

City Charter Update: IGA 2018-0256

Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

March 16, 2018

Purpose of today

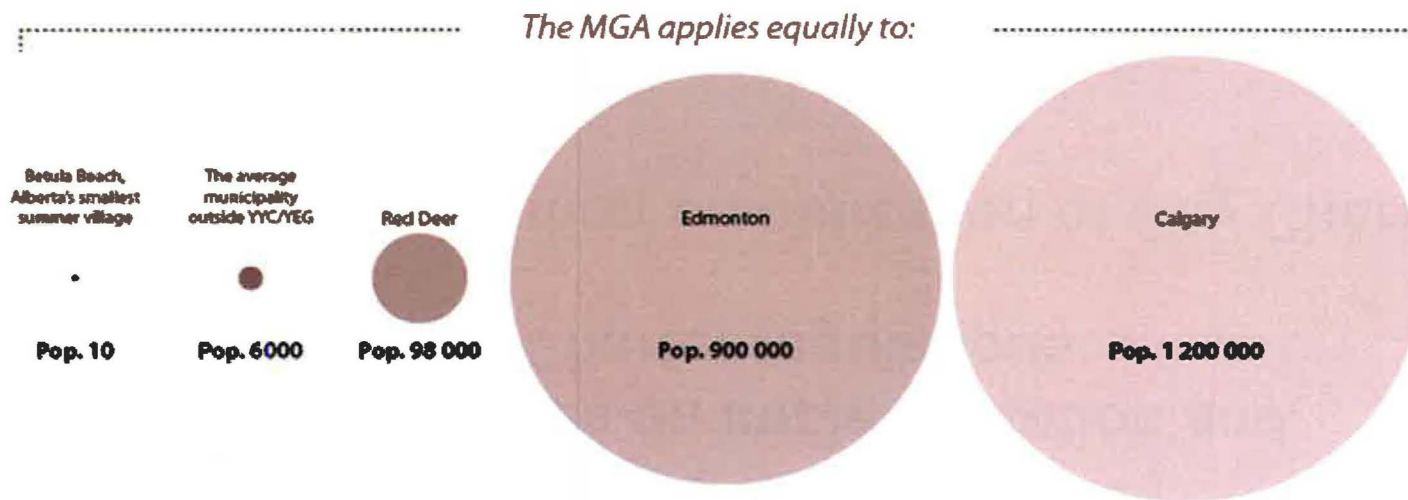
- 1. Review background on City Charters**
- 2. Update Committee on implementation and content of City Charter regulations**
- 3. Provide information on utilization of City Charter regulations**

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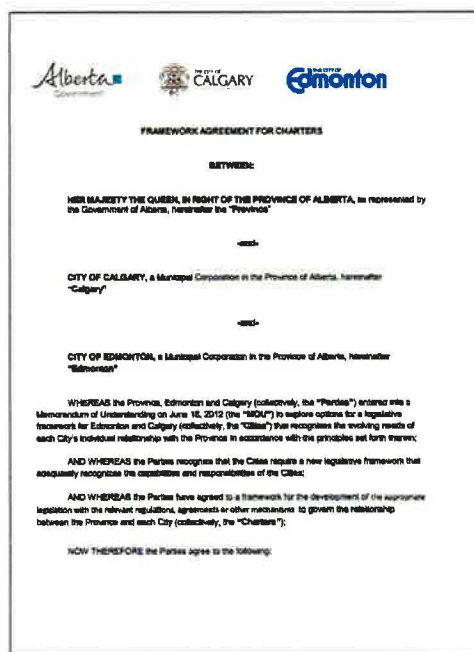
Why a charter?

1. MGA is a one-size fits all approach, applying equally to summer villages and big cities...



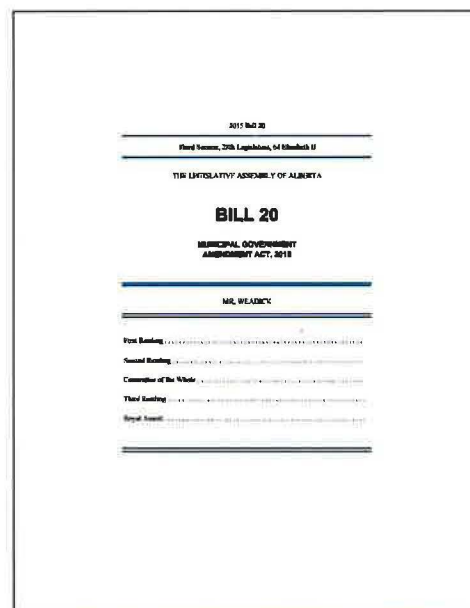
2. The Government of Alberta recognizes that strong cities mean a strong Alberta for all.
3. Improved accountability, bringing decision-making closer to the citizen

Laying the groundwork for a charter



“This agreement sets a course for forging a new relationship between the Cities and the Province through the development of a Charter for each city”

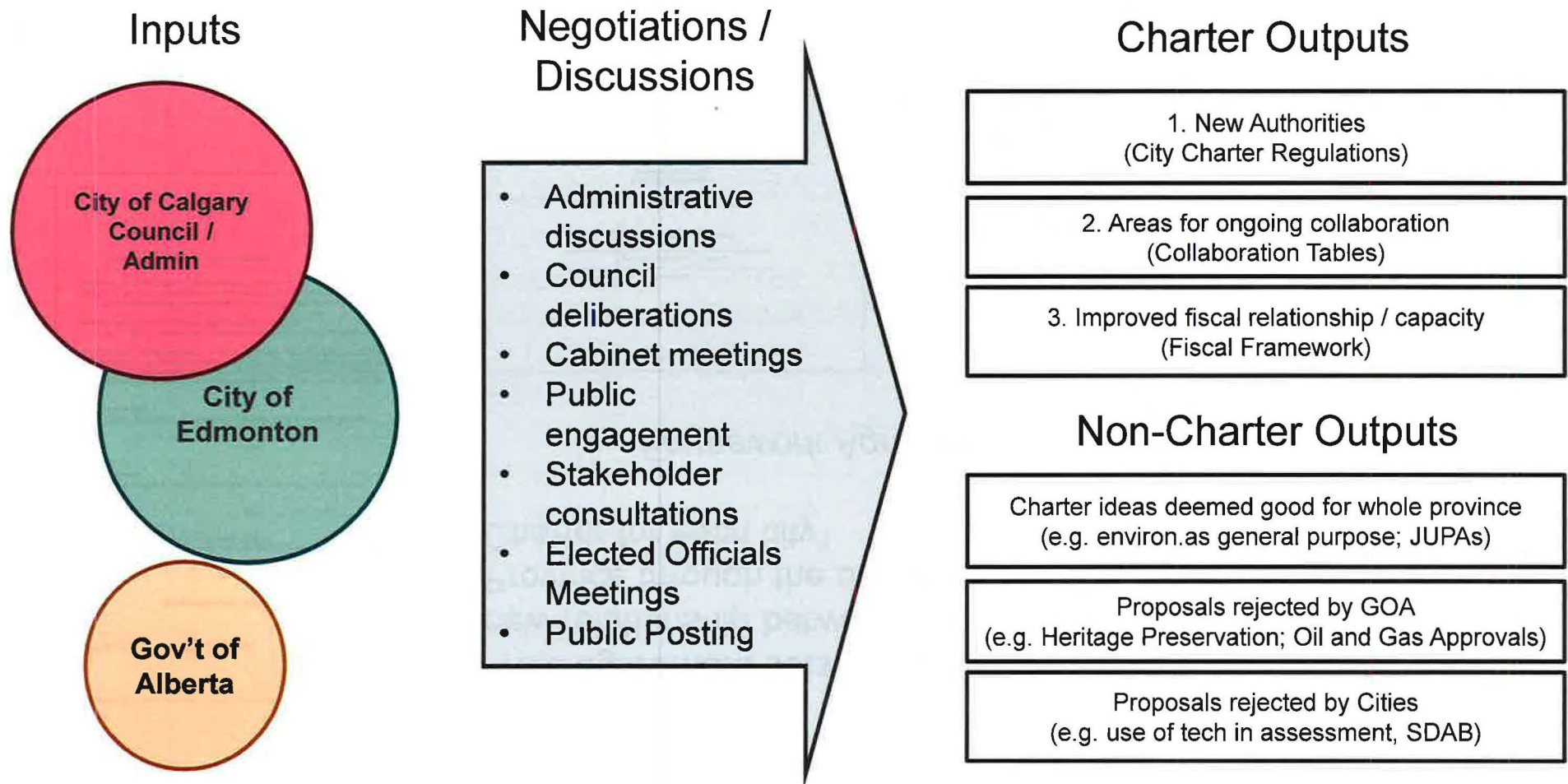
Framework Agreement for Charters October, 2014



“The purpose of this part is to authorize the establishment of charters to address the evolving needs, responsibilities and capabilities of cities in a manner that best meets the needs of their communities.”

Bill 20, MGA Amendment Act March 2015

What is the charter and how did we get there?



What exactly is the charter?

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Calgary's charter includes:

- New authorities**
- Improved collaboration**
- A new fiscal framework**

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The New City Charter Authorities

City of Calgary Charter, 2018 Regulation

- 38 new authorities
- Currently posted for second 60-day review
- Could come into force as early this month
- Retroactive to January 1, 2018
- Most require public hearing before adoption

1. Improving administrative efficiency

2. Supporting community wellbeing

3. Smarter community planning

4. Environmental stewardship

The New City Charter Authorities

City of Calgary Charter, 2018 Regulation

- 38 new authorities
- Currently posted for second 60-day review
- Could come into force as early as March 6, 2018
- Retroactive to January 1, 2018
- Most require public hearing before adoption





The New City Charter Authorities

- Authority to perform supplementary assessments on previously farm land
- Authority to provide electronic assessment notices where citizens opt-in
- Authority to create a municipal tribunal for parking and transit offences
- Greater autonomy over financial administration (i.e. budgeting processes)

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The New City Charter Authorities

- Authority to offer loans to support affordable housing projects
- Ability to ensure that affordable housing agreements follow title for the life of the agreement

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The New City Charter Authorities

- Authority to make variations to the Traffic Safety Act
- Authority to define a local subdivision process
- Authority to adopt additional types of statutory plans



The New City Charter Authorities

- Requirement to adopt a climate change adaptation and mitigation plan
- Addition of the environment as it relates to land-use as a matter for bylaws
- Inclusion of the environment in planning and development provisions of MGA

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How are the charter regulations different?

The Charter complements and modifies existing legislation, primarily the MGA

- The MGA says municipalities **will**, **must** or **shall** do certain things
- The charter says that The City of Calgary **can**, **may** or **might** take a range of actions



How does the charter accomplish these changes

Through regulation, a city charter can:

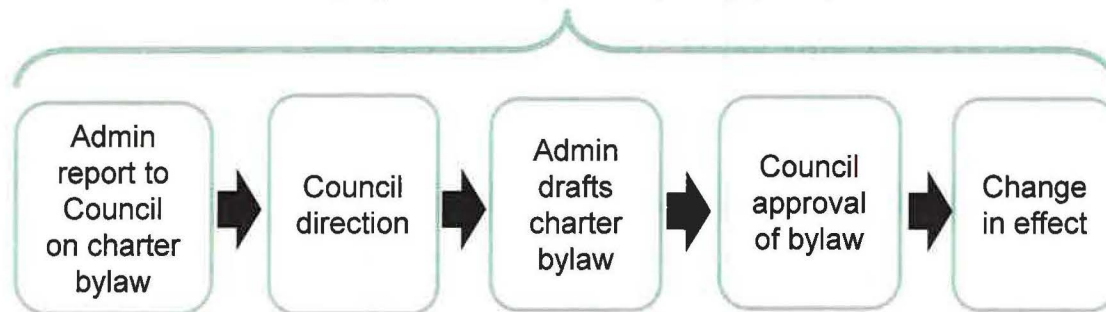
- Add to the MGA or other provincial legislation (i.e. adding additional authority for The City)
- Subtract from the MGA or other provincial legislation (i.e. exempting The City from certain requirements)
- Allowing The City to modify provincial legislation (i.e. enabling The City to legislate)

Once the regulations are in place, then what?

“Before giving second reading to a charter bylaw, the Council of the charter city must hold a public hearing with respect to the proposed bylaw”

Section 141.5(4), MGA

“Standard process” including any public engagement required by City policy

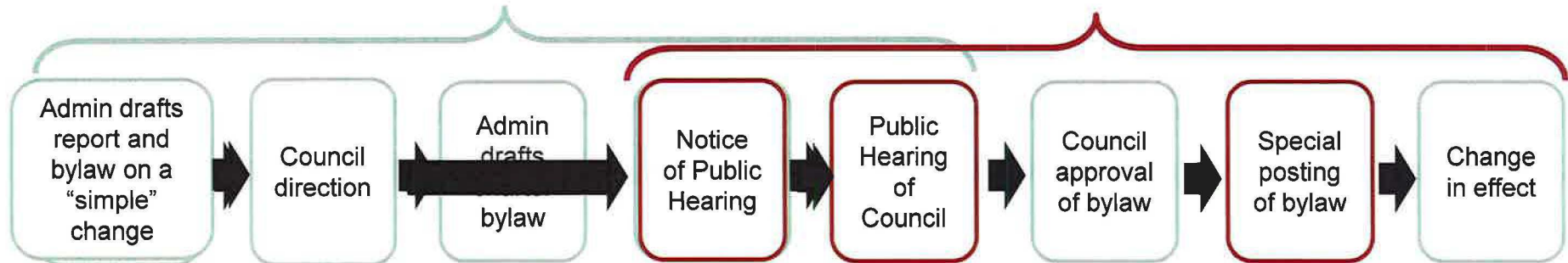


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“Before giving second reading to a charter bylaw, the Council of the charter city must hold a public hearing with respect to the proposed bylaw”

Section 141.5(4), MGA

“Standard process” including any public engagement required by City policy Additional requirements of charter, including any engagement compelled by public hearing process



Reporting on the Charter

The City will need to keep careful track of its use of the Charter regulation

- Use of the charter regulation effectively amends the MGA, therefore requires transparent accounting for the public and internal and external stakeholders
- Charters will need to be reviewed at least every five years
- Public reporting requirements of Charter

What are we doing to prepare?

In addition to providing this and other updates to Council, Intergovernmental & Corporate Strategy is:

- Working with the Law Department, which is leading the process and reporting elements
- Helping BUs to understand the opportunities for, and requirements of, using the charter regulations, and helping prioritize potential changes
- Preparing key messages to share with internal and external stakeholders on the charter's enactment
- Continuing to work with the Government of Alberta and City of Edmonton to monitor charter implementation, and consider future changes



Recommendations

That Council:

1. Receive this report for information.