

AUMA BOARD NEWS

Board Meeting - August 27, 2015

Volume 2 Edition 9



Councillor Helen Rice
AUMA President
City of Grande Prairie

AUMA Board Business

Successful MLA Meet and Greet

AUMA hosted a successful MLA *meet and greet* at the Matrix Hotel in Edmonton. The event attracted three Ministers (Agriculture and Forestry, Energy, and Human Services) and 20 government MLAs.

The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry brought greetings from the Province. This event is part of the New Government Engagement Framework project and was an opportunity for provincial elected officials to learn more about AUMA and its key priorities. President Rice provided a presentation on AUMA which was well received and helped to inform the new government on the Association, its mandate, and values.

This is the second in a highly successful series of MLA receptions that AUMA has hosted.

Mark your calendars for your opportunity to meet government MLAs at AUMA's Convention and AMSC Trade Show, on **Thursday September 24, in the Exhibition Hall foyer, 4:30-6:30 pm.**

Newly Elected Provincial Government Engagement

Following on from the MLA *Meet and Greet* events, AUMA is working towards completing phase one of the tactical plan—engage, which is scheduled to be complete by Convention. A summary of this phase and next steps will be shared during the Executive Committee report at Convention, as well as opportunities for members to provide feedback. This will position AUMA well as we move into phase two—extend.

Provincial Budget and Capital Plan

AUMA has submitted a response for the 2015 provincial budget and capital plan. The submission can be [viewed here](#).

Supplementary report on Building Canada Fund

AUMA will be preparing a report on how the provincial contributions to the small communities BCF will be funded. Once this has been completed, the report will be distributed to members.

Amalgamation and Annexation

The amalgamation and annexation report at the Mayors' Caucus was approved and will now be shared with Municipal Affairs for input into the upcoming regulations.

AUMA/AMSC interface report

The AMSC and AUMA Boards have agreed on the need to have a decision support framework available to annually consider the effectiveness of the current ownership and governance framework of AUMA and AMSC.

This framework will identify benchmarks that would inform the effectiveness of ownership.

This is an ongoing process and will be brought forward to the next meeting.

Community Partnership Program

AUMA has approved the following proposed changes to the Alberta Community Partnerships Program:

1. Maintain program funding at current levels.
2. Support the continued dedicated funding to the nine large cities.
3. Support current funding to the Capital Region Board and the Calgary Regional Partnership.
4. Some short term program recommendations, and
5. There should be a long term replacement of this program with an outcome based grant.

Local Authorities Election Act

- Revised recommendations reflect agreement in principle to restrict corporate and union contributions, subject to finalization of approach with municipal associations and the need to provide income tax credits for contributions by individuals.
- It is critical that all the amendments be made prior to the 2017 municipal elections.
- An update is requested on the status of the Order in Council to defer the December 2015 requirements for surplus financial contributions to be sent to municipalities.

Joint AUMA/AAMDC Board meeting

The AUMA and AAMDC Boards met on August 28 for a joint board meeting. This was an opportunity for to discuss the MGA review, and build consensus around issues arising from the work that is currently being undertaken on key MGA policy changes.

Age-Friendly Transportation

AUMA has the following feedback on the provincial Age-Friendly Alternate Transportation Toolkit:

- Municipalities must have adequate funding for specialized senior transportation;
- Lack of access to transport can compromise a senior's ability to remain healthy and active and age in place; and
- AUMA is pleased that the province plans to restore rural bus service, as it will assist seniors who need transportation to urban centres.

Medical First Response

AUMA has raised concerns about the lengthy inactive period of the steering committee and the resulting lack of information and limited progress with the Medical First Response Program Implementation.

Also, municipal concerns with the program have not been addressed;

- There should be reduced rates for medical first responder registration; and
- Geographic information system data should be shared with municipalities.

Special resolution at AGM

During the AGM at this year's convention, a special resolution will be held requesting members to adopt a number of minor amendments to the AUMA Bylaws.

The full wording of the special resolution is included in the annual Resolution Handbook which can be [viewed here](#).

AUMA work on Aboriginal Issues

AUMA has made available objectives and expected outcomes for its work on Aboriginal issues, including:

- Ensuring federal and provincial decision makers are aware of the need to engage local government on matters pertaining to Aboriginals.
- Assisting local governments in understanding the Aboriginal context and how to work well with Aboriginal communities.

Outcomes include:

- AUMA to make submissions on all significant federal and provincial Aboriginal legislation and policies that impact local government.

Climate Change Advisory Panel

AUMA has provided its position in the following areas:

- Collaboration between orders of government and private sector
- Cost effective climate change action, which helps to diversify the economy
- A move away from Alberta's dependency on coal
- Emission reductions
- Streetlight retrofits
- Mitigation of climate change through land use planning, alternative transportation, and waste reduction.

Transportation Capital Plan Priorities

AUMA's responses to the transportation components of the capital plan:

- The provincial transportation strategy should be finalized in the near future so that it can inform the provincial capital plan
- The capital plan should have a priority focus on transportation infrastructure
- Legislative and policy changes should be made in parallel to the capital plan.

Attributes for a Property Assessment and Taxation System

AUMA has approved the following response:

- Expand the attribute of transparency to include the separation of assessment and taxation functions.
- Expand the attribute of confidence to include a regular review of policies and exemptions on both taxation and assessment.
- Add an attribute of sufficient capacity, which should encompass responsibilities, and adequate training on the provincial and municipal level.
- Expand the attribute of accountability to separate the policymaking, administration, and appeal/judicial process.

Code of Conduct

AUMA will be recommending areas that should be included in the Code of Conduct regulation in the following areas:

1. Content for regulation
 - Sanctions
 - Integrity Commissioner
2. Training and acknowledgement
3. AUMA's role in implementation

Upcoming events

2015 Annual Convention and AMSC Trade Show, September 23-25 in Calgary.