

Calgary

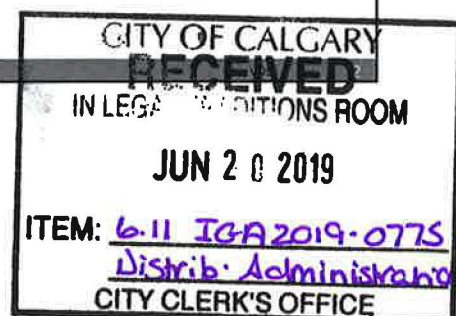
## Background: The City Charter and Delegation of Authority

The City Charter is a provincial regulation that provides The City of Calgary with additional authority in recognition of its distinctive needs and capacity

One piece was intended to expand Council's ability to delegate portions of its authority

- Council could only do so by bylaw and following a public hearing
- This proposal was the subject of public and stakeholder engagement sessions in late 2016, and was posted for further public and stakeholder comment in late 2017 and early 2018.

May 20, 2019



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## The Issue: Unintended Consequences

The actual text of the Charter has the opposite effect, and restricted Council's ability to delegate

The Municipal Government Act gives Council the ability to delegate its authority to a "Council committee, the Chief Administrative Officer, or a designated officer."

Section 4(5)(a) of The City of Calgary Charter Regulation was meant to expand this by giving Council the ability to delegate authority to any "individual."

However, the word "individual" can be read to actually exclude the ability to delegate to a Council Committee, as was previously permissible

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## Previous Council Direction

At the 2018 December 04 meeting of the Priorities and Finance Committee, Administration was directed to investigate a process to delegate the authority to Committee to approve land transactions, up to a certain threshold value.

At the 2019 January 14 Combined Meeting of Council Administration reported that, given the unintended consequences of the City Charter, Council could not delegate this authority without assuming considerable legal risk

Council therefore directed Administration to advocate to the province to restore Council's authority to delegate to a committee and report back by 2018 Q2

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## Advocacy to date

Following the 2019 January 14 Combined Meeting of Council, Administration shared its concerns with colleagues in Municipal Affairs

With a provincial election slated to take place no later than May, 2019, these initial efforts were not likely to be immediately successful.

- Difficult time to get on Cabinet's agenda
- On the eve of the provincial government's own "red zone."

Since the election, we have had limited opportunity to raise the issue with the new government.



## Advocacy Going Forward

There is some reason to be hopeful about our advocacy on this issue going forward

Council may look to delegate its authority to let policy-focused Committees address specific issues, while allowing Council to focus its time on broader issues

This goal is aligned with the new government's own objectives

The Government of Alberta has committed, for instance to:

- Cut provincial regulation and paperwork for Alberta's cities and allow municipalities to pass on those savings to taxpayers
- Increase regulatory efficiency and streamline project approvals

We will take this message to the province as we advocate for this and other changes to help The City of Calgary find efficiencies it can pass on to taxpayers

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## Recommendations for approval

IGA Committee recommends that:

1. *Council direct Administration to continue to advocate for changes to the City Charter to enable the delegation of Council authority to committees of Council; and*
2. *This presentation be attached to the verbal report and forwarded to the consent agenda of the July 22 Combined Meeting of Council.*