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**From:** Jenelle Thomas <Jenelle.Thomas@gov.ab.ca>  
**Sent:** February 23, 2021 8:30 AM  
**To:** Alberta Health Operations  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Update with CMOH Summary QA - Feb. 17  
**Attachments:** Municipal QA - February 17.docx

Good Morning Folks,

Please find attached the Summary QA from February 17, 2021.

As always please feel free to reach out with further questions.

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Classification: Protected A

# COVID-19 Municipality Update

February 17, 2021

Total Attendees - 193

## Order 2 – 2021

- CMOH Order 2-2021 rescinds Order 42-2020.
- Mandatory, province wide restrictions are in effect to protect the health system.
- Guidance for Sports, Physical Activity and Recreation – Path Forward, Step 1 updated February 18, 2021

## Vaccine Update

- For up-to-date information on vaccine distribution please visit: [www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx)
- The Pfizer supply is increasing starting this week, and this will allow rebooking of 9,000 health care workers for their first and second doses, as well as return to some long-term care and designated living sites for their first and second doses.
- For the Moderna vaccine, there will be some supply to Alberta next week (the week of Feb 22), continue to wait for more information on shipments in March.
- While Alberta is delayed in administering vaccine to the Phase 1 groups, it is expected the last group in Phase 1, Albertans over the age of 75 to be offered immunizations in late February/early March.
- First Nations who reside on reserve and Metis Settlements have also received vaccine in February.
- Planning for Phase 2 is well underway including identifying Albertans who will be eligible, confirming with the federal government Alberta's portion of the vaccine and how Albertans will access vaccine where ever they live.
  - Planning with pharmacies, physicians and primary care networks is underway.
- The AstraZeneca vaccine is a refrigerated vaccine and therefore easier to transport to areas across the Province. Health Canada is reviewing the application of this manufacturer.

## Variant Update

- Variant numbers will now be updated twice a week at [www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx#jumplinks-1](http://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx#jumplinks-1).

## Questionnaire Summary – February 9 - 12

- Number of responses – 59
- Community planning for recreations centres continue to be the most frequently identified top priority.
- Other areas of high priority included:
  - A Path Forward Roadmap
  - Summer Activities and Events
  - Indoor Gatherings
  - Vaccines
  - Variants
- Comments to improve the meeting included:
  - Request to increase the time of the meeting from 30 minutes to 45 minutes or an hour.
  - Have questions submitted in advance, Stakeholder Relations is looking at option.
  - Challenges with the Webex platform, Stakeholder Relations is looking into other platform options.
- Generally, municipalities indicated the format of the meeting is improving.
- Further question please contact Jenelle Thomas at [jenelle.thomas@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jenelle.thomas@gov.ab.ca)

## Key Question Themes

Path Forward  
Variants  
Festivals  
Cohorts  
Vaccine Roll-out  
Council Meetings & Society AGM's  
Restaurants  
Fitness  
Critical Worker Benefit  
Guidance Documents

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# Question and Answers

## Municipality Questions

### Path Forward

If hospitalization numbers continue to decrease and head below 300 before we reach Step 2 on March 1, will Step 2 be skipped?

### Response

- We do not anticipate that we will skip any steps as we move forward with the Path Forward plan. In addition to the hospitalization benchmarks, we are committed to allowing at least 3 weeks to pass between Steps, so that we are able to assess the impact on cases. Albertans, and Alberta's businesses, have made clear that they do not wish to bounce back and forth between opening and closing, which means we must remain committed to our careful plan not to lift restrictions too quickly. Metrics based on the number and growth of cases, including COVID-19 variant strains, are being monitored and will also be used to guide any decisions around moving ahead with the Path Forward, or the need to delay further steps or potentially increase restrictions.
- This is the intention. While Step 1 had some last minute additions reflecting feedback, the actual policy announcement was made a week in advance.
- The Government of Alberta is looking at gradual ways to safely reopen – based on evidence and case data – that will allow us to adjust quickly when necessary. This decision, which will help keep our kids healthy and happy, presents minimal disruption should we need to revert back to stronger measures.
- We consider all evidence from within Alberta and around the world as part of each decision. The decision to include these activities in Step 1 was announced as soon as possible once the decision was made.
- A decision on Step 2 will be made if, on February 28, there are 450 or fewer hospitalizations and the numbers are declining. We will also be looking at daily cases and their trends to inform a final decision on when Step 2 would be taken. The same 3 week evaluation period will be used for all subsequent steps. We are committed to providing as much notice as possible for each Step.
- Discussion continue to take place, at this time we continue to have a Provincial approach for the path forward.
- Our commitment is to continue to provide as much information in real time, or as advanced as possible in this forum. The Minister and Premier have convened several calls over the past many months with elected leaders to provide an opportunity for elected leader to elected leader conversations.

Will there be a one week announcement before Step 2 begins? If not, is it possible for the announcement to not take place on a Friday or weekend to allow time to adjust?

When should we expect a public announcement on the province and/or specific health zones moving into Step 2? Is Alberta Health still committed to the 1 week notice before a Step going into force?  
Is there any estimates timeline for the move to Step 2? With the "three weeks between phases" and the premier's commitment to give a minimum of one week notice of a change to restrictions, if we are moving to step 2 in the minimum timeframe, that would need to be announced Friday from my count.

Has there been any decision around moving through "Path Forward" steps on a regional basis?

With the changes in the restriction changing at random, will the minister be attending these meetings in the future to ensure we don't have sporadic decision making?

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**Variant**

With the increase of variant cases will there be a delay in Steps or a change of when the Steps will take place?

Please define how the variants are more contagious.

As the variants continue to emerge, will be further changes to any of the physical distancing requirements, barrier guidance in restaurants or mask quality suggestions?

How many people with the variant virus admitted to hospital and or ICU?

- A variety of factors are considered when determining where and how to safely ease measures. The Path Forward commits to a three week period between Steps to allow for an appropriate assessment of the current situation, and to allow any impacts on case counts to be considered.

- As the variants continue to emerge, Alberta Health continues to learn. There seems to be mutations in the gene that code the structure of the virus and the cells in your nose and mouth. The upper part of your lungs acts as Velcro and the virus as a hook. The changes in these mutations makes the hook part of the virus stickier which helps the virus bind to the cell more, potentially needing a lower number of viruses to actually make a person sick.

- How the variants will impact our precautions and measures are still in discussion as we learn more. For instance, changes have been made for close contacts living in the same household with a person who has been confirmed positive with a variant. They are now required to isolate for 14 days after the confirmed case is no longer infectious. We continue to have discussions on mask standards and distancing with masks.

- Alberta continues to monitor the variant strains of COVID-19 that have a higher infections rate. Case numbers are updated daily and can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx#jumpLinks-1>.

**Festivals**

Is it possible to get indication on summer festivals, even an indication that festivals will not be full size, with no restrictions? Municipalities are trying to work with festival organizers to ensure they have plans for different formats if needed.

With the warmer weather coming this weekend and moving into March it would be helpful to have a clear understanding on what events/festivals could look like down the road. Municipalities want to avoid large gatherings taking place when the weather starts to warm and people want to get out of the house, potentially this weekend.

- We are working with representatives of summer festivals to provide up to date information and ensure we understand their planning needs. We do not have an indication at this time of what potential summer festivals may look like.

- We continue to have these discussions with representatives from festivals. Also, at this time, and into the weekend of February 20-21, the limit on outdoor social gatherings remains capped at 10 people and this restriction is in place province wide.

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<p><b>Cohorts</b></p> <p>Can you advise when cohorts will be a 'thing' again? Will cohorts not take place until indoor gatherings are allowed in Step 4?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor social gatherings are currently scheduled for Step 3, so we anticipate that households will be able to begin to re-form limited cohorts at that time. Decisions around this will be made closer to their implementation date, and with sufficient notice for organizers and operators to plan accordingly.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vaccine Roll-out</b></p> <p>Can Water and Waste water operators move up the priority risk for the vaccine as they are exposed to the virus via the wastewater treatment that they are dealing with each day?</p> <p>Can CPO's move up on the priority risk for vaccine as they are enforcing Public Health Measures and have a high risk exposure?</p> <p>We have not to date received any requests to support the vaccine rollout with municipal staff or facilities. Should we continue to prepare for a request or has these rollout decisions already been determined?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 1 of the vaccine roll out focuses on those who are at high risk of severe outcomes and the people who would potentially be exposing those at high risk. Phase 2 has not been finalized yet and the Vaccine Task Force is continuing to work on what that looks like, having the main goal of reducing hospitalizations and severe outcomes.</li> <li>All options to support vaccine rollout are being considered but with the recent unstable and limited supply of the vaccine, no final decisions have been made on the use of resources to support vaccine distribution over and above the current capacities within the health sector.</li> <li>If municipalities want to continue to analyze in general their staff/facility capacities to support potential vaccine distribution in their communities they can with the understanding that no commitments or specific details are available at this time until further information is gained on vaccine supply and direction from Senior government leadership.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Council Meetings and Society AGM's</b></p> <p>Can Council meetings take place in a community centre? Last weeks update stated that for activities that are allowed to operate, the location is secondary. For example, gymnastics can operate in a community hall. Council meetings are allowed to continue so does the same principle apply?</p> <p>Further to the council meetings being allowed. The Societies around here are wanting to hold their AGM's...with masks and socially distancing practiced, are these allowed?</p> <p>We have a large council chamber which permits the 2 meter social distancing between council and staff. We do not have barriers in place to hold a meeting are councillors required to wear masks?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Face-to-face Council meetings are permitted if they are critical for business with public health measures being followed, masking, proper hand hygiene and distancing. Virtual meetings continue to be recommended.</li> <li>Currently, society AGM'S are to be held virtually.</li> <li>The current requirement is that an in an indoor environment masks are to be worn at all times, unless individuals are at a workstation and separated from others. If each individual is seated in the Chambers is separated by 2 metres from all others then masks could be removed, however, it is highly recommended that masks remain on for all in person meetings.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Restaurants</b></p> <p>For restaurants, please confirm whether the 2 metre distance is mandatory between tables (hard stop) or if a barrier installed between tables can be used in lieu of the 2 metre distancing. Seems to be some confusion over this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barriers can allow for tables to be slightly closer together, but the barrier must be large enough to reasonably prevent any exposure between dining parties. Restaurants must look at the environment and take precautions that they need to minimize contact between tables.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fitness</b></p> <p>What is the status on group fitness reopening? What restrictions will be in place when this is permitted?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult group fitness will slowly be eased over time through the Steps starting with lower intensity activities. We continue to work with the Fitness Industry to further define what would be included at each Step.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Critical Worker Benefit</b></p> <p>Any updates on the critical worker benefit? How does this impact municipalities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up-to-date information on the Critical Workers Benefit can be found at <a href="http://www.alberta.ca/critical-worker-benefit.aspx">www.alberta.ca/critical-worker-benefit.aspx</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Guidance Documents</b></p> <p>When can we expect updated the sports and fitness guidance document to be available?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alberta Health is currently working on updating guidance documents to ensure accuracy with Order 2-2021, beginning with Places of Worship, Restaurants and then fitness and sport.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Feedback from Municipalities</b></p> <p>We are suggesting Water and Waste Water Operators for the vaccine priority list as they are responsible for an essential service. Many municipalities only home one or two fully licensed operators.</p> <p>I think it is disappointing that the costs of the decision made are crippling the rural municipalities, especially the ones under 1,000. We were made to look un knowledgeable due to the way the retractions always seem to change 3 or 4 days after. When Hockey Alberta had made their decision, our community closed their ice rink and then were told we could not have people or children I the ice. Then 3 days later it changes. Disappointment and anger is what we are left to deal with, things no one here seems to understand, saying your sorry is one thing but to continually provide us with miss information is why we are upset, and our communities are upset.</p>	

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**Alberta Beach Village Office**

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**From:** Jenelle Thomas <Jenelle.Thomas@gov.ab.ca>  
**Sent:** March 3, 2021 10:08 AM  
**To:** Alberta Health Operations  
**Cc:** Alexandra Bennett; Damien Traverse; Kristin WardDiaz; Navroop Tehara  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Municipality Update - Summary QA - Feb. 24, 2021  
**Attachments:** Municipal QA - February 24.docx.pdf

Good Morning everyone,

Please find attached last week's summary QA document.

Thank you for your continued support.

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# COVID-19 Municipality Update

February 24, 2021

## Total Attendees - 181

### Order 4 – 2021

- CMOH Order 4-2021 rescinds Order 2-2021.
- March 1, 2021 – Step 2: Hospitalization benchmark – 450 and declining
- Libraries – can now open but must limit capacity to 15 per cent of fire code occupancy not including staff.
- Indoor Fitness (no change to outdoor fitness)
  - Unsupervised low intensity individual and group fitness are now allowed by appointment only, physical distancing of 3 metres.
  - Low-intensity – weightlifting, dance lessons, yoga, barre, indoor climbing, treadmills, ellipticals, and related equipment.

### State of Public Health Emergency

- The State of Public Health Emergency has lapsed and discussions are underway to determine if a reinstatement is required.
- Peace Officer enforcement was issued under a separate order and remains in place until February 27. These Orders are issued through Justice and Solicitor General and discussions are underway on next steps.

### Variant Update

- Variant numbers will now be updated twice everyday of the week [www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx#jumplinks-1](http://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx#jumplinks-1).
- Alberta continues to monitor the variants as they arise within the province but also what is taking place across the world.

### Vaccine Update

- For up-to-date information on vaccine distribution please visit: [www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx)
- Seniors 75 years of age and over, no matter where they live:

- Starting Feb. 19, AHS will vaccinate residents in retirement centres, lodges, supportive living and other congregate living facilities with people 75 or older
- Starting Feb. 24, any Albertan born in 1946 or earlier can book an appointment.

### Questionnaire Summary – February 16 - 19

- Number of responses – 63
- Community planning for recreations centres continue to be the most frequently identified top priority.
- Other areas of high priority included:
  - A Path Forward Roadmap
  - Critical Workers Benefit
  - Vaccines
  - Variants
- Comments to improve the meeting included:
  - Request to increase the time of the meeting from 30 minutes to 45 minutes or an hour.
- Further question please contact Jenelle Thomas at [jenelle.thomas@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jenelle.thomas@gov.ab.ca)

### Key Question Themes

Path Forward  
Step 2 Clarity  
Variant  
Cases  
Data  
Enforcement  
Immunizations  
Community Halls  
Festivals  
Recreation Centres  
Public Health Emergency  
Summer Programming and Employment  
Senior Officials Panel  
Critical Workers Benefit

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# Question and Answers

## Municipality Questions

### Path Forward

You mentioned that fully vaccinated individuals will, for a time, still be required to adhere to requirements like masking, social distancing, etc. What metrics will be used to determine when that is no longer the case? Is there a specific percentage of the population that needs to be vaccinated before public health orders can be lifted?

Fire department groupings at training, what is the max number of people within the groups? How about an outdoor workout.

Outdoor Pools are included in Step 4 of the Path Forward Plan. Can it be clarified if general public access for indoor pools is also in step 4 or is it in an earlier step?

What is the timeline for new guidance going forward and updating current guidance? Can updates to guidance documents be date/time stamped with changes to former guidance highlighted for ease of interpretation? The Sport, Physical activity and recreations guidance is tweaked frequently and aside from opening it up and reading from top to bottom every day, comparing word for word with yesterday's we have no idea when and what changes have been made?

Can Biz Connect guidance be either taken down or updated as most of it is from fall and is not related to actual mandates and guidelines in place?

Considering there is a very good chance we will never achieve Step 4 status, as we did not achieve Step 3 status in the summer, I am wondering if this means that the idea is to have people work from home indefinitely?

### Step 2 Clarity

Dr. Hinshaw has commented about hospitalization plateauing - is that concerning, and will it affect the move to Step 2 or future steps?

Are restrictions going to be eased in accordance with hospitalizations as previously announced or will the progression towards step 3 and step 4 be prolonged into the

## Response

- When examining lifting longer-term public health measures we need to examine how herd immunity looks like in the public. This is something we are learning more about, we are unsure how the new variants will impact herd immunity. We still are seeing that ~70-80 of the population have to be immunized or have to be immune before we examine lifting public health measures such as masking.

- Training can occur outdoors with 2 metres distance in groups of 10.

- General access for large scale recreation facilities such as pools is permitted under Step 4. Pools can be used as part of physical education program for students, and training for a maximum of 9 children and 1 instructor.

- Guidance is currently being updated to reflect the current measures.

- The bulk of the guidance will still focus on physical distancing, masking, contract tracing or contact information.

- The work from home order is intended to allow business to function as required as well as limit contact between people.

- As the Path Forward cites hospitalization benchmarks, plateauing may indicate a delay in advancing to future Steps whose benchmarks are below that plateau. We're one week away from a Step 2 decision but well-below the 450 mark set for that step. But we're at least four weeks from a Step 3 decision, it is difficult to speculate where we might be at that time.

- Hospitalization are key piece we examine as part of the path forward. Careful considerations are made along with examining various factors (case total, R-

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<p>fall based on a combination of other factors (i.e. cases not in hospital, strain variations, etc.).</p> <p>Can you confirm that Step 2 will only begin as early as March 8 or will it start March 1?</p> <p>In Step 2 are there any changes proposed to the 3m distancing requirement for indoor activities?</p> <p>Any indication as to what restrictions Step 2 might include?</p> <p>Will 'Camp' format programming for kids be allowed in step 2 (run camps for PD days, Easter break, etc. in our rec facilities)?</p> <p><b>Variant</b></p> <p>We would like to hear the distribution of variant cases and any comments regarding the super variant alleged in California.</p> <p><b>Cases</b></p> <p>Do we expect that we will hit a minimum # of cases and that will flatline? Statistically speaking we can expect that the final 2-5% will not move to zero.</p> <p><b>Data</b></p> <p>Is there an audit process in place to confirm that the death statistics are accurate and who determines if a death is COVID "RELATED"?</p>	<p>value, variants). Moving forward we will carefully examine data when deciding to move into stage 3 and 4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We strive to provide as much time as possible following the announcement for Step 2. The intent of giving one weeks notice was to allow restaurants, which require lead time to prepare, a change to reopen on even footing. The same notice may not be required for businesses in Steps 2, 3 and 4. Moving into Step 2 will be considered on March 1<sup>st</sup> and, if a decision is made at that time, it is possible that restrictions could be eased that same day.</li> <li>Indoor masking and distancing requirements will remain in place throughout the entire stepped approach, and some degree of restrictions will still apply to all activities within each step.</li> <li>At this time discussions are a still taking place and no decisions have been made on Step 2.</li> <li>Day and overnight camps are currently in Step 4 of the Path Forward.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Variant</b></p> <p>We would like to hear the distribution of variant cases and any comments regarding the super variant alleged in California.</p> <p><b>Cases</b></p> <p>Do we expect that we will hit a minimum # of cases and that will flatline? Statistically speaking we can expect that the final 2-5% will not move to zero.</p> <p><b>Data</b></p> <p>Is there an audit process in place to confirm that the death statistics are accurate and who determines if a death is COVID "RELATED"?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alberta is monitoring for variant strains of COVID-19 that have a higher infection rate. Case numbers are updated daily on <a href="https://alberta.ca/covid19">Alberta.ca/covid19</a>.</li> <li>Although getting to zero would be ideal, we know that the COVID-19 situation in Alberta is constantly evolving. We know that the best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 is to limit close contact with others (2 meters) physical distance, wear a mask in public spaces, practice good hygiene stay home if you are sick.</li> <li>Deaths are included if COVID-19 was identified by a physician as the primary cause of death or a contributing cause of death. In situations where the cause of death in a COVID case is unclear and there are no other explanations such as trauma, the death is included in our COVID death counts until a review of the death certificate occurs. In most cases, the death remains a COVID death but there have been a few instances the death is determined to be unrelated to COVID and removed from our case counts.</li> <li>The death statistics are live, meaning that historical reporting can be updated over time. For example – if a death was reported as being covid-related and was later determined that this was not the final cause of death, it would be removed from the total count.</li> </ul>

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<p>When are we going to see a de-active case number with the Variant virus or are we always going to see how many have contracted the virus and never recovered from?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current reporting process includes all of the cases that are active/recovered. Reporting elements are always being considered and revised as appropriate. In future, we are likely going to include information on active versus recovered VOC cases; however, the timelines are currently unknown.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enforcement</b> Can you provide direction on any requirements to report health order infractions that are resolved locally to health enforcement for statistic tracking?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public health order infractions issued by AHS are posted <a href="#">online</a>. (Please see the health zone tabs on the right under Health Enforcement Orders). Public health order infractions (ticketing, etc.) issued by law enforcement agencies are tracked internally, but are not publicized.</li> <li>Community hall operators are responsible for any contravention to public health orders that occur within their premises. If the community hall operator is the municipality, then the municipality would be held responsible.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Immunizations</b> When will fire volunteers be recognized as health workers for the vaccine? Any decision concerning moving Water/Waste water operators moving up the priority list for the vaccine since they are critical workers and they are highly skilled operators and if they get sick could cause major disruptions in a municipality? Will vaccinations be available locally when the general population program rolls out? “We have seen that the call-in system for vaccine booking is already overwhelmed. Many of our communities have primary care clinics with provincially funded nurses who are administering non-covid vaccines and other medications every day. There is capacity in these clinics to help with COVID-19 vaccination. The elderly and vulnerable are already in these clinics to see their family doctors. Why are primary care clinics not involved in the vaccine rollout? And what could be done to get primary care clinics inventory to start administering to the most vulnerable right away?”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase 1 of the vaccine roll out focuses on those who are at high risk of severe outcomes and the people who would potentially be exposing those at high risk. Phase 2 is broken into Groups A to D and continues to focus on those who are at highest risk. Work to identify sequencing for all other groups is underway.</li> <li>Yes, Alberta has a robust vaccine distribution plan. We will continue to expand our approach as the supply increases. In addition to immunization sites run by Alberta Health Services, Alberta’s community pharmacists and physicians are an important partner in the success of the COVID-19 vaccine response plan. As more vaccine arrives, participating pharmacies and physicians in many additional communities will begin to offer immunization. A list of participating pharmacies is available on the Alberta Blue Cross site: <a href="https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/news/covid-19-immunization-program-information.php">https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/news/covid-19-immunization-program-information.php</a>.</li> <li>Alberta Health Services worked closely with Telus to rectify the challenges with the call-in system.</li> </ul>
<p>What does immunization % mean in terms of when we open? And will this affect the thinking around masking?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccines are only one part of the effort against COVID-19. We do not yet know if immunized people can still carry and pass the virus to others that are not immunized, how effective the vaccines are in the real world and against variants, or how long immunity lasts.</li> <li>Based on recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), Alberta Health advises that all individuals, including those immunized with COVID-19 vaccine, should continue to follow public health</li> </ul>

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<p>Will people receive something in writing once they receive their immunization?</p> <p>The what will be considered high-risk underlying health conditions for Phase 2:B of vaccine distribution? Will Phase 3 be sequenced by sector, or purely general public administration?</p> <p><b>Community Centres/ Community Halls</b></p> <p>Are kitchens in halls allowed to be used if the hall itself isn't being used?</p> <p><b>Festivals</b></p> <p>If we are in the process of determining Canada Day events, what is the likelihood that this will be restricted in attendance like it was in 2020? Should we anticipate these events being cancelled/postponed again in 2021?</p> <p>Can you tell us more about the Festival Planning Alberta Health is working on with a few of the larger festival and event producers (Stampede/KDays/Fringe/ Folk Fests (Edm &amp; Calgary); can the Cities of Calgary and Edmonton be involved in these discussions?</p> <p><b>Recreation Facilities</b></p> <p>Have considerations been made to open aquatics so the multi million dollar facilities can teach people to be safe in on and around water, and decrease the drownings that we unfortunately had last year with the facilities closed. The water within the aquatics pool needs to be far sanitary then our drinking water. People can masked up until the water entry.</p> <p>Status or Comments regarding Golf Courses and RV Parks Operations. Working on plans for Municipally Owned and Operated Golf Courses and RV Parks. Any</p> <p><a href="http://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx">www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx</a></p>	<p>measures for prevention and control of COVID-19 infection and transmission. This includes masking when in public, maintaining physical distancing, practicing diligent hand hygiene, and staying home when sick.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research into these questions is ongoing, and we will provide updates to these questions. In the meantime, we all should continue to follow COVID-19 public health guidelines</li> <li>• Immunization will follow the procedures AHS has for all immunizations, once a person is immunized they will receive record of that immunization similarly to the flu shot. For a copy of immunization records people are able to log onto myHealthrecords.ca.</li> <li>• Considerations for high-risk underlying health conditions continue to be discussed and no decision has been made at this point. Phase 3 of distribution will depend on supply and those who remain to be vaccinated, decisions on any sequencing will take place closer to when phase 3 is rolled out.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CMOH Order 2-2021 Section 43(j)</b> allows a location to be utilized for charitable activities including but not limited to food, clothing and toy collection and distribution.</p> <p>Outdoor festivals and events are currently in Step 4 of the Path Forward, discussion these items continue to take place.</p> <p>HEOC Stakeholder Relations is beginning to have discussions with festival and event planners to hear considerations and feedback on the Path Forward.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMOH Order 2-2021 Section 43(j) allows a location to be utilized for charitable activities including but not limited to food, clothing and toy collection and distribution.</li> <li>• Outdoor festivals and events are currently in Step 4 of the Path Forward, discussion these items continue to take place.</li> <li>• HEOC Stakeholder Relations is beginning to have discussions with festival and event planners to hear considerations and feedback on the Path Forward.</li> </ul>
<p>General access for large-scale recreation facilities such as pools is permitted under Step 4. Pools can be used as part of physical education program for students, and training for a maximum of 9 children and 1 instructor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General access for large-scale recreation facilities such as pools is permitted under Step 4. Pools can be used as part of physical education program for students, and training for a maximum of 9 children and 1 instructor.</li> </ul>

<p>comments at this point, or when announcements will be made regarding this topic. Can we make assumptions at this point, that we can plan for operations similar to last year in 2020?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golf courses and RV parks are currently closed due to weather. Any announcement with regard to policy or guidance changes will be made closer to their implementation date.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Summer Programming and Employment</b> As job advertisement for summer seasonal jobs are on the horizon; Can we anticipate the safety requirements will be much the same as last year for summer programs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any announcement with regard to policy or guidance changes will be made closer to their implementation date.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public State of Emergency</b> With the public health emergency expiring this week, will the province use another method to extend the authorities of peace officers to enforce the Public Health Act or will this no longer be possible? If the peace officers will not have the authority, will AHS have additional enforcement resources available to respond to protests like we have seen over the past 2 weeks?  Is the State of Public Health Emergency still in effect? Did it expire after 90 days?  When will that Ministerial Order for Peace Officers lapse?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The authority to give Community Peace Officers the ability to enforce the Public Health Act lies with the Minister of Justice - discussions continue to take place regarding enforcement issues and concerns</li> <li>• The Official Public Health Emergency has expired. Discussions are on-going on whether a state of emergency needs to be reinstated.</li> <li>• The Ministerial Order for Peace Officers lapses on February 27, however, discussions continue to take place regarding enforcement issues and concerns.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Senior Official's Panel</b> It has been requested in the past to have a municipal senior official's panel to be able to provide input on how the restrictions and last minute changes impact our operations. Has this been considered?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAO's of Alberta municipalities (or their designates) continue to be invited to a COVID-19 briefing with Dr. Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Alberta weekly.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Critical Worker Benefit</b> Can you explain why municipalities are not eligible for the critical worker benefit? We employee custodians who under the private sector would be eligible but are not because they are public employees? Can municipalities apply for CWB? What about for paramedics who provide services under AHS contract but technically are paid by the municipalities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For detailed information on the Critical Work Benefit, including eligibility and how to apply, please visit: <a href="http://alberta.ca/critical-worker-benefit.aspx">alberta.ca/critical-worker-benefit.aspx</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Feedback from Municipalities</b> I think it would be very important to update the Alberta.ca website which indicates the State of Health Emergency is still in effect.</p>	

**aboffice@albertabeach.com**

*cc: Council*

**From:** Jenelle Thomas <Jenelle.Thomas@gov.ab.ca>  
**Sent:** March 10, 2021 10:53 AM  
**To:** Alberta Health Operations  
**Cc:** Alexandra Bennett; Damien Traverse; Kristin WardDiaz; Navroop Tehara  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Municipal Update Summary QA  
**Attachments:** Municipal QA - March 3.docx.pdf

Good Morning folks,

Apologizes for the delay. Please find attached last week's summary QA for your information.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Jenelle Thomas, BA, MA**  
Stakeholder Relations  
Health Emergency Operations Centre  
Government of Alberta

Cell 587-873-4166  
[jenelle.thomas@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jenelle.thomas@gov.ab.ca)

Get the latest [Alberta.ca/covid19statistics](https://alberta.ca/covid19statistics)



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# COVID-19 Municipality Update

March 3, 2021

## Total Attendees - 213

### Order 4 – 2021

- CMOH Order 4-2021 rescinds Order 2-2021.

### **Low vs. High Intensity**

- Low intensity fitness includes activities not focused specifically on cardio that have low depth and rate of respiration.
- Owners and operators are responsible for monitoring clients and educating them on the restrictions.

### **Swimming Pools**

- Lane swimming is considered high intensity and not permitted at this time, unless it is one-on-one or exclusive use of the facility.
- Masks are required for all low-intensity activities, including aqua fit.
- Group youth classes do not require a mask provided there is proper distancing.

### **Fitness**

- Capacity is based on all participants being able to remain 3 metres distance at all times.

### **Variant**

- Currently, AH is processing Variant data manually and continues to work with the IAPS to automate this process which would allow the information to be available. Work on this continues.
- Variant numbers will now be updated twice everyday of the week [www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx#jumplinks-1](http://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx#jumplinks-1).

### **Enforcement**

- There have been no changes. Constant conversations are taking place with police services to identify particular areas where further supports and focus is needed including facilities and regionally. AH continues to work with JSG on enforcement.

### **Rapid Testing**

- It's too early to tell where testing will fit post vaccine roll out. Most data indicates how well the vaccine prevents symptomatic infection were severe outcomes

are possible. Continue to watch data on how well vaccines prevent asymptomatic infection and the potential for transmission to others.

- Rapid testing is being rolled out to different centres for the purpose of regular screening of people.
- Rapid tests are available, please contact [rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca](mailto:rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca) for further information.

### **Questionnaire Summary – February 24 – March 1**

- Number of responses – 44
- Step 2 indoor fitness clarity was the most frequently identified top priority.
- Other areas of high priority included:
  - Community planning for recreation centres, events and summer activities
  - Vaccine roll out – rural areas
  - Indoor gatherings
  - enforcement
- Further question please contact Jenelle Thomas at [jenelle.thomas@gov.ab.ca](mailto:jenelle.thomas@gov.ab.ca) or Navroop Tehara at [Navroop.tehara@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Navroop.tehara@gov.ab.ca).

### **Key Question Themes**

Path Forward  
Aquatic Centres/Swimming  
Fitness/Recreations Centres  
Immunizations  
Summer Activities and Events  
Enforcement  
Masking  
Community Programs and Services  
In-person meetings  
Data  
Theatre  
Testing  
Interprovincial Travel  
Youth Art Classes  
Critical Workers Benefit  
City Archives  
Hotels and Convention centres

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## Question and Answers

Municipality Questions	Response
<b>Path Forward</b>	
For clarity, is there a possibility that easements on health restrictions that were deferred from Step 2 will be brought forward prior to the three-week mark at Step 3? Or should we assume these restrictions will be in place for the next three weeks?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional easements were made to Step 2 on March 8. We are currently examining different options for phase three.</li> </ul>
When will the province consider region specific restrictions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At this time, the Government of Alberta is taking a province wide approach. The Path forward focuses on hospitalization as a lagging indicator.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are we going to adhere to the path forward as previously communicated and ease restrictions in accordance with hospitalizations or will there continue to be changes that further prolong and delay the opening of businesses and services?</li> <li>Please share the details of what indicators will be included in the Health zone approach within the Path Forward plan.</li> <li>There is a lot of angst amongst people because though there is a roadmap. There is still uncertainty that the province will adhere to the roadmap.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Path Forward is an Alberta wide framework to provide a direction for lifting restrictions. A province wide approach has been utilized that uses Hospitalizations as a useful indicator for monitoring relaunch. By using a lagging indicator, we are less susceptible to the variability of daily case number fluctuations and it better reflects the current impact on hospital capacity. When examining moving to a new step we must look at both leading and lagging indicators, we have seen a plateau in lagging indicators causing the Government of Alberta to re-examine.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can municipalities expect to receive any notice prior to the roll out of Step 2, along with detailed guidelines for each category?</li> <li>Will the government commit to not back tracking after every public release statement?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government of Alberta, through the path forward has committed to providing municipalities with information as soon as it is available.</li> <li>We are committed to providing information to the public as soon as a decision is made.</li> </ul>
Lead-time expected for changes in restrictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any announcements with regard to policy or guidance changes will be made closer to their implementation date.</li> </ul>
Will we be moving to Step 3 and 4 in 2021 or will it continue to be prolonged for the less than 1% of the population who has COVID?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Path Forward is dependant on the hospitalization benchmarks.</li> </ul>
Can Indoor gatherings be relaxed in Step 2 not Step 3 as we are already close to the Step 3 hospitalizations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor social gatherings have been linked with a high risk of disease transmission. Evidence has demonstrated that there is greater potential for transmission indoors vs. outdoors. There is caution when looking at lifting restrictions for indoor social gatherings. This is still be considered as part of Step 3.</li> </ul>
Time frame to update various Guidance documents?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance documents are being developed but these are generally boilerplate guidance that focuses on key language around maintaining physical distance, wearing masks, sanitation and hygiene.</li> </ul>
Will there be additional funding this year to offset lost revenues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of Alberta offers a variety of financial supports for Albertans impacted by the pandemic. For more information please see: <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx</a>.</li> </ul>

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<b>Aquatic Centres/Swimming</b>	
<p>What is considered low intensity in a pool? Can 1on1 swimming occur in multiple lanes (more than one group) with maintaining 3 meter distance? Is a mask required?</p> <p>What exactly can be allowed to happen in aquatic centers? In which step should we expect to be allowed to open for public lane swim?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intensity rates are dependant on individuals and should be monitored by individuals and facility operators. Respiratory rates must remain low.</li> <li>Pools can be used as part of physical education program for students, and training for a maximum of 9 children and 1 instructor. Public lane swimming will likely occur in step 4.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After reading through Step 2, it has swimming as high intensity. With all the phone calls and e-mails overnight I just want to make sure that senior fitness swim or Aqua fit for Arthritis (they come in and stretch etc) is still a no go. Especially when masks still need to be worn at this time. They cannot do so in a pool.</li> <li>Aqua fit is a class we offer that is low impact; however, the guidelines state that masks must be worn by all participants. I would understand that to mean that pools are excluded from this update as it clearly stated "gyms," and masks in water is an impossible combination. Further to aqua fit, some comments have been floating around Facebook regarding lane swimming being a low intensity activity that should be allowed to open under Step 2. Again, I refer to the update and question how that is possible with a mask on – therefore, assuming it is not allowed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks are required for all low-intensity physical activity; therefore Aquafit would not be permitted without a mask.</li> <li>Low-intensity is defined as "physical activity where the intensity of the activity does not result in significant increased respiration rates in a person". Masks are required for all low-intensity physical activity, therefore Aquafit would not be permitted without a mask.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is individual lane swimming permitted to resume? If yes, is the main limitation remain maintaining the 3m rule at all times?</li> <li>Please confirm if lane swimming can occur provided physical distancing is abided by?</li> <li>Did I understand you to just say that lane swimming is permitted provided 3M distant is adhered to?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lane swim is identified as high-intensity and is therefore not permitted at this time.</li> </ul>
<p>Would "low intensity" exercise include AquaFit classes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is considered low intensity as long as participants are wearing masks and distanced 3 metres apart and respiratory rates remain low.</li> </ul>
<p>Can pool lanes be used for rehabilitative purposes i.e. people recovering from surgeries etc?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is permitted as it could be a private lesson with a trainer and the facility could be booked for this medical activity.</li> </ul>
<p>Has anyone asked aquatic professionals (long time operators) for information on what they can help with to re open facilities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Health Emergency Operation has engaged with municipal stakeholders for their input relating to recreational facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Fitness and Recreation Centres</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low and high intensity activity has a lot of variables depending on the individuals and will be a challenge for recreation staff to enforce. Is maintaining 3m at all times a higher priority than the level of intensity? Is masking required at all times, including individual fitness even when 3m is maintained?</li> <li>What will Alberta Health define as "lower intensity activities?" For example, lane swimming - is fast lane higher intensity or is it all low intensity? Is Aquafit low</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low-intensity is defined as "physical activity where the intensity of the activity does not result in significant increased respiration rates in a person". Three metres distance is required. Masking is required for all participants of low intensity activity and instructors.</li> </ul>

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intensity? Are there any type of cardio activities allowed or is low intensity only going to be yoga and stretching?	
Can you provide examples of low intensity fitness for individuals? How can we determine the activities a person may have engage in a low or high intensity when they enter a facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low intensity fitness includes activities not focused specifically on cardio that have a low depth and rate of respiration. Examples for low intensity fitness include: barre, Pilates, stretching, tai-chi, low intensity yoga (e.g. hatha, yin) light weightlifting, indoor rock climbing.</li> </ul>
We have a lot of inquiries coming to us about walking tracks. What Step would indoor walking tracks fall under so we have some clarity to provide our residents? Our facility has a walking track that is still closed to the general public. From everything that I heard yesterday and have read today, it would still remain closed, correct?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking tracks are currently permitted as long as individuals are spaced 3 metres apart (lanes) and wearing masks and engaging in low intensity activities. Drop-ins are not allowed, appointments must be booked.</li> </ul>
Can we allow public into our rec centre to use the arena (ice is out) to walk around the outside of the surface. Similar to a walking track?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities that are low intensity are permitted, provided times are booked, 3 metres can be maintained by everyone and masks are worn at all times.</li> </ul>
Are low intensity fitness participants required to wear masks; walking, light weight lifting, yoga?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All low-intensity fitness participants and instructors are required to wear a mask at all times.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the default class size for low-intensity activity, without an instructor tied to the amount allowed with 3 m distancing, or does the household only cap apply for these settings as well?</li> <li>Is it based on maximum capacity of 3 m distance? Or is there a capacity limit based on facility size?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no capacity limit for low intensity fitness as long as 3 metres can be maintained by all participants and instructors.</li> </ul>
No high intensity workouts-does this apply to NHL teams or are they allowed in the gyms to do high intensity workouts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NHL was granted an exemption for more information please see: <a href="https://open.alberta.ca/publications/cmoh-order-42-2020-exemption-nhl-return-to-play-edmonton">https://open.alberta.ca/publications/cmoh-order-42-2020-exemption-nhl-return-to-play-edmonton</a></li> </ul>
Lacrosse teams are looking at renting our facilities for practices in mid March. These are minor league players under 18 with a coach. Following hockey teams currently practicing, is this acceptable under stage 2 opening?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, maximum of 10 total individuals, including all coaches, trainers, and participants. Physical spacing must be maintained.</li> </ul>
If a municipality has an employee gym in their administration building, can we open the gym to employee use as there would be no trainer in place for them. It would be individual employee use - one employee at a time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of March 1, Indoor fitness for unsupervised low intensity individual and group exercises are now allowed by appointment only. Provided, mandatory physical distancing of three metres is followed for all parties, at all times, and masks must be worn at all times for all parties. No drop-ins allowed. Low intensity includes weightlifting, dance classes, yoga, barre, and indoor climbing, treadmills, ellipticals, and related equipment.</li> </ul>
Can community centres and other public recreational municipal facilities like a curling rink be used for low intensity activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curling as an adult recreation sport may potentially be permitted in step 3. Private booking can be made, 3 metres distancing must be maintained and groups do not cross paths. For more information please see: <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx</a></li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When will gyms be allowed to open for individual workouts?</li> <li>• Can we get clarity on the decision not to allow individuals to work-out at the gym alone? Working out with a trainer is cost prohibitive for the majority of Albertans. Additionally, we receive lots of questions about why working out with a trainer (two people) would be lower risk than one person working out alone.</li> <li>• Why are fitness establishments still closed and group workouts not permitted? Fitness is the solution not the problem.</li> <li>• When will the facilities be allowed to have more than just 1 on 1 you have hockey and other sports that have opened up enough for 10.</li> <li>• Can you provide any insight as to when and if individuals will be able to access fitness centres (using timed entry perhaps to limit crowds)... Any insight into what this will look like will be helpful.</li> <li>• Looking for information concerning when the opening of the facilities to the public will occur.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of March 1, Indoor fitness for unsupervised low intensity individual and group exercises are now allowed by appointment only. Provided, mandatory physical distancing of three metres is followed for all parties, at all times, and masks must be worn at all times for all parties. No drop-ins allowed.</li> <li>• Low intensity includes weightlifting, dance classes, yoga, barre, and indoor climbing, treadmills, elliptical, and related equipment.</li> <li>• 1 on 1 sessions are permitted for high intensity activity. For more information please see: <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Immunization</b></p>	
<p>Can primary care clinics provide immunizations to aid in capacity issues?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As more vaccine arrives, participating pharmacies and physicians in many additional communities will begin to offer immunization. A list of participating pharmacies is available on the Alberta Blue Cross site: <a href="https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/news/covid-19-immunization-program-information.php">https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/news/covid-19-immunization-program-information.php</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is really important to understand when Water and Waste/water Operators can be vaccinated.</li> <li>• What phase will our local fire department get vaccinated? They are also first responders or required to assist AHS personnel?</li> <li>• When can Firefighters expect to be immunized?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government of Alberta has developed a phased vaccine approach. More information on the phased approach is available at <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>Will there also be local vaccination sites?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As more vaccine arrives, participating pharmacies and physicians in many additional communities will begin to offer immunization. A list of participating pharmacies is available on the Alberta Blue Cross site: <a href="https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/news/covid-19-immunization-program-information.php">https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/news/covid-19-immunization-program-information.php</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>When will pharmacies located outside of the communities of Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary be utilized to provide vaccinations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional pharmacies in more locations across the province are anticipated to start on March 15.</li> </ul>
<p>When will there be Rural sites?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, more information will be more available on the Alberta BlueCross website in coming weeks.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why will masking be required after vulnerable individuals have been vaccinated? Isn't the chance of death for others 'vanishingly small'?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When examining lifting longer-term public health measures we need to examine how herd immunity looks like in the public. This is something we are learning more about, we are unsure how the new variants will impact herd immunity. We</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What advice do you have once we have 30-50% vaccinated? How will health measures be applied recognizing that many vaccinated want less restrictions?</li> </ul>	<p>still are seeing that ~70-80% of the population have to be immunized or have to be immune before we examine lifting public health measures such as masking.</p>
<p>Will AHS be reaching out to communities to coordinate vaccination sites for greater distribution?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, Alberta Health Services will be discuss plans with municipalities about clinics as necessary.</li> </ul>
<p>Will the AHS site to make appoints for vaccines be improved in the future re: server errors when trying to book an appointment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, improvements to the AHS booking system are underway.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we find out if Vaccine is distributed locally, as it was for lodge residents?</li> <li>• Are vaccinations being offered to seniors in rural communities? Is there any word on if there will be clinics offered to the seniors in rural communities who do not have access to vaccinations locally and do not have drivers to take them to larger facilities?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For more information on the vaccination program please visit: <a href="https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17349.aspx">https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17349.aspx</a> and also <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx</a>.</li> <li>• 211 has more information for transportation supports for vaccination.</li> </ul>
<p>We understand that extensive testing was undertaken prior to Federal approval of the vaccines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These vaccines have been approved by the Government of Canada and are being distributed in Alberta. For more information on vaccines please see: <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/awareness-resources/know-vaccine.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/awareness-resources/know-vaccine.html</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Summer Activities and Events</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we think we will be able to hold festivals this summer?</li> <li>• Should we expect to have summer event gathering such as Canada Day fireworks limited similar to 2020?</li> <li>• Any clarity on whether firework will be allowed this year for Canada Day? Either at a large scale leg fireworks or in smaller communities? Any indication will help in the planning of events.</li> <li>• Will we be able to host large events like Canada Day celebrations or do we shelf them for 2021 and plan for 2022?</li> <li>• In planning for summer festivals is there a maximum limit to outdoor activities (potentially)? Are we looking at no more than 200?</li> <li>• What timing should we expect for guidance on summer events/facilities to allow for planning to continue?</li> <li>• Is there any indication to what these will look like over the spring/summer?</li> <li>• Will minor sports such as baseball be allowed this spring/summer?</li> <li>• When will team sports be able to open up more for our students?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HEOC Stakeholder Relations is currently working with stakeholders in the festival and live performance sector to develop guidelines. Larger outdoor festivals and trade shows are planned for step 4 of the Path Forward.</li> <li>• It is recognized that sufficient lead time and planning is required for large scale events.</li> <li>• Immunization levels will play an increasing role in guiding these decisions over the coming months.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enforcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you provide an update on CPO1 and CPO2 powers to enforce health orders without a State of Public Health Emergency?</li> <li>• Any update on whether CPO's will be provided authority to enforce or not?</li> <li>• So on extension of authorities for CPO's. So when folks call the municipal office on concerns, we will send them to the PH officers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Peace Officer Level 1s and Alberta Peace Officer Level2s employed by Environment and Parks are authorized to enforce the CMOH's Orders under a new Ministerial 13/2021 that was issued on Mar 4, 2021.</li> </ul>

[www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx)

AH-operations@gov.ab.ca

Classification: Public

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can you provide any further details on Peace Officers and enforcement?</li> </ul>	
Why did AHS completely fold on undertaking enforcement & paying legal bills of groups not following the rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are not at liberty to disclose AHS and police enforcement and litigation tactics, charges and/or prosecution to the offending location are being contemplated.</li> </ul>
Are communities responsible for community hall use violations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community hall operators are responsible for any contravention to public health orders that occur within their premises. If the community hall operator is the municipality, then the municipality would be held responsible.</li> </ul>
Small towns near us not following arena rules so we are losing rentals to them. Can this be stopped?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may submit a complaint with AHS online or contact your local law enforcement to report a violation. Reports can be submitted online at: <a href="https://ephsahs.microsoftcrmporals.com/create-case/">https://ephsahs.microsoftcrmporals.com/create-case/</a></li> </ul>
Is there a mandatory closure period for businesses that experience an outbreak?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no mandatory closure period.</li> </ul>
<b>Masking</b>	
Please clarify for masks in mutual support meetings. In such settings, there is normally some refreshments. These meetings would be in a work/business area so allowed under para 43(i) in CMOH 02-2021. What is the recommendation or comment for refreshments and masking in such settings?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refreshments are not recommended in meetings, masks are to be worn.</li> </ul>
Now that the Health State of Emergency has expire, what authority gives AHS the extraordinary powers they have imposed such as mandatory masking?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Medical Officer of Health's Order still requires masking for individuals.</li> </ul>
Masks in multi family/Apartments. There needs to be guidance in common spaces, they are looking for documents, (masks are required in common areas). Does the province have materials relating to that for common areas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage is available here: <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information-posters.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information-posters.aspx</a></li> <li>Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order 04-2021 requires individuals to wear a face mask at all times while attending an indoor public place. "Public place" is defined in CMOH Order 02-2021 as having the same meaning given to it in the Public Health Act, but does not include a rental accommodation used solely for the purposes of a private residence (i.e., inside someone's apartment/condo unit).</li> </ul>
<b>Community Programs and services</b>	
Has there been any consideration on to when FCSS or Community Services could begin inside programming again? Many of our users are community members who cannot afford the recreation activities that are open to the public; these programs are essential to mental health of parents, seniors, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor social gatherings will potentially be part of phase 3 and 4.</li> <li>Discussions continue to take place and a decision has not been reached.</li> </ul>
<b>In-Person Meeting</b>	
Is there any discussion on rescinding the current Meeting Procedures (Covid-19 Suppression) Regulation? Specifically Section 3(1)(c) the following persons attend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no intent to repeal the regulation at the current time. We will continue to monitor the situation, and welcome further suggestions.</li> </ul>

[www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx)

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meeting by electronic means (i) in the case of a meeting of a council, the chief administrative officer or a designated officer, thanks.	
<b>Data</b>	
Can we have a true "0" on the Municipal table for cases rather than "0-9"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The data available reflects the most up to date information.</li> </ul>
<b>Theatres</b>	
Are film crews permitted in indoor theatre for the purpose of recording and/or virtual viewing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A person may provide production or technical support, including but not limited to audiovisual or lighting support for a performance activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shall not be counted towards the maximum number of participants in a group performance activity,</li> <li>Must wear a face mask while providing production or technical support, and</li> <li>Must maintain a minimum physical distance of three metres from any person participating in the performance activity other than any other person providing production or technical support.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Testing</b>	
Are there specific qualifications one would need to administer the rapid test?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rapid test kits that are currently being provided to partners who don't have healthcare professionals in their team are tests that can be used by anyone.</li> </ul>
Will smaller communities be eligible for a rapid testing pilot, as was implemented for some large work camps?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, we would be happy to work with any municipality for rapid tests. Please send the inquiry to <a href="mailto:rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca">rapidtesting@gov.ab.ca</a>.</li> </ul>
Where is testing heading after we achieve vaccinating most of the population?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The arrival of vaccine does not mean the pandemic is over. We all must continue to follow public health guidelines, including physical distancing, practicing good hand hygiene, masking when in public, and staying home when sick.</li> </ul>
<b>Travel- Interprovincial</b>	
What are limitations on interprovincial travel?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently Alberta does not have any limitations on inter-provincial travel. Travellers to other provinces or territories may be subject to additional restrictions and health measures at their final destination. Please check with local authorities before leaving Alberta. The government of Alberta does not recommend non-essential travel.</li> </ul>
<b>Critical Worker Benefit</b>	
How does critical worker benefit apply to municipalities should we be submitting our home support/playschool/janitorial staff who work in those areas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For detailed information on the Critical Work Benefit, including eligibility and how to apply, please visit: <a href="http://alberta.ca/critical-worker-benefit.aspx">alberta.ca/critical-worker-benefit.aspx</a></li> </ul>

[www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx)

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<b>City Archive Services</b>	
We are wondering if city archive services can be re-opened (in the same vein as libraries); Can we get clarity on that, are archives part of the library act, if not can we please get an exemption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Archives can open.</li> </ul>
<b>Hotels and Conference Centres</b>	
What is the anticipated staging for greater usage of Community Halls/Conference facilities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective March 8, banquet halls, community halls and conference centres can open for all activities permitted under Step 1 and 2, including hosting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Virtual meetings, conferences and events</li> <li>○ Wedding ceremonies up to 10 people</li> <li>○ Funeral services up to 20 people</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Wedding receptions, funeral receptions and trade shows are not permitted.</li> <li>• Hotels, motels, hunting and fishing lodges may remain open, but must follow conditions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dine-in establishments</li> <li>○ Indoor fitness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Personal wellness.</li> </ul>
Just want to ensure hotels are applying any changes from Step 2 properly. My interpretation is that we instruct hotels to continue with single household bookings of all fitness, pool or hot tub facilities per Order 02-2021. Is that an appropriate interpretation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotel, condominium and apartment pools and gyms can be opened by appointment for use by a single household, individual exercise, one-on-one training, low intensity group fitness, student use and groups of 10 for youth training.</li> </ul>
Information to help stage up for greater usage of Hotels and Conference Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health Emergency Operation Centre is working with members of the Hotel and Conference Room to inform steps forward.</li> </ul>
<b>Feedback from Municipalities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a possibility to get the FAQ document faster? While I acknowledge it is a lot of work to answer these questions, when we are asking them, it is usually because we are already behind the messaging that has gone out from the GoA. Waiting an additional week is so challenging.</li> <li>• Can a small panel of municipal CAOs be struck to have dialogue prior to implementing restrictions and changes?</li> <li>• When you say "working with the fitness sector," does this include municipalities as one of the largest operators of fitness and athletic facilities in the province?</li> <li>• Is there a location where you can provide Town hall notifications to municipalities? Specifically for sector specific ones that affect municipalities.</li> <li>• Can municipal recreation facility operators be include in future town halls on fitness?</li> <li>• We do not have enough information for summer planning this needs to be a priority.</li> </ul>	

[www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx)

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Classification: Public

**aboffice@albertabeach.com**

cc: Council

**From:** Alberta Invasive Species Council <info@abinvasives.ca>  
**Sent:** February 26, 2021 9:31 AM  
**To:** =?utf-8?Q??=  
**Subject:** AISC Quarterly Update.

Remember to click on [View this email in your browser](#) to see the pretty pictures



## The New AISC Website has Launched!

Thanks to the ongoing support of our volunteer Board Members, we are happy to announce the new AISC updated website is now live! Check it out by clicking the image or button below!

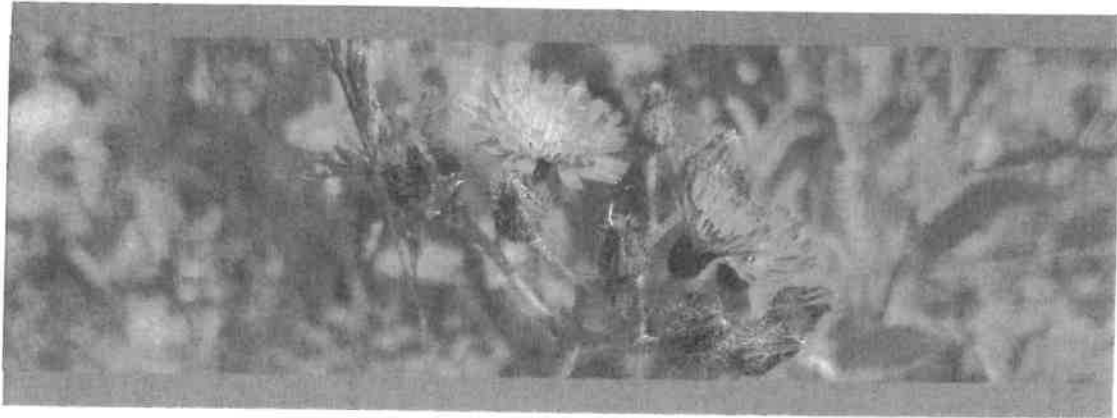




Due to the restructuring of our page, please check and update your websites or printed materials for any links to AISC factsheets and other resources, and ensure they are as up to date as possible.

[Click here to visit the new AISC website!](#)

**AISC 2021 Registration Now Open!**



# AISC 2021

**Virtual Annual General Meeting and Conference**

**March 15-19, 2021**



<https://abinvasives.ca/aisc-conference/>

Registration for the 2021 AISC Virtual AGM and Conference is now open **until March 11, 2021**. Follow the links below to access the agenda, registration, conference details and more!

[Click here to register for AISC 2021](#)

[For the most up-to-date AISC 2021 details, click here](#)

[AISC 2021 conference agenda, click here](#)

[AISC AGM Draft Minutes from April 8, 2020 available here](#)

Additionally, we need your input! Please consider the Special Resolution for the motion to apply for the [Canada Emergency Business Account](#) interest-free loan - let us know your vote at the AISC 2021 Virtual AGM and Conference.

[Find out more about the special resolution for Canada Emergency Business Account loan here](#)

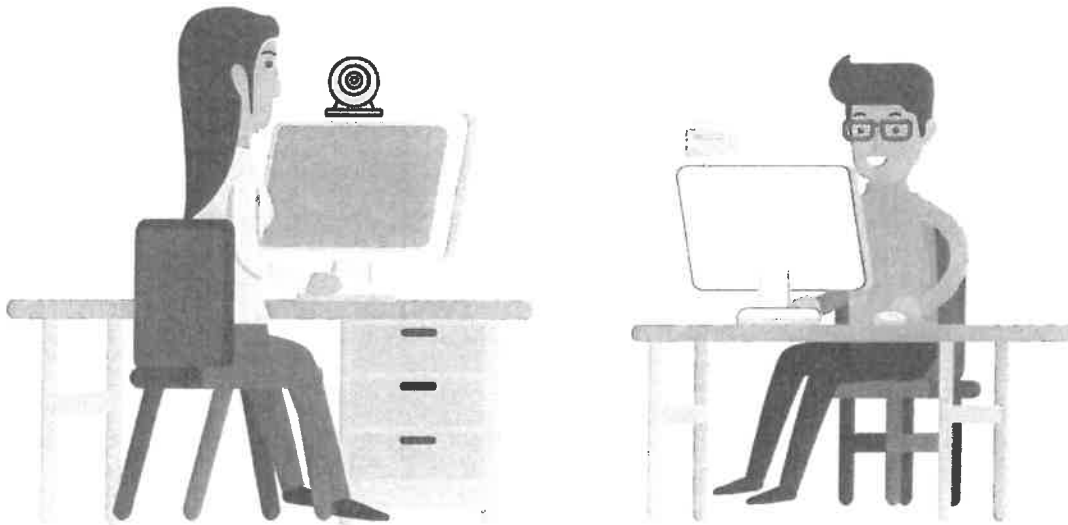
Would you like to sponsor our 2021 Virtual Conference and AGM? For \$500, sponsorship provides:

- One conference registration
- Sponsor logo included on program and main screen during conference
- One main sponsor for each day - sponsor can select session topic (first come, first served)
- Sponsor provided handout can be included in registration package

Please consider supporting our conference - further information can be provided by contacting [info@abinvasives.ca](mailto:info@abinvasives.ca) or 587 999 0954!

## AISC Call for Board of Directors

We are looking to fill a number of positions on our Board of Directors and we need passionate individuals like you to protect our province from invasive species! Serving on our board includes attendance at quarterly meetings, participation in conference calls, assistance on committees and volunteering at our casino fundraiser.



We are looking for representation from the following sectors throughout our province:

- Industry (x1);
- Public, e.g. Academia, NGO, Individual (x2);
- Government of Alberta (x1);
- Other Government (x1).

Nominations may come from members or can be self-nominated, simply click the button below for a nomination form that can be completed and emailed to: [execdirector@abinvasives.ca](mailto:execdirector@abinvasives.ca).

Get your nominations to us **by March 10th, 2021!**

Click here for the AISC Board of Directors nomination form

Email your completed nomination form to our Executive Director  
by clicking here

## Wild Boar at Large

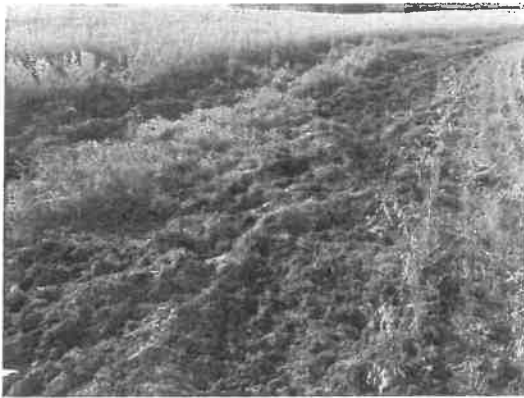
Did you know feral pigs (also known as wild boar at large) are one of the most damaging invasive species in North America? Some folks are keen to hunt wild boar at large but this is not a viable control option. We are asking for your help to report observations of wild boar at large and damage they may have caused using the AISC's free invasive species reporting app, [EDDMapS Alberta](#), by emailing [AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca), calling 310-FARM, or contacting your local municipality.

Keep your eyes *squealed* for our new education and outreach campaign '**Squeal on Pigs!**'

How do I know if I have a wild boar at large problem?



It's more likely that you will see evidence of wild boar at large than the animals themselves. Wild boar at large are notoriously sneaky and are often nocturnal. Look for signs of the animals such as tracks, scat, hair caught on barbed wire or damage to crops and other vegetation.



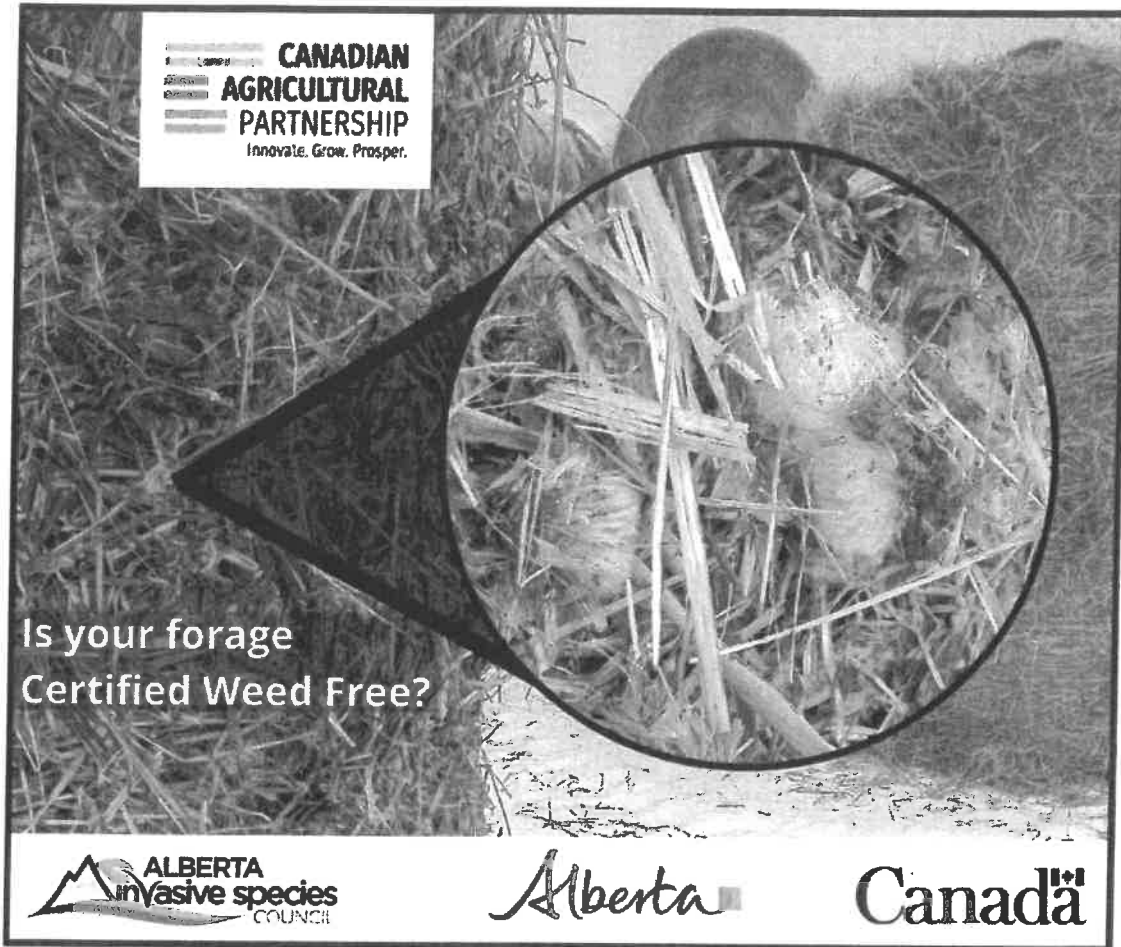
It can be difficult to see crop damage caused by wild boar until the crop is harvested. If you are aware of wild boar at large present in your area, you may want to survey your fields either by walking through the crop or using a drone.



Click here to find out more about EDDMapS Alberta app and report wild boar sightings

Email [AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca) to report a sighting by clicking here

## Weed Free Forage



Are you looking to purchase certified weed free forage or perhaps you're a producer looking to sell certified weed free forage? Do you work for a municipality and are interested in becoming certified to inspect fields to certify them weed-free?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, get in touch with the AISC! We plan to promote and facilitate the Alberta Certified Weed Free Forage program. We want to link buyers and sellers and get more certified weed free forage on the market. For more details on the Alberta Weed Free Forage program, email us at [info@abinvasives.ca](mailto:info@abinvasives.ca) or call 587 999 0954.

[Click here for more information on weed free forage](#)



## Coming soon!

Be sure to subscribe to our newsletters, visit our website and follow our social media pages to stay on top of the latest invasive species news within the province! Stay tuned to AISC this spring for more information on these exciting programs:

- 'Squeal on Pigs!' campaign
- New EDDMapS One app



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You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in the management of invasive species in Alberta.

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**Alberta Beach Village Office**

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**From:** AISC <info@abinvasives.ca>  
**Sent:** March 11, 2021 3:45 PM  
**To:** aboffice@albertabeach.com  
**Subject:** ALERT - Zebra Mussels found in Moss (Marimo) Balls!

Remember to click on [View this email in your browser](#) to see the pretty pictures



**ALERT!**

**ZEBRA MUSSELS FOUND IN MOSS (MARIMO) BALLS**



[For the AISC factsheet on zebra mussels, click here](#)

Live zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) have been detected in moss (marimo) balls being sold at various plant and pet stores across Alberta - talk about #mossmadness!

Here's what you *moss-t* know:

- Zebra mussels are listed under the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act* as a prohibited species meaning it is illegal to possess, release, sell or transport within Alberta.
- Zebra mussels have not previously been detected in Alberta and if introduced, have the potential to cause irreversible damage to our waterbodies, recreational equipment and irrigation systems.

- Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) has had reports of **live zebra mussels in moss balls** in personal aquariums, including one who had purchased a moss ball in early February.
- AEP is working closely with jurisdictional partners across Canada as live zebra mussels have been found in moss balls in BC, Saskatchewan and 20 US states.
- Live zebra mussels found on moss balls have been extremely small (varying from a grain of sand to 3 cm in size) and are often found inside the moss ball itself, making it extremely difficult to detect solely by visual inspection.
- As of March 9, Albertans are being asked to destroy **all moss balls that were purchased after January 1, 2021** (whether mussels are visible or not) to eliminate the risk of zebra mussels being introduced to the environment.
- Aquarium owners who have recently received moss balls for their tanks are advised to check them for attached zebra mussels (**remember: any attached mussel is invasive**) when performing regular maintenance.
- If you see moss balls are still being sold in Alberta, please call the AIS 24/7 hotline at **1-855-336-BOAT (2628)**, as pet and plant stores must remove moss balls from their shelves and halt sales immediately.

[For Alberta's alert on zebra mussels in moss balls, click here](#)

[For Alberta's response to aquatic invasive species, click here](#)

# ZEBRA AND QUAGGA MUSSELS

(DREISSENA SPP.)



## 1 MILLION EGGS

One female mussel can produce up to one million eggs a year.



Invasive mussels can disrupt natural food chains, create toxic algal blooms and reduce recreational enjoyment of natural areas.

**NO** NATIVE PREDATORS IN ALBERTA



Originated in the Black and Caspian Seas, brought to North America in the ballast of large cargo ships.



Transferred between water bodies on watercraft and equipment that is stored in the water.

## \$75,000,000

An invasion causes millions of dollars in damage to water-operated infrastructure – one estimate predicts it could cost Albertans over \$75 million dollars annually.

Standing water in bilges, ballasts and live wells can harbour hitchhikers, parasites and disease:

**PULL  
PLUG**

**CLEAN • DRAIN • DRY** to prevent the spread of invasive mussels.  
**YOUR BOAT**

Alberta



Due to this risk, the Government of Alberta is asking the public to remove ALL moss (marimo) balls in their possession that were purchased **after January 1, 2021**. Proper disposal is critical to minimize the risk of introducing zebra mussels into the environment.

**DO NOT** dispose of anything (moss balls, water, plants, rocks, fish, etc.) by:

- flushing down the toilet
- dumping into a drain or waterbody
- adding to compost

Use the following instructions to treat the moss balls:

- **STEP 1:** Place the moss ball(s) in sealed bag in the freezer for at least 24 hours OR place in boiling water for at least 1 minute and then let cool.
- **STEP 2:** Dispose of the moss ball by putting it in a sealed bag and discard it in the trash
- **STEP 3:** Treat aquarium or container contents and water by sterilizing the remaining contaminated water from the aquarium or container by adding 25ml of bleach per liter of water. Let the water sit for at least 15 minutes and then dispose of the sterilized water down a household drain. Clean aquarium and accessories using either the boiling or disinfection method, found on the Alberta alert.

- **STEP 4:** It is recommended that you do another water change within a week and continue to monitor the tank for any unusual or unexpected aquatic life (i.e. attached mussels).

For additional information, please read through the [Alberta alert](#) or call the AIS 24/7 hotline at **1-855-336-BOAT (2628)**.





Thanks to everyone who is spreading the word... and not the mussels!

Please continue to share this information and follow our social media below (as well as AEP's socials: [My Wild Alberta Facebook page](#) and [@AB Enviro Twitter page](#)) to stay updated on this #mossmadness.

[For the Government of Alberta's press release, click here](#)

[For the CTV News' article, click here](#)





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cc: Council

**Alberta Beach Village Office**

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**From:** municipalservicesandlegislation@gov.ab.ca  
**Sent:** February 19, 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** Kathy Skwarchuk  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Municipal Governance-February 19 Issue  
**Attachments:** FAQ.pdf

February 19, 2021

Dear Chief Administrative Officers:

Thank you again for all the efforts you are taking to keep municipal staff and residents in your community safe as we move through the path forward plan. Please visit [www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx) for the most current information.

Attached is our latest issue of the Frequently Asked Questions document addressing common questions we are receiving, as well as providing additional information critical to municipal governance and operations during this stepped approach.

I trust these updates will continue to provide you with the timely information and answers you need. The weekly Q&A session with the Chief Medical Officer of Health is ongoing and I encourage you to participate in these brief, informative sessions. Please contact our advisory support services by calling 780-427-2225 or toll-free by first dialing 310-0000 if you have further questions regarding municipal governance.

Sincerely,  
Paul Wynnyk  
Deputy Minister

Attachment

# Municipal Governance

## During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Frequently Asked Questions – February 19, 2021

While we continue to navigate the ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic together, Municipal Affairs remains committed to issuing regular updates to address frequently asked questions and provide new information or resources as they become available. For the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 situation in Alberta, visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19).

If you would like a specific issue addressed in an upcoming update, please email your request to [ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca).

### Municipal Affairs Updates

Previous COVID-19 updates are available online at: [www.alberta.ca/municipal-government-resources.aspx](https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-government-resources.aspx)

## Public Health Order

**Are Community Peace Officers still authorized to enforce provisions contained in the COVID-19 orders?**

**YES.** There is still a state of public health emergency in the province, and mandatory, province-wide restrictions remain in effect to protect the health system and slow the spread of COVID-19. The intention is to allow the network of enforcement officials, including community peace officers, to continue to enforce the orders in place.

## Path Forward

**Details on when restrictions may be lifted would help municipalities make longer-term decisions about opening facilities and program planning. Can additional details be included in each stage?**

**YES.** The Path Forward is intended as a roadmap for how restrictions will be eased in steps in a safe manner in the coming months.

These steps are intended to take a slow and steady approach to opening. As the Path Forward continues, more details will be shared for each step. Moving between steps will happen at least three weeks apart to assess the impact on cases.

## Elections

**Can municipalities use community centres/halls for election activities?**

**YES.** Community halls are closed for general use. [Order 2-2021](#) provides an exception for election activities.

This order provides some exceptions for activities to continue in community halls because it is in the interest of the community for them to continue and there may not be other appropriate venues for these activities.

## Municipal Facilities

### Can municipalities rent out community centres to faith or support groups?

**YES.** Renting community centres to faith groups is permitted. The intent is to allow faith groups who do not have their own building to continue to operate. The current order ([Order 2-2021](#)) also allows mutual support groups to take place in community halls, provided they follow all public health measures.

### Can an indoor arena be used as an off-site facility to support curriculum-related educational activities?

**YES.** K-12 and post-secondary institutions are allowed to use off-site facilities, such as an arena, to support curriculum-related activities.

### Are practices for school sports/teams/groups allowed outside of regular school hours?

**YES.** School hours are not a limiting factor for children's school-related indoor and outdoor sports and performance.

### Are municipalities obligated to make their facilities available to school groups and/or academies?

**NO.** Municipalities are in a position to determine the best use of their facilities; therefore, municipalities can decide whether or not their facilities will be available to school groups.

### Can municipalities rent out a municipal arena or pool to a household for a one hour period each household?

**YES.** Individual families are able to privately rent out a facility (e.g. rink, pool), provided they are the only ones at the facility. The facilities would be expected to have appropriate safety and cleaning [protocols](#) in place.

## Municipal Advisory Services

If you have further questions, please call:

780-427-2225 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or email: [ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca)

**Some team-based sport groups have requested to use a divider curtain to split into groups of 10 per surface. For example, a curtain divider splitting a soccer field or arena into two halves with 10 on each side. Can facilities be divided to allow for more than one group of 10 at one time?**

**YES.** As long as there is three metres of distance between the two different groups, whether it's a common ice surface or a swimming pool, you can have multiple groups at the same time. Physical distance must be maintained at all times.

The entrances and exits may require staggering. There are no set capacity limits. Capacity limits will be determined by the size of location and ability to adhere to the physical distancing requirements.

### Are minor hockey associations able to rent a facility to teams?

**YES.** Arenas can be rented for practice and training sessions, but games are not permitted. This activity is permitted if there are a maximum of 20 skaters (players under 18 and coaches). Rules around facilitating practices are up to the association.

### Can there be spectators in facilities for youth practices or can parents remain in our facilities to watch their children train?

**NO.** There can be no spectators. Parents or caregivers may not stay for training. If required for youth safety purposes, a chaperone may be present, but must not be involved in training and must be distanced at least three metres away from the training group.

**In order to reopen pools and aquatic centres, lifeguards must be sufficiently trained and all certifications need to be current prior to a guard being present on the pool deck. Given COVID-19 lifeguard certifications have expired, can we proceed with recertification under the current restrictions?**

**YES.** Alberta Health has not put specific limits on the number of participants in this type of situation, provided that appropriate distancing can be maintained.

## General Questions

**Do the former relaunch guidance documents still apply or will the “Path Forward” documents replace those guideline documents on BizConnect?**

**YES.** Current, guidance documents continue to apply. Where there are additional measures or specifics in the Path Forward, the Government of Alberta is working with those specific industries to provide more information and clarity.

For the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 situation in Alberta, visit: [www.alberta.ca/COVID19](http://www.alberta.ca/COVID19).

## Helpful Links

For up-to-date information on vaccine distribution, visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx>.

Variant numbers are now being updated a twice a week. For up-to-date information on the variants within Alberta, visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-alberta-data.aspx#jumplinks-1>

## Additional Resources

The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) continue to be a valuable resource for municipalities.

RMA’s COVID-19 response hub is available at: <https://rmaalberta.com/about/covid-19-response-hub>.

AUMA’s updated guide is available at: [www.auma.ca/covid19](http://www.auma.ca/covid19).

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities also has a list of links and resources for municipalities available at: [www.fcm.ca/en/resources/covid-19-resources-municipalities](http://www.fcm.ca/en/resources/covid-19-resources-municipalities).

For the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 situation in Alberta, visit: [www.alberta.ca/COVID19](http://www.alberta.ca/COVID19).

### Alberta Biz Connect

Alberta Biz Connect provides workplace guidance and support to businesses and non-profits. The online tool also provides sector-specific guidelines to ensure businesses can reopen safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses with questions regarding the relaunch can [email the Biz Connect team](#). Common questions are also posted [online](#).

**aboffice@albertabeach.com**

---

**From:** municipalservicesandlegislation@gov.ab.ca  
**Sent:** March 8, 2021 3:54 PM  
**To:** Kathy Skwarchuk  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Municipal Governance-March 5 Issue-FAQ CORRECTION  
**Attachments:** FAQ\_Correction.pdf

Dear Chief Administrative Officers:

Please find attached an updated Frequently Asked Questions document to replace the version you received on March 5, 2021.

Following the issuance of the previous version, my ministry was made aware that the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General approved Ministerial Order 13/2021 which changed the information we provided last week regarding enforcement of the Chief Medical Officer of Health's Orders. Please visit [open.alberta.ca/publications/bulletin-peace-officer-program](https://open.alberta.ca/publications/bulletin-peace-officer-program) for future bulletins regarding the Peace Officer Program.

The current information is highlighted on the attached document. I am sorry for any confusion that may have been caused with the information we disseminated to you last week.

Sincerely,

Paul Wynnyk

Deputy Minister

Attachment

# Municipal Governance

## During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Frequently Asked Questions – March 5, 2021-CORRECTION

While we continue to navigate the ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic together, Municipal Affairs remains committed to issuing regular updates to address frequently asked questions and provide new information or resources as they become available.

Step 2 restriction changes for indoor fitness and libraries came into effect March 1. All other restrictions remain in effect. For the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 situation in Alberta, visit: [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19).

If you would like a specific issue addressed in an upcoming update, please email your request to: [ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca).

### Election Resources

Municipal Affairs has published a guide for conducting municipal elections during the COVID-19 pandemic, available for download at: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2021-municipal-election-covid-19-risk-reduction-guide>.

### Public Health Order

**Is the State of Public Health Emergency still in effect?**

**NO.** The Official Public Health Emergency has expired. Discussions are ongoing on whether a state of emergency needs to be reinstated.

**With the expiration of the provincial public health emergency, can community peace officers be authorized to enforce the Chief Medical Officer of Health's (CMOH) COVID-19 orders?**

**YES.** On March 4, 2021 the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General issued a new Ministerial Order (MO 13/2021) pertaining to the enforcement of the CMOH Orders through the *Public Health Act (PHA)*.

Given there is no current declared provincial state of emergency, section 13(1.1) of the *Peace Officer Act* cannot be used for enforcement. Peace officers and their employers must consent to enforcing the CMOH's Orders through the *PHA* per section 13(1) of the *Peace Officer Act*. The decision to utilize this extended authority is the employers' and peace officers' to determine. While there is no requirement to submit consent to the Peace Officer Program if the decision is made to enforce the CMOH's Orders through the *PHA*, enforcement activities must be reported to [poprogram@gov.ab.ca](mailto:poprogram@gov.ab.ca) in accordance to the direction provided in November 2020.

The RCMP or public health inspectors remain authorized to enforce orders issued under the *Public Health Act*.

### Municipal Affairs Updates

Previous COVID-19 updates are available at: [www.alberta.ca/municipal-government-resources.aspx](https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-government-resources.aspx)

## General Questions

**Should councillors still be encouraged to wear masks during council meetings even if we have the space to social distance and/or have barriers in place?**

**YES.** Masks are required to be worn indoors at all times, unless individuals are at a workstation and separated from others. If each individual seated in chambers is separated by two metres from all others then masks could be removed; however, it is highly recommended masks remain on for all in-person meetings. At this time, virtual meetings continue to be encouraged wherever possible.

**Are municipalities responsible in any way for use of their community halls in contravention of the order or parameters of use under the Public Health Order?**

**YES.** Community hall operators are responsible for any contravention to public health orders that occur within their premises. If the community hall operator is the municipality, then the municipality would be held responsible.

### Alberta Biz Connect

Alberta Biz Connect provides workplace guidance and support to businesses and non-profits. The online tool also provides sector-specific guidelines to ensure businesses can reopen safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses with questions regarding the relaunch can [email the Biz Connect team](#). Common questions are also posted [online](#).

**Are community hall kitchens allowed to be used if the hall itself is not being used?**

**YES.** CMOH Order 2-2021 Section 43(j) allows a location to be utilized for charitable activities including, but not limited to, food, clothing, and toy collection and distribution.

**As municipalities work with outdoor festival organizers to ensure they have plans for different formats, will it be possible to get information on what the possible restrictions will be for these events?**

**YES.** Information will be made available as soon as possible. Outdoor festivals and events are currently in Step 4 of the Path Forward. There is no indication at this time of what potential summer festivals may look like; however, Alberta Health is working with representatives of summer festivals to provide up-to-date information and ensure they understand their planning needs.

At this time, the limit on outdoor social gatherings remains capped at 10 people, and this restriction is in place province-wide.

## Additional Resources

The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) continue to be a valuable resource for municipalities.

RMA's COVID-19 response hub is available at: <https://rmaalberta.com/about/covid-19-response-hub>.

AUMA's updated guide is available at: [www.auma.ca/covid19](http://www.auma.ca/covid19).

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities also has a list of links and resources for municipalities available at: [www.fcm.ca/en/resources/covid-19-resources-municipalities](http://www.fcm.ca/en/resources/covid-19-resources-municipalities).



**aboffice@albertabeach.com**

*cc: Council*

**From:** municipalservicesandlegislation@gov.ab.ca  
**Sent:** February 25, 2021 4:54 PM  
**To:** Kathy Skwarchuk  
**Subject:** Budget 2021 Message from Hon. Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
**Attachments:** Budget 2021 Letter to Chief Elected Officials.pdf

To: All CEOs  
cc: All CAOs

Please see the attached letter from Minister McIver regarding Budget 2021/22.

Budget information referenced in the attached letter can be accessed here:

<https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-sustainability-initiative.aspx>

<https://www.alberta.ca/federal-gas-tax-fund-funding-allocations-and-eligibility.aspx>

Thank you.



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister  
Deputy Government House Leader  
M.L.A. Calgary-Hays*

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

I am writing to provide you with more information about Budget 2021, which my colleague, the Honourable Travis Toews, has tabled in the legislature. I would specifically like to provide you with details on the items in Municipal Affairs' Budget 2021 that affect municipalities the most.

To begin with, I am pleased to tell you that Municipal Affairs is investing more than \$1.7 billion overall to build stronger communities. Those funds will deliver important programs and services and will support effective governance and preserve public safety. I must also acknowledge that, as a result of several factors, including falling revenues and the ongoing costs of the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to reduce government spending in Alberta. Our goal is to do this while also continuing to provide significant infrastructure funding in the near term to support our economic recovery and help municipalities adjust to new levels of funding in future years.

Over the next three years, from 2021-24, as we all strive to live within our means, municipalities will receive about 25 per cent less in capital funding than they did in 2020-21. In real terms, that means Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) capital funding will average \$722 million a year over that time. To support continued economic recovery and stimulus efforts, more of that funding will be made available up front, and less in subsequent years.

To help you adjust to a reduced average funding level, \$1.196 billion in MSI capital funding will be made available to municipalities and Metis Settlements in 2021, and \$485 million in each of the next two years. Additionally, municipalities and Metis Settlements will continue to receive the full \$30 million under the operating component of the MSI.

As you are aware, MSI was scheduled to conclude in 2021-22 and be replaced by legislated funding provided under the Local Government Fiscal Framework in subsequent years. Given the current circumstances and economic uncertainty, we are extending MSI for two years to stabilize provincial revenues before launching the Local Government Fiscal Framework in 2024-25. The baseline funding level for that first year of the LGFF will remain at \$722 million. We thank municipalities for understanding that this change was necessary to respond to the serious challenges we are all facing. The estimated 2021 MSI allocations are available on the program website.

.../2

I am also pleased to advise you that Alberta expects to receive \$255 million in federal funding under the Gas Tax Fund (GTF). The estimated 2020 GTF allocations are available on the program website. Links to the program websites with the MSI and GTF allocations are provided in the transmittal e-mail accompanying this letter.

MSI and GTF program funding is subject to the Legislative Assembly's approval of Budget 2021. Individual allocations and 2021 funding are subject to ministerial authorization under the respective program guidelines. Federal GTF funding is also subject to confirmation by the Government of Canada. You should expect to receive letters confirming MSI and GTF funding commitments in April.

To help municipalities respond to the requirements of the *Alberta Senate Election Act* and *Referendum Act*, our government is making \$10 million available to support costs associated with operating Senate nominee elections and referendums in conjunction with local elections. This funding will be available under the Alberta Community Partnership program, increasing the total program budget to \$25.4 million.

I am happy to say that funding to support local public library boards will remain stable, helping those groups provide a vital resource to residents through this especially trying time. I am also pleased to report that, due to some great work from our staff at the Surface Rights Board to reduce the backlog of landowner claims, we will be able to save \$600,000 in our yearly operating expenses.

This has not been, by any means, an easy time for Albertans. We understand the challenges that communities will continue to face in the months and years ahead. We remain committed to providing sustainable levels of capital funding to support critical local infrastructure, promote economic development, and enable local governments to continue to deliver the programs and services that Albertans depend on.

As Albertans, we are no strangers to adversity. We have overcome challenges in the past and we will continue to do so. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure that Alberta overcomes today's challenges and shares in a bright and prosperous future together.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver  
Minister

**aboffice@albertabeach.com**

---

**From:** Rosanna Badree <Rosanna.Badree@gov.ab.ca> on behalf of MSL ARTS Group <mslartsgroup@gov.ab.ca>  
**Sent:** March 2, 2021 11:06 AM  
**To:** ! ABOffice  
**Subject:** Village of Alberta Beach 2020 Municipal Accountability Program (MAP) Report  
**Attachments:** DM\_Wynnyk\_letter.pdf

Good morning,

Please see attached letter. No hard copy to follow.

Thank you.

Office of the Deputy Minister  
Municipal Affairs

Classification: Protected A



Municipal Affairs

**Deputy Minister**  
18th Floor, Commerce Place  
10155 – 102 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4  
Canada  
Telephone 780-427-4826  
Fax 780-422-9561

AR100778

February 24, 2021

Ms. Kathy Skwarchuk  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Village of Alberta Beach  
PO Box 278  
Alberta Beach AB T0E 0A0

Dear Ms. Skwarchuk:

Thank you for your email of February 18, 2021, regarding the completion of all non-compliant items identified in the 2020 Municipal Accountability Program (MAP) report for the Village of Alberta Beach.

I commend the village for moving forward and addressing these items in a timely manner, and I am pleased to advise you the Village of Alberta Beach 2020 MAP review has been completed to the satisfaction of the Minister.

On behalf of Municipal Affairs, I wish the village all the best for the future.

Sincerely,

  
Paul Wynnyk  
Deputy Minister

cc: Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs

**aboffice@albertabeach.com**

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**From:** municipalservicesandlegislation@gov.ab.ca  
**Sent:** March 10, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** Kathy Skwarchuk  
**Subject:** Changes to the Disaster Recovery Program  
**Attachments:** 100314 Chief Elected Officials.pdf; DRP Changes Information Fact Sheet.pdf

Attn: All CEOs  
cc: CAOs

On behalf of Minister McIver, please find attached an update on changes to the Disaster Recovery Program for all of Alberta's elected officials and their Chief Administrative Officers.

The letter and the attached information sheet outline the changes being made along with the reasons behind these changes.



ALBERTA  
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister  
Deputy Government House Leader  
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR100314

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

This letter is to inform you of changes to the Government of Alberta's Disaster Recovery Program (DRP), which are in effect for DRPs that occur in 2021 and onward and are outlined in the 2021 Disaster Assistance Guidelines.

In response to the rising cost and frequency of disasters in Alberta, we have made changes to the DRP. These changes are intended to share the responsibility of disasters with all those who are impacted and to make the program more sustainable for future events. Changes will ensure that assistance is available for Albertans when they need it most.

While conditions for eligibility remain the same for qualifying applicants, the following cost-sharing arrangements and funding limits have been added to the program:

**Local authority and private sector applicants (including homeowners)**

We are implementing a 90:10 cost-sharing arrangement.

- DRP assistance is limited to 90 per cent of eligible disaster expenses, instead of 100 per cent.
- The remaining 10 per cent of eligible assistance will be subtracted from the amount payable to the applicant. No payment to the program will be required.

**Homeowners only**

We are implementing a funding limit of up to \$500,000 per homeowner application and a limit on assistance to one time per property.

- For disaster events that occur in 2021 onward, qualifying homeowner applicants will only be able to access DRP assistance once per property address. Financial assistance from the program will not be provided to future applicants who own property at the same physical location.

.../2

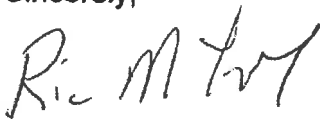
- The one-time funding limit is not cumulative. For example, if an applicant has received \$100,000 worth of assistance under the new policy, they would not qualify for any funding in the future.
- This change will not be applied retroactively. If a homeowner has received assistance before 2021, this does not count as meeting the one-time assistance limit.
- Homeowner addresses that receive DRP assistance will be posted online to the Government of Alberta website to provide transparency about DRP funding limits and up-to-date information for prospective homeowners, developers, and real estate professionals. The funding received stays with the property; therefore, a new homeowner would not be able to access disaster recovery funding for that same property in the future.

Being prepared improves individual and community resilience by lessening the impacts of disasters, shortening recovery time, and reducing economic disruption. Individuals and communities are encouraged to take measures to prepare for disasters and to look at ways of reducing their disaster risks. Learn how you can prepare for emergencies and disasters by visiting us at [alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx](http://alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx).

Please refer to the enclosed information sheet for more information on changes to the Disaster Recovery Program and the Alberta Disaster Assistance Guidelines, or visit us online at [www.alberta.ca/drp](http://www.alberta.ca/drp).

If you have any additional questions, please call 1-888-671-1111 or email [drp.info@gov.ab.ca](mailto:drp.info@gov.ab.ca).

Sincerely,



Ric McIver  
Minister

Attachment: Information Sheet

cc: Chief Administrative Officers



# Disaster Recovery Program Changes

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## Overview

The Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) provides financial assistance to qualifying applicants to help restore uninsurable property lost or damaged by a disaster to its basic, pre-disaster functional condition.

DRPs provide financial assistance as a last resort to assist those affected by a disaster.

## Program changes

For DRPs that occur in 2021, the Government of Alberta has set homeowner funding limits and implemented cost-sharing mechanisms between the government and program applicants.

## Why changes were made

The cost and frequency of disasters in Alberta are increasing, and the province needs a more sustainable approach to disaster recovery. By implementing a stronger framework to deal with emergencies and disasters, these changes help ensure the DRP can continue to be available for Albertans when they need it most.

## Homeowner-funding limits

The province is implementing a homeowner funding limit of up to \$500,000 per application for eligible costs and a limit of one-time assistance per property, regardless of the transfer of ownership. The one-time funding limit is not cumulative, so if an applicant has received any amount of assistance under the new policy, they would not qualify for funding in the future.

Establishing a homeowner funding limit helps government reinforce the intent of the DRP, which is to contribute to a ready and resilient Alberta and be the payer of last resort. Homeowners may choose to opt out of receiving DRP assistance if they are able to cover damages on their own. This would allow their property to qualify for future assistance if a DRP is approved in their community and they meet the program qualification criteria at that time.

## Limits to properties

- Limits to assistance are applied to the property address only, not the applicant.
- A new property owner will not qualify for DRP assistance if the previous owner already accessed the one-time funding limit.

## Posting addresses online

- If a homeowner applicant accessed funding through a DRP for a disaster that occurred in 2021 and onward, the property address and legal land description will be posted on the Government of Alberta website. The post will indicate that the address (legal land description) is not eligible for future DRP funding.
- This will help prospective buyers and developers become aware of funding limits that apply to specific addresses.

## 90:10 cost-sharing

Cost-sharing mechanisms for municipalities and private-sector applicants are based on a 90:10 formula, where the province covers 90 per cent of eligible disaster costs and the applicant covers the remaining 10 per cent.

## What you can do as a community

The Alberta Emergency Management Agency encourages all Albertans and communities to:

- Purchase adequate insurance.
- Have reserve funds.
- Invest in mitigation and infrastructure maintenance.
- Restrict future property development in high-risk areas.

## Living in high-risk areas

Albertans living in high-risk areas may experience a natural disaster of one kind or another. The Government of Alberta continues to provide DRP assistance to all qualifying applicants; however, homeowners living in high-risk areas are encouraged to consider relocating or mitigating risks to their properties.

Flood maps are available at <https://floods.alberta.ca/>.

## Purchasing insurance

It is important for Albertans to become educated about their disaster risks and ensure they are adequately insured. There are more insurance options on the market now than ever before.

### High-risk areas

Homeowners living in high-risk areas who are not able to access overland flood insurance are also subject to the cost-sharing and one-time funding limit.

### Flood insurance

Financial assistance for disaster recovery continues to be available to eligible applicants to help cover costs related to uninsurable loss and damages.

Albertans are advised to check with several insurance companies to compare policy coverage limits, exclusionary language (e.g. concurrent causation clauses), and premiums when purchasing any flood insurance.

## Federal government disaster assistance

Since 2015, the federal government has significantly reduced federal support through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. This has increased the provincial liability for DRP costs. In addition to this, the federal government does not typically reimburse for repeat assistance in flood-prone areas.

## Indigenous communities

The federal government continues to fund all eligible disaster-related costs on First Nations reserve land.

First Nations applicants living off reserve, as well as other members of Indigenous communities are eligible for the same benefits and limits as other Albertans applying to the DRP.

The 90:10 cost-sharing arrangements will also apply to Métis Settlement communities as it would for all other communities.

### For more information

Online: [alberta.ca/drp](https://alberta.ca/drp)

Call us: 1-888-671-1111

Email: [DRP.info@gov.ab.ca](mailto:DRP.info@gov.ab.ca)

**aboffice@albertabeach.com**

cc: Council

**From:** Exec. Assistant on behalf of Dan Rude <EA\_DRude@auma.ca>  
**Sent:** February 18, 2021 3:24 PM  
**To:** Kathy Skwarchuk  
**Subject:** February 2021 Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board Quarterly Report  
**Attachments:** Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board Feb 2021 Quarterly Report.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please find attached the Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board's (APIAB) first quarterly report, sent on behalf of APIAB Chair Tanya Thorn. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to one of the APIAB members below:

Councillor Tanya Thorn, Town of Okotoks – [tthorn@okotoks.ca](mailto:tthorn@okotoks.ca)  
 Councillor Trina Jones, Town of Legal – [tjones@legal.ca](mailto:tjones@legal.ca)  
 Mayor Tyler Gandam, City of Wetaskiwin – [tyler.gandam@wetaskiwin.ca](mailto:tyler.gandam@wetaskiwin.ca)  
 Deputy Mayor Angela Duncan, Village of Alberta Beach – [duncan.angela.ad@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.angela.ad@gmail.com)

Best regards,

**Dan Rude** | Chief Executive Officer

**ALBERTA URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION**

D: 780.431.4535 | C: 780.951.3344 | E: [drude@auma.ca](mailto:drude@auma.ca)

Alberta Municipal Place | 300-8616 51 Ave Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6

Toll Free: 310-AUMA | 877-421-6644 | [www.auma.ca](http://www.auma.ca)



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587.892.7874 | aapg.ca



310.AUMA | auma.ca



780.955.3639 | RMAAlberta.com

February 15, 2021

Dear Mayors, Reeves, and CAOs:

The Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board (APIAB) wants to ensure that municipalities continue to have an understanding of the work the Board is doing. This quarterly update outlines the work that the Interim Board has undertaken since we last reported October 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Interim Board's Mandate*

The APIAB was established by the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General (JSG). Our work is two-fold: to share the municipal perspective on policing priorities with the RCMP and Government of Alberta, while developing the governance structure for the permanent Board. As determined by JSG, the Interim Board is comprised of representatives from the RMA Board, the AUMA Board and the Alberta Association of Police Governance Executive, with specific representation identified by each association. The Interim Board's mandate concludes at the end of November 2021. Based upon the Minister of JSG accepting the recommendations for the governance structure of the permanent Board, the recruitment and selection process for the permanent Board will commence in the Fall 2021.

#### *Interim Board's Focus*

Since the last report, the Interim Board has held six meetings. All of our meetings have been held virtually due to COVID-19. JSG staff and the RCMP continue to be active participants in these meetings.

The Interim Board has been making progress on both aspects of its mandate. During this quarter, our primary focus has been on reviewing the results of the policing priorities survey sent to you in October. Your input has been integral in developing the priorities for the RCMP moving forward in 2021/2022. Attached to this update is the letter and report sent to the Minister on January 29, 2021, outlining the Interim Board's recommendations for the 2021-22 policing priorities.

#### *Interim Board's Engagement with Municipalities*

The APIAB has now shifted its focus to the governance of the permanent Board, with the next steps being to finalize the following related to the Board structure and scope:

- Size

- Representation
  - Public versus elected officials
  - Members at large
  - Voting and non-voting status of various members
- Member criteria/qualifications/competencies to ensure necessary skill sets, experience and diversity
- Recruitment strategy
- Selection process
- Appointment terms
- Knowledge transfer and membership shifts
- Board responsibilities and duties (including process for alternates, termination of member, etc.)
- Terms of Reference
- Code of Conduct
- Code of Ethics

In the coming weeks a survey will be circulated for input from municipalities on some of these issues in order to ensure that the permanent Board represents municipal needs and preferences.

#### *RCMP Update on Resourcing*

As of February 8, 2021 the RCMP advised that 66 of 76 new regular member positions had been filled. The remaining 10 positions are pending within the staffing process. As well, of the 57 public service employee positions, a total of 28 positions have been filled to date, and the remaining 29 positions are pending within the staffing process. See the attachment titled "PPSA Police Funding Model Positions February 2021" for further details.

The Interim Board has reviewed many different resourcing options with RCMP "K" Division over this last quarter. There are many different options, other than front-line policing, as to how new resources can be allocated. Attached is a brief outline of some of those options to help provide clarity on what these other programs provide to overall community safety. The Interim Board will continue to work with JSG and the RCMP to ensure our provincial policing resources continue to grow in ways that improve community safety throughout Alberta. We have recommended that the RCMP continue to balance front-line policing, support programs and civilian resourcing to meet the priority recommendations of the Interim Board.

We have also provided recommendations on the report templates that Detachment Commanders should provide to municipalities. We expect that councils and administration will begin seeing reports in this format on a quarterly basis moving forward.

In conclusion, I and my fellow Interim Board members are pleased with the engagement of the RCMP and JSG in our discussion and our progress to date. We continue to see the potential of this Board to increase the municipal voice in policing across the province. Please contact me or my Board colleagues with any questions or concerns, and I look forward to providing you with the next quarterly update in a few months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Thorn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tanya Thorn  
Board Chair, Alberta Police Interim Police Advisory Board  
403-860-7342  
[Board@ABPoliceAdvisoryBoard.com](mailto:Board@ABPoliceAdvisoryBoard.com)



587.892.7874 | aapg.ca



310.AUMA | auma.ca



780.955.3639 | RMAAlberta.com

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January 29, 2021

Honourable Kaycee Madu  
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General  
424 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Madu:

On behalf of the Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board, please find attached the Board's report on recommendations for 2021-22 policing priorities. This report fulfills the following two mandate items from the Board's Terms of Reference:

- *Provide a report detailing the Interim Board's recommendations and advice on the JSJ/RCMP "K" Division Multi-year Financial Plan by January 31, 2021; and*
- *Provide a report detailing the Interim Board's recommendations and advice on provincial policing priorities by January 31, 2021.*

Please note that we have combined our recommendations on the multi-year financial plan and provincial policing priorities into the same document.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these recommendations. We would be happy to meet with you if you would like to discuss our recommendations in greater detail. The Board is now working on creating the governance recommendations for the operational Board to complete our final mandate items.

If you have any questions or suggestions at this time, please feel free to contact me at [tthorn@okotoks.ca](mailto:tthorn@okotoks.ca).

We look forward to engaging with you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tanya Thorn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tanya Thorn  
Chair  
Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board

cc: Paul McLaughlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta  
Barry Morishita, President, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association  
Terry Coleman, Chair, Alberta Association of Police Governance  
Deputy Commissioner Curtis Zablocki, "K" Division RCMP  
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# ALBERTA POLICE INTERIM ADVISORY BOARD

Report on Municipal Policing Priorities

January 2021

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## Executive Summary

The Alberta Police Advisory Board was created by the Minister of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General in spring 2020 to give municipalities served by the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA) a strong voice in setting policing priorities. One of the Board’s mandated deliverables was to provide input into discussions on provincial policing priorities for the 2021/22 fiscal year. This report fulfills that mandate and is also intended to be used to inform the Government of Alberta/RCMP multi-year financial plan.

The Board has developed eight municipal policing priorities and related recommendations. These priorities and recommendations are of equal importance to municipalities.

Priority	Recommendations
Develop a coordinated, long-term strategy to ensure that all vacant frontline detachment positions are filled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to identify and prioritize vacancies and gaps in service in both Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA) and Municipal Police Service Agreement (MPSA) municipalities. This would include determining what factors should be considered in making resourcing decisions, as well as the relative importance of each factor.</li> <li>• Develop clear and consistent communication processes with municipalities around vacancies, including information on when and how they will be filled.</li> </ul>
Update the detachment resourcing methodology to ensure that resourcing decisions reflect community needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to review resourcing methodology to ensure it reflects community need, particularly at the local level. This may include both enhancing direct RCMP engagement with local communities, and working with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to refine resourcing methodology based on the local input gathered.</li> <li>• Work with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to improve communication with municipalities so that they understand how resources are allocated, as well as the value of centralized, specialized, and civilian positions.</li> </ul>
Increase efforts to target repeat offenders committing crimes in rural and small urban municipalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop ways in which repeat offender-related strategies and information can be consistently and effectively communicated between detachments and municipalities or police advisory bodies, and how such discussions can then be further communicated to CRUs.</li> <li>• Improve reporting to municipalities and the public on what constitutes a “repeat offender” and the strategies being undertaken by the RCMP to address repeat offenders, especially in rural and small urban municipalities.</li> </ul>
Work with municipal and community leaders to identify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop best practices and standards for detachments to follow to</li> </ul>

<p>local priority enforcement areas and use this information to determine detachment and regional crime reduction strategies.</p>	<p>improve collaboration and engagement with small municipalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize different rural and urban crime priority areas and use this information to inform local, regional, and provincewide policing priorities and strategies.</li> </ul>
<p>Continue to support detachments in conducting proactive policing and community engagement through the increased use of Crime Reduction Units, Call Back Units, and other resources that will allow frontline officers to increase their presence in the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop meaningful definitions and measures of proactive policing and community visibility that are relevant in both urban and rural municipalities.</li> <li>• Determine how the continued growth of specialized units will directly support improved frontline policing (including proactive policing and community visibility) in rural and small urban municipalities.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop messaging on how to better communicate the proactive policing initiatives already underway to support improved rural police services.</li> </ul>
<p>Provide the Alberta Police Advisory Board with adequate and consistent financial and administrative support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Alberta Justice and Solicitor General allocate a portion of revenues collected annually through the police costing model to provide required administrative funding for the Alberta Police Advisory Board before transferring funding to the RCMP.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the Interim Board to determine long-term board costs and administrative requirements in order to inform the funding allocation.</li> </ul>
<p>Work with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop best practices to enhance the quality and consistency of communication and collaboration between detachments and the municipalities that they serve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board (possibly through the formation of a sub-committee involving RCMP, Government of Alberta, and Board members) to develop communication and collaboration best practices and approaches in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How to form relationships with municipal leaders</li> <li>○ How to effectively report to and update municipalities about policing in the community</li> <li>○ How to work with municipalities to identify and engage community leaders, including those from racialized and/or under-represented communities</li> <li>○ How to maintain collaboration following changes in detachment and/or municipal leadership</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Work with community and municipal leaders to address racism and other forms of discrimination in policing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop measurable detachment-level requirements for engaging with local racialized and/or under-represented communities.</li> <li>• Collaborate with municipalities and other leading community organizations to raise awareness of and respond to local social justice issues.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop initiatives that will support detachments in undertaking this action.</li></ul>
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As the role of the Alberta Police Advisory Board is to provide recommendations to the RCMP and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, it is ultimately the responsibility of the provincial government and “K” Division leadership to decide whether to accept the Board’s recommendations, and if so, how to integrate them into existing planning processes and strategic initiatives.

The Board would be pleased to meet with RCMP and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General leadership to discuss the priorities identified in this report, and how all three groups can work together towards effective implementation.

## Introduction

The Minister of Justice and Solicitor General established the Alberta Police Advisory Board in spring 2020 to give municipalities served by the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA)<sup>1</sup> a strong voice in setting policing priorities. As the order of government closest to its citizens, municipalities are well-positioned to help the RCMP identify and address community policing<sup>2</sup> and public safety issues. The Board can therefore play an important role in ensuring that policing reflects the needs and concerns of Albertans across the province.

The Alberta Police Advisory Board is being implemented in two phases: in the first year, an interim Board is developing the Board's structure and scope. On the completion of the interim Board's mandate, the work of the operational Board will begin for a four-year term. As per the Terms of Reference developed by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (Appendix 1), the Interim Board is made up of four representatives from the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Board, four representatives from the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Board, and one representative from the Alberta Association of Police Governance Executive. A list of the current interim Board members is provided in Appendix 2.

The Interim Board has been mandated to:

1. Develop the scope and terms of reference for the operational Board.
2. Develop a recruitment and selection process for operational Board members.
3. Develop governance documents for the operational Board, including at minimum, a Competency Matrix for Board member appointments and review, a Code of Conduct, and a Mandate and Roles Document.
4. Provide input, advice, and recommendations to the provincial government and RCMP "K" Division on the buildup of the provincial police service.
5. Provide input into discussions on provincial policing priorities for the 2021/22 fiscal year to facilitate engagement during transition to the operational Board.

This report contains the Interim Board's recommendations and advice on provincial policing priorities for the 2021/22 fiscal year (Mandate Item 5). The report is also intended to be used to inform the Government of Alberta/RCMP Multi-Year Financial Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Under the *Police Act*, the Government of Alberta is responsible for providing police services to urban municipalities with populations of 5,000 or less and all municipal districts and counties. The provincial government meets this obligation by contracting the RCMP to deliver police services to these municipalities through the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA). This agreement is negotiated and signed by the provincial and federal governments.

<sup>2</sup> Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

## Stakeholder Engagement

Since its establishment, the Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board has been engaging with key stakeholders to gather information and develop recommendations on policing priorities.

The Board distributed a survey to municipalities in fall 2020 to learn more about municipal perspectives on policing (see survey questions in Appendix 3). This survey received 209 responses from 160 different municipalities. The Board also solicited input from municipalities through email and in person at RMA and AUMA events. Municipal feedback provided the foundation for the recommendations in this report.

Additionally, the Board met multiple times with RCMP “K” Division and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General to learn about current policies and processes related to planning, budgeting, and resource allocation for the provincial police service. This included reviewing the policing priorities and performance measures identified by the RCMP and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General in their 2018-2021 Joint Business Plan.

## Engagement Themes: What We Heard

The Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board received a wide range of feedback from municipalities on how to enhance policing in Alberta. While quantitative analysis of survey results has been invaluable in helping the Board determine policing priorities for municipalities, several broader themes also emerged through qualitative analysis. Some of these themes highlight broad, societal issues that the RCMP cannot resolve alone, but should consider in both their strategic planning and day-to-day operations. Other themes focus on specific policing areas that the RCMP can address directly. The Board was pleased to note that these themes are generally aligned with some of the priorities outlined in the existing Alberta Justice and Solicitor General/RCMP 2018-2021 Joint Business Plan, indicating a degree of agreement between municipalities, the provincial government, and the RCMP on future goals and directions for policing in Alberta.

### Systemic Resource Constraints

Municipalities have consistently highlighted resource constraints in the provincial health, policing, and justice systems as a key barrier to effective policing. Municipalities do not expect to have a hospital, police detachment, and courthouse in every community in Alberta; however, all Albertans must have equitable access to health, police, and justice services and these services must be appropriately resourced in order to be effective. While the RCMP is now in a position to increase its resources as a result of additional funding raised through the new police costing model, their effectiveness will continue to be limited as long as there are vacancies and gaps in the health and justice systems. It is important to note that both the justice and healthcare systems fall under provincial jurisdiction, and municipal governments have a limited role in provincial policy, planning, and decision-making for these systems. Additionally, given fiscal constraints and limited mechanisms for raising revenue, municipalities are not able to fill in gaps in provincial funding.

## Crime Reduction and Prevention

As crime and the costs of policing continue to be a key issue in both rural and urban communities, municipalities have identified the need to focus on crime prevention and reduction by resolving the root causes of crime. There is considerable research showing that early intervention and prevention with youth, families, and schools reduces violent crime in a cost-effective way: crime can be prevented by responding as soon as possible when people have risk factors such as addiction, loss of employment, or mental illness. While most early intervention and prevention programs fall under provincial jurisdiction, there is a role for the RCMP to play in cross-agency collaboration with various stakeholders and levels of government to identify the root causes of crime at a community level, pool resources, and coordinate responses. Municipalities do play a role in delivering preventative social supports through the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) program; in fact, more than half of the municipalities participating in this program pay more than the required municipal cost share for the program. However, municipalities are limited by legislation that prevents FCSS programs from duplicating any provincial services.

## Outcome Accountability

Municipalities expect the RCMP to operate according to prescribed accountability and governance frameworks. Many municipalities identified the need for a more transparent, collaborative approach to assessing RCMP performance that is based on the identification of policing and public safety goals through a closer working relationship between the RCMP and their primary stakeholders, particularly municipalities, which are well-positioned to identify community safety issues. Once such goals are identified, appropriate indicators should be created for assessing whether progress is being made towards achieving these goals, and regular reporting processes should be established. Municipalities are cognizant of the additional resources required to support organizational effectiveness and outcome accountability, and they acknowledge the tension inherent in balancing corporate support and centralized positions with “boots on the ground”. However, a collaborative and transparent approach to RCMP performance assessment that engages stakeholders more directly in goal identification and outcome measurement can lead to more successful, responsive, and accountable policing.

## Social Justice

Recent events such as the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Children, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the Merlo-Davidson settlement underscore the need to address systemic discrimination in civil society, and the role of police in both perpetuating this discrimination and combatting it. All civil institutions, including municipal governments and police services, must work in partnership with marginalized populations to address discrimination both internally and in their interactions with the citizens they serve. To ensure public confidence in policing, municipalities support improved civilian oversight and transparency, particularly for complaints and disciplinary reviews, as well as recruitment and training initiatives that focus on diversity and inclusion.



## Municipal Policing Priorities

Based on stakeholder feedback, the Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board has developed eight municipal policing priorities and related recommendations to inform discussions on provincial policing priorities for the 2021/22 fiscal year. These priorities and recommendations are of equal importance to municipalities and are grouped by the themes identified in the previous section.

### Systemic Resource Constraints

Priority 1: Develop a coordinated, long-term strategy to ensure that all vacant frontline detachment positions are filled.

Albertans need to feel safe and protected in their communities. AUMA, RMA, and the Alberta Association of Police Governance have consistently heard from their members that RCMP vacancy rates and long response times contribute to the perception that some communities are not safe. This feedback has been validated by the responses to the Board's fall 2020 municipal survey, which identified the following three service issues as the most important for municipalities:

- Filling vacancies and providing full coverage service
- 911 response times
- Community visibility

Only cities were likely to indicate an "other" issue as most important; otherwise, all sizes, districts, and types of municipalities agreed on the above issues as their most important.

These service issues reflect an overall lack of resources; accordingly, the Board supports allocating additional police resources to improve policing services; address rising crime rates; and enable community crime prevention and diversion initiatives. The Board was therefore pleased to see the RCMP's announcement that the new police costing model will result in additional resources for the RCMP for 2020/21, specifically 76 new police officers and 57 new civilian support positions. Additionally, the RCMP has shared information with the Board on potential resourcing initiatives that include:

- 24-hour coverage in all PPSA locations
- The creation of a relief team to be deployed to detachments that are experiencing short term human resource shortages
- District general duty resources that would provide district commanders with the flexibility to deploy resources to areas of need

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Work with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to identify and prioritize vacancies and gaps in service in both Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA) and Municipal Police Service Agreement (MPSA) municipalities. This would include determining what factors should be considered in making resourcing decisions, as well as the relative importance of each factor.
- Develop clear and consistent communication processes with municipalities around vacancies, including information on when and how they will be filled.

Priority 2: Update the detachment resourcing methodology to ensure that resourcing decisions reflect community needs.

The RCMP currently determines how to allocate policing resources by analyzing each detachment's workload. This analysis takes several factors into account, including travel time, call volume, type of crimes occurring in the area, amount of time required for investigations, size of detachment, and time available for proactive policing. When asked to rank which factors were most important to their municipality, survey respondents identified travel time as by far the most significant factor (43%), followed by the types of crime in the area (29%), then time available for proactive policing (12%). Call volume, detachment size, and investigative time required were seen as less important. Rural and small urban municipalities (municipal districts, villages, and summer villages; populations under 5,000) tended to prioritize travel time over type of crime when compared to larger urban municipalities (cities and towns; populations over 5,000), although both were considered important. This likely reflects the fact that rural and small urban municipalities tend to be further away from detachments than larger municipalities.

Additionally, 70% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that resource allocation should be balanced between frontline officers and centralized, specialized, or civilian positions.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Work with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to review resourcing methodology to ensure it reflects community need, particularly at the local level. This may include both enhancing direct RCMP engagement with local communities, and working with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to refine resourcing methodology based on the local input gathered.
- Work with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to improve communication with municipalities so that they understand how resources are allocated, as well as the value of centralized, specialized, and civilian positions.

### Crime Reduction and Prevention

Priority 3: Increase efforts to target repeat offenders committing crimes in rural and small urban municipalities.

Repeat offenders are a major issue in rural and small urban municipalities across Alberta. Anecdotally, many municipal leaders have indicated that most of the criminal activity occurring within their communities is due to a small group of individuals that frequently re-offend. Survey results highlight the importance that municipal leaders place on addressing repeat offenders, particularly in rural municipalities and specialized municipalities. This may indicate a specific link between repeat offenders and property crimes common in rural areas with a limited police presence.

Although a complete strategy to effectively focus on and reduce the rate of prolific and repeat offenders includes reforms to social supports and the justice system that are beyond the scope of the Alberta Police Advisory Board, there are ways in which policing approaches at the detachment, regional and province-wide level could better address repeat offenders.

The Alberta Justice and Solicitor General/RCMP 2018-2021 Joint Business Plan includes a key initiative under the "crime reduction" priority to establish "specialized crime reduction units focused on targeting

repeat offenders.” It is the Board’s understanding that the first crime reduction unit (CRU) was formed in Alberta in 2017 as a pilot project, and four CRUs are currently in place in the province. The Board supports the CRU model as a key tool to address prolific offenders and appreciates that the RCMP has identified expanding the use of CRUs as a potential 2021 resourcing initiative.

According to the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission’s (CRCC) March 2020 *Review of the RCMP’s Crime Reduction-Type Units*, Alberta’s CRUs collaborate “with the provincial agencies responsible for health, housing, addictions and human services both at the working and senior levels, including the provincial deputy minister level.” While this collaboration between CRUs and provincial agencies is a positive, the report lacks any reference to CRUs attempting to work with municipalities, municipally operated social service organizations (such as Family and Community Support Services), community peace officers, or local non-profit agencies that may provide support to those at high risk of becoming repeat offenders. As many rural and small urban communities have little or no direct provincial agency presence, it is imperative that CRUs increase their collaboration with non-provincial entities that may play a role in both preventing individuals from becoming repeat offenders and helping to identify possible repeat offenders within these communities.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop ways in which repeat offender-related strategies and information can be consistently and effectively communicated between detachments and municipalities or police advisory bodies, and how such discussions can then be further communicated to CRUs.
- Improve reporting to municipalities and the public on what constitutes a “repeat offender” and the strategies being undertaken by the RCMP to address repeat offenders, especially in rural and small urban municipalities.

**Priority 4: Work with municipal and community leaders to identify local priority enforcement areas and use this information to determine detachment and regional crime reduction strategies.**

Survey results showed that while some categories of criminal activity are priorities in municipalities of all types, sizes, and regions of Alberta, there are noticeable differences in how important other types of crime were viewed by different survey respondents. For example, although “major property crime” was clearly identified as the most important crime category for Alberta’s municipalities overall, it was ranked as relatively low among town and city respondents (larger urban municipalities) and as very high among rural municipalities, summer villages, and villages. Conversely, towns and villages ranked drug-related offences as a much higher priority than respondents representing rural and small urban municipalities. Similarly, family violence was ranked as a higher priority by larger municipalities, while property crime was less of a priority.

What these results suggest is that while both drug offences and property crimes impact communities of all types and sizes, the direct impacts of each likely differ. This data could be interpreted to suggest that individuals committing drug crimes in towns and villages (where they likely live) may be travelling to rural and small urban municipalities to commit property crimes linked to drug sales or use. This is a significant assumption, but it speaks to the larger issue: crime is a major concern in communities across the province, but its specific impacts differ based on municipal size and type.

While the survey results indicate broad differences in priority crime areas among municipalities of different types and sizes, it is likely that priority issues vary by individual municipality. For this reason, ongoing, quality collaboration between detachments and municipal/community leaders is essential to ensure that those policing the community understand the concerns and priorities of community residents and businesses. In larger municipalities where both police and municipal governments may have the time and capacity to regularly interact, this may be straightforward. However, in smaller municipalities, limited police and municipal capacity may mean that collaboration is more difficult. The impacts of municipal size on collaboration are supported in the survey results. The table below contrasts the overall survey responses to the responses of municipalities with a population below 2,000 on several questions related to police/municipal collaboration.

Question	Alberta overall	Municipalities with population below 2,000	Municipalities with population above 2,000
Does your municipality have a police oversight body?	27.5% said yes	19.4% said yes	36.0% said yes
How often does your municipality/police oversight body meet with your detachment commanders?	58.6% meet two times or more	39.6% meet two times or more	77.1% meet two or more times
Do you consider your current meeting frequency with RCMP detachment commanders sufficient?	65% said yes	56% said yes	73.0 said yes
Does your RCMP detachment provide you with a copy of their annual performance plan (APP)?	66% said yes	59% said yes	74.2% said yes
Is your municipality or police oversight body involved in developing the detachment's APP?	55% said yes	35% said yes	60.2% said yes
Does your municipality or police oversight body receive regular reporting from your detachment?	82% said yes	70% said yes	95.3% said yes

What the results above suggest is that collaboration between small municipalities and their detachments is consistently lower than collaboration between detachments and municipalities in general. This inconsistency likely flows upwards into the policing-related priorities of small and rural municipalities being under-considered in RCMP regional and province-wide priority-setting.

While Alberta's *Police Act* places the onus on municipalities to form police committees as a formal means to collaborate with their local detachment, it is not the only way. The results above clearly show that detachments often meet with municipal councils regardless of whether the municipality has a standalone police committee. However, the results also show that the level of engagement requires improvement, especially in small municipalities, nearly half of which consider their current meeting frequency with their detachments to be insufficient.

RCMP and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General should emphasize the development of detachment standards for engagement with the municipalities they serve. Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board members have regularly heard from municipal leaders that municipal-detachment engagement is often “personality-driven,” as it is almost entirely dependent on the willingness of a particular detachment commander to take the time to work with municipal leaders. In many cases, municipalities have formed strong relationships with a detachment, only to see them evaporate when the detachment’s leadership shifts.

The Alberta Justice and Solicitor General/RCMP 2018-2021 Joint Business Plan makes some indirect references to improving community engagement, including the need to develop strategies for “local partnerships” within detachment Annual Performance Plans, and “improve the way in which the RCMP connect with, involve, and inform communities to ensure the public is receiving a prompt response to criminal complaints and a positive service experience.” However, neither of these initiatives specifically addresses the need to better inform and engage municipalities, which is especially important in small communities in which the municipality is often most knowledgeable of local concerns and trends.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop best practices and standards for detachments to follow to improve collaboration and engagement with small municipalities.
- Recognize different rural and urban crime priority areas and use this information to inform local, regional, and provincewide policing priorities and strategies.

Priority 5: Continue to support detachments in conducting proactive policing and community engagement through the increased use of Crime Reduction Units, Call Back Units, and other resources that will allow frontline officers to increase their presence in the community.

The Alberta Justice and Solicitor General/RCMP 2018-2021 Joint Business Plan includes a strategy to create specialized units, along with the Police Reporting and Occurrence System (PROS) data centre, to increase the amount of time available to frontline police officers for proactive policing and community engagement.

The Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board is highly supportive of this existing strategy and recommends that the RCMP continue to dedicate resources to forming and expanding the use of specialized units to address and respond to crime, which will allow local officers to increase their presence in the communities they serve more strategically.

However, both the concepts of proactive policing and community visibility, as well as their importance, are not homogeneous across Alberta, but rather differ across municipal size and type. For example, in urban municipalities, community visibility may look like police consistently appearing at and participating in community events to build relationships with residents. In isolated rural areas of the province, visibility may be as simple as having a police officer physically visit a resident who was the victim of a property crime, rather than only follow up over the phone. In other words, the threshold for what constitutes an effective level of community visibility differs significantly across the province, meaning that a single definition or measure of community visibility is unlikely to exist.

Similarly, the importance of proactive policing varies across the province. In urban communities that are typically located near a detachment and have short response times, proactive policing is more of a

priority, likely because it is seen as the “next step” in enhancing community safety beyond the core policing aspects of actually responding to calls for service. Conversely, rural municipalities rank response time as having much higher importance than community visibility, likely because current response times in rural areas are much longer than urban communities.

The survey reflects some of the differences in how urban and rural municipalities view proactive policing. The question below shows the relative importance that representatives of different municipal types assigned to travel time and time available for proactive policing in terms of how much importance each should have determining RCMP resourcing allocations (note that a higher number indicates a higher level of importance).

Municipal Type	Travel time importance	Proactive policing importance
City	1.71	4.29
Town	3.89	3.45
Village	4.80	3.75
Summer village	5.12	4.35
Rural municipality	4.97	2.89

What these results suggest is that larger urban municipalities that are likely to host a detachment are less concerned about travel time (which is likely already adequate), while villages, summer villages and rural municipalities, which are less likely to be near detachments, view travel time as a major concern. Interestingly, while all four urban municipal types shown above view proactive policing as relatively important, it is much less so in rural municipalities. This should not be viewed as an assumption that rural municipalities are not interested in having enhanced proactive policing in their area, but rather that response times (or reactive policing) is such a major concern in rural areas that rural expectations for anything beyond basic response is currently quite low.

These results also suggest that the RCMP must more effectively report on their rural proactive policing efforts, in the form of Crime Reduction Units, Call Back Units, and other initiatives, and their link to seeking to improve both police availability and community visibility in rural communities. It is likely that many rural residents (and municipalities) may be unaware of the proactive and strategic initiatives being undertaken by the RCMP with the end goal of increasing police presence and response in rural areas.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop meaningful definitions and measures of proactive policing and community visibility that are relevant in both urban and rural municipalities.
- Determine how the continued growth of specialized units will directly support improved frontline policing (including proactive policing and community visibility) in rural and small urban municipalities.
- Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop messaging on how to better communicate the proactive policing initiatives already underway to support improved rural police services.

## Outcome Accountability

**Priority 6: Provide the Alberta Police Advisory Board with adequate and consistent financial and administrative support.**

The Alberta Police Advisory Board fills an important gap in the current RCMP-Alberta Justice and Solicitor General planning and priority setting process by ensuring that small and rural communities have some level of representation in the process. The current interim Board is supported by RMA and AUMA, along with additional assistance from Alberta Justice and Solicitor General and RCMP staff. Moving forward, RMA and AUMA expect to have a lesser role in the Board, as board members will no longer exclusively be RMA and AUMA representatives, but rather broader municipal and community representatives from rural and small urban municipalities.

To ensure that the Board functions effectively in the long-term, a portion of the funds currently collected through the new police costing model should be used to support the expenses and administrative requirements of the board. This includes board member costs and per diems and board administrative and capacity requirements, such as minute-taking, report writing, survey construction and analysis, and other specialized skills that the board will require but that cannot continue to be provided on RMA and AUMA on a no-cost basis. Proactively confirming that the operational Board will be adequately supported is crucial to supporting member recruitment, long-term planning, and ensuring the board can focus on policing, rather than on how to remain operational with limited provincial support.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- That Alberta Justice and Solicitor General allocate a portion of revenues collected annually through the police costing model to provide required administrative funding for the Alberta Police Advisory Board before transferring funding to the RCMP.
- Collaborate with the Interim Board to determine long-term board costs and administrative requirements in order to inform the funding allocation.

**Priority 7: Work with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop best practices to enhance the quality and consistency of communication and collaboration between detachments and the municipalities that they serve.**

The RCMP has been a consistent and helpful partner for the Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board since its establishment in early 2020. The interim Board will be in place until the end of November 2021. Moving forward, the operational Board will likely consist of a variety of municipal and community representatives from rural and small urban municipalities across Alberta. In addition to providing input and recommendations to the RCMP and provincial government on behalf of municipalities, it is expected that the Board will play an important role in enhancing local engagement and partnership between the RCMP and municipalities across the province.

As explained under Priority 4, the effectiveness of local detachment-municipal engagement and collaboration varies by municipal size and type. A core focus of the work undertaken by the RCMP and Board should be to improve the consistency of local communication and collaboration, particularly in small municipalities, through the creation and implementation of best practices and policies that can be

used by both detachments and municipalities to encourage engagement in cases where a lack of time and resources may prevent the use of more “official” approaches such as police committees.

Such approaches should be flexible to meet the differing needs and capacities of municipalities, and should be grounded in the idea that an ongoing relationship should exist between each detachment and all of the municipalities it serves, but that this relationship should not necessarily look the same across the province.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board (possibly through the formation of a sub-committee involving RCMP, Government of Alberta, and Board members) to develop communication and collaboration best practices and approaches in the following areas:
  - How to form relationships with municipal leaders
  - How to effectively report to and update municipalities about policing in the community
  - How to work with municipalities to identify and engage community leaders, including those from racialized and/or under-represented communities
  - How to maintain collaboration following changes in detachment and/or municipal leadership

Social Justice

**Priority 8: Work with community and municipal leaders to address racism and other forms of discrimination in policing**

Alberta’s communities are diverse, and many Albertans have had negative experiences with police that have shaped their perceptions of policing and the role of police in their communities. Incidents across Canada and the United States over the past year have brought into sharp focus the concerning relationship between police and racialized groups that has existed for decades. It is critical that the RCMP engage with racialized and Indigenous communities, and other marginalized groups across the province to understand their perspectives on systemic discrimination in policing, and to ensure that all Albertans are effectively served by police.

While the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General/RCMP 2018-2021 Joint Business Plan includes a priority related to better serving Indigenous communities, a similar priority is required for other marginalized groups. Additionally, although the business plan includes a strategy to develop cultural awareness, diversity and inclusion training for all employees, action must go beyond simply requiring employees to take a single diversity training course. This focus should extend to the detachment level and require each detachment to take concrete, measurable steps to learn about and engage with racialized and vulnerable groups within the communities they serve. The Alberta Police Advisory Board can play a role in supporting this relationship-building by working with municipalities to identify those in small and rural communities that are members of or represent racialized or vulnerable populations.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Develop measurable detachment-level requirements for engaging with local racialized and/or under-represented communities.
- Collaborate with municipalities and other leading community organizations to raise awareness of and respond to local social justice issues.



- Collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to develop initiatives that will support detachments in undertaking this action.

## Next Steps and Implementation

As the role of the Alberta Police Advisory Board is to provide recommendations to the RCMP and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, it is ultimately the responsibility of the provincial government and “K” Division leadership to decide whether to accept the Board’s recommendations, and if so, how to integrate them into existing planning processes and strategic initiatives.

Many of the recommendations above build on actions already reflected in planning documents, and mainly focus on the need to accelerate implementation or collaborate with the Alberta Police Advisory Board to a greater extent around certain existing initiatives.

The Board would appreciate an opportunity to meet with the leadership of the RCMP and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General to discuss the priorities identified in this report, and how all three groups can work together towards effective implementation.

## Appendix 1

### ALBERTA POLICE INTERIM ADVISORY BOARD

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

##### BACKGROUND

The Minister heard that Albertans wanted more of a voice into the setting of provincial policing priorities. The Minister of Justice and Solicitor General (Minister) is establishing the Alberta Police Advisory Board (Board) in support of the provincial government and Minister's mandate and responsibilities respecting the provision of adequate and effective policing in Alberta and in support of the participation and input of Albertans.

The Board will be implemented in two phases:

1. Within the first year, an Interim Board will develop the structure and scope of the Advisory Board (Phase One).
2. On completion of the Interim Board's mandate, the work of the Advisory Board will then commence for a four-year term (Phase Two).

##### MANDATE / RESPONSIBILITIES

On behalf of all provincial police service (PPS) municipalities and Albertans, the Interim Board will collaborate with the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General (JSG) and those PPS municipalities to:

- develop the scope and terms of reference for the operational Board;
- develop a recruitment and selection process for operational Board members;
- develop governance documents for the operational Board, including at minimum, a Competency Matrix for Board member appointments and review, a Code of Conduct, and a Mandate and Roles Document;
- provide input, advice and recommendations to the government and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) "K" Division on the buildup of the provincial police service related to funds raised by the Police Funding Model; and
- provide input into discussions respecting the provincial policing priorities for the 2021/22 fiscal year to facilitate engagement during transition to the operational Board.

##### SCOPE

While the Interim Board will provide input to the buildup of the PPS and to the development of provincial policing priorities during Phase One, the interim Board will be primarily development-focussed to ensure the efficient and effective, structure, participation and contribution of an Advisory Board.

In relation to the development of provincial policing priorities during Phase One of the Board, the Interim Board will conduct the necessary consultation, research, and analysis of current and anticipated policing issues as well as the priorities of significance and importance to Albertans and Alberta municipalities to support their role. Priorities and issues identified by the Board might include, but are not limited to:

- Community Safety and Well-being;
- Crime Reduction and Prevention; and
- Cross Jurisdictional Crime.

The Interim Board may also make recommendations and provide advice to the Minister with respect to the JSG/RCMP joint business plan, annual performance plans and multi-year financial plan as appropriate during the interim year, and ensuring the input is reflective of all PPS municipalities.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Interim Board is comprised of:

- Four representatives from the Executive or Board of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA);
- Four representative from the Executive or Board of the Alberta Urban Municipality Association members (AUMA); and
- One representative from the Executive of the Alberta Association of Police Governance (AAPG).

Non-voting members of the Interim Board include:

- Executive Director, Law Enforcement and Oversight Branch, JSG
- Director, Contract Policing and Policing Oversight, JSG
- Manager, Policing Oversight and Contract Policing, JSG
- One administrative representative from RMA
- One administrative representative from AUMA

#### **Interim Board Representation**

Interim Board voting members have been selected to ensure broad representation, perspectives and diversity from all PPS municipalities and, where possible, representation aligns with each of the four RCMP districts (i.e. Central Alberta District, Eastern Alberta District, Southern Alberta District, and Western Alberta District).

Voting members of the Interim Board represent the broadest possible municipal and public interests across the PPS municipalities. A preference has been given to those who are engaged in or knowledgeable in matters related to policing. Voting members are not currently employed in law enforcement and policing. The organizations have determined voting members of the Interim Board having regard to any personal, professional or business interests or relationships that could reasonably be considered to represent an actual or perceived conflict of interest in relation to Interim Board work.

Any concerns respecting the selection and representation of an Interim Board member or of an Interim Board member's failure to conduct member duties and responsibilities in a manner consistent with this Terms of Reference will be addressed in a timely manner as appropriate, up to and including, the replacement of the Interim Board member.

It is important that all Interim Board voting members attend the meetings to ensure continuity and to maximize the efficiency and productivity of the Interim Board.

Non-voting members of the Interim Board will be in attendance at Interim Board meetings in an advisory, observational, and support capacity to the work of the Interim Board and to share information.

#### **Chair**

An Interim Board Chair (Chair) will be elected by the Interim Board using voting procedures of this Terms of Reference. The Chair is responsible for the overall leadership of the Interim Board, management of Interim Board meetings, sharing of information, and communication of Interim Board matters with the JSG. The Chair will collaborate and consult with Interim Board members to establish Agendas, Work Plans, Records of Discussions and other materials, as required.

The Interim Board will also elect an Alternate Chair from the Interim Board to act as Chair if the Chair is unable to attend Interim Board meetings.

#### **Secretary**

An Interim Board Secretary will be elected by the Interim Board using voting procedures of this Terms of Reference. The Secretary will ensure that a record of meeting agendas, meeting attendees, and any recommendations made by the Interim Board are kept. Copies of these records will be provided to JSG, and the respective organization's Chairs, Presidents and Executive Directors.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Conduct**

The members of the Interim Board must, at all times, observe the highest standards of integrity and objectivity in their duties. Interim Board members must declare any direct or indirect personal, professional or business interests or relationships which could reasonably be considered to represent an actual or perceived conflict of interest in relation to Interim Board work. If a conflict of interest declaration is made by a member, the Interim Board must decide, having regard to the nature of the relationship, if the member must withdraw from membership on the Board.

#### **Duties**

Members of the Interim Board are required to consult and liaise with the PPS municipalities (councils and local policing committees/advisory committees) in order to bring those perspectives to discussions by the Interim Board and to determine the most efficient and effective Advisory Board structure. Engagement and work conducted as an Interim Board will be conducted in a transparent manner with the organizations and JSG to enable accountability of the Interim Board.

The Interim Board will engage with the Minister, JSG, and the Commanding Officer of RCMP "K" Division as necessary and required to discuss matters related to the Interim Board's mandate, ongoing policing issues and concerns, to receive updates on the progress of policing initiatives, and to provide updates on the Interim Board's work.

### **Meetings**

Meetings are expected to be held monthly, at minimum, either through face-to-face meetings or teleconference to ensure the Interim Board is prepared to transition to the Advisory Board by April 1, 2021.

Meeting agendas will be distributed at least one week in advance of each meeting by the Chair. Copies will be maintained as records.

### **Reporting**

#### Municipalities

Within the context of the Terms of Reference Confidentiality provisions, the Interim Board:

- will report to their respective organizational members following any Interim Board decisions; and
- will keep their organizational members and municipalities (councils and local policing committees/advisory committees) apprised of government policing priorities and initiatives respecting policing priorities and Interim Board mandate matters.

#### Minister and JSG

The Interim Board is accountable to the Minister and is required to report in writing to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Security Division, as follows:

1. To provide a final, Interim Board approved, Terms of Reference for the Advisory Board by January 1, 2021;
2. To provide a report detailing the Interim Board's recommendations and advice on the buildup of PPS resources from Police Funding Model revenue by the end of Interim Board term;
3. To provide a report detailing the Interim Board's recommendations and advice on the JSG/RCMP "K" Division Multi-year Financial Plan by January 31, 2021; and
4. To provide a report detailing the Interim Board's recommendations and advice on provincial policing priorities by January 31, 2021.
5. To provide any other report or document as determined necessary and appropriate by the Minister, JSG, or in consultation with the Minister and JSG.

A record of meeting agendas, meeting attendees, and of any recommendations made by the Interim Board will be provided to JSG, and the respective organization's Chairs, Presidents and Executive Directors.

**Quorum**

Quorum is required to conduct a meeting and for any Interim Board business. Quorum must include the Chair or Alternate Chair. Quorum is set at a minimum of 60 per cent of Interim Board members.

Interim Board business does not include the operational work necessary for Interim Board members to consult with their respective organizations or municipalities.

**Voting**

Elections and votes taken respecting any Interim Board business requires a majority vote by those Interim Board members in attendance to pass.

**EXPENSES**

Expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of duties as a member of the Interim Board will be reimbursed in accordance with the rates set out in the Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive (Treasury Board Directive 1/2015) as amended from time to time, or any directive made in substitution, as if they were employees of the Government of Alberta.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

The members of the Interim Board must maintain as confidential any information brought before them in the conduct of their work. Any information and knowledge learned, acquired or shared with by the Interim Board from the Minister, JSG, the RCMP "K" Division, or the RCMP generally, as a result of membership on the Interim Board or in relation to Interim Board work and its mandate will not be further communicated, disseminated or shared beyond the Interim Board without express permission from the originator of the information.

Any information and knowledge shared by the Interim Board to its respective organization's Chairs, Presidents and Executive Directors will be governed by the same confidentiality provisions as noted the interim Board and its members.

Members of the Interim Board must sign a confidentiality agreement as a condition of their appointment and participation on the Interim Board.

RMA, AUMA, and AAPG Chairs, Presidents and Executive Directors must also sign a confidentiality agreement in respect of any information and knowledge learned or acquired from the Interim Board and Interim Board members.

## Appendix 2 – Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board Membership

Tanya Thorn	Board Chair	Councillor, Town of Okotoks
Kara Westerlund	Alternate Chair	Councillor, Brazeau County
Tom Burton	Board Member	Councillor, Municipal District of Greenview
Terry Coleman	Board Member	Board Chair, Alberta Association of Police Governance
Angela Duncan	Board Member	Deputy Mayor, Village of Alberta Beach
Tyler Gandam	Board Member	Mayor, City of Wetaskiwin
Trina Jones	Board Member	Councillor, Town of Legal
Kathy Rooyakkers	Board Member	Councillor, County of Wetaskiwin
Jason Schneider	Board Member	Reeve, Vulcan County

## Appendix 3 – Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board Survey

1. Name of Municipality
2. Our municipality is a:
  - City
  - Town
  - Village
  - Summer Village
  - Specialized Municipality
  - County/Municipal District
  - Other (please specify)
3. We represent a population:
  - Under 2,000
  - 2,000 - 5,000
  - 5,001 - 10,000
  - Over 10,000
4. Our municipality receives RCMP services from the following detachment(s): (fill in)
5. Please provide a contact name, in case there is a need to follow up with your municipality to clarify feedback or get more detailed information regarding interesting ideas or collaborations (optional).

### *Engagement with RCMP*

6. Does your municipality have a police oversight body?
  - Yes
  - No
7. How often does your municipality or municipal/community police oversight body meet with your RCMP detachment commander(s)?
  - Four times a year or more
  - 2-3 times a year
  - Once a year
  - Less than once a year
  - We've never met formally
8. Do you consider your current meeting frequency with the RCMP detachment commander(s) to be sufficient?
  - Yes
  - No
9. Does your RCMP detachment(s) provide you with a copy of their annual performance plan(s)?



Yes  
No

10. Is your municipality or municipal police oversight body involved in developing the detachment's annual performance plan (APP)?

Yes  
No

11. Does your municipality or municipal police oversight body receive regular reporting (such as information on statistics, trends, and detailed crime rates) from your local detachment(s)?

Yes  
No

If yes, what type of information *do you* receive?

Is there any other type of information you would like to receive that is not currently provided?

If no, what type of information *would you like* to receive?

12. Please share any examples of effective collaboration between your detachment(s) and your municipality/community members.

13. How could your detachment(s) improve engagement with your municipality/community members?

14. Do you think that processes for providing input on local policing priorities should be formalized and standardized? For example, independent municipal, community police oversight bodies, which are currently optional, could be mandated in legislation.

Yes  
No

If yes, what is your preferred mechanism for doing so?

#### *Policing Priorities*

15. Rank the policing priorities below in the order of importance for your municipality in 2021/22.

Traffic enforcement (i.e. aggressive driving, distracted driving)

Family violence (i.e. domestic abuse and threats)

Illegal drug-related offenses (i.e. possession, trafficking)

Impaired driving (drugs, alcohol)

Crimes against persons (i.e. assaults, threats)

Minor property crime (i.e. vandalism, theft from motor vehicles, theft under \$5,000)

Major property crime (i.e. break and enters, theft of motor vehicles, theft over \$5,000)

Proactive/community policing (i.e. school resource officers, patrols)

Increased focus on prolific offenders

Other (fill in)

16. Rank the RCMP service issues below in the order of importance for your local RCMP detachment to resolve in 2021/22.

- 911 response times
- Community visibility
- Filling vacancies and providing full coverage service
- Engaging with the municipality (reporting, setting priorities, communication on service changes, etc.)
- Communication with community members and other stakeholders
- Other (fill in)

*Rollout of New Police Resources*

The RCMP currently determines how to allocate additional and/or new policing resources by analyzing each detachment's workload. This analysis takes the following factors into account:

- Travel time
- Call volume
- Type of crimes occurring in the area
- Amount of time required for investigations
- Size of detachment
- Time available for proactive policing (patrols, community engagement, visiting schools, and attending community events).

17. Rank the order of importance of these factors to your municipality.

18. Are there any other factors that should be considered?

Revenue collected through the new costing model will be reinvested into policing, leading to an increase in the number of RCMP officers and civilian positions throughout the province. This investment prioritizes adding uniformed patrol officers in rural RCMP detachments, but will also add police officers to centralized RCMP units that work to address province-wide issues such as organized crime, drug trafficking, and auto and scrap metal theft. A portion of the revenue will also be used to fund new civilian positions to assist with administrative tasks and provide investigative support. These administrative roles are intended to improve response times and help ensure officers have the support they need to protect Albertans by spending more time in their communities.

19. Do you agree that RCMP resource allocation should balance frontline officers with centralized, specialized, and/or civilian positions? (Strongly agree to strongly disagree)

*Police Costing Model*

20. Have you engaged in conversations with your local detachment around whether any new police resources arising from the new costing model may affect policing in your municipality?

- Yes
- No

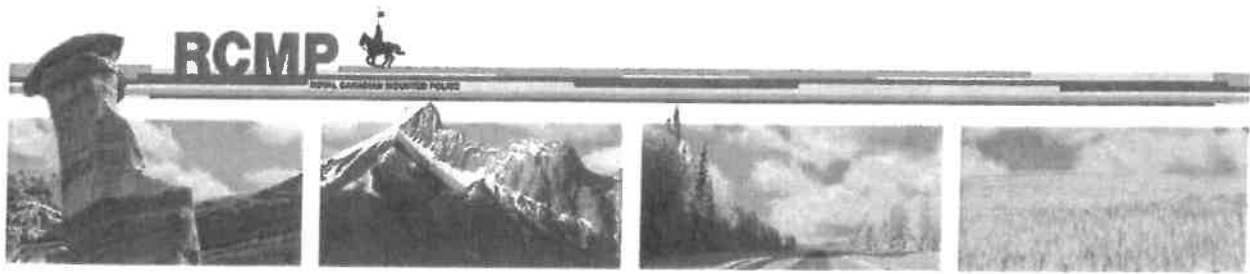
If yes, what information did you receive from your detachment on new police resources?

21. Has the information provided by the Government of Alberta on the new police costing model been sufficient to ensure your council and staff understand the new model, including how costs are determined and how the additional funding could be used?

Yes

No

If no, what additional information do you require on the new police costing model?



## PPSA Police Funding Model – 2020/21 Positions

*Updated: February 8, 2021*

As per the 2020/21 PPSA Call-Up of new positions, including 76 regular member and 57 public service employee positions, the Alberta RCMP has allotted the following new regular member resources:

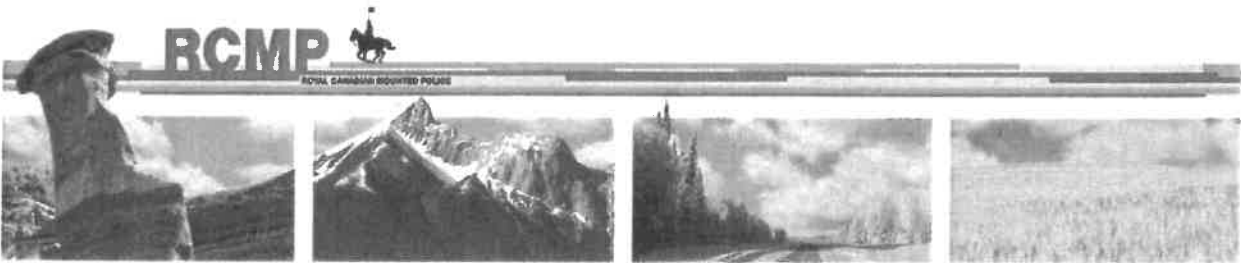
- 46 positions in rural Alberta Detachments
  - 45 Filled
  - 1 Pending
- 10 positions in the Call Back Unit (Filled)
- 2 positions to KMOSS (Filled)
- 3 positions to Child Advocacy Centers (Filled)
- 3 positions to Emergency Response Teams (Filled)
- 4 positions to Offender Management (Pending)
- 3 positions to General Investigative Services (SAD) (2 Filled, 1 Pending)
- 2 positions to Police Dog Services (Pending)
- 3 positions to the Diversity Unit (Pending)

This accounts for all of the 76 regular member positions. A total of 66 positions have been filled to date, 10 positions are pending within the staffing process. See Annex A for further details.

The following public service employee positions have been allocated:

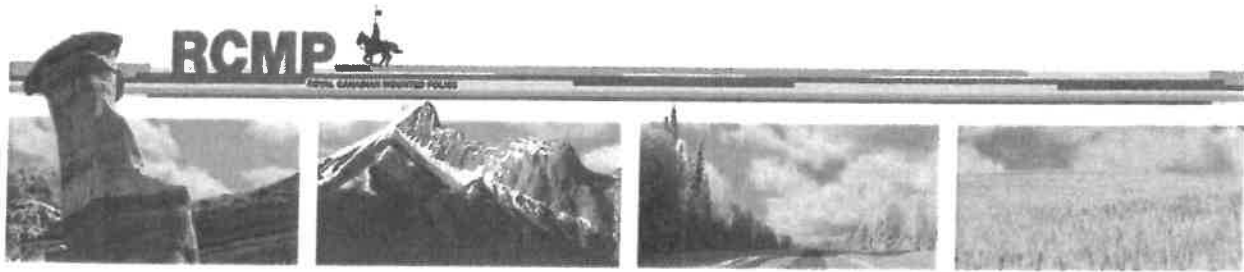
- 31 Detachment Services Support positions (16 Filled, 15 Pending)
- 1 Court Case Management position (Filled)
- 2 Criminal Operations Strategic Management Services positions (Filled)
- 4 Community Engagement and Outreach Specialists (Pending)
- 4 Scenes of Crime Officers (Pending)
- 6 Operational Call Center Operators (Filled)
- 2 Operational Call Center Administrative Support positions (Filled)
- 4 Rural Crime Reduction Analysts (Pending)
- 1 Rural Crime Administrative Support positions (Pending)
- 1 Forensic Identification Services Clerk – St. Paul position (Filled)
- 1 Intellex position (Pending)

This accounts for all of the 57 public service employee positions. A total of 28 positions have been filled to date, and the remaining positions are pending within the staffing process. See Annex B for further details.



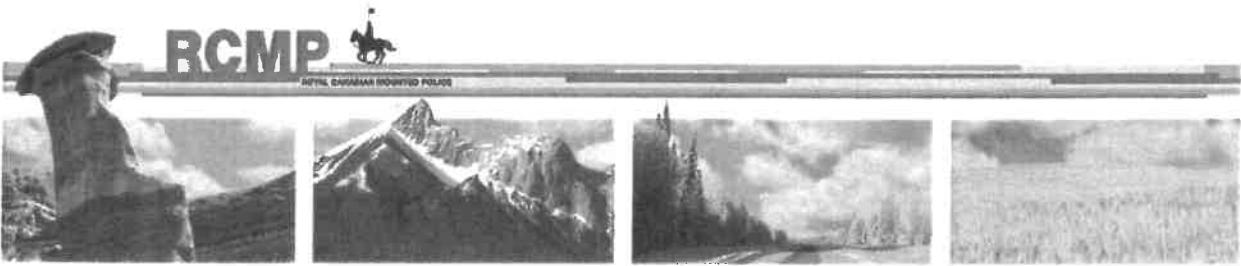
## Annex A – Regular Member Position Detail

<b>Police Funding Model - Year 1 - Regular Members - as of February 8, 2021</b>				
<b>District/Unit</b>	<b>Detachment</b>	<b>Position Description</b>	<b>Staffing Status</b>	<b>Start Date</b>
Southern Alberta District	AIRDRIE	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-10
		General Duty	Filled	2020-12-10
	CANMORE	General Duty	Filled	2020-08-11
	COCHRANE	General Duty	Filled	2020-10-16
		General Duty	Filled	2020-09-30
		General Duty	Filled	2020-10-27
	DIDSBURY	General Duty	Filled	2020-09-15
	HIGH RIVER	General Duty	Filled	2020-11-03
	OKOTOKS	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-06
	STRATHMORE	General Duty	Filled	2020-09-14
	SAD GIS	General Investigative Services	Filled	2020-11-13
		General Investigative Services	Pending	
General Investigative Services		Filled	2020-12-10	
Central Alberta District	BLACKFALDS	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-22
	CAMROSE	General Duty	Filled	2020-04-01
	INNISFAIL	General Duty	Filled	2020-10-12
	LEDUC	General Duty	Filled	2020-04-01
	MORINVILLE	General Duty	Filled	2020-09-03
	PARKLAND	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-27
	RIMBEY	General Duty	Filled	2020-11-30
	ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-22
		General Duty	Filled	2020-07-22
	STETTLER	General Duty	Filled	2021-01-25
	STRATHCONA	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-27
	SYLVAN LAKE	General Duty	Filled	2020-11-28
	THORSBY	General Duty	Filled	2020-09-14
		General Duty	Filled	2020-11-16
	WETASKIWIN	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-18
Eastern Alberta District	ATHABASCA	General Duty	Filled	2020-09-21
		General Duty	Filled	2020-12-21
	BONNYVILLE	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-28
	COLD LAKE	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-01
	ELK POINT	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-21
		General Duty	Filled	2020-09-14
	KITSCOTY	General Duty	Filled	2020-08-10
	LAC LA BICHE	General Duty	Filled	2020-10-12
	ST PAUL	General Duty	Filled	2020-10-29
	VEGREVILLE	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-22
WESTLOCK	General Duty	Filled	2020-11-13	



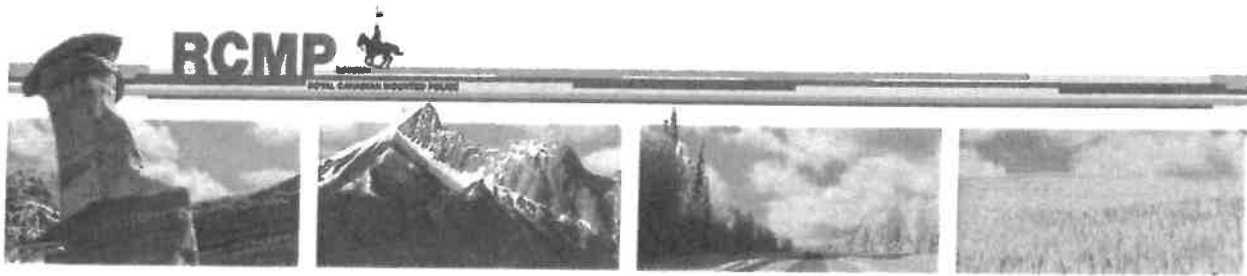
**Police Funding Model - Year 1 - Regular Members - as of February 8, 2021**

District/Unit	Detachment	Position Description	Staffing Status	Start Date
Western Alberta District	BEAVERLODGE	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-06
	EDSON	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-02
	EVANSBURG	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-06
	GRANDE PRAIRIE	General Duty	Filled	2020-11-23
		General Duty	Filled	2020-09-25
		General Duty	Filled	2020-09-12
	HIGH LEVEL	General Duty	Filled	2020-10-08
	MAYERTHORPE	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-02
	VALLEYVIEW	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-02
WHITECOURT	General Duty	Filled	2020-07-02	
CROPS Contract Policing	Contract Policing Support Services	Call Back Unit	Filled	2020-04-01
		Call Back Unit	Filled	2020-04-01
		Call Back Unit	Filled	2020-04-01
		Call Back Unit	Filled	2020-07-01
		Call Back Unit	Filled	2020-04-01
		Call Back Unit	Filled	2020-04-01
		Call Back Unit	Filled	2020-04-01
		Call Back Unit	Filled	2020-04-01
		Call Back Unit	Filled	2020-04-01
		Call Back Unit	Filled	2020-04-01
		Call Back Unit	Filled	2020-04-02
		Call Management KMOSS	Filled	2020-04-07
			Filled	2020-04-01
		Critical Incident Program - ERT South	Filled	2020-04-01
		Critical Incident Program - ERT South	Filled	2020-04-01
		Critical Incident Program - ERT South	Filled	2020-04-01
		Diversity Engagement	Pending	
		Diversity Engagement	Pending	
		Hate Crimes	Pending	
		Offender Management	Pending	
		Offender Management	Pending	
		Offender Management	Pending	
Offender Management	Pending			
Police Dog Services	Pending			
Police Dog Services	Pending			
Serious Crimes Branch	Operations South	Child Advocacy Center - Red Deer	Filled	2020-04-01
		Child Advocacy Center - Sheldon Kennedy Centre	Filled	2020-09-01
		Operations North	Child Advocacy Center - Zebra Centre	Filled



Annex B – Civilian Position Detail

<b>Police Funding Model - Year 1 - Civilian Support - as of February 8, 2021</b>				
<b>District/Unit</b>	<b>Detachment</b>	<b>Position Description</b>	<b>Staffing Status</b>	<b>Start Date</b>
Southern Alberta District	BEISEKER	Detachment support	Pending	
	BOW ISLAND	Detachment support	Pending	
	COCHRANE	Detachment support	Pending	
	DIDSBURY	Detachment support	Pending	
	LAKE LOUISE	Detachment support	Pending	
	OLDS	Detachment support	Filled	2021-01-11
	PICTURE BUTTE	Detachment support	Filled	2020-12-01
	TURNER VALLEY	Detachment support	Pending	
Central Alberta District	BASHAW	Detachment support	Pending	
	BRETON	Detachment support	Pending	
	INNISFAIL	Detachment support	Filled	2021-01-04
	RIMBEY	Detachment support	Pending	
	STRATHCONA	Detachment support	Pending	
	SYLVAN LAKE	Detachment support	Filled	2020-11-30
	THORSBY	Detachment support	Filled	2021-01-12
Eastern Alberta District	CORONATION	Detachment support	Filled	2020-12-21
	DESMARAIS	Detachment support	Pending	
	KITSCOTY	Detachment support	Filled	2020-09-23
	PROVOST	Detachment support	Pending	
	TWO HILLS	Detachment support	Filled	2021-01-05
	WOOD BUFFALO	Detachment support	Pending	
		Detachment support	Filled	2020-11-12
Western Alberta District	BEAVERLODGE	Detachment support	Filled	2020-12-21
	FOX CREEK	Detachment support	Filled	2020-10-28
	GRANDE PRAIRIE	Detachment support	Pending	
		Detachment support	Filled	2020-09-21
	HINTON	Detachment support	Filled	2020-10-02
	MANNING	Detachment support	Filled	2020-12-21
	PEACE RIVER	Detachment support	Filled	2021-01-06
	RED EARTH CREEK	Detachment support	Pending	
VALLEYVIEW	Detachment support	Filled	2021-01-11	



<b>Police Funding Model - Year 1 - Civilian Support - as of February 8, 2021</b>				
<b>District/Unit</b>	<b>Detachment</b>	<b>Position Description</b>	<b>Staffing Status</b>	<b>Start Date</b>
CROPS Contract Policing	Contract Policing Support Services	OCC - Administrative Support	Filled	2020-04-01
			Filled	2020-10-14
		OCC - Telecommunications Operators	Filled	2020-11-05
			Filled	2020-11-06
			Filled	2020-11-05
			Filled	2021-02-12
			Filled	2021-01-04
		Scenes of Crime Officers	Filled	2020-10-01
			Pending	
			Pending	
	Community and Indigenous Policing	Court Case Management	Pending	
			Pending	
			Pending	
			Pending	
CROPS Contract	Criminal Operations	CROPS Strategic Management Services	Filled	2020-04-01
			Filled	2019-03-18
		Crime Reduction Analysts	Pending	
			Pending	
			Pending	
			Pending	
		Crime Reduction - Administrative Support	Pending	
		Forensic Identification Services Clerk - St. Paul	Filled	2020-04-01
		Intellex	Pending	





## **Alberta RCMP Resources supporting Community Safety**

In addition to the police officers in communities, the Alberta RCMP is made up of a number of programs that contribute to the safety of Albertan communities. Below is a description of a many of these programs:

### **Operational Communication Centers**

The Operational Communications Center is the first point of contact for the public requesting police assistance in both emergency and non-urgent matters. Operators receive calls and evaluate what services are required. Dispatchers then convey the information to officers as quickly as possible, ensuring priority is placed on public and officer safety.

### **Traffic Services**

Traffic Services focuses on enhancing safety on Alberta's roadways through targeting behaviours that negatively impact safety and lead to serious injuries and fatalities. Traffic Services also detects and interdicts criminal networks that use highways for criminal enterprise and distribution of contraband.

### **Crime Reduction Units**

Crime Reduction Units (CRUs) are specialized units with the primary mandate to support detachments by targeting priority offenders, known crime hotspots and the underlying causes of crime. CRU teams help address an identified enforcement problem, especially in the areas of property crime, auto theft and ongoing criminal activity.

### **Integrated Offender Management**

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is a program in which constables work with the Government of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's Office Integrated Community Safety Unit (ICSU), to bring community stakeholders/partners together to manage offenders in a collaborative way with an effort to reduce recidivism.

### **Crime Analysts**

Crime analysts use database research techniques to analytically identify, predict, and help prevent crime. They provide strategic, statistical and investigative support to police forces by developing ways of reducing criminal activities within specific areas. This enables police officers to target their efforts in addressing criminal behavior.

### **Police Dog Services**

Police Dog Services provides support to many detachments and specialized units across rural Alberta, enhancing public and police officer safety in communities. Police Dog Services often deploy with Crime Reduction Teams assisting with high-risk situations and tracking down offenders who are attempting to evade police. Police Dog Services also assist detachments in locating missing people.

### **Forensic Identification Services**

Forensic Identification Services supports front line policing in Alberta by providing a variety of specialized and expert investigative services. Forensic Identification members secure, record and document crime scenes, as well as collect and package exhibits for analysis.

### **Emergency Response Team**

Emergency Response Team (ERT) is the RCMP's tactical unit. Referred to as SWAT by many police agencies in Canada, ERT members are the tactical operators who deploy to situations that are beyond the means of the front line regular members such as hostage takings and high-risk firearms complaints and executing high-risk search warrants.

### **Special Tactical Operations**

The Special Tactical Operations Team functions as a public order team who responds to instances of civil disobedience. This team is also used to augment detachments with additional specialized support, such as conducting large scale, complex evidence searches and disaster response.

### **Explosive Disposal Unit**

Explosive Disposal Units are experts in the public awareness, disposal and investigation of all explosive devices. They will sometimes support other units such as ERT with things like explosives forced entries. The Explosive Disposal Units is also trained in the mitigation and investigation of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear scenes.

### **Serious Crimes Branch**

Serious Crimes Branch is responsible to investigate homicides, serious persons crimes and child abuse. The Serious Crimes Branch is made up of several units with significant expertise:

#### Major Crimes:

Major Crimes Units are comprised of highly specialized investigators who conduct homicide investigations, along with investigations related conspiracy to commit murder, kidnapping, suspicious deaths and suspicious missing persons files. Major Crime Units also provide assistance and guidance to detachment members in serious incidents such as workplace fatalities and crime crash investigations.

#### Interview Assistance Team:

The Interview Assistance Team works with Major Crimes and other units to provide specialized interview and interrogation skills to support serious investigations.

#### Missing Persons Unit:

The Missing Persons Unit monitors, reviews and assists with Missing Persons investigations across the Province. This unit also houses the Center for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains.

#### Child Advocacy Centers:

The Alberta RCMP has partnered with not for profit and community service groups throughout the province to support Child Advocacy Centers. Child Advocacy Centers are places where children and youth who have experienced abuse can go to tell their story and get support through the disclosure, investigation, judicial and healing journey.

#### High Risk Offender Program:

The High Risk Offender Program (HROP) works with high risk violent offenders throughout the Province. The single HROP member works closely with Correctional Service Canada, the Province and Crown to identify high-risk violent offenders being released from the Federal and Provincial Institutions at the expiry of their sentence. HROP works to place offenders on peace bonds and assist with managing them in the community.

#### Behavioural Sciences Group:

Behavioural Sciences Group was established due to increasing need to provide support services through the use of the most current behavioural science-based investigative tools. The Threat Evaluation and Management Team (TEM) prevents violence by evaluating the potential for targeted violent acts and implementing plans to reduce the risk of these acts from occurring. Another Behavioural Science tool is the Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (VICLAS) which helps investigators identify serial criminals by focusing on the linkages that exist among crimes committed by the same offender. Other Behavioural Science tools include such things as Geographic Profiling, High Risk Offender Programs and the Sex Offender Registry.

#### **General Investigative Services**

General Investigative Services support detachments by providing enhanced investigative capacity on files that are complex and often multi-jurisdiction. General Investigative Services investigate both persons and property crime, including but not limited to robberies, break and enters, thefts and assaults.

### **'K' Division Member Operational Support Section (KMOSS)**

KMOSS is located with our Operational Communication Center and is staffed with Senior police officers who provide guidance and advice to officers, when their supervisor or detachment commander is off-shift. They support the employees in the OCC in assessing the need for immediate call out to incidents and provides a point of coordination for significant police incidents.

### **Call Back Unit**

The Call Back Unit was established to create a more efficient and effective method of managing non-urgent calls from citizens for police service. Non-urgent police calls are diverted to the Call Back Unit and the members of the unit contact the complainants, investigate the occurrence and document the results accurately on the PROS records management system. When follow-up or further investigation is required, the Call Back Unit engages the Detachment of jurisdiction or specialized Unit most appropriate to the nature of the crime.

In June 2020, the Alberta RCMP's On-Line crime reporting system became operational. This system allows Albertans the convenience of inputting their non-urgent complaints via a computer, tablet or cell phone, at any time of day or night, through a secure system for investigation by the Alberta RCMP. The Call Back Unit has investigated over 600 online crime reports from Albertans. The files are primarily property-crime related, including theft under, bicycle theft, vandalism and mischief.

### **Pros Data Center**

The Pros Data Center (PDC) is an administrative unit established to improve and modernize the method in which the Alberta RCMP documents calls for police services and the subsequent investigations and intelligence learned. Front line members can also obtain support from the PDC to help them complete their obligation of documenting police investigations.

### **Community Liaison Program**

The Community Liaison Program serves as a touch point with communities, by actively sharing information and hosting educational sessions with community groups regarding the Alberta RCMP and the services we provide to help them prevent crime. This group also actively shares information to support community lead initiatives such as information about grant/funding opportunities.

### **Restorative Justice Program**

Restorative Justice is a method that resolves disputes by addressing the harm caused by crime or conflict. It promotes meaningful resolutions by addressing the victim's needs and holds the offender responsible for their actions. Each detachment in Alberta has a dedicated Restorative Justice Liaison and they support all Justice and Solicitor General Restorative Justice Initiatives and they provide referrals to established programs.

### **Relationship Violence Program**

This Unit is responsible for updating policy, providing support and subject matter expertise and guidance to frontline members. The Unit develops and delivers training for Alberta RCMP members and proactively maintains effective and collaborative relationships with external partner agencies.

### **Sexual Assault Reviewer**

The creation of the Alberta RCMP Sexual Assault Review Coordinator provides oversight and guidance to all regular members conducting sexual assault investigations in the Province. This position also assists Criminal Operations with high-risk files, reviews and the development of policies, procedures and programs for the Alberta RCMP.

### **Financial Crimes**

The Provincial Financial Crimes Unit primarily carries investigations, which are too complex and time consuming for detachments to undertake; these investigations often require a certain level of expertise that is gained through experience and time. In addition to these complex investigations, members of the unit are also fully engaged in requests to provide guidance and support to detachment personnel in conducting smaller scale fraud investigations and the unit is also tasked with priority investigations of a political nature.

### **Air Services**

Air Services utilizes fixed wing aircraft, helicopter and Remote Piloted Aircraft System (also known as drones), to provide aerial transport and airborne tactical support to the Alberta RCMP as well as other government departments and law enforcement agencies. Services include operational support, transport of resources and cargo and aerial surveillance.

### **Investigative Support**

There are a number of units that deploy operational assets and resources to support investigations in Alberta utilizing specialized techniques. Units included within this section are: Special Engineering Services, Special I, Special O, and Protective Technical Services Section. The expertise and assets within these units assist in successfully track and charge offenders advancing crime reduction efforts.

### **Digital Forensic Services**

Digital Forensic Services provides digital forensic examination and analysis of electronic exhibits in support of investigations.

### **Major Case Management Operational Service Centre**

Major Case Management Operational Service Centre's primary duties are to assist in organizing evidence (notes, seized documents, reports, multimedia etc.) for disclosure to the courts. This can involve combining information, converting to PDF and transcribing audio and video statements.

aboffice@albertabeach.com

cc: Council

**From:** Angela Duncan <duncan.angela.ad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** February 22, 2021 11:05 AM  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients:  
**Subject:** AUMA Villages West Update  
**Attachments:** Feb 2021 Quarterly Report.pdf

Hello Villages West Mayors, Councillors, and CAO's,

I hope that everyone is doing well. I do not have a lot to report on since my update last month, however there are a few topics and events that I would like to bring to your attention.

### Municipal Sustainability Program Reporting

Based on information that some small communities have had their MSP reports sent back to them, AUMA reached out to the province to find out what is happening. The province assures us that they are simply following up with a few municipalities to clarify or obtain additional information and that their expectations on red tape reduction reporting will be in line with the size and capacity of the municipality. We are hopeful that there will be minimal back and forth with the province on these reports and that they will not be unduly burdensome to small municipalities. If you have any issues with your reporting, please let me know as this will help inform our advocacy with the province.

### Policing

Thank you to those who attended the President's Summit on Policing this month, I hope that you found it useful and I appreciate your engagement and feedback. I am attaching to this email the latest quarterly report from the Interim Police Advisory Board, included in the report is the Interim Police Advisory Board's Report on Municipal Policing Priorities, the most recent information on the rollout of resources from the Police Funding Model, and some information on Alberta RCMP Community Safety Initiatives. I would like to hear any thoughts that you have on policing in Alberta, in particular as it relates to a Provincial Police Force, the Police Act Review, or the work of the Interim Police Advisory Board.

### Upcoming Events

There are some upcoming events and programs that I would like to make sure you are aware of.

- **AUMA's Provincial Budget Webinar** (Feb 26, 2-3:30) - AUMA will dive into the numbers and release a report with our analysis of how the provincial budget will impact municipalities. During the Webinar we will walk through the numbers, share our perspectives, and provide you the opportunity to ask questions. You can register at [https://auma-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ftMcByFcQIW7s0741huQjg](https://auma-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ftMcByFcQIW7s0741huQjg).
- **AUMA's International Women's Day Virtual Gathering** (Mar 8, 12-1) - In recognition of International Women's Day, AUMA is hosting a virtual gathering promoting and supporting the participation of women in local government. To register visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/aumas-international-womens-day-virtual-gathering-tickets-141737431473>.
- **Rural Connectivity Forum** (Mar 23-34) - This is being put on by a private company and is not an AUMA event, however, considering the topic, I thought it may be of interest to you. You can find more information and register at <https://www.cybera.ca/event/alberta-rural-connectivity-forum/>.
- **Municipal Leaders Caucus (MLC)** - Work is underway planning this spring's MLC, which is currently being planned for April. Due to Covid, we are planning for a virtual event. Please keep an eye out for dates and more information, coming soon.
- **Upcoming EOEP Courses** (online, register at [eoep.ca](http://eoep.ca))
  - Council's Role in Service Delivery (Mar 4, 11, 18, 25 from 7-8:30pm)
  - Council's Role in Strategic Planning (Apr 8, 15, 22, 29 from 2:30-4)

As always, I would appreciate any feedback on these or anything else. Also, if there is anything in particular that you would like to see an update on in my next email, please let me know.

I hope you have a great day,

**Angela Duncan**

Deputy Mayor, Alberta Beach  
Vice President & Director, AUMA  
780-868-5103  
[duncan.angela.ad@gmail.com](mailto:duncan.angela.ad@gmail.com)

**aboffice@albertabeach.com**

*cc: Council*

**From:** Exec. Assistant on behalf of Dan Rude <EA\_DRude@auma.ca>  
**Sent:** February 26, 2021 6:49 PM  
**To:** Kathy Skwarchuk  
**Subject:** AUMA's Preliminary Budget Report 2021  
**Attachments:** Budget 2021 Media Speaking Points.pdf

Dear Mayors, Councillors & CAOs,

Thank you to those who attended our webinar this afternoon to discuss our initial assessment of Budget 2020-21. The recording of the webinar will be sent out next week.

As mentioned in the webinar, our 2021 Budget Webpage has a number of resources you may be interested in:

1. Our Preliminary Analysis Report
2. Our Media Release
3. Key messages are also attached. We used these when speaking to the media, and are available for you to use if you wish.

These past months have required more resilience and perseverance than ever before, as municipalities respond to urgent resident and business needs and provide additional services with less revenue. If our communities are going to keep growing and thriving, it is going to mean working together, ensuring municipalities have the funding to invest in initiatives that contribute to the fiscal health of our province.

AUMA will continue to advocate for collaborative partnerships with municipalities to ensure that responsible investment occurs in our communities, where we can maximize the return on our investments, create jobs and stimulate our economy.

**Dan Rude** | Chief Executive Officer  
**ALBERTA URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION**

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ASSOCIATION

**BUDGET 2021**  
Media Speaking Points

Feb 26, 2021

AUMA  
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Municipal Sustainability Initiative & Local Government Funding Framework  
Municipalities have long sought, stable, predictable and legislated funding. The 25% reduction to MSI and the 2-year delay in implementing the LGFF is disappointing - it breaks the UCP campaign promise to "Ensure predictable, long-term infrastructure funding for municipalities."

This is a missed opportunity to meaningfully engage municipalities in economic recovery and resiliency. And to allocate funds to those communities that need it most.

#### Interference in Local Elections

Committing \$10 million to cover the costs of referenda and senate elections is a reminder the province has no interest in keeping local elections local and will proceed to push outside issues into municipal campaigns.

We have been consistent in asking the government to respect municipalities' autonomy and the democratic process that gives municipal councils their mandate from Albertans, without introducing federal and provincial issues into local elections.

It's disappointing that the government has again ignored our principles for democratic local government elections. They are effectively trampling on local democracy.

#### Education Property Taxes

We appreciate the province's share of Education Property Tax is frozen this year, but the province continues to take more than 30 cents of every dollar in property taxes paid by residents and businesses, removing those financial resources from our communities.

That is money that could be used to support local businesses and local economic recovery. Municipalities could use it to pay for policing, infrastructure, maintenance, and the many, many services citizens expect from their local governments.

#### Opioid Crisis

I want to highlight the opioid crisis that is stalking Alberta right now. While funding for recovery and treatment is important, communities face an opioid death crisis.

- The provincial death toll surged to 997 by the end of November 2020, with one month worth of data yet to be disclosed.
- This surpasses the previous yearly record in 2018 — in which 806 deaths were recorded — by almost 24%.
- While Budget 2021 maintains the province's original plan of allocating \$140 million over four years in addiction recovery programs, it does not address the immediate opioid crisis and skyrocketing number of deaths.

### Mental Health

We do acknowledge that the budget pledges to implement the recommendations of the Mental Health and Addiction Advisory Council to increase access to recovery-oriented addiction recovery and mental health services, while investing \$40 million to support treatment and recovery services.

Municipalities large and small are united in their concern about the mental health of their citizens and AUMA will seek ways to work with the province to other partners seek ways to enhance mental health support.

### Affordable Housing

The 2021 strategic plan states that the province is responsible for ensuring Albertans have access to high quality services such as affordable housing and supports for vulnerable and marginalized people. Despite this commitment, no funding has been allocated to the City of Edmonton to help operate the supportive housing units being built under the federal Rapid Housing Initiative.

### Policing

Budget 2021 maintains funding for police grants at the same level as in 2020: \$30 million for the Police Officer Grant and \$59.2 million for the Municipal Policing Assistance Grant. The new police funding model introduced in 2020 will raise an additional \$11.3 million in 2021. Last year, the model raised \$15.4 million, which was used to hire 76 regular members and 57 new civilian support positions in the RCMP. The \$26.7 million raised in 2021 will be used to hire 55 regular members and 42 support staff for the RCMP. AUMA is following up to determine why there will be fewer hires this year compared to in 2020, despite increased revenue.

### Maintaining Supports

After significant reductions in previous years, we are relieved that the province has held flat the funding for Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT), which impacts municipalities that are home to provincially-owned buildings and facilities. At the same time, we need to recognize that past reductions have already sent some small communities with a high proportion of provincially own properties, over a fiscal cliff.

### In Closing

AUMA is satisfied that the province is maintaining support levels for Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and Library Funding.

AUMA will continue to advocate for collaborative partnerships with municipalities to ensure that responsible investment occurs in our communities, where we can maximize the return on our investments, create jobs and stimulate our economy.

**aboffice@albertabeach.com**

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**From:** President <President@auma.ca>  
**Sent:** March 10, 2021 3:14 PM  
**To:** Kathy Skwarchuk  
**Subject:** Registration now open for Spring 2021 Municipal Leaders' Caucus  
**Attachments:** Agenda - Spring 2021 MLC.pdf

Mayors, Councillors, and CAOs are invited to register for AUMA's spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus being held virtually through Zoom on April 14, 15, and 16, 2021.

This year's Caucus is a great opportunity to discuss key issues affecting your community, including COVID recovery, red tape reduction, municipal finances, and the upcoming municipal election. Delegates will also have the opportunity to ask provincial Ministers questions about top-of-mind concerns on Government Day (April 16). A copy of the draft agenda for Caucus is attached.

The cost for attending the Municipal Leaders' Caucus is \$50 for regular members and \$75 for associate and non-members. Visit the Municipal Leaders' Caucus event page for more details on registration, agenda updates, and instructions on how to submit a Request for Decision (RFD) for consideration at Municipal Leaders' Caucus.

If you have any questions about spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus, please email [registration@auma.ca](mailto:registration@auma.ca) or call 780-431-4528.

Remember that you are welcome to invite your colleagues from municipal districts and counties to attend the Caucus as well.

We hope to you can join us!

**Barry Morishita** | President  
 Mayor, City of Brooks

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C: 403.363.9224 | [president@auma.ca](mailto:president@auma.ca)

Alberta Municipal Place | 300 8616-51 Ave Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6

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**Agenda for Spring 2021 Municipal Leaders' Caucus**  
**April 14, 15, and 16, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**  
**\*Subject to Change\***

<b>Wednesday, April 14</b>	
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>President's Opening Remarks</b>
<b>3:05 p.m.</b>	<b>Mental Health Session</b>
<b>3:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Education/Engagement Session I – Municipalities' Role in Red Tape Reduction</b>
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>4:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Education/Engagement Session II – COVID Recovery</b>
<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>5:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Education/Engagement Session III – Municipal Finances and Reserves</b>
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

<b>Thursday, April 15</b>	
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
<b>9:05 a.m.</b>	<b>Mental Health Session</b>
<b>9:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Opposition Leader's Remarks</b>
<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Education/Engagement Session IV – 2021 Municipal Election</b>
<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>AUMA President's Report</b>
<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>AUMA Board Dialogue Session</b>
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Requests for Decision</b>
<b>11:55 a.m.</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

<b>Friday, April 16</b>	
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
<b>9:05 a.m.</b>	<b>Mental Health Session</b>
<b>9:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Minister of Municipal Affairs' Remarks and/or Premier's Remarks</b>
<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Ministers' Dialogue Session I</b>
<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:50 a.m.</b>	<b>Ministers' Dialogue Session II</b>
<b>11:50 a.m.</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

## Alberta Beach Village Office

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**From:** Leah Blair <lblair@athabascacounty.com>  
**Sent:** March 11, 2021 1:41 PM  
**To:** aboffice@albertabeach.com; acrofts@mdtaber.ab.ca; admin@edgerton.ca;  
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3602 - 48 Avenue  
ATHABASCA, ALBERTA  
T9S 1M8

March 11, 2021

Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) – Directive 067 Feedback  
Suite 1000, 250-5<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Calgary, AB  
T2P 0R4

**RE: Proposed Changes to AER Directive 067**

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At the February 25, 2021, regular County Council meeting, Council passed a motion to express support for Thorhild County and other municipalities, including Athabasca County, impacted by Directive 067, which fails to address non-payment of levied municipal taxes by license holders of provincially regulated oil and gas properties.

Many rural municipalities rely heavily on tax revenue from the oil and gas industry and the current problem with the orphan wells is creating a heavy financial burden for them.

Athabasca County supports the request that the following changes be made to Directive 067:

1. *"Section 5 - Maintaining Eligibility" the AER should immediately revoke the licenses of continuing viable Licence Holders choosing not to pay all (or any) of their municipal tax obligations.*
2. *"Section 4.5) - Unreasonable Risk (Obtaining General Licence Eligibility)" the AER should not authorize or permit the purchase or transfer of any licences involving an existing oil or gas licence holder (or operator) currently in default of any municipal tax obligation anywhere in Alberta and*
3. *"Section 4.5) - Unreasonable Risk (Obtaining General License Eligibility)" the AER should initiate steps with the assistance of the Alberta Government (Municipal Affairs) to ensure that municipalities are recognized as secured creditors (through any bankruptcy involving Licence Holders) to secure and collect that municipality's (and the province's) taxes levied and owed.*

Alberta's rural communities are the municipalities that own and safely maintain the infrastructure necessary for the oil and gas industry to succeed. As a partner in this success, the fair assessment and collection of municipal taxes (including provincial taxes levied for schools and seniors housing) is foundational to the support and maintenance of this infrastructure.



Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your response. Please contact me by e-mail at [larmfelt@athabascacounty.com](mailto:larmfelt@athabascacounty.com) or call 780-675-2273 should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Larry Armfelt  
Reeve

cc: MLA Glenn van Dijken  
MLA Laila Goodridge  
Provincial Caucus  
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)  
Alberta Urban Municipalities of Alberta (AUMA)