

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B1: Independent Office of Integrity for Local Government

Moved by: Town of Rocky Mountain House | Seconded by: Town of Sylvan Lake, Town of Legal

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to establish an Independent Office of Integrity to serve the public, elected officials and local government officials in an advisory, educational and investigative role in the application and enforcement of council code of conducts.

#### Notes

- The current structure of code of conduct legislation places the chief administrative officer and other municipal administration in a difficult position as they are tasked with hiring an investigator and coordinating the investigation of individuals who oversee their compensation and employment.
- The logistics of what could/would be shifted to a provincial entity regarding code of conduct violations is not clear.
- Code of Conducts are created, tailored and approved by individual Councils.
- Most Code of Conduct issues do not warrant provincial engagement when it can be remedied by the Council itself.

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

The City of Airdrie has not directly advocated on this issue. City Administration did participate in a recent Government of Alberta engagement session on Bill 20 which included a discussion on the establishment of a provincial Integrity Commissioner. Council and administration provided input to this session. Airdrie City Council was split on the need for a provincial Integrity Commissioner. Limited details on this proposal were provided by the Province which caused a situation where there were many unanswered questions as to the role, individual municipal Code of Conducts as well as who the independent Commissioner should report to.

Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council remain **NEUTRAL** on this resolution.

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B2: Allowance of Automated Vote Counting Systems in Municipal Elections

Moved by: City of St. Albert | Seconded by: Town of Rocky Mountain House

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to permit municipalities to utilize the vote counting system of their choice in the operation of their local elections, including automated vote counting systems, to ensure accurate, cost-effective and timely results for Albertan voters.

#### Notes

- The requirement of manual ballot counting will impose a financial burden on municipalities that have previously relied on automated vote counting systems, limit the ability to provide accurate, timely and reliable results, and increase the risk of delayed results and errors.
- City of Airdrie has doubled the 2025 Municipal Election budget to accommodate for an at-large hand count.
- Airdrie has successfully used electronic tabulators since 2002 to administer six general elections and a one by-election, with no issues of vote integrity.

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

Airdrie City Council and Administration brought concerns around eliminating the use of electronic vote tabulators forward to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in a meeting on Bill 20 in June.

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B3: Provincial Education Property Tax Reform

Moved by: City of St. Albert | Seconded by: Town of Penhold

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to action the Minister of Municipal Affairs' mandate letter from the Premier to review the provincial education property tax to assist municipalities with retaining more funding for local priorities, with the outcome being that municipalities receive provincial funding for municipal infrastructure equal to or greater than what is collectively requisitioned in provincial education property tax on an annual basis for the Government of Alberta.

#### Notes

- Setting infrastructure funding to equal the amount collected in the education property tax requisition will provide municipalities with funding for infrastructure that more closely represents the needs of their communities and ensures that necessary projects can proceed without the risk of funding shortfalls.
- As a rapidly growing municipality, Airdrie residents contribute significantly higher proportions of education taxes compared to those in lower-growth areas. The disparity underscores the need for a more balanced approach to funding.
- While the Government of Alberta may suggest that the CRL allows municipalities to retain some education property tax revenue, this approach does not address the infrastructure funding shortfall nor are CRLs applied to entire communities.
- High-growth municipalities need to be fairly supported to ensure that their infrastructure needs keep pace with population growth.
- In 2024 the City of Airdrie received \$8,022,724 from the Government of Alberta through the Local Government Fiscal Framework program. In comparison Airdrie taxpayers paid \$36,342,310 in Education Property Tax to the Province.

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

In **ALIGNMENT** with Council's Focus Areas 2023-2026.

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B4: Restoring Provincial Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT) Funding

Moved by: Town of High Prairie | Seconded by: Town of Mayerthorpe

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the reinstatement of full funding, at a minimum to the 2019/20 funding level of \$60 million, for all properties that are eligible for GIPOT.

#### Notes

- Properties owned by the Government of Alberta are exempt from municipal property taxes, but the province provides a Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT) program to fund municipalities for the municipal services provided to provincial properties.
- The provincial government reduced the GIPOT program by 25% in 2019/20 and a further 25% in 2020/21, for a total reduction of 50% compared to 2019/20.
- The current budget of \$38.1M is still well below past funding levels of \$60M prior to the 2019/20 budget year.
- Airdrie is supportive of moving back to 100% of GIPOT funding. The 50% that remains unfunded is being paid by all the other property taxpayers, and is essentially a hidden download from the province. City services are still required related to infrastructure, fire and police, no different than any other property in Airdrie.

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

The City of Airdrie has advocated on this issue for funding to be restored to the Grants in Place of Taxes program.

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B5: Small and Remote Municipalities Need Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs) to Thrive

Moved by: Town of Mayerthorpe | Seconded by: Town of Coalhurst

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate:

1. To the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade and the Government of Alberta as a whole to implement measures for the provision of continuous, stable funding for the nine existing REDAs, supporting each with a budget of \$225,000 per year consisting of \$125,000 per year in operational funding and \$100,000 per year in project funding.
2. For a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Alberta and the current REDA Chairs to develop a clear purpose and program structure for the REDAs, inclusive of a stable, long-term, collaborative approach to funding.

#### Notes

- Stable and consistent funding is important for all economic development agencies, organizations, departments and alliances. Economic development is a “long game” and funding models should reflect this.
- Supporting economic development in all of Alberta is important to urban centres such as Airdrie. There are always dominos effects of economic development and therefore Airdrie should support economic development in other areas of the province– “all for one, one for all” approach. An excellent example would be the one of our largest manufacturers, Super Pufft, sources potatoes from rural parts of Alberta. Ensuring that those farmers are supported has an impact on an urban-based business.
- The CMRB is currently working on a model for regional economic development collaboration and delivery. Government funding should be applied to all REDAs, not just existing REDAs primarily in small and remote areas. There are rural and small areas in the Calgary Region who do not have economic development teams/officers that could benefit from CMRB regional economic development.
- The CMRB does not currently receive funding under the REDA model. Should funding be available to the CMRB, it is anticipated the CMRB would apply for it.

#### For Council consideration:

- Propose an amendment to the resolution that extends financial support to all Regional Economic Development Alliances.

#### 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.

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B6: Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Funding Increase

Moved by: City of Airdrie | Seconded by: Town of Crossfield

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to immediately increase provincial funding for Family and Community Support Services commensurate to population growth and annual inflation rates to adequately and sustainably fund necessary prevention programs and services in communities across Alberta.

#### Notes

- Between 2015 and 2022 provincial funding for FCSS was stagnant and the \$5 million increase, to a total of \$105 million, in 2023 does not adequately reflect the need for services in Alberta communities.

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

Airdrie City Council voted to **SUPPORT** sponsoring this resolution at the May 21, 2024 Council Meeting.

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B7: Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System Equipment Funding

Moved by: Town of Strathmore | Seconded by: Village of Rockyford, Town of Mayerthorpe

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide financial support for municipalities with a population of less than 3,000, and for regional groups, to obtain equipment necessary to participate in the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS).

#### Notes

- The Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) is a two-way radio network launched in 2016 to be used by first responders in municipal, provincial and First Nations agencies across the province.
- 335 sites with over 33,000 devices are presently operating under AFRRCS allowing police, peace officers, fire and ambulance to coordinate to improve overall safety and response times.
- Not all municipalities have access to AFRRCS due to a lack of available funds for equipment. Base funding should be supplied to all municipalities.
- There is a very strong case to make for base funding for mutual aid partners to help in times of disaster. Jasper being the most recent. Using AFRRCS in these situations is crucial to coordinating a coherent response, especially in the early stages where agencies that do not normally work together have to do so under an emergency.

#### For Council consideration:

- Propose an amendment to the resolution that extends base funding to all municipalities.

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

Airdrie has conducted extensive advocacy over the last eight years to speed up the implementation of AFRRCS in our municipality. To date advocacy has not included funding as the City saw the implementation of this system as a way to enhance safety for first responders and to enhance response times. Airdrie supports this resolution in principle but believes that the funding should be extended to all municipalities.

Administration recommends that Airdrie City Council **SUPPORT** this resolution. Council could direct voting representatives to propose an amendment that extends base funding to all municipalities.

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B8: Declining Fire Department Services Across Alberta

Moved by: Village of Mannville | Seconded by: Town of Vegreville, Town of Smoky Lake

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Canada to:

1. Create a business tax credit for businesses that allow employees who are volunteer firefighters to attend calls during business hours.
2. Reinstate the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program.

#### Notes

- Smaller municipalities with volunteer fire departments are increasingly challenged to respond to emergency calls both due to overall decreases in the number of volunteers and that existing members are not able to leave their jobs to respond to emergencies.
- The Joint Emergency Preparedness Program was eliminated in 2013. This program provided funding to fire departments for major capital purchases. Many smaller communities relied on this fund to replace aging equipment.
- One of the whereas clauses recommends a funding increase to the provincial Fire Services Training Program, but this request is not included in the resolution action clause.
- Overall, fire equipment purchases are becoming increasingly expensive especially if municipalities want to have National Fire Protection Association compliance and/or maintain current technology such as gas monitoring, thermal imaging, personal protective equipment and vehicles.
- Creating a tax credit for businesses that support employees who are volunteer firefighters to attend calls during business hours is extremely important to Airdrie as the municipality is surrounded by many volunteer-based fire departments that Airdrie Fire Department relies on for support to large incidents.

#### 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.



## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B9: Preventative Psychological Services Support for Municipal First Responders and Emergency Dispatchers

Moved by: City of St. Albert | Seconded by: Town of Mayerthorpe

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide a grant or funding mechanism to municipalities to provide preventative psychological services to municipal first responders and emergency dispatchers to reduce the risk of psychological injury and the associated burden on taxpayers to treat such injuries, in addition to bolstering emergency medical services response services in Alberta.

#### Notes

- Alberta Fire Chiefs Association has already lobbied successfully for grant funding at the federal level. As a result, Airdrie Fire Department has seen a reduction in lost time claims.
- Presently, there are multiple, approved providers through Health Canada.
- Maintaining a mix of delivery types provides flexibility suits different business units and municipalities.
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#### Alignment With Council/Corporate Priorities/Advocacy

The City of Airdrie has not conducted advocacy on this issue. Chief Pirie has conducted advocacy in his role with the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association. The content of this resolution supports the Association's advocacy.

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B10: Establishing a Provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services

Moved by: City of Grande Prairie | Seconded by: Town of Wembley

#### Resolution Overview

1. That Alberta Municipalities advocate for a provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services as a framework for providing support to external communities from other jurisdictions in Alberta or from out of province; and
2. That the proposed provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services include schedules that indicate services that are considered Basic Survival Needs, and which services are Discretionary; with identification of what costs are eligible for cost recovery; and
3. That the proposed provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services acknowledge that the host municipality is providing a Fee for Service and that they will directly invoice the home jurisdiction, or the Government of Alberta and will not be required to apply for Disaster Recovery Program funding to recover their costs.

#### Notes

- There is no consistent guidance on how a municipality should open their doors to evacuees from another jurisdiction.
- Airdrie like most Alberta municipalities has an Emergency Social Services Plan to guide the provision of services to residents and visitors when a disaster impacts the community. These plans were never intended to address disasters occurring outside the jurisdiction and evacuees fleeing other areas of the province or country.
- Without Provincial guidance ESS plans generally care for evacuees in the same way we care for our own residents during a disaster. The flaw with using our plans is that they differ between municipalities, so there can be inconsistency in services provided. Depending on where evacuees come from, there can also be expectations on what will be provided.
- When inconsistent services were provided to evacuees fleeing the NWT fires in 2023, many moved from one community to the next to access the services they wanted/needed. This is human nature especially given the time they were displaced. This posed a major cost in both tracking and registration for host municipalities.
- Airdrie hosted 2023 evacuees at the request of the City of Calgary so services were aligned (for the most part) and costs were sent to Calgary for Provincial reimbursement. All costs were recovered in this instance, but in the future they may not be.
- The Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) was developed to assist municipal recovery from disasters deemed 'unpreventable or uninsurable' due to their nature. In 2014 the City of Airdrie experienced a historical winter 'flash freeze' event that was eligible for DRP. We were able to recover some staff time and supplies when we opened a reception centre in the middle of the night. The DRP is and has always been a program for the municipality directly impacted, not a catch all for recovering costs for an unimpacted community trying to help. The DRP program is not the right mechanism for these unique situations.

#### 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.

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B11: Provincial Emergency Shelter Strategy

Moved by: City of Red Deer | Seconded by: Town of Hinton

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta and the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services to create a comprehensive emergency shelter strategy for the entire province. This detailed strategy will provide a vision, guiding principles, objectives, definitions, project management governance, and role clarity for provincial and municipal governments and applicable community stakeholders.

#### Notes

- Reported strains on the homeless-serving systems in cities within Alberta, and the lack of supports and expertise in medium sized municipalities and smaller communities needs to be addressed in a holistic, effective, and equitable manner for unhoused Albertans and the municipalities, towns and villages in which they reside.
- Emergency shelters need to be thought of as one part of a system of care and supports with the end goal being stable, permanent housing solutions which are affordable, appropriate and sustainable.
- An emergency shelter strategy needs to consider the diverse unhoused populations, including youth, parents and children fleeing domestic violence, older individuals, and others, with varied physical and mental health, and socio-cultural needs.
- The emergency shelter plan needs to include wraparound supports for unhoused Albertans, outreach support, and transportation to ensure unhoused Albertans can access shelters in an equitable, safe and timely manner.
- The emergency shelter plan should consider extreme weather events – and how to support unhoused populations across Alberta during these events.
- Collaborate with municipalities to ensure there are diverse perspectives and experiences included in the proposed strategy.

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

In **ALIGNMENT** with Council's strategic focus of a caring community.

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B12: Permanent Supportive Housing Capital and Operational Funding

Moved by: City of Red Deer | Seconded by: Village of Delburne

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to increase capital and operational funding for hub municipalities in Alberta for permanent supportive housing to ensure appropriate housing options are available for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

#### Notes

- Findings from two City of Airdrie sponsored research projects on housing need in 2024 provide local context supporting the need for significant investments directed at permanent supportive housing to help the growing number of residents who are experiencing episodic and chronic homelessness, and overall housing insecurity.
- Research shows that people experiencing chronic homelessness typically consume more than half of a community's resources dedicated to responding to housing insecurity, including higher levels of law enforcement and medical intervention.
- The implication to municipal resources are significant as interventions are expensive and divert resources away from mandated municipal responsibilities. Further, diverted resources cost more than simply housing residents experiencing housing insecurity from the outset.
- People experiencing chronic homelessness who cannot access necessary supports and services will continue to experience housing insecurity at much higher rates than those who can access the supports and services needed to stabilize their housing situation.
- The [2024 Housing Needs Assessment](#) findings underscore the urgent need to implement strategies that will meaningfully address the deepening housing needs of Airdrie residents. The City of Airdrie needs to make every effort now to affect long-term change, while it is still growing as 7.7% of Airdrie's households were in Core Housing Need in 2021 and a breakdown by income category shows that 87.9% of Airdrie households in the Very Low Income category are in Core Housing Need in comparison with 77.6% for Alberta.

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

In **ALIGNMENT** with Airdrie's [2024 - 2030 Affordable Housing Principled Action Plan](#).

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B13: Full-Time 24-Hour Home Care Support in Lodges/Supportive Living Accommodations

Moved by: Town of Tofield | Seconded by: Town of Vegreville

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide funding for full-time, 24-hour, 7 days a week home care services in lodges and supportive living environments.

#### Notes

- Airdrie's [2024 Housing Needs Assessment](#) shows that Airdrie's seniors population is growing fast and if left largely unsupported will result in high rates of Core Housing Need.
- 15% of households over 65 years of age are in Core Housing Need.
- Households over the age of 85 are proportionally in a more dire need for adequate, affordable or suitable housing with 23.4% of households experiencing Core Housing Need. Nearly 1 in 4 households.
- Both of Airdrie's non-market housing providers (Rocky View Foundation and Airdrie Housing Limited) report that many of their resident seniors require higher levels of care and support than what is currently funded within their respective housing programs. The seniors requiring care do not have viable options to move to facilities with the appropriate supports and are therefore are being underserved within Alberta's supportive living system.

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

In **ALIGNMENT** with Airdrie's [2024 - 2030 Affordable Housing Principled Action Plan](#).

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B14: Attraction and Retention Strategy for Rural Health Care Professionals

Moved by: Town of Hinton | Seconded by: Village of Boyle

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to develop a Rural Health Care Professionals Attraction and Retention Strategy that focuses on increasing the total number of health care professionals in rural Alberta.

#### Notes

- It would be beneficial to all Albertans to have a robust strategy both in rural and urban settings.
- An overall increase in physicians is required for both general practice as well as specialized services as populations increases throughout the province.

#### 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.

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B15: Creation of a Wildfire Prevention Committee

Moved by: Town of Hinton | Seconded by: Town of Coronation

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to establish a “Wildfire Prevention Committee” consisting of industry, municipal and provincial subject matter experts, elected officials, and senior municipal administrators.

#### Notes

- Wildfire season across Alberta has grown in length and intensity, they not only endanger lives and property but also place a significant drain on municipal resources and budgets. It is imperative to take proactive measures to ensure municipalities are well-prepared and well-equipped to protect Albertans from the increasing threat of wildfires.
- In response to these challenges, the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association passed a resolution in 2023 aiming to collaboratively develop a long-term strategy for managing large wildland fires. The resolution underscores the need for coordinated efforts among government ministries, Alberta Municipalities, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and municipalities.
- The establishment of a Wildfire Prevention Committee could serve to:
  - Inform and advise the Government of Alberta on municipal priorities.
  - Enhance communication between municipalities and Provincial agencies.
  - Encourage a proactive and collaborative approach to protecting Alberta communities from the effects of wildfires.
  - Promote advocacy and stakeholder engagement related to wildfire mitigation measures.
- Through these collaborative efforts, the Provincial government and municipalities can align resources, expertise, and knowledge to enhance the resiliency and readiness of Alberta communities from the growing threat of wildfires.
- Although Airdrie is not adjacent to a Forest Protection Area, the City is called upon to assist municipalities that are affected by a wildfire.
- Presently, federal, provincial and municipal governments operate independently from one another. Better coordination is required. The establishment of a Wildfire Prevention Committee will help increase coordination amongst different levels of government as well as access industry expertise.

#### 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.

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B16: Culture, Recreation, and Sport Facility Infrastructure Deficit Report Card

Moved by: Town of Innisfail | Seconded by: City of Red Deer

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to fund Alberta Municipalities or a third-party organization to develop and maintain a database that provides an inventory of all culture, sport, and recreation facilities in Alberta and that the Government of Alberta use that inventory database to benchmark and make strategic and evidence-based decisions on investments in culture, sport, and recreation infrastructure.

#### Notes

- The Government of Alberta's Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) is the only stable provincial funding program that invests in community recreation, leisure and culture facilities. CFEP only supports applications from non-profit user groups. For example, the Airdrie Curling Club received funding from the Province to support the recent \$3.4M renovation. The Province contributed 29% of the total cost of this project.
- Administration supports the resolution in terms of the creation of criteria or a framework that assists municipalities in understanding to what degree the Government of Alberta will support culture, sport, and recreation infrastructure.
- To date one-off funding decisions outside of CFEP lack transparency.

#### 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.



## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B17: Federal Funding for Compressed Natural Gas and Clean Diesel Buses

Moved by: City of Red Deer | Seconded by: Town of Innisfail

#### Resolution Overview

Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to work with the Government of Canada to return to a federal funding program that accepts purchases of compressed natural gas and clean diesel buses until 2035, which will allow municipalities to transition their fleets in an efficient and realistic manner.

#### Notes

- Airdrie's transit fleet is currently comprised of clean diesel and gas-powered technologies.
- The City is engaged in a collaborative project to assess zero emission technologies including electric and hydrogen buses in partnership with Fortis Alberta and their consultants from the Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC).
- On July 17 the Government of Canada launched the Canada Public Transit Fund (CPTF).
- The CPTF includes three streams of funding opportunities including Metro Region Agreements (MRA), Baseline and Targeted Funding
- Language within the MRA and Baseline streams suggests there will be flexibility and a sense of incrementality to transition from carbon-based fuels to zero emission technologies over a period of time. Which implies municipalities will have the ability to plan and deliver bus lifecycle replacement and expansion projects regardless of the technology (carbon or zero emission based).
- The flexibility of the various streams of funding from the Federal government, and matched by the Provincial government, reduces the impact to capital plans and service as originally outlined within the resolution. It should be noted that this resolution was drafted and submitted prior to the details of the CPTF which was released on July 17.

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

The City of Airdrie has not directly advocated on this issue. With the details of the Canada Public Transit Fund released after this resolution was submitted, it may be withdrawn by the City of Red Deer prior to the September ABMunis Convention.

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B18: Provincial Support for Watershed Management

Moved by: City of St. Albert | Seconded by: Town of Gibbons

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to direct resources to bolster the application of the Water Act and the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act through increased enforcement, data collection and information sharing with municipalities, and biodiversity assessments for municipalities located on smaller rivers and sub-watersheds – including but not limited to engagement with municipalities on Water Act permit approvals to enable alignment with municipal statutory plans – to achieve the goals of the Water for Life Strategy.

#### Notes

- This resolution focusses on enhancing the application of the Water Act and Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) which is directly in line with the City's commitment to protecting and improving water quality in the region. The Nose Creek Watershed Management Plan emphasizes the importance of riparian protection, water quality management and monitoring, and collaboration with other municipalities and stakeholders. By advocating for increased enforcement and data collection, this resolution supports these objectives and reinforces the City's ongoing efforts to maintain Nose Creek watershed.
- Increased enforcement and data collection would provide the City of Airdrie with more accurate and comprehensive information on water quality and environmental conditions within the watershed. This would enable better decision-making, particularly concerning development approvals and land-use planning, ensuring that these activities do not negatively impact the watershed.
- Engagement with municipalities on Water Act permit approvals would foster greater alignment between municipal statutory plans and provincial water management goals, benefiting the City by ensuring that local concerns and priorities are considered in the provincial decision-making processes.
- The resolution aligns with AirdrieONE, particularly in the areas of Water, Natural Environment, and Sustainable Land Use. The AirdrieONE Plan calls for collaboration with regional partners to manage water resources effectively and protect natural areas.
- Supporting this resolution aligns with the Council's goals for environmental sustainability and resilience. It also helps the City achieve its aims of improving community well-being and protecting natural resources. The focus on biodiversity assessments and information sharing strengthens the City's commitment to collaborative environmental management.

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

In **ALIGNMENT** with Council Focus Area – Environmental Protection (2023 - 2026).

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution B19: Goldfish Infestation and Emergency Approval of Powder-Form Rotenone Pesticide

Moved by: Town of Sylvan Lake | Seconded by: Town of Bentley

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta for emergency approval of the dry form Rotenone to address the goldfish, an invasive aquatic species, infestation in stormwater pond systems.

#### Notes

- In 2023, Airdrie consulted with the Province who stated, at the time, that Alberta Environment and Protected Areas was seeking a provincial wide emergency use registration of the powder formulation of rotenone for a 3-year period (under updated directive). Only the liquid form of rotenone is currently registered in Canada, however due to supply availability, Alberta is proactively seeking alternative means to control invasive fish populations as they are reported. The City has yet to hear the outcome of this effort.
- The City of Airdrie has explored the use of rotenone to manage invasive fish populations in our storm ponds; however, we have suffered the consequences of limited supply of rotenone within Canada as well.
- Invasive fish in Airdrie and much of Alberta is not limited to just goldfish – notably, grass carp as specifically devastating. The resolution should target a wider array of potential invasive fish species to avoid limiting the scope to just one species.
- It is understood that legislation supporting treatments for species that are not included in the provincial prohibited species list falls under the **federal** Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Regulations, Section 10, which states that *any organism that is not indigenous is prohibited to enter water of any kind, unless authorized by provincial or federal law*. For this reason, advocating to the Federal government is a more appropriate direction of efforts.
- A Provincial Fact Sheet on rotenone use can be found here: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/15ef18da-bf4d-4c96-9d98-d75af36da1bc/resource/283fb6e0-77c9-4293-a245-c32ce1633bc5/download/aep-rotenone-invasive-fish-control-in-alberta-storm-water-management-ponds-2020.pdf>

#### For Council consideration:

- Propose an amendment to the resolution with the following wording change “*Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta for emergency approval of the dry form Rotenone to address ~~the goldfish, an~~ invasive aquatic species, infestation in stormwater pond systems.*”

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

In **ALIGNMENT** with Council Focus Area – Environmental Protection (2023 - 2026).

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution C1: Financial Disclosure of Asset Retirement Obligations

Moved by: Town of Coronation | Seconded by: Town of Hinton

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta for financial support and tools to support municipalities to comply with PS 3280 in the most cost-efficient manner possible.

#### Notes

- In 2023, the City of Airdrie conducted an internal investigation to fulfill the financial disclosure requirement for Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO) as described in the resolution. Fortunately, the City of Airdrie had the financial and environmental expertise in-house to complete this effort internally. Given the amount of effort required from multiple departments at a mid-size city to complete the ARO, it is assumed that smaller municipalities have or could struggle to fulfill the requirements of the financial disclosure. The proposed resolution is derived from an honest struggle faced by many small and mid-size municipalities.
- Although the resolution targets financial support and tools to help municipalities to comply with the new standard, it could be said that the struggle to account, monitor and record these types of assets and liabilities is rooted in a deeper human resource gap in the fields of finance/accounting and environment for smaller municipalities.
- A more strategic and comprehensive approach could be for ABMunis to advocate the province for funding to municipalities to locally staff environment and accounting subject matter experts who can support not only the ARO standard but many of the other standards and regulations that municipalities struggle with. These human resources could serve a broader role in supporting the municipality.
- Financial disclosure of ARO is a much-needed standard and brings forward awareness to the cost and retirement costs for complex assets. Unfortunately, many municipalities will struggle with the surprise of costs associated with not properly accounting for end-of-life costs on the front end. Although the resolution references the impact on smaller municipalities specifically, the resolution calls on financial support and tools to support all municipalities to comply with the ARO PS 3280 standard.
- Although ARO is framed in this resolution as an environmental liability, it is actually a legal liability.

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

The City of Airdrie has not directly advocated on this issue. The City did complete the Asset Retirement Obligations as described in the resolution.

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution C2: Extending Municipal Voting Rights to Permanent Residents

Moved by: City of Calgary | Seconded by: Town of Penhold

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to amend the Local Authorities Election Act to expand voter eligibility to include individuals who have been granted Canadian permanent resident status.

#### Notes

- The average voter turnout for an Airdrie municipal election is 20 percent of eligible electors. Expanding the eligible elector pool is welcomed.
- Almost 20% of Airdrie Residents are immigrants – which include permanent residents and landed immigrants.

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

In **ALIGNMENT** with Council's strategic focus of a caring community. The City of Airdrie is a member of the [Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities](#). The ability for a resident to vote of permanent resident status is aligned with Airdrie principles of being an open and inclusive community specially to advance initiatives to promote social inclusion.

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution C3: Fires on Frozen Lakes

Moved by: Town of Sylvan Lake | Seconded by: Summer Village of Jarvis Bay

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to develop, implement, and enforce, a regulation that mandates fires be contained within raised containers to mitigate the risk of debris contamination and to prevent environmental damage caused by fires directly lit on the surface of frozen lakes.

#### Notes

- Fundamentally, the resolution is directed at strengthening authority to address litter and pollution, specifically on waterbodies. In addition, the proposed resolution seeks to contain fires from a fire safety perspective.
- The proposed resolution is very specifically worded to address frozen lakes which may fail to address similar but different scenarios and conditions.
- Locally, Airdrie does not often experience fires on natural water bodies (very few natural water bodies occur in Airdrie); however, unregulated fires can be found on frozen storm ponds on occasion. Although a storm pond is not a natural water body, the risk of litter and pollution from a fire could negatively impact a storm pond and increase the maintenance needed to address the issue.

#### *For Council consideration:*

- Propose an amendment to the resolution that substitutes the word “lakes” for waterbodies.

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

In **ALIGNMENT** with the City's Council Strategic Focus Area – Environmental Protection (2023 - 2026). The City of Airdrie has not directly advocated on this issue.

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution C4: Increase Capital Funding for Accessible Playgrounds for All New, Replacement or Renovated Alberta Public Schools with K-6 Programming

Moved by: City of Spruce Grove | Seconded by: Village of Amisk

#### Resolution Overview

Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to increase capital funding for all new, replacement, or renovated public schools with K-6 programming to enable the construction of accessible playgrounds to ensure that students with disabilities have equal development opportunities.

#### Notes

- Airdrie has recently constructed two accessible public playgrounds within the City, as there is growing demand for ensuring amenities within the public domain are accessible to all residents.
- Airdrie does not have a policy or guiding document that mandates the installation of an accessible playground within new development areas or playground replacement, however it is highly encouraged/recommended.
- A requirement for schools with K-6 programming to have an accessible playground could increase pressure on municipalities to follow suit on municipal playgrounds.
- The Airdrie City Plan identifies that providing a range of parks and open spaces that meet a broad range of resident's needs and lifestyles and offer passive and active recreational opportunities as a goal but does not identify specific amenities.
- The Council Social Policy states that City Council will: C) advocate to other governments, and within the community, for policies and actions that support Social Well-Being. This resolution supports social well-being through the Diversity and Inclusion principles within the Council Social Policy.

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

In **ALIGNMENT** with Council Social Policy to support Social Well-Being. The City of Airdrie has not directly advocated on this issue.

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution C5: Doubling Speed Fines in Playground Zones and School Zones

Moved by: City of Calgary | Seconded by: Village of Duchess

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to make changes to the Alberta Traffic Safety Act to improve safety within designated school zones and playground zones through measures such as double fines for speeding offenses or adjusting demerits to encourage improved compliance.

#### Notes

- Airdrie's goal is to encourage compliance and enhance safety within our school zones for both children and other users.
- Airdrie Peace Officers have issued 267 school zone speeding tickets since 2022. There is currently no incentive to issue under this section other than to notify the prosecutor of the violation location as it carries no increased penalty.
- The risk associated to speeding in school zones is increased from the high density of pedestrians. These risks should be reflected in the fines amounts and demerits for speeding within these areas, opposed to the other roads within a municipality.

#### 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.



## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution C6: Coverage of Mandatory Drivers' Medical Exam Fees for Albertans Aged 75 and Older

Moved by: City of Cold Lake | Seconded by: Town of Bonnyville

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to reinstate Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan coverage for mandatory driver medical exams for Albertans aged 75 years and older.

#### Notes

- In 2020, the Government of Alberta removed mandatory driver medical exams from the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) as a cost-saving measure. Amongst the reasons cited for the change was that Alberta was the only province to cover such costs.
- The cost for mandatory driver medical exams are not consistent across the province and can cost up to \$150, a 75% increase over the rate that was covered under the AHCIP.
- Seniors do best when they can live as independently as possible. Significant fees for mandatory drivers' medical exams can represent a barrier to maintaining a driver's license for healthy Albertans aged 75 and older who would otherwise be medically cleared to drive.
- In 2022, there were 725,000 Albertans over the age of 65. That number is expected to double by 2042.
- Provincial coverage for mandatory driver medical exams for Albertans aged 75 and over removes ability to pay as a barrier, ensuring that healthy seniors continue to be as independent as possible.
- Supporting seniors' independence is especially important in rural and those communities outside of Alberta's larger metropolitan centres. Specialized health care practitioners and appointments usually require travel to one of these larger centres. In the absence of supporting healthy seniors to continue to drive, municipalities are being asked to provide service, or pay for a private service, to allow their elderly residents to attend their healthcare appointments.

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

In **ALIGNMENT** with Council Focus Area – Caring Community (2023-2026). The City of Airdrie has not directly advocated on this issue.

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

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution C7: Alberta Learner's Licence Program Review

Moved by: City of Brooks | Seconded by: Town of Sexsmith

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to review its Learner's Licence Program for legislative changes which includes shortening the Class 7 Learner's Licence period from twelve months to eight months for those 16 years of age and older who take an approved and accredited driver's training course.

#### Notes

- In Alberta, there is no ability to shorten the Class 7 Learner's Licence period. For those 16 and over, the process requires a minimum twelve months before a road test can be completed to obtain a Class 5 Graduated Driver Licence (GDL), which allows the licence holder to drive without a licensed passenger present.
- Most provinces allow Class 7 Learner's Licence holders to shorten the required time period to obtain a full Class 5 Driver's Licence by way of an approved/accredited driver's training course that teaches the fundamentals of driving.
- A review of Alberta's Learner's Licence Program will allow the Province to determine if the current system is serving the needs of Alberta's growing populations.

#### 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.

## Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions Review & Administrative Recommendations

### ABMunis Resolution C8: Review of Provincial Animal Protection Act

Moved by: City of Airdrie | Seconded by: Town of Didsbury

#### Resolution Overview

That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of a comprehensive review and update of Alberta's Animal Protection Act.

#### Notes

- Alberta's Animal Protection Act was last substantially changed in 2006.
- Presently the APA does not differentiate between commercial and companion animals. This distinction is necessary to provide appropriate guidelines for care and welfare enforcement. Commercial animals can include horses, cattle, sheep, swine and live poultry but usually, they are animals raised for meat production or other products from the animals. A companion animal could be anything that is not a commercial animal, but most commonly include dogs and cats.
- This resolution allows for better protection of companion animals and proposes to modernize the Act to reflect current realities.
- The APA lacks clear guidance for when peace officers are empowered to act and what enforcement mechanisms are available such as cases where companion animals are in the care of an animal shelter, rescue, or humane society.

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

Airdrie City Council voted to **SUPPORT** sponsoring this resolution at the May 21, 2024 Council Meeting.