

- Good morning again. Welcome to the spring Mayors' Caucus.
- As you know, the spring Caucus is designed to be an integrated program for members of all sizes to attend over the 2 full days.
- It provides tremendous outreach and dialogue with the provincial government.
- As well, it's an opportunity for AUMA to update you on our latest policy development and advocacy as well as newly available educational opportunities, toolkits and other resources.
- It's been a bit challenging to schedule Ministers into our Caucus since it's a very busy week with yesterday's Speech from the Throne and session resuming.
- We had a few last minute changes to Ministers' availability so the program you got at registration this morning reflects a couple of adjustments in speakers and timing.
- But the topics are the same.
- We hope you enjoy this Caucus.

- As usual, we are inviting your feedback so please take time to complete the satisfaction survey over the next day or so.
- Before we begin our presentations, I'd like to invite Mayor Don Iveson to say a few words on behalf of our host location, the City of Edmonton.

#### MAYOR BRINGS GREETINGS

- Thank you Mayor Iveson.

## AUMA Board



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- You saw our Board members at the breakfast this morning but let me introduce them to you in terms of how they are representing you. Board members, please stand as I call your name
- Our village and summer villages representatives are Mayor Jenelle Saskiw, Deputy Mayor Cliff Ayrey, Mayor Charlene Smylie, and Mayor Peter Pellatt.
- Our town representatives are Mayor Maryann Chichak, Mayor Kim Craig, and Councillor Nichole Adams.
- Our mid-sized city representatives are Mayor Barry Morishita, Councillor Cathy Heron, and Councillor Helen Rice.
- And we have Councillors Tony Caterina and Michael Walters from Edmonton and Councillors Andre Chabot and Jim Stevenson from Calgary.

## Key Initiatives



MGA Review



Status of Women



Linear Property  
Symposium



Advocacy

- I have a number of updates that I'd like to share with you this morning about our Board's work in building new relationships with federal and provincial governments.
- As you'll see on this slide, the MGA review is a cornerstone of our outreach with the province but we are also advocating on other important issues.

## MGA review – previous input

- Spring 2014 – AUMA submission
- Fall 2014 – Provincial commitment to the review
- March 2015 - Bill 20 received Royal Assent
- Fall 2015 – AUMA final submission including 30 consensus items



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- In terms of the MGA, we had extensive outreach with you in the last few years that culminated in our spring 2014 submission to Municipal Affairs on a number of priority policy issues.
- As part of the MGA, we encouraged the province to consider civic charters for unique circumstances and powers.
- While AUMA has not been engaged in the charter discussions with Edmonton and Calgary, we were pleased to learn that the Minister took our advice and decided to focus on the MGA first so that it could be as broadly written as possible for all municipalities.
- The Minister will then look at unique needs that should be addressed through charters and we've reminded her recently that this goes beyond the 2 big cities..
- The first round of changes to the MGA was tabled a year ago in March 2015. The Bill included key changes such as enabling voluntary amalgamations, improving the annexation process, and requiring Councils to establish a code of conduct. The Bill also set out

requirements for long term municipal plans (i.e., three year operating and five year capital) and public participation.

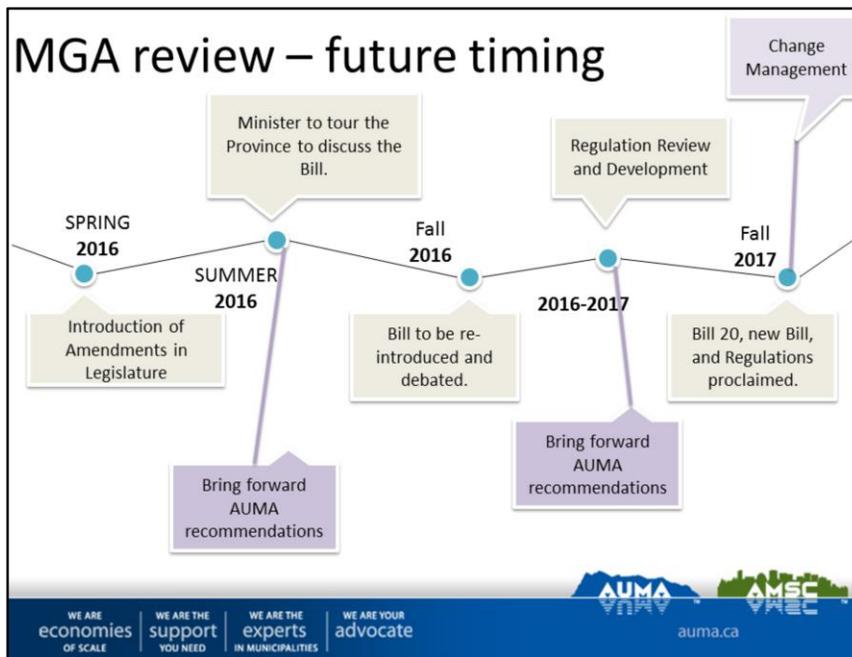
- Since then, AUMA has been relentless in working on your behalf to build awareness of the need for real change.
- Every time we meet with a Minister, we remind them about the MGA and our 3 key asks for the next set of legislation – relationships, funding model and supports for regionalization.
- As well, we pressed hard to reach consensus with AAMDC and other parties on key required changes which we submitted to the Minister in fall 2015.
- While we do have some differences of opinion, collectively AUMA and AAMDC can be a very compelling force and one that cannot be ignored by the province.
- Some of our 30 consensus items include off-site levies, revenue-generating authority, and yes even a few tax matters.

## Linear Symposium

- Need to include equitable cost sharing arrangements as well as revenue
- Principles and strategies
- More discussion needed



- One tax matter that is NOT easy to resolve is that of linear tax revenue which the Premier had committed to review.
- In January, we held symposiums in Calgary and Nisku to gain your input where over 160 members attended.
- We heard loud and clear that members wanted us to also profile required changes to cost sharing arrangements.
- We submitted our conclusions to the Minister in February and also sent them directly to Mayors and CAOs.
- We reminded the Minister that we would need more time for discussion on matters that will likely be left to the regulations – things like how is regional defined and what should the sharing formula be?
- Our submission outlined suggested principles and strategies for change that would align the responsibilities of services with tax resources.
- Copies of the MGA and Linear submission are on our webpage and you're welcome to read them if you haven't already.



This slide shows the steps going forward for the MGA review:

- This spring is the moment we’ve been waiting for, when the final set of MGA amendments is expected to be tabled in the legislature.
- We’ll have a chance to review the new legislation this summer via public consultations.
- I hope to join the Minister at her consultations in 20 communities.
- Then the bill will be amended as required in response to input. It will then be passed in the fall.
- Regulations on all of the new pieces in the MGA will be developed throughout the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017. We’ll be seeking your input so please stay tuned to our Digest newsletter.
- Then, all the regulations and the new MGA will all come into force in 2017, before the next municipal election.
- Once the new act and regulations are developed, AUMA will be working with our members to develop tools and templates to ensure appropriate advocacy at a local and provincial level on required

changes as well as supports for change management.

## Provincial Advocacy

- GILT funding
- MSI and Infrastructure Funding
- Policing & RCMP
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Market Access



- You heard me remind the Premier this morning of some other key advocacy.
- There are a couple of areas that I want to highlight.
- Regarding Grants in Lieu of taxes, we know how important this downloading problem is to resolve.
  - This downloading costs municipalities more than \$15 million per year.
  - The province has said that they had no choice as they needed to instead fund the modernization of lodges.
  - AUMA is not satisfied with this response, so is continuing to press.
  - We are developing some templates that you will be able to use locally to profile the impacts. The templates will be out to you shortly.
- We are also calling for the MSI to be increased to its committed levels and for some of the Building Canada Fund to be made available to

municipalities.

- Police funding must be reviewed and we know that RCMP services in particular could be challenging due to the collective bargaining.
- That said, we believe we have had some success building awareness of the need to increase funding for ALERT which is the organized crime, gang suppression and child pornography unit.
- Action on brownfield redevelopment certification is another example of a key issue.
- With the change in government, we have become very alert to finding out what is of interest to the new leaders and then tailoring our approaches accordingly.
- For example, we've had a position on payday loans but likely wouldn't have seen it as a top priority.
- However, as this is a speech from the throne topic and has the attention of the new government, we will be sure to make our submission right away.

## Federal & Provincial Advocacy

- Infrastructure funding direct to municipalities
- Wastewater regulations
- Climate change initiatives
- Rail safety
- Impact of UN Declaration on Indigenous People

- There are other matters that cross federal and provincial roles.
- Our budget submissions emphasized the importance of investments in infrastructure and disaster mitigation and assistance, as well as support for affordable housing.
- We continue to seek flow through funding rather than application based.
- The federal budget will provide clarity in terms of opportunities to direct infrastructure funding to municipal projects. We hope to find out more this morning from Minister Mason.
- As well, we're calling for the federal and provincial government to expedite the process to negotiate an equivalency agreement whereby only provincial regulations would apply and reporting would be harmonized.
  - Unfortunately, we understand that the federal government has determined that provincial regulations are not equivalent to federal regulations and it could take a number of years for the

provincial government to amend its regulations and then negotiate an agreement.

- Therefore, we will be meeting with both the province and federal government in April to explore options to speed up the process.
- Another topic is climate change where the federal government has committed to invest \$19.7 billion in green infrastructure over the next 10 years to make communities more energy efficient and resilient to extreme weather.
- We continue to engage on rail safety nationally and provincially and have been pleased with the steady stream of improvements.
- We continue to seek clarity on potential impacts of the UN Declaration of Indigenous People as both federal and provincial governments made commitments to implement it.
- So as you can see we work on a tremendous number of issues on your behalf.
- Our CEO will shortly profile a new initiative on our website where you can see AUMA's policy and advocacy submissions and the government's responses.

## Status of Women Task Force

- Working towards improving outcomes for women including:
  - economic security and prosperity
  - leadership and democratic participation
  - addressing violence against women girls
  - profiling fed/prov programs for women
  - missing and murdered Indigenous women
  - gender-based analysis

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- Another issue that I'm personally very excited about is the opportunity to improve outcomes for women.
- I am chairing AUMA's Task Force and I am joined by municipally elected officials and administrators who are all committed to improving outcomes for women in their communities and providing advocacy advice to the province on:
  - Increasing women's economic security and prosperity and leadership and democratic participation while addressing violence and
  - Putting a "women's" lens on municipal policies and programs, or gender-based analysis where we are doing a webinar this spring.
- We were pleased to have the opportunity to provide input on the process for the inquiry for missing and murdered Indigenous women. We look forward to being further engaged on this important topic.

## June Mayors' Caucus in Olds

- June 15 under 2,500
- June 16 under 10,000
- June 17 10,000 +



See you there!

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- Before I conclude, I wanted to remind you of our June Mayors Caucus in Olds.
- Remember this Caucus has the traditional format of:
  - June 15 for populations under 2,500;
  - June 16 for populations under 10,000, and
  - June 17 for populations over 10,000.
- Remember to register early.