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Alberta Municipalities Update – October 2024 (Verbal)

Recommendation

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

Alberta Municipalities Convention

The Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) convention took place in Red Deer at the Westerner Park from 2024 September 24-27. The event saw over 1,000 delegates from municipalities across the province come together to discuss matters of mutual interest, learn about municipally focused topics from subject matter experts, and hear from Alberta's Premier, her Cabinet, and the Leader of the Opposition.

There were 27 resolutions at this year's convention. Due to time constraints, only 21 of the resolutions were debated – the remaining six will be forwarded to the next ABmunis Board meeting to decide on next steps.

Nineteen of 21 resolutions were passed including advocacy for the provincial government to:

- Reverse its decision on prohibiting electronic vote tabulators;
- Increase Family and Community Support Services funding to keep pace with growth and inflation, which would equate to \$161.5 million in 2025;
- Reinstate the full funding for all properties that are eligible for provincial Grants in Place of Taxes; and
- Address several other issues ranging from establishing a provincial integrity commissioner to reforming provincial education property tax.

Two resolutions were defeated including:

- Advocating for a provincial 'report card' for municipal recreation facilities; and
- The City of Calgary's resolution to advocate for the ability of permanent residents to vote in municipal elections.

The City of Calgary's other resolution to advocate for the doubling of speeding fines in playground and school zones was not debated and will be forwarded to the next ABmunis Board meeting later this month.

During her address, Premier Smith announced that the province will be lowering the borrowing cost for municipalities by 0.5 per cent providing municipalities the same interest rate as the province on money borrowed for infrastructure and other capital projects.

The next ABmunis convention is scheduled for 2025 November 12-14 in Calgary at the Telus Convention Centre.

AGM and Upcoming Dates:

ABmunis' AGM was held during the convention with five open positions on the Board of Directors being filled for two-year terms. There is a ABmunis Orientation meeting on October 23 and the next Board meeting will be held on October 24.

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