

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B1 – Provincial-Municipal Revenue Sharing

**Sponsors:** City of St. Albert | City of Airdrie

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to:

- increase the size of the funding pot of the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) starting in 2024; and
- grow it at a 1:1 ratio linked to provincial revenue.

#### Notes

- Municipalities receive approximately 8 cents of every tax dollar generated by all orders of government and are responsible for over 60% of public infrastructure and are limited in their ability to raise needed revenue.
- Alberta GDP grew by an estimated 5.8% in 2021, and the provincial economy is expected to recover to 2014 levels in 2022, yet infrastructure funding for municipalities is nearly 40 per cent lower than the annual average prior to the 2015 recession in Alberta.
- The current total funding pot for the Local Government Fiscal Framework is inadequate, and will be 37% less than the annual average of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) and BMTG programs over the past decade starting in 2024.
- LGFF total funding pot is legislated to grow at a rate of 50% of provincial revenue growth, which would mean a 0.5% growth in funding based on current provincial government projections, much lower than inflationary increases.
- Reinstating historical funding levels of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative under the Local Government Fiscal Framework represents approximately 0.7% of the province's total budget.
- On August 31, 2022, the Government of Alberta announced that the 2022-23 projected budget surplus will be \$13.2 billion.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

In **ALIGNMENT** with input and advocacy that the City of Airdrie has conducted on the LGFF proposal.

Airdrie City Council voted to **SUPPORT** seconding this resolution at the May 16, 2022 Council Meeting.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B2 – Transportation Infrastructure Funding

**Sponsors:** City of Airdrie | City of St. Albert

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta for the establishment of both a clear process to elevate and equitably fund municipal transportation infrastructure projects that are in alignment with the Building Forward Plan objectives and principles.

#### Notes

- Despite the importance of transportation infrastructure, there is presently no clear process to add projects to the provincial capital list. Nor when projects are funded, is there a transparent funding formula ensuring contribution equity from the province and municipalities across projects.
- Certainty in planning is extremely important for municipalities given that the *Municipal Government Act* requires the creation of five-year capital plans, at minimum. Most municipalities create ten-year plans. Many other municipal planning documents, like economic development strategies, rely on information from capital plans.
- Both a clear process and transparent funding formula would go a long way to ensuring that Albertans are being treated equally from municipality to municipality.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

In **ALIGNMENT** with input and advocacy that the City of Airdrie has conducted on provincial infrastructure funding support for priority municipal transportation infrastructure projects.

Airdrie City Council voted to **SUPPORT** sponsoring this resolution at the May 16, 2022 Council Meeting.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B3 – Operational Transit Funding for Small to Medium Sized Municipalities

Sponsors: Town of Olds | Town of Didsbury

#### Resolution Overview

Alberta Municipalities advocate for the:

- Government of Alberta to ensure sustainable and predictable operating funding opportunities be expanded under the new Rural Transit Fund for small to medium sized municipalities to begin their transit planning journey.
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to ensure the new Rural Transit Fund be expanded to include further operational funding, outside of the Active Transportation Fund and the Zero Transmission Fund for small to medium sized municipalities.

#### Notes

- Eighteen Alberta municipalities out of approximately 350 provide transit services through established infrastructure.
- Many capital transit funding opportunities have been designed only for those established systems. In addition, small to medium sized municipalities do not have the financial resources to take advantage of funding opportunities.
- Small to medium sized municipalities do have the opportunity to apply for capital funding but the operational funding mechanism is the greatest barrier to introducing and operating local transit systems.
- The cost to deliver public transit services has increased substantially since February 2020. Revenues streams from customers have decreased due to changing travel behaviours and a slow recovery to return to pre-pandemic ridership. In addition, the need for municipalities to financially support residents via subsidy programs has increased which further reduces the revenue stream.
- Expenditures increased sharply in 2022 due to general inflation and increased fuel costs and labour rates. The net impact to transit services has been a growing dependance on tax payers (at all levels of government) to subsidize services.
- The Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) serves as the unified voice of public transit and urban mobility in Canada. CUTA's 2021-2023 Strategic Plan has three pillars – Recover, Solidify and Evolve, all with the intent to support sustainable growth within the industry. The Plan outlines priority actions including one which states "Continue to advocate for ongoing operating support from governments, and long-term capital investments".

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

In **ALIGNMENT** with advocacy that the City of Airdrie has conducted with both the Province and Federal governments for on-going operational support for public transit services. The funding model should be principle-based with a strong foundation in promoting equality and inclusion regardless of size (population or number of transit vehicles) or location.

Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council **SUPPORT** this resolution.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B4 – Grant Alignment with Provincial Regulatory Requirements

**Sponsors:** Town of Okotoks | Town of High River

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to align grant funding and regulatory provisions through creating a one window approach for municipalities to remove barriers, reduce red tape, and improve the delivery of government services at the municipal level across the province for all municipalities.

#### Notes

- The Government of Alberta provides public funding through grant programs for municipal government initiatives of importance to all Albertans and sets out rules that municipalities must follow through legislation and regulations.
- Provisions for grant programs and regulations may not align and/or the decision-making authority for the awarding of funding and regulatory requirements conflict or hinder the completion of projects.
- The misalignment of grants and regulatory requirements unnecessarily create barriers for municipalities.
- By aligning grant funding with regulatory provisions and authority in a one-window approach, needless red tape will be removed such as redundant processes and rules that do not provide any extra protections. This includes all information relative to a single project, in a single application, to a single authority and ensures that grant approvers and permit approvals have all the information applicable to the project.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

Specific advocacy has not been conducted on the one-window approach to align grant funding and regulatory approvals. Administration, although supportive of the concept, is unsure on how practical it would be to not provide tentative grant funding approval for a project, especially those involving extensive environmental reviews and approvals. Oftentimes, it is tentative grant funding approval that allows for expenditures on the detailed engineering/environmental approvals and permitting. Otherwise, there could be considerable efforts spent on obtaining appropriate engineering/environmental approvals without clarity on whether the related grant application would be successful. In addition, Administration notes that the one-window approach may be best suited for smaller scale projects and those without significant environmental impacts/approvals, but question whether this would be feasible on larger scale, environmentally complex projects.

Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council **SUPPORT** this resolution.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B5 – Incentivizing Comprehensive Flood Management

**Sponsors:** City of Airdrie | Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for provincial incentives to better integrate stormwater management within and between municipalities.

#### Notes

- To reduce costs and impacts of extreme events, municipalities or regional boards often look to develop at a greater distance from riparian areas. However, the stable and substantial revenues from property assessment run counter to these aims by incentivizing municipalities to maximize their land development opportunities – and lands next to rivers and streams often have premium assessment potential.
- The high cost of payouts from provincial and federal governments for flood events provides economic rationale to incentivize municipalities to look at comprehensive or integrated stormwater management practices across an entire watershed. Such integrated practices can involve things like:
  - mandating more permeable surface areas as part of developments;
  - using stormwater catchment areas (i.e., trap lows) to slow transfer to stormwater ponds;
  - reducing acceptable stormwater release rates and enhancing stormwater ponds for capacity beyond 1:100-year events;
  - naturalizing riparian banks and avoiding riparian channelization; and
  - requiring intermunicipal watershed management bodies.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

In **ALIGNMENT** with input and advocacy that the City of Airdrie provided in the development of the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Growth & Servicing Plans.

Airdrie City Council voted to **SUPPORT** sponsoring this resolution at the May 2, 2022 Council Meeting.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B6 – Exemption of Stormwater Reuse from Licensing Requirements

**Sponsors:** Town of Okotoks | Town of High River

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities urge Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) to exempt stormwater use from licensing requirements provided that the stormwater use does not exceed the difference between pre and post development volumes.

#### Notes

- Stormwater use is interpreted as a diversion requiring authorization from the province under the *Water Act*. In the current changing climate, the impact of drier summers puts pressure on the water systems in Alberta to keep up with the demand of a growing population, especially in basins with a moratorium on new water diversion licenses. Drier conditions increase the need for the irrigation of landscaping, both commercially and residentially.
- Municipalities end up using potable water to irrigate sports fields, control road dust, and to maintain municipal landscaping and tree canopies. Treatment of water to render it potable uses a large amount of energy, which not only increases costs but also contributes greenhouse gas emissions through the use of fossil fuels in the Alberta energy grid.
- Post-development volumes of stormwater run-off are greater than pre-development volumes due to a significant increase in impervious surface areas that prevent the water from seeping into the ground.
- In allowing reuse of the excess stormwater, municipalities would save money and resources, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by no longer having to treat water for irrigating sports fields and road dust control, or for transporting potable water for landscape maintenance.
- Through stormwater capture and reuse, municipalities would be proactive in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

Administration notes that providing stormwater users the authority to manage within the delta water without the burden of seeking water licensing would significantly incentivize water conservation and result in better efficiency. The City of Airdrie has investigated stormwater reuse, but has not advanced projects as a result of not having the ability to flex the water licensing requirements. Exemptions would be beneficial for municipalities and enable flexibility for future reuse projects.

Administration recommends that Council **SUPPORT** this resolution.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B7 – Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks

**Sponsors:** Town of Mayerthorpe | City of St. Albert

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities:

- advocate on behalf of its member municipalities, including those who belong to a Growth Management Board, that the Government of Alberta enact legislation, and develop best practices, that provide clear guidance for Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs), and ensure reduced red tape and costs during the process to renew ICFs.
- request the Government of Alberta amend the *Municipal Government Act* to mandate ICFs for municipalities that share a common boundary within Growth Management Boards, to foster intermunicipal and sub-regional collaboration and reduce red tape with respect to intermunicipal collaboration that is currently voluntary.

#### Notes

- ICF legislation was first introduced in 2016, with the vast majority of Alberta municipalities having now completed agreements.
- Clearly outlining requirements for funding formulas and establishing the types of funding formulas to use, municipalities across the province will be able to realize a more even playing field.
- By codifying arbitration precedents or best practices into existing legislation, municipalities will be in a better position to re-negotiate and streamline subsequent renewals of Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks providing for consistency throughout the Province.
- Presently, members of Growth Management Boards are exempt from completing these agreements.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

In **ALIGNMENT** with the Master Shared Services Agreement work the City of Airdrie and Rocky View County embarked on in 2021.

Administration supports the Province providing funding for ICF development and establishing criteria to ensure consistency on both funding formulas as well as arbitration best practices.

Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council **SUPPORT** this resolution.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B8 – Provincial Indigenous Awareness Training & Support

**Sponsors:** Town of Strathmore | Village of Rockyford

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to provide financial support to every school jurisdiction to enable all students (including homeschooled students) and teachers to learn about the lived experience of residential schools directly from Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers for the purposes of allowing those affected to heal and to ensure that the recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the United Nation’s Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People are fulfilled upon.

#### Notes

- Alberta has one of the largest and fastest growing Indigenous populations in the country.
- The proposed action is in alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation’s 62<sup>nd</sup> Call to Action, which calls upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to “[m]ake age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples’ historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.”
- The proposal before Alberta Municipalities’ members is to advocate that the Government of Alberta provide financial support and resources for the purposes of allowing Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers to share their lived experiences directly with students and teachers in Alberta’s education system. It is imperative that survivors of the residential schools and their families are able to share their stories directly to allow opportunities for them to heal and to ensure that history is not repeated in the future.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

In **ALIGNMENT** with Airdrie City Council’s Caring Community focus area and emphasis on embracing the intent of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action.

Administration recommends that the Council **SUPPORT** this resolution.



## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B9 – Policing Fines and Penalties Revenue Sharing

**Sponsors:** Town of Mundare | Town of Bruderheim, Village of Chipman, Town of Lamont

#### Resolution Overview

Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to amend section 162 of the *Traffic Safety Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter T-6 to distribute fines and penalties under the Act to those municipalities receiving policing services under the Provincial Police Services Agreement at the same percentage that these municipalities pay for policing.

#### Notes

- as of April 1, 2020, municipalities receiving policing services under the Provincial Police Services Agreement (PPSA) were required to pay a portion of their policing costs, resulting in these municipalities paying 30% of their policing costs by 2023/2024.
- the intent of Section 162 of the *Traffic Safety Act* is that fines should be distributed on the basis of who pays for the policing.
  - currently those municipalities receiving policing under the PPSA do not receive a share of fines and penalties.
- Municipalities required to pay their policing costs under sections 4(5) or 6 of the Police Act and municipalities that pay for a Peace Officer receive 60% of the specified fine or penalties.
- 291 municipalities and municipal districts/counties are covered under the Provincial Police Services Agreement and do not currently receive any portion of fine or penalty revenue.
- As per the resolution, as of 2023/2024, PPSA Municipalities would receive 18% of the fines and penalties (30% of 60%)

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

The City of Airdrie, like other urban municipalities over 5,000 people, pays for almost all policing costs. Airdrie has advocated for all municipalities to pay for policing at the same proportionate rates creating an equal playing field for all municipalities and residents of Alberta. The current police costing system treats Albertans differently depending on where they live in Alberta. Linking fine revenue to the percentage of policing costs paid equitably distributes revenue from fines and penalties.

Administration remains **NEUTRAL** on this resolution.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B10 – Advancing Action on Alberta’s Drug Poisoning Crisis

**Sponsors:** City of Edmonton | City of Wetaskiwin

#### Resolution Overview

Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to:

- Engage municipalities, people with lived and living experience, front-line agencies, and other partners as part of a comprehensive drug poisoning prevention strategy that includes harm reduction and recovery approaches and offers increased investments to address the urgent needs;
- Increase its investments into affordable housing with ongoing wraparound services as part of an integrated approach for responding to the drug poisoning crisis for homeless populations with complex challenges; and
- Immediately reinstate the inclusion of neighborhood-level data in the Alberta Substance Use Surveillance System reporting to inform a data-driven response in providing resources to sustainably implement a comprehensive drug strategy.

#### Notes

- 2021 was Alberta’s deadliest year on record for drug poisonings with 1,758 deaths.
- the devastating impacts are being felt across all communities, cutting across all ages, all genders, and all social strata who are at risk both in their homes and within Alberta’s most vulnerable populations.
- municipalities across the province are facing the impacts of the drug poisoning crisis with added pressures on their first responders, frontline agencies, policing, and the provincial justice and healthcare systems, including increased pressure on Emergency Medical Services’ (EMS) ability to provide timely response to other ongoing emergency needs.
- research has shown that a full spectrum of supports is required, from prevention and education, to harm reduction (including naloxone access and training, supervised consumption sites, and safer supply programs), to treatment and recovery, along with ongoing mental health and addictions support to reverse the devastating impacts of this crisis.
- the provincial government has committed to responding to the drug poisoning crisis through increased investments in recovery-oriented care for people struggling with addiction and mental health issues, which is one tool among many that must be deployed.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

In **ALIGNMENT** with Airdrie City Council’s Caring Community focus area and emphasis on supporting and caring for citizens who are experiencing social vulnerability and enhancing access for vulnerable residents to appropriate below-market housing options.

Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council **SUPPORT** this resolution.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B11 – Expansion of the Temporary Rental Assistance Benefit

**Sponsors:** City of St. Albert | City of Airdrie

#### Resolution Overview

Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to expand the current Temporary Rent Assistance Benefit beyond the current eligibility of the identified seven municipalities, and commensurately increase the amount of funding available to enable all low-income Albertans to potentially access this funding to support appropriate housing on a temporary basis, which would assist Albertans to stabilize and improve their situation during the economic recovery.

#### Notes

- On August 5, 2022 the Government of Alberta announced an extension of the Temporary Rent Assistance Benefit to more than 80 Alberta Communities
- Both St. Albert and Airdrie residents now have access to the TRAB through Cvida (Edmonton) and Calgary Housing Company, respectively.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

In **ALIGNMENT** with the City of Airdrie's advocacy requesting the Province to extend the rent assistance benefit beyond the initial seven municipalities announced in March 2021.

Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council **SUPPORT** this resolution. City of Airdrie Council voted to **SUPPORT** seconding this resolution at the May 16, 2022 Council Meeting.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.B12 – Municipal Identified Unique Housing Priorities

**Sponsors:** City of Fort Saskatchewan | Strathcona County

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to engage municipalities and housing management bodies regarding the Standardized Template for an Affordable Housing Needs Assessment to ensure data collected and used in the Template meaningfully captures each municipality's unique local context for housing needs, challenges, and barriers.

#### Notes

- the Government of Alberta is developing a Standardized Template for an Affordable Housing Needs Assessment as a key action item outlined in Stronger Foundations: *Alberta's 10-year strategy to improve and expand affordable housing*.
- the Needs Assessment is intended to offer a standardized and comprehensive approach for evidence-based decision-making and is intended to support municipalities to identify and prioritize their housing needs.
- each Alberta municipality has a unique household, geographic, and demographic context that informs their corresponding housing need.
- while Federal Census Profile data is a valuable resource in identifying the overall housing need, additional local context is necessary to effectively maximize the efficiency, efficacy, and sustainability, of affordable housing investments.
- data stories help make complex data clear and understandable through visuals and narrative and can provide municipalities opportunity to contextualize municipally identified priorities.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

In **ALIGNMENT** with the City of Airdrie's input to Seniors & Housing Ministry staff on the need for them to work directly with municipalities to better understand the unique housing issues faced by communities. This understanding is necessary to appropriately address Alberta's, and Airdrie's, below-market housing challenges. Although Census data is a key indicator from a quantitative perspective, an accurate housing picture also requires nuance gained through community consultation with service organizations and housing providers.

Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council **SUPPORT** this resolution.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.C1 – Cannabis Plant Limits (Medical Certificate) for Residential Properties

**Sponsors:** Village of Duchess | The City of Brooks

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities collaborate with the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to advocate for the Government of Canada to amend medical marijuana regulations to place a reasonable limit on the number of plants that can be grown in a residential property or within property in a residential zoned district to preserve the health and safety of our communities.

#### Notes

- All municipalities across Alberta, and Canada, are directly impacted by the current regulations that allow a person to purchase a property in a residential area and use it solely as a location for the growing of cannabis plants as defined by that individual medical license. Current regulations do not require the owner to reside in the property.
- Number of plants legally allowed to be grown by the property owner can be increased by obtaining additional medical growing certificates from another individual with their permission.
- A person holding one or more medical certificates can grow more than 500 cannabis plants in their place of residence.
- These residences are not subject to Safety Code inspections or regulations. Nor is the owner/resident obligated to notify the municipality, which creates a significant barrier to ensuring safety standards are met through conducting Safety Code inspections.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

The City of Airdrie has not directly advocated on this issue.

Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council **SUPPORT** this resolution. Although City of Airdrie Building Inspections has not dealt with a large medicinal grow operation in a private residence, staff expressed concern about the safety hazard that such a large grow operation could present. Poor ventilation, mold growth and moisture will create structural and electrical component damage over time which may eventually lead to a fire hazard.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.C2 – Equitable Provincial Charitable Gaming Model

**Sponsors:** City of At. Albert | City of Airdrie

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities request that the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance, and AGLC expeditiously act on the findings of the Charitable Gaming Review and 2021 What We Heard report by implementing a more equitable provincial charitable gaming model to promote the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of charitable organizations across Alberta.

#### Notes

- an inequitable model for the disbursement of casino revenues to charities currently exists, and the frequency of revenue generating opportunities varies greatly based on location in the Province.
- previous reviews of the charitable gaming model have articulated the inequities that exist across Alberta, yet decades of inaction have perpetuated these inequities

**Casino Region Wait Times & Revenues, 2019**

Casino Region	2019 Wait Time for Key Events (Months)	2019 Annualized Return (product of wait times and proceeds)
Calgary	20	\$42,000
Calgary-Rural	36	\$16,000
Camrose	41	\$6,100
Edmonton	23	\$39,000
Fort McMurray	17	\$32,000
Grande Prairie	31	\$14,100
Lethbridge	33	\$12,000
Medicine Hat	19	\$10,000
Red Deer	36	\$8,500
St. Albert	31	\$8,100

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

The City of Airdrie has not directly advocated on this issue.

Airdrie City Council voted to **SUPPORT** seconding this resolution at the May 16, 2022 Council meeting.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.C3 – A Proposal to Review the Processes and Policies of the Natural Resources Conversation Board Concerning Confined Feeding Operations

**Sponsors:** Summer Village of Grandview | Summer Village of Silver Beach

#### Resolution Overview

That ABMunis advocate for the Government of Alberta to complete a review through a public hearing of the policies and processes used by the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) in the approval of Confined Feeding Operations (CFOs) in order to enhance the transparency and fairness of the process and give all municipalities impacted by the approval a greater voice in the decision-making process.

#### Notes

- The locations of CFOs are a contentious issue. As a result, municipal Land Use Bylaws have set a variety of standards with respect to setbacks and exclusion zones. In 2002, the province took away municipal rights to regulate CFOs and delegated that responsibility to the NRCB, which administers the *Agricultural Operations Practice Act (AOPA)*. The stated purpose of AOPA is to “ensure that the province’s livestock industry can grow to meet the opportunities presented by local and world markets in an environmentally sustainable manner”.
- Other than the local municipality, only “directly affected parties” have a right to present arguments for consideration, and that status is determined by setback distances without consideration for local geographical or environmental conditions. There is no consideration for adjoining municipalities to be considered “directly affected” unless they were successful in getting the issue included in their Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP). And even though the Approval Officer must deny approval if an application contravenes an affected municipality’s Development Plan, that denial can be overruled by the Board.
- This issue could affect any Alberta municipality adjacent to an agribusiness operation, but it is of particular concern to municipalities near a lake fed by a watershed where agricultural operations are carried out.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

The City of Airdrie has not directly advocated on this issue. Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council remain **NEUTRAL** on this resolution. Administration noted the following provisions within existing plans:

- Airdrie City Plan - *Intensive agricultural operations and CFOs are not permitted within Airdrie municipal boundaries (2.20).*
- Rocky View County Draft MDP - *a confined feeding operation, including its minimum distance of separation, shall not be located within the boundary or notification zone of any intermunicipal development plan adopted with a neighbouring urban municipality, or any statutory planning area, hamlet, residential area, institutional use, or federal, provincial, or municipal park or recreation area.*

Staff also expressed concern about the validity of the last two bullet points under the Notes section above that the sponsoring municipality included in the Resolution Background information and recommended that a legal review may be required to verify the definition of “affected parties.”

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.C4 – Disparity in Electricity Distribution and Transmission Rates

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

**Sponsors:** City of Grande Prairie | Town of Drumheller

### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to eliminate the disparity in electricity pricing for transmission and distribution charges across the Province by adopting a model similar to British Columbia or Saskatchewan.

### Notes

- Electricity delivery is a fully regulated service and the Alberta Utilities Commission reviews the costs in detail and approves the rates to ensure all charges are fair and reasonable. However, there is a disparity in these charges depending on where you live in Alberta.
- Energy delivery charges include two components: transmission and distribution (in addition to rate riders).
  - Transmission charges cover the cost of moving electric energy from generating facilities through transmission lines to distribution utility substation transformers. Transmission charges are based on how much electricity a customer uses and on average is between 14% and 20% of a total bill.
  - Distribution costs vary with location and consumption. Distribution charges cover the cost of moving electric energy from substation transformers through local lines that carry electricity to customers' meters. If the service area is large and sparsely populated, one kilometer of distribution line may only serve a few customers whereas in an urban centre, one kilometer of line serves a larger number of customers. Distribution charges are between 22% and 47% of a total bill.
- In some parts of the Province, energy delivery charges compose nearly 70% of a total bill.
- This resolution calls for transmission and distribution costs to be equalized across the Province. Which means that residents in urban centres will pay more for both transmission and distribution costs, causing bills to significantly increase.

### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

The City of Airdrie has not directly advocated on this issue.

Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council **NOT SUPPORT** this resolution.



## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.C5 – Traffic Safety Act Exemption for Angle Parking in Cul-de-Sacs

**Sponsors:** City of Airdrie | City of Calgary

#### Resolution Overview

Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to amend the *Traffic Safety Act* and Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation, Division 10, section 46(2) to allow for angle parking in cul-de-sacs in municipalities that pass bylaws allowing this practice.

#### Notes

- Despite the importance of a standard approach to traffic safety the regulations regarding angle parking do not allow municipalities to reasonably apply the principle in cul-de-sacs. Several municipalities, examples listed below, have spent a considerable amount of time and resources to implement procedures through a permitting process to ensure they follow the regulations as set out in the *Traffic Safety Act*.
- Many Alberta communities continue to take the approach of ignoring the issue or managing it on a complaint basis in an effort to not appear heavy handed in their approach to enforcement as many residents have been parking “nose in” or at an angle for years in front of their residences in cul-de sacs.
- This resolution calls on the Government of Alberta to change the *Traffic Safety Act* and accompanying Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation to allow for angle parking in cul-de-sacs as long as the vehicle is not causing an obstruction or a hazard. Municipalities may need to introduce or amend existing bylaws to accommodate garbage, recycling and organics collection.
- Reduces red tape for municipalities

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

In **ALIGNMENT** with input and advocacy that the City of Airdrie has conducted.

Airdrie City Council voted to **SUPPORT** sponsoring this resolution at the May 2, 2022 Council meeting.

## Alberta Municipalities 2022 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution 2022.C6 – Attraction and Retention of Veterinarians to Small/Mid-sized Urban Municipalities Veterinary Practice

**Sponsors:** Town of Didsbury | City of Brooks

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities:

- advocate for the Government of Alberta to endorse University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) programs that will help alleviate the veterinarian shortage crisis.
- support UCVM by serving as a conduit for information on what municipalities can do to support attraction and retention efforts including participating in recruitment committees as appropriate.

#### Notes

- it is estimated that there are 864 veterinary professional vacancies in Alberta (377 veterinarians and 487 veterinary technologists).
- while the labor shortage is an issue throughout Alberta, practices in small/mid-sized urban municipalities that also serve rural regions are particularly impacted by staff shortages due partly to recruitment and admissions challenges.
- in 2020, there were 1832 registered veterinarians in Alberta and 1852 registered veterinary technologists, working in 554 veterinary practices, employing over 6600 full time equivalent employees.
- 2020 total output of Alberta veterinary practices was estimated to be \$2.021 billion. This does not include the contributions made by veterinarians to Alberta's agriculture sector, which contributed \$9.68 billion in GDP and employed 69,800 Albertans.
- access to local veterinary services for farmers and livestock producers is essential for the sustainability of the primary agriculture industry as well as Alberta's overall economy.
- sustainability and growth of our small/mid-sized urban communities is dependent on access to veterinary services both today and in the foreseeable future.

#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

The City of Airdrie has not conducted advocacy on this issue. Veterinary professional labour shortages deeply impact one of Alberta's key industries. This resolution advocates for increased education and employment opportunities for Albertans to sustain the Agricultural industry.

Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council **SUPPORT** this resolution.