

Alberta Municipalities Update – May 2024 (Verbal)

Recommendation

That the Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Committee recommend that Council receive this verbal report and distribution for the Corporate Record.

Alberta Municipalities Resolutions

On 2024 April 30, Council voted to support two motions for advocacy at the Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) Convention to take place September 24-27 in Red Deer:

- Council voted unanimously to support a motion to advocate for doubling the fines for speeding in school and playground zones. The motion was seconded by the Village of Duchess.
- Council also passed a motion to advocate for the inclusion of permanent residents in municipal voting, the motion was seconded by the Town of Penhold. Municipal Affairs Minister Ric McIver subsequently released a public statement on 2024 May 1 opposing the motion and indicated that only Canadian citizens will be eligible to vote in municipal elections.

Both motions will be forwarded to ABmunis for inclusion at the September Convention.

The deadline to submit resolutions for this year is 2024 May 31.

Bill 20

In response to the provincial government introducing Bill 20, *The Municipal Affairs Statutes Act*, 2024 Alberta Municipalities posted an official statement on 2024 April 25 pressing concerns over the bill's potential to "fundamentally redraw the blueprint for local democracy." ABmunis President Tyler Gandam highlighted further concerns including the extensive power the bill would grant the Government of Alberta over municipal governments. Some of the key concerns raised include:

- The ability to dismiss councillors and repeal bylaws without rationale being publicly disclosed.
- The introduction of political parties to municipal elections.
- The increased cost and responsibility for municipalities stemming from the requirement for virtual public hearings, prohibiting vote tabulators and maintaining voter lists.
- Lack of consultation with municipalities.

On 2024 May 2 Minister McIver publicly announced that there would be potential amendments to Bill 20, and President Gandam and ABmunis urged the province to consult municipal leaders on meaningful changes to the bill.

On 2024 May 8 ABmunis issued a news release calling on the provincial government to scrap Bill 20.

Bill 18

On 2024 April 10, the provincial government tabled Bill 18, *The Provincial Priorities Act*, which restricts municipal-federal agreements. ABmunis issued a statement on 2024 April 11 in which President Gandam expressed surprise and disappointment on the province's direction and highlighted concerns, including the lack of consultation by the Government of Alberta, and

municipalities being caught between provincial and federal governments. ABmunis advocated to be included in engagement over the summer as regulations are developed to ensure that the needs of Alberta's diverse communities are respected.

Drought

Alberta Municipalities has created a Drought Preparations web page to share updates and resources. The intent is to support municipalities in addressing drought-related challenges in 2024 and going forward.

Upcoming Events

Summer Municipal Leaders' Caucus – ABmunis will host caucus events in several locations across the province, allowing members to meet with fellow leaders and discuss common issues. The core program, including topics such as water management and municipal governance, will be repeated at each location:

- June 12 – Town of Fahler
- June 13 – Town of Bonnyville
- June 14 – City of St. Albert
- June 26 – Village of Sterling
- June 27 – Town of Innisfail

2024 ABMunis Award Nominations – Submissions are open now until 2024 June 14 on the ABmunis website to recognize individuals and teams who have made extraordinary contributions to their communities. Eligible nominees must be from a current or past regular member municipality.

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General Manager Chris Arthurs concurs with the information in this verbal update.

