

# STRONG COMMUNITIES



# BUILD ALBERTA

## Strong Communities Need: Improved Resources for Police Services

### Background:

#### The Alberta Police Act Review

All Albertans need to feel safe and protected in their communities. High RCMP vacancy rates and long response times have contributed to the perception that rural communities are not safe.

The *Alberta Police Act* establishes the authority, jurisdiction, and legal duties of police officers in Alberta. It defines how police agencies are administered and made accountable to the public.

Under the Act, the Alberta government is responsible for providing police services at no direct cost to all municipal districts and counties, and to municipalities with populations of less than 5,000. Municipalities with populations over 5,000 are required to pay policing costs. Additionally, there have been chronic shortfalls in police resourcing because provincial funding has not kept pace with increasing populations and crime rates.

Last year the provincial government started a full-scale review and modernization of the Alberta Police Act. The Alberta Police Act is large, complex, and outdated, so the review process could take several years.

#### The Proposed Solution

AUMA has established a Police Act Working Group to develop recommendations to improve resources for policing services and community safety.

We are calling on the provincial government to commit to continuing the review of the Act and working with AUMA on an equitable police funding model based on a municipality's demand for policing services and their ability to pay.

### Ask your MLA:

Under the existing Police Act, some municipalities pay directly for police services, while the Alberta government covers policing costs for other communities.

Does your MLA commit to developing a more equitable police funding model where every municipality pays based on their demand for police services and their ability to pay?

