

About RMA

Alberta's rural municipalities are vibrant, diverse and forward-thinking. RMA is proud to represent all of Alberta's rural municipalities, and strives to serve as a resourceful, responsive and resilient advocate for rural perspectives and priorities on key policy issues at the provincial and federal level. Rural Alberta is an economic driver comprised of strong, vibrant and resilient communities that deserve a unified voice. RMA is proud to serve in that role.

What is unique about rural Alberta?

- Rural municipalities are characterized by low populations and large geographic areas. Alberta is the only province where the entire land mass (with the exception of national and provincial parks) is municipally managed. RMA members are responsible for municipal service provision to 86.5% of Alberta's total land mass, with the remainder comprised of urban municipalities and national/provincial parks.
- Rural Alberta is vital to the province's and nation's economy. Rural Alberta's GDP is \$89.6 billion, which is 26% of Alberta's total GDP.
- Rural municipalities are home to 18% of the approximately four million people that live in Alberta. However, rural municipalities manage the majority of province's transportation infrastructure. Rural municipalities are responsible for approximately 75% of Alberta's roads and 60% of Alberta's bridges.
- Alberta's rural municipalities collaborate with their urban neighbours on regionally-beneficial infrastructure and services. In 2014, rural municipalities contributed approximately \$160 million to their urban neighbors through a variety of inter-municipal agreements.
- Alberta is the only province in which municipalities have jurisdiction over lands that extend to all four borders of the province.

What is RMA?

- Founded in 1909, RMA represents Alberta's sixty-four municipal districts and counties, four specialized municipalities, and the Special Areas Board. We provide our members with advocacy and aggregated business services, and our work is in pursuit of the continuation of strong and vibrant rural communities.
- RMA strives to work *with* members by sharing ideas and ensuring that rural municipalities have representation

on issues that impact them. RMA has a proven track record of advocating on behalf of its members.

- RMA is proud of its role as a resourceful, responsive and resilient advocate for its members and for rural Alberta.

What does RMA think about the importance of rural Alberta?

- Rural sustainability is critical to a healthy and vibrant province and country.
- Rural Alberta is diverse, but has certain common priorities that require a unified province-wide voice.
- Rural Alberta is the economic engine that supports the needs of Alberta's large centres.

How does RMA represent its members?

- RMA has a strong relationship with the Government of Alberta and continues to positively influence policy decisions through the submission of reports, participation on committees, and other means.
- RMA regularly shares information with its members and the broader public through the Contact newsletter, the RMA website, social media, and other means.
- RMA ensures that its advocacy efforts reflect rural municipal interests by basing priorities on member-driven resolutions.
- RMA advocates for members at the federal level, both directly and through involvement with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
- RMA collaborates with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association to strengthen the municipal voice on issues that impact both rural and urban municipalities.
- RMA collaborates with a wide variety of organizations in Alberta and across Canada. RMA believes that advocacy is most effective with a unified voice.

What does the RMA do for members?

- RMA provides **networking** opportunities for members through conventions, district meetings, and other events.



POSITION STATEMENT

- RMA provides **educational** opportunities for members to improve their skills as elected officials and gain a greater understanding of key rural issues.
- RMA goes beyond advocacy – it is also a strong supplier of **business services** and a progressive **insurance** company., that provides cost savings through group purchasing initiatives.

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