

People, Innovation and Collaboration Services Briefing to  
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee  
2023 July 24

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## Alberta Municipalities – July 2023 Update

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### PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

To update the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee on The City of Calgary's provincial advocacy and related work with Alberta Municipalities (AB Munis).

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Two items are flagged in this report:

#### 1. AB Munis 2023 Provincial Election and Post-Election Advocacy

AB Munis reports that its non-partisan **Think Alberta, Act Local** 2023 Alberta Provincial election campaign succeeded in drawing attention to members' three priority issues: Community Safety, Community Building and Community Healthcare. AB Munis used a combination of paid digital advertising and news media coverage to achieve 8.7 million impressions over the election campaign.

Building on this success, advocacy work will shift to the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF). Specifically, AB Munis would like to confirm that upcoming legislation sets out the starting amount, allocation formula and promised changes to the growth rate.

As well, through its ["It's Time to Talk"](#) initiative, AB Munis aims to engage the Government of Alberta to cooperate on:

- **Infrastructure** – Alberta has a \$30 billion municipal infrastructure deficit that will worsen without immediate investment. AB Munis argued that while municipal governments are responsible for approximately 60 per cent of Alberta's infrastructure, only one per cent of provincial spending currently goes to municipal infrastructure – previously, it was close to three per cent.
- **Justice system** – A poll conducted by Janet Brown Opinion Research in January 2023 found that Albertans would rather see investments in the justice system rather than creating a provincial police service. Communities are seeing staffing shortages and funding cuts that are leading to delays in hearings, greater centralization of hearings in Edmonton and Calgary, and a lack in mental health and addictions supports that compromise safe release of offenders back into communities.
- **Policing** – This same poll showed that 61 per cent of Albertans feel that crime is increasing where they live and that 67 per cent feel replacing the RCMP with a provincial police service will not reduce crime. AB Munis members are concerned that moving to a provincial police force will result in the forfeiture of approximately \$180 million in annual federal funding to the province, which will create a shortfall in key services.
- **Social supports** – AB Munis argue that mental health challenges and addictions often lead to homelessness, and combined, these factors can be major contributors to criminal activity. The pandemic has exacerbated the mental health challenges of large portions of our population. As well, the lack of funding for affordable housing programs by the provincial government has complicated these issues.

The City of Calgary's advocacy on infrastructure and social supports is fully aligned with that outlined by AB Munis.

## 2. Draft Recommendations Released on Future of Intermunicipal Collaboration

AB Munis has undertaken the Future of Municipal Government (FOMG) project to explore options for addressing critical issues, such as municipal structure, climate adaptation and leadership. One early outcome of the FOMG project is affirming that collaboration is essential to promoting strong governance and building thriving communities.

The report [\*Draft Recommendations on Future of Intermunicipal Collaboration\*](#) was released 2023 June 7, and reflects experiences working with Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs). The draft recommendations focus on opportunities for:

- The provincial government to enhance legislation, policy and funding supports for collaboration.
- Municipal associations to model collaboration and provide guidance and capacity-building support.
- Municipalities to learn from successes and challenges to enhance their collaborations.

AB Munis welcomes written feedback on the draft recommendations over the summer.

Submissions can be relayed via e-mail at [advocacy@abmunis.ca](mailto:advocacy@abmunis.ca).

Intergovernmental Relations will not be coordinating a City of Calgary submission. The City is not required to have Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks as a member of a regional board.

An updated version of the recommendations will be released in September 2023.