

2020 RESOLUTIONS BOOK

AUMA Annual Convention, Calgary
September 23-25, 2020

Version 1 – August 19, 2020



TM



TM

WE ARE
economies
OF SCALE

WE ARE THE
support
YOU NEED

WE ARE THE
experts
IN MUNICIPALITIES

WE ARE YOUR
advocate

2020 Resolutions Book

Version 1 – August 19, 2020

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association

**2020 Convention
Edmonton, Alberta
September 23 - 25**

**Resolutions Session:
September 24, 2020**

Resolutions for Discussion at the 2020 Annual AUMA Convention

Table of Contents

AUMA RESOLUTIONS POLICY		Page 5
Category B - Issues related to AUMA's strategic initiatives		Page 19
RESOLUTION 2020.B1	Fiscal Framework City of Edmonton	Page 20
RESOLUTION 2020.B2	Provincial Sales Tax for Municipal Capital Project Support City of Lethbridge	Page 24
RESOLUTION 2020.B3	Continuation of Municipal Bonds in Alberta City of Lethbridge	Page 27
RESOLUTION 2020.B4	Education Property Tax Collection Town of Drayton Valley	Page 30
RESOLUTION 2020.B5	Education Tax Rebate Town of Spirit River	Page 33
RESOLUTION 2020.B6	Permanent Transit Funding City of Edmonton	Page 35
RESOLUTION 2020.B7	Community Peace Officer/Police Costing Model Town of Raymond	Page 37
RESOLUTION 2020.B8	Resolution Against Quebec's Bill 21 City of Edmonton	Page 40
RESOLUTION 2020.B9	Provincial Support for Addressing Affordable Housing and Homelessness City of Edmonton	Page 42
RESOLUTION 2020.B10	Integration of Nurse Practitioners into the Alberta Healthcare System AUMA Board of Directors	Page 45
RESOLUTION 2020.B11	Providing a Long-Term Source of Financial Relief for Albertans City of Calgary	Page 48
RESOLUTION 2020.B12	Sustainable Funding for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure City of Cold Lake	Page 51
Category C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities		Page 53
RESOLUTION 2020.C1	Support for Alberta Film Industry & Economic Diversification Town of Okotoks	Page 54
RESOLUTION 2020.C2	Increase Provincial Flood Mitigation and Mapping Standards Town of Okotoks	Page 58
RESOLUTION 2020.C3	Alberta Structure Protection Town of Pincher Creek	Page 60
RESOLUTION 2020.C4	Blue Lights for Tow Trucks Village of Beiseker	Page 62
RESOLUTION 2020.C5	Fair Increase for Wireless Device 911 Levy to Modernize 911 Call Centres	Page 64

	City of Grande Prairie	
RESOLUTION 2020.C6	Review of Libraries Act Village of Ryley	Page 67
RESOLUTION 2020.C7	Current Population Funding for Alberta’s Municipal Public Libraries City of Spruce Grove	Page 69

AUMA Resolutions Policy

POLICY NO. AP002 – Revised August 2020

PURPOSE

1. AUMA represents over 260 municipalities that face a wide variety of complex issues. AUMA's vision is to be a change agent that enables municipalities to be a fully engaged order of government with the capacity to build thriving communities. AUMA's mission is to be the voice of urban municipalities and provide visionary leadership, solutions-based advocacy and service excellence.
2. As part of fulfilling our vision and mission, AUMA conducts a resolutions process that enables Member municipalities to identify and prioritize common issues and solutions that empower AUMA's Board of Directors to advocate to the federal and provincial governments on Members' behalf.
3. The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear and consistent process for resolutions that aligns with AUMA's broader advocacy initiatives.

DEFINITIONS

4. In this policy:
 - a. "**Advocacy**" refers to the wide variety of actions undertaken by AUMA to address municipal issues.
 - b. "**AUMA**" refers the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.
 - c. "**AUMA Administration**" refers to AUMA employees.
 - d. "**Board**" refers to the AUMA Board of Directors.
 - e. "**Board Member**" refers to a Member of the AUMA Board of Directors.
 - f. "**CEO**" refers to the Chief Executive Officer of AUMA.
 - g. "**Committee**" refers to a standing Committee of the Board or an ad-hoc Committee established by the Board.
 - h. "**Convention**" refers to the annual Convention AUMA holds to conduct the business of the Association, consider resolutions, and provide opportunities for education and networking.
 - i. "**Elected Representative**" refers to an elected representative of a Member.
 - j. "**Member**" refers to a Regular AUMA Member: any city, town, village, summer village, or specialized municipality located in Alberta.

- k. **“Political Capital”** refers to the goodwill, trust and influence a political figure/organization has with the public and other political figures/organizations.
- l. **“Resolutions Book”** refers to the electronic document that includes resolutions to be considered at Convention.

POLICY

Call for Resolutions

- 5. No later than January 31 of each year, AUMA issues a call for resolutions to be considered at AUMA’s Convention during the Resolutions Session.
- 6. The call includes information on:
 - a. AUMA’s resolutions policy and process, including a resolution writing guide and template;
 - b. AUMA’s prioritization policy and process, so that Members understand how AUMA identifies the level of engagement it invests in various issues;
 - c. Strategic initiatives approved by the Board, so Members are aware of where AUMA is focusing its attention and resources; and
 - d. The Resolutions Library, so Members are aware of past resolutions and AUMA’s actions on them, as well as resolutions that are due to expire at that year’s Convention as per Section 62 of this policy.

Movers and Seconders

- 7. Resolutions may be sponsored by:
 - a. A single Member’s council. Resolutions sponsored by a single Member must be seconded by another Member’s council;
 - b. The councils of a group of Members. All group sponsored resolutions are deemed to be seconded; or
 - c. The Board.
- 8. The sponsor of a resolution is deemed to have moved the resolution and is referred to as the “mover”.

Research and Writing

- 9. As outlined by the template in Appendix “A”, each resolution shall be written in the following format:
 - a. A concise title, which specifies the issue in the resolution;
 - b. A preamble of “WHEREAS” clauses, which provide a clear, brief, and factual context for the operative clause;

- c. An operative clause, which clearly sets out what the resolution is meant to achieve and the proposal for action; and
 - d. Background information, which provides further context as to why the issue is important to Alberta municipalities.
10. Primary responsibility for researching and drafting resides with the mover.
11. Members are encouraged to seek initial advice from AUMA Administration on resolution topics and sources of information, as well as feedback on the format, accuracy, and clarity of draft resolutions.

Submission

12. Resolutions must be submitted to AUMA Administration no later than May 31 of each year.
13. AUMA's CEO may grant an extension of the deadline if:
- a. Convention is scheduled later than Thanksgiving Day in any year; or
 - b. Conditions prevent Members from submitting resolutions by the deadline (e.g. There is an emergency event.)
14. Resolutions must be submitted:
- a. Electronically, as specified in the call for resolutions;
 - b. In the format specified by the template in Appendix "A";
 - c. Along with minutes that show proof of the moving and seconding councils' approvals as required in section 7; and
 - d. In adherence to the guidelines presented in this policy.

Emergent Resolutions

15. A resolution related to a matter of an urgent nature arising after the resolution deadline may be considered as "emergent" on a case-by-case basis.
16. The criteria of an emergent resolution are that it **must**:
- a. Deal with an issue of concern to Alberta municipalities which has arisen after the resolution deadline, or just prior to the resolution deadline, such that Members could not submit it as a resolution in time;
 - b. Have a critical aspect that needs to be addressed before the next Convention; and
 - c. Comply with the guidelines for resolutions set out in this policy.
17. Members wishing to move emergent resolutions shall provide notice to AUMA Administration as soon as possible with a deadline of the first day of Convention.

18. Emergent resolutions must be submitted:
 - a. Electronically, as specified in the call for resolutions;
 - b. In the format specified by the template in Appendix “A”;
 - c. Along with minutes that show proof of the moving council’s approval and
 - d. In adherence to the guidelines presented in this policy.

19. The initial determination whether the proposed resolution meets the criteria of an emergent resolution will be made by:
 - a. AUMA’s Board, if the proposed emergent resolution is submitted before the final Board meeting prior to Convention; or
 - b. AUMA’s Executive Committee, if the proposed emergent resolution is submitted after the final Board meeting prior to Convention.

20. If the Board or Executive Committee determines the resolution meets the criteria of an emergent resolution, the Board or Executive Committee will second the resolution.

21. If the resolution receives initial approval for consideration after the Convention Guide is sent to be published, the mover will provide AUMA with 1,000 printed copies of the resolution.

22. Prior to the merits of any proposed emergent resolution being debated, a 2/3 majority of votes cast at Convention is required to determine whether it meets the criteria in Section 16 and therefore will be considered at the Resolutions Session.

23. Emergent resolutions accepted for consideration by the Resolutions Session shall be presented following debate of the Category C resolutions as defined in Section 25(a).

AUMA Review

24. AUMA Administration will review resolutions as they are submitted and advise movers if a resolution:
 - a. Could trigger any of the criteria set out in Section 28;
 - b. Addresses a topic covered by an already active resolution;
 - c. Contradicts existing AUMA policy;
 - d. Should be combined with a similar resolution being moved by another municipality; or

- e. Has any further deficiencies such as:
 - i. Absence of any indication of the resolution being endorsed by the council of the moving and seconding municipality;
 - ii. Unclear, contradictory, incorrect, or misleading statements;
 - iii. Lack of enough background information to justify the action being proposed; or
 - iv. Incorrect formatting.
25. AUMA Administration will compile resolutions into a draft Resolutions Book that:
- a. Categorizes resolutions as follows:
 - i. Category A – position papers moved by the Board;
 - ii. Category B – issues that relate to AUMA’s strategic initiatives; or
 - iii. Category C – other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities.

Resolutions within these categories may be grouped by theme. (e.g. governance, infrastructure, safe and healthy communities)
 - b. Proposes AUMA comments on each resolution relating to:
 - i. Whether and how the resolution relates to an existing AUMA position or strategic initiative; and
 - ii. Other considerations that may affect AUMA’s ability to act on the resolution.
 - c. Identifies resolutions that potentially trigger the criteria set out in Section 28.
26. AUMA’s Municipal Governance Committee will review and recommend any amendments to the draft Resolutions Book as required, including proposed comments and any Section 28 concerns.
27. The draft Resolutions Book will then be forwarded to the Board for consideration.
28. To preserve AUMA’s credibility, the Board reserves the right to ensure issues raised by resolutions to be considered at Convention are related to municipal interests and do not:
- a. Involve conflicts between individual municipalities;
 - b. Involve conflicts between individual municipalities and citizens, other organizations, etc;
 - c. Involve internal issues of a municipality;
 - d. Promote the interests of individual businesses;
 - e. Direct a municipality to take a course of action;
 - f. Result in the perception that AUMA is partisan and supports a political party or candidate; or
 - g. Lack the clarity required to determine the issue and/or what is being asked of the AUMA.

29. If Section 29 conditions exist, the Board may reject the proposed resolution and notify the mover with an explanation of why the resolution will not appear in the Resolutions Book.
30. The mover of a rejected resolution may appeal the decision by bringing forward a motion at the Resolutions Session for the resolution to be considered, and the decision can be reversed by 2/3 majority of votes cast.
31. The AUMA will electronically publish and distribute the Resolutions Book to Members at least eight (8) weeks prior to Convention to provide councils enough time to review and discuss the resolutions.
32. Resolutions are also published in the Resolutions Library on AUMA's website and distributed at Convention.

Resolutions Session

33. All procedures at the Resolutions Session will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order as modified by this policy.
34. As provided in AUMA's Bylaws, quorum for all proceedings at a Resolutions Session will be comprised of Elected Representatives of 25% of AUMA's Regular Members.
35. Prior to the beginning of the Resolutions Session, the Resolutions Session Chair will ask for a motion from the floor to adopt the Resolutions Session Agenda as presented in the Convention Guide, with the addition of any emergent resolutions submitted after the guide was published.
36. Amendments from the floor to the Resolutions Session Agenda will be accepted when duly moved and seconded.
37. The motion to approve the Resolutions Session Agenda will be passed by a simple majority of votes cast. A 2/3 majority of the votes cast will be required to approve amendments to the Resolutions 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 Convention Guide. No further amendments to the approved Agenda will be accepted.

39. So long as there is quorum (Section 34), the Resolutions Session shall not be closed until all resolutions listed in the agenda are debated and voted upon, or the allotted time for the Resolutions Session has expired, unless the majority of delegates present vote to extend the allotted time.
40. Resolutions which are not debated at a Resolutions Session because of insufficient time or lack of quorum will be considered by the Board following the Convention.

Adoption

41. The Resolutions Session Chair will introduce each proposed resolution by indicating its number, title, the names of the mover and seconder, and the operative clause.
42. A mover may withdraw a proposed resolution when the resolution is introduced. In this event, the Resolutions Session Chair shall declare the resolution withdrawn and no further debate or comments will be allowed.
43. Resolutions that are moved by the Board must be seconded from the floor by an Elected Representative of a Member.
44. A spokesperson from the mover will then have up to two (2) minutes to speak, followed by a spokesperson from seconder, who will also have up to two (2) minutes to speak to the resolution.
45. Next, AUMA comments on member-moved resolutions may be presented by a Board Member.
46. These comments must be approved in advance by the Board.
47. The Resolutions Session Chair will then open debate by calling for a speaker in opposition, seeking clarification or proposing an amendment.
48. Speakers will have a two (2) minute time limit and shall not speak more than once on any one question.
49. If no one rises to speak in opposition, for clarification or to propose an amendment to a resolution, the question will be immediately called.

50. As provided in the AUMA Bylaws, the persons entitled to speak to a resolution during the Resolutions Session are:
 - a. Elected Representatives in attendance whose municipalities are Regular Members of AUMA in good standing.
 - b. In the event a Regular Member is unable to be represented at the Resolutions Session by an Elected Representative, an official appointed by motion of the Council to represent it, if notice of such appointment is submitted in writing to AUMA's CEO at least three (3) days prior to the date of the Resolutions Session.
 - c. Upon a motion from the floor, or at the discretion of the Resolution Session Chair, a representative of an Associate Member as defined in AUMA's bylaws.
51. No debate on accompanying background material and information for resolutions is allowed.
52. When no opposing position speaker is available, the Resolutions Session Chair will declare the end of the debate and the spokesperson from the mover will be allowed one (1) minute for the closing of debate.
53. Amendments, including "minor amendments" should be submitted in writing to the Resolutions Session Chair prior to the amendment being introduced, but verbal amendments will also be accepted from the floor.
54. Amendments must be seconded from the floor or they do not proceed.
55. Debate procedures for an amendment shall be the same as for a resolution as set out in Sections 43 to 49.
56. 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 adhere to these guidelines.
57. Voting may, at the discretion of the Resolutions Session Chair, be by:
 - a. electronic device;
 - b. a show of hands of eligible voters; or
 - c. paper ballot.
58. The number of votes necessary for any resolution to pass is a simple majority of votes cast for that resolution (50% plus one vote).

Action on Adopted Resolutions

59. All adopted resolutions will be sent to the relevant provincial and/or federal ministry or organization for response.
60. Further advocacy on resolutions will be recommended to the Board by the relevant Committee based on analysis completed using the Prioritization and Levels of Engagement Frameworks in Appendix “B”.
61. Category A resolutions are considered active until the Board deems them to be complete or inactive.
62. Category B and C resolutions have an active life of up to three (3) years if not completed before then, following which they are deemed inactive.
63. Members or the Board may sponsor renewal of a resolution that is going to expire.

POLICY REVIEW

64. This Policy will be reviewed annually. Any required changes will be presented to the AUMA Board for approval.

APPENDICES

- A. Resolution Template
- B. Prioritization and Levels of Engagement Frameworks

APPENDIX A

Resolution Template

Title of resolution:

Moved by:

Seconded by:

WHEREAS the purpose of the “Whereas” clauses is to clearly and succinctly describe the issue or opportunity that the resolution is bringing forward, and identify why the subject is relevant to Alberta municipalities;

WHEREAS the clauses should identify whether the issue involves the need for information sharing, policy changes, legislative/regulatory change or a combination thereof, and refer to specific documents and sections whenever possible;

WHEREAS depending on the complexity of the issue, including roughly five “Whereas” clauses is ideal;

WHEREAS further information can be included in the background; and

WHEREAS these clauses should lead logically to the operative clause.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate forThis operative clause is the call to action. It usually includes a request for the Government of Alberta, Government of Canada or another organization to act. This is the most important part of the resolution and should be written clearly, so there is no doubt as to what action is being requested.

BACKGROUND:

No preamble can be comprehensive enough to give a full account of the situation that gave rise to the resolution. In all cases, supplementary or background information (1 to 2 pages max.) is necessary.

The background should answer the following questions:

- What is the impact of the issue on Alberta municipalities and how many municipalities are impacted? (Provide examples and/or statistics where possible.)
- What priority should the resolution be given?
- Does the issue and call to action relate to one of AUMA’s strategic initiatives?
- Has the issue been addressed by AUMA in response to a resolution or otherwise in the past and what was the outcome?
- Have other associations or groups acted on this issue, or are they considering action? (e.g. Is a similar resolution being considered by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta?)
- What other considerations are involved? (e.g. Does the proposed action align with goals of the provincial or federal government, or other organizations?)

APPENDIX B

Prioritization Framework

Questions	Sample considerations	Analysis
Does the issue relate to AUMA’s strategic initiatives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will action on the issue contribute towards realizing the goals of the strategic initiative or will it lead to scope creep without adding value? 	
Is the issue within municipal jurisdiction?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the issue exclusive to municipalities or does it also involve federal or provincial government? 	
What is the impact on Members and how many Members are impacted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is this a significant issue to a single Member or to many Members? If the issue only impacts a few Members today, does it have the potential to impact more Members in the future? 	
Will engagement in this issue build or deplete political capital?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the issue align with the priorities of the government of the day? Or, will we have to push to get it onto the agenda or actively counter their agenda? 	
Does the issue involve the need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing? Funding? Policy Change? Legislative/regulatory change? All of the above? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The answer to this question will influence the time, resources and chances for success. In general, changes to legislation requires more time and effort than changes to regulations. Requests for funding must consider that federal and provincial governments face funding constraints. 	
Is there an opportunity for AUMA to add value to this issue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does AUMA have the expertise on staff, on the Board/Committees, among Members to add value? AUMA is often best positioned to provide input on higher level principles and only has the capacity to engage at a detailed technical level on a limited number of issues. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there other organizations that have greater expertise and credibility on the issue? • Is it better for municipalities to respond directly, or is a collective response needed? 	
What are timelines involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there time to seek input from Members/Committees and seek approval from the Board? • In other words, is there time to determine a collective response, or should AUMA just let Members know about an issue and let them respond individually? 	
What are the chances of success?	<p>Given the answers to the above questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How likely will AUMA’s advocacy on an issue result in tangible benefits for Members? • Has the relevant decision maker (i.e. provincial or federal government) indicated they are open to making changes? Has a consultation process been initiated? 	
Does AUMA have the capacity to respond effectively?	<p>Given the answers to the above questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would action on this issue take time and resources away from key priorities? • Does AUMA have the time and resources to conduct appropriate analysis, engage Members, build partnerships, create meaningful solutions and report back to Members on this issue? 	
Conclusion		
<p>Based on the analysis above, what should AUMA’s level of engagement* be on this issue?</p> <p>What action should be taken?</p> <p>How will the action be reported?</p>		

*As outlined in the Levels of Engagement Framework

Levels of Engagement Framework

Level of Engagement	Potential Actions	Reporting
Low – Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article in AUMA’s newsletter. • Informal email or phone call at the administrative level on issues that can be quickly resolved. • Monitoring for potential future impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information item for a Committee or Board • Update to AUMA’s Resolutions Library
Medium – Contribute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing Note or Request for Decision through a Committee seeking direction or a recommendation to AUMA’s Board. As a result, further action may be taken including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Letters ○ Meetings ○ Presentations to Committees. ○ Webinars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to the relevant AUMA Committee. • Updates to Members through the AUMA’s newsletter and Resolutions Library.
High – Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement an advocacy strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular updates at to Board and relevant AUMA Committee. • Updates to Members through AUMA’s newsletter, website and events.

2020 Resolutions

Category B - Issues related to AUMA's strategic initiatives

AUMA Resolution 2020.B1

CITY OF EDMONTON
Fiscal Framework
Seconded by: City of Red Deer

WHEREAS the economic crisis stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent collapse in energy prices provides a real opportunity to rethink the fiscal and economic tools historically used by municipalities;

WHEREAS the role of local governments has evolved significantly over the last couple of decades with municipalities being essential partners in developing and implementing strategies on a range of provincial priorities, including economic, social, and environmental issues;

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities, in the input they provided individually and collectively to the Government of Alberta’s modernization of the *Municipal Government Act*, proposed changes that included a new fiscal relationship with the province that would establish a sustainable and sufficient funding model for municipalities;

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities have long advocated for long-term, stable, predictable, and appropriate funding in order to play a meaningful role in the provincial strategy to make our economy recover and grow;

WHEREAS principles contained in legislation such as the *Local Government Fiscal Framework Act*, and the previous *City Charters Fiscal Framework Act*, are a step in the direction of municipalities being partners with the provincial government - partners that are willing and able to ride the ebbs and flows of the provincial economy;

WHEREAS municipalities are extremely constrained by legislation in their ability to generate revenue to fund their capital and operating expenses, with property taxes being an unsuitable and unsustainable tool for Alberta’s municipalities to support essential services, build robust centres of economic growth, and maintain critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the fiscal power and fiscal tools actually reside with other orders of government.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to reshape municipal finance for a new time and provide municipalities with reasonable measures and tools, and the responsibility that goes with them, to enable cities, towns, and villages to sustainably meet their operating and capital budget needs.

BACKGROUND:

This is an issue that impacts all municipalities, small, medium, and large. The largest cities have been at the forefront in attempting to make changes through City Charters, but municipalities of all sizes need a renewed fiscal framework. This has become more apparent in the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis, with municipalities facing huge shortfalls in revenues and not having a diverse revenue tool kit to make up for those shortfalls.

The AUMA has been active on this issue for some time. Recent resolutions and responses to provincial government budgets and legislation have addressed this matter in part (itemized below). However, this new resolution speaks more directly to the issue, and is a strong complement to previous AUMA positioning and public commentary.

- **AUMA News Release (Nov 4, 2019): [Municipalities need to be full partners - a statement on Bill 20](#) - joint release with Edmonton, Calgary, RMA**
 - We strongly urge the Government of Alberta to amend Bill 20 to allow future municipal funding growth tied fully to provincial revenues at a one-to-one ratio which would allow municipalities to increase investment in needed infrastructure when revenue is positive, and make necessary adjustments during more challenging times. Without this complete indexing connection, municipalities will be left behind from an inflationary perspective.
 - “We urge the government to take a longer-term view of the role of municipalities. We encourage them to work with us to determine the appropriate formulas and solutions to help address the fiscal challenges while continuing to make our economy grow.”
- **AUMA Member News (Sept 11, 2019): [AUMA looks forward to working with provincial government on aspects of MacKinnon Report](#)**
 - AUMA remains committed to working with our partners at the Rural Municipalities Association (RMA) and the provincial government to create a new fiscal framework for municipalities that supports the province’s financial goals. It is imperative that we maintain the critical infrastructure that supports Albertans’ quality of life. This is the only way our province will continue to attract new investment and talent.
- **AUMA Member News (March 26, 2019): [Why municipalities need equitable infrastructure funding](#)**
 - Alberta municipalities need an equitable, adequate, and predictable infrastructure funding program that is established in legislation and allows municipalities to plan effectively while being flexible to the province’s fiscal realities. AUMA has proposed a new fiscal framework that offers:
 - Adequate funding that is equitable with the City Charters Fiscal Framework Act
 - Predictability by calculating the amount of annual funding based on the province’s actual revenues from three years prior
 - Long-term growth of the funding through a link to provincial revenues
 - Stability by enshrining the fiscal framework in legislation

- **Adopted-Active Resolution (2018): [New funding model to replace the Municipal Sustainability Initiative](#)**
 - The AUMA advocate that the Government of Alberta legislate and index annual funding under the new infrastructure program as a fixed percentage of the province’s total revenue excluding transfers from the federal government and that the annual funding amount be calculated based on the province’s actual revenue from two years prior.

- **AUMA News (Nov 2, 2017): [Modernized Municipal Government Act proclaimed October 26](#)**
 - Given the strain that new requirements will put on municipalities on top of an already challenging fiscal environment, one of our main priorities will be pushing for a new fiscal relationship with the province. Establishing a sustainable and sufficient funding model for municipalities is vital to ensuring Albertan communities remain healthy and prosperous into the future.

- **Adopted Resolution (2017): [Commitment to Formal Municipal Consultations on the Future of Provincial Revenue Sharing](#)**
 - The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) seek a commitment from the Minister of Municipal Affairs to timely, inclusive and comprehensive consultations with municipalities on the future of provincial revenue sharing to occur within the first six month of 2018 to ensure adequate time for feedback to be incorporated prior to expiry of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) and that the details of those consultations are shared with municipalities sufficiently in advance.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has been advocating for some time for an update to Canada’s fiscal framework that addresses the realities of 21st century mandates and responsibilities of municipalities, including the types of direct fiscal tools that can promote economic development and competitiveness at the local level. FCM has been engaging federal ministers and ministries in an ongoing dialogue on how a modernized fiscal framework can empower municipalities with the tools they need to respond to a broad range of local priorities.

AUMA Comments:

The resolution aligns with AUMA’s past advocacy on the need for expanded tools for municipalities to address the current and future scope of services that municipalities will be responsible for. The continual change in expectations of local public services along with changes in demand for non-residential property, and the downloading of public services by other levels of government highlight the importance that municipal governments have the appropriate fiscal tools to sustainably serve Alberta communities into the future.

If this resolution is adopted, given the complexity of this issue and its linkages to other AUMA positions, AUMA would approach this issue with a high level of engagement with members to define priority financial tools, measures, and targeted outcomes and then engage the Government of Alberta on members' recommendations for a new fiscal framework.

AUMA Resolution 2020.B2

CITY OF LETHBRIDGE

Provincial Sales Tax for Municipal Capital Project Support
Seconded by: City of Brooks

WHEREAS it is difficult for Alberta municipalities to build capital projects based on funds generated by property taxes alone;

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities depend upon provincial grants to support capital projects in our communities;

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities understand the Government of Alberta’s desire to reduce provincial spending;

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities understand that part of this reduced spending includes a reduction in funds available for municipal capital grants;

WHEREAS in the absence of provincial grants, Alberta municipalities lack the appropriate tools to generate additional revenues for capital projects;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta, as outlined in the 2019-2023 Municipal Affairs Business Plan, wants to “work collaboratively with municipalities in continuing to offer and develop tools and programs to support well-managed, accountable, and sustainable municipalities”;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta desires to help municipalities “meet their strategic long-term infrastructure needs”;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta could support municipalities by implementing a provincial sales tax of one (1) per cent;

WHEREAS this sales tax would be dedicated solely to generate revenues for municipal capital projects only; and

WHEREAS this sales tax could generate approximately one point one billion dollars (\$1,100,000,000) annually for municipal capital projects.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA request that the Government of Alberta implement a provincial sales tax of one (1) per cent, with revenues generated from that tax being completely dedicated to Alberta municipalities, solely for the purpose of provincial financial support of capital projects in Alberta’s communities.

BACKGROUND:

Alberta municipalities have two primary sources of direct revenue collection: property taxes and fees. Considering the vast number of capital projects that municipalities are responsible for, these revenue sources are often not enough to subsidize this necessary work. The diversity of capital projects necessary ranges from the improvement of roads to the construction of water treatment plants and recreational facilities. All of this work is necessary to ensure our communities are livable and vibrant. In order to maintain these vital projects, we wish to advocate for the implementation of a one (1) per cent provincial sales tax (PST), with all collected funds to be redirected solely to municipal capital projects.

With the economic downturn of 2020 having dramatic effects on Alberta's economies, revenues for many Alberta communities have been significantly impacted. The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of many crises that have impacted daily life over the past several years, from floods and fires to the opioid addiction crisis. Managing these crises has impacted the organizational capacity of many municipalities across the province. Along with the compounding effects of the growing urban-rural divide, many communities are struggling to maintain operational funds, let alone securing the funds for large capital projects. While municipalities are receiving nine hundred and ninety-three million dollars (\$993,000,000) in funding from the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) and the Basic Municipal Transportation Grant (BMTG) program in 2020, funding cuts are proposed for 2021 and beyond. With less funding circulating overall, Albertan municipalities will struggle to sustainably and responsibly source the means to maintain current levels of funding for necessary capital projects.

The Province is empowered to implement a PST under sections 92.2 and 92.8 of the *Constitution Act 1867*. This is exactly the type of injection our communities need in this unprecedented historical moment. This funding will help maintain the high quality of life that people expect from Alberta living. All kinds of capital projects are necessary to keep our communities, safe, accessible, and lively. In order to remain a province that people are proud to call home, municipalities need to be empowered to take control of their own prosperity. This additional revenue source would be one step toward that empowerment.

Other than the 4 per cent taxes on lodging and hotel room fees, Alberta is the only province in Canada without some form of PST. If the Province were to implement a sustainable 1 per cent PST, with all funds being redirected to municipalities for capital projects, that would amount to an additional one point one billion dollars (\$1,100,000,000) in annual funding for necessary infrastructure projects across Alberta's communities. The Province would need to develop an allocation formula to ensure that this additional funding is distributed equitably. Any additional funding to offset the reductions from upcoming cuts will be vital in ensuring our communities can recover from the variety of social, environmental, and economic catastrophes suffered over the past several years.

AUMA Comments:

AUMA does not have a current position on this particular issue. AUMA has advocated for municipal governments to have an expanded set of fiscal tools available to meet the long-term infrastructure needs of Alberta’s communities. Saskatchewan’s Municipal Revenue Sharing program is based on 0.75 of one full point of the PST and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is advocating for Ontario’s provincial sales tax to be increased by one per cent to fund municipal infrastructure.

If this resolution is adopted, given the complexity of this issue and its linkages to other aspects of municipal finance, AUMA would approach this issue with a high level of engagement with members to develop and implement an advocacy strategy that takes into account all related priorities and advocacy positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.B3

CITY OF LETHBRIDGE

Continuation of Municipal Bonds in Alberta
Seconded by: City of Grande Prairie & City of Brooks

WHEREAS it is difficult for Alberta municipalities to build capital projects based on funds generated by property taxes alone;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta, as outlined in the 2019-2023 Municipal Affairs Business Plan, wants to “work collaboratively with municipalities in continuing to offer and develop tools and programs to support well-managed, accountable, and sustainable municipalities”;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta desires to help municipalities “meet their strategic long-term infrastructure needs”;

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities depend upon a variety of funding sources to support capital projects in our communities, inclusive of low-cost loans;

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities understand the Government of Alberta’s desire to reduce provincial spending;

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities understand that part of this reduced spending includes alterations to existing structures, programs, and services under the purview of the Province;

WHEREAS in the absence of various Provincial structures, programs, and services, Alberta municipalities lack the appropriate tools to generate additional revenues for capital projects;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is dissolving the Alberta Capital Finance Authority (ACFA), with the role of providing low-cost loans to local authorities to be continued by the Province;

WHEREAS maintaining access to low-cost loans is important to allow community projects to proceed as needed while limiting the long-term cost of community infrastructure for taxpayers;

WHEREAS one of the strategies used by ACFA to generate funds was through the issuing of municipal bonds (called “munis”);

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta could support municipalities by continuing to issue munis;

WHEREAS as a further strategy to encourage investment into Alberta and Alberta municipalities would be to make munis an appealing investment tool; and

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of capital for local authorities to continue to access low-cost infrastructure loans as needed through the Government of Alberta; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide a regulatory environment where municipal governments can issue bonds to generate capital for local infrastructure needs and offer an opportunity for local, domestic, and international investors to invest in Alberta communities.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate to the Government of Alberta to ask the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), through the federal Minister of National Revenue, to consider Alberta municipal bonds as a tax-exempt investment income instrument.

BACKGROUND:

The Alberta Capital Finance Authority played a critical role in providing low-cost loans to municipal governments and other local authorities to lower the costs of capital projects for Alberta communities. As of 2019, municipal authorities and regional service commissions have \$10.3 billion in ACFA loans, representing 64 per cent of ACFA's total loan portfolio¹. The Province's 2019-2023 Fiscal Plan states that existing ACFA loans and liability will be taken on by the province, and that "the program of providing low cost loans to local authorities will be continued by the province." (p. 168) However, the volume, distribution, and conditions of this lending have yet to be outlined.

Municipalities are familiar with the terms, conditions, and processes of the ACFA's municipal bonds. If the Province is continuing to provide lending to local authorities, it would be effective for both the Province and municipalities for the issuance of ACFA's municipal bonds to continue in some form. Across all of Alberta's municipalities, this would ensure continuity in work and anticipated deadlines. Allowing the process to remain despite the change in oversight ensures that our communities can still fund vital projects responsibly without creating additional risk or concern.

While the Province is struggling during this time to balance books just as much as any other governing body, if the supply of low-cost loans for local projects is reduced, it will actively harm our communities, making necessary growth and development less affordable for the communities that need it the most. While budgeting to ensure short terms sustainability for our province is important, investing in our communities and our future is how we develop a provincial economy that is not only stable, but sustainable. As funding for capital projects becomes less and less predictable, services and infrastructure necessary for daily life will have less support, and quality of life overall will fall in our province. Maintaining municipal bonds as a resource for municipalities is a stopgap against the economic hardships our communities are already facing.

¹ 2019 ACFA Annual Report, page 23. <https://acfa.gov.ab.ca/nav/annual-reports.html>

The recommendation that municipal bonds be considered a tax-exempt investment tool is to further encourage investment in Alberta communities as a stable investment with limited tax burden. This practice is common in many regions of the United States to encourage investment in communities.

AUMA Comments:

AUMA does not have an existing position on this issue. While the Government of Alberta has messaged that municipalities will not be impacted by the dissolution of the Alberta Capital Finance Authority, it remains to be seen whether the province’s new oversight of the program and its financial capacity today and into the future could potentially change the scope of borrowing that has traditionally been available to local authorities. Providing municipalities the ability to issue bonds offers an additional financial tool and more autonomy for municipalities to manage their financial affairs, which can contribute to long-term viability.

If this resolution is adopted, given the complexity of this issue and its linkages to other aspects of municipal finance, AUMA would approach this issue with a high level of engagement with members to develop and implement an advocacy strategy that takes into account all related priorities and advocacy positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.B4

TOWN OF DRAYTON VALLEY
Education Property Tax Collection
Seconded by: City of St. Albert

WHEREAS currently municipalities are responsible to collect the Education Property Tax on behalf of the Government of Alberta as laid out in the *Municipal Government Act* and *School Act*;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is the taxing authority that sets the Education Property Tax Rate on an annual basis, which is then collected by municipalities on the Province's behalf;

WHEREAS education funding is the responsibility of the Government of Alberta and education has an impact on all residents of the Province of Alberta;

WHEREAS the collection of the Education Property Tax can have a significant impact on municipalities as it creates an additional encumbrance and uncertainty in planning a municipality's budget due to the fluctuating education mill rate;

WHEREAS the collection of many government taxes, fees and charges are completed online and customer service expectations in a post-COVID-19 environment will be that more government services can be delivered electronically moving forward; and

WHEREAS municipalities are required to submit payments of the Education Property Tax before full collection is completed at a local level and a default on Education Property Tax payments might result in municipalities losing their ability to receive grant funding.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT AUMA advocate for relieving Alberta's municipalities from the task of collecting Education Property Tax, and instead urge the Government of Alberta to take on the responsibility of collecting the Education Property Tax on a provincial level.

BACKGROUND:

Over the last few decades, the collection of Educational Property Tax by municipalities on behalf of the Province has been a concern for municipalities and, therefore, has been brought forward previously by the AUMA, as well as the RMA, for consideration. However, as times and governments move forward, it seems timely to draw attention to this concern of so many Alberta municipalities once more.

The Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF) which ensures that the Education Property Tax is accounted for separately from other revenue was established by the Government of Alberta in 1994. The Municipal Government Act (MGA) and Education Act provide the legislation for the Education Property Tax.

Based on equalized assessment value, the province calculates each year what amount a municipality must contribute. Municipalities are responsible to calculate the amount that each resident has to pay based on their assessed property value. Municipalities must collect the tax from each ratepayer and forward it on to the Province by submitting the contribution to ASFF.

However, using municipalities as agents in collecting the tax is an antiquated system with the technology that is available these days. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that Albertans are adaptable and will expect more automation of government services moving forward. The Province has an excellent opportunity to utilize technology to collect education taxes on their own behalf, which will also provide taxpayers with a direct line of sight where their tax dollars are spent provincially versus municipally.

Furthermore, it is an encumbrance for municipalities in regards to municipal budget planning as the fluctuation in the education mill rate might force municipalities to adjust their yearly budget to keep taxes at an affordable level – taking into consideration what impact the Education Property Tax has on each ratepayer and at the same time seeking to keep up the level of services.

It should also be noted that the current system blurs the lines of accountability and transparency and leads to a misconception amongst taxpayers in regard to municipal government taxation. Often, it is not clear to residents that approximately 30 per cent of their property tax goes to the province and not to the municipality that taxes them. As a result, municipalities are often being unduly criticized for raising taxes.

In case a resident is unable to pay taxes partially or in full, or in arrears of paying taxes, the municipality is still required to make the quarterly payments to the Province. This means that the municipality might be fronting money that could be allocated towards other municipal programs or services.

Finally, with limited revenue options in the first place, it is a concern for municipalities that any default in Education Property Tax payments results in municipalities losing their ability to receive grant funding from the Government of Alberta until such payments are made.

In order to address the above noted concerns, it is recommended to pursue necessary changes to the MGA and Education Act.

AUMA Comments:

AUMA has previously advocated for changes to the regulation and administration of education property tax based on member adopted resolutions including:

- [Provincial Responsibility for Education Property Tax Collection \(2014\)](#)
- [Amendments to Educational Requisition Cap \(2016\)](#)

If this resolution is adopted, given the complexity of this issue and its linkages to other aspects of municipal finance, AUMA would approach this issue with a high level of

engagement with members to develop and implement an advocacy strategy that takes into account all related priorities and advocacy positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.B5

TOWN OF SPIRIT RIVER

Education Tax Rebate

Seconded by: The Town of Sexsmith

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has the right to requisition education taxes from municipalities;

WHEREAS there is no provision in place for municipalities to get credits back from the provincial government for education property taxes not paid by their residents;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta continues to requisition school taxes on delinquent accounts from municipalities each year whether or not municipalities have collected any education property taxes on those accounts; and

WHEREAS during an economic recession municipalities not only suffer losses from the inability to collect municipal property taxes but also from the education taxes that are not collected but must be paid to the provincial government. This results in other taxpayers covering the cost of the uncollected education taxes year after year.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT AUMA petition the Government of Alberta to provide tax rebates on uncollected education property taxes to the affected municipalities.

BACKGROUND:

An example of a situation where a rebate would be beneficial is when a municipality has a property for which the taxes are in arrears. If taxes levied each year are \$5,000 combined for both municipal and education, the municipal portion would be \$4,000 and the education tax would be \$1,000 per year, equaling 20% of total taxes. Over a period of time, the municipality will get control of the property through tax foreclosure. However, the cumulative total of education property taxes paid to the province can be substantial during the period including the amount of time the property is in arrears, the foreclosure process, and the length of time the property is held by the municipality until it sells. Additionally, if the sale price of the property is not enough to fully recover all property taxes owing, this could result in a substantial loss to the taxpayers of the municipality.

If the provincial government does not reimburse municipalities for education taxes that they cannot collect from residents, the municipalities' taxpayers that are diligently paying their taxes bear the burden of covering the costs of those not paying education taxes.

The Town of Spirit River respectfully asks for your cooperation in supporting of this resolution.

AUMA Comments:

AUMA has previously advocated for changes to the regulation and administration of education property tax based on member adopted resolutions including:

- [Provincial Responsibility for Education Property Tax Collection \(2014\)](#)
- [Amendments to Educational Requisition Cap \(2016\)](#)

As part of our advocacy to the Government of Alberta related to COVID-19 and the financial needs of municipalities, AUMA has recently advocated for the province to develop a mechanism to waive the requirement for remittance of the education property tax on credit defaults.

If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA's Board by the Municipal Governance Committee in the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.B6

CITY OF EDMONTON
Permanent Transit Funding
Seconded by: City of St. Albert

WHEREAS Public transit is among the most costly of municipal infrastructure and is beyond the capacity and means of municipalities to plan, design and construct on their own;

WHEREAS Efficient public transit means less congestion, faster commutes, more convenience, higher productivity, improved labour mobility, lower emissions and expanded economic development;

WHEREAS Building modern transit takes decades of continuous planning, design and delivery;

WHEREAS Future public transit network expansion projects will require an ongoing funding commitment by both senior orders of government to enable municipalities to successfully move forward;

WHEREAS Public transit projects create jobs for Albertans in planning, design, construction and operations and drive provincial economic outcomes;

WHEREAS Stable and predictable funding facilitates effective long-term planning and enables cities to confidently advance transit infrastructure priorities that meet the needs of residents and businesses and support the growth and economic prosperity of the province;

WHEREAS There are indications that the Government of Canada plans to invest in public transit infrastructure past 2027, which means matching long-term provincial transit funding is essential to deliver service to Albertans; and

WHEREAS The recently repealed *City Charters Fiscal Framework Act* provided a model for a long-term transit agreement that would have guaranteed Edmonton and Calgary with the predictable funding required for public transit growth and renewal needs for the long term.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to reinstate permanent long-term transit funding that would provide predictable and stable funding so that Alberta municipalities with public transit can maximize the benefits of the strategic investments and contributions from the other orders of government.

BACKGROUND

Building and maintaining public transit networks is an issue for the medium and large cities in Alberta with public transit systems. The scale and scope of these projects is beyond the capabilities of municipalities to plan, design and construct on their own.

The issue of public transit has not been a specific focus for AUMA since it involves only a small number (18) of its members, although those members affected do make up more than two-thirds of Alberta’s population. However, AUMA has advocated for stable and predictable large infrastructure funding, which impacts all Alberta municipalities (example below).

- **Expired Resolution (2016):** [Municipal Participation in Bilateral Funding Agreements](#)

The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association advocate to the federal and provincial government to participate in the development of these important bilateral agreements for the federal infrastructure fund.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has taken strong positions on long term transit funding. FCM has an ongoing advocacy position that the federal government establish a permanent federal funding mechanism to set Canada on a path to 21st century public transit nationwide. By allocating funds directly to transit systems, this mechanism will unlock local expertise—and support the continuous growth of the transit Canadians rely on.

The Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) has also been a strong advocate for stable and predictable infrastructure funding from governments. In a letter to the Government of Alberta earlier this year, CUTA spoke up for the interests of those Alberta communities where dependable transit is integral to the local economies: “ongoing, stable funding is essential to maintaining a strong, efficient and resilient transit system.”

AUMA Comments:

As identified in the background, AUMA has consistently called for stable, predictable infrastructure funding to support sound long-term infrastructure planning. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA’s Board by the Infrastructure and Energy Committee in the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.B7

TOWN OF RAYMOND

Community Peace Officer/Police Costing Model

Seconded By: Town of Cardston

WHEREAS towns and other municipalities employ Community Peace Officers (CPO) under the Peace Officer Act to enforce municipal and local bylaws along with provincial statutes;

WHEREAS the RMA has a position statement on rural crime and in specific Community Peace Officers that play an important role in many rural municipalities by enforcing municipal bylaws and some provincial laws;

WHEREAS towns and other municipalities are responsible for ensuring they have bylaws in effect for the safe and orderly operations of their respective town and municipality and that they have people in place to enforce these municipal bylaws;

WHEREAS towns and other municipalities under 5000 population are now required to pay a portion of frontline policing costs; and

WHEREAS the Police Funding Model (PFM) does not consider the cost and levels of law enforcement towns and municipalities are already financially responsible for.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the AUMA lobby the Alberta Government to reconsider the new Police Funding Regulation to take into account the towns and other municipalities that are already financially responsible for Community Peace Officers and other levels of Law enforcement that currently assist in front line policing.

BACKGROUND:

In December 2019, the Alberta Government introduced a new PFM (starting in 2020) that requires all Towns and municipalities under 5000 population (that are policed by the RCMP under the Provincial Police Services Agreement) to pay a percentage of policing cost collected under the model at a rate of 10% in year one, 15% in year two, 20% in year three, and 30% in years four and five. At this point, the increase will occur on April 1 of each year to align with the Government of Alberta's fiscal calendar. According to the Police Funding Regulation (Alberta Regulation 7/2020), each municipality's cost requirement is based on a formula that weighs equalized assessment at 50% and population at 50%, and includes modifiers related to shadow populations, crime severity, proximity to detachment, and existing enhanced policing positions. We would like this formula to include a subsidy for municipalities that employ peace officers.

A provincial police advisory board will be formed, which will include one AUMA and RMA representative from each of the four RCMP districts in Alberta. This board will be used to help facilitate more local input into policing, but no details as to the function or scope of the board

are available yet. While the formation of the provincial police advisory board is positive, there is no indication that the model will include a mechanism for improved local input into policing at the detachment level.

Consultations were initiated over 2019 regarding policing costs and the proposed PFM. However, other levels of law enforcement that were being provided and paid for by the respective towns and municipalities, were not considered and the costs of providing Community Peace Officer services. Currently, 123 municipalities (rural and urban) employ approximately 430 peace officers. The costs associated with employing peace officers varies throughout the province, but the town of Raymond (partnering with three other municipalities) employs three full-time peace officers for a yearly cost of approximately \$165,000 per officer.

Community Peace Officer regular duties include, but are not limited to investigating and resolving complaints regarding Municipal and County Bylaw matters, dangerous and unsightly premises, animal and dog control, assisting AHS and their Peace Officers, providing effective municipal traffic enforcement patrol coverage, other provincial offences, while ensuring public education, awareness and safety.

Community Peace Officers are in place to assist local police and provide services that free up the frontline police officers to focus on criminal activities and higher priority crime (as in the rural crime initiative). RCMP can assist with local bylaws that are agreed upon with the local CAO, however, should only be ones that do not take away from the main duties and responsibilities of the police (i.e. bylaw noise complaints, dog attacks, etc.).

The added costs of paying for front line policing does not guarantee more officers will be provided to all local RCMP detachments and the provincial government has indicated that they will be hiring 300 additional officers for front line policing (with the revenue generated from the PFM) to be spread out over the entire province but did not mention how and where they will be deployed.

Some Towns and municipalities may be forced to cut or reduce the number of Community Peace officers they employ (Town of Fort Macleod as an example) as a way of paying for the policing costs, resulting in law enforcement personnel being reduced and taken off from front line law enforcement services and therefore increasing the roles on the already overburdened existing police officers.

Towns and Municipalities are already facing revenue shortfalls from reduced government funding, lower fine revenue collected from the government, unpaid taxed from oil wells, COVID 19 pandemic, etc. and now the added policing costs have increased the financial burden on the towns and municipalities as a result.

References

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (February 2012) Public Security Peace Officer Program Rural Municipalities of Alberta Position Statement on rural crime and Community Peace Officers Alberta Government Policing Cost Funding Model (and Regulation – Alberta Regulation 7/2020).

AUMA Comments:

AUMA does not have currently have a position on this specific issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA’s Board by AUMA’s Safe and Healthy Community’s Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.B8

CITY OF EDMONTON
Resolution Against Quebec’s Bill 21
Seconded by: City of Calgary

WHEREAS the National Assembly of Quebec passed *Bill 21: An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State*, a secularism law which bans public servants from wearing religious garb and symbols in the workplace;

WHEREAS the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and *Alberta Human Rights Act*, which enshrines the freedom of belief and expression, and expressly prohibits discrimination on the basis of religious beliefs, respectively; and

WHEREAS the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association is committed to supporting strong, multicultural, and inclusive communities.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association provides a statement of support condemning and opposing any law that would seek to restrict or limit the religious and cultural freedoms of our citizens and continues to support building and welcoming communities across our province.

BACKGROUND:

In the Summer of 2019, Quebec’s National Assembly introduced and passed Bill 21, formally known as *An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State*. This bill prohibits public servants (teachers, police officers, judges, etc.) from wearing religious garb or symbols while in the workplace, including: turbans, hijabs, crosses, and yarmulkes.

Bill 21 is in direct contravention of Section 2 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees all persons in Canada the right to freedom of religion and freedom of expression. Upon introducing Bill 21, the governing Coalition Avenir Québec invoked notwithstanding clause, which permits provincial legislatures to override sections 2 of the Charter. Religious groups in Quebec have launched legal challenges to Bill 21, and the decision is making its way through the courts.

While this bill is only in effect in Quebec, the effects of it can be felt by equity-seeking individuals and groups across Canada. Democratic governments are tasked with protecting the rights of marginalized communities; and the enacting of this legislation in Quebec can be viewed as encroaching on a fundamental right that all Canadians are entitled to.

Alberta is not immune to discriminatory, exclusionary, and prejudicial attitudes and it is important that elected leaders set the tone against such sentiments. AUMA and many member municipalities large or small throughout Alberta have welcoming and inclusive communities.

AUMA's Welcoming and Inclusive Communities (WIC) initiative is a partnership between the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and the Government of Alberta to support municipal governments to be leaders in the implementation of policies and practices that create and maintain welcoming and inclusive communities in Alberta. The goal of the WIC initiative is to create communities where all residents and visitors enjoy a sense of belonging and where diversity adds to the social and economic vibrancy of the community and improves the quality of life for all residents.

Taking a firm stand on Quebec's Bill 21 confirms the commitment of Alberta municipalities to continue working towards being more welcoming and inclusive of all. Through this resolution, the City of Edmonton asks that AUMA to issue a public statement of support to acknowledge that Alberta's municipalities oppose the legislation of discriminatory practices that are being employed in other Canadian jurisdictions.

AUMA Comments:

If this resolution is adopted, it would inform AUMA's Welcoming and Inclusive Communities initiative to encourage dialogue about and implementation of policies and practices to eliminate issues of racism and discrimination in Alberta's communities.

AUMA Resolution 2020.B9**CITY OF EDMONTON**

Provincial Support for Addressing Affordable Housing and Homelessness
 Seconded by: City of Grande Prairie

WHEREAS the provision of affordable housing and addressing homelessness falls within Federal and Provincial spheres of jurisdiction;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada recognized that adequate housing is a fundamental human right affirmed in international law, and that housing is essential to the inherent dignity and well-being of the person and to building sustainable and inclusive communities;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada renewed their support for affordable housing, and reducing chronic homelessness nationally by 50% by fiscal year 2027 to 2028, through the *National Housing Strategy* and a commitment to invest \$40 billion in capital over 10 years;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta signaled its commitment to build more affordable housing in *Alberta's Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy*, and the *2020-23 Strategic Plan* further states that the province will ensure the availability of more affordable housing, and will support affordable and accessible housing for those Albertans most in need;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta, through the Alberta Social Housing Corporation, signed in April 2018 a bilateral agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation that will provide Alberta with almost \$340 million in federal funding for affordable housing from 2019 to 2028.

WHEREAS according to the Government of Alberta's Economic Multiplier Analysis, every \$1 invested in building affordable housing creates \$1.74 in total economic output;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta's capital investments in affordable housing are projected to significantly decline between 2020 to 2023, while the need for supporting Alberta's most vulnerable populations is expected to increase throughout the COVID-19 public health crisis;

WHEREAS the purpose of municipalities are to develop and maintain safe and viable communities, and provide services and facilities that are necessary as established through *Alberta's Municipal Government Act*; and local residents, businesses, and communities are expressing concerns to their municipalities about the negative impact that homelessness is having on both individuals experiencing homelessness and the broader community;

WHEREAS growing demands for affordable housing cannot be achieved by any single order of government, but municipalities continue to work in partnership with a wide range of private and non-profit providers to help develop, manage and maintain the supply of affordable housing.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association advocate to the Government of Alberta to:

- Invest immediately in the development of new affordable housing units as a means to create jobs, stimulate the economy, maximize the funding that can be leveraged from the Government of Canada, and support those most vulnerable to the economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Invest immediately in the cost- effective health and support services needed to help those with complex needs get housed and stay housed, resulting in a visible reduction in homelessness and a drastic savings in health, justice, and law enforcement costs.
- Introduce mandatory operation guidelines for all emergency shelters in order to maximize utilization rates through consideration of design and safety best practices and reduce social disorder related to shelter practices and people sleeping outside. These guidelines should address the challenges and barriers that people sleeping outside face when trying to access shelter services, such as the lack of continuous stay options, storage space for personal belongings, accommodation for pets and couples, inappropriate or insensitive cultural practices, fear of violence and for personal safety, and inconsistent barring practices.

BACKGROUND:

The federal, provincial and municipal governments have had traditional roles in the provision of services in their jurisdictions. However, in recent decades, there has been increasing overlap and greater complexity through the transfer or assumption of responsibilities to municipalities without the resources to support them. An example is affordable housing programs that have traditionally been provided and funded by higher-order governments (provincial and federal) but are now seeing greater required involvement by municipalities.

Municipalities are committed to increasing the supply of affordable housing for vulnerable populations and supporting homeless populations with complex needs (which may include shelter options, bridge housing, modular housing and permanent supportive housing), while recognizing that this requires the strategic and coordinated actions of a number of active partners including the federal and provincial governments, municipalities, non-profit developers, contracted social service agencies, and private sector builders.

Municipalities further recognize that increasing the supply of affordable housing and providing all the necessary homelessness supports cannot be sustained by any single order of government or organization, as this requires dedicated, and increased sources of funding, which must be provided by all orders of government.

The Government of Alberta's *2020-23 Capital Plan Details by Ministry* unfortunately shows a declining investment planned across a number of Ministry of Seniors and Housing capital affordable housing portfolios (Planning for Affordable Housing; Family and Community Housing Development and Renewal; Indigenous Housing Capital Program; New Housing Supply; Preservation; and Seniors Housing Development and Renewal). From a total of \$215.7M in 2020-21, down to \$123.1M in 2021-22, and down further to \$77.9M in 2022-23.

On February 28, 2020, AUMA released its [Preliminary Analysis of the Government of Alberta's 2020 Budget](#) which included the following comments regarding Affordable Housing:

“AUMA is very concerned to see significant cuts to capital investment in affordable housing for both the development of new units, as well as the maintenance and repair of existing units. Addressing Alberta’s lack of affordable housing is a priority for municipalities. In addition to stimulating employment and economic growth, capital investment in affordable housing yields long-term savings for all levels of government due to decreased use of health services, police and justice services, child welfare, and other services such as homeless shelters, income supports, and addictions and mental health supports.”

On June 29, 2016, AUMA advanced the following [submission](#) to inform the provincial affordable housing strategy, which stated the following which is as relevant today as it was four years ago:

“Action is needed to address the critical shortage in the provincial supply of affordable housing. In addition to direct investment, the province can use its financial and policy levers to develop strategies and incentives that will increase the availability of affordable housing options through renovation, repair, and new construction of market housing, affordable housing, social housing, and permanent supportive housing units”.

AUMA Comments:

This resolution aligns with previous AUMA advocacy around affordable housing. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA’s Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee within the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.B10

AUMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Integration of Nurse Practitioners into the Alberta Healthcare System

Seconded by: N/A

WHEREAS Nurse Practitioners are expert clinicians with advanced training, who are able to provide comprehensive primary, acute and specialty health care;

WHEREAS smaller municipalities in Alberta experience challenges accessing essential healthcare services and therefore need access to alternative options to a traditional physician-oriented service delivery model;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta recognizes the potential of Nurse Practitioners in meeting the healthcare needs of Albertans and saving the healthcare system money;

WHEREAS current provincial grant funding programs for Nurse Practitioners are short term and do not address the broader funding models that create a barrier to greater integration of Nurse Practitioners into the healthcare system; and

WHEREAS provisions in the *Mental Health, Vital Statistics and Nursing Home Acts*, further prevent Nurse Practitioners from providing services they are qualified to conduct.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to remove the legislative and funding barriers that impede greater integration of nurse practitioners into the healthcare system.

BACKGROUND:

The March 2015 Rural Health Services Review Final Report clearly stated that Albertans are struggling to obtain access to essential healthcare services. Feedback provided by Albertans, documented in the report, identified that Albertans support the implementation of Nurse Practitioners as an approach to improving access to essential healthcare services.

In Alberta, Nurse Practitioners are Master's and PhD prepared autonomous health professionals who provide essential healthcare services grounded in professional, ethical and legal standards. Nurse Practitioners integrate their in-depth knowledge of advanced nursing practice and theory, health management, health promotion, disease/injury prevention, and other relevant biomedical and psychosocial theories to provide comprehensive health services.

From a funding perspective, Nurse Practitioners are labelled as a member of a multi-disciplinary team, as opposed to a primary care provider like a physician. Therefore, while physicians are paid directly by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Program for services they provide, Nurse Practitioners are paid out of the budget for a hospital, clinic, or primary care network. As a result, about 60 percent of Alberta's approximately 500 Nurse Practitioners are employed by Alberta Health Services in hospital settings. In contrast, throughout Canada,

about 66 percent are employed in community settings and only 24 percent work in hospitals. Municipalities have identified the opportunity to increase the number of Nurse Practitioners in rural/small community settings to improve access to healthcare. Providing a more flexible funding model would support the longer-term integration of nurse practitioners throughout the province.

AUMA's advocacy on Nurse Practitioners started with a resolution adopted in 2015, [*Promoting the Use of Nurse Practitioners within the Alberta Healthcare System*](#), which called for the Government of Alberta to allocate funding to models of remuneration that support the integration of nurse practitioners within the Alberta healthcare system.

Since 2015, the province has provided grants and developed programs related to Nurse Practitioners. For example, in 2016, the province launched the \$10 million Nurse Practitioner Demonstration Project, which explored the increased use of Nurse Practitioners in primary health care. Based on the success of the four demonstration project sites, the province launched a Primary Care Network Nurse Practitioner Support Program in March 2019 to provide \$38.5 million over three years in Primary Care Networks to support Nurse Practitioners currently working within the networks, as well as to hire 50 more Nurse Practitioners over two years.

AUMA staff recently contacted Alberta Health and obtained confirmation that the PCN Nurse Practitioner Support Program continues under the current provincial government with the level of funding maintained for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. However, Alberta Health staff indicated that funding levels for future fiscal years are uncertain at this time, though continued funding is assured for any Nurse Practitioner positions already created under the program.

The programs that the province has implemented related to Nurse Practitioners to-date have primarily benefitted metropolitan areas and have not focused on increasing the use of Nurse Practitioners in smaller and rural communities. In addition, small communities have identified that grant funding has not been sufficient to support deployment of Nurse Practitioners throughout Alberta. Instead, there is a need for an ongoing sustainable funding model that more permanently ensures the integration of Nurse Practitioners into Alberta's healthcare system, as a whole.

Legislation provides a further barrier to the integration of nurse practitioners, which the province has started taking steps to address. In June 2020, Alberta Transportation amended the Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation to authorize Nurse Practitioners to complete driver medical examinations. Allowing Nurse Practitioners to complete driver medical examinations is not a change in their responsibilities, as the tasks they complete when assessing a driver's medical fitness are already within their regulated scope of practice under the *Health Professions Act*. There are more opportunities for the Government of Alberta to remove legislative barriers as part of its ongoing Red Tape Reduction Initiative.

For more information on Nurse Practitioners, see the [Nurse Practitioners Association of Alberta](#) and [Alberta Health Services](#) websites.

AUMA Comments:

As noted in the background, this issue is related to AUMA’s ongoing initiative to improve access to healthcare in all communities. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA’s Board by the Small Communities Committee in the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.B11

CITY OF CALGARY

Providing a long-term source of financial relief for Albertans (Give it Back)

Seconded by: City of St. Albert

WHEREAS Alberta faces unprecedented short and medium-term economic challenges caused mainly by blocked access for oil to markets, the volatility of markets for fossil fuels, and the current COVID-19 threat;

WHEREAS without the ability possessed by other levels of government to repay borrowed funds over a long period of time, municipalities face a unique challenge when attempting to provide tax/rate relief without sacrificing services that might prevent further economic hardship, or contribute to economic recovery;

WHEREAS moving forward, fiscal restraint and tax relief will be critical as other levels of government contend with the debt they have incurred to deal with the COVID-19 threat;

WHEREAS extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach that places the financial and/or physical responsibility for end of life management of products with the companies that produce those products, and would remove the financial burden for recycling programs from ratepayers and/or taxpayers;

WHEREAS under EPR municipalities realize extensive savings due to reduced responsibility for managing paper and packaging products at end of life;

WHEREAS a recent study conducted by the AUMA, the City of Calgary, the City of Edmonton, and industry partners has estimated adoption of Province-wide EPR legislation would result in \$105 million in savings to municipalities annually;

WHEREAS these savings would be realized in a way that does not pose a risk to the quality or level of waste management services provided to Albertans, and in some circumstances would perhaps even increase it;

WHEREAS thirty-five Albertan municipalities (including Calgary and Edmonton)—representing the vast majority of Albertans—have individually expressed their support for moving forward with Provincial EPR legislation by way of motion, letter of support, etc.; and

WHEREAS the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and the Rural Municipalities Association have both endorsed official resolutions calling on the Provincial Government to enact EPR Packaging and Paper Recycling legislation.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT should the Government of Alberta adopt EPR legislation, AUMA will work with and encourage every member municipality to pass any and all savings found from the adoption of province-wide EPR directly back to taxpaying and/or ratepaying Albertans.

BACKGROUND:

Through past AUMA resolutions, municipalities have been calling on the provincial government to enact an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) packaging and paper program and expand the existing recycling programs. EPR shifts the cost of managing recyclable materials from municipalities to producers (like Canadian Tire, London Drugs, Shoppers Drug Mart, Proctor and Gamble, and Wal-Mart, for example). Many producers are already responsible for the recycling of packaging and paper products in other provinces with EPR regulations, and they are already incorporating the costs of EPR in their national product pricing as a normal cost of doing business. This means Albertans are paying for recycling twice and paying for recycling elsewhere in Canada. In 2016, producers provided more than \$367 million to fund other provincial EPR packaging and paper product recycling, and Alberta received \$0.

In late 2018, the AUMA and the City of Calgary worked together on a Notice of Motion advocating EPR legislation for packaging and paper products in Alberta. Thirty-one municipal councils representing more than 70 percent of Alberta residents passed that Notice of Motion supporting for an EPR packaging and paper program.

In 2019, AUMA worked with the Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance (an industry-led organization manages EPR packaging and paper programs in other provinces), Cities of Calgary and Edmonton on the Alberta Collaborative EPR Study. The research shows that EPR would save Alberta municipalities approximately \$105 annually – tax saving for residents and saving could be reallocated to other municipal services. Considering implementation time, the cost of continued inaction quickly climbs to \$1 billion. The study underlines that Albertans are the financial beneficiary of an EPR program.

This proposed resolution is to highlight an EPR program provides direct financial benefits to all Albertans. Moreover, Alberta municipalities want to pass on the financial saving to their residents while recognizing that each municipal council's autonomy on determining the best course of its municipal finance. This proposed resolution is also emphasizing to the Government of Alberta as:

1. A clear statement of the forgone benefits and mounting costs of inaction when it comes to implementing EPR for paper and packaging—not only to municipalities, but also to the Albertans who are unnecessarily funding recycling programs across the province.
2. A commitment by municipalities to ensure Albertans are the primary beneficiary of EPR in Alberta

AUMA Comments:

AUMA has previously advocated for a made-in-Alberta EPR packaging and paper program based on the following member adopted resolution:

- [Extended Producer Responsibility \(2019\)](#)

If this resolution is adopted and should the Government of Alberta introduce an EPR packaging and paper program, AUMA will provide information to our members on how to transition, and ways to share the financial benefits with Albertans.

AUMA Resolution 2020.B12

CITY OF COLD LAKE

Sustainable Funding for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure
Seconded by: Lac La Biche County

WHEREAS the Government of Canada and Government of Alberta draft and implement laws and regulations to protect the environment and public health, including the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment, and release of wastewater;

WHEREAS the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment, and release of wastewater are essential services crucial to safe, healthy communities;

WHEREAS the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment, and release of wastewater are often provided by municipalities, municipal commissions, or municipally owned utility companies;

WHEREAS the laws and regulations governing the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment, and release of wastewater can have both direct and indirect effects on the cost of providing these services; and

WHEREAS many water and wastewater service providers are challenged to fund the infrastructure deficits under the current laws and regulations governing the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment, and release of effluent.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Canada and Government Alberta to consider and evaluate the financial impacts that all existing and proposed laws and regulations governing the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment and release of wastewater will have on municipalities, municipal commissions, or municipally-owned utility companies, and share this information with them; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada and Government of Alberta establish adequate, stable, long-term funding for all affected water and wastewater service providers which considers the rising costs of providing these services due to federal and provincial laws and regulations.

BACKGROUND:

Located in northern Alberta, the Water North Coalition’s membership is comprised of 93 communities, service providers and organizations including cities, towns, counties and municipal districts, hamlets, Metis Settlements, and commissions. The Water North Coalition sent out a survey to its 93 members to gather input on the water and wastewater issues.

One significant concern which showed itself in the results was the rising cost of water and wastewater service delivery. The average water/wastewater infrastructure deficit reported among the respondents was \$36.4 million, with a lack of adequate, consistent, and sustainable funding being cited as the largest challenge. Aging infrastructure and small customer bases in rural areas also add urgency and challenges, as service providers struggle to fund critical projects whose costs will be spread among relatively few customers, which can make the services cost prohibitive.

These challenges are often amplified in small and rural areas throughout Alberta as funding criteria can exclude the water and wastewater service delivery models often found in these communities. These funding programs exclude commissions and water cooperatives from applying for funding as the process does not recognize these organizations as service providers. The commissions and water cooperatives, however, are expected to follow the same regulations. The funding programs often lack a formal application process, and have tight timelines when funding does become available, which often poses a disproportionate challenge for smaller and rural communities that lack the resources required to engineer shovel-ready plans, especially in the face of changing laws and regulations.

AUMA Comments:

The resolution aligns with AUMA's past advocacy on the need for sustainable funding for water and wastewater infrastructure. RMA members endorsed a similar resolution during their Spring 2020 Convention. If this resolution is adopted, AUMA would work with the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to advocate for beneficial changes to legislation and funding. A united municipal position would further highlight the importance of this issue and potentially increase the impact when engaging with the Government of Alberta.

2020 Resolutions

Category C – Other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities

AUMA Resolution 2020.C1

TOWN OF OKOTOKS

Support for Alberta Film Industry & Economic Diversification
Seconded by: Town of Didsbury

WHEREAS with the advent of streaming services increasing the distribution of screen content worldwide, the screen industry is a growing global economic driver;

WHEREAS the number of “scripted original series” television shows produced per year worldwide increased from 266 to 496 in the period of 2011-2018 and the number of feature films produced per year increased from 7,455 to 8,204 in the period of 2014-2018 each representing tens of millions in investment where produced;

WHEREAS the screen industry in Alberta is the 4th largest jurisdiction in Canada being a driver of indirect and induced GDP spending of \$236 million in 2018;

WHEREAS the screen industry in Alberta employs an estimated 3,357 highly skilled professionals in jobs that are transferable from other sectors;

WHEREAS the screen industry in Alberta has failed to see the explosive growth of its competitor province jurisdictions of British Columbia and Ontario because of a capped tax credit (previously a grant system). British Columbia saw \$2.6 billion in motion picture expenditures in the province in 2017/2018 and 60,870 jobs. Ontario saw 2.36 billion in motion picture expenditures in 2017/2018 and roughly 32,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS the screen industry is a proven effective driver of tourism and promotion for the areas that embrace it, attracting fans of the shows to the location productions were made.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to further enhance its Film and Television Tax Credit (FTTC) to be more competitive with the jurisdictions of Ontario, British Columbia, and Manitoba in attracting screen industry production to the Province and expand the growing sector into an economic engine for the province.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Alberta promote and develop the screen industry in rural Alberta as a tool to leverage for tourism by:

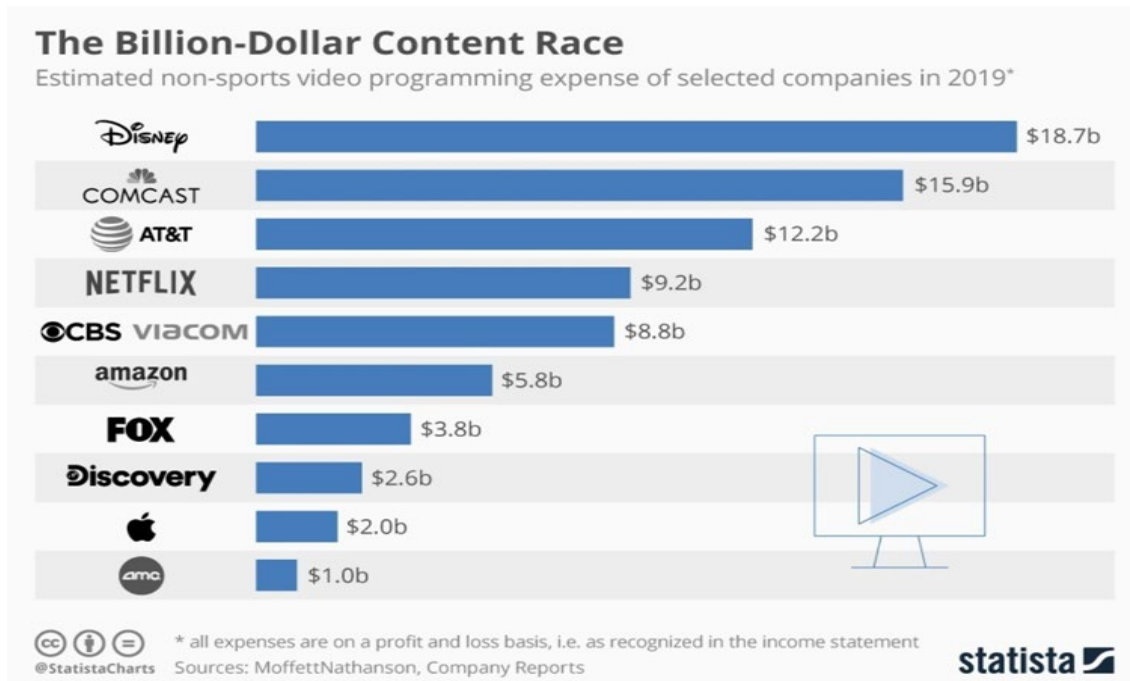
1. The addition of a “rural location” incentive towards projects that shoot in rural locations
2. Promotion of towns which feature projects
3. Coordinated marketing and infrastructure projects towards screen-based tourism initiatives

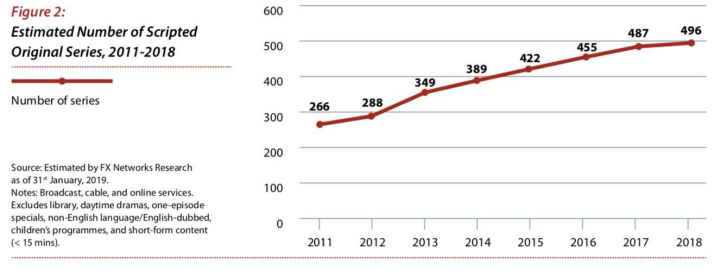
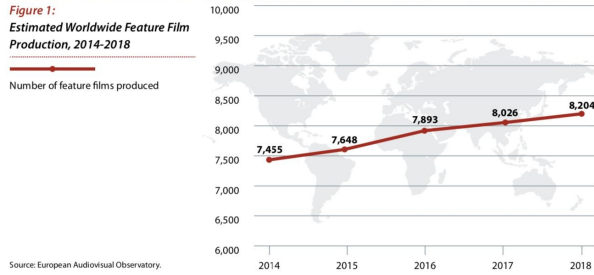
BACKGROUND:

The importance of the screen industry to Canada is obvious, as is the impact to the local, provincial, and federal economies that are well researched and promoted. In Alberta, despite having some of the most naturally beautiful and diverse landscapes available to productions, we have previously lacked a competitive incentive and provincial strategy to take advantage of this opportunity.

- The recognized return on investment for the screen industry is at least \$3.50 dollars per \$1 dollar spent as per Minister of Culture Leela Aheer’s statement in Alberta Legislature June 20, 2019.
- According to an Ontario film study for each dollar of their incentive spent \$1.20 is returned to provincial coffers.
- According to a study done by the Association of Film Commissioners International, incentives next to infrastructure and labour force are the key deciding factors in where productions choose to shoot, and which jurisdictions are chosen as “hubs”.

The estimated production spend of major screen industry companies is growing exponentially each year





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

Investment in the film and television industry extends beyond the set:

- Heavy equipment rentals, location owners, catering companies, taxi services, hotels, airlines, commercial real estate, building supply stores, gas stations, restaurants and pubs, coffee shops.
- Clothing stores, vehicle rental, home décor.

Ghostbusters

- 14,627 room nights: \$2,205,647 hotels in Calgary, Fort Macleod, Drumheller
- 225,000 L of gas, rental, and crew vehicles
- \$395,560 on catering, local grocers, restaurants, distributors
- \$800,000 rental vehicles
- \$500,000 lumber for construction of sets

Jumanji

- 2800 room nights \$445,400 Kananaskis

Togo

- 2900 room nights \$539,400 Kananaskis and Nordegg hotels
- \$2,100,000 spent in Cochrane

Let Him Go

- Okotoks \$196,000
- Cochrane \$353,000
- Didsbury \$70,000
- Fort Macleod \$217,000
- Lethbridge \$52,000

Tin Star – season 2

- Okotoks \$137,000
- Cochrane / Mason \$580,000
- Didsbury \$94,000
- High River \$385,000
- Lethbridge \$18,000

Heartland – seasons 1 to 10

- \$278.5 Million production expenditure
- \$469.1 Million total economic benefit

The film industry is a great leveraging tool to attract tourists. Every show has some tourism potential - some already have fan bases (Ghostbusters), some build them up over time (Heartland, Wynonna Earp) and some people are fans of a certain genre or actor. By working together as an industry with Municipalities, Direct Marketing Organizations, and agencies like Travel Alberta we can reach new markets and create new experiences for people to take part in throughout the province. This allows places in rural Alberta an especially unique opportunity (examples seen in High River with Heartland, Didsbury with Wynonna Earp).

On January 28, 2020 the Film and Television Tax Credit Act was proclaimed by the Government of Alberta - this tax credit put in place a per project cap of \$10 million, allocated only 22 million for the 2020 year, 31 million for 2021, and 45 for 2022 and had no rural incentive. These limits service only a few projects and will cause a loss of crew to other jurisdictions and plateau of the industry if not addressed.

Therefore, we recommend the key elements for a competitive Film and Television Tax Credit include:

1. An open yearly cap depending on the number of applicants and crew capacity
2. No Per Project Cap (Currently GoA policy \$10M/Project)
3. A Rural Location Bump Up of up to five per cent for productions shooting outside of Calgary & Edmonton (in line with other jurisdictions)

AUMA Comments:

AUMA does not have a current position on this specific issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA's Board by the Economic Resiliency and Recovery Task Force in the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.C2

TOWN OF OKOTOKS

Increase Provincial Flood Mitigation and Mapping Standards

Seconded by: Town of High River

WHEREAS flooding is the most common cause of large losses impacting municipalities;

WHEREAS these community losses include social, economic, financial and the potential loss of life;

WHEREAS increasing frequencies of events are evident due to deforestation and climate changes;

WHEREAS current and detailed provincial flood mitigation and mapping is a crucial element of risk management to all Alberta municipalities;

WHEREAS the design flood mitigation and mapping is the design that is used to delineate the flood hazard area and is statistically created and based off the 1:100 year return period, 1% chance of occurring in any given year, calculated at the time of the mapping;

WHEREAS current and detailed flood mitigation mapping is required to support proper land use policies, infrastructure, transportation, flood warning, evacuation, and emergency management planning to prepare and respond to flooding;

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has been promising the release of new flood mapping for the past five years;

WHEREAS it is important that standardized flood rules exist across the Province;

WHEREAS changing the design standards for flood mapping to a 1:200-year level, for new developments will significantly reduce projected losses; and

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to revise the provincial standard from 1:100 to 1:200 for flood mitigation measures for all new development.

BACKGROUND:

Floods affects both individuals and communities, and have social, economic, and environmental consequences. The consequences of floods, both negative and positive, vary greatly depending on the location and extent of flooding, and the vulnerability and value of the natural and constructed environments they affect.

Floods have large social consequences for communities and individuals. As most people are well aware, the immediate impacts of flooding include loss of human life, damage to

property, destruction of crops, loss of livestock, and deterioration of health conditions owing to waterborne diseases. As communication links and infrastructure such as power plants, roads, and bridges are damaged and disrupted, some economic activities may come to a standstill, people may be forced to leave their homes, and normal life is disrupted.

Flood modelling establishes river elevations for a design flood. The flow rates and corresponding design elevations vary with the frequency of the event that is predicted to occur. More severe flood events (higher flow rates) occur less frequently than less severe events (lower flow rates). Historically the 1:100-year flow rate has been used as the design flood event in Alberta. The term 1:100 year means that there is a 1 in 100 (or 1%) chance of the modelled flow rate being met or exceeded in any given year. The 200-year event therefore has a 0.5% chance of occurring (or being exceeded) in any given year.

Changing the design requirement from a 1:100-year event to a 1:200-year event is more protective because it increases the area and corresponding elevations associated with flood hazard mapping. The amount of increase will depend on the topography and the river being modelled. This increase will result in a larger/higher “floodway” channel where typically no development can occur and a larger/higher flood fringe. Under current design requirements, flood proofing is required for flood fringe development up to the design flood elevation plus a buffer.

Generally speaking, by increasing the design requirement there will be a decrease in the chance of flood-related damage to new construction/communities during a high-water event. This increased standard is also more resistant to climatic shifts in the frequency and/of severity of flood events.

Better and more detailed flood mitigation and mapping is critical to generate data to determine communities’ risk areas, safe evacuation routes, and response planning. Better mapping can also inform municipal planning policies, infrastructure, transportation, and emergency management planning.

As these events have the potential for expanding in frequency and intensity, all municipalities must be provided with proper tools to mitigate impacts where possible.

AUMA Comments:

This resolution aligns with AUMA’s past advocacy on flood mitigation, preparedness and emergency management. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA’s Board by the Infrastructure and Energy Committee in the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.C3

TOWN OF PINCHER CREEK
Alberta Structure Protection
Seconded By: Village of Cowley

WHEREAS Alberta has experienced several devastating fires in recent years such as: Slave Lake, Fort MacMurray, Municipal District of Pincher Creek # 9, High Level and Waterton Park;

WHEREAS the relative costs to protect structures both urban and rural within the wildfire pathways in the forest protection area is undetermined and may be delegated to the affected municipal jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS the responsibility for structure protection presently falls within the mandate of Alberta Municipal Affairs who do not have the budget and or operational capability; and who may delegate the financial and operational responsibility to individual municipalities who do not have the capacity for funding structural protection within a wildfire; primarily starting outside of the local jurisdiction;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT AUMA advocate to the Alberta Government for the responsibility of Structure Protection within the Province of Alberta to be delegated to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. This includes managing the deployment and payment of invoices for any municipal resources utilized and assuming responsibility for provincial structural protection equipment and management of all associated wildfire structure protection response when it occurs within the forest protection area.

BACKGROUND:

Given the high rate of wildfires within Alberta over the last several years this resolution is a high priority for most municipalities not having adequate funding to provide structural protection. A similar resolution is being drafted and submitted to RMA by the Municipal District of Pincher Creek # 9 for the 2020 Fall Session.

A position paper was prepared by Pincher Creek Emergency Services Commission (PCESC) members, the MD of Pincher Creek #9 and the Town of Pincher Creek, which is summarized as follows:

In the past few years, values have been lost due to wildfires throughout Alberta. Structure protection has been used to defend values other than forests when wildfires extended into communities with some success. Examples are Slave Lake, Fort McMurray, MD of Pincher Creek, High Level, and Waterton.

The recommendations from the Slave Lake Fire (the Flat Top Complex Report) recommended having structure protection become Municipal Affairs responsibility. This has resulted in mixed success as Municipal Affairs, represented by the Community and Technical Support Branch, does not have operational capability.

The step taken to overcome this lack of ability was to enter into an agreement with the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association funded through a grant to create guidelines addressing equipment needs, training needs, compensation rates, and deployment processes to utilize municipal resources similar to the model used in British Columbia.

Municipal Affairs still does not have operational capability in either the Community and Technical Support Branch or the Alberta Emergency Management Agency.

This department is not in a position to supply structure protection services. They chose not to follow the structure protection guidelines approved in 2018 during the 2019 fire season. Instead of paying the costs of structure protection, they unloaded this responsibility on the local governments. The process for payment of structure protection costs, if the approved process had been followed, would have had the costs covered by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. However, Agriculture and Forestry was not given the opportunity to fund this expense since they were not provided with the information needed to cost it to the respective incidents.

Had the approved process been followed, local jurisdictions would not have been put in position to pay for something they had not been responsible for. No local government should be put in a position to pay provincial expenses without prior consultation.

The Community and Technical Support Branch, represented by the Fire Commissioner, has now reviewed and updated the Structure Protection Guidelines which was supposed to be done prior to the 2019 fire season.

Our long-term position is that Structure Protection should become the responsibility of the Wildfire Division of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry who have operational capability to create agreements, review guidelines, and manage expenses.

Understandably, this probably cannot happen for the 2020 wildfire season since the processes that need to occur require time and budget to become adopted. Our immediate position is that, in the interim, the Community and Technical Support Branch, represented by the Fire Commissioner, will follow the 2020 Structure Protection Guidelines regarding deployment and payment of invoices.

The Community and Technical Support Branch in consultation with Agriculture and Forestry should begin the process of handing off the structure protection equipment they have and the responsibility for managing structure protection to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

AUMA Comments:

AUMA does not have a current policy on this specific issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA's Board by the Infrastructure and Energy Committee in the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.C4

VILLAGE OF BEISEKER
Blue Lights For Tow Trucks
Seconded By: Village of Carbon

WHEREAS Traffic safety is a significant responsibility for Alberta municipalities;

WHEREAS towing and recovery is a highly dangerous occupation; and

WHEREAS visibility of tow truck operations can be a traffic safety concern on Alberta roadways.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate to the Government of Alberta to amend the Vehicle Equipment Regulation of the Traffic Safety Act to allow towing and recovery operators to use blue strobe lights alone or in conjunction with white and/or amber lights when tow trucks are working.

BACKGROUND:

Operating a tow truck on busy highways is a dangerous occupation. Towing and recovery is a high-risk industry sector characterized by a unique combination of workplace hazards. The Alberta Motor Association says it sends an operator into a high-risk situation every 14 minutes.

At present, in Alberta, tow trucks are only allowed to have amber flashing lights, which is the same colour used for moving farm equipment, slow moving vehicles, delivery vehicles and on road signs. Amber lights are so commonplace that they are no longer effective in this type of hazardous environment.

On the evening of January 22, 2020, a tow truck from Beiseker Towing was operating on the QEII near Innisfail. The tow truck operator was working as safely as possible with the amber strobe lights flashing and wearing high visibility clothing. A semi hit the tow truck and burst into flames. The semi driver was killed. Fortunately, the tow truck operator was not in his truck at the time. The tow truck was destroyed and parts of it were strewn all over the highway.

In March 2017, a Saskatchewan tow truck operator was killed while assisting a stranded motorist. The incident occurred at night in blizzard conditions. In response to the incident and after hearing the testimonies of 100s operators across the province the Saskatchewan legislature passed Bill 65 – The Traffic Safety Amendment Act 2017 – to allow tow truck operators to display flashing blue lights at the scene in addition to amber. The Bill passed all three readings on April 6th, 2017.

Towing and recovery operators are primary responders to the scene of an accident or

distressed motorist and they often operate in conditions different from other roadside work zones. Unlike other roadside work zones (e.g. construction, landscaping, etc.) towing and recovery operators are called to assist stranded motorists at all times of the day and night, and in all weather conditions. Long-or-short-term recovery operations that utilize added control measures such as traffic cones or traffic control persons may still place an operator at risk depending upon position of disabled vehicle, visibility, and other road and environmental conditions. (1)

Therefore, we ask the AUMA to urge the Government of Alberta to implement legislation to allow towing and recovery vehicles to be equipped with blue, white, or both, flashing lamps visible from all directions in addition to amber. Allowing tow trucks to display a unique combination of flashing lamps will contribute significantly to operator safety as well as maintain workplace consistency across the country.

(1) Excerpt from ARA (AUTOMOTIVE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION) POSITION PAPER 2018-01-02)

AUMA Comments:

AUMA does not have a current position on this specific issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA's Board by the Infrastructure and Energy Committee in the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.C5

CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE

Fair Increase to Wireless Device 911 Levy to Modernize 911 Call Centres
Seconded by: City of Camrose

WHEREAS twenty Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), such as 911 call centres, across Alberta provide a fast-acting, critical link between Albertans and emergency responders who ensure the health and safety of Albertans; and

WHEREAS PSAPs are funded by municipalities and the 911 Levy, which is collected and distributed by the Province from telecommunication providers; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has directed telecom providers and 911 call centres across Canada to modernize the 911 network, transitioning to IP-based technology, known as Next Generation 911 or NG911 ([Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2017-182](#)); and

WHEREAS under new CRTC mandates, Albertans will access 911 services through numerous new points-of-contact (texting, video messaging, photo sharing, and enhanced location services, etc.) that are costly to implement; and

WHEREAS section 4 of the Alberta [Emergency 911 Act](#) outlines a levy to fund the day-to-day operations and technology in the 911 call centres across Alberta; and

WHEREAS section 23 of the [Alberta Regulation 18/2014 \(Emergency 911 Levy Regulation\)](#) specifies the regulation is set to expire on March 31, 2021 providing limited time to advocate the Province for a levy increase; and

WHEREAS section 2(1) of [Alberta Regulation 18/2014 \(Emergency 911 Levy Regulation\)](#) sets the Alberta 911 levy at 44 cents per month per wireless device, the second lowest in Canada; and

WHEREAS the current levy rate poses a risk to public safety by limiting Alberta 911 call centres access to adequate funding sources and creating an obstacle for them to adopt new technologies.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA advocate the Alberta government for an increase to the levy payable outlined in the Emergency 911 Levy Regulation, from 44 cents to 97 cents per month per wireless device, prior to renewing the Regulation, which expires on March 31, 2021, to ensure the modernization of technology in 911 call centers and enhance public safety across Alberta.

**BACKGROUND:
Benefits and Risks**

- All Alberta municipalities benefit from the wireless device 911 levy by receiving emergency 911 services that bolster public safety.
- The CRTC mandated new technologies in 911 call centres will increase the responsiveness of emergency services and access to 911 services.
- An increase in the cellular 911 levy, paid by cellular device users, will assist in offsetting the costs associated with implementing NG911.
- Without adequate funding, there is a risk to public safety as 911 call centres will not have the financial means to adopt technologies mandated by the CRTC, leading to a decreased responsiveness in meeting the emergency needs of Albertans.
- Time is limited, as the Alberta Regulations expire on March 31, 2021 and the CRTC has directed telecommunications providers to decommission outdated 911 networks by March 30, 2024.

CRTC Directives and Next Generation 911

- On June 1, 2017, the [CRTC directed](#) all telephone companies to update their networks in order to be ready to provide next-generation 911 (NG911) services. 911 call centres are required to replace existing equipment and update their operational models to keep pace with public expectations for new technology. According to the CRTC, the current 911 system has reached end of life and will be decommissioned on March 30, 2024.
- Alberta 911 centres must transition to the new technology in order to continue taking emergency calls from the public, as mandated by the CRTC in [Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC2017-182](#). The new Canadian NG911 Transition Timelines (dates subject to update per the [April 8, 2020 CRTC letter](#) direction):
 - March 30, 2021 - NG911 voice services available to 911 call centres
 - March 30, 2022 - Availability of NG911 real time text messaging (iMessage, WhatsApp, etc.)
 - March 30, 2024 - Telus to decommission outdated 911 networks
- There has been no federal funding offered for this transition, as the Federal Government nor the CRTC do not have a mandate to fund or operate PSAPs. However, the CRTC regulates Telecommunication companies who recover some of their costs through tariffs.

Previous Advocacy and Current Support

- In 2011, The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) advocated for a cellular 911 call answer fee through the [Wireless Emergency 911 Dispatch](#) resolution leading to a 911 emergency call levy for cellular device subscribers in Alberta.
- On November 1, 2019, The Rural Municipalities of Alberta passed [Resolution 21-19F](#), Cellular 911 Call Answer Fees Increase.
- The Province of New Brunswick [announced an increase](#) of their 911 levy from 53 cents to 97 cents per month.

- The Alberta E911 Advisory Association (AEAA) is an independent society comprised of 911 centre managers from across Alberta, RCMP, Alberta Health Services, and other interested stakeholders. The AEAA unanimously supports increasing the wireless cellular device 911 levy.
- The AEAA recommends the increase to a 97-cent levy based on results of a survey of the various 911 levies across Canada, which were used to develop projections for a few different scenarios. Given the current economic climate, AEAA determined that 97 cents is a reasonable request in line with what other provinces are seeking, considering the costs incurred to improve public safety.
- The Canadian NG911 Coalition, a collection of interested parties, created an informative document titled [NG911 Transition Roadmap for Canadian PSAPs \(2018\)](#).

AUMA Comments:

As noted in the resolution background, AUMA advocated for the establishment of a monthly cell phone levy to support 911 services, although we have not had a formal resolution on this topic. We do not currently have a current position on this specific issue; however, it does align with past AUMA advocacy. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA's Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee in the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.C6

VILLAGE OF RYLEY

Review of Libraries Act
Seconded by: Village of Boyle

WHEREAS libraries act as cultural and community centres for municipalities and play an important role in providing Albertans with equitable access to information and the arts;

WHEREAS the Libraries Act provides the legal framework for public library services in Alberta;

WHEREAS current provisions in the Libraries Act and associated regulations hinder the ability of municipalities to fund and deliver sustainable library services, especially in rural areas;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA request the Government of Alberta review the *Libraries Act* and Libraries Regulations through a comprehensive public consultation process.

Background:

Public libraries are a municipal service as set out in the Libraries Act. Municipalities may choose to provide library services at the local level or at the regional level. At the local level, a municipal council may pass a bylaw under the Libraries Act to establish a municipal library board. Municipalities may also enter into agreements with up to 2 additional municipalities to form an intermunicipal library board to provide public library service to their citizens.

Regional library systems are established under the Libraries Act when municipalities in an area agree to jointly provide library system services. There are seven library system boards in the province. Library system services provide professional and technical support to public libraries within the system area so that even the smallest library has access to advice and assistance, along with the cost effectiveness and synergies made possible by working through a larger unit.

Section 19 of the Libraries Regulation requires a library system board to employ one graduate of a postgraduate library program (i.e. a professional librarian) for every 25,000 people that the library system serves. This calculation excludes the population of any municipality with a population over 10,000 in which a municipal library or intermunicipal library employs a professional librarian. As result, library systems that serve a high total population, but do not serve any municipalities with populations over 10,000, are required to hire more professional librarians than other library systems that serve smaller total populations.

For example, the Northern Lights Library System serves (NLLS) 174,000 people in its geographic area but does not have any urban areas with populations over 10,000 in which a municipal library or intermunicipal library employs a professional librarian. The NLLS must therefore employ seven professional librarians as per the Libraries Regulation. In comparison, the Marigold Library System serves a total population of 300,000 people but contains several municipal and intermunicipal libraries that are required to hire professional librarians.

Accordingly, these populations are excluded from the calculation under Section 19. As a result, the Marigold Library System is only required to hire four professional librarians, based on an adjusted population of 100,000.

Small, rural municipalities face a number of challenges in recruiting professional librarians, from both a budgetary and human resources perspective. This affects the ability of library systems to deliver quality programs and services to the populations they serve. It is therefore recommended that the Libraries Act and Regulation be reviewed to ensure all Albertans have equitable access to library services, and library services are sustainably funded and delivered.

AUMA Comments:

AUMA does not have a current position on this specific issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA's Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee in the context of related priorities and positions.

AUMA Resolution 2020.C7**CITY OF SPRUCE GROVE**

Current Population Funding for Alberta's Municipal Public Libraries
Seconded by: Town of Stony Plain

WHEREAS provincial operating grants for municipal public libraries serving populations over 3,000 are calculated with a formula using local municipal appropriation and 2016 populations of the municipality and therefore do not provide sufficient financial resources for Alberta's growing communities;

WHEREAS "Library Board Basics: A Handbook for Library Trustees and Managers", provided by Alberta Municipal Affairs, explicitly states that libraries do not charge for basic services and therefore have limited in-house revenue -generating opportunities;

WHEREAS "Best Practices for Public Libraries in Alberta", a provincial document that municipal library boards are encouraged to extensively use in service planning and evaluation, provides unachievable recommended levels of service;

WHEREAS the Libraries Regulation, AR 141/98, Section 13, (2) requires municipal boards to file no less than every five years a copy of its current plan of service with goals and objectives based on growing communities' input resulting in expressed, recorded, and reported demand for service that is unattainable based on the realities of what libraries are financially able to provide;

WHEREAS the *Libraries Act*, RSA 2000 cL-11, Section 8 and 9 requires municipal library boards to annually prepare a budget that estimates the amount of money required to operate the forthcoming year and consequently ask municipal councils for ever-increasing funds that boards predict they are not likely to receive due to local multi-sector demands from vast and diverse rapidly increasing populations;

WHEREAS municipal libraries provide Albertans with equal and equitable access to information regardless of economic, social, or geographic circumstance and collaborate with their library system and other municipalities to maximize partnership efficiencies and cost- sharing opportunities;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the AUMA requests that Alberta's Department of Municipal Affairs uses current population data in calculating provincial operating grants for municipal public libraries serving populations over 3,000.

BACKGROUND:

Public municipal libraries in Alberta are legislated by the [Libraries Act](#) and [Libraries Regulation](#) that provide mandatory standards for governance and board accountability that are monitored by the provincial government for compliance. The *Libraries Act* provides for

the establishment of autonomous municipal library boards that cooperate through the provincial [Public Library Network](#) and [resource-sharing agreements](#) to provide access to public library resources province-wide. The Libraries Regulation establishes key provincially-regulated standards for the planning and development of public library service at the local and system levels. The Department of Municipal Affairs provides public library service delivery expectations that, although optional and not monitored for compliance, are recommended and promoted in [Best Practices for Public Libraries in Alberta](#) as the guide for quality library service. The Public Library Services Branch supports library boards and managers with trainings and the [Board Basics Handbook](#) to ensure that the board concentrates on governance and advocacy, while operations and staff supervision are delegated to the library manager.

The impact of calculating provincial operating grants for municipal public libraries serving populations over 3,000 with a formula using local municipal appropriation and 2016 populations of the municipality is vast:

- Alberta libraries are not able to achieve the minimum level of best practices set by the provincial government;
- Alberta communities are not receiving the programs, services, and resources they identified as local needs in their libraries' plans of service; and
- Alberta municipal councils are not in the position to fund at the level that meets local demand.

The outcome from these impacts is clear: Albertans are not receiving the free, barrier-free service they need, now more than ever. Therefore, it is fair to state that this issue is common for and would be endorsed by the municipalities serving more than 3,000 people that are included in the [317 out of 351 municipalities](#) that provide access to municipal library service. This resolution should be given high priority because Albertans of all ages across the province are unable to fully benefit from public library resources and exercise their right to access information regardless of economic, social or geographic circumstances due to financial constraints many boards and managers are currently implementing. As both provincial and municipal governments are responsible for maintaining a healthy public library service, it is time for the province to account for increases to populations with which local governments are struggling to keep pace. The unpredictable additional stresses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are making libraries more relevant than ever before as Albertans face a future of economic and social uncertainty. It is during times like this that public libraries are at their busiest. The needs of our community—like many across the province—are vastly outgrowing available resources, particularly with the skyrocketing demands put on our libraries before, during, and after Alberta's COVID-19 pandemic relaunch strategy.

This resolution will enable the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association to request that the funding model for provincial public library grants be updated to use current municipal population data. This important, Alberta-wide issue aligns with the Alberta Urban

Municipalities Association’s vision and mission because in order to build a thriving community, municipalities need thriving libraries, and this call to action provides visionary leadership and solutions-based advocacy that will result in service excellence.

AUMA Comments:

AUMA does not have a current position on this specific issue. If this resolution is passed, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to AUMA’s Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee in the context of related priorities and positions.