

What are Position Statements?

Position statements are short descriptions of how the AAMDC approaches policy issues from a rural municipal perspective. Position statements may identify concerns that the AAMDC has with how government is handling a policy issue, it may identify an action that government should take to better represent rural municipal interests, or it may highlight an AAMDC effort to advocate on an issue.

Position statements are not intended to provide a detailed analysis of a policy issue, but rather to allow for a broad overview of the AAMDC's advocacy priorities as defined by member resolutions and emerging issues. For more detailed information on the AAMDC's perspective on an issue, readers are encouraged to consult the [AAMDC's Resolution Database](#) or contact the Policy Analyst that corresponds to each theme.

Who is This Intended For?

Position statements are intended for multiple audiences. First and foremost, position statements are meant to be used by AAMDC members to assist with local advocacy efforts and to ensure that the rural municipal voice is as consistent as possible across the province. At the same time, Alberta is a diverse province, and some issues will be framed differently across regions. As such, many of the position statements are broad enough to be customizable for local concerns. For example, a position statement on the importance of developing alternative energy projects in Alberta can apply to a number of different project types and local contexts. AAMDC members should consider most of the position statements as “jumping-off points” for framing their policy priorities.

Positions statements are also used by the AAMDC Board of Directors and Advocacy Staff. They ensure that the AAMDC's advocacy position is consistent when interacting with government officials. Similar to their role for AAMDC members, position statements are a reference to form the basis of an advocacy effort.

Positions statements also provide the public and media with an understanding of the AAMDC's advocacy priorities. Ideally, the position statements will spur public interest in the AAMDC's advocacy priorities, and lead to an increase in media interest or requests from other organizations for information or even an opportunity to collaborate.

How Are They Organized?

Position statements are organized by themes such as transportation and rural finances. Each theme has a summary on why it is important, as well as position statements relating to the following five categories:

Municipal Perspective

This section addresses why the theme is important to municipalities as well as how other levels of government can better involve the municipal perspective.

Financial Considerations

This section addresses key considerations related to provincial funding, municipal costs, and economic benefits related to the theme.

Collaborative Relationships

This section addresses areas how the AAMDC or member municipalities may be involved in collaborative relationships related to the theme. Collaboration may be among multiple municipalities, with other levels of government, other advocacy organizations, or citizens.

Sustainability

This section addresses how the AAMDC works to sustain rural municipal interests related to the theme. Sustainability initiatives can take many forms depending on the theme, including legislation, operations, and funding mechanisms.

Current Related Issues

This section examines specific issues related to the theme. Many of these issues are related to AAMDC resolutions, although some have recently emerged as AAMDC priorities. In some cases, the position statements in this section will be more specific to a particular issue and less customizable.

If a reader is interested in getting a broad overview of all of the AAMDC's priorities, they can browse the guide by theme. If a reader needs specific information, they can browse by issue.

Each theme includes links to AAMDC reports and its searchable resolutions and emerging issues database. The resolution database is a valuable reference for finding detailed information about an advocacy issue. Each theme also includes the contact information of the AAMDC Policy Analyst who works on it most closely.

In some cases, it may be necessary to provide position statements on a specific issue that becomes contentious. When this is the case, a position statement category on that issue may be added. These position statement categories will often not follow the format explained above, but will contain their own sub-categories based on what the

issue is, and what information AAMDC members need. Members will be informed about the availability of issue-specific position statements by bulletin.

For more information, visit www.aamdc.com for [reports](#) and an online, searchable [Resolution Database](#) which includes information on all active resolutions and emerging issues.