



NEWS RELEASE

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President Cathy Heron: Future amendments to Alberta's MGA

EDMONTON – *The following is an official statement from Alberta Municipalities President Cathy Heron:*

Earlier today, Premier Jason Kenney announced that his government plans to amend the Municipal Government Act (MGA) so that local governments cannot create public health bylaws. He indicated that he intends to complete these amendments as soon as possible.

It is an unfortunate turn of events. The Government of Alberta's intended course of action – amending the MGA – was never formally discussed with us. No conversation, consultation or collaboration occurred between the provincial government and Alberta Municipalities on this important topic.

Alberta Municipalities finds the provincial government's 'top-down' approach to be heavy-handed and unnecessary. It seems like a short-term political calculation that could influence long-term governance decisions at the municipal level.

It is cause for concern, and we worry that it may set a dangerous precedent. After all, if the provincial government can amend the MGA whenever a local government disagrees with it or wishes to take a different approach, then municipalities will have lost some of their autonomy and some of their freedom to decide and act locally in the best interests of their residents and businesses.

We ask the Government of Alberta to reconsider its decision to amend the MGA, and we encourage it to work with us and other key municipal government stakeholders to resolve the issue another way.

Media contact

Scott Lundy
Communications Manager, Alberta Municipalities
780.668.2436
communications@abmunis.ca
abmunis.ca

From the smallest village to the largest city, across every region of the province, Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) represents the communities where over 85% of Albertans live. Previously known as the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), ABmunis was founded in 1905 to provide urban and rural-region communities a united voice.

We work with elected and administrative leaders of Alberta's summer villages, villages, town, cities, and specialized municipalities to advocate for solutions to their common issues, which we categorize as economic, environment, governance, infrastructure, or social.