

# BRIEFING

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Deputy City Manager's Office Briefing to  
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee  
2021 February 18

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## **Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Update - February 2021**

### **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 (IGA) Committee on their activities and The City's work within the AUMA on provincial matters.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **AUMA Board Meeting Summary**

The AUMA Board met on 2021 January 28. The agenda was dominated by internal AUMA business; however, there was two decisions of note for The City of Calgary and IGA.

#### **Appointment of Mayor Peter Brown to the AUMA Board**

AUMA Board appointed City of Airdrie Mayor Peter Brown to the AUMA Board representing mid-sized communities. His appointment replaces former Grande Prairie Mayor Bill Given, who resigned his mayoralty on 2021 January 1 to become the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Town of Jasper.

#### **Future of Municipal Governance Research Project Update**

The AUMA Board established an 'Engagement Committee' to support the work of their Future of Municipal Governance Research Project that the AUMA is conducting in partnership with the University of Calgary School of Public Policy, approved the Engagement Committee's Terms of Reference (enclosed as Attachment 1 for information).

Three members are on the committee and the AUMA Board appointed:

- One member of the AUMA Municipal Governance Committee – Neil Smith, CAO, Nanton
- One member of the AUMA Small Communities Committee – Christine Beveridge, CAO, Lamont
- One member at large from the AUMA Regular Membership – Bill Given, Town of Jasper

The AUMA Municipal Governance Committee meets on 2021 February 12 and will receive an update on the Future of Municipal Governance Research Project's workplan. There will be a further update provided at the March 2021 IGA Committee meeting on the progress of this project.

#### **Summary of the AUMA President's Summit on Policing (First Session) – 2021 February 4**

The AUMA hosted, virtually, the first of two 'President's Summit on Policing' on 2021 February 4. Attendees received an overview on the current state of policing within Alberta, received an update from the Government of Alberta on the status of the Police Act review, discussed the new police funding model and the role of the RCMP in provincial policing. The next session is on 2021 February 17 and will focus on the topic of a provincial police service.

The highlight of the session was the 45-minute presentation and discussion on the Police Act presented by Jessica Thomson from Justice and Solicitor General who gave an overview of work done to date:

## **Role of the Police Survey**

- Ministry analysis of the engagement data are still underway and there were no results to share at this time.

## **Public Trust Discussion**

- Engagement primarily attended by diverse number of community groups. Major themes of this discussion included:
  - Restorative Justice – Respondents stated they wished more opportunities for matters to be diverted from the Court system.
  - Body-worn Cameras – Majority of respondents strongly supported police having both body worn camera and vehicular cameras, with clear policies on their use.
  - Lived Experience – Respondents stated officers need to understand the unique needs of the marginalized community members they serve.
  - Ongoing Dialogue – Feedback heard was for the need for ongoing conversations to enable collaboration between government and community groups to co-determine solutions to systematic issues.
    - Note: Items regarding public trust that cannot be legislated may be looked at by the Ministry in terms of guiding principles, appropriate recruitment strategies, training (consistency in training, education, etc., to address unevenness).
    - Note: Heard during the discussion was a concern expressed over a lack of targeted engagement with diverse groups. Justice and Solicitor General has committed to extending conversations with these groups in targeted engagement.

## **Complaints**

- Key themes: Police Complaints – Note: The City was not invited to participate in this discussion last fall, but these are the key themes from Justice and Solicitor General's stakeholder engagement:
  - Review Panel: Strong support for an independent review panel to review complaints against police.
  - Time to File: 12 months was seen as insufficient amount of time given the current inability to allow extensions for compelling reasons.
  - Complaint Jurisdiction: Feedback from discussions identified the need to determine solutions to addressing the problem of loss of jurisdiction when an officer retires or resigns from police service during the complaint process.
  - Third Parties: Current legislation does not allow for third parties to lodge a police complaint. Engagement feedback identified this issue needs to be addressed.

## **Indigenous Policing**

- Key themes: Indigenous Policing – Note: The City was not invited to participate in this discussion last fall, but these are the key themes from Justice and Solicitor General engagement:
  - Concern with Communication: A potential path forward may be with the creation of an indigenous advisory body.
  - Concern with Cultural Awareness of police officers: Potential path forward is legislation or policing standards requiring ongoing locally based cultural education.

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- Concern with Equity of Indigenous Policing Resources: Potential path forward requires dialogue and cooperation with the Government of Canada.

## **Governance**

- Police Commissions, Police Committees and Police Community Advisory Groups.
  - Regarding Police Commissions
    - Engagement found general agreement that they are operating effectively, but additional support would be welcome in the areas of: training; policy; recruiting; clarity between operations and oversight.
    - Government of Alberta could utilize Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG) or Interim Police Funding Advisory Board for both police commissions and police committees training, policy support and developing clarity between operation and oversight.

## **Mental Health**

- It was noted that during engagement a lot was heard about mental health calls, what is the police's role in responding to mental health issues and that this is an issue that the police need to do better. The topic was addressed further within the recently completed Role of the Police survey which closed 2021 January 4, results are currently under review by the Government of Alberta.

## **Next Steps in the Police Act Review**

- Ongoing engagement with diverse communities
- Test high level concepts with Cabinet, June 2021
- Policy development, post June 2021
- Cabinet, December 2021
- Police Act Amendments (and other change to programs), December 2021

## **ATTACHMENT**

1. Attachment 1 – Terms of Reference for the AUMA Future of Municipal Government Engagement Committee