



- Economic Development is essential to keep municipalities, and Alberta as a whole, viable and successful.
- It's therefore no surprise that our two growth management boards in the Capital and Calgary regions have been asked to include economic development in their regional work.
- All orders of government must work together in order to support our economic recovery so Alberta can remain a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Advancing Economic Development

Economic Development Resources Hub

What is economic development?

Economic development can be seen as the sustained, concerted actions of policy makers and communities that promote the standard of living and economic health of a specific area. This may include development of human capital, critical infrastructure, regional competitiveness, social inclusion, health, safety, and literacy. Local governments can and should play a lead role in economic development, but private residents, community organizations, and regional interest groups also have an important part to play.

Business
Attraction

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Staff Resources

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Broadband

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Economic
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Funding Options

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<https://www.auma.ca/advocacy-services/programs-initiatives>



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- AUMA has been a keen supporter in helping municipalities advance their economic development.
- We were pleased to launch a hub of resources last year on how attract business and investment, support entrepreneurs, advance tourism, accelerate economic recovery, and write grant proposals.
- This hub is available on our website or your economic development officers, council and administration to use.

Advancing Economic Development

Spring 2017 funding to promote local economic growth and diversification

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March 2, 2017

Through the Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) program, the Government of Alberta is providing over \$26 million between 2016 and 2018 to help municipalities, non-profit organizations and Indigenous communities pursue long-term economic growth and diversification.

Applicants must demonstrate that their projects improve the local business environment and/or regional economic collaboration; increase support for entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises; promote economic diversification; and create jobs. Applications can be made under the category of a community or regional project. Community projects are those that build local capacity to improve economic conditions in a municipality. Funding begins at \$10,000 to a maximum of 50 per cent of the project's cost. Regional projects benefit multiple municipalities and must demonstrate a collaborative approach. Funding begins at \$25,000 and is also capped at 50 per cent of the project's cost. Successful applicants must provide equivalent matching funds.

There are three intakes for this program. The first intake was in fall 2016 and awarded funding to many well-deserved applicants, including the City of Grande Prairie who received \$175,000 for three projects relating to supporting entrepreneurs, developing an economic development strategy, and establishing a plan for petrochemical production in the Peace Region.

The second intake of applications will run from April 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017. Eligibility criteria, along with more information on how to apply for funding, is available on the CARES [website](#). The third intake will be announced later this year so watch for an announcement through Digest.

In addition to this funding, CARES is also providing financial support to Regional Economic Development Alliances (\$2.2 million), rural business centres (\$600,000) and the business resumption activities in Wood Buffalo (\$750,000).



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- We also profile economic development grants that are available from federal and provincial governments.
- Here's a recent example – the provincial Community and Regional Economic Support program that provides over \$26 million to help municipalities, non-profits, and Indigenous communities.

Solving the Broadband Challenge



Developing Broadband Solutions for your Community

AUMA is advocating for the federal government and the province to address the critical lack of dependable and affordable broadband service that continues to affect many communities in Alberta. But what exactly is broadband, and how can a municipality best access and support its benefits?

Broadband is, above all, about connectivity – providing individuals, organizations and communities with a new range of service possibilities. For more than just “fast internet,” broadband is increasingly being viewed as a basic service that brings a wide range of social, economic, educational and health benefits to municipalities of all sizes.

Broadband connection

Broadband connections come in two main types – wired (copper, cable, fibre) and wireless (satellite, cellular). Fibre is currently the fastest connection type, with upload/download speeds typically exceeding 1,000 megabits per second (Mbps). To put this in perspective, 1,000 Mbps is about 10,000 times faster than a traditional dial-up connection.



SuperNet

To understand broadband connectivity in Alberta it is important to also understand SuperNet – a fibre and wireless network designed to provide broadband connectivity to public institutions across the province, such as schools, hospitals and government offices. Completed in 2005, SuperNet was a multi-million-dollar strategic infrastructure investment funded by the Government of Alberta and Bell Canada. The province invested in the rural portion of SuperNet

but the network itself is owned almost entirely by private sector telecommunications providers and leased back to the province.

(Continued on page 2)

*Some of the information presented in this article is derived from *Infrastructure Canada: Broadband: the Alberta Broadband Fund*, prepared by the research of Alberta and the Government of Alberta. For more information on this project, please visit www.itsc.ca, www.alberta.ca.

https://auma.ca/sites/default/files/document_library/developing_broadband_solutions_for_your_community.docx.pdf



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- Knowing that broadband connectivity has been a real barrier to economic development for small communities in particular, we also developed a recent communique for our members on Developing Broadband Solutions for your Community.
- If you missed it, it is also available on our website.

Impact of Shut Down of Coal-Fired Plants



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- Another key initiative is our advocacy to the province on the need to support communities impacted by the shut down of coal fired plants.

Economic Development and Broadband



Honourable Deron Bilous
Minister of Economic
Development and Trade



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- We are pleased that the Minister of Economic Development and Trade, the Honourable Deron Bilous, is here today to talk about these and other matters relating to economic development.
- Minister Bilous is the representative for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview and was appointed the Minister of Economic Trade and Development in October 2015 after serving as Minister of Municipal Affairs.
- His interest in municipal sustainability was evident when, as an MLA several years ago, he took initiative to attend our President's Summit on the MGA.
- He participated in the province's Policy Committee on Municipal Governance which provided guidance on the MGA review and is now Chair of the Economic Development Policy Committee.
- Minister Bilous, we appreciate you coming to speak with us today.
- The Minister will provide some perspectives on the work that his ministry is doing to support our communities and then we will take some questions.
- Thank you Minister for taking the time to meet with us today.