

# BRIEFING

Page 1 of 2

Item #5.2.1

Deputy City Manager's Office Briefing to  
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee  
2021 March 25

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
IGA2021-0402

## **Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Meeting (AUMA) Update – March 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 Committee (IGA) on their activities and The City's work within the AUMA on provincial issues.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **AUMA Pre-Budget Advocacy**

In anticipation of the 2021 provincial budget, AUMA President Barry Morishita submitted a letter on 2020 November 24 to the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance outlining the organization's provincial budget priorities on behalf of Alberta municipalities. Those priorities were:

1. Stable and predictable long-term funding
2. Partners in Economic Growth
3. Avoid transferring cost and responsibilities to municipalities

The AUMA encouraged its members to amplify this message and support collective advocacy efforts by sharing AUMA's priorities with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). AUMA President Morishita and AUMA CEO Dan Rude also met with both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Municipal Affairs at the end of January 2021 and relayed the priorities in person to the Government of Alberta.

#### **AUMA's Key Messages on the 2021 Provincial Budget**

The AUMA acknowledges that 2020 and 2021 have been a period of economic uncertainty, and that Alberta's government faces difficult choices due to the COVID-19 pandemic, oil price shock and the global economic recession. While the provincial government attempts to re-establish a sustainable fiscal trajectory, the broken promises and choices made in Budget 2021 and the corresponding three-year fiscal plan will have a long-term impact on Albertans, who live and work in our communities. The AUMA points out that:

- The government's commitment to funding municipal infrastructure has diminished. While Budget 2021 increases Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funding this year, the long-awaited Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) is being deferred until 2024, and municipalities will see a 25 per cent cut in MSI funding collectively over the next three years.
- Although we are relieved the provincial government didn't follow through with its planned increase to education property taxes, which the province mandates municipalities collect on its behalf, the Alberta government still takes \$0.30 of every dollar that residents and businesses pay in municipal property taxes.
- Immediate response is required to provide urban municipalities with funding to address homelessness and support struggling businesses. We are dismayed to see the budget

# BRIEFING

Page 2 of 2

Item #5.2.1

does not also include a plan and funding for addictions to address the opioid crisis, which is resulting in the deaths of more Albertans every day.

- AUMA will continue to advocate for collaborative partnerships with municipalities to ensure that responsible investment occurs in our communities, where we can maximize the return on our investments, create jobs and stimulate our economy.

## **Upcoming AUMA Meetings**

- Next AUMA Executive Committee meetings are scheduled for 2021 March 18 and 2021 April 8.
- Next AUMA Board meeting is scheduled for 2021 April 22.
- Planning underway for the 2021 Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus. No date set yet but anticipated to be held mid-April 2021.