



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: CITY OF ST. ALBERT JOINING THE RESOURCE COMMUNITIES OF CANADA COALITION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

On April 16, 2019 Councillor Hansen provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 3/2018 of her intention to make the proposed motion below:

In order for Council to debate the motion, it must be formally moved.

PROPOSED MOTION:

WHEREAS responsible resource development is essential for the future of Canadian municipalities;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to coordinate the Canadian municipal voice to:

1. advocate for a responsible resource industry;
2. ensure municipal perspectives are being heard on issues impacting resource development; and
3. share factual information regarding resource development interests.

AND WHEREAS the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and other municipal associations across Western Canada have created a Resource Communities of Canada Coalition to facilitate a coordinated approach to represent municipal resource development interests across the country.

AND WHEREAS AUMA and other municipal associations across Western Canada are asking municipalities to support the Resource Communities of Canada Coalition.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of St. Albert supports the Resource Communities of Canada Coalition.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #2: Economic Development: Enhance business/commercial growth.

BACKGROUND:

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) President Barry Morishita has asked all AUMA member municipalities to pass the motion provided, to show unified support regarding responsible resource development.

Municipalities have a vested interest in the long-term sustainability of their communities. Responsible resource development and the related employment opportunities are essential to the future of all municipalities. This is true for the City of St. Albert, its regional neighbours and communities across Western Canada. There is also an increasing opportunity to coordinate the Canadian municipal voice to ensure municipal perspectives are being heard on issues impacting resource development.

The AUMA and the Rural Municipalities Association (RMA) are working together, leveraging partnerships with sister municipal associations/municipalities across the country and calling on their membership to support the formalization of the Resource Communities of Canada Coalition (RCCC). Together they will engage a strategic and long-term approach to ensure a unified municipal voice is heard on responsible resource development.

The RCCC's first three major activities are:

1. Education campaign at 2019 FCM Conference in Quebec

The associations are encouraged by a resolution that the FCM Board recently approved to call on the Government of Canada to support the further development of nation-building energy infrastructure projects. AUMA is leading this initiative in cooperation with RMA and other municipal associations in Western Canada. They are finalizing their education campaign and will be sending more information soon.

2. Bill C-69 Advocacy

The associations recently met with Amarjeet Sohi, MP for Edmonton-Millwoods and Minister of Natural Resources and Matt Jeneroux, MP Edmonton Riverbend, Shadow Minister of Infrastructure, Communities and Urban Affairs, to discuss this bill. After completing a legal analysis of the bill, the AUMA and RMA will share more information with its members. They are also investigating a coordinated approach for testifying at the Senate Committee hearings by sharing messaging and key information with sister associations.

3. Formally establish the Resource Communities of Canada Coalition (RCCC)

Although activities are already underway, AUMA and RMA do want to formalize the RCCC group with detailed terms of reference. They will focus on this after the educational campaign at the 2019 FCM Conference. They are also partnering with their sister municipal associations and municipalities across the country to advocate for FCM to establish a Resource Communities Caucus, similar to the Big Cities

Caucus and the Rural Caucus of FCM, which will allow specific focus on this topic and related issues.

Should Council approve the Motion, Administration will forward a copy to the AUMA to add the City of St. Albert to the list of supporting municipalities, and to include the City in future communications and advocacy opportunities relating to the RCCC.

Report Date: May 21, 2019

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