

City of Calgary Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Resolution for 2021 Fall AGM – Improved Provincial-Municipal Emergency Collaboration and Communications

Active Clauses: NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Province of Alberta to:

- Work collaboratively with municipalities and their emergency management organizations on conducting a comprehensive lessons learned review of the COVID-19 pandemic response and incorporate those lessons in an improved Provincial emergency response and communications plan;
- Commitment that going forward, Alberta's municipalities and their emergency management organizations will be treated as trusted and valued partners in Provincial emergency response; and
- Establish an advisory group of municipal emergency management organizations and other key stakeholders to better advise and support the Government of Alberta's decision making and emergency order drafting and to improve emergency communications, coordination and collaboration.

Whereas Clauses:

WHEREAS Alberta and its municipalities have been recognized nationally and internationally in the past for their collaborative, inter-governmental and inter-agency approach to emergency response;

WHEREAS Alberta's traditional emergency management processes where the Government of Alberta (through the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)) provide support in a collaborative and timely manner to Alberta's municipalities who play an essential leadership role within their jurisdiction in responding to the emergency event occurring within their community;

WHEREAS throughout the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a lack of proactive communication and meaningful engagement and collaboration from the Government of Alberta towards Alberta's municipalities and this has resulted in negative outcomes for municipalities and their citizens;

WHEREAS during the COVID-19 pandemic there has been very little opportunity for Alberta's municipalities to provide advanced input on public health measures or decisions, even though these have significant consequences at the local level and local advice in many cases could have improved the effectiveness of provincial measures;

WHEREAS at no point during the COVID-19 pandemic did Alberta's municipalities receive formal advance notice of the details and timing of public health measures before they were announced and had to find out details of measures through press conferences at the same time as the public;

WHEREAS the official Public Health Orders and Ministerial Orders were typically not published until often several days after the restrictions were implemented; and

WHEREAS this lack of collaboration has been the source of major challenges for implementation of public health measures for municipal services, communications and public engagement, and enforcement of public health measures by local enforcement agencies: The result has been confusion, reputational impacts, financial loss, and impacts to service delivery.