

People, Innovation and Collaboration Services Briefing to  
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee  
2024 December 18

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## Current Federal and Provincial Engagements

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### PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

This briefing provides the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee with an overview of current and recent engagement opportunities that Administration is participating in with the federal and provincial governments.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### *Provincial engagement*

The City of Calgary is actively taking part in, or has previously submitted comments to the following public engagements:

- [Budget 2025](#) – Public engagement recently opened to provide feedback on the provincial budget for 2025. Administration, worked with subject matter experts from across the organization to draft pre-budget submission letters to both the provincial and federal governments. Mayor Gondek forwarded letters to the federal and provincial finance ministers outlining municipal priorities in 2024 October.
- [Water Availability](#) – Administration has provided written feedback, attended webinars and continues to meet and collaborate with provincial counterparts in order to provide insight and local context. The Water Availability engagement will inform provincial efforts to address opportunities and barriers to enhancing Alberta’s water management system.
- [Passenger Rail](#) - City Administration has been actively involved and has contributed through several avenues including participation in the Oversight Committee, attendance at a Calgary Regional Group that meets on a quarterly basis, participation in a Passenger Rail Forum and multiple continued engagement opportunities to provide input to the provincial government's work towards a passenger master rail plan.
- [South Saskatchewan Regional Plan Review \(SSRP\)](#)– Administration attended in-person meetings and provided comprehensive written feedback to highlight local and regional priorities as part of the provincial government’s 10-year review of the SSRP.
- [Property Tax Exemption for non-Profits](#) – Administration has participated in multiple engagement sessions and submitted written feedback as part of the provincial review. On 2024 December 5 the provincial government indicated that they have finalized a list of affordable housing providers that will be exempt from municipal and education property tax effective 2025 January 1. The list will be published on Alberta.ca in the new year and municipalities will continue to have the ability to remove municipal tax exemptions through a bylaw.

The Alberta Emergency Management Agency continues to work with administration on the changing needs and frequency of emergency response in Alberta. In 2024 December, Administration provided written feedback related to proposed administrative changes on how Emergency Social Services are delivered and tasked by the province to ensure the needs of Calgary are reflected in the approach.

Administration is taking part in the Government of Alberta’s Construction Codes Working Group, established in 2024 November, and meeting monthly. The purpose of the group is to collaboratively propose and develop solutions to housing affordability challenges through code changes, interpretations and variances.

The Calgary Combative Sports Commission (CCSC) has been engaged by the provincial government regarding its [recent announcement](#) into a review of combative sports in the province. Administration has a representative on the CCSC who attended the in-person meeting with MLA Schow, Minister of Tourism and Sport, focused on improving the regulation of combative sports in Alberta.

Previously, Administration took part in engagement sessions offered by the provincial government during 2024 August focusing on the regulations and implementation of Bill 18 *The Provincial Priorities Act* and Bill 20 *The Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act*.

The Government of Alberta publishes public engagement opportunities on its website [Alberta.ca/public-engagement](https://alberta.ca/public-engagement). The City may also be engaged through administrative contacts when the Government of Alberta is seeking specific municipal input.

### *Federal engagement*

Administration has provided written feedback to several recent federal engagement opportunities including:

The [2020 National Model Codes](#) review, which focuses on proposed amendments to National Model Codes including the National Building Code, National Fire Code, National Energy Code, and National Plumbing Code.

Public federal consultations on the [Taxations of Vacant Lands](#) which sought input on potential taxation approaches to vacant, residentially-zoned land in an effort to incentivize development.

The [Competition Act's new 'greenwashing provisions'](#) which sought feedback on enforcement guidelines related to claims about the environmental benefits of products and services.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

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General Manager Chris Arthurs concurs with the information in this Briefing.