



MEMBER REQUEST FOR DECISION SPRING 2019 MUNICIPAL LEADERS' CAUCUS

DATE:

February 28, 2019

TOPIC:

Annual Release Date of Assessment Year Modifiers

RECOMMENDATION:

The Council from the Town of High Level requests the AUMA Board advocate for the Government of Alberta to set the annual date of release of assessment year modifiers at September 15th or the nearest business day afterwards to allow municipalities to be properly informed when making budget decisions.

BACKGROUND:

Assessment year modifiers are mechanisms to adjust the base assessment value of linear and other property types up or down to reflect present costs. Alberta Municipal Affairs sets the assessment year modifiers for valuation on an annual basis. The Minister of Municipal Affairs usually proclaims them in the preceding December of the tax/municipal budget year.

ANALYSIS:

The requirement in the *Municipal Government Act* for municipalities to prepare three-year operating budgets starting in 2019, further underpins the need for municipalities to receive this information earlier to ensure that they have their revenue in place to pass their budgets.

The provincial government must respect how its decisions impact local municipalities. The government should work to ensure that decisions which impact municipal finances and budgeting are done in consultation with municipalities and with enough notice to allow municipalities to adjust.

During their November 2018 Convention, RMA members passed a resolution that also calls on the Government of Alberta to set the annual release date at September 15.