



NEWS RELEASE

February 4, 2022

OFFICIAL STATEMENT: Response to Premier Kenney's recent remarks about possibly amending the Municipal Government Act

EDMONTON – Alberta Municipalities is aware that Premier Jason Kenney publicly stated he would consider making changes to the province's *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) at a Facebook Live event last night.

We find Premier Kenney's remarks puzzling and troubling. The topic of amending the MGA to restrict municipal governments' ability to introduce public health bylaws has never been discussed in any meeting held between Alberta Municipalities and the Government of Alberta, and we do not expect to discuss it in the future.

Alberta Municipalities believes that local governments need autonomy when responding to this pandemic and its effects on residents. Earlier in the pandemic, the Government of Alberta allowed local governments to introduce public health bylaws and other measures they thought were needed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in their communities. The restrictive approach Premier Kenney is now considering is completely at odds with his government's earlier direction.

We understand the provincial government intends to present its plan to ease health restrictions and other pandemic measures to Albertans as early as next week. We hope the plan Premier Kenney presents is based on science and facts, not on political factors, and successfully balances public health and safety with other important economic and social considerations.

– *Cathy Heron, President of Alberta Municipalities*

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From the smallest village to the largest city, across every region of the province, Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) represents the communities where over 85% of Albertans live. Previously known as the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), ABmunis was founded in 1905 to provide urban and rural-region communities a united voice.

We work with elected and administrative leaders of Alberta's summer villages, villages, town, cities, and specialized municipalities to advocate for solutions to their common issues, which we categorize as economic, environment, governance, infrastructure, or social.

And we help them build resilient and thriving communities by providing valuable services. We use our members' combined purchasing power to negotiate the best possible value and competitive pricing on employee benefits, insurance, energy, and other services needed to run an effective and efficient municipality.