

City of St. Albert Briefing Note on Alberta Municipalities 2025 Resolutions

<i>Resolution Name/Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Administrative Recommendation</i>
B1: Removal of the Provincial Property Tax from the Municipal Tax Bill <i>Town of Rocky Mountain House</i>	That the Province assumes direct responsibility for the collection of provincial education property taxes, thereby relieving municipalities of this obligation and ensuring a more transparent approach to education funding.	• The education property tax is administered by the Province, however municipalities collect it on their behalf through yearly municipal property tax collection. • The Province is increasing the education property tax rate, which for St. Albert represents a 10.9% increase for the 2025 requisition (with future increases forecasted in Budget 2025). • St. Albert has an active AB Munis resolution on Education Property Tax Reform, which requests the Minister of Municipal Affairs to action their 2023 mandate letter that directed the Minister to review the feasibility of allowing municipalities to keep a portion of the Education Property Tax they collect to fund local priorities. ○ Given a new mandate letter has been issued without this direction, it is unlikely that the Government will action it. • As municipalities must collect this tax, it is often confused by residents as being a municipal tax. • Transferring responsibility of collecting this tax to the Province could save municipal resources previously allocated for its collection, while also ensuring that Provincial tax increases do not appear on municipally-issued tax notices.	<i>Support</i>

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B2: Municipal Accommodation Tax Implementation in Alberta <i>City of Airdrie</i>	That the Province amend the MGA to establish a framework that enables municipalities to implement Municipal Accommodation Taxes through bylaws, with municipalities having the authority to determine tax rates, collection methods, and revenue allocation based on local infrastructure and tourism development needs.	• Municipalities that have active tourism industries have the added burden of funding and maintaining related tourist infrastructure in addition to the standard burden of maintaining infrastructure and services to residents as costs rise and government transfers diminish. • A Municipal Accommodation Tax is a user-pay system that generates revenue from visitors rather than residents, and have proven successful in accomplishing their objectives in other jurisdictions, including B.C., Ontario and Quebec. • Although St. Albert does not have a large tourism economy when compared to other Albertan municipalities, a new revenue-generation tool could both provide a funding mechanism to support tourism-related municipal initiatives, while also providing a new stream of revenue.	<i>Support</i>
B3: Extended Lifespan of Fire Apparatus in Municipalities <i>Town of Sexsmith</i>	That provincial and operational policies are amended that require mandatory pump recertification of fire apparatus every 20 years, and that replacements be based on usage, condition, and maintenance records rather than a fixed time-frame.	• A fire apparatus (fire truck) is an expensive piece of equipment; maintenance needs can especially be burdensome for smaller municipalities. • Such needs include mandatory recertification, which can range from \$10,000 to \$15,000, as well as related insurance premium increases when older apparatuses lose their “frontline status.” • Although such expenses do not significantly impact St. Albert’s financial sustainability, the added flexibility could	<i>Support</i>

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		reduce future maintenance and replacement costs.	
B4: Funding for Sport and Recreation Facilities <i>Town of Nanton</i>	That the Province either amend the Active Communities Initiative to make municipalities eligible for funding (and increase the budget), or create a new annual or bi-annual funding program for municipalities to enable them to effectively leverage available capital reserves and local partnerships for new and existing recreation infrastructure.	- Currently, provincial and federal grant opportunities specific to funding municipal recreation infrastructure do not meet municipal needs. - Some recreation facilities – such as the proposed Community Amenities Facility in St. Albert – are some of the largest capital investments made by municipalities, with budgets ranging from the dozens of millions to well over \$100 million. - Recreation facilities support local businesses, attract and retain workers, reduce crime, and promote wellbeing while also serving as vital community hubs; furthermore, per-person investment in recreation facilities is far less costly than annual healthcare costs tied to stroke, diabetes, and depression. - A new funding envelope for municipal recreation infrastructure could reduce the financial burden of future capital recreation infrastructure costs in St. Albert.	<i>Support</i>
B5: Improving Infrastructure at Alberta's Community Airports <i>Town of Spirit River</i>	That the Province raises the annual Community Airport Program funding under the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program to \$15 million, make more projects eligible for funding, extend funding to all community airport operators, and	- Alberta has 93 community airports, most of which are owned by the municipalities they serve – adding increased financial burdens on already-strained municipal finances. - The resolution states that the current level of funding for the Community Airport Program is inadequate and too restrictive.	<i>Support</i>

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	increase provincial cost-sharing based on need.	Although St. Albert does not have a community airport, the downstream economic benefits of more resilient air infrastructure in the province could provide local supply-chain/economic benefits for the City and local businesses.	
B6: Access to Seniors Housing Programs <i>Village of Stirling</i>	That the Province engages AB Munis, municipalities, and related organizations in reviewing the Affordable Housing Partnership Program to ensure it supports all sizes of communities throughout Alberta so that seniors can age in place close to support networks.	- The Affordable Housing Partnership Program is the Province's main funding envelope for affordable/supportive housing. - In 2025, the program awarded \$15 million to Homeland Housing's affordable housing project at 22 St. Thomas Street. - This resolution is tailored to respond to the needs of smaller municipalities, and there is likely a perception that there is not adequate funding provided amongst small, mid-sized, or Alberta's big cities. - A stronger advocacy push for all AB Munis members would likely involve seeking enhanced levels of funding for the program overall, and note that to progress affordable housing projects, municipalities are having to contribute much more than they once did under new Provincial requirements.	<i>Support</i>
B7: Enhancing Housing Opportunities and Affordability Across Alberta	That the Province undertakes fundamental policy changes aimed at improving access to a diverse range of housing options and enhancing affordability, through:	- Housing affordability is a key issue affecting policy across all levels of government. - In early 2025, the Province began a series of engagements with municipalities, called "Enabling Growth and Housing	<i>Support</i>

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<i>Town of Coalhurst</i>	1. Streamlining regulations and reducing red tape; 2. Enhancing the <i>New Home Buyer Protection Act</i>; 3. Improving the Safety Codes System; 4. Re-evaluate funding models for affordable and seniors' housing.	Affordability”; many of the topics discussed during these sessions are the focus of this resolution, although it is currently unclear what kind of action the Province intends to take based on the feedback provided by municipalities through these sessions. • This resolution is purposefully left “open-ended” to allow AB Munis to be “proactive in their approach to meeting housing needs within the province.” • In general, the principles of this resolution align with Council’s Advocacy Priority of “Advance Mixed Market Housing.”	
C1: Electricity Distribution Costs <i>City of Grande Prairie</i>	That the Province review distribution regulations and eliminate the disparity in electricity pricing for distribution charges through an equalization model and more equitable cost-sharing across Alberta to build an economically consistent approach that address affordability and catalyzes province-wide economic development.	• Reducing distribution costs has been a key advocacy priority for the City of Grande Prairie over the past few years. • In 2024, costs were more than 200% higher in Grande Prairie when compared with costs in the Edmonton region. • Should the Province enact this request, it could result in increases to City of St. Albert ratepayers. • There are economies-of-scale regarding electricity distribution based upon geographic location and customer densities within metropolitan centres; providing electricity to Albertans in Grande Prairie is more expensive than for Albertans in large metro areas. • The resolution does not offer specific guidance as to how the Province should equalize rates; for example, the Saskatchewan model would be preferable	N/A

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		to the BC model (both are referenced in the backgrounder of the resolution). There are other actions the Province could take to lower electricity costs for Albertans in Northern Alberta outside of equalizing rates across the province.	
C2: Adoption of Alternative Bacterial Water Testing Methods <i>Village of Hines Creek</i>	That the Province reviews, approves, and implements certified alternative bacterial water testing methods that meet or exceed current safety standards, and work with municipalities to pilot or support the deployment of such technologies.	- The current bacterial water sampling methods often require extended turnaround times – particularly for small municipalities that rely on centralized labs. - Alternative bacterial water testing methods could alleviate this concern, and save municipalities time and resources. - The resolution does not speak to what these alternative testing methods are – it only suggests that the Province “reviews” these potential methods and implements them. - Approval of alternative bacterial water testing methods could provide increased flexibility for City of St. Albert’s associated water testing processes.	<i>Support</i>
C3: Increasing Funding for Alberta’s Libraries <i>Town of Stettler</i>	That the Province updates the per capita rate component of the Public Library Operating Grant formula to \$6.94 per person, an increase of \$1.34 per person, to reflect inflationary increases and commit to indexing the population-based grant using the rate of inflation and the most recent population statistics.	- The ability of libraries to meet both basic and expanding needs of the growing population is increasingly being constrained by outdated funding levels. - The annual Public Library Operating Grant of \$5.60 per person has increased by only \$0.05 (under 1%) since 2016, whereas inflation has increased by 25% at the same time.	<i>Support</i>

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		Multiple AB Munis resolutions – as well as Rural Municipalities of Alberta resolutions – have addressed this same topic in the past, with no subsequent action from the province.	
C4: Rural Participation on the Integration Council for Refocusing Alberta's Health Care System <i>Town of Sundre</i>	That the Province immediately appoints a separate and dedicated general practitioner "Generalist" as a voting member to the Health System Integration Council and within the new health board leadership structure to ensure that those who serve Albertans who live in rural and remote communities have an appropriate and continuous voice for their health care.	- The province has stated on multiple occasions throughout its effort to refocus the healthcare system that equitable healthcare access for rural and remote areas is a priority. - The resolution states that the current Integration Council – chaired by the Minister of Health with the goal of designing/implementing policy to refocus the healthcare system – does not have an adequate voice for rural practitioners. - The Integration Council is composed entirely of elected officials and senior leadership from health agencies and associations, and does not have population/region-specific membership (unlike the Advisory Council, which does); it is unclear that a lack of rural representation exists in the process to refocus the healthcare system, and inserting such representation into the Integration Council could create unintended consequences.	N/A

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C5: Midwifery as an Option of Care for All Albertans <i>Village of Hussar</i>	That the Province develops a comprehensive midwifery strategy that focuses on retention, increased access province-wide, and funding that follows the patient for a more well-rounded course of care by giving midwives more autonomy over the structure of midwifery care.	• Alberta has yet to provide client-centered access to midwifery care for all Albertans – this is particularly felt in rural areas already strained by healthcare burdens, and results in many Albertans not being aware that midwifery is a healthcare option in Alberta. • Furthermore, granting more autonomy to the midwifery industry could help reduce “burn-out” of midwives that further strains the healthcare system. • In general, midwife births reduce healthcare costs and the overall burden on the healthcare system. • On June 18, 2025, the World Health Organization called for global expansion of midwifery models of care.	<i>Support</i>
C6: Canada Consumer Carbon Tax Program (Rebates or Exemptions for Municipalities) <i>City of Red Deer</i>	That the Province work with the Federal Government to ensure municipal governments are exempt from any future replacement of a consumption-based carbon tax or at minimum, expand the eligibility of Canada Carbon Tax rebates to include municipal governments.	• The federal consumer carbon tax was cancelled in Spring 2025; however, there are concerns about the Federal Government reinstating the tax or implementing an alternative version of the tax. • This resolution states that should a future consumer carbon tax be implemented, municipalities should either be exempt or provided rebates (similar to GST exemptions), given that otherwise it is simply a transfer of local property tax dollars to a higher level of government.	<i>Support</i>
C7: Increased Eligibility and	That the Province increase funding and eligibility for the Alberta	• Alberta has a unique system in which not-for-profit, public and private/for-profit	<i>Support</i>

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Funding for the Alberta Affordability Grant for Licensed Child Care Programs <i>Town of Hinton</i>	Affordability Grant for licensed child care, to ensure better access to high-quality, affordable child care in Alberta.	childcare operators play an important role in the delivery of childcare; eligibility for the Alberta Affordability Grant has recently changed to limit which new for-profit spaces will receive the remaining funding allocation. • The Government of Canada provides funding to the Province, which is delivered through the Grant in order to reduce parents' fees to a standardized monthly flat rate – in June 2025, this rate is \$326.25 per child (full-time); prior to this initiative, such costs were upwards of \$1,000 per month. • Federal funding includes a maximum number of for-profit child care spaces eligible for funding; consequently, given Alberta's funding allocation is approaching this maximum, the Province decided to limit which new for-profit spaces receive the remaining funding – this has particularly impacted new entrepreneurs and start-ups that were relying on the promise of this funding as part of their business model. • Restoring this funding (or providing alternative funding) will work to ensure that high-quality childcare remains an option across Alberta.	
C8: Reducing Barriers to Post-Secondary	That the Province provide dedicated funding for the development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of a comprehensive	• Post-secondary education is critical to Alberta's viability and prosperity, and the Province has identified education and workforce development as key priorities for	<i>Support</i>

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Education for All Alberta Students <i>Village of Duchess</i>	Pathway to Post-Secondary Education Strategy that will identify barriers impacting equitable access for rural/remote students, offer targeted financial support, and promote collaboration between municipalities, school boards and community organizations to support the transition to post-secondary education.	sustaining economic growth and diversification. • The resolution states that Albertans who don't live within the major metropolitan areas face unique barriers to accessing entry into post-secondary education (financial, geographic, cultural/social, etc). • This resolution is a “partner-resolution” to a Rural Municipalities of Alberta resolution that was approved in Spring 2025, and represents work that AB Munis, RMA and the University of Calgary have been researching.	