

# BRIEFING

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Deputy City Manager's Office Briefing to  
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee  
2020 September 03

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## **Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Update – September 2020**

### **PURPOSE OF BRIEFING**

The City of Calgary (The City) is an active member within the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and this briefing memo is a monthly update to the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee (IGA) on their activities and The City's work within the AUMA on provincial issues.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **The AUMA 2020 Fall Convention & Annual General Meeting (AGM) – September 23 to 25**

The AUMA has decided to host a virtual convention this year from Calgary given the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic. However, if provincial restrictions for in-person events ease, they will allow each urban municipal member to send one individual to attend in-person. If necessary, they will follow up with members to modify a virtual registration to an in-person registration. So far however, provincial restrictions have not been changed and the AUMA continues to plan for a virtual convention at the time of drafting this Briefing. Theme for this year's convention is *"Together We Can"*.

Registration for convention has opened and grants attendees access to:

- Dialogue sessions with provincial Ministers;
- Two keynote speakers;
- Voting on Resolutions (Elected Officials Only);
- Voting on Board elections (Elected Officials Only);
- Virtual networking events; and
- A week of education sessions leading up to the live event of September 24th & 25th (one day shorter than the traditional regular program).

#### **Program Outline:**

##### **Wednesday, September 23:**

Evening Welcome: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

##### **Thursday, September 24:**

Morning program: 9:00 am to 12:00

Afternoon program: 1:00pm to 4:30 pm

Evening event: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

##### **Friday, September 24:**

Morning only: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Registration will provide member urban elected officials the opportunity to vote on resolutions and Board elections which take place over Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Elected officials must be registered as attendees to participate in voting. Members of administrators and non-members are not permitted to vote.

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Administration continues to work with AUMA staff in supporting their 2020 Convention which will be virtually streamed from the Calgary Convention Centre. Administration has begun work on preparing a briefing binder for attending Calgary City Council members. Note: Calgary is host City for the 2020, 2022 and 2025 AUMA conventions.

## **Showcase your municipality's people and businesses at the 2020 AUMA Convention**

There are two opportunities for AUMA's members to showcase their municipality's people and businesses on Thursday, September 24 during the AUMA Convention.

1. **Tribute to our province's front-line workers** - With the high level of stress and uncertainty that COVID-19 has added to our lives, AUMA is creating a video to recognize and applaud the efforts of dedicated people serving in our communities. The AUMA requests members send high-resolution pictures taken within municipality featuring front-line workers in action, such as:
  - health and social care: doctors, nurses, midwives, social workers
  - emergency response: firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, law enforcement officers
  - education and childcare: teachers, educational assistants, childcare workers
  - food, utilities, communications, and financial services: grocery, banking, oil, gas, electricity, waste disposal, sanitation, postal, and delivery workersPlease send an email to the address below to receive an AUMA photo release form and collection site address to upload photos.
2. **Alberta local virtual networking event** - Between 6 and 7 p.m. on September 24, AUMA is holding an event specially designed to showcase passionate promoters of local, made-in-Alberta food and beverage. An AUMA convention delegate, and the supplier if desired, will have five minutes to show and tell Convention delegates from your region about a local product in your municipality. The AUMA is hoping the supplier will donate the product, or a product gift certificate, to be added to a prize basket from each region. Prizes will be drawn at the end of the event. Showcase slots are limited and will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis.

The submission deadline for both opportunities is Monday, September 7 at 5 p.m.

AUMA would deeply appreciate participation. Please contact Marisa Ryan, Project Coordinator, at [events@auma.ca](mailto:events@auma.ca) or 780-409-7496 if you have any questions.

## **Municipal Funding in Response to COVID-19**

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the AUMA in cooperation with The City and The City of Edmonton have been advocating to the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to provide funding to help municipalities address current fiscal shortfalls and to stimulate local economies through investments in municipal infrastructure.

The two governments came to agreement on the "Safe Restart" suite of programs (which includes \$606 million in financial supports for Alberta municipalities) at the end of July and the Government of Alberta announced the capital program details of their Municipal Stimulus Program (MSP) on July 28, 2020.

AUMA and The City's advocacy efforts were successful with these announcements in July.

The MSP provides municipalities \$500 million to build shovel-worthy infrastructure projects in 2020 and 2021. This capital funding is part of their Alberta Recovery Plan. Calgary is allocated \$152,831,311 in Capital funding for qualifying, municipal projects. Deadline for applications is

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October 30, 2020. Intergovernmental and Corporate Strategy and Infrastructure Calgary have already met virtually in mid-August with Government of Alberta staff to get clarity on several MSP rules and guidelines in preparation for a City of Calgary submission. Infrastructure Calgary's recommended MSP project submission will be presented at the Priorities and Finance Committee (PFC) on September 8, 2020 and at Council on September 14, 2020. Targeted date for submission to the Government of Alberta is October 1, 2020.

The Safe Restart agreement contains provisions to help financially support municipal operations & municipal transit systems detrimentally impacted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Government of Alberta will match \$233 million in Government of Canada funding to support municipal operating costs during the pandemic and \$70 million to support public transit operating costs – for a total of \$606 million under the Safe Restart Agreement. The funding details (Calgary's share of funding and funding terms) have yet to be announced and The City and AUMA are awaiting finalization of agreement between the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada.

## **Assessment Model Review**

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Associate Ministry of Natural Gas and Electricity launched an assessment model review for oil wells and pipelines. The changes proposed during the process, which was embargoed until recently, would substantively alter the way in which oil and gas properties are assessed and would have significant impacts on municipal revenues and viability.

The AUMA hosted a webinar and discussion via Zoom on August 14, 2020 on the proposed assessment model changes. To access a recording of the online session and a copy of the PowerPoint presentation used go to the AUMA website – News – August 19, 2020 – Concerned members participate in online session on assessment model review.

The AUMA is preparing on a summary document which will help members understand the impacts of the proposed changes to the assessment model and will be providing a sample letter for members use when contacting the media and providing feedback to MLAs and Ministers in support of AUMA's advocacy on this issue.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

Next AUMA Executive Committee meeting is September 3, 2020

Next AUMA Board meeting is September 17, 2020.

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

**None**