

# BRIEFING

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Item # 11.1

Deputy City Manager's Office Briefing to  
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee  
2022 June 15

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## Alberta Municipalities Update – June 2022

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### PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

To update the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee on The City's provincial advocacy and related work with Alberta Municipalities (formerly Alberta Urban Municipalities Association).

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### Future of Municipal Government Project

The project's first paper, [Organizing Canadian Local Government](#) by [Zachary \(Zac\) Spicer](#), is now available.

*Paper Overview:* Because Canada's communities do not come in one size or shape, different local governance arrangements have emerged throughout our history to organize the delivery of vital services and provide community representation, such as single-tier, two-tier models and service co-operation models. These types of arrangements have implications for how a municipality is governed and financed. Underlying these concerns are factors such as local identity, culture and values. The goal of this brief report is to provide Alberta decision-makers with a comparative perspective on municipal governance arrangements from across Canada. Three main governance arrangements will be examined:

- Single-tier government
- Two-tier government
- Inter-local co-operation and co-ordination or self-organizing models

Different process models to achieve consolidation, such as amalgamation and annexation, will also be examined. This paper includes examples from across Canada. Each model will be evaluated using a standard set of economic and political criteria. The paper begins with a brief background on the underlying logic of the various institutional models and governance arrangements, prior to examining the history with each in the section that follows. The final section provides an evaluation of various models presented throughout the paper.

*Future Papers:* Papers on the following topics are under development by the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy (SPP), and are expected to be released in the coming months:

- Population Growth and Population Aging in Alberta's Municipalities
- Financing Municipal Infrastructure
- Local Citizen Engagement and Municipal Governance
- Climate Change and Environment Considerations for Municipal Governance and Regionalization
- Annexation, Amalgamation, Regionalization? Potential Solutions for Alberta
- New approaches to revenue and cost-sharing
- A new relationship between the province and municipalities

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While Alberta Municipalities has input on the scope of this research, the SPP has complete academic freedom over its research methodology and its findings. The purpose of this project is to seek independent, fact-based information to serve as the foundation for solutions-oriented discussions on the practices, policies, legislation, and financial arrangements that shape municipal government. Go to [www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/governance/future-municipal-government](http://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/governance/future-municipal-government) for further information and updates.

## Coming Events

### Alberta Municipalities' Summer Municipal Leaders' Caucus (SMLC)

Alberta Municipalities' summer Municipal Leaders' Caucuses are being held across the province between 2022 June 15 and June 22. The summer Caucuses focus on smaller, more engaging conversations between Alberta Municipalities' leadership and local Alberta communities and regions. Full agendas are available at [www.abmunis.ca/events/summer-municipal-leaders-caucus](http://www.abmunis.ca/events/summer-municipal-leaders-caucus). Each session will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Time and Locations:

- June 15 - High Prairie (Days Inn, 4125 52 Ave, High Prairie)
- June 16 - Strathcona County ((Agora Room at County Hall, 401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park) event can also be attended virtually)
- June 21 - Medicine Hat (Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre, 401 1 St, Medicine Hat)
- June 22 – Didsbury (Multi-Purpose Room, Memorial Complex, 1702 21 Ave, Didsbury)

Go to <https://web.cvent.com/event/09a6a016-8431-4b92-ba93-f05d7bf75220/summary> to register. Price to attend in-person is \$100 plus GST and price to attend virtually is \$50 plus GST.

### Alberta Municipalities Awards

Nominations are open until 2022 June 30, for Alberta Municipalities' Awards and Council members and members of City Administration are encouraged to think about what individuals, teams, projects, or programs may deserve recognition. Monitor [Alberta Municipalities Awards | Alberta Municipalities \(abmunis.ca\)](#) for details. Category of awards are:

- [Award of Excellence](#) - Recognizes past and present elected municipal officials with outstanding civic leadership who has held office for at least three years in Alberta.
- [Distinguished Service Award](#) - Recognizes an elected official who has served 20 or more years in one or more Alberta municipalities.
- [Dedicated Chief Administrative Officer Award](#) - Co-sponsored by the Society of Local Government Managers—this award recognizes long-term excellence and dedication to municipal government and chief administrative management.
- [Dedicated Senior Municipal Team Award](#) - Co-sponsored by the Society of Local Government Managers —this award acknowledges an outstanding municipal team that demonstrated excellence and dedication to a municipal government.
- [Municipal Environmental Award](#) - This award recognizes Alberta Municipalities member municipalities that have demonstrated excellence in environmental practices in their municipal operations, administration, and governance. There are four awards presented based on size of municipality.