

[JOCELYNE]

- Good morning, everyone.
- My name is Jocelyne Lanovaz.
- I'm a Councillor for the Village of Mannville, as well as Director of Villages East for AUMA.
- Welcome to Day Two of Spring MLC!
- We had X participants at our session yesterday, so we're hoping to top that today!
- Before we get started, I'm just going to quickly go over the Zoom platform in case there is anyone new on the line.



[JOCELYNE]

- For today's sessions, only the presenters will be able to use their mics and cameras.
- But there are still ways for you to participate and engage with the presenters and other attendees.
- We will be taking questions throughout each session.
- You can post your questions by clicking on the Q&A symbol on the bottom of your screen.
- Just type in your question and we will make our best effort to respond to as many questions as we can.



[JOCELYNE]

- You also have the option to use the chat box which is also found on the bottom of your screen.
- This is where you can post comments and chat with others in this session, but it's not for posting questions to the speakers.
- If you have a question for a speaker, it must be posted in the Q&A box, not the chat box.
- Also, when you are posting in the chat, make sure that you have selected "All panelists and attendees" in the drop-down list so that everyone can see your comments.
- This is especially important if you are trying to communicate with other attendees.
- I would also like to mention that we heard from a number of attendees yesterday that the slides were blurry.
- We've checked with our AV team, and unfortunately this is a bandwidth issue, so there's not much we can do on our end.
- If you are able, try to make sure that Zoom is the only program that uses the internet running on your device, and that your device is the only one using your network.
- The session is being recorded and we will make both the recording and presentations available so you can check those out if you miss anything.

- Please note that today's session is open to the media.

Poll Question

Which of the following initiatives would you like AUMA to invest time in? (select all that apply)

- a. Creating a system to measure municipal financial health
- b. Launching a working group to help design LGFF
- c. Supporting members to educate MLAs about municipal finances
- d. I have other ideas – tell us at advocacy@auma.ca



[JOCELYNE]

- We'll also be using Zoom polls several times through out the day.
- As we had a technical difficulty with our poll yesterday, we're going to relaunch it now so you can practice you Zoom polling skills.

[ADMIN TO LAUNCH POLL]

Poll:

Which of the following initiatives would you like AUMA to invest time into?

Please select all that apply.

- a) Create a system to measure municipal financial health
- b) Launch a working group to help design LGFF
- c) Support members to educate MLAs about municipal finances
- d) I have other ideas – tell us at advocacy@auma.ca.

[ONCE COMPLETE, ADMIN WILL SHARE THE RESULTS ON THE SCREEN AND YOU CAN SPEAK TO THE POLL RESULTS.]

Gift Basket Draw



[JOCELYNE]

- We are doing a gift basket draw again today, so stay with us until noon for a chance to win.
- You need to be on the line at the end of today's session in order to win, and we will arrange to have the gift basket delivered to the lucky winner.



[JOCELYNE]

- If you want copies of today's presentations, they will be posted next week on the AUMA webpage.
- Go to www.auma.ca and click on Advocacy Services, then Document Library.
- We are also recording this session and we will post it on our YouTube channel.
- We'll send out links to the recording and presentations in the Digest.

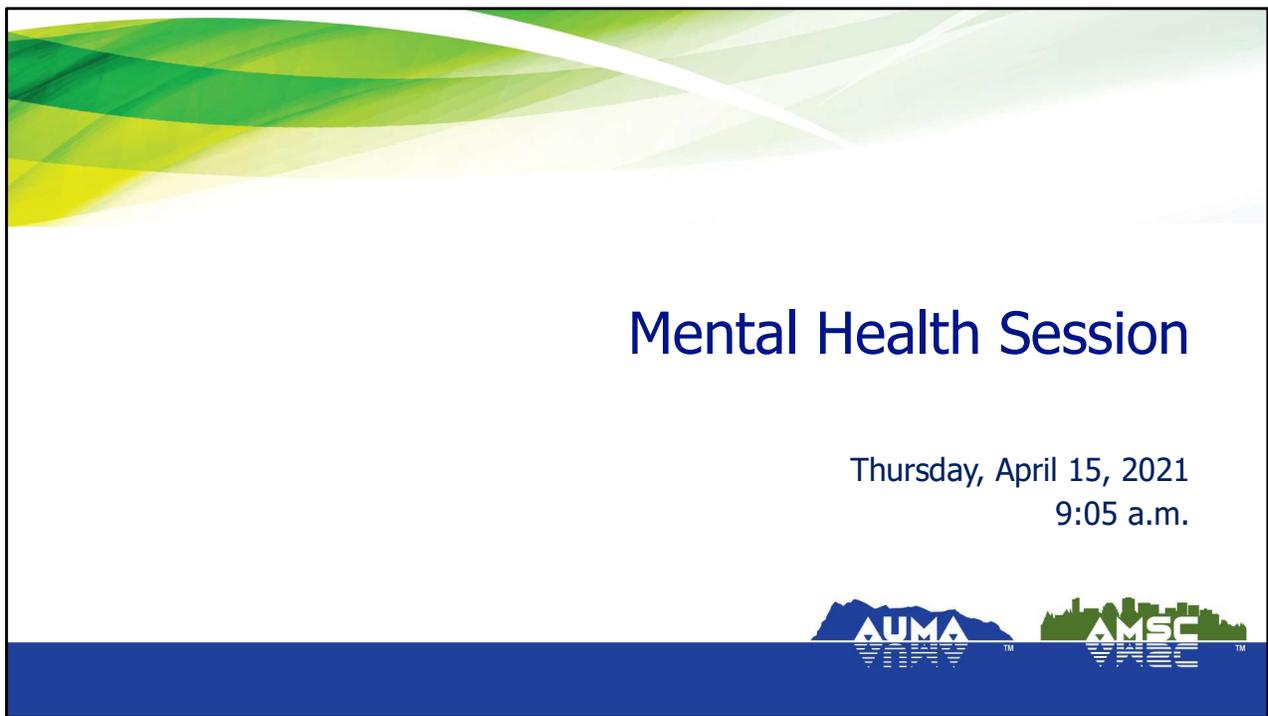
Agenda for Thursday, April 15

9:05 a.m.	Mental Health Session
9:15 a.m.	Opposition Leader's Remarks
9:30 a.m.	2021 Municipal Election
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Province-Wide Vote of Electors
11:15 a.m.	AUMA President's Report
11:30 a.m.	Requests for Decision
11:55 a.m.	Closing Remarks



[JOCELYNE]

- We're going to start the day again with a quick mental health session.
- Then we'll hear from Rachel Notley, Leader of the Official Opposition.
- Our education and engagement sessions today will cover the upcoming municipal election and municipal plebiscites.
- Then Barry will give you all an update on the latest AUMA news and activities.
- Finally, we have three member Requests for Decision to vote on.
- If you are interested in reading the RFDs beforehand, you can find them on Chime.
- Please note that all of today's sessions are open to the media.
- Also, for the RFD session, we will be opening up a conference call line so that you can dial in if you have comments or questions.
- We'll give you all the information you need at the start of that session.



[JOCELYNE]

- Ok, let's get started!
- First off, I'm happy to welcome back Daena Douglas from Howatt HR Consulting for our mental health session.
- Daena, over to you.

Opposition Leader's Remarks

Thursday, April 15, 2021
9:15 a.m.



[MIKE]

- Thank you, Daena.
- You're definitely teaching us some useful skills for these difficult times.
- Moving on to our next speaker, I'm pleased to introduce Ms. Rachel Notley, Leader of the Official Opposition.
- Rachel was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta representing Edmonton-Strathcona in 2008, 2012, 2015, and again in 2019.
- She was sworn in as the province's 17th Premier on May 24, 2015, a position she held until the 2019 election.
- Rachel grew up in Fairview, Alberta, and is the daughter of former Alberta ND leader Grant Notley and his wife Sandy.
- She holds a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of Alberta, and a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School.
- Her work during her legal career has focused on labour law, workers' compensation advocacy, and workplace health and safety issues.

- Rachel lives in Edmonton's Old Strathcona neighbourhood, along with her husband Lou, their two children Ethan and Sophie, and their two dogs, Tucker and Johnny Cash.
- Welcome Rachel!

2021 Municipal Elections: Upholding the Principles of Local Democracy

Thursday, April 15, 2021
9:30 a.m.



[ANDREW]

- Thank you so much for taking the time to be here and sharing your thoughts with us.
- My name is Andrew Knack and I'm a Councillor for the City of Edmonton, as well as Director of Cities over 500,000 for AUMA.
- I'm pleased to be here today to talk to you about the upcoming municipal election.

Trivia

Sean Ward
Partner & Municipal Law Team Co-Lead

[ANDREW]

- We're going to start off this session with some election-related trivia, brought to you by Reynolds, Mirth, Richards, and Farmer.
- Please join me in welcoming Sean Ward, who will be your trivia master today.
- Sean is a Partner and Municipal Law Team Co-Lead with RMRF.
- Sean's municipal law work is varied and includes drafting, interpreting and challenging bylaws, planning and development, and the many issues municipalities face as complex entities with considerable statutory powers and responsibilities.
- Sean has appeared before Subdivision and Development Appeal Boards, the Municipal Government Board, and at all levels of Court in Alberta on matters related to municipal law. He is also a frequent speaker and presenter on various municipal law topics.
- Take it away, Sean.

Q1. Following the election, candidates are required to disclose names and addresses of donors whose contributions exceed

- a. \$25.00
- b. \$50.00
- c. \$100.00
- d. \$150.00

Sean reads question

Meagan launches poll and FMAV launches music (poll and music go for 30 seconds)

Where is your money by Bleeker (chorus)

A1. Following the election, candidates are required to disclose names and addresses of donors whose contributions exceed

- a. \$25.00
- b. \$50.00** - it was previously \$100.00
- c. \$100.00
- d. \$150.00

Sean reveals answer

Q2. A self funded candidate who has contributed \$1,250 to their own campaign does not need to open a bank account.

- a. True
- b. False

Sean reads question

Meagan launches poll and FMAV launches music (poll and music go for 30 seconds)

Everybody wants to rule the world by Tears for Fears

A2. A self funded candidate who has contributed \$1,250 to their own campaign does not need to open a bank account.

a. True

b. False - Under the current rules any candidate, self-funded or not must open a bank account once total contributions exceed \$1,000.00

Sean reveals answer

Q3. If a candidate's disclosure statement shows a deficit, the candidate is required to eliminate the deficit within how long after filing their disclosure statement?

- a. 1 year
- b. 6 months
- c. 60 days
- d. 30 days

Sean reads question

Meagan launches poll and FMAV launches music (poll and music go for 30 seconds)

Rockin in the free world by Neal Young

A3. If a candidate's disclosure statement shows a deficit, the candidate is required to eliminate the deficit within how long after filing their disclosure statement?

- a. 1 year
- b. 6 months
- c. 60 days - it used to be 6 months
- d. 30 days

Sean reveals answer

Q4. When is nomination day?

- a. 4 weeks prior to election day
- b. 6 weeks prior to election day
- c. There is no longer a nomination day now that nominations begin on January 1, of the election year.

Sean reads question

Meagan launches poll and FMAV launches music (poll and music go for 30 seconds)

Song - Democracy by Leonard Cohen

A4. When is nomination day?

- a. 4 weeks prior to election day
- b. 6 weeks prior to election day
- c. There is no longer a nomination day now that nominations begin on January 1, of the election year.

Sean reveals answer

Q5. How soon after nomination day do returning officers need to post the list of candidates at the municipal office?

- a. There is no requirement to post a list.
- b. 24 hrs
- c. 48 hrs
- d. 5 business days

Sean reads question

Meagan launches poll and FMAV launches music (poll and music go for 30 seconds)

Song Electioneering by Radio Head

A5. How soon after nomination day do returning officers need to post the list of candidates at the municipal office?

- a. There is no requirement to post a list.
- b. 24 hrs
- c. 48 hrs - this is a new requirement
- d. 5 business days

Sean reveals answer

R | M | R | F

BARRISTERS SOLICITORS

Reynolds
Mirth
Richards
& Farmer LLP

Thanks for playing!

Toll Free: 1.800.661.7673 (RMRF)
www.rmrf.com

Sean to turn things over to Andrew

AUMA Principles for Local Elections

- Developed to guide input on Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) amendments:

- Democratic
- Autonomous
- Locally Focused
- Inclusive
- Fair
- Enforceable
- Scalable
- Transparent
- Nonpartisan



[ANDREW]

- Thank you, Sean for that fun trivia session and thanks also RMRF for sponsoring Municipal Leaders Caucus.
- Now I'd like to turn your attention to some other important aspects of the upcoming election.
- In early 2020, the Government of Alberta launched a review of the Local Authorities Election Act.
- To guide our input, AUMA developed principles for local elections which were overwhelmingly endorsed by members during a webinar last June.

AUMA Recommendations

- Prevent big money from manipulating local elections by setting contribution limits that are achievable and realistic for grassroots supporters
- Allow municipalities to continue setting bylaws for candidates to disclose their full donor list and the amounts contributed before the municipal election date in 2021
- Make third-party advertising accountable by outlining clear declarations of contributors and by limiting the contribution amounts



[ANDREW]

- We were disappointed that the province ignored these principles in the bills they brought forward to amend the LAEA despite us making three clear and simple recommendations, which were:
 1. To set contribution limits that are realistic for grassroots supporters.
 2. To allow municipalities to require pre-election disclosure.
 3. To place similar contribution limits and disclosure requirements on third-party advertisers.

Strengthen and champion through:

1. Expanding the principles to highlight the importance of respect
2. Encouraging all candidates to enact principles as they carry out their campaigns
3. Using the principles as a benchmark against which to assess the outcomes of the 2021 municipal elections



[ANDREW]

- AUMA remains committed to championing these principles and we see a few opportunities to do so.
- First, expanding the principles to highlight the importance of respect,
- Next, we can encourage candidates to make commitments to live out some of these principles in our campaigns.
- In addition, AUMA sees opportunity to use the principles as a benchmark against which to assess the outcomes of the 2021 municipal elections and determine if further changes are needed to the LAEA.
- We'll talk more about this last point at our next Municipal Leaders Caucus in the summer.

Should respectful be added as a principle?

- Respectful – local elections provide an opportunity for candidates and voters to demonstrate their continuing commitment to sharing their perspectives and seeking to understand differences without resorting to malicious attacks
- Inspired by Union des Municipalities du Quebec (UMQ) Respect in Democracy is Respecting Democracy campaign



[ANDREW]

- For now, AUMA has identified the need to add a principle around respect, given the significant anecdotal evidence that the toxicity of political discourse both online and in person is a deterrent to seeking office for new and returning candidates.
- We believe that local elections should provide an opportunity for candidates and voters to demonstrate their continuing commitment to sharing their perspectives and seeking to understand differences without resorting to malicious attacks.
- Adding this principle would complement the campaign being run by Quebec's municipal association.
- This campaign is called "Respect in Democracy is Respecting Democracy" and it encourages municipalities to adopt a declaration of commitment to respectful, democratic debate.
- AUMA is not naïve to the challenge of creating a more a positive political environment, given the global nature of this challenge.
- But, like Quebec, AUMA believes that as an association made up of local leaders, it is our responsibility to push back against the tide of negativity and to stand for constructive dialogue on the challenges our communities are facing.
- This does not mean that we expect everyone to agree and get along all the

time. But it means that there is no excuse for violence, intimidation and toxicity - even in the middle of heated political debates.

Zoom Poll #1: Expanding Principles

- That AUMA add as a local election principle:
Respectful – local elections provide an opportunity for candidates and voters to demonstrate their continuing commitment to sharing their perspectives and seeking to understand differences without resorting to malicious attacks.
 - In favour
 - Opposed



[ANDREW]

- We would like to have endorsement from members as to the new principles, so could we launch the zoom poll, please?
- Are you in favour of the AUMA adding as a local election principle:
Respectful – local elections provide an opportunity for candidates and voters to demonstrate their continuing commitment to sharing their perspectives and seeking to understand differences without resorting to malicious attacks.
- If you are opposed to this principle, we would like to know why, so please add an explanation in the chat.
- I'll give you a few seconds to vote.
- Unfortunately, we cannot play music during the vote as we plan to post this session to Youtube and getting the appropriate licencing would be very expensive.
- I would like to state for the record that if we had been able to play music, I would have played Bad Blood by Taylor Swift – the version with Kendrick Lamar, of course.
- For those who don't know, Kendrick is the first rapper to be award a Pulitzer prize, which makes Tay Tay Pulitzer adjacent.

[READ OUT THE RESULTS AND ANY RELEVANT COMMENTS]

- Thank you for participating in the poll and discussion.
- We will integrate this principle into our work going forward.

Promoting Principles

- Pledge by individual candidates to uphold principles
- Voter hold candidates accountable



[ANDREW]

- Next, AUMA has been considering how best to promote our principles to candidates.
- One option is to develop a pledge that individual candidates could adopt and include as part of campaign materials.
- It is ultimately up to voters to hold candidates responsible for living up to democratic principles.
- A pledge provides a way for voters to see if candidates commit to and live out these principles in their campaigns.

Pledge to Uphold the Principles of Local Democracy

- To support democratic local elections that select representatives to serve the best interests of the entire community, as a candidate I pledge to:
 - Keep local elections local by focusing my campaign on issues that municipal elected officials can influence.
 - Maintain independence and non-partisanship by rejecting any endorsements which would undermine my accountability to municipal residents or the autonomy of the municipality.
 - Demonstrate transparency by sharing my vision for the municipality and providing pre-election disclosure of campaign contributions.
 - Engage in respectful behaviour by sharing my perspective, while seeking to understand differences without resorting to malicious attacks.



[ANDREW]

- The pledge would read as follows.
- To support democratic local elections that select representatives to serve the best interests of the entire community, as a candidate I pledge to:
 - Keep local elections local by focusing my campaign on issues that municipal elected officials can influence.
 - Maintain independence and non-partisanship by rejecting any endorsements which would undermine my accountability to municipal residents or the autonomy of the municipality.
 - Demonstrate transparency by sharing a vision for the municipality and providing pre-election disclosure of campaign contributions.
 - Engage in respectful dialogue by sharing my perspective, while respecting and seeking to understand differences without resorting to malicious attacks.
- As part of the pledge, we would include background material explaining the importance of each aspect.

Why keep local elections local?

- Address the wide variety of local matters that deeply impact the everyday lives of residents
- Avoid getting sidetracked by senate elections and referendums on issues which municipalities do not have a role in influencing



www.cangift.org



[ANDREW]

- The focus on keeping local elections local builds on a Request For Decision, sponsored by the City of Grande Prairie and adopted by members last June, requesting the province not to hold referendum and senate elections at the same time as local elections.
- We are disappointed that the province has decided to go ahead with senate elections and referendum anyway.
- The 2021 municipal elections provide the opportunity to address the wide variety of local matters that deeply impact the everyday lives of residents.
- It is important that candidates and voters seize this opportunity and avoid getting sidetracked by debates on senate elections and referendum questions on issues, such as equalization, which municipalities do not have a role in influencing.
- It is recognized that some provincial referendum questions may have relevance for municipalities.
- In addition, the jurisdictional lines between the federal, provincial, and municipal government can be blurry.
- However, it is still essential that municipal elected officials understand the core roles of municipalities and stay focused on addressing local needs.

Why avoid partisanship?

- Duty to welfare of the municipality
- Affiliation to *vs.* accountability to
- Direct accountability between councilors and the residents
- Undermines collaboration on council and with province and other municipalities
- Undermines roles and responsibilities of council



[ANDREW]

- One of our top priorities through the review of the LAEA last year, was to advocate against increased partisanship in municipalities.
- Municipal elected officials are accountable to their residents and have a duty to consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole.
- Candidates for municipal office may have affiliations with provincial or federal political parties or other organizations.
- However, there is a significant difference between having affiliations and being beholden to a party or group.
- Given the scale of provincial and federal governments, political parties are a necessity.
- In contrast, municipalities are the level of government closest to the people, enabling more direct accountability between elected officials and the residents they represent.
- In order to deliver services efficiently and effectively to businesses and residents, councils must work collaboratively with the province and neighboring municipalities.
- Council members also need to work with each other and administration to make decisions,
- We also have roles on quasi-judicial and utility/service delivery boards.
- Partisanship would undermine the ability of councils to effectively fulfill

these roles.

- In addition, some - though not all - third-party advertisers, otherwise known as political action committees, can add a great deal of negativity and even misinformation to campaigns and many are not transparent as to the sources of their funds.
- Candidates should disavow any groups who seek to undermine honest and respectful political discourse.

Why is transparency important?

- Municipal decisions made in public
- Access to information for voters
- Deterrent to undue influence of big money
- Supports fairness and inclusion



[ANDREW]

- Municipal decisions, including budgets, are deliberated in public with a great deal of engagement of residents and businesses.
- Candidates should demonstrate their commitment to transparency by starting with their own campaigns.
- It is important that each candidate articulate their vision for the municipality to enable voters to make an informed decision on voting day.
- Disclosure of financial contributions as they are received in advance of the elections provides voters access to information as the amount and source of campaign contribution and can serve as deterrent to the undue influence of big money.
- As a deterrent to big money, transparency and pre-elections disclosure also supports principles around fairness and inclusiveness by creating a level playing field among all candidates.

Why is respectful dialogue important?

- Toxicity of political discourse is deterrent to seeking office
- Respectful dialogue enables productive, solutions-oriented conversations
- Disagreement will constructively focus on issues as opposed to personal attacks
- Create a safe environment for diverse candidates



[ANDREW]

- As I mentioned earlier, the toxicity of political discourse is a significant deterrent to those seeking political office.
- It also undermines our ability seek a variety of perspectives on solutions to the challenges our communities face.
- I can speak from experience that all candidates are negatively impacted by violent outbursts, but this is heightened for women and visible minorities.
- Respectful dialogue can help create a safer and more inclusive environment for all candidates.

Municipal Resolution to Promote Principles of Local Democracy

- Whereas the “Municipality” of “X” supports AUMA’s Local Elections Principles; and
- Whereas several of the principles can be enacted by individual candidates;
- Therefore, be it resolved that the “Municipality” of “X” endorses and encourages local candidates to publicly commit to the Pledge to Uphold the Principles of Local Democracy.



[ANDREW]

- In addition to having individual candidates adopt the pledge, AUMA wonders if municipalities would also be interested in endorsing the pledge and promoting it, in order to help expand it’s reach.

Promotion

- Pledge for Local Democracy webpage
 - Pledge form and backgrounder
 - Template motion
 - Tips for promoting the pledge
 - How to submit pledge and municipal motion
 - List of municipalities and candidates
- Social media
- Traditional media
- Other digital media



[ANDREW]

- Assuming there is support for the pledge, AUMA will develop and implement a strategy to promote and track its uptake.
- This would include A Pledge for Local Democracy webpage with:
 - A pledge form along with background on each of the principles as I have outlined.
 - A template motion for municipalities and tips and templates to help promote the pledge through municipal websites and other communication platforms.
 - A list of municipalities which have endorsed the pledge and of candidates which have committed to the pledge. We would simply ask municipalities and candidates to email us confirming their adoption of the pledge.
- We would also promote the pledge on social, new and traditional media to raise awareness among candidates and voters.
- In addition, RMA's Board is discussing the pledge today and we hope they will join us in promoting it to their members.

I pledge to provide feedback

- Q&A Box for questions
- Chat box for comments
- Finalize pledge at AUMA's Board meeting

The Pledge

- Keep local elections local
- Maintain independence and non-partisanship
- Demonstrate transparency
- Engage in respectful dialogue



[ANDREW]

- First we want to hear from you.
- What do you think of the pledge?
- Do you have any ideas as to how it could be strengthened or promoted?
- Do you have any questions about why AUMA is going forward with the pledge or why we chose certain principles to highlight?
- Please use the Q&A box to share any questions you would like us to address, or the chat box to share your general impression of the pledge.
- With a few hundred people participating today, I don't think wordsmithing here and now would be a pleasant experience for anyone involved.
- However, AUMA's Board and Administration will consider the feedback we receive before finalizing the pledge at AUMA's Board meeting next week.

[TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO TAKE SOME QUESTIONS AND/OR READ SOME COMMENTS – RACHEL TO SUPPORT.]

Zoom Poll #2: Pledge in principle

- As a candidate, are you willing to publicly pledge to uphold the principles of local democracy in principle?

- Yes
- No

The Pledge

- Keep local elections local
- Maintain independence and non-partisanship
- Demonstrate transparency
- Engage in respectful dialogue



[ANDREW]

- That is assuming most of you support the approach.
- So now we want hear just from elected officials as to whether you are willing to publicly pledge to uphold the principles of local democracy – in principle that is – knowing we might make some adjustments based on your feedback
- Please launch the zoom poll on this question.
- If your answer is yes, that is great.
- If your answer is no, again would really like to hear why?
- Are their aspects of the pledge you would change?
- I'll give you a few moments to vote and feel free to continue submit questions and comments.
- In terms of music selection, I would play XXX by Taylor Swift.

[READ OUT THE RESULTS AND ANY RELEVANT COMMENTS QUESTIONS – RACHEL TO SUPPORT.]

- Thank you for voting and for your suggestions.
- We will integrate your feedback into the pledge before releasing it.

Zoom Poll #3: Endorsement and Promotion

- As a municipal official, would you support your municipality endorsing and promoting the pledge through your municipal website, and other communications platforms?
 - Yes
 - No



[ANDREW]

- Our next question is for both municipal elected officials and administrators.
- As a municipal official, would you support your municipality endorsing and promoting the pledge through your municipal website and other communications platforms?
- As always please share any thoughts you have on this through the chat
- I'll give you about 30 seconds to vote

[VOTE MUSIC FOR 15-30 SECONDS]

[READ OUT THE RESULTS AND ANY RELEVANT COMMENTS –RACHEL TO SUPPORT]

- Ok great! Thanks so much for your input on our pledge idea.
- As mentioned, we will refine our approach based on your feedback and launch a website where you will find everything you need to take the pledge and to promote it.
- We aim to have that complete in early May so keep an eye out.

Running for Municipal Office Webpage

- Partnership of AUMA, RMA and Municipal Affairs
- Foundational information:
 - Election rules
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - COVID-19 guidance
- Experiential information:
 - What is it actually like to be a councillor?



[ANDREW]

- In the meantime, we recognize the importance of informing candidates about election rules as well as about what life as municipally elected official is actually like.
- This is why we are working with Municipal Affairs and the RMA to develop webpages that will be posted on both association's websites with information on running for municipal office.
- RMA is supplying information on election rules and the basics of the roles and responsibilities of councillors and municipalities.
- The ministry is also providing information on campaigning during COVID.
- AUMA and RMA are developing videos featuring a few of our board members on life as councillor and what you should consider before you run.
- We plan to launch the webpage by the end of the month and will link to our Pledge for Local Democracy from it.

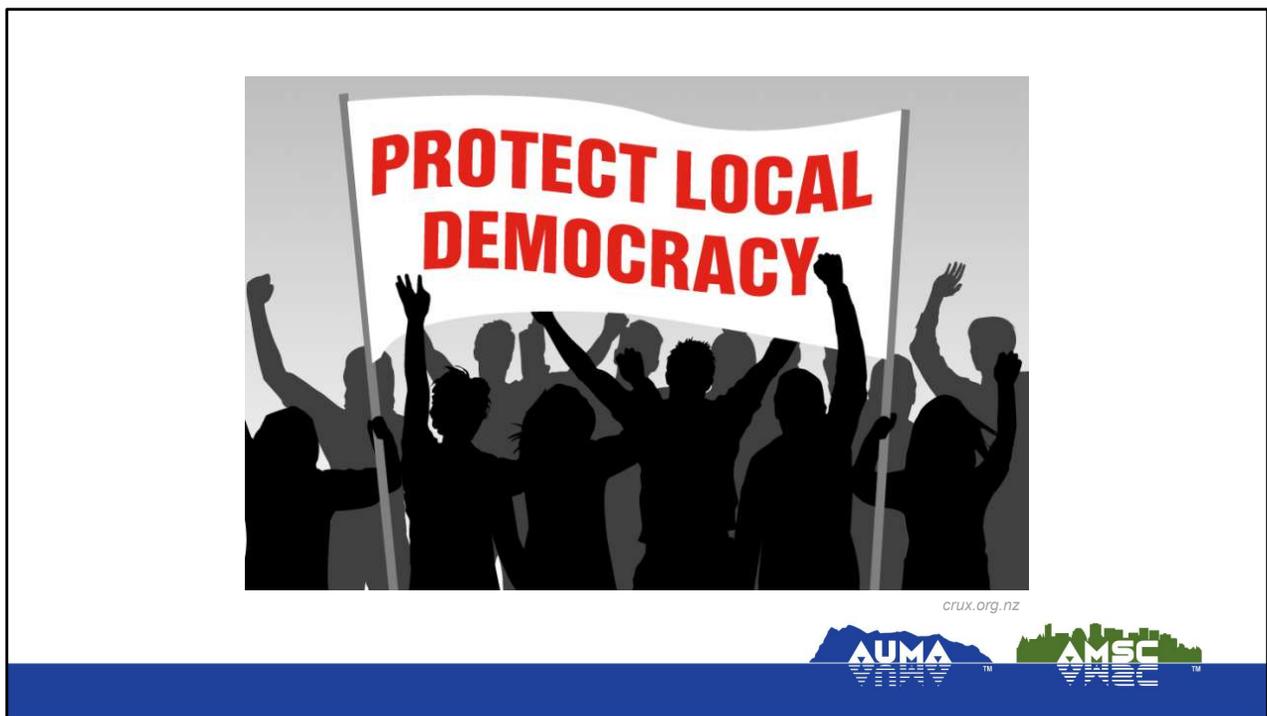
Munis 101

- Municipal Governance and Legislation in Alberta
- The Elected Official's Role
- Municipal Planning and Development
- Effective Collaboration
- Municipal Finance



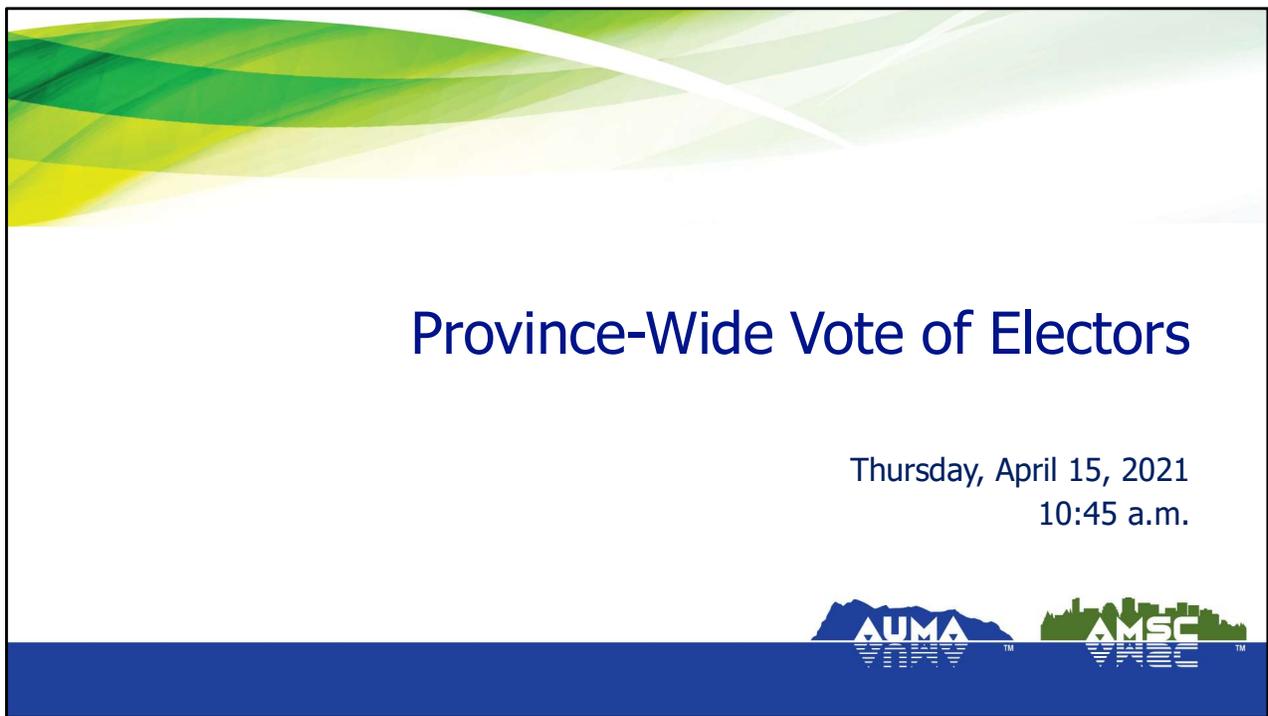
[ANDREW]

- For those who are lucky enough to be elected, we will be offering Munis-101 following the elections.
- We are adjusting the content slightly to put more emphasis on the role of councillors including:
 - The relationship between council and CAOs; and
 - Conflict of interest and other items like this that can trip people up.
- We will of course still provide the essential information councillors need on topics such as municipal finances and land use planning, which you can build upon in other EOEP courses.



[ANDREW]

- With that, I want to thank you for all your engagement in today's session.
- I hope you will stay engaged as we roll out the resources we are developing to promote and protect local democracy.
- Now we'll take a short break until 10:45 and come back for more election talk with Mayor Janet Jabush.



[JANET]

- Ok everyone, we're going to get started again.
- I'm Janet Jabush, Mayor of the Town of Mayerthorpe, AUMA Director Towns West and I'm here to lead a conversation on referendum votes of electors and the upcoming municipal elections.
- The Canadian Encyclopedia defines a referendum as the asking of a political question to an electorate, for direct decision by general vote.
- A plebiscite is defined as the direct vote of all the members of an electorate on an important public question.
- For our purposes today, we'll use the term referendum to refer to questions the province puts forward, whereas we'll use plebiscite and vote of electors interchangeably to refer to questions municipalities typically put forward.

Provincial Referendum

- Four previous votes
 - 1948, 1957, 1968 and 1971
- Province wide referendum on Equalization
 - UCP Platform Commitment
- Potential for other questions to be added to the ballot



*Premier Jason Kenney comments on the release of the Fair Deal Panel's recommendations, June 17, 2020.
PHOTO BY CHRIS SCHWARZ /Government of Alberta*



[JANET]

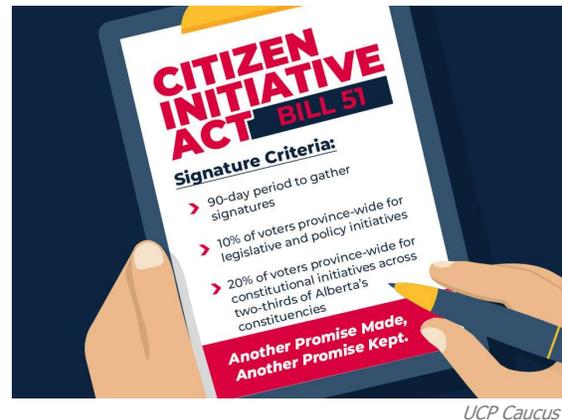
- Alberta has a history of holding province wide referendums.
- In generations past, the provincial government held a handful of province wide votes on issues including:
 - Creating an Alberta Government Power Commission in 1948;
 - Adding extra liquor stores in 1957; and
 - Adopting Daylight Saving Time in 1967 and 1971.
- Generally, these votes were held in conjunction with provincial elections.
- They have never been held in conjunction with municipal elections...and this was by choice.
- The Referendum Act allows the provincial government to order a referendum on constitutional questions and requires a referendum before the Legislative Assembly can vote on any resolution authorizing an amendment to the Constitution of Canada.
- The Act also stipulates how a referendum must be conducted and when it will be considered binding.
- The UCP election platform contained a promise to hold a province wide referendum in conjunction with the October 2021 municipal elections.
- The specific commitment, which can be found on page 94 of the platform, reads: "Hold a referendum on removing equalization from the Constitution Act on October 18, 2021 if substantial progress is not made on construction

of a coastal pipeline, and if Trudeau's Bill C-69 is not repealed".

- That commitment is also included as a subpoint to one of their top 5 commitments on Standing up for Alberta.
- The province has not indicated if there will be other questions asked in October.
- However, senior provincial officials, including the Premier, have speculated that there is a potential for additional questions to be asked including questions related to the Fair Deal panel recommendations.
- Specifically, the province has mused about posing referendum questions this fall on:
 - Whether or not to withdraw from the Canada Pension Plan and create an Alberta Pension plan in its place; and
 - Whether to withdraw from the RCMP and create an Alberta Police Force in its place.
- The Premier has also posited about holding votes on other issues this fall, including ending Daylight Saving Time.
- The Premier has indicated that a decision on what other items the province will include will be made this spring.

Bill 51 - Citizen Initiative Act

- The bill was introduced on March 16, 2021 and will be passed this spring. It will come into force upon Proclamation.
- It allows eligible voters to petition other Albertans on policy or constitutional initiatives they would like the government to explore.



[JANET]

- Under Bill 51, which was introduced last month, an eligible voter could, through Elections Alberta, petition their fellow Albertans on policy or constitutional initiatives that they would like the provincial government to pursue.
- Successful legislative or policy petitions will be referred to a committee of MLAs for consideration. If the committee DOES NOT support a policy initiative, a public vote will be held.
- Successful constitutional initiatives would proceed through the process established in the Referendum Act.
- The canvassing period for a citizen initiative is 90 days, and the Chief Electoral Officer has 60 days to determine if the petition is successful following submission.
- So, that's 5 months, if all time is used, not including any other initial administration time.
- For a policy initiative to be successful, it would need 10 per cent of voter signatures province wide.
- For a constitutional initiative to be successful, it would need the signatures of 20 per cent of voters province wide, and that level of support in at least two-thirds (58) of Alberta's 87 provincial constituencies.
- Given those time frames and thresholds, it is highly unlikely that any citizen

- initiatives would make it on to municipal ballots in October.
- However, it is something we will continue to monitor for future election cycles.

Municipal Vote of Electors

- Municipalities also have the authority to pose questions to their residents
- Straightforward process in the Municipal Government Act:
 - Municipal jurisdiction
 - Clear yes/no question
 - Non-binding
- Timelines



[JANET]

- Like the province, municipalities have the authority to pose questions to their residents.
- The Municipal Government Act does not use the term plebiscite or referendum but instead refers to the process as simply a question that is put to the electorate for a vote.
- If a Council wants to put a question before its electorate, they will need to consider a few factors:
 - The question must be on a matter over which the municipality has jurisdiction.
 - Once a Council has passed a resolution authorizing a vote, it must set the date for a vote in consultation with the Returning Officer and determine the wording of the question.
 - The question should be clear and concise and must be worded for the elector to choose “for” or “against” or “yes” or “no”.
 - A vote must be conducted in accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act.
 - A vote of the electors is non-binding. So, a vote “for” a matter does not obligate a Council to take any particular action.

Pros and Cons of holding a vote

Pro's:

- Gauge perspective of residents and involve them in the decision-making process
- Increase participation, voter engagement and empowerment
- Ensure that council's priorities are aligned with those of their residents

Cons:

- Takes time and money
- Potential to be divisive
- Possibility for individuals without adequate information to make decisions on complex issues
- Create a venue that could entice bad actors to provide false or misleading information



[JANET]

- Engaging in direct democracy and seeking the guidance of voters has both pros and cons.
- Pros:
 - Allows you to gauge the perspective of residents.
 - Increases participation and voter engagement and empowerment.
 - Ensures that Council's priorities are aligned with those of their residents and there is broad support for decisions.
- Cons:
 - Both the campaign and vote can be time consuming and costly.
 - The campaigns can be divisive, especially if populations are evenly split.
 - The prospect of a narrow victory may tempt both proponents and opponents of the question to use every tactic at their disposal.
 - A core purpose of referendums is to engage those with relatively low information about the issues, which is to say the general population.
 - This makes these votes especially vulnerable to producing decisions based on false information and/or unrealistic beliefs about what alternatives are possible.

Province-wide municipal vote of electors?

Opportunity:

- Collaborate to ask a municipally related question
- Draw attention to a municipal issue
- Support advocacy efforts

Risk:

- Many municipalities may choose not to participate
- No guarantee of a clear result
- Significant resources required



[JANET]

- In the past, AUMA has not been engaged in advocacy related to plebiscites, nor have we encouraged municipalities to pose questions directly to voters.
- However, with the province indicating they will be placing province wide questions on the ballot, there is a new opportunity for municipalities to collaborate and ask questions of their own.
- A clear question that is widely asked by municipalities and produces a clear outcome may help focus the conversation on a topic and support our advocacy efforts.
- However, even if the question is clear, it is not without risk:
 - There is a chance that a significant number of municipalities will decide not to move forward with a plebiscite question, undermining its effectiveness and causing divisions between municipalities.
 - There is also no guarantee that a clear result will be achieved throughout the province.
 - Such a campaign would require significant resources by AUMA and members to gain attention in a year when so many other issues are vying for the public's attention and could distract from other important local issues.
- For a question to be effective there must be broad uptake from all types of municipalities in asking the question, the question must receive a clear

majority and a clear majority across all types of municipalities.

- There must also be strong voter turnout to demonstrate broad public engagement on the topic.
- AUMA is considering whether we should pursue such an opportunity and we would like to hear your thoughts.

Dialogue

- Are you planning to ask a question of your electorate?
- Will you encourage citizens to bring forward a question?
- What do you think of the potential for AUMA to coordinate a province-wide vote of electors on a common municipal issue as an advocacy tool?



[JANET]

- I have three questions that I'd like to open up to you all for discussion.
- Are you planning to ask a question of your electorate?
- Will you encourage citizens to bring forward a question?
- What do you think of the potential for AUMA to coordinate a province-wide vote of electors on a common municipal issue as an advocacy tool?
- Please type your responses and comments into the chat box.
- Also, if you have any questions about provincial referendums or a municipal vote of electors and the opportunity for AUMA to coordinate one province wide in the future, type your question into the Q & A box.
- I have AUMA advocacy team members Jeff Henwood, Director Government Relations, and Jody Dittrich, Policy Analyst, with me today to help answer your questions.

[JODY AND JEFF WILL HELP JANET MODERATE QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS. FOCUS ON ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS FIRST. READ OUT A FEW INTERESTING COMMENTS IF THERE IS TIME. GO TO NEXT SLIDE NO LATER THAN 11:10 AM. CAN WRAP UP EARLIER IF THERE ARE FEW QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS.]

Zoom Poll A: Are you in favour

- Are you in favour of AUMA coordinating a question that every municipality would be encouraged to put to a vote of electors
 - In favour
 - Opposed



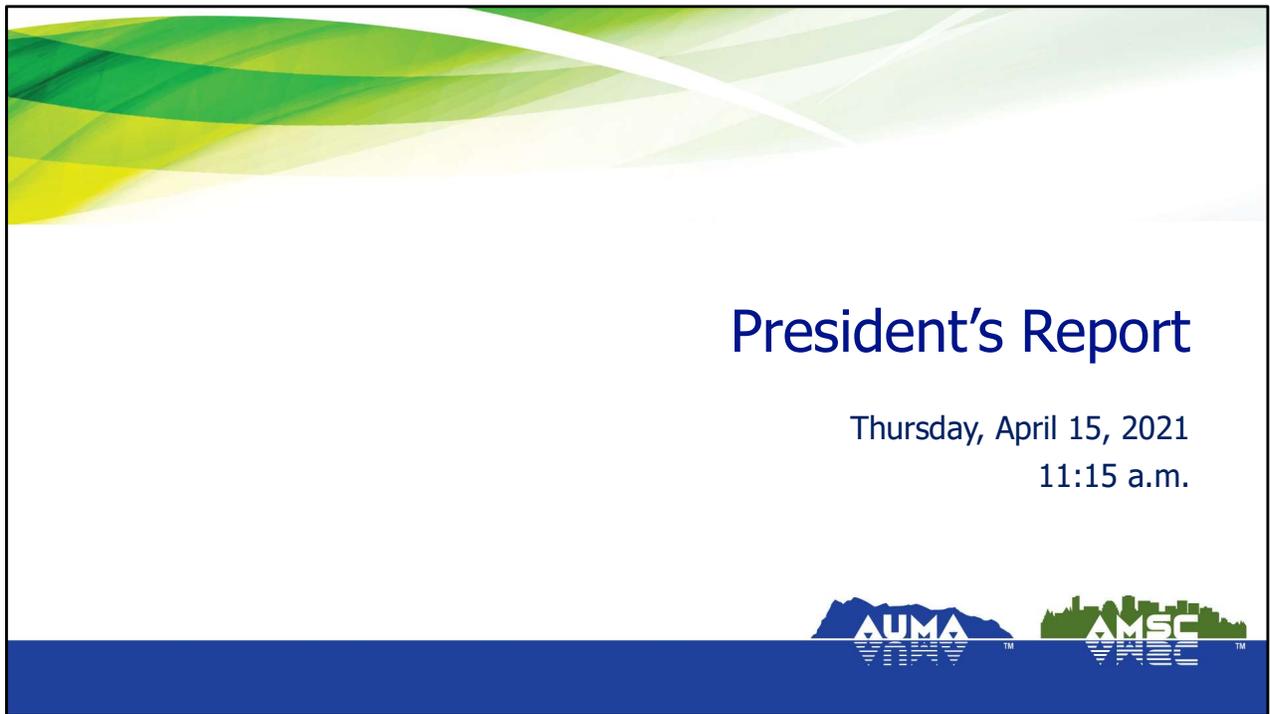
[JANET]

- Before we wrap up, I'd like to do a Zoom poll of whether or not you are in favour of AUMA coordinating a question that every municipality in Alberta would be asked to put to a vote of electors.
- I'll give you about 30 seconds to vote.
- Like Andrew, I'm not able to play music during this vote because we want to share this session with members on Youtube.
- Unlike Andrew, I have good taste in music, so if it were up to me, I would have played [XX] by [XX].

[JANET TO PICK A SONG THAT IS DEMONSTRABLY BETTER THAN TAYLOR SWIFT.]

[ANNOUNCE THE POLL RESULTS.]

- Thanks everyone for your active engagement in the session.
- AUMA will take this feedback and use it to determine our next steps.
- Now onto the President's report.



President's Report

Thursday, April 15, 2021
11:15 a.m.



[BARRY]

- Thank you, Janet.
- Hello again, everyone.
- I hope you're all enjoying Caucus so far.

Key Initiatives and Advocacy



[BARRY]

- I have a number of updates to share with you this morning.
- First, I'd like to go over where we are at on some of our key advocacy files.
- It's been a very busy year for us, and the pandemic has added another layer of complexity to our advocacy.
- We've already had dedicated sessions for the municipal funding framework, red tape reduction, COVID recovery, and the 2021 municipal election, so I won't repeat what was covered in those sessions.
- Instead, I'll give you a brief updates on a few other topics that didn't have dedicated sessions.

Asset Management



[BARRY]

- I'd like to start off with a good news story.
- AUMA, and its partners RMA and Infrastructure Asset Management Alberta, are currently delivering three cohorts of introductory asset management training and one cohort of advanced asset management training to municipalities through FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program.
- Over 40 municipalities are participating in this year's program, which was moved to online delivery due to the pandemic.
- We recently presented to a national gathering of asset management professionals and we received very positive feedback on the unique partnership model and the innovative knowledge products we created.
- We're now developing a proposal for a fourth round of funding this fall and I encourage everyone to sign up for this nationally acclaimed program if you haven't already.

Provincial Police Service



[BARRY]

- As usual, policing continues to be top-of-mind for municipalities.
- Hopefully you were able to attend our President's Summit on Policing in February, where we discussed a number of policing issues in depth.
- One of the key issues we talked about was the establishment of an independent provincial police service in Alberta, which was one of the recommendations that came out of the Fair Deal Panel last summer.
- We surveyed attendees about their thoughts on an independent provincial police service and our survey results indicated a high level of support for retaining the RCMP as Alberta's provincial police service.
- You can find a copy of the full survey results in AUMA's online document library.
- At this time, AUMA is choosing to hold off on announcing a policy position related to an independent provincial police service.
- We expect that the PricewaterhouseCoopers feasibility study on this topic will be complete by the end of this month and the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General has committed to sharing this report publicly.
- Once the report is available, we will engage our members in developing a draft policy position and advocacy campaign, if needed.

Police Funding

- Clarification required on:
 1. Allocation of funds raised through the police costing model
 2. Reduction of the 2021-22 RCMP police service budget
 3. Costs for biological casework analysis



[BARRY]

- We've also identified a few issues related to police funding that we are working to clarify.
- First, we are asking for a clear accounting of the funds raised through the new police costing model.
- Under this model, a total of \$15.4 million was generated as net revenue in 2020-21 and \$26.7 million is projected to be generated in 2021-22.
- The RCMP has been very transparent about how they are spending the funds they receive from the province,
- However, the total revenue raised by the police costing model is not simply transferred to the RCMP.
- As a result, the RCMP cannot account for the full amount.
- Both the former and current Ministers of Justice and Solicitor General have committed that funds raised by the model would be reinvested in frontline law enforcement.
- Accordingly, there is a need to clearly detail how \$15.4 million was spent in 2020-21 and how \$26.7 million will be spent in 2021-22.
- Next, we recently learned that Justice and Solicitor General has advised the RCMP of a \$2 million reduction to the provincial police service budget for 2021-22.
- This cut occurred after the provincial budget was finalized.

- In addition to asking why the police budget was reduced, there is a need to clarify how these funds will be relocated and how municipalities may be impacted.
- Finally, last month municipalities that contract RCMP as their municipal police service through a Municipal Police Service Agreement (MPSA) unexpectedly received invoices this month from Justice and Solicitor General for Biology Casework Analysis Agreement (BCAA) expenses.
- We know that the fiscal plan for Budget 2019 stated that the government's revenue forecast included "increases to revenue from municipalities instead of the province paying for biology casework analysis."
- However, there was no other mention of this policy change in any of the other budget documents, and no information on which municipalities the chargeback would apply to nor how it would be calculated.
- Neither AUMA nor municipalities with MPSAs received any further communication from the province on this topic until the invoices were sent out this month.
- We're very upset with the lack of consultation on this topic and furthermore, we're not even sure whether the province has the authority to charge this expense back to municipalities because DNA analysis services are not part of an MPSA.
- We have requested a meeting with the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General to discuss these issues, and he will also be attending the Minister dialogue sessions tomorrow if you have any questions for him.

Access to Healthcare



[BARRY]

- Moving on to healthcare...last year was a particularly tumultuous year for medical professionals.
- On top of the pandemic, doctors were dealing with a very uncertain relationship with the government after Bill 21 was passed in December 2019.
- This bill allowed the government to unilaterally terminate any agreement respecting compensation matters with the Alberta Medical Association (AMA).
- In response, the AMA filed a \$250 million lawsuit against the government, claiming breach of contract.
- After a year of back-and-forth, the AMA and Alberta Health announced that they had reached a tentative agreement in February.
- The proposed agreement was put before the AMA membership for a ratification vote in March and AMA members ended up voting not to ratify the tentative agreement.
- AMA has noted that their members have outstanding concerns regarding their relationship with Alberta Health, including:
 - Lack of trust in the Minister.
 - No dispute resolution mechanism.
 - Reluctance to drop the lawsuit against the Ministry.

- AUMA's position is that all Albertans deserve equitable access to healthcare and that healthcare is a key factor in maintaining economically viable communities.
- We will continue to closely follow negotiations between the government and doctors and ensure both sides understand the importance of access to healthcare for municipalities.

Mental Health and Addictions

AUMA supports the development of a provincial drug strategy based on:

- Prevention
- Treatment
- Harm reduction
- Enforcement



[BARRY]

- One of the many negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic is a correlation with increased opioid overdoses.
- In fact, last year was the deadliest year on record for opioid overdoses in Alberta.
- It is important to remember that death is just one possible outcome of an overdose: for each person who dies, many more suffer significant medical complications, which puts an additional strain on healthcare resources.
- AUMA appreciates the province's commitment to fund 4,000 addiction treatment spaces over the next three years.
- However, we were concerned with some of the province's actions last year that signal a shift in policy away from harm reduction initiatives, such as supervised consumption sites.
- In 2019, members passed a resolution last year calling on the province to develop a provincial drug strategy built on the four pillars of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and enforcement.
- We have been strongly advocating to the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions about the value of harm reduction initiatives and we were pleased to receive a letter from him last year acknowledging the importance of harm reduction.
- We will continue to raise this issue in our advocacy and ask for increased

provincial investment in mental health and addictions prevention, support, and recovery programs.

Municipal Climate Change Action Centre

- Existing programs approaching full subscription
 - Recreation Energy Conservation Program
 - Electric Vehicles for Municipalities Program
 - Municipal Energy Manager Program
 - Alberta Municipal Solar Program
 - Solar for Schools Program
- New programs launching spring/summer 2021
 - Electric Vehicle Charging Program
 - Climate Adaptation Program



Municipal
Climate Change
Action Centre

mccac.ca



[BARRY]

- And now, some more good news...
- Our Municipal Climate Change Action Centre initiative continues to offer funding and capacity-building supports to help you make progress on your sustainability and climate change plans.
- This year our programs received an Alberta Emerald Award, which recognizes and celebrates outstanding environmental achievements of organizations in Alberta.
- We awarded \$6M to community generation projects in the Town of Smoky Lake, the Metis Crossing Solar Project, and the Municipal District of Taber RenuWell Project.
- 42 municipal solar PV projects were initiated or completed across 24 municipalities, including six municipalities whose projects resulted in them becoming electrically net zero.
- And we helped 60 municipalities complete or initiate 61 audits, 7 engineering studies, and 45 energy efficiency projects in recreational facilities.
- We also supported the hiring of 11 Municipal Energy Managers, which resulted in 121 energy scans, 651 identified projects, 373 planned projects, and 77 projects implemented.
- If I can toot my own horn, I am very proud that the City of Brooks hired our

own Municipal Energy Manager.

- Our existing programs are approaching full subscription.
- You have about 12 months remaining to get your applications into these programs and receive rebates from 30 to 100% depending on the program.
- You can find out everything you need to know about these programs on the MCCAC website.

Clean Energy Improvement Program

- Financing tool for residential and commercial property owners to install energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades.
- Repayments are recovered through an added charge on the municipal property tax bill.
- 3 municipalities have passed bylaws:
 - Devon,
 - Rocky Mountain House
 - Canmore
- Ministerial Order signed February 11, 2021 designating the Alberta Municipal Services Corporation as the provincial administrator.
- Program to open by summer 2021.



[BARRY]

- In 2020, Energy Efficiency Alberta was dissolved by the Government of Alberta and the Clean Energy Improvement Program was transferred to the Alberta Municipal Service Corporation.
- This program
 - To set up a CEIP program, a municipality must first pass a CEIP bylaw.
 - Once passed, the municipality contracts the Alberta Municipal Services Corporation to deliver the program to property owners.
 - Property owners follow a process to complete eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades.
 - Once upgrades are installed and approved, repayment is made through the property owner's municipal property tax bill.
 - Currently 20 municipalities are participating in a community of practice for CEIP.
 - Three communities have passed bylaws and several others have bylaws under development.
 - The CEIP team can help you prepare a bylaw, design a program for your municipality, and prepare the market study that is a requirement for funding.

- You can find out everything you need to know about this program at myceip.ca

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- AUMA has advocated for an EPR packaging and paper program since 2019.
- We thank all the members who have sent letters to MLAs and the Minister of Environment and Parks.
- The provincial government is seeking input from stakeholders on:
 - An EPR framework
 - EPR packaging and paper program
 - EPR for hazardous and special products



[BARRY]

- I'm pleased to share another success story when it comes to extended producer responsibility, or EPR.
- AUMA has been advocating on this topic for several years now.
- Last year, the MLA for Stony Plain and Spruce Grove introduced a private members' motion asking the Alberta government to explore EPR recycling.
- This motion was passed by MLAs from all parties.
- The province has now launched an engagement process for an EPR framework and programs, which will end on April 30.
- AUMA is working on a submission and the provincial government plans to have the legislative framework in by the end of the year.

Coal Policy

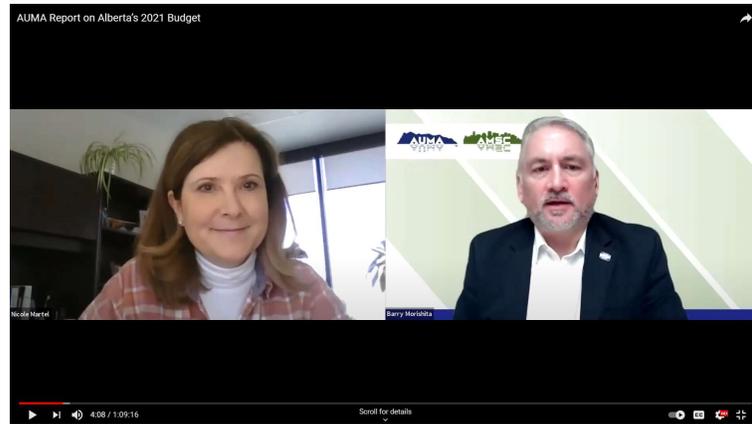


[BARRY]

- As I'm sure you all know, the government rescinded the 1976 coal policy in May 2020.
- This change resulted in numerous protests across Alberta, including many municipalities and counties who expressed their disagreement in no uncertain terms.
- It just goes to show the power we have when we speak together in one voice, because in February 2021, the Alberta government reinstated the 1976 Coal Policy.
- AUMA sent a letter to the Minister of Energy in early March that highlighted priorities for municipalities on this issue, including:
 - The need for meaningful communication and engagement with the provincial government on this topic; and
 - The importance of protecting watersheds and ensuring safe drinking water for Albertans.
- On March 29, 2021, the government created a Coal Policy Committee to lead a public engagement process on coal policy
- This committee should have a communications framework and consultation plan set up in the next two to three weeks and its final report is due in November.

- As we learn more, AUMA will share opportunities for engagement through the Digest.

Budget 2021



[BARRY]

- Onto the provincial budget...
- As part of a new policy, the Government of Alberta released this year's budget in late February.
- The province's new policy on budget timing helps meet one our resolutions where members have asked for the Government of Alberta to announce the education tax requisition early in the year so that municipalities have sufficient time to set local tax rates for tax bills.
- Like every year, we dived into the numbers and put out a report the day after the budget release.
- For the third straight year, we hosted a webinar where we presented how municipalities would be impacted by the province's budget.
- We are pleased to see that you find this service worthwhile – our first budget webinar drew about 140 people and this year our numbers jumped up to 320 people.
- It's great to see that kind of interest.
- As with most budget years, there are positive and negative outcomes for municipalities.
- To be brief, the good news is that core operating programs for municipalities were maintained.
- This included funding for FCSS, libraries, policing grants, and regional

collaboration.

- The bad news, as I'm sure you have heard, is that the Local Government Fiscal Framework has been delayed until 2024, and capital funding will rise this year but will be cut significantly over the next two years.
- As mentioned in yesterday's session on municipal finances, collectively, we have some work to do to change the government's plans for the roll out of the Local Government Fiscal Framework.
- If you want more information about the budget, visit our Budget 2021 page where you can download our report and watch the webinar recording.

Future of Municipal Governance Project

- Independent, fact-based research
- Engagement with municipalities, the province, and stakeholders to develop recommendations on the future of municipal government
- Areas of focus:
 - The state of Alberta's municipalities
 - Demographic trends
 - Municipal viability
 - Governance options
 - Canada's experience
 - Citizen engagement
 - Annexation, amalgamation, & regionalization in Alberta
 - Finance municipal governments
 - Financing infrastructure
 - Revenue and cost-sharing



[BARRY]

- Progress is being made on our future of Municipal Government Project, which is exploring and assessing options for government structures that will enable municipalities to build thriving communities into the future.
- The School of Public Policy has developed a plan to conduct research on key areas of municipal government shown on the slide.
- While AUMA had input on the scope of the research, the School of Public Policy has complete academic freedom over its research methodology and its findings.
- AUMA may support researchers in seeking information, including reaching out to members to share data and experience.
- But, again, the purpose of this project is to get independent, fact-based information on municipal issues that we will use as the foundation for solutions-oriented discussions on the practices, policies, legislation, and financial arrangements that shape municipal government.
- As this is an election year, we anticipate that the bulk of the research will be released in 2022 when we can organize opportunities for municipalities, the province, and interested stakeholders to engage with the research findings and deliberate on recommended changes to the policy framework in which municipalities exist.
- We are developing a webpage to keep you up to date on progress and

opportunities to provide input.

- I ask each of you to stay tuned to this important project.

Broadband

- Monitoring the roll out of the Universal Broadband Fund
- Members continue to drive their own solutions
- On the look out for new opportunities



[BARRY]

- The COVID-19 pandemic has really highlighted the need for highspeed internet across Alberta.
- It was very encouraging to see the federal government announce an additional \$750 million for the Universal Broadband Fund when it opened for applications in 2020.
- To date, \$6.5 million worth of broadband projects expected to serve 14,000 households have been approved in Alberta.
- However, this is just a drop in the bucket.
- Our members know how important it is to address the digital divide, and many of you are familiar with the success story that is the Town of Olds and O-net.
- Recently, communities like Vermilion and Delburne are stepping up and launching their own municipally-owned internet service providers.
- Since the recent merger of Shaw and Rogers, representatives from Rogers have reached out to AUMA to discuss bolstering broadband in western Canada.
- Rogers is looking to partner specifically with rural, remote, and Indigenous communities that are underserved.
- Based on our initial discussion, we hope to have more to share on this initiative in the near future.

Strategic Branding Review

- Member engagement and research last year
- Many of you told us the term 'Urban' does not resonate for you
- The brand split between AUMA and AMSC is confusing
- We are reviewing brand name and logo options
- We plan to launch the new name and brand at Convention
- Stay tuned!

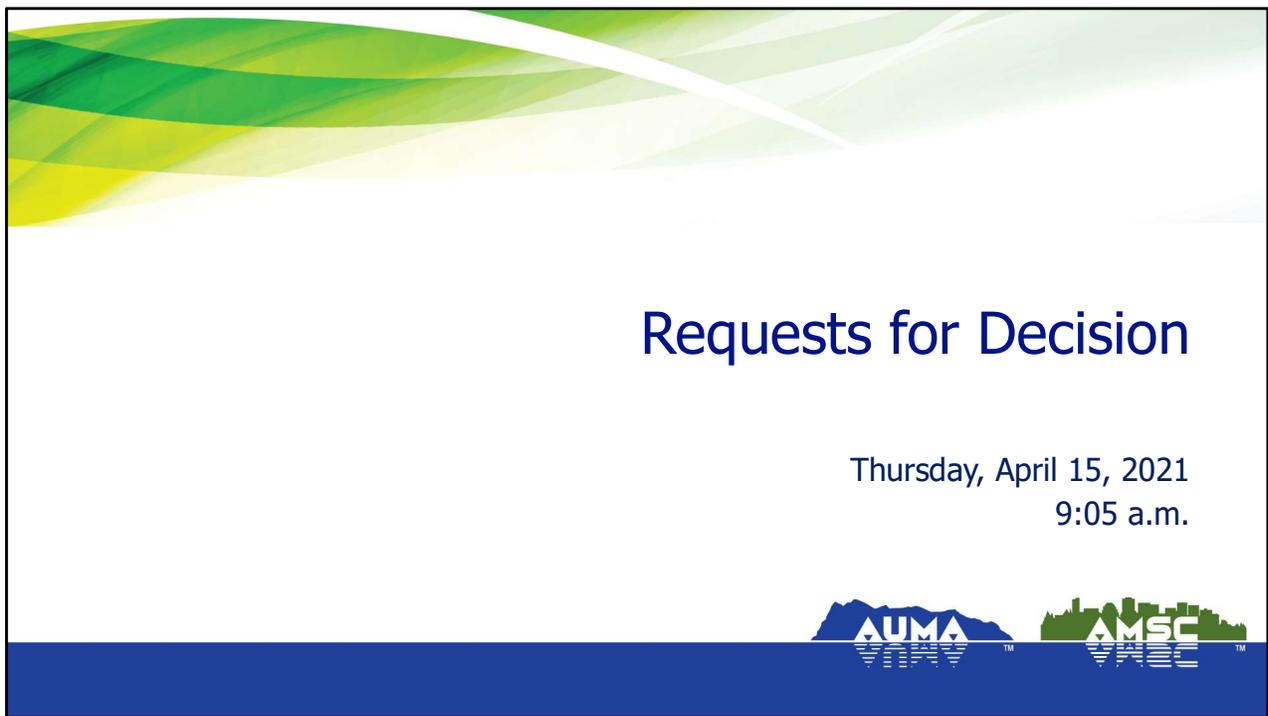


[BARRY]

- The last thing I want to mention today is the strategic branding review.
- In the first half of 2020, we hired an expert branding and marketing company who spent several months engaging with members.
- They hosted online focus groups and surveyed our members for their input on the existing name, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.
- It was very clear from that research that the word 'urban' in our name is no longer resonating with the majority of our members.
- You told us that you see yourselves as communities first and prefer not to classify yourselves too narrowly
- You also told us that the current brand split – AUMA and AMSC, as you see it in the footer of this slide – is confusing.
- AUMA owns AMSC, which provides insurance, health benefits, and other services to our members.
- Dividends from the corporation help fund the advocacy efforts of AUMA, but this is a rather fuzzy concept and it's not very clear from the way it is currently presented.
- So, we are exploring our options and possible branding changes.
- We will keep you updated through the summer and we plan to launch our new brand at this year's convention.
- As we have a very busy agenda this morning, I will conclude my report on

that note and move on to the next item on our agenda: the Requests for Decisions session.

- Over to you, Cathy.



[CATHY]

- Thanks Barry.
- Hello everyone.
- I'm Cathy Heron, Mayor of the City of St. Albert and Director of Cities up to 500,000 for AUMA.
- Ahead of every Spring Municipal Leader's Caucus, regular members of the AUMA are invited to submit a Request for Decision, or RFD for consideration by members.
- This year, we received three submissions, which we shared through the Digest and an email to registrants.
- If you have not seen the RFDs yet, they are available under the resources section on the Chime app.

Process

1. Sponsor explains
 2. Members discuss
 3. Members vote
 - Elected officials from Regular Member municipalities only
 - Approved if 51% or more vote in favour
 4. AUMA's Board determines next steps
- To dial in: 1.866.438.1084
 - To vote: Zoom poll



[CATHY]

- In terms of process for each RFD...
- First, I'll invite a spokesperson from the submitting municipality to take up two minutes to explain the RFD and its proposed action.
- It would be great if the spokesperson for Slave Lake could dial into our phone line now at 1-866-438-1084 so that you are ready to go.
- Next, we invite members to dial in to ask questions or make comments of no longer than 45 seconds.
- Based on the discussion, the submitting municipality may agree to revise the RFDs recommendation.
- Following discussion, elected officials from Regular Members will be invited to vote on the recommendation using a Zoom poll.
- We know there are 289 elected officials from regular members registered, so we will be looking around that number to vote.
- The RFD is approved if 51% or more of votes cast are in favour.
- If the RFD is not approved, no further action is taken and the matter is closed.
- If the RFD is approved, it will be reviewed by one of AUMA's standing committees, which will then make recommendations to the AUMA Board on next steps.

All Albertans Deserve Access to Justice

That AUMA advocates for the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General to ensure the justice system is properly resourced so that all Albertans have timely and equitable access to justice through:

1. Addressing court backlogs that create long delays for trials, with many cases simply not prosecuted due to the Jordan decision;
2. Reforming bail hearings so that people with local expertise are present to inform judicial decisions; and
3. Holding a public inquiry that determines the causes of and proposes solutions to recidivism and prolific offenders.

Dial in: 1.866.438.1084



[CATHY]

- To start, I'll ask the operator to allow the spokesperson from the Town of Slave lake 2 minutes to speak to the RFD All Albertans Deserve Access to Justice
- If you have comments or questions on this RFD, please dial in now to the number on the bottom right of the screen.

[SPOKEPERSON SPEAKS FOR TWO MINUTES. TIMER WILL SHOW UP ON SCREENS.]

- Thank you. Please stay on the line in case there are questions for you.
- Operator do we have anyone who has a comment or question of 45 seconds or less?

[MODERATE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS, ALLOWING SUBMITTER TO RESPOND. IF COMMENTS ARE GETTING REPETITIVE, ASK PEOPLE TO STICK TO NEW POINTS. WHEN THERE ARE NO FURTHER COMMENTS/QUESTIONS, CALL THE VOTE.]

Zoom Poll: RFD #1

All Albertans Deserve Access to Justice

- That the AUMA advocate for the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General to ensure the justice system is properly resourced so that all Albertans have timely and equitable access
 - In favour
 - Opposed

Dial in: 1.866.438.1084



[CATHY]

- Now its time to vote on the recommendation in the RFD All Albertans Deserve Access to Justice.
- Remember that only elected officials from regular members are eligible to vote.
- Also, could spokesperson from Forestburg please dial in now so you are ready to introduce the next RFD.
- Start the voting music please.

[SONG PLAYS – WHEN MUSIC STOPS ANNOUNCE WHETHER RFD WAS APPROVED OR NOT]

IF THE RFD CARRIES SAY:

- The RFD will be discussed by one of AUMA's standing committees who will recommend actions to AUMA's Board of Directors.
- We will keep you up to date through the Digest.

IF THE RFD FAILS SAY:

- This matter is now considered closed.

Local Government Funding Framework (LGFF) Implementation

- That the AUMA advocate for the provincial government to implement the proposed Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) at the beginning of the province's 2023-24 fiscal year **with the following amendment:**
 - **Removal of the 50 per cent limitation in the revenue index factor calculation so that annual changes in LGFF funding is equivalent to annual changes in the Government of Alberta's revenue.**

Dial in: 1.866.438.1084



[CATHY]

- Next, Is the RFD from the Village of Forestburg on LGFF Implementation.
- The Town of Sexsmith has proposed some additions to the recommendation in the RFD, which the Village of Forestburg has accepted.
- These changes are shown in red on the screen.
- I invite the spokesperson from the Village of Forestburg to take up to two minutes to introduce the RFD.
- Following which I invite a spokesperson from the Town of Sexsmith to speak.
- If you have comments or questions on this RFD, I ask that you dial in now to the number on the bottom right of the screen.

[SPOKEPERSON FROM FORESTBURG SPEAKS FOR TWO MINUTES. TIMER WILL SHOW UP ON SCREENS.]

[SPOKEPERSON FROM SEXSMITH SPEAKS FOR UP TO 45 SECONDS]

- Thank you. Please stay on the line in case there are questions for you.
- Operator, do we have anyone who has a comment or question of 45 seconds or less?

[MODERATE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS, ALLOWING SUBMITTER TO RESPOND. IF COMMENTS ARE GETTING REPETITIVE, ASK PEOPLE TO STICK TO

NEW POINTS. WHEN THERE ARE NO FURTHER
COMMENTS/QUESTIONS, CALL THE VOTE.]

Zoom Poll: RFD #2

- That the AUMA advocate for the provincial government to implement the proposed Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) at the beginning of the province's 2023-24 fiscal year with the following amendment:
 - Removal of the 50 per cent limitation in the revenue index factor calculation so that annual changes in LGFF funding is equivalent to annual changes in the Government of Alberta's revenue.

Dial in: 1-866-438-1084



[CATHY]

- Now its time to vote on the recommendation in the RFD LGFF Implementation.
- Again, only elected officials from regular members are eligible to vote.
- If the spokesperson from Forestburg isn't still on the line, please dial back in now so you are ready to introduce the next RFD.
- Start the voting music please.

[SONG PLAYS – WHEN MUSIC STOPS ANNOUNCE WHETHER RFD WAS APPROVED OR NOT]

IF THE RFD CARRIES SAY:

- The RFD will be discussed by one of AUMA's standing committees who will recommend action to AUMA's Board of Directors.
- We will keep you up to date through the Digest.

IF THE RFD FAILS SAY:

- This matter is now considered closed.

Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Government Act – Division 5 Special Tax

- That the AUMA advocate for the provincial government to amend Section 382(1) of the Municipal Government Act to allow municipalities to pass a special tax bylaw to raise revenue to pay for policing services.

Dial in: 1-866-438-1084



[CATHY]

- And now, our last RFD on special taxes.
- To start, I'll ask the spokesperson from the Village of Forestburg to take 2 minutes to speak to the RFD Proposed Amendment to the MGA
- If you have comments or questions on this RFD, please dial in now to the number on the bottom right of the screen.

[SPOKEPERSON SPEAKS FOR TWO MINUTES. TIMER WILL SHOW UP ON SCREENS.]

- Thank you. Please stay on the line in case there are questions for you.
- Operator do we have anyone who has a comment or question of 45 seconds or less?

[MODERATE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS, ALLOWING SUBMITTER TO RESPOND. IF COMMENTS ARE GETTING REPETITIVE, ASK PEOPLE TO STICK TO NEW POINTS. WHEN THERE ARE NO FURTHER COMMENTS/QUESTIONS, CALL THE VOTE.]

Zoom Poll: RFD #3

Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Government Act – Division 5 Special Tax

- That the AUMA advocate for the provincial government to amend Section 382(1) of the Municipal Government Act to allow municipalities to pass a special tax bylaw to raise revenue to pay for policing services
- In favour
- Opposed



[CATHY]

- Now we'll launch our zoom poll: are you in favour or opposed to the recommendation in the RFD Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Government Act – Division 5 Special Tax.
- Remember that only elected officials from regular members are eligible to vote.
- Start the voting music please.

[SONG PLAYS – WHEN MUSIC STOPS ANNOUNCE WHETHER RFD WAS APPROVED OR NOT]

IF THE RFD CARRIES SAY:

- The RFD will be discussed by one of AUMA's standing committees who will recommend action to AUMA's Board of Directors.
- We will keep you up to date through the Digest.

IF THE RFD FAILS SAY:

- This matter is now considered closed.
- Thank you everyone for being a part of the RFD session.
- I will now turn things over to Ward to close out the day.

See you tomorrow morning!

Friday, April 15

- 9:00 a.m. Sessions begin
- 9:05 a.m. Mental Health Session
- 9:15 a.m. Remarks from Jason Kenney, Premier
- 9:30 a.m. Ministers' Dialogue Session I
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Ministers' Dialogue Session II
- 11:50 a.m. Closing Remarks and Wrap Up



[WARD]

- Thank you, Cathy.
- My name is Ward Sutherland and I'm a Councillor for the City of Calgary, as well as a Director for Cities over 500,000 for AUMA.
- And now, the moment you've all been waiting for – the gift basket draw.

[THE WINNER'S NAME AND MUNICIPALITY WILL COME UP ON THE SCREEN.]

- Congratulations to [WINNER]!
- We'll be doing another gift basket draw tomorrow, so we hope you can join us for our final session.
- We'll be getting started at 9 a.m.
- After a quick mental health session, we'll be hearing from Premier Jason Kenney.
- Then we have two Ministers' Dialogue sessions.
- We'll have a conference phone line open for those sessions so you can speak to Ministers directly and I encourage you all to come armed tomorrow with good questions.
- I'd like to thank all of our speakers for being here today, as well as of you for attending and participating in our engagement sessions.
- Have a good night everyone and stay safe!