

Agenda for Spring 2025 President's Summit
March 5, 2025
Westin Hotel, 10135-100 Street NW, Edmonton

Wednesday, March 5

8:00 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

9:00 a.m. **Opening remarks**

9:15 a.m. **Plenary: Common Ground Toolkit**

[Common Ground Politics](#) has been undertaking significant research into Alberta's political landscape over the past few years. The initiative includes a toolkit which builds common vocabulary for problems facing civil dialogue in politics.

Dr. Wesley will speak to the Common Ground Toolkit and how to effectively use the kit in local government. ABmunis is a supporting partner of the Common Ground initiative.

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. **Breakout Session - From Discord to Harmony: Mastering Conflict in Local Government**

Municipal elected officials often face conflicts in decision-making and interpersonal dynamics.

This session will explore practical strategies for managing disagreements, fostering collaboration, and maintaining professional relationships in the face of political tension. Participants will gain tools for effective communication, conflict resolution, and navigating reactions in real time.

Breakout Session - Promoting a Civil Social Media Landscape

Social media plays a key role in political discourse and has been blamed for degradation in community conversations and abuse of elected officials and staff.

Join our speakers to gain insight into developing strategies to help manage social media and how current elected officials are engaging and utilizing AI.

This session will bring key takeaways to shaping a more positive political environment.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. **The Canadian Barometers Project**

The Canadian Barometers research partnership focuses on understanding and improving municipal democracy by routinely surveying local elected officials on their experience with abuse and their level of satisfaction in the role. This plenary will dive into preliminary insights into their more recent survey and the ways in which this data helps support community leaders.

1:20 p.m. **Harassment in the Council Chamber and Workplace**

Municipal councillors are facing increased levels of harassment both in and outside of council chambers. Due to the unique nature of their role, they are not protected under workplace laws in the same way as a municipal employee. It is also challenging to hold councillors accountable should they create an unsafe workplace for municipal staff.

This session will feature legal, law and policy perspectives on harassment in the municipal workplace.

2:20 p.m. **Break**

2:30 p.m. **Breakout Session - Looking After Yourself and Your Colleagues**

Leaders are often called on to support others, but they also need to look after themselves.

This session will focus on concrete ways to care for yourself and others during times of difficulty.

Breakout Session - Acting in the Moment: How, When and Why

This session aims to help participants identify harm that happens in their workplaces and council activities, and considerations for addressing that harm in real-time or after the fact.

Through practical tools and discussions, participants will gain confidence in being a positive bystander, helping to prevent harm and fostering a culture of accountability and respect in their communities.

4:00 p.m. **Break**

4:15 p.m. **Preparing Alberta's Future Municipal Leaders**

A session focused on the realities of running for municipal office. This panel will feature unique perspectives including:

- Living through tumultuous times at the council level
- Choosing to run for council during difficult transitions
- Hiring a new CAO and developing a relationship

4:45 p.m. **Closing remarks**

6:00 p.m. **Alberta Counsel Hospitality Suite, Craft Beer Market**