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association advocate that the province, in collaboration with the federal government:

- Work collaboratively with rural and urban municipalities to develop source control programs (e.g., education, best management practices, monitoring, enforcement) and treatment processes to reduce harmful contaminants within their waste streams; and
- Provide funding to municipalities to support source control programs and construct/upgrade treatment facilities to reduce harmful levels of targeted contaminants.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Contaminants in Water**

- The Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality are established by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee and published by Health Canada. Each guideline is based on current, published scientific research as it relates to the health effects, aesthetic effects and operational considerations for each contaminant; which municipalities monitor with respect to their potable water. The Canadian Council of ministers of the Environment recently created a Canada Wide Strategy which proposed new regulations for wastewater effluent. Municipalities monitor their wastewater effluent for these contaminants prior to discharging to receiving streams and report them to the Federal Government. However, many pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) along with other contaminants are not well monitored as they are not yet a part of the regulations.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency states that “Studies have shown that pharmaceuticals are present in our nation's waterbodies. Further research suggests that certain drugs may cause ecological harm.” They also indicate that “To date, scientists have found no evidence of adverse human health effects from PPCPs in the environment.”
- PPCPs in aquatic environments are an emerging concern to many people, organizations and governments. While there has been considerable research done on the topic, no best management practices, guidelines or regulations appear to have been developed in Canada or the U.S. with respect to PPCPs in source water or waste streams.
- Additional information can be found at the following websites:
  1. Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in the Canadian Environment: Research and Policy Directions – Workshop Proceedings; NWRI Scientific Assessment Report Series No. 8; Environment Canada, et al.  
<https://www.ec.gc.ca/inre-nwri/Default.asp?lang=En&n=C00A589F-1>
  2. Environment Canada began conducting monitoring for PPCPs on several water ways across Canada in 2008. The following link provides the program overview, objectives and parameters measured:  
<https://www.ec.gc.ca/scitech/default.asp?lang=en&n=FDfE3DAA-1>
  3. The US Environmental Protection Agency provides information with respect to PPCPs at the following links:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ppcp/>; <http://www.epa.gov/esd/chemistry/images/303ecb04db.pdf>
  4. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is undertaking research on a variety of emerging contaminants in the environment as outlined at the following link: <http://toxics.usgs.gov/regional/emc/>
  5. The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission website related to Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) can be found at the following link: <http://www.neiwpcc.org/ppcp/>

**WHEREAS** the population of Alberta is expected to continue to grow in the coming years, along with the number of registered vehicles on our roads;

**WHEREAS** Alberta reported over 3.1 million registered vehicles in 2012, a 9.5% increase from 2008;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS** automotive emissions from cars, trucks, and buses are a significant contributor to smog, air pollution, and the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG);

**WHEREAS** automotive emissions can have a significant negative impact on air quality in our communities and province;

**WHEREAS** most drivers of older vehicles do not regularly test for emissions and therefore, may not be aware of repairs or maintenance needed to their vehicle to reduce their emissions, and could benefit from increased awareness and public education relating to the types of emissions and impacts associated with vehicle emissions;

**WHEREAS** The Government of Alberta released a renewed clean air strategy in 2012 indicating it has been a global leader in its approach to air quality management but admitting that “many non-point source emissions remain largely unmanaged and additional management tools are required;”<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS** there are high health and environmental costs to the pollution generated by vehicle emissions which are often borne by individuals, tax payers, and local municipalities;

**WHEREAS** other provincial governments including Quebec, British Columbia, and Ontario have instituted mandatory vehicles emissions testing programs, at least in portions of their provinces, demonstrating the process is possible;

**WHEREAS** Alberta already requires inspection of all incoming inspection of vehicles entering Alberta for safety and could conceivably expand the process to require air emissions testing of older vehicles, and expand the process to include all trucks, passenger vehicles, and buses being registered once they are a set age and older (excluding those vehicles that do not generate emissions such as electric vehicles); and

**WHEREAS** many municipalities have been investing time and resources into local sustainability initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and put significant effort and pride into having clean, healthy communities, but have little control over the regulation of vehicles emissions into the air from older vehicles.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Province of Alberta to institute mandatory vehicles emissions inspection and maintenance program for all older trucks, buses, and passenger vehicles being registered in the Province of Alberta to reduce vehicle emissions of smog-causing pollutants by requiring vehicles to undergo an emissions test, identify emission problems, and have them repaired.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Mandatory Vehicles Emissions Testing**

- Between 2008 and 2012 the number of registered vehicles in Alberta rose from 2,906,963 to 3,183,871.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Government of Alberta, Alberta Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety, Number of Motorized Vehicles Registered in Alberta as of March 31 2008-2012. Vehicle Geographical Reports (SDGEO030)

<sup>5</sup> Clearing the Air: Alberta’s Renewed Clean Air Strategy, Alberta Government, 2012 page 6.

- Older vehicles are commonly defined as anywhere from five to ten years of age and older, however this does vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. As a program is developed for Alberta it would be crucial to look to best practices and to specifically define a set age of vehicles to be tested in this province.
- Vehicle emissions are a leading source of air contaminants / air pollution, emitting about a third of total greenhouse gases (GHG) and a range of harmful contaminants into the air including nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, sulphur dioxide and ammonia.<sup>7</sup>
- Air pollution is directly linked to respiratory illness, some types of cancer, and premature births all of which have significant impact in terms of loss of life as well as health treatment costs.<sup>8</sup>
- The Heart and Stroke Foundation reports, since the early 1990s, documented increased rates of heart attack, and more hospitalizations for serious heart diseases such as heart failure, and stroke, after both short and long-term exposure to polluted air.<sup>9</sup>
- The Lower Mainland area and Fraser Valley of British Columbia have had an emissions testing program in place since 1992 called air-care<sup>10</sup>. The program is in place to provide light-duty vehicle emissions testing until December 31, 2014. The Province of B.C. announced that light-duty vehicles will no longer require emissions testing after this date. After 2014, B.C. is re-directing the program to testing heavy duty diesel vehicles (e.g. backhoes, forklifts). The B.C. government felt that they had achieved their objectives with the light duty program and wanted to focus on a new area. Additional considerations were the fact that the Lower Mainland has seen large increases in transit use/system expansion since 1992. And that B.C.'s government has put many incentives into electric vehicle infrastructure to encourage these over gas cars in recent years. So for these reasons the program will see re-purposing to focus on another large air pollution offender - heavy duty equipment.
- B.C.'s Aircare Program has taken 20,000 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> yearly out of air in lower mainland which has meant a 30% drop in auto air pollution just since 2000.
- It is estimated that the annual health care cost savings in British Columbia's Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley by having an air care program that required mandatory vehicle emissions testing is \$30 million per year.<sup>11</sup>
- In addition to emissions testing, other vehicle-emissions programs in B.C. are diesel school bus retrofit program, Idle Free B.C., a scrap-it program to simply remove older vehicles from the road all together, and incentives such as tax breaks for clean transportation options.<sup>12</sup>
- All vehicles deteriorate over time and can benefit from emission inspection and maintenance. Common repairs identified in other jurisdictions which require testing do not appear to be onerous as they include: replacing dirty oil, replacing dirty filters, new sparkplugs, repair of leaks, and replacing disabled equipment.
- It is important to note that equipment disabled by drivers (such as sensors) or after-market enhancements to achieve desired performance, sound or aesthetics occur in vehicles of all ages, not only older vehicles. While mandatory emissions testing would not reach drivers of newer vehicles who have made such changes, the general education and awareness program that accompanies and forms part of an emissions testing program would have the potential to influence all drivers.
- In Ontario, which requires all heavy duty diesel vehicles be tested and requires light-duty and non-diesel heavy duty vehicles in southern Ontario (Windsor to Ottawa corridor), the mandatory checks have led to repairs that have reduced smog emissions by over one-third.<sup>13</sup>
- In comparison, Alberta has no provincial vehicle emissions air care programs.

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<sup>6</sup> Government of Alberta, Alberta Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety, Number of Motorized Vehicles Registered in Alberta as of March 31 2008-2012. Vehicle Geographical Reports (SDGEO030)

<sup>7</sup> BCGEU, Renewing Our Commitment to Clean Air in BC. *The Case for Continuing Mandatory Light-Duty Vehicle Emissions Testing by the AirCare Program* MARCH 2014

<sup>8</sup> BCGEU, Renewing Our Commitment to Clean Air in BC. *The Case for Continuing Mandatory Light-Duty Vehicle Emissions Testing by the AirCare Program* MARCH 2014

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/story.html?id=5f60ddd6-162b-4b05-af1a-dd086c32d23f>

<sup>10</sup> Province of British Columbia. [www.env.gov.bc.ca](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca)

<sup>11</sup> BCGEU, Renewing Our Commitment to Clean Air in BC. *The Case for Continuing Mandatory Light-Duty Vehicle Emissions Testing by the AirCare Program* MARCH 2014

<sup>12</sup> Province of British Columbia. [www.env.gov.bc.ca](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.ontario.ca/driving-and-roads>

- According to the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation's [Report Card on Canadians' Health](#) Alberta scores poorly in air reports, with levels of particulate matter ranking close to B.C.'s Lower Mainland and air quality in Alberta very close to poor Ontario and Quebec levels.<sup>14</sup>
- Alberta is responsible for one-third of Canada's air pollution emissions.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2012 Alberta released an air care strategy identifying that clean air is a key issue for Albertans.
- In 2012, communities in Alberta including The City of Edmonton and The City of Red Deer exceeded the air contaminants levels in the Canada wide standard. Both cities have been asked by the province to engage in an air management plan. Other communities may be in danger of exceeding the standards as well. Efforts by the province to address vehicle emissions from older vehicles would support municipalities which are working to improve their air quality.
- Therefore, the province is being asked to research, design, and institute a program for annual mandatory emissions testing for all older heavy and light duty trucks, buses, and passenger vehicles. The intent is to show leadership on addressing air quality concerns in our province and to ensure that older vehicles are well maintained to preserve health and well-being of all Albertans and our natural environment.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/story.html?id=5f60ddd6-162b-4b05-af1a-dd086c32d23f>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/story.html?id=5f60ddd6-162b-4b05-af1a-dd086c32d23f>

**WHEREAS** humanity relies upon bees and other pollinating insects to pollinate 2/3 of the world's food crops;

**WHEREAS** pollinators are a keystone species upon which the health of many others species are dependent;

**WHEREAS** pollinator habitat is being lost and threatened around the globe due to development and agricultural practice, including pesticide use;

**WHEREAS** the Province of Alberta would benefit by the identification, protection and enhancement of pollinator habitat;

**WHEREAS** the economic value of native pollinators is estimated to be over \$3 billion per year in North America;

**WHEREAS** fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a major part of the diet of approximately 25 per cent of all birds, and of mammals ranging from red-backed voles to grizzly bears;

**WHEREAS** native pollinators can be more efficient and effective pollinators than non-native species;

**WHEREAS** some of our indigenous plant species rely on specific indigenous pollinator species for successful pollination and thus the continuation of their species;

**WHEREAS** recently published research indicate a decrease in some of Alberta's indigenous bumblebee populations, including the rusty-patched bumblebee which is now listed as an endangered species in Canada;

**WHEREAS** European honeybees, which are now used for pollination around the world, are also declining in numbers;

**WHEREAS** plants play a key role in the prevention of soil erosion and fuel the nutrient cycle by decomposing and absorbing nutrients, and close to 70 per cent of the world's plants rely on pollinators for fertilization and reproduction;

**WHEREAS** pollinator gardens and parks throughout the province could provide habitat for native pollinators and an opportunity to create awareness in the province about the importance of pollinators and their habitat;

**WHEREAS** the creation of pollinator parks and gardens that do not require the use of pesticides will therefore create a healthier environment to protect not only pollinators but also human health; and

**WHEREAS** the use of pesticides is one of the main hazards to pollinator health.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Province of Alberta to change the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Pesticide Regulations to restrict the sale and use of neonicotides.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Pollinator Protection**

Neonicotides and related pesticides are prevalent in insecticides and are not a factor in any herbicides. Agricultural producers, home gardeners and commercial users are the primary users of these products and are the most significant contributors to pollinator habitat degradation. Public education and environmental initiatives are required to inform Alberta residents of the importance of providing habitat and reducing insecticide use.

<http://davidsuzuki.org/blogs/science-matters/2009/04/if-the-bees-disappear-well-all-be-stung/>  
<http://www.xerces.org>  
<http://wildlifepreservation.ca/species-in-need/canadian-species/rusty-patched-bumble-bee/>  
<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/calgary/Declining+populations+pose+threat+food+crops+Alberta+around+globe/8031808/story.html>  
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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern\\_Nectar\\_Sources\\_for\\_Honey\\_Bees](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Nectar_Sources_for_Honey_Bees)  
<http://pollinator.org/index.html>  
<http://www.panna.org/publication/generation-in-jeopardy>



**WHEREAS** the purpose of a municipality is to provide good governance, services, facilities or other things that in the opinion of Council are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality and to develop and maintain safe and viable communities;

**WHEREAS** Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) programs are of a preventive nature that enhances the social well-being of individuals and families through promotion or intervention strategies;

**WHEREAS** over 318 municipalities and Metis settlements participate in the program;

**WHEREAS** in 2006, 2007 and 2010 the AUMA adopted resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide greater support to FCSS;

**WHEREAS** in response to the 2010 resolution the Minister of Human Services in a meeting with the AUMA Executive Committee acknowledged the importance of FCSS programs but indicated there is such tremendous pressure on income support programs and child protection that he will be unable to increase the funding in 2013;

**WHEREAS** the FCSS Association issued a media release dated March 20, 2014 outlining its discouragement and concern about the 2014 Human Services' projected budgets for the next two years and the lack of increases for FCSS programs since 2009 which will result in FCSS funding being flat-lined for eight years;

**WHEREAS** the investment in prevention will be a significant step in creating a sustainable system for children, youth and families and no increase in funding will result in decreasing or eliminating services and programs; and

**WHEREAS** the social costs of crime including policing, health care and corrections are significant items in budget expenditures.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request the Government of Alberta to immediately increase provincial funding to municipalities for Family and Community Support Services commensurate to the population growth and annual inflations, thereby relieving some of the pressure on crisis intervention and prevention services and ensuring the sustainability of these essential programs.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association work with other partners including, but not limited to Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta, and Calgary FCSS Sustainability Forum to advocate for a fully funded, sustainable provincial FCSS program.

**BACKGROUND:**

The FCSS philosophy is based on a belief that self-help contributes to the sense of integrity self-worth and independence. The programs developed are intended to help individuals in the community to adopt healthy lifestyles thereby improving the quality of life and building the capacity to prevent and or deal with crisis situations should the need arise. There has been no increase in funding since 2009 to help support the cost of these programs. Because of this FCSS is falling further behind in its ability to maintain its level of support to Albertans and in many cases reducing or eliminating much needed services and programs in many communities.

**FCSS Funding**

See attached media release.

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**For Immediate Release**

**March 20, 2014**

**FCSS FUNDING FLAT-LINED FOR 8 YEARS IN ALBERTA HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET**

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) offices across Alberta are discouraged and concerned about the 2014 Human Services budget and projected budgets for the next two years, as the Alberta government failed again to increase funding to the FCSS Program.

There has not been an increase to provincial FCSS funding since April 2009. With the projected lack of increase for another 2 years, FCSS will be flat-lined for 8 years. All while cost pressures on preventive social services agencies continue to grow as Alberta experiences tremendous population growth.

Family and Community Support Services is an 80/20 cost-shared funding partnership between the Province and municipalities or Métis settlements, since 1966. Over 320 municipalities and Métis settlements participate in the provincial FCSS Program, ensuring that Albertans have access to a strong network of prevention supports and social services. FCSS funding to community agencies provides services to Alberta's most vulnerable seniors, children, youth, adults, newcomers. In many rural communities, the municipal FCSS program is the first line and the last line of contact for residents.

Over half of the 320 municipalities with FCSS programs now contribute far more than the required 20%. And expectation is growing from these municipalities for the Province to also increase its share of the funding.

FCSS program staff and volunteers in every corner of the province have been instrumental in supporting the recent roll out of the provincial Social Policy Framework and Poverty Reduction Strategy, by organizing and facilitating community conversations to provide comprehensive input into the plans. FCSS strongly supports the government's goals and outcomes of the Social Policy Framework.

Human Services Minister Manmeet Bhullar has stated that his ministry should be focusing more on pro-active, prevention to support intervention, and that collaborative, non-siloed approaches are necessary. This is exactly the way FCSS staff and volunteers have worked in communities for over 40 years.

Sustainability of the FCSS Program is at the tipping point. A flat-lined budget for 8 years equates to a budget cut that doesn't account for population growth or annual inflation.

Not only is Family and Community Support Services falling farther behind in its ability to simply maintain its level of preventive supports to Albertans, in many cases, services must now be reduced or eliminated - there is no room for expanding the important work.

If the ministry is increasingly investing in prevention across its program areas, and all program areas received a budget increase, why is Family and Community Support Services not included?

-end-

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Jeff Carlson, President

Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta

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**WHEREAS** Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development estimates that a dreissenid mussel (quagga and zebra mussels) invasion into Alberta water bodies could have a detrimental \$75 million annual impact on the Alberta economy;

**WHEREAS** the economic impact targets many aspects of the economy including but not limited to drinking water systems, water diversion intakes, water management structures and power generation;

**WHEREAS** the annual cost of preventing the invasion of this species is much less than the annual cost of mitigating the damages after an invasion;

**WHEREAS** these mussels are listed as prohibited species in Alberta's Fisheries Act but current provincial measures are not sufficient to ensure the species does not invade provincial water bodies; and

**WHEREAS** zebra mussels are migrating closer to Alberta and have been found as close as Lake Winnipeg increasing the urgency to address this situation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the provincial government to enact/amend legislation and/or regulations to encompass zero tolerance, mandatory inspections and the necessary enforcement authority for dreissenid mussels to ensure the species does not invade Alberta; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the provincial government to take preventative measures including the establishment, funding and staffing of mussel inspection stations at strategic entrances into Alberta and the funding of a comprehensive awareness campaign on the risk of the species entering the province and the preventative measures boaters must take to eliminate the risk.

**BACKGROUND:**

Dreissenid mussels include both zebra mussels and quagga mussels. These non-native species are native to Eastern Europe and it is thought that they were introduced into North America on ocean ships through the St. Lawrence Seaway. They are spreading throughout the parts of the United States and eastern Canada with zebra mussels found in Lake Winnipeg in October 2013.

These mussels filter organisms out of water, altering the food chain and in turn threatening existing native species. They also cling on to any solid object, accumulating to the point that they clog up municipalities' water intake pipes and irrigation infrastructure.

If introduced into Alberta it is estimated that the financial impact to mitigate damages will be \$75 million annually including \$20,839,921 to drinking water systems.

These mussels are listed as prohibited species in the Alberta fisheries Act but diligence in enforcement is lacking. When inspection stations have been set up, the requirement for the inspections is voluntary with many Canadians opting not to have their boats inspected. On the other hand, Americans at Alberta inspection stops are more likely to agree to the inspections as they are mandatory in some states. In fact, inspections in the United States in 2013 alerted the province that seven boats contaminated with the mussels were headed for lakes in Alberta.

Alberta tested for the mussels in some water bodies in 2013 and have carried out pilot boat inspections at certain border locations. They intend to continue with this program in 2014. This is not enough, however, as inspections are voluntary as noted earlier. A more diligent approach backed by strong legislation is required along with funding for

inspection stations. Funding education campaigns is also important in preventing these mussels from entering Alberta. Boaters need to be aware of the risks that these mussels pose and the steps that they can take to ensure they are not contaminating our lakes.

Spending money on these precautionary methods is much cheaper on an annual basis than having to enter the mitigation phase, and with these mussels already in Manitoba it is now that the province must act.

## **2014 Policy and Resolutions book**

### **Category Targeted Scope**

#### **AUMA Resolutions Policy:**

The **Targeted Scope** category would have resolutions that address matters of significance to all or most municipalities located in one area of the province or municipal members of a similar size.

0 resolutions recommended under this Category.

## **2014 Policy and Resolutions book**

### **Category Endorsement Requests**

#### **AUMA Resolutions Policy:**

The **Endorsement Requests** category would address requests of regular Members to endorse positions they are taking without any advocacy action by AUMA.

0 resolutions recommended under this Category.

## **2014 Policy and Resolutions book**

### **Category Non-Municipal Matters**

#### **AUMA Resolutions Policy:**

The **Non-Municipal Matters** category would have resolutions that address matters of significance to all or most municipalities located in one area of the province or municipal members of a similar size.

0 resolutions recommended under this Category.