

City of St. Albert Briefing Note on Alberta Municipalities 2024 Resolutions

<i>Resolution Name/Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Administrative Recommendation</i>
<p>B2 Allowance of Automated Vote Counting Systems in Municipal Elections</p> <p><i>City of St. Albert</i></p> <p><i>(Secoded by Town of Rocky Mountain House)</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><u>Key Messages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cathy Heron, Mayor, City of St. Albert.</i></li> <li>• This past spring, the Government of Alberta passed the Municipal Affairs Statues Amendment Act – also known as Bill 20 – which imposes fundamental changes to how municipalities run their local elections.</li> <li>• One of the Bill’s most impactful changes is the removal of choice for how we conduct our municipal elections – the Province has banned the use of electronic vote tabulation equipment, which many municipalities have used for decades to provide timely, accurate and efficient counting of our residents’ votes, and now requires that all ballots must be counted by hand.</li> <li>• Although a manual hand-count might be feasible in provincial elections where a resident is voting for one candidate, municipal election ballots are far more complex; in St. Albert’s last election, 17,500 ballots were cast, each with 7 separate votes for 17 total elected positions in addition to provincial-based referendum questions.</li> <li>• This change to mandating manual hand-counting for all municipalities, including those that have previously used tabulators, will not only force many residents to wait longer for potentially less-accurate results, but it will also cost us far more, with initial</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p> <p>MAYOR HERON PRIMARY SPOKESPERSON</p>

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		<p>estimates for St. Albert ranging in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipalities should continue to have the choice to administer their local elections in the way that best serves their community, whether it be by manual hand-count or by electronic voting equipment.</li> <li>• Support our call for the Government of Alberta to reverse this change and provide municipalities the flexibility to administer elections in a manner that best serves the needs of their community.</li> </ul>	
<p>B3 Provincial Education Property Tax Reform  <i>City of St. Albert</i>  <i>(Secoded by Town of Penhold)</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><u>Key Messages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Wes Brodhead, Councillor, City of St. Albert.</i></li> <li>• In the 2023 mandate letter issued to Municipal Affairs, the Premier of Alberta directed the ministry to review the feasibility of amending the provincial education property tax to assist municipalities with retaining more funding for local priorities.</li> <li>• To date, this direction has not been acted upon; in their 2024 budget, the Province predicts they will collect \$2.7 billion in municipally-collected education property tax, with this number growing to \$3 billion by 2027 – much of this increase is related to the growth of our province, growth that is increasingly stretching our ability to address local priorities and infrastructure demands.</li> </ul>	<p>Support  COUNCILLOR BRODHEAD PRIMARY SPOKESPERSON</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Province were to allocate less than half of education property tax income municipalities collect on its behalf for municipal priorities, it would fully address the additional \$1 billion in municipal infrastructure funding that Alberta Municipalities have been advocating for.</li> <li>• We recognize that some municipalities may receive more provincial funding than they collect in education property tax, which is why our motion is worded so that the outcome of a review of the program would be that municipalities receive provincial funding equal to or greater than what they collectively requisition on an annual basis.</li> <li>• Support our motion to have the Minister of Municipal Affairs action the direction given in his mandate letter, to review the provincial education property tax to help municipalities obtain new, desperately needed funding to continue to support the sustained growth and prosperity of our province.</li> </ul>	
<p>B9 Preventative Psychological Services Support for Municipal First Responders and Emergency Dispatchers</p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to provide a grant or funding mechanism to municipalities to provide psychological services to municipal first responders and emergency dispatchers to reduce the risk of psychological injury and the associated burden on taxpayers to</p>	<p><u>Key Messages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ken MacKay, Councillor, City of St. Albert</i></li> <li>• Municipal emergency first responders – chief officers, firefighters, police officers, peace officers, 9-11 operators, paramedics and administrative support staff – provide essential, life-saving services to Albertans.</li> <li>• In the course of their duty to protect and save lives, they often witness or are</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p> <p>COUNCILLOR MACKAY PRIMARY SPOKESPERSON</p>

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<p><i>City of St. Albert</i></p> <p><i>(Seconded by Town of Mayerthorpe)</i></p>	<p>treat such injuries, in addition to bolstering emergency medical services response services in Alberta.</p>	<p>privileged to information regarding traumatic events – such events can leave deep psychological wounds, sometimes severe enough that they must go on medical leave to effectively heal, or in extreme cases are unable to be a first responder thereafter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thankfully, the Workers Compensation Act provides these service members with the tools and services they need to recover; however, the absence they create as they heal, as well as the costs to cover their leave affect the ability of their departments to continue administering and improving the essential services they provide in their communities, and puts added stress on their peers to deliver these services.</li> <li>• Our resolution asks for the Province to help address this issue and improve our emergency response services by providing a funding mechanism to enable all municipalities that provide these services to offer preventative psychological services to our first responders – services such as the Before Operational Stress program, which has been shown to improve the mental resiliency of first responders, and could reduce the frequency and/or duration of medical leaves of absence to treat conditions such as post-traumatic-stress-disorder.</li> <li>• If we are asking our first-responders to be on the front line where they will certainly witness traumatic events, it is only right</li> </ul>	

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		<p>that we arm them with the tools and support they need to be resilient and as prepared as they can be to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We ask you to support this motion to both provide our emergency first responders with the preventative care they need to handle the trauma they encounter in their workplace, while also reducing the financial, operational, and collegial impact their subsequent healing necessitates.</li> </ul>	
<p>B18 Provincial Support for Watershed Management</p> <p><i>City of St. Albert</i></p> <p><i>(Secoded by Town of Gibbons)</i></p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities advocate for 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.</p>	<p><u>Key Messages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Ken MacKay, Councillor, City of St. Albert</i></li> <li>Alberta is facing challenges to our waterways and watersheds, including flood and drought, climate extremes, invasive species, and pollutant contamination.</li> <li>Through the Water Act and Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, the Province aims to fulfill its goals of healthy aquatic ecosystems and reliable quality water supplies for a sustainable economy and drought and flood protection; this legislation requires the issuance of water permits and approval processes for alterations to wetlands and watercourses.</li> <li>Despite this legislation, inadequate resourcing and enforcement means it often falls on municipalities to develop and apply watershed management principles and strategies to protect watersheds, especially for smaller watersheds removed from major rivers such as the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers.</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p> <p>COUNCILLOR MACKAY PRIMARY SPOKESPERSON</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipalities are often left to make critical decisions based on incomplete or missing data, and as a result, issues such as non-point source pollution and associated ecological impacts are not adequately monitored, with potential negative consequences for our residents.</li> <li>• Furthermore, Water Act approvals are often granted without adequate municipal consultation, impacting ongoing initiatives and efforts to manage our watersheds.</li> <li>• Through this resolution, we call on the Government of Alberta to direct more resources towards bolstering the application of its legislation to manage watersheds, and to engage with municipalities on Water Act approvals; in doing so, it will provide municipalities with the tools, expertise and support they need to maintain healthy ecosystems and safe water supplies to Albertans.</li> <li>• We call on delegates to support this motion to help us better manage and protect our vital aquatic resources.</li> </ul>	
<p>B1 Independent Office of Integrity for Local Government</p> <p><i>Town of Rocky Mountain House</i></p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the provincial government 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for the Province to establish an Independent Office of Integrity to serve as an advisory, educational and investigative role in the application and enforcement of council codes of conduct.</li> <li>• It should be noted that during consultations on regulations for Bill 20, Municipal Affairs discussed potential powers, structure and funding for an Integrity Commissioner's</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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		<p>Office, suggesting it is being actively considered by the Province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, it is the responsibility of the CAO and other municipal administrative staff to handle such investigations, which places them in a difficult position where they are investigating individuals who oversee their compensation and employment.</li> <li>• An independent investigative body would allow for such investigations to be removed from local municipal administrations, and would help prevent such action from interfering with the governance of municipalities.</li> <li>• The structure of an Independent Office of Integrity, and its responsibilities, powers and associated costs are foundational questions as to how effective and reliable such an office would be.</li> </ul>	
<p>B4 Restoring Provincial Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT) Funding  <i>Town of High Prairie</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for a restoration of Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT) funding to 2019/20 levels.</li> <li>• The Government of Alberta uses the GIPOT program to pay grants to municipalities in lieu of property taxes on properties owned by the government.</li> <li>• As part of efforts to stabilize provincial finances during the pandemic, the Government reduced GIPOT funding by approximately 50% and has not restored funding to previous levels since.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that although the Province increased the GIPOT budget by \$2.1 million in its most recent budget, this</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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		<p>increase was established specifically to address rising assessment and construction costs, and was not a restoration to previous funding levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The corresponding revenue reduction for the City of St. Albert has been approximately \$75,000 in revenue for each year since the provincial funding cut was implemented.</li> </ul>	
<p>B5 Small and Remote Municipalities Need Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs) to Thrive</p> <p><i>Town of Mayerthorpe</i></p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the provision of continuous, stable funding for the nine existing Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs), and for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Alberta and the current REDA Chairs to develop a clear purpose and program structure for REDAs, inclusive of a stable, long-term, collaborative approach to funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This resolution calls for both continued and increased funding of the Government of Alberta’s REDA program, and that a memorandum of understanding with the Province be established to develop clear program purpose and structure.</li> <li>REDAs are member-driven organizations for rural municipalities that utilize strategic planning to develop regional economic development priorities.</li> <li>In early 2024, the Province signaled its intent to defund the program; although funding for the program has fluctuated over the years, the most recent funding has been approximately \$125,000 per year for each of the 9 REDAs in Alberta.</li> <li>As many REDA municipalities have limited fiscal capacity, REDAs are a key component of their local economic development; a removal of the program may reduce their ability to pursue economic development initiatives.</li> <li>The City of St. Albert is not a part of a REDA, however REDAs provide economic development benefits to smaller</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>



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		<p>municipalities that positively impact the provincial economy as a whole, with potential downstream benefits to St. Albert.</p>	
<p>B6 Family &amp; Community Support Services (FCSS) Funding Increase  <i>City of Airdrie</i></p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta to immediately increase provincial funding for Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) commensurate to population growth and annual inflation rates to adequately and sustainably fund necessary prevention programs and services in communities across Alberta.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for increased FCSS funding, and for the increase to align with population growth and annual inflation rates.</li> <li>• From 2015-2022, FCSS funding remained static at \$100 million, and in 2023, the Province increased funding to \$105 million.</li> <li>• In October 2023, the FCSS Association of Alberta called for an increase in funding for the program to \$130 million.</li> <li>• FCSS funding is a key component of funding for St. Albert programs such as seniors supports and services, youth counselling, newcomer programs, and education sessions for persons living with developmental disabilities; an increase in program funding could enable an expansion and better provision of these programs.</li> <li>• Increases to FCSS funding have been an ancillary component to the City’s advocacy efforts for many years and aligns with Council’s strategic priority of Community Well-Being.</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>
<p>B7 Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System Equipment Funding</p>	<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for financial support for municipalities with a population of less than 3,000 to obtain the equipment necessary to participate in the AFRRCS.</li> <li>• AFRRCS is a provincewide radio system that assists first-responders with coordination, allowing for an improvement</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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<i>Town of Wembley</i>	necessary to participate in the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications Systems (AFRRCS).	<p>in safety and response times; it currently encompasses 335 sites and 33,000 devices, and is continuously monitored by the System Control Center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the investments required to obtain the necessary equipment to participate in the system (e.g., the Town of Strathmore required a \$250,000 investment), smaller municipalities often do not have the fiscal capacity to purchase the necessary equipment.</li> <li>• Should the Government of Alberta enable more participation in AFRRCS through increased funding for smaller communities, the overall coordination of emergency response agencies throughout the province will improve, resulting in better response times and emergency services for Albertans.</li> </ul>	
<p>B8 Declining Fire Department Services Across Alberta</p> <p><i>Village of Mannville</i></p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocate to the Government of Canada to create a business tax credit for businesses that allow employees who are volunteer firefighters to attend calls during business hours; and</li> <li>2. Advocate to the Government of Canada to reinstate the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP).</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolutions calls for both a federal tax credit to encourage businesses to allow employees who are volunteer firefighters to attend calls during business hours, and for the federal government to reinstate the former JEPP program.</li> <li>• Smaller municipalities often rely on volunteer firefighters to provide local fire services, and some have noted that such volunteers have sometimes been unable to attend calls due to their inability to leave their primary place of employment.</li> <li>• The federal JEPP was discontinued in 2013; the program provided grant funding for major capital purchases for fire</li> </ul>	Support

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		<p>departments, and a reinstatement/modernization of this program would allow for smaller municipalities to reduce deferment of such purchases due to fiscal pressures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the City of St. Albert maintains a roster of full-time fire service employees for fire services response, the ability for smaller municipalities to have a more stable and reliable volunteer firefighting roster with the proposed business tax credit could improve fire services in smaller municipalities and require less inter-jurisdictional assistance from larger municipalities.</li> <li>• Furthermore, a reinstatement/modernization of the JEPP could provide grant money to assist with the City’s large capital purchases of firefighting equipment.</li> </ul>	
<p>B10 Establishing a Provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services</p> <p><i>City of Grande Prairie</i></p>	<p>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;</p> <p>1. 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for the establishment of a provincial level of Service for Emergency Social Services, which would provide a framework for municipalities that support evacuees instead of the current reliance on the Disaster Recovery Program to recover associated costs.</li> <li>• This framework would clarify the services mandatory for municipalities to provide for evacuees that would be eligible for cost recovery, and which services would be discretionary and not eligible for cost recovery.</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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	<p>identification of what costs are eligible for cost recovery;</p> <p>2. 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current reliance on the Disaster Recovery Program to recover such costs is unreliable and problematic, as the program is intended as a cost-sharing arrangement between all levels of government, and often results in extended periods of time to recover costs with some costs not being covered.</li> <li>• The City received \$452,800 in such funding to reimburse the expenses it incurred to host evacuees of the North West Territories during 2023.</li> <li>• The establishment of a provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services would clarify the services that the City of St. Albert is expected to provide for future evacuees, in addition to which services would be eligible for cost recovery and which services must be municipally-funded.</li> </ul>	
<p>B11 Provincial Emergency Shelter Strategy  <i>City of Red Deer</i></p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities advocate to 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolutions requests that the Government of Alberta establish a province-wide emergency shelter strategy in order to provide associated standard guiding principles, objectives, and roles for municipalities.</li> <li>• The resolution notes the significant increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness, and how the lack of provincial strategy has resulted in confusion regarding role clarity and project management structure; these issues have resulted in a lack of coordination and</li> </ul>	<p>Support Note: Administration recommends that a comprehensive emergency shelter strategy include supportive and/or transitional housing as a key component.</p>

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		<p>progress in establishing new emergency shelters across the province.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A provincial strategy for emergency shelters could result in a clarifying of roles, responsibilities and funding between the province and municipalities regarding the establishment and operation of such shelters, resulting in better coordination and provision of such services.</li> <li>• It should be noted that emergency shelters are regarded as a “band-aid” approach – from administration’s perspective, transitional/supportive housing is key to addressing the root causes of homelessness; any increase in related funding is supported, however it is recommended that associated strategies include transitional/supportive housing as a key component.</li> </ul>	
<p>B12 Permanent Supportive Housing Capital and Operational Funding  <i>City of Red Deer</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for both the provincial and federal governments to increase capital and operational funding for municipalities that serve as “hubs” for supportive housing.</li> <li>• Supportive housing is a key component for assisting unhoused individuals, and the provision of such housing is less expensive than supporting the needs of such individuals through emergency shelters.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that some Alberta municipalities have experienced an increase of 50% or greater in their unhoused populations since 2018, and that supportive housing provides long-term</li> </ul>	<p>Support Note: It is recommended that the language in the motion be broadened to include youth as a specific demographic who may access supportive housing options. Furthermore, the resolution could be</p>

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		<p>housing and support to such individuals as they strive to achieve increased independence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial data indicates that programs such as supportive housing reduce the demand on other services, including justice and health, with the associated funding resulting in a 64.3% reduction in jail time, a 53.6% decrease in hospital usage, and a 50.3% decrease in EMS responses.</li> <li>• Although this resolution specifically references increased support for “hub” municipalities, an increase in support for these communities could provide downstream benefits to affected individuals in neighbouring municipalities.</li> <li>• Furthermore, it is important that youth in particular are included as a target demographic for supportive living accommodations, as such services may solely target affected individuals who are adults.</li> </ul>	<p>strengthened by a clarifying of the definition of “hub” municipalities to be inclusive of mid-sized cities, who can also act as hub municipalities for the provision of regional supportive housing services.</p>
<p>B13 Full-Time 24-Hour Home Care Support in Lodges/Supportive Living Accommodations  <i>Town of Tofield</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for an increase in funding to support the 24-hour, 7 days a week provision of home care services for individuals living in lodges and supportive living environments.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that lodges and supportive living spaces are experiencing vacancies, and that the resulting lack of services for the individuals living within causes an increased demand on families, firefighters, first aid practitioners, and EMS.</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furthermore, the lack of service results in a decrease in the quality of life for individuals living in lodges and supportive living accommodations.</li> <li>• An increase in funding could reduce the burden placed on the City of St. Albert's local EMS and healthcare systems, and would help to improve the quality of life of local residents living in these accommodations.</li> </ul>	
<p>B14 Attraction and Retention Strategy for Rural Health Care Professionals  <i>Town of Hinton</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for the development of a provincial rural health care professionals attraction and retention strategy to increase the number of health care professionals in rural municipalities.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that nearly all health care professions are underrepresented in rural Alberta, and that this creates a negative feedback cycle where the increased strain on such professionals results in staff burn out, dissatisfaction, premature retirement, and relocation to better staffed communities, causing further stress to rural health care provision.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that given the increasing population, this issue is likely to intensify over the coming years without decisive action.</li> <li>• The creation of an attraction and retention strategy for rural health care professionals could result in an increase in health care service in rural areas, with the downstream benefit to St. Albert being a reduction in rural residents accessing such services</li> </ul>	<p>Support This resolution could arguably be strengthened by revising the scope to a Province-Wide Attraction and Retention Strategy for Health Care Professionals (in both rural and urban communities).</p>



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		<p>within the City, thereby reducing local system strain and increasing service levels for local residents.</p>	
<p>B15 Creation of a Wildfire Prevention Committee  <i>Town of Hinton</i></p>	<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for the establishment of a Wildfire Prevention Committee consisting of key municipal, provincial and industry subject matter experts and elected officials to enable more coordinated strategies to effectively prepare for and mitigate the effects of wildfires.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that wildfire prevention strategies are a resource-intensive activity requiring expertise and knowledge that may be out of reach for smaller municipalities at risk of wildfires; although the provincial Ministry of Forestry and Parks is responsible for wildfire management in the Forest Protection Area, municipalities are responsible for the financial costs of suppression within their boundaries.</li> <li>• There are currently no provincial initiatives which allow wildfire affected communities and industry to discuss practical and operational issues with provincial wildfire authorities on a regular basis.</li> <li>• The establishment of a such a committee would inform and advise the province on municipal priorities, enhance communication and collaboration regarding the management of wildfires, and promote advocacy and stakeholder engagement related to wildfire mitigation measures.</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although St. Albert does not face a significant risk with regards to wildfires, a more coordinated and collaborative effort province-wide could result in better overall mitigation of the effects of wildfires and reduce the risk of evacuations which could directly impact the City.</li> </ul>	
<p>B16 Culture, Recreation, and Sport Facility Infrastructure Deficit Report Card</p> <p><i>Town of Innisfail</i></p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities advocate for 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 use that inventory database to benchmark and make strategic and evidence-based decisions on investments in culture, sport, and recreation infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This resolution calls for the development of a database that provides an inventory of all culture, sport and recreation facilities in Alberta, and that this inventory is utilized by the province to make strategic decisions on investments and funding towards such infrastructure.</li> <li>The resolution notes that as no such inventory currently exists, the province is unaware of the state of existing recreation facilities and their associated deterioration and need for capital funding for repair, maintenance and replacement.</li> <li>A federally-enacted infrastructure report card published in 2019 noted that 30-35% of such infrastructure is in fair or worse condition; furthermore, the majority of such infrastructure is nearing the end of its useful life.</li> <li>Notably, the increase in Alberta’s population is adding further strain to such infrastructure and increased need for additional facilities.</li> <li>A dedicated source of funding that – assumedly – would provide ongoing stable funding for identifiable municipal recreation and cultural infrastructure deficits would</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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<i>Resolution Name/Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Administrative Recommendation</i>
		<p>benefit municipalities, including St. Albert, as no such current funding mechanism exists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The risk with this motion is how the term ‘deficit’ is defined, and how facilities would be graded in the associated report card; should the benchmarks be set in a manner that does not adequately assess the quality of facilities, funding may not provide a tangible benefit to the City of St. Albert.</li> <li>• In any case, a motion to increase community facility funding is a step in the right direction.</li> </ul>	
<p>B17 Federal Funding for Compressed Natural Gas and Clean Diesel Buses  <i>City of Red Deer</i></p>	<p>That 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution requests that the Province works with the federal government to allow for federal funding to accept the purchase of compressed natural gas and clean diesel buses until 2035, which would allow for the needed time for effective transition to zero-emission fleets.</li> <li>• When the federal government announced the Zero Emission Transit Fund in 2022, the program was established to only allow hydrogen and electric buses to be eligible for federal grant funding.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that the impacts on the electrical grid and costs of new infrastructure to support a zero-emission transit fleet are unknown, and that technological advances in compressed natural gas and clean diesel transit vehicles allow for an alternative, environmentally-friendly solution while the</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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<i>Resolution Name/Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Administrative Recommendation</i>
		<p>infrastructure required for a zero-emission fleet is established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current procurement process for zero-emission transit vehicles is problematic for smaller and mid-sized municipalities, as they are in competition with large urban centres; current delivery times are beyond two years, which puts current fleet replacement initiatives at risk.</li> <li>• The City of St. Albert’s electric buses have noted operational issues – compared to a clean diesel bus that has a 21 hour service capacity year-round, the electric buses have a 5 hour capacity at full charge during winter months; clean diesel buses are an important supplement for St. Albert and other municipalities to maintain service levels while fleets are slowly transitioned to zero-emission vehicles as the technology and associated infrastructure continues to develop and improve.</li> <li>• An allowance for funding for clean diesel and compressed natural gas buses to be eligible for federal funding could both provide for a more timely replacement of local fleet vehicles, as well as increased federal funding to support these purchases and a resulting lessening of the associated burden on municipal finances.</li> </ul>	
<p>B19 Goldfish Infestation and Emergency Approval of Powder-</p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta for emergency approval of the dry form Rotenone to address the goldfish, an</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for the approval of a dry powder form of rotenone pesticide for use to manage goldfish in stormwater ponds; the liquid form of this chemical is an</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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<i>Resolution Name/Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Administrative Recommendation</i>
<p>Form Rotenone Pesticide</p> <p><i>Town of Sylvan Lake</i></p>	<p>invasive aquatic species, infestation in stormwater pond systems.</p>	<p>approved substance, however supply issues have forced some municipalities to deploy alternative mitigation methods, which have proven ineffective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goldfish are an invasive species, and should they migrate from stormwater ponds into watersheds and rivers, ecosystems could be devastated; many municipalities across Alberta are currently struggling to control invasive goldfish populations.</li> <li>• The City has previously used the liquid form of Rotenone for goldfish management, and has noted the lack of supply as a matter of concern.</li> <li>• Approval of the dry form of Rotenone would provide the City and other municipalities with the supply they need to continue to halt the spread of goldfish.</li> <li>• Without rotenone treatment, a goldfish infestation in our natural waterways would impact water treatment costs, the recreational economy, and could result in a collapse of the native fish population.</li> </ul>	
<p>C1 Financial Disclosure of Asset Retirement Obligations</p> <p><i>Town of Coronation</i></p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta for financial support and tools to support municipalities to comply with PS 3280 in the most cost-efficient manner possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for the Province to provide tools and financial support to assist with the reporting and monitoring of tangible capital assets that present an environmental liability at the end of their useful life.</li> <li>• In 2018, the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) approved a new requirement for all municipal financial statements – starting for the year ending in</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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<i>Resolution Name/Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Administrative Recommendation</i>
		<p>2023 – to report the estimated cost to retire, decommission, remediate, or monitor tangible assets that pose environmental risk, such as landfills and buildings containing asbestos.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The resolution notes that this reporting requires expertise that may necessitate the contracting of consultants, which can cause considerable financial strain for smaller municipalities.</li> <li>• Should the Government of Alberta provide financial assistance and/or tools to assist with such assessments, the City of St. Albert may be eligible to utilize such funding or tools.</li> </ul>	
<p>C2 Extending Municipal Voting Rights to Permanent Residents  <i>City of Calgary</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for the Province to expand voting eligibility in municipal elections to individuals who have been granted Canadian Permanent Resident status.</li> <li>• “Permanent Resident status” is applied to a person who has legally immigrated to Canada, but has not obtained full Canadian citizenship.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that although individuals with permanent resident status work where they reside, pay taxes and utilize municipal services, they do not have the right to vote in municipal elections.</li> <li>• New Brunswick is drafting legislation to be the first province in Canada to grant individuals with Permanent Resident status the right to vote in local elections after bipartisan legislation recognized</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>

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<i>Resolution Name/Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Administrative Recommendation</i>
		<p>permanent residents as significant members of the community deserving of enfranchisement in local elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furthermore, this resolution provides examples of some of the 45 countries – such as the U.S.A, United Kingdom, Germany and Australia – that have provided a similar right to vote in local elections to their equivalent of an individual with permanent resident status.</li> <li>• As this resolution is a political consideration, administration does not have a recommendation.</li> </ul>	
<p>C3 Fires on Frozen Lakes</p> <p><i>Town of Sylvan Lake</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for new regulations and enforcement to prevent the damage caused by fires and debris left behind on frozen lakes during winter recreational activities – there is a current lack of such regulations and associated enforcement.</li> <li>• The fires and debris left on frozen lakes – such as garbage, tires and pallets – pose significant ecological risks when the ice melts and the materials sink into lakes; the compounds found within tires in particular are known to have detrimental effects on fish populations.</li> <li>• Although no lakes exist within the City of St. Albert, recreational lakes where such issues occur are connected through the watershed, meaning that the contaminants that enter these lakes could affect the City’s watershed and aquatic ecosystems when they flow downstream.</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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<i>Resolution Name/Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Administrative Recommendation</i>
<p>C4 Increase Capital Funding for Accessible Playgrounds for All New, Replacement or Renovated Alberta Public Schools with K-6 Programming</p> <p><i>City of Spruce Grove</i></p>	<p>That 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for increased capital funding for all new, replacement and renovated schools with K-6 programming to allow for newly constructed playgrounds to be accessible playgrounds.</li> <li>• Although the Province provides funding for the construction of playgrounds in new or replacement schools, the funding is not sufficient for such playgrounds to be accessible, and therefore additional fundraising is required to make these playgrounds accessible.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that in 2021/2022, approximately 14% of all K-12 students had a “coded status” that can be related to an identifiable disability.</li> <li>• Although this resolution aligns with Council’s intent to increase City-owned accessible playgrounds through developing an Accessible Playground Strategy, this resolution would only apply to playgrounds for K-6 schools, and not municipally-owned playgrounds.</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>
<p>C5 Doubling Speed Fines in Playground Zones and School Zones</p> <p><i>City of Calgary</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for the Province to amend the Traffic Safety Act to improve safety in designated school/playground zones, through measures such as increased speeding fines and adjusted demerit points.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that a study undertaken by the Global Road Safety Partnership found that increasing speeding fines by 50-100% can result in a 15% decrease in violations.</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2011, Grande Prairie sponsored a similar resolution, and the Province responded that it was not pursuing an increase in fine amounts; since this point, no other advocacy groups or organizations have made a similar ask.</li> <li>• Given that the Province recently announced their intent to eliminate mobile photo enforcement in all areas except for playground, school and construction zones, there is an opportunity for associated advocacy to focus on enforcement mechanisms to address speeding in such areas; furthermore, there has not been an increase to such fines since 2015, so an argument can be made that the deterrent effect of speeding fines has been diminished due to monetary inflation.</li> </ul>	
<p>C6 Coverage of Mandatory Drivers' Medical Exam Fees for Albertans Aged 75 and Older</p> <p><i>City of Cold Lake</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution calls for the Province to reinstate Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan coverage for driver medical exams that are mandatory for Albertans aged 75 years and older, similar to what was permitted prior to a cost-savings instigated legislative change in 2020.</li> <li>• Mandatory drivers' medical exams are required at the age of 75, 80, and every two years thereafter; such exams can cost upwards of \$150.00, although the cost is not consistent across the province.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that given the unprecedented rise in the cost of living, and its disproportionate effect on</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>



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<i>Resolution Name/Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Administrative Recommendation</i>
		<p>individuals relying on fixed incomes – such as seniors – covering such costs aligns with the Province’s recent initiatives and budget measures to reduce the cost of living for seniors and help maintain their independence.</p>	
<p>C7 Alberta Learner's Licence Program Review  <i>City of Brooks</i></p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Provincial Government 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution requests that the Province review its Learner’s Licence Program to implement changes, including shortening the Class 7 Learner’s Licence period from twelve months to eight months for individuals aged 16 and older who take an approved/accredited driver’s training course.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that in most provinces, individuals with a Learner’s Licence have the opportunity 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, which cuts down their probation time anywhere from 12 months to six months; incentivizing the use of such driver’s training courses would increase the amount of drivers who utilize them, and would work to improve the driving skills of such individuals.</li> <li>• Furthermore, the resolution states that obtaining a Class 5 licence is important in aiding municipal economies, as new opportunities will arise for businesses across the province with an increase in the amount of Class 5 licence holders.</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>

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<i>Resolution Name/Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Administrative Recommendation</i>
<p>C8 Review of Provincial Animal Protection Act</p> <p><i>City of Airdrie</i></p>	<p>That Alberta Municipalities advocate to the Government of Alberta for a comprehensive review and update of Alberta’s Animal Protection Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution requests that the Province review and update the Animal Protection Act to provide 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.</li> <li>• The resolution notes that the current legislation does not differentiate between commercial and companion animals, and that a change in societal attitudes and norms has occurred for such animals, and resulting challenges, risks and best practices have emerged which can be addressed through an update to the legislation.</li> <li>• Specifically, the growing prevalence of companion animals and the increasing demand for adoption/boarding services have resulted in a need for clear and comprehensive regulations to establish standards for housing, care, hygiene, and ensuring that companion animals are properly cared for.</li> <li>• Although the City of St. Albert’s Peace Officers have the authority to enforce the Animal Protection Act and work with the Alberta SPCA when necessary, the City has not seen the historical challenges as noted in the background, and therefore a review is not likely to have a notable impact on current municipal enforcement operations.</li> </ul>	<p>Support</p>