



## NEWS RELEASE

March 1, 2023

### **Provincial Budget 2023: Focused on the 'now,' not the future**

**EDMONTON** – The provincial government's 2023-24 budget clearly shows it has taken the political temperature of Alberta and decided to address many of the emergent issues Albertans face. It appears to be concentrating its spending on several important issues, including healthcare, education and public safety.

This is necessary and understandable, and Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) believes this spending will help. We look forward to watching the funding flow and we encourage the provincial government to honour its commitments beyond the next provincial election in late May.

Our association is pleased to see the Government of Alberta listened to us and others when it decided to fully index funding to municipalities so that local governments' funding increases and decreases as the provincial government's revenues wax and wane. In this respect, ABmunis' members feel more like full partners, rather than a 'child' of the province.

Where this budget falls short is in the allocation of funding to address Alberta's growing infrastructure deficit. Alberta communities face a \$30 billion infrastructure deficit. Put simply, Alberta's municipalities own 60 per cent of the infrastructure, but they received just 1.0 per cent of this provincial budget. Many Albertans will be surprised to learn that per-capita provincial funding to municipalities has declined by 61 per cent since 2011.

While numerous infrastructure projects will receive funding in the 2023 provincial budget – things like hospitals, schools, roads and bridges – these projects represent a small fraction of the infrastructure projects needed to build a province that attracts and retains talented people so that Alberta remains economically successful and prosperous.

Alberta Municipalities will continue pressing the provincial government to commit to additional strategic infrastructure spending in the coming weeks and months. We also plan to raise this issue with all provincial political parties in the run-up to the 2023 provincial election.

---

**Media contact:**  
Scott Lundy

Communications Manager, Alberta Municipalities

780.668.2436

[scott@abmunis.ca](mailto:scott@abmunis.ca)

[abmunis.ca](http://abmunis.ca)

*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. ABmunis was founded in 1905 to provide urban and rural-region communities a united voice. Alberta Municipalities now serves and represents more than 270 of Alberta's 334 municipalities.*

*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.*