



Enhancing Relations between Municipal Governments and Indigenous Communities: Blanket Exercise

The Blanket Exercise Initiative is a partnership between AUMA and RMA to provide municipal governments an opportunity to increase their understanding of Indigenous history in Canada. AUMA and RMA are seeking applications from municipalities that are interested in hosting an educational **session known as a 'Blanket Exercise' in their community**. With support from Alberta Municipal Affairs, the Blanket Exercise Initiative is one of many collaborative partnerships by AUMA and RMA to support municipalities to effectively meet the new requirements of the revised *Municipal Government Act* (MGA). The revised MGA includes several changes that encourage more communication and collaboration between municipal governments and Indigenous communities. The Blanket Exercise Initiative can support this process by furthering municipal understanding of Indigenous culture and history including the impact of residential schools and historical relations between Indigenous peoples and the Crown.

A. About the Blanket Exercise

1. What is a Blanket Exercise?

A Blanket Exercise is an interactive session where participants take on the roles of Indigenous peoples in Canada and explore the history and experiences of Indigenous people during the phases of pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization, and resistance. All participants are actively involved as they step onto blankets that represent the land and are guided through historical moments that determine their outcome. The Blanket Exercise is highly regarded as an effective teaching tool for furthering the understanding of Indigenous issues. A video example is available [here](#).

2. How long will the Blanket Exercise take?

The Blanket Exercise itself takes approximately 1 hour, which is then followed by a 1-2 hour sharing circle discussion. The length of time for the sharing circle will depend on the number of participants and the amount of conversation that takes place. For planning purposes, applicants should schedule between 2.5 to 3 hours for the total exercise.

3. Who will organize and facilitate the blanket exercise?

AUMA and RMA will provide a facilitator and work with successful applicants to determine the time and location of the session. A representative of AUMA or RMA will work with the municipality to guide them through the protocols of this event, in addition to being present at the session.

4. What is the cost?

The cost of the blanket exercise facilitators is covered by AUMA and RMA through funding from Alberta Municipal Affairs. Municipalities are responsible for the following costs (if applicable):

- Rental of the venue
- Audio and visual equipment (e.g. screen and projector, mic, and speakers)
- Food for participants (depending on the scheduled time of day)



B. Application Requirements

1. Eligible entities

Applicants must be a designated municipality within the province of Alberta.

2. Number of participants

The Blanket Exercise Initiative is primarily intended for the learning purposes of elected officials and employees of municipalities, but host municipalities may also choose to include community stakeholders. To meet the participation requirements, municipalities may partner with one or more municipalities to host a Blanket Exercise. To apply, the applicant must confirm that:

- A minimum of 20 individuals will participate;
- Of the total number, a minimum of 8 participants must be elected officials; and
- The maximum number of participants is 40 individuals.

3. Venue

The applicant is responsible to provide a venue that is large enough that all participants can sit in a chair in a large circle, while leaving sufficient room to move behind the circle of chairs. There shall be no obstacles (e.g. table) inside the circle of chairs. It is preferred that the venue can be equipped with a white screen, projector, and speakers for audio.

4. Timeline

The applicant shall commit to hosting the Blanket Exercise prior to June 30, 2019.

C. Application Process

1. Application form

To apply, complete and submit the enclosed application form by November 30, 2018.



Application Form | Blanket Exercise Initiative

APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Municipality			
2. Contact Name			
3. Contact Title			
4. Email		Phone	
5. Partnering municipality(ies)			
6. Does the applicant or partner municipality share a boundary with a First Nations or Metis Settlement? (This is used for information purposes only and does not influence the success of the application.)	Yes	No	(circle one)
7. If 'yes' in question #6, please list the First Nation or Metis Settlement.			

APPLICATION CERTIFICATION

(initial) _____ I certify that I have read and understand the Program Guidelines for the Indigenous Awareness Blanket Exercise and confirm that the municipality will meet the requirements of section B of the Guidelines.

Printed name and title (Duly-Authorized Signing Authority)

Signature (Duly-Authorized Signing Authority)

Date

SUBMISSION

All applications must be received by November 30, 2018.
Submit the completed application form via mail or email to:

Allison Hansen
Rural Municipalities of Alberta
2510 Sparrow Drive
Nisku, AB T9E 8N5
Email: allison@rmalberta.com

For questions, please contact one of the following:

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