



RMA
RURAL MUNICIPALITIES
of ALBERTA

RMA Advocacy Report Card

Fall 2018



**RMA Advocacy Report Card:
Fall 2018**

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Introduction

The Advocacy Report Card is divided into two sections.

- **Section 1** provides detailed information on the government response to the spring 2018 resolutions and includes the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Board of Directors’ reaction to the response as well as anticipated follow up.
- **Section 2** updates members by reporting on all active resolutions, grouped by advocacy area.

Please note that any reference to the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties or AAMDC in the Advocacy Report Card is equivalent to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta or RMA.

Definition of Terms

Following the adoption of resolutions at RMA conventions, resolutions are sent to the appropriate level of government for response. Once a response is received, RMA labels the resolution with one of five indicators which determines the status of that resolution. The intention of providing a status for each resolution is to evaluate whether the government response meets the intent of the resolution. The status is not intended to reflect RMA’s advocacy efforts on a resolution.

Below are the descriptions of all resolution ranking statuses.

STATUS	DESCRIPTION
Accepted	Meets RMA criteria as outlined in a) the resolution and b) as per the expectations of the Board of Directors.
Accepted in Principle	The development addresses that action is being taken to meet the intent of the resolution, but further action is required.
Accepted in Part	Some resolutions include multiple ‘asks’ in the operative clause. This status indicates that one of the ‘asks’ has been met while others require further action.
Intent Not Met	The intent of the resolution has not been met as outlined in the resolution or the current developments do not meet the approval of the Board of Directors.
Incomplete Information	RMA has not received enough information to assign a status. Further follow-up is required for RMA to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

Section 1: Government Responses to Spring 2018 Resolutions

RMA recently received responses to the resolutions adopted at the spring 2018 convention from the Government of Alberta and Government of Canada. The following table provides an overview of the initial assessment to resolutions following the response. **RMA emphasizes that this table only reflects the initial response received from the Government of Alberta and Government of Canada and that advocacy efforts on all resolutions are in progress.**

Reactions at a Glance

#	RESOLUTION NAME	STATUS
1-18S	Request for Implementation of the 2018 Assessment Year Modifier for Well and Pipeline Assessments	Intent Not Met
2-18S	Combatting Rural Crime	Accepted in Part
3-18S	Increase Crown Prosecutor Staffing Levels for Rural Municipalities	Accepted in Principle
4-18S	Support for Continuation of Grant Funding for Agricultural Initiatives Program	Intent Not Met
5-18S	Provincial Government Consultation and Communication Protocol with Municipalities	Intent Not Met
6-18S	Wind Energy Regulations Required at Provincial Level	Intent Not Met
7-18S	Standards for Property Contaminated by Fentanyl and Carfentanil	Accepted in Principle
8-18S	Amendments Required for Provincial Recycling Regulations	Intent Not Met
9-18S	Exemption of Seniors Housing from Requirement to Pay Carbon Levy	Accepted in Part
10-18S	Tenure Extension Requirements for Unconventional Development	Intent Not Met
11-18S	Recycling of Solar Panels	Intent Not Met
12-18S	Victim Services Units Funding	Accepted in Part

Resolution 1-18S

Request for Implementation of the 2018 Assessment Year Modifier for Well and Pipeline Assessments

MD of Willow Creek

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Municipal Affairs**

WHEREAS Section 292(2) (a) of the Municipal Government Act states: “Each assessment must reflect the valuation standard set out in the regulations for linear property”; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Municipal Affairs had decided not to implement the adjustment to the assessment year modifier (AYM) reflecting increases for well assessments and for pipeline assessment in 2018 stating no reason other than that the Government of Alberta intends to conduct a rate review sometime in the future; and

WHEREAS this unprecedented action will result in lost revenue for many rural municipalities, create an unfair and unequitable shift in taxation to other assessment classes and result in significant increases to mill rates, for no apparent reason;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) lobby the Government of Alberta to immediately implement the 2018 assessment year modifier to well and pipeline assessments as identified in the draft calculation.

Government Response

Alberta Municipal Affairs

Alberta Municipal Affairs (MA) recognizes the freezing of the 2018 assessment year modifiers (AYMs) for wells and pipelines is a concern for the Rural Municipalities of Alberta and its members.

The annual cost updates have fluctuated significantly for pipelines and oil and gas wells over the past few years. This has created uncertainty for municipalities and for the energy sector, which is especially challenging given the early days of economic recovery we are experiencing in the province.

In response to these fluctuations, the province decided to freeze the 2018 annual cost updates for wells and pipelines at the same levels as 2017, while a review of the assessment model was conducted. We recognize there are opportunities to improve our processes, including AYM, and we hope to explore these opportunities with stakeholders as part of a broader regulated model review.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The freezing of AYM at 2017 levels caused significant frustration for RMA members, many of whom had prepared budgets based on draft AYM projections that the Government of Alberta had shared with municipalities prior to the freeze. While RMA and its members recognize the importance of having an improved process that is reflective of local costs and assessment variables, it is not clear what the result of this review will be, and why it was necessary to freeze 2018 AYM with no warning to accommodate

the review. The Government of Alberta's continued freeze of the AYM means that this resolution is assigned the status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 2-18S

Combatting Rural Crime

Lacombe County

Carried

► ***Advocacy Target: Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Department of Justice Canada***

WHEREAS there has been a proliferation of crime in rural Alberta over the past several years; and

WHEREAS citizens of rural Alberta are extremely concerned for their personal safety due to escalating levels and severity of property crime; and

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and other police services lack the required resources to respond to and investigate reported rural crimes; and

WHEREAS Alberta's overburdened court system results in charges laid against perpetrators of rural crime being dismissed; and

WHEREAS residents and businesses of rural Alberta are becoming increasingly frustrated with the shortcomings of our criminal justice system;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request that the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta develop and implement strategies and initiatives to prevent and combat rural crime, and punish those convicted of committing rural crime in a manner that will maximize deterrence;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, request the Government of Canada to continue with its review of the criminal justice system and sentencing reforms in a way that gets repeat offenders off the street for longer periods of time.

Government Response

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

While Alberta posted one of the largest decreases in violent crime of any Canadian province or territory in 2016, property crime rates, particularly those in rural communities, have remained problematic. Several rural communities have property crime rates that are the highest they have been during the past five years. In other rural areas, property crime rates have been consistently above the overall provincial average and are not decreasing.

The Government of Alberta recognized the need to take action on rural crime, and committed \$10 million to address rural crime issues through a seven-point action plan developed in consultation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This plan includes an \$8 million investment in 39 new officers, 40 civilian staff, and \$2 million to hire additional Crown prosecutors. It specifically focuses on crime reduction, enhanced intelligence, shifting some routine tasks to civilians, sharing information to help police better identify and catch prolific offenders, enhancing technology, and public education and engagement.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

In March 2018, the Government of Alberta implemented a Rural Crime Action Plan intended to reduce rural crime by better focusing resources in rural areas and prioritizing a proactive and strategic approach to addressing rural crime. The Action Plan included the following seven points:

- Crime reduction units: Specially trained officers will focus on arresting prolific offenders. This initiative will expand on a successful pilot project in Central Alberta.
- Specialized police intelligence: Six additional intelligence-focused RCMP officers plus four crime analyst positions will allow the RCMP to identify prolific offenders and target organized crime.
- Policing support centre: RCMP officers need to be on the streets protecting our communities, not behind a desk filling out paperwork. Twenty-three civilians will input investigative updates dictated over the phone by officers.
- More Crown prosecutors: \$2 million will allow the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service to hire up to 10 Crown prosecutors who will focus solely on rural crime.
- Better coordination: Sharing information with Alberta sheriffs, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement and conservation officers will effectively make these officials additional “eyes and ears” for police.
- Enhanced technology: The RCMP will work with Alberta Justice and Solicitor General and other partners to explore new ways of using technology to target rural crime, including bait programs.
- Public education and engagement: The RCMP will engage and educate Albertans about crime prevention.

The Action Plan was supported by a \$10 million investment from the Government of Alberta.

In September 2018, the Government of Alberta and Royal Canadian Mounted Police jointly announced an 11% decrease in property crimes in rural Alberta detachments between January and July 2018 – a reduction that is at least partly linked by the Government of Alberta to the initiatives in the Action Plan. RMA is pleased with the Action Plan and the early positive indicators of its effectiveness in decreasing rural crime, and will advocate for the Government of Alberta to make a long-term funding commitment to sustain or expand the initial Action Plan.

RMA also forwarded this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) as per the second operative clause. FCM reviewed the resolution and indicated that because its focus is on rural areas only, they would be unable to commit to integrating into the justice-related advocacy efforts. RMA is disappointed with this response but will continue to work with FCM to share the rural Alberta perspective on issues related to crime and justice.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part**, and will continue to advocate on this issue at the provincial level and to the FCM.

Resolution 3-18S

Increase Crown Prosecutor Staffing Levels for Rural Municipalities

County of St. Paul

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Justice and Solicitor General**

WHEREAS Albertans are concerned with the escalating levels of rural crime as evidenced by many media reports over the past few years; and

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada's 2016 decision in R v Jordan puts hard timelines in place to resolve cases: eighteen (18) months for provincial court matters and thirty (30) months for Superior Court (in Alberta, the Court of Queen's Bench) to uphold an accused person's Charter right to trial without unreasonable delays; and

WHEREAS hundreds of court cases across Alberta have been stayed over the past two years because of a lack of resources in the provincial prosecution service; and

WHEREAS thousands of court cases across Alberta could be at risk of being dismissed for violating new time guidelines set out in the Jordan decision; and

WHEREAS Alberta's chief justice has ruled police officers do not have the authority to act on behalf of the Crown at bail hearings; and

WHEREAS the current prosecutor staffing levels are not sufficient to manage the demands of the numbers of cases on the current docket; and

WHEREAS Crown prosecutors in rural municipalities are overworked and understaffed and require additional support to effectively carry out their duties;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) encourage the Government of Alberta to increase Crown prosecutor staffing levels as well as relevant administrative staff for rural municipalities and collaborate with rural municipalities to ensure that court cases are being sufficiently prosecuted in a timely manner.

Government Response

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

The Government of Alberta has provided \$2 million to the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service (ACPS) to hire up to 10 Crown prosecutors who will focus solely on rural crime. One of the ten will be designated for the Bail Unit, to work on rural crime. As of November 9, 2018, eight out of the 10 rural Crown prosecutors have been hired. ACPS is currently in the process of recruiting to the remaining vacancies, and aim to have them filled soon. On average it takes between 2 to 6 months to fill any Crown position. The funding for Crown prosecutors will help ensure court cases are heard in a reasonable amount of time.

The Government of Alberta is increasing the legal assistant and paralegal positions within regional offices. As of November 9, 2018, of the 18 new legal assistant and two new paralegal positions as part of our 2018/19 hiring plan, 13 new legal assistants and two new paralegals have been hired. We are continuing to hire to the remaining vacant positions. As of July 31, we have also hired an additional 13 clerks for the Bail Hearing Office, and duty counsel is now available for all bail hearings.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

As indicated in the Government of Alberta response, two million dollars has been allocated under the Rural Crime Action Plan to hire up to ten Crown prosecutors to focus on rural crime. RMA is pleased with this commitment as well as the Government of Alberta's swiftness in hiring eight of ten prosecutors to this point.

This resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Principle**, and will be reviewed in the future when information on the extent to which the increase in Crown prosecutors have shortened waiting periods for prosecution is available.

Resolution 4-18S

Support for Continuation of Grant Funding for Agricultural Initiatives Program

Lac Ste. Anne County

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance**

WHEREAS Alberta agricultural societies operate various facilities including rural community arenas/hockey rinks, curling rinks, ball diamonds, community halls, agricultural facilities, etc.; and

WHEREAS Alberta agricultural societies plan and deliver various community special events and activities; and

WHEREAS Alberta agricultural societies utilize provincial grant funding to finance facility operations, enhancements and community events; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has notified a local agricultural society that the Agricultural Initiatives Program grant has been discontinued;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta to re-instate or replace the Agriculture Initiatives Program funding for local agricultural societies.

Government Response

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

The Government of Alberta (GoA) has had to make some difficult decisions, such as the discontinuation of the Agricultural Initiatives Program (AIP), as we work to address the current fiscal challenges facing the province and continue on our Path to Balance. Throughout this process, we have worked hard to focus on finding savings in a fair and responsible manner, looking for efficiencies, while focusing on core programs that meet the needs of Alberta.

While the AIP is no longer available, we are still providing significant core funding for primary agricultural societies and the seven regional exhibitions. In March 2018, we committed to providing stable funding for agricultural societies for the next three years, with Alberta's 283 primary and seven regional agricultural societies receiving \$11.5 million annually. This funding helps support the many important services provided to communities by our agricultural societies, including many types of projects that were funded by AIP.

In addition, there are GoA grant funding programs that provide support to community projects, including:

- The Community Facility Enhancement Program, which provides funding for large and small projects to build, renovate, or upgrade public use community facilities. More information can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/community-facility-enhancement-program.aspx>; and
- The Community Initiatives Program, which provides funding to new community-based programs, initiatives, events, and publications. For further information, please visit <https://www.alberta.ca/cip-project-based-grant.aspx>.

Alberta Treasury Board and Finance

Budget 2018 includes \$11.6 million to agriculture service boards and \$11.5 million to agriculture societies and exhibitions, which are both consistent with the amount provided in Budget 2017.

The GoA has announced its commitment to three years of funding for agriculture societies and exhibitions at the 2017 levels (\$11.5 million). Agricultural Societies are also eligible to apply for grant funding through Alberta Culture and Tourism's Community Initiative Program and Community Facility Enhancement Program.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

RMA recognizes the fiscal challenges faced by the Government of Alberta and is encouraged by the three-year funding commitment to agriculture societies in Alberta and the eligibility of agriculture societies under the Community Facility Enhancement Program and Community Initiatives Program. However, these grants were previously available, require agriculture societies to compete for funding with other non-profit organizations, and do not adequately substitute for the loss of the Agriculture Initiatives Program (AIP), which was specifically available for capital funding for agriculture societies. Therefore, the resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 5-18S

Provincial Government Consultation and Communication Protocol with Municipalities

County of Grande Prairie

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Department of Communications and Public Engagement (CPE)**

WHEREAS municipalities have a responsibility for the provision of good government, the provision of services, facilities, or other things that in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for the municipality and to develop and maintain safe and viable communities as per the *Municipal Government Act* RSA 2000 c. M-26; and

WHEREAS the municipal/provincial relationship is vital to ensure that such good government and services can effectively be provided; and

WHEREAS the challenges of effective consultation and communication between municipal and provincial government are evident and are impeding municipal government from effectively fulfilling its' duties and calls into question the province's commitment to working with municipal elected officials to their fullest capabilities; and

WHEREAS a municipality is a creature of the province with a limited amount of natural person powers given to it by the *Municipal Government Act*; and

WHEREAS the province is required by that same legislation to provide municipalities with clear and concise direction, which would require direct interaction;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) appeal to the Government of Alberta to establish and maintain a uniform consultation and communication protocol with municipal elected officials which is applicable to all provincial bodies;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that through this consultation and communication protocol, the Government of Alberta recognizes and acknowledges the legislated significance of municipal elected officials, and that the Government of Alberta engage municipalities openly and transparently to provide input and feedback on the consultation and communication protocol from inception through to implementation.

Government Response

Alberta Municipal Affairs

The GoA recognizes municipalities as key partners in serving Albertans, and strives to work closely and collaboratively with municipal governments wherever possible. This has been exemplified by the collaborative co-development of city charters with the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, as well as the multi-year review of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*. During the *MGA* review, both the Rural Municipalities of Alberta and the

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association were directly at the table as members of the *MGA Review Steering Committee*, as well as directly engaged in each working group and focus group throughout the entire process.

The Minister of Alberta Municipal Affairs (MA) is the lead minister in working with municipalities and their associations. Other ministers remain open to meeting with municipal representatives on ministry specific issues wherever possible.

Municipalities are encouraged to approach individual ministers whenever an issue-specific meeting is required. Where this approach is not effective for some reason, municipal officials may contact the Minister of MA for help in facilitating such meetings.

Alberta Communications and Public Engagement

Alberta Communications and Public Engagement has no further input beyond the response from MA.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

RMA appreciates the effort that Alberta Municipal Affairs have demonstrated in involving RMA and its members in consultations related to the *Municipal Government Act* review. However, the resolution requests a uniform approach to gathering direct input from municipal elected officials on issues that impact municipalities, regardless of ministry. In endorsing this resolution, RMA members have indicated that the quality of consultation varies widely, and a consistent approach is needed to ensure the municipal voice is consistently heard.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to work with the Government of Alberta to improve the consultation process with municipalities.

Resolution 6-18S

Wind Energy Regulations Required at Provincial Level

County of Paintearth

Carried

► ***Advocacy Target: Alberta Energy, Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Environment and Parks***

WHEREAS the recent increase in wind energy developments throughout Alberta has illuminated the need for a provincially standardized set of regulations for the land development concerns faced by rural municipalities and rural land owners; and,

WHEREAS rural municipalities are and will continue to be the most impacted jurisdictions where these developments will occur; and,

WHEREAS the lack of standard regulations has made landowners skeptical and distrusting of wind energy developers due to future requirements for remediation and reclamation of wind energy developments; and,

WHEREAS rural municipalities are faced with a lack of consistency in regulations over the assessment, taxation, and legal ramifications of various wind energy development issues both current and future; and,

WHEREAS the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has proven to be an effective approval and oversight regulatory agency for Alberta's oil and gas (energy) industry for decades and is supported by existing and competent staff, policies and recognition by both landowners and industry, with processes and responsibilities negating the need to create additional bureaucracy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request the Government of Alberta to undertake the creation of a Renewable Energy Division within the AER to approve, regulate, and enforce the responsible development, reclamation, and assessment of renewable energy projects in the Province of Alberta;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that renewable energy projects formally proceeding into the review and approval stage of the above-noted Renewable Energy Division are to be corporately approved and construction ready projects, not speculative or conditional in any way;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA request the Government of Alberta to set up and enforce the collection of monetary funds towards the implementation of an Orphan Renewable Energy Fund to oversee potential future reclamation of abandoned renewable energy sites.

Government Response

Alberta Energy

Alberta now has over 25 years of experience with operating wind energy projects and is currently home to over 1,400 MW of wind energy. Over that time, regulations have developed and evolved to address the impacts of renewable energy. Since 2015, our government has advanced the regulatory oversight of renewable energy projects in a number of ways. Chief among them, Alberta Environment and Parks updated its Wildlife Directive for Alberta Wind Energy Projects in early 2017, which enhanced environmental and post-construction standards with more prescriptive environmental requirements. Recently, the Minister of Environment and Parks also amended regulations to include wind and solar energy in conservation and reclamation requirements and published clear standards for reclamation of these projects.

Alberta is keenly interested in feedback on how the existing regulatory system for renewables can be improved, and how Alberta can help ensure that the further development of renewable energy maximizes opportunities and minimizes impacts for host communities. Detailed information from the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) around outstanding concerns would assist Alberta as we continuously work to improve and refine the current system.

Examples of specific instances where the processes of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) are seen by RMA members to operate in a more effective way than those of the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) in comparable situations would be especially useful.

We are particularly interested to hear the extent to which any issues are the result of capacity challenges within a given organization, and the extent to which they are a function of the regulatory process as currently designed. Examples of this would also be very useful.

Alberta Energy Regulator

The AER does not regulate the development of renewable energy, such as wind and solar. The AER welcomes discussions with the GoA about how the AER can contribute to development of policy for renewable energy regulation.

Alberta Environment and Parks

The AUC already has the necessary roles and mandates to approve, regulate, and enforce the responsible development of renewable energy projects, including reviewing them for their alignment with the public interest. This is consistent with the AUC's role in respect of other electricity generating facilities, and has been the system in place for the development of Alberta's existing wind energy fleet, which is already over 1,400 MW. With the creation of the AER in 2012, electricity generation continued to remain the purview of the AUC, separate from the regulatory jurisdiction of the AER.

Renewable energy differs from other energy development that falls under the AER's purview. In particular, there is no right of entry for renewable energy. Renewable energy development can only proceed with the landowner's consent. The AUC is accustomed to addressing concerns with respect to electricity facilities applications and their impacts on neighbouring lands. We are confident the AUC has the competencies, resources, and authorities necessary to continue its long history of regulating electricity generation facilities, including renewable energy facilities.

Alberta Environment and Parks is working to address and include renewable energy development in regional plans to provide and enhance clarity on land use objectives. Engagement is currently underway on draft conservation and reclamation requirements for renewable energy operations.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

RMA recognizes the important work that has been undertaken to improve the regulatory process for wind energy projects and other renewable energy projects, and RMA appreciates the opportunity to be involved in many of these important discussions such as the creation of an updated reclamation standard for renewable energy.

Although this resolution speaks to the creation of an approving and regulating body within the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), the broader intent of this resolution is the responsible regulation of Alberta's renewable energy resources and projects. RMA believes progress is being made on this front. However, given the specific nature of this resolution, it is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**, and RMA will continue to work with members and the Government of Alberta to improve economic, social, and environmental outcomes for renewable energy.

Resolution 7-18S

Standards for Property Contaminated by Fentanyl and Carfentanil

Sturgeon County

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General**

WHEREAS fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid pain medication; and

WHEREAS carfentanil is a highly potent analogue of fentanyl; and

WHEREAS fentanyl and its analogues pose significant hazard, potentially fatal, to persons who come into contact with minuscule amounts via inhalation, ingestion or skin contact; and

WHEREAS there is rapid rise in illegal production and consumption of fentanyl and carfentanil; and

WHEREAS the products are often produced in buildings not designed for this activity, which increases risks of contamination and building damage; and

WHEREAS buildings that house fentanyl labs pose complex challenges for cleaning and remediation; and

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to inspect and certify that fentanyl contaminated dwellings are safe for habitation; and

WHEREAS no standard is established to define or guide this certification;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request the Government of Alberta to establish defined standards and consistent regulated approaches for inspecting property contaminated by fentanyl or carfentanil.

Government Response

Alberta Health

The GoA thanks the Rural Municipalities of Alberta for highlighting the need for clearly established guidance for handling fentanyl contaminated property.

Alberta Health (AH), which is leading the provincial response to the opioid crisis, has received a similar recommendation from the Minister's Opioid Emergency Response Commission. Specifically, the Commission requests the development of provincial evidence-based guidance on appropriate personal protective equipment, as well as standards for remediation of fentanyl contaminated sites, such as buildings and vehicles.

A variety of professionals and agencies may come into direct contact with fentanyl contaminated sites in Alberta, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, municipal and indigenous police services, Alberta Health Services and private remediation contractors. Multiple ministries within the GoA are also impacted by, and share the need for, safe fentanyl remediation (e.g., Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Labour, MA, Alberta Infrastructure and AH).

AH is leading the development of a guideline that will enable remediation of sites contaminated by fentanyl to be implemented in a safe, practical and consistent manner. Currently, there is a lack of adequate sources of guidance

for fentanyl remediation in Alberta, and there is also a lack of established standards in other North American jurisdictions. Existing guidelines for handling marijuana grow operations or methamphetamine contaminated properties are insightful but inadequate for the purpose of fentanyl.

Given the novel nature of fentanyl remediation in North America, AH issued a public Request for Information (RFI) in April 2018 that encouraged vendors to suggest:

- a) an approach or “mechanism” (e.g., tool, product, resource, document) to support safe, effective and consistent fentanyl remediation;
- b) how the “mechanism” could best be developed; and
- c) estimates of the associated resources, costs and timelines.

The RFI closed on May 22, 2018, and AH is reviewing responses to determine next steps. This may include a Request for Proposal to acquire professional services for immediate project initiation.

End products will be developed in collaboration with experts and stakeholders with the intention of supporting multiple government sectors and agencies to meet their mandates.

Alberta Municipal Affairs

Alberta Municipal Affairs (MA) has no further input beyond the response from AH.

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (JSG) has no further input beyond the response from AH.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The Government of Alberta response indicates that Alberta Health is aware of the lack of guidance related to the remediation of fentanyl-contaminated properties and is in the process of developing an approach or mechanism to address this issue. RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Principle** and will monitor Alberta Health’s progress in developing a final approach or mechanism.

Resolution 8-18S

Amendments Required for Provincial Recycling Regulations

Strathcona County

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Environment and Parks**

WHEREAS in 2013, Alberta Environment and Parks completed an extensive consultation on the development of a new recycling regulation that would include the necessary regulatory amendments to existing programs to ensure long term sustainability; and

WHEREAS the result of the consultation was a proposed *Designated Materials Recycling Regulation* for decision makers' review that included several changes to Alberta's existing regulatory framework for recycling materials; and

WHEREAS the proposed changes were intended to:

- streamline Alberta's regulatory framework, while reducing solid waste;
- provide options to shift end-of-life management responsibilities from taxpayers to producers and consumers;
- consolidate Alberta's existing recycling regulations under one regulation – the *Designated Materials Recycling Regulation*;
- remove specified maximum environmental fees from regulation while still ensuring consumer protection from excessive fees;
- expand the electronics program to include small appliances, audio/visual equipment, telecommunications equipment and power tools; and
- expand the used oil materials recycling program to include automotive anti-freeze/coolant containers and diesel exhaust fluid containers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta to make the changes outlined under the 2013 proposed *Designated Materials Recycling Regulation*.

Government Response

Alberta Environment and Parks

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) is committed to working with stakeholders to enhance provincial recycling programs. The ministry intends to continue efforts to study other jurisdictional practices to ensure meaningful solutions are created and opportunities to increase Alberta's recycling efforts are sought.

In the meantime, AEP has worked on ways to enhance our existing recycling efforts through the government-wide review of Agencies, Boards, and Commissions (ABCs). By bringing together recycling programs for tires, electronics, paint, and used oil materials under one management board (Alberta Recycling), the government can act more efficiently and effectively to support Albertans in their efforts to recycle.

AEP is fulfilling the goals of the ABC review by streamlining and saving administrative costs on behalf of Albertans, so that we can free-up more resources for recycling.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

RMA was informed of an upcoming review of Alberta's recycling systems that was intended to take place in the fall of 2018, but little information is currently known on the status of this review. Until such time that a review is completed, and changes are made to Alberta's recycling framework that align with the 2013 proposed *Designated Materials Recycling Regulation*, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

RMA is active on the Agriculture Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) which recently was awarded \$750,000 to initiate a three-year agriculture plastics recycling program. RMA appreciates the Government of Alberta's recognition of this important initiative and will continue to work with the government to see to it that a permanent solution to the end-of-life management of agriculture plastics can be found.

Resolution 9-18S

Exemption of Seniors Housing from Requirement to Pay Carbon Levy

Beaver County

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy, Alberta Seniors and Housing, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance**

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta (under the *Climate Leadership Implementation Act*, Bill 20/2016 [Chapter C-16.9]) has introduced a provincial carbon levy as of January 1, 2017 to reduce the carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions in Alberta; and

WHEREAS the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) and its members support initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions and want to be part of the solution; and

WHEREAS regulated housing providers that provide publicly supported housing, independent living, supportive living, designated supportive living and rent regulated accommodation are charged the carbon levy; and

WHEREAS housing management bodies (HMBs) provide housing services to thousands of Albertans and most RMA members are also members of an HMB (e.g. seniors' housing foundations); and

WHEREAS the carbon levy rebate goes to low and middle income individuals and families in regulated housing who do not pay the utility bills and have no ability to utilize the rebate to reduce the carbon footprint in a congregate setting, which is the intent of the levy; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has introduced provincial carbon incentives to businesses and communities to physically reduce their energy consumption through energy efficiency initiatives; and

WHEREAS the provincial carbon incentives to businesses and communities do not begin to address the requirements needed to reduce the carbon footprint of the aging infrastructure in this housing segment; and

WHEREAS the regulated housing providers have no resources to change or enhance the current infrastructure, or to change the behavior of their residents, to make the necessary reductions that will sufficiently reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS the carbon levy will increase operating and capital expenses for HMBs, impacting the quality of accommodation and accommodation services for Albertans residing in their buildings;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) urge the Government of Alberta to exempt housing management bodies from the provincial carbon levy;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate to Alberta Seniors and Housing for additional capital funds to be accessed by housing management bodies to install more efficient infrastructure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in regulated housing facilities.

Government Response

Alberta Seniors and Housing

Government has the backs of seniors in Alberta and is fighting for what matters to them. We're incredibly proud of the work we've done to fight for seniors including ensuring that the vast majority of seniors are getting a carbon levy rebate.

In cases like community housing, seniors' lodges and seniors' self-contained apartments where tenant rent includes heating costs, and a resident gets a carbon levy rebate, a small portion of it is used to help offset any potential increases in heating costs. The tenant still keeps over 70 per cent of their rebate, which helps make life more affordable for everyone.

Government has also developed programs to help housing management bodies and seniors save even more money. The Affordable Housing Energy Savings Program (AHESP) and the Seniors Home Adaptation and Repair Program both are helping seniors retrofit their homes to not only make them more energy efficient, but to help ensure they're able to stay in their own homes for as long as they can.

The AHESP is also available to housing providers as well. Energy efficiency audits will be conducted through AHESP that will guide retrofits on government-owned and supported affordable housing stock to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce utility costs for residents.

Energy Efficiency Alberta also offers a number of programs that help seniors including:

- home improvement rebates, online rebates for appliances and thermostats, and residential and commercial solar programs;
- supports for non-profit and volunteer organizations through the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre; and
- the Non-Profit Energy Efficiency Transition program, which provides funding to non-profit and volunteer-based organizations, including those that help seniors, to obtain detailed energy audits and create energy management plans.

Alberta Treasury Board and Finance

In Budget 2018, we increased funding for affordable housing providers by \$11.2 million to address critical maintenance needs. We are also giving housing providers \$25 million through the AHESP to improve energy efficiency in their facilities so they can save money and become more sustainable.

Alberta Environment and Parks

Alberta Environment and Parks has no further input beyond the responses from Alberta Seniors and Housing and Alberta Treasury Board and Finance.

Alberta Energy

Alberta Environment and Parks has no further input beyond the responses from Alberta Seniors and Housing and Alberta Treasury Board and Finance.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The response provided by the Government of Alberta outlines some important supports provided to seniors and seniors housing facilities to offset the financial burden of the Alberta Carbon Levy. Although housing bodies will

continue to pay the Carbon Levy, the provincial funding provided through the Affordable Housing Energy Savings Program (AHESP) fulfills the second request of this resolution by providing capital funds to allow for the installation of energy efficient infrastructure in regulated housing facilities. The resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Part**.

Several RMA members have also expressed concerns with seniors lodge residents being issued carbon levy rebates due to their income levels despite the fact that they are not responsible for paying for lodge utilities such as heat and electricity. Were the rebates provided directly to housing management bodies responsible for actually paying the carbon levy on lodge utility bills, the increased costs associated with the levy would be at least partially offset. RMA will advocate on this approach as well.

Resolution 10-18S

Tenure Extension Requirements for Unconventional Development

MD of Greenview

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Energy, Alberta Energy Regulator**

WHEREAS the Mines and Minerals Act and associated regulations are the authority for administration and regulatory procedure regarding tenure and tenure extension; and

WHEREAS the draft Water Conservation Policy for Upstream Oil and Gas is an update of the Water Conservation and Allocation Policy for Oilfield Injection (2006) and places a greater emphasis on the use of alternative water sources such as industrial or municipal wastewater and impaired quality ground water, and is extended to oil sands mining, conventional enhanced recovery, and hydraulic fracturing water use; and

WHEREAS the Alberta Energy Regulator initiated a multi-stakeholder panel in the Area-Based Regulation Pilot Project in the M.D of Greenview, which examined the draft Water Conservation Policy for Upstream Oil and Gas and presented 23 consensus recommendations for improving the use of alternate sources of water and supporting the implementation of the policy; and

WHEREAS the draft Caribou Range Plan requires industry to engage in integrated land management to reduce the environmental impacts and fragmentation of landscape through regional access plans, multi-use corridors, and phased restoration to in the protection of caribou and restoration of caribou habitat; and

WHEREAS the federal Species at Risk Act will require similar actions to protect and restore other threatened and endangered species across the province; and

WHEREAS the current tenure process encourages the fracturing of the landscape and reduces orderly development of energy resources as industry is focused on planning activities around maintaining tenure; and

WHEREAS industry and municipalities support actions to reduce ecological footprint and environmental impacts, and seek to protect endangered species in Alberta through compliance with provincial and federal legislation and regulation, while maintaining and enhancing economic prosperity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) requests the Government of Alberta review and examine tenure extension requirements for unconventional resource development, removing the need for industry to plan activities around securing tenure, and thereby allowing more orderly development and reduced impact on the environment.

Government Response

Alberta Energy

The province owns 81 per cent of the mineral resources in the province, which includes unconventional oil and gas resources. Alberta Energy (AE) manages these publicly owned resources on behalf of, and for the benefit of, all Albertans.

Alberta's open and competitive petroleum and natural gas tenure system, which includes unconventional oil and gas, is the foundation of the successful energy industry in our province. AE continues its work to optimize the value of oil and gas resources for Albertans. This includes supporting the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) with policies that enhance unconventional oil and gas production.

The system is designed to ensure equitable treatment for all operators regardless of size or asset focus, as well as to maximize revenue to Albertans as the resource owners. The tenure system ensures that, in alignment with provincial policies, resources are available at the time an operator is willing and able to develop them. This helps discourage speculative behaviour by operators and ensures Alberta's petroleum and natural gas resources are developed.

AE firmly supports achieving the province's economic, environmental, and social outcomes for Alberta's landscape, and these outcomes are being considered together in many government initiatives, such as regional planning and caribou range plans. AE has and will continue to responsibly administer the petroleum and natural gas tenure system, on behalf of Albertans, to achieve Alberta's economic, environmental, and social outcomes.

Alberta Energy Regulator

The AER reviews all applications it receives to ensure energy development is safe, environmentally responsible, and meets all requirements associated with the application. The AER is responsible for issuing licenses to drill wells and recover energy resources only after companies have acquired a site's mineral rights from Alberta Energy.

The AER has also made significant progress on a number of recommendations from the pilot it conducted between August 2016 and June 2017 to test the area-based regulation approach.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The Government of Alberta's response indicates some progress made from the from the area-based regulation pilot project that occurred in the MD of Greenview, but the intent of the resolution is not addressed through the pilot or other means, as the tenure system remains the same. This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met** and the RMA will continue to work with the Government of Alberta to fulfill the intent of this resolution.

Resolution 11-18S Recycling of Solar Panels

MD of Foothills

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy**

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has deemed it to be in the best interests of its citizens to create recycling programs for items such as tires, plastic containers, electronics, etc. and

WHEREAS solar panels are now reaching a point where replacement is required; and

WHEREAS the materials and elements used in the construction of solar panels can be hazardous or could be recycled but at a significant cost;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request that the Government of Alberta expand existing recycling programs to include solar panels (photovoltaic modules).

Government Response

Alberta Environment and Parks

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) recognizes the value of renewable energy and the role that solar panels can play in any renewable strategy. The ministry also understands that solar panels have a long but finite life, and there may be value in their component parts.

The GoA would be interested in receiving more information on the subject, as a starting point. While there is no plan at this time for a regulated provincial recycling program for solar panels, there may be an opportunity to discuss waste management of this material through existing government efforts.

The ministry would welcome any further information the Rural Municipalities of Alberta has that could help to inform future policy on the issue.

Alberta Energy

Alberta Energy has no further input beyond the response from AEP.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The majority of solar panels operate with a 25- to 30-year lifespan, and many of the systems installed since solar energy became financially viable are still in operation. This has meant that the recycling of solar panels has not yet become a widespread issue. However, there will be a time in the near future when an economic and pragmatic approach to solar panel recycling is needed.

RMA is interested in seeing proper end-of-life management programs developed for a wide range of materials used commonly in the province, including solar panels. RMA is awaiting a review of Alberta's recycling program, and hopes that solar panel recycling will be considered within that review. At the current time, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 12-18S

Victim Services Units Funding

Northern Sunrise County

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Justice and Solicitor General**

WHEREAS the Report of the Auditor General of Alberta, dated February 2016, provides information regarding the lack of a plan to appropriately and productively use the growing accumulated surplus of the Victims of Crime Fund to best meet the needs of Albertans as intended by the Victims of Crime Act and;

WHEREAS provincial victim services units are established to provide support programs for individuals who have suffered as a result of violent crimes; and

WHEREAS victim services units must request additional funding from the rural municipalities in their borders to subsidize the amount received from the Government of Alberta; and

WHEREAS volunteers, while widely used and appreciated, are not able to provide the level and scope of service that victims need at all times of the day or night;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) lobby the Government of Alberta to use the monies from the Victims of Crime Fund to adequately fund provincial victim services units so they can provide the staffing levels required to assist victims of crime.

Government Response

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General understands the Rural Municipalities of Alberta concern regarding the management and usage of the Victims of Crime Fund. A 2016 Auditor General report outlined a need for strategic planning and measurable targets in order to appropriately and productively use the Victims of Crime Fund.

The ministry worked with the Alberta Police Based Victim Services Association to address gaps in services, and develop an strategic action plan to better support victims. In October, 2018, the Government of Alberta announced an additional \$4.5 million in available money from the Victims of Crime Fund would go towards improving the scope and quality of programs for victims of crime in five key areas. The increase in available funding will go towards police-based victim services units, support for domestic violence survivors, help for victims in court, restorative justice initiatives and expanding outreach services for Indigenous victims.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The Government of Alberta response indicates action to divert greater amounts from the Victims of Crime Fund to support victim services units. More specifically, the Government of Alberta has increased the maximum annual funding that victim services units in Alberta's large urban centers can access, as maximum amounts will increase from \$300,000 to \$500,000 in Edmonton and Calgary, and from

\$150,000 to \$300,000 in Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (which had already been temporarily increased to \$265,000 due to wildfires in 2016). While this is a positive development, the maximum annual funding amount for all other victim services units appears to have remained at \$150,000. As some rural areas in Alberta are experiencing extremely high crime rates, and victim services unit funding is based on an allocation formula that takes into consideration local crime rates, RMA believes that the maximum potential annual funding amount should be increased for all victim services units to allow for consistent access to funding across the province, as crime rates do not necessarily align with population.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part**, and will continue to advocate on this issue.

Section 2: Advocacy Report Card

The following table is a summary of RMA’s current resolutions excluding the resolutions adopted in spring 2018, which are detailed in Section 1. Recent developments on the resolutions are detailed below in the corresponding categories, and readers are reminded that although resolution statuses may remain unchanged, work on each resolution is ongoing. Each resolution has a three-year lifespan to reflect the nature of shifting government policy development and timelines associated with legislative changes and implementation.

Resolutions at a Glance

#	RESOLUTION TITLE	STATUS
AGRICULTURE		
8-17F	Provincial Communications Plan for Farm Workplace Legislation	Accepted
ER2-17F	Continued Provincial Funding Support for Agriculture Service Boards and Agricultural Societies	Accepted
7-17S	Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Prevalent in Bison Within and Surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park	Intent Not Met
5-16S	Agricultural Opportunity Fund for Agricultural Research and Forage Associations	Intent Not Met
10-16S	Genetically Modified Alfalfa	Intent Not Met
COMMUNITY SERVICES		
3-17S	National Broadband Strategy	Accepted in Part
10-17S	Modernization of Alberta Registry Agents	Accepted in Part
11-16F	Stakeholder Participation in the Future of the Alberta SuperNet	Intent Not Met
22-16F	Security of Canada Post Community and Super Mailboxes	Accepted in Principle
11-16S	Provincial Funding for Municipal Public Libraries and Regional Library Systems	Accepted
EDUCATION		
12-16S	Provincial Funding for School Resource Officers	Intent Not Met

#	RESOLUTION TITLE	STATUS
EMERGENCY SERVICES		
12-17F	Specialized Clinical Counselling and Therapy for Distressed Emergency First Responders	Accepted in Principle
18-17F	Integrate Emergency Social Services into Emergency Management at Provincial Level	Accepted
12-16F	Wildland Fire Fighting Costs	Intent Not Met
18-16F	Provincial Responsibility for Fire Costs on Occupied Public Lands	Intent Not Met
8-16S	Provincial Funding for Regional Air Ambulance Services	Intent Not Met
ENERGY		
5-17F	Alberta Energy Regulator – Amendment to Transfer Approval Process	Intent Not Met
10-17F	Provincial Industry-led Methane Flaring Strategy	Intent Not Met
6-17F	Financial Support from AAMDC for Appeal of Virginia Hills/Dolomite Decision	Accepted
5-17S	Secure Access to Natural Gas Pipelines	Intent Not Met
5-16F	Continued Operation of Coal-fired Power Generation Plants	Intent Not Met
13-16F	Northern Gateway Pipelines Support	Intent Not Met
19-16F	Support for Multi-Stakeholder Task Force to Explore Value-Added Oil and Gas Opportunities	Accepted in Principle
ER2-16S	Support for the Energy East Pipeline Project	Accepted
ENVIRONMENT		
2-17F	Completion of Alberta’s Land-use Framework Prior to Establishment of Conservation and Protected Areas for Species at Risk	Accepted in Principle
3-17F	Municipal Action on Caribou Recovery Planning	Intent Not Met
4-17F	Water Act Approvals for Municipal Projects on Municipal Land	Intent Not Met
1-17S	Carbon Levy Exemption of Natural Gas and Propane for All Food Production Uses	Intent Not Met

#	RESOLUTION TITLE	STATUS
6-17S	Addendum to the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>	Incomplete Information
9-17S	Legal Opinion for Species at Risk Proposed Policies	Accepted in Principle
1-16F	Alberta Environment Approvals for Construction Projects	Accepted in Principle
2-16F	Exemption of Municipalities from Carbon Levy	Intent Not Met
6-16F	Carbon Levy Exemption on Natural Gas and Propane Used for Agricultural Operations	Intent Not Met
15-16F	Species at Risk and the Need for an Overall Socio-Economic Impact Assessment	Accepted in Principle
7-16S	Wildlife Damage Compensation Program	Accepted in Principle
HEALTH & SENIORS		
14-17F	<i>Cannabis Act</i>	Intent Not Met
ER1-16S	Rural Physician Action Plan Funding	Accepted
INDUSTRY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT		
ER1-17F	Support for Trans Mountain Expansion Project	Accepted in Part
10-16F	Funding Model for Sand and Aggregate Pit Reclamation	Intent Not Met
14-16F	Conservation and Reclamation of Class 1 Gravel Pits	Accepted in Principle
MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE		
1-17F	Centralization of Industrial Properties Assessment	Intent Not Met
2-17S	Amendments to Section 348 of the <i>Municipal Government Act</i>	Intent Not Met
4-17S	Collection of Outstanding Taxes for Education Requisitions From the Province of Alberta	Accepted
8-17S	Oldman River Regional Services Commission Regional Planning Funding	Intent Not Met

#	RESOLUTION TITLE	STATUS
3-16F	Implementation of the Centralized Industrial Property Assessment	Intent Not Met
4-16F	Centralized Industrial Assessment	Intent Not Met
17-16F	Capital Region Board Mandate Expansion	Intent Not Met
23-16F	List of Municipal Electors	Intent Not Met
1-16S	Preservation of Linear Assessment for Rural Municipalities	Accepted
2-16S	Notice Period for Adjustments to Linear Assessment Modifiers	Intent Not Met
3-16S	Recovery of Linear Property, Commercial Property, and Education Requisition Tax Arrears	Accepted in Part

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

19-17F	Builder Licensing Program Impacts	Intent Not Met
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TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

11-17S	Review of Standard Practices for Installation of High Tension Cable Barriers on Two-Lane Provincial Highways	Intent Not Met
7-16F	Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways	Accepted in Part
16-16F	Support for Continuation of Crude Oil Tanker Activity Along the Northern Coast of British Columbia	Intent Not Met
6-16S	Creating a Residential Exemption to Roadside Development Permits	Intent Not Met

WATER

There are no active resolutions related to this issue.

OTHER

9-17F	AAMDC Refusal to Engage in Exploratory Discussion to Merge with AUMA	Accepted
13-17F	AAMDC Advisory Committee to Support the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission in Reviewing Charitable Gaming in Alberta	Accepted

#	RESOLUTION TITLE	STATUS
15-17F	Stopping the Implementation of Proposed Federal Tax Reforms	Accepted in Part
ER3-17F	Effective Representation for Rural Albertans in Alberta's Legislative Assembly	Intent Not Met
8-16F	Resolution Process – Frequency of Similar or Duplicate Resolutions	Accepted
20-16F	Casino Opportunities for Charitable Organizations	Accepted in Principle
ER1-16F	Save Vegreville's Case Processing Centre	Intent Not Met
4-16S	Improving Oversight of Delegate Legislation	Intent Not Met

AGRICULTURE

Resolution 8-17F

Provincial Communications Plan for Farm Workplace Legislation

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta develop and implement a communications plan to advise Alberta's agriculture sector of actual and intended changes regarding workplace legislation, with the outcome of establishing increased awareness and effective change management.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates that over the past **several** years, information on changes to farm and ranch workplace legislation, as well as opportunities for stakeholder input into such changes, have occurred through multiple means and have been based on an intent to raise both awareness and understanding of the changes among employers and employees in the farm and ranch sector. The Government of Alberta's communication to producers is evident and though it is unclear if a 'communications plan' as referenced in the resolution was developed, it is clear that a degree of planning was involved to inform those affected by the changes. This resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted**.

Resolution ER2-17F

Continued Provincial Funding Support for Agriculture Service Boards and Agricultural Societies

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties strongly encourage the continued financial support through the Alberta Lottery program or a similar program for agriculture service boards and agricultural societies beyond 2017-2018.

DEVELOPMENTS: As announced at the RMA 2018 Spring Convention, agriculture service boards and agricultural societies will see a three-year funding commitment starting in the provincial budget 2018-19. The budget allotted for 2018-19 is very similar to funding levels in previous years. This resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted**.

Resolution 7-17S

Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Prevalent in Bison Within and Surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties supports the depopulation of diseased bison as the only effective tool to successfully eradicate the threat of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Parks Canada to develop an effective measurable plan to successfully eradicate all diseased bison from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park in order to prevent further disease outbreaks province-wide; that would inevitably have adverse effects for the national, provincial and local domestic cattle and beef industries.

DEVELOPMENTS: This resolution specifically calls for the depopulation of diseased bison to eradicate the threat of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis in the Wood Buffalo National Park area; however, responses from the provincial and federal governments do not indicate support for this level of action. Both the provincial and federal governments do indicate that continued effort is needed to understand the risk of transmission, and note that this will involve consultation and engagement with multiple stakeholders.

Until such time that a formal consultation process is initialized to develop a strategy to address the eradication of diseased bison from the Wood Buffalo National Park area that would prevent further outbreaks, this resolution holds a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 5-16S

Agricultural Opportunity Fund for Agricultural Research and Forage Associations

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request Alberta Agriculture and Forestry reinstate the 2014 Agricultural Opportunity Fund increase that was allocated for the agricultural research and forage associations.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response is somewhat unclear as it indicates that AOF funding was rescinded to \$1.95 million in 2015/16 but was supplemented with “special funding” to provide a total of \$3.95 million. Budget 2018-19 does not include any reference to the Agricultural Opportunity Fund, nor any reference to funding provided for agricultural research and forage associations. This resolution continues to hold a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 10-16S

Genetically Modified Alfalfa

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency work with Alberta's agricultural service boards, marketing groups, Forage Genetics Canada and other relevant stakeholders to prevent the introduction of genetically modified/engineered alfalfa to the province of Alberta until there is a marketplace and consumer acceptance in Alberta's export markets including China, Japan, the European Union, and the Middle East.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta deferred responsibility on this issue to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). In response to this resolution, the CFIA indicates that environmental safety assessments take into account the potential of the plant to become an agriculture weed or to be invasive of natural habitats; the potential consequences of gene flow to other plants; the potential to increase the activity of a plant pest; and the potential impact on non-target organisms and biodiversity.

CFIA notes that Roundup Ready (RR) (glyphosate tolerant) alfalfa was authorized in 2005, and alfalfa with reduced lignin was authorized in 2014 after undergoing safety assessments by the CFIA and Health Canada. The response from CFIA also explains that before varieties of alfalfa can be fully commercialized in Canada, they are subject to variety registration to ensure that varieties sold meet the definition of a variety and are accurately represented in the market; facilitate the seed certification process; provide tracking and tracing in commercial channels; and help ensure varietal identity and purity in the market. Proceeding with variety registration is a business decision that rests with the applicant.

In 2013, five RR alfalfa varieties were registered in Canada and in 2016, an alfalfa variety with both the glyphosate tolerance and reduced lignin traits was registered. Once a GM crop has been authorized for environmental release and obtained other appropriate regulatory approvals, including variety registration where applicable, it is considered to be like any other commodity crop.

The CFIA response emphasizes that the Government of Canada believes that the industry itself is best positioned to make decisions regarding plans to commercialize GM alfalfa in Canada and to implement stewardship programs to facilitate the coexistence of GM alfalfa with conventional types. Further, the response emphasizes that the Government of Canada believes that producers should have choice in selecting the agricultural practices, products and technologies that offer them the most benefits, both economic and environmental.

As the response from CFIA does not express any interest in preventing the introduction of genetically modified or engineered alfalfa, this resolution has been assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Resolution 3-17S

National Broadband Strategy

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) request that the governments of Alberta and Canada declare broadband an essential service; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request that the governments of Alberta and Canada provide direct funding and support to rural, remote and northern communities to ensure affordable access to, or the development of, high speed (100 Mbps and faster) community network infrastructure; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC urge the Government of Canada to develop a national broadband strategy; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that rural municipalities, internet service providers, education and health professionals, public safety organizations, and research and economic development authorities be actively involved in preparing the National Broadband Strategy.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates broad support of the resolution's call for increased action on the part of government and industry in enhancing rural broadband availability and quality. RMA is pleased with the direction that the Government of Alberta has taken to this point in prioritizing rural final mile connectivity in their development of a new SuperNet operating agreement. The Government of Alberta is currently in the process of developing a rural broadband strategy, and has convened an inter-ministerial working group to do so. In early 2018, RMA assisted Service Alberta in promoting a survey to members to gather baseline information on rural broadband service delivery. In the fall of 2018, Service Alberta gathered feedback from the RMA Board of Directors on the broadband strategy, including the strategy's scope, implementation, oversight, and priority areas. Service Alberta also provide an update on the strategy to RMA members at the Fall 2018 RMA Convention. Service Alberta has indicated that formal information on the strategy will be released in early 2019.

At the federal level, RMA is pleased with the 2016 Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) policy that declared broadband as a basic telecommunications service, which is the telecommunications equivalent of an essential service, and empowers the CRTC to implement programs, policies, regulations and initiatives to improve broadband in underserved areas. One such initiative being undertaken in relation to the basic service declaration is a \$750 million fund to enhance broadband in rural areas, to be funded by industry. CRTC released details on the fund in fall 2018, and expects to begin accepting applications in 2019.

A second aspect of the CRTC's declaration of broadband as a basic service was to increase the threshold for underserved areas from those with service below 5mbps download / 1mbps upload to 50mbps download / 10mbps upload. In their 2018 budget, the Government of Canada also announced that \$100 million over five years has been dedicated to the Strategic Innovation Fund, will mainly be used to advanced low earth orbit satellite technology to improve broadband service in rural and remote communities.

In October 2018, the Government of Canada, in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, announced their intent to develop a national broadband strategy that will focus on providing high-speed broadband to rural and remote communities across Canada. The federal and provincial/territorial governments also committed to collaborating with one another, industry, municipalities, public institutions and Indigenous communities to develop that strategy. Although this announcement is encouraging, no details are available related to who lead the strategy development, timelines, cost, or other information.

Despite the positive progress made recently by the provincial and federal governments related to enhancing rural broadband, there is no indication as to when a national strategy will be completed, or ever when work will begin. Therefore, this resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Part** due to the federal declaration of broadband as a basic telecommunications service and the Government of Canada's willingness to pursue a broadband strategy, both of which meets the intent of part of the resolution.

Resolution 10-17S

Modernization of Alberta Registry Agents

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta recognize the vital role of Alberta registry agents in the delivery of essential government services to all Albertans; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta recognize the positive impact in rural Alberta communities, and work to strengthen their partnership with the Association of Alberta Registry Agents and local municipalities by:

- **Supporting the modernization of the registry agent industry;**
- **Expanding existing online services directly to Albertans through registry agents; and**
- **Ensuring the long-term sustainability of rural registry agents, including a fair and equitable fee model.**

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response includes recognition of the vital role that registry agents play in supporting the quality of life of Albertans.

RMA appreciates the Government of Alberta's prioritization of maintaining access to in-person registry services during any modernization process. In a March 2018 meeting with RMA, the Minister of Service Alberta explained that from the Government of Alberta's perspective, the

resolution's request to allow specific registry agents to provide online services was impractical and would lead to prohibitively high registry fees. According to the Minister, the current system in which online services are centrally managed by the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Association of Registry Agents is the system best-suited to support the sustainability of independent registry agents in providing in-person services, while keeping registry fees manageable for Albertans.

This resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Part**, and RMA will continue to advocate on this issue.

Resolution 11-16F

Stakeholder Participation in the Future of the Alberta SuperNet

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta to establish a multi-stakeholder advisory committee to participate in a review of the existing agreement which expires on June 30, 2018 and make recommendations for the new agreement that would be effective July 1, 2018.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta's response indicates that they are not able to form a formal multi-stakeholder working group to inform the development of a new SuperNet operating agreement, mainly due to time constraints and the pace at which the process is moving. RMA appreciates the willingness with which Service Alberta has shared information related to the new operating agreement, as well as the consideration that Service Alberta has shown for the importance of improving rural broadband access. RMA hopes that this recognition is reflected in the new operating agreement. Despite the positive relationship that RMA has with Service Alberta related to the SuperNet, it is disappointing that a working group that more directly integrates the perspectives of individual rural municipalities cannot be formed to better inform the process. RMA has been informed that Service Alberta is planning to develop a working group in 2019 to guide the implementation of the province-wide broadband strategy, and that the working group will likely involve RMA or rural municipal representation.

This resolution is assigned the status of **Intent Not Met**, although RMA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with Service Alberta on this matter, through the broadband strategy working group and other means.

Resolution 22-16F

Security of Canada Post Community and Super Mailboxes

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that Canada Post work to increase efforts to enhance the security of community and super mailboxes including siting them in open and plainly visible locations in consultation with municipalities,

increasing their ability to resist break-in attempts, and implementing a strategy to reduce illegal access and theft of mail from Community and Super Mailboxes.

DEVELOPMENTS: Canada Post's response indicates an intent to take action on relocating mailboxes, installing new, more secure mailboxes, and retrofitting existing mail boxes to increase their security and resistance to break-ins and tampering. The response also provides examples of current community engagement actions being taken by Canada Post to work with local law enforcement in Alberta.

RMA is pleased with the planned activities and will follow up with Canada Post in the future to confirm that they are completed and to determine their effectiveness in preventing mail theft. At this point, this resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Principle**.

Resolution 11-16S

Provincial Funding for Municipal Public Libraries and Regional Library Systems

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta increase its funding for public libraries and regional library systems.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates an increase to library funding in the previous budget year as well as a smaller increase in the 2016/17 budget targeted to improve library services to on-reserve and on-settlement Indigenous populations at public libraries. While this contribution is appreciated, its specific nature may not address broader operating challenges faced by rural libraries and regional library systems.

The Budget 2017 Capital Plan includes \$11 million dedicated to enhance Alberta's regional library system. This capital contribution was unfortunately not repeated in the 2018 Alberta budget, although operational support for libraries was maintained at a similar level to 2017. As a result of the 2017 capital funding influx, this resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted** and will continue to be reviewed in future provincial budgets.

EDUCATION

Resolution 12-16S

Provincial Funding for School Resource Officers

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to provide dedicated funding for school resource officers in rural area schools for the benefit of families and communities.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta’s response indicates that providing school resource officers is a local school board decision for which existing provincial funding can be used. While RMA appreciates the Government of Alberta’s commitment to supporting local autonomy in relation to decisions on how provincial funding resources are allocated, rural school boards often struggle to fund core services and therefore, rely on cooperative agreements to provide school resource officers. Dedicated provincial funding would support the consistent presence of school resource officers in schools of all sizes across the province, and ultimately make for safer and more inclusive schools. As no dedicated funding was provided in Budget 2017 to support school resource officers in rural areas, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**, and RMA will continue to advocate on this issue.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Resolution 12-17F

Specialized Clinical Counselling and Therapy for Distressed Emergency First Responders

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties strongly encourages the Government of Alberta to create and staff a governmental unit capable of providing specialized clinical counselling and therapy for distressed emergency first responders capable of servicing and travelling to all regions of the Province.

DEVELOPMENTS: The overall Government of Alberta response indicates a wide range of existing preventative and post-incident mental health support systems for emergency first responders, as well as ongoing activities to enhance and broaden such services in the wake of first responders' roles in responding to recent natural disasters in Alberta.

The Alberta Health response indicates a current initiative to deliver regional reintegration training for paramedics suffering psychological injuries with the goal of supporting their return to work. Similarly, the Alberta Municipal Affairs response indicates an effort to improve the coordination and accessibility of multiple separate programs supporting the mental health of first responders. These examples both align with the intent of the resolution, which is to centralize mental health supports for first responders under a single "governmental unit" with the capability to provide such services in all regions of the province. RMA is also pleased by the Government of Alberta's December 2018 announcement of an emergency medical services (EMS) action plan, which includes one million dollars in funding to support the mental health of EMS workers.

RMA appreciates the efforts of the Government of Alberta in supporting the mental health of first responders. As the government response reflects elements of the centralized, mobile unit requested in the operative clause, this resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Principle**, and RMA will follow up with Alberta Health and Municipal Affairs to determine whether the changes references will meaningfully improve the integration and mobility of first responder mental health support services.

Resolution 18-17F

Integrate Emergency Social Services into Emergency Management at Provincial Level

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to consolidate emergency social services and emergency management into a single government ministry with a single emergency coordination centre to eliminate duplication and enhance coordination of provincial support to local authorities.

DEVELOPMENTS: The government response indicates that in response to challenges responding to disasters in 2013 and 2016, the Government of Alberta has recently integrated emergency social services into the broader Provincial Operations Centre to better coordinate immediate emergency management with the provision of emergency social services. Based on this response, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted**.

Additionally, RMA is pleased by the Government of Alberta's announcement of integration of Alberta Emergency Alert with a new national emergency alert system, which will further improve the efficiency by which first responders and the public can become aware of emergency situations.

Resolution 12-16F Wildland Fire Fighting Costs

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to enter into mutual aid agreements with municipalities outside of the Forest Protection Area that do not involve a fee for service for provincially-controlled and paid-for wildland fire fighting resources.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government response highlights two important programs that municipalities have outside of the Fire Protection Area (FPA) but does indicate that the Minister is not obligated to reimburse costs to municipalities when they incur firefighting related costs from wildfires. Though Mutual Aid Resource Sharing Agreements may be widespread and the Government response indicated that it is standard practice for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to reimburse for wildfire suppression costs outside the FPA, RMA staff have interpreted the intent of the resolution to guarantee that the Government of Alberta enter into mutual aid agreements with municipalities to ensure all costs are properly reimbursed. Though there are programs to support the costs associated with wildfire suppression, the government response does not meet this intent and therefore, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 18-16F Provincial Responsibility for Fire Costs on Occupied Public Lands

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta amend Section 8 of the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* by including occupied public lands to enable the reimbursement of firefighting costs on those lands.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates that because existing mechanisms allow municipalities to apply for partial reimbursement of wildfire suppression costs on occupied lands through the Municipal Wildfire Assistance Program, a change to the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* is not necessary. RMA is concerned that this program does not guarantee

municipalities reimbursement, and only reimburses up to 75% of their costs. As the resolution requests an amendment to the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* to provide municipalities with assurances that they will have these costs reimbursed, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 8-16S

Provincial Funding for Regional Air Ambulance Services

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta provide funds to local and regionally operated emergency response air ambulance services at the same ratio as Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS) funding.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta's response and continued inequity in funding for these services fails to address the request for equitable funding ratios between STARS and other air ambulance services, as STARS receives funding from the Government of Alberta sufficient to cover 20% of its operating costs, while other air ambulance providers such as HALO are compensated only based on individual dispatches, and rely on municipal contributions and private donations to cover ongoing operating expenses. This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met** and RMA will continue to advocate on this issue.

ENERGY

Resolution 5-17F

Alberta Energy Regulator – Amendment to Transfer Approval Process

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) requests the Government of Alberta amend the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*, and other provincial legislation, regulations and policies, including AER Directive 006: Licensee Liability Rating (LLR) Program and Licence Transfer Process to:

- broaden the tax recovery power of municipalities to collect linear property taxes, Alberta housing foundation requisitions and Alberta school requisitions owing on oil and gas operations, and
- provide the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) the ability to include municipal tax compliance as part of the specified list of AER requirements before license transfers will be considered;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request that Alberta Energy direct the AER that prior to refunding any security deposits, check with all municipalities in which the company requesting the refund had leases in, to ensure property taxes are current.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA appreciates the recognition and the multiple steps being taken by the Government of Alberta to address the challenges faced by municipalities as a result of oil and gas operators who are have not payed property taxes. At this moment, however, there has been only limited improvements for municipalities through the Provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) program which only applies to the education property tax portion of the unpaid linear oil and gas property taxes. Until the amendments listed in the resolution are made, or more substantial improvements to the overall liability management system are provided, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 6-17F

Financial Support from AAMDC for Appeal of Virginia Hills/Dolomite Decision

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, through financial resources, support Northern Sunrise County in the legal fees associated with this appeal in an act of solidarity as the overruling of this case is imperative for all municipalities that are owed taxes and outstanding penalties from insolvent organization.

DEVELOPMENTS: Through RMA's *Involvement in Member Legal Matters* policy, RMA provided financial support to Northern Sunrise County to appeal the court ruling referenced in this resolution. As such, this resolution is assigned the status of **Accepted**.

Resolution 10-17F

Provincial Industry-led Methane Flaring Strategy

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties advocate to the Government of Alberta to permit an industry-led approach to a reduction in methane emissions.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA recognizes the significance of methane as a greenhouse gas and the need to reduce methane emissions. RMA appreciates the Government of Alberta's response which highlights that the targets outlined by the Government of Alberta will be met in a manner that imposes the lowest cost on industry. RMA is also encouraged that the formulation of the emissions reduction requirements are supported by industry representatives; however, the intent of the resolution requests that an "industry-led approach" be used to develop the methane emissions reduction requirements, which is not considered in the government response. As such, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 5-17S

Secure Access to Natural Gas Pipelines

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, in conjunction with the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops and Gas Alberta, request the governments of Canada and Alberta to develop legislation and provide financial assistance to maintain certainty of access to natural gas pipelines for rural municipalities and gas co-ops in Alberta.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA recognizes the on-going funding to support the Rural Gas Program and although the Government of Alberta has challenged Gas Alberta and the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops to identify alternative funding options on the decommissioning of transmission pipelines, the response lacks commitments of additional funding or legislative changes. As such, the resolution is deemed **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 5-16F

Continued Operation of Coal-fired Power Generation Plants

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties requests the Government of Alberta to allow the continued operation of coal fired power generation plants while encouraging the coal industry and the electricity producers to explore alternate methods of utilizing coal for power generation and alternate uses for coal.

DEVELOPMENTS: The response from the Government of Alberta indicates that the transition away from coal fired power generation will continue forward as outlined in the Alberta Climate Leadership Plan. Though electricity generating companies are exploring the opportunity to convert existing coal fired units to natural gas, the extent to which this occurs is unclear and ultimately up to the electricity generating companies to decide. Even if this does occur, it is unclear how this will impact those communities that currently rely on coal fired electricity generation for employment and the tax base. Although the phase out of these facilities will continue over the next 12 years and impact will not be fully known until after that time. In the interim, the Coal Community Transition Fund has been created to support 12 projects in 17 communities across the province. The total funding is approximately \$5 million and will cover projects such as: strategic planning, tourism development, feasibility studies, and work to expand agribusiness, transportation, and high-tech industries. An additional \$50 million is being dedicated to areas impacted by the phase-out of coal fired power through the Community Generation Program announced in November 2018. However, the Government of Alberta's response does not satisfy the intent of the resolution and therefore, it has been assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 13-16F

Northern Gateway Pipelines Support

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties advocate to the Government of Canada in support of the Northern Gateway Project and market access; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties collaborate with the Government of Alberta and other municipal associations to request that the Government of Canada conduct new consultations with Indigenous communities along the pipeline route prior to approving or denying the Northern Gateway Project; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties collaborate with the Government of Alberta and other municipal associations emphasizing the local, provincial, and national benefits that the Northern Gateway Project would provide and encourage support for the Project to be shared publicly.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA appreciates the Government of Alberta's response to this resolution, particularly their recognition of the importance of pipelines to support market access for Alberta's oil and gas industry. Unfortunately, as the government response indicates, the Government of Canada exercised their jurisdiction and directed the National Energy Board to dismiss the Northern Gateway Pipeline project application. Although the Government of Alberta's response is appreciated and an encouraging sign for future collaborative advocacy efforts related to market access, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met** due to the Government of Canada's decision.

Resolution 19-16F

Support for Multi-Stakeholder Task Force to explore Value-Added Oil and Gas Opportunities

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to create a multi-stakeholder task force composed of representatives from industry, academia, non-governmental organizations, Indigenous communities, municipal government, the provincial government and the public no later than April 1, 2017 to make recommendations on how to grow and enhance value-added development in the oil and gas sector.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates a strong interest in prioritizing value-added opportunities associated with Alberta's energy sector. As it relates to the intent of the resolution, the formation of the Energy Diversification Advisory Committee (EDAC) appears to be an encouraging step towards embracing a multi-stakeholder approach to diversifying Alberta's oil energy industry. Through a report titled *Diversification, Not Decline: Adapting to the new energy reality*, the committee provided 36 recommendations to the Government of Alberta in the fall of 2017. Subsequently the Government of Alberta accepted the advice and proceeded to introduce Bill 1: The *Energy Diversification Act* to the Legislature on March 8, 2018. The Act outlines support for partial upgrading technologies to help attain more value from energy sources, the second round of the Petrochemicals Diversification Program, and petrochemical feedstock infrastructure. For this reason, RMA has assigned this resolution a status of **Accepted in Principle**.

Resolution ER2-16S

Support for the Energy East Pipeline Project

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties demonstrate their support for the Energy East pipeline and inform the National Energy Board of this support;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties collaborate with the Government of Alberta and other municipal associations to emphasize the local, provincial, and national benefits that the Energy East pipeline would provide.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA and the Government of Alberta supported the Energy East Pipeline through various channels. For example, the RMA brought this issue to the attention of municipal counterparts in other provinces as well as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The Government of Alberta has also been an advocate of greater market access. In October 2017, TransCanada Corporation announced it would no longer be proceeding with its proposed Energy East Pipeline. Although the Energy East Pipeline is not proceeding forward, the RMA has fulfilled

the intent of this resolution and will continue to advocate for greater market access for Alberta's resources. This resolution is assigned the status of **Accepted**.

ENVIRONMENT

Resolution 2-17F

Completion of Alberta's Land-use Framework Prior to Establishment of Conservation and Protected Areas for Species at Risk

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties requests that no additional conservation or protected areas be established, proposed or expanded in Alberta prior to the implementation of the remaining regional land-use plans.

DEVELOPMENTS: The regional planning process under the Land-use Framework has been slowed considerably and Alberta remains without regional plans in areas of significant future development.

As noted in the response from the Government of Alberta, the Government of Canada has mandated the creation of caribou range plans – a process which is complicated by the lack of a regional plan in north western Alberta. This process has involved numerous consultations and recently, in March 2018, the Government of Alberta suspended the creation of caribou protection plans and requested additional assistance from the Government of Canada to identify the socio-economic impacts of such plans.

This resolution speaks directly to the concerns of rural municipalities and the creation of conservation areas to protect caribou. Since the province has suspended this process in favour of a greater understanding of the impacts that future restrictions on development may have on local communities, this resolution is assigned a status **Accepted in Principle**. However, RMA is monitoring the proposed designation of several provincial parks and wildland parks in the Bighorn region, and how they may impact the expansion of protected areas. The proposal is currently in the consultation phase, and this resolution will be re-visited based on how the proposal proceeds.

Resolution 3-17F

Municipal Action on Caribou Recovery Planning

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties proactively lead inter-jurisdictional municipal level caribou population recovery planning across Western Canada.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA has not undertaken inter-jurisdictional municipal level caribou population recovery across western Canada. RMA has, however, advocated member concerns on this issue and in March 2018, the Government of Alberta suspended the creation of caribou protection

plans and requested additional assistance from the Government of Canada to identify the socio-economic impacts of such plans. RMA considers this an important step to recognize RMA member concerns.

This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 4-17F

Water Act Approvals for Municipal Projects on Municipal Land

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to relax the requirement for formal approvals on all road construction on municipal right of ways less than 40 metres wide and consider alternate strategies for protecting water resources.

DEVELOPMENTS: Though the response from the Government of Alberta recognizes the challenges faced by municipalities who are subject to relatively short construction seasons and extensive infrastructure networks, the response does not indicate any change in process or regulation to the extent outlined in the resolution. This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 1-17S

Carbon Levy Exemption of Natural Gas and Propane for All Food Production Uses

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties appeal to the Government of Alberta to provide carbon levy exemption certificates for the use of natural gas and propane for all food production uses.

DEVELOPMENTS: Though it is positive that the Government of Alberta has indicated in its response that multiple ministries and the Alberta Climate Change Office are exploring alternative solutions to address concerns regarding the carbon levy that have been identified by the RMA, there is no indication that exemption certificates will be issued as requested in this resolution. The RMA's Climate Change Advisory Committee recognized the benefit that Alberta's agricultural lands serves as a carbon sink, and supports the need for continued advocacy for an exemption from the carbon levy on natural gas and propane used for food production. Due to the lack of commitment by the Government of Alberta in moving this forward, this resolution has been assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**. The RMA will continue to work with the government and monitor any resulting developments related to this issue.

Resolution 6-17S

Addendum to the Species at Risk Act

Status: Incomplete Information

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to request the Government of Canada to amend the *Species at Risk Act* to include an addition to Section 64 of the Act to be entered as 64 (1)(c), to read as follows:

“The Minister(s), before implementing any order, plan, program, or designation that affects any proprietary interest in lands, held by title or leased, by any individual, corporation or entity other than government, shall enter into an agreement to establish the compensation for the loss of interest in those lands including relative legal expenses, or the loss of productivity of those lands, and for greater certainty, no order, plan, program, or designation shall be in force until the agreement is ratified by all parties involved.”; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Government of Alberta reaffirm to the Government of Canada that any action, program, plan, order, or designation contrived by the federal government that affects any lands or properties that are not within the proprietary responsibility of the Government of Canada as set out in Schedule Three of the *Constitution Act 1867*, will have no force or effect and considered ultra-vires to the Supreme Law of Canada as referenced by Section 92.13 *Constitution Act 1867* and assuredly, Section 52 of the *Constitution Act 1983*.

DEVELOPMENTS: To date, there have been no amendments to the *Species at Risk Act* according to public record, in addition to no response from the Government of Canada on this resolution. This resolution has been assigned a status of **Incomplete Information**. The RMA will continue to follow-up on this issue.

Resolution 9-17S

Legal Opinion for Species at Risk Proposed Policies

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) seek a legal opinion on the proposed *Species at Risk Act* policies to determine what effect that the proposed policies will have on municipal operations and the rights and freedoms of rural landowners;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that if the legal opinion determines that the proposed *Species at Risk Act* policies will negatively impact rural landowners, that the AAMDC proceed with further action to work with the provincial and federal government on these proposed policies to demonstrate the social and economic impacts of policy implementation on the rural landscape.

DEVELOPMENTS: To fulfill the first part of this resolution, the RMA hired MLT Aikins to provide a legal opinion on the proposed *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) policies. The legal response identifies

impacts for municipalities and rural landowners in regard to the policies, and RMA members should be aware of the implications some policies may have in regard to land-use planning and infrastructure project decisions. The legal response in its entirety is available on the RMA website.

The second part of the resolution addresses the socio-economic approaches to policy implementation. Recently, the Government of Alberta has delayed development of caribou range plans to further understand the socio-economic implications of such plans. Though it is unclear if this is emblematic of broader change within the province's processes, it is a recognition of the importance of understanding the impacts of SARA policies on local communities.

As the general intent of the resolution has been met, it has been assigned a status of **Accepted in Principle** and the RMA will continue to advocate on the importance of a socio-economic approach to policy implementation, as identified in the legal analysis.

Resolution 1-16F

Alberta Environment and Parks Approvals for Construction Projects

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties requests that consideration be given to safety concerns related to delayed environmental approval processing and supports the creation of a process for municipalities to receive timely approvals from Alberta Environment and Parks with regard to construction projects.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response acknowledges the challenges that municipalities are facing in receiving timely approvals of works related to wetlands. The RMA is encouraged that Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) has identified this as a problem and is in the process of developing an updated regulatory process for road works impacting wetlands which will balance provincial and municipal needs regarding regulatory compliance and timeliness. The Government of Alberta released the *Directive for Permittee-Responsible Wetland Construction in Alberta* and the *Alberta Guide to Wetland Construction in Stormwater Management Facilities* in December 2018 to support policy related to construction activities related to wetlands.

Alberta Environment and Parks has recognized challenges related to delayed approvals, and at the Fall 2018 RMA conference, the Minister identified that AEP is working on an online system to expedite this process. The RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Principle**, and will monitor progress made.

Resolution 2-16F

Exemption of Municipalities from Carbon Levy

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to exempt all municipalities in Alberta from the carbon levy.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates that municipalities will not be provided an exemption from the carbon levy. Although the RMA appreciates the Government of Alberta's willingness to collaborate with municipalities to ensure that programs provided through Energy Efficiency Alberta and other bodies provide benefits to municipalities, there is still a concern that imposing the levy on municipalities will force an increase in municipal taxes and fees to maintain levels of service. The RMA's Climate Change Advisory Committee supported the need for a municipal exemption from the carbon levy, and as such, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

In 2018, the Government of Alberta announced a \$54 million grant to the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre to assist municipalities in climate change mitigation and adaptation programs and strategies.

Resolution 6-16F

Carbon Levy Exemption on Natural Gas and Propane Used for Agricultural Operations

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta amend the *Climate Leadership Implementation Act* to exempt farming operations from the carbon levy on natural gas and propane.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates that natural gas and propane used for agricultural purposes will not be exempted from carbon levy payments. The RMA appreciates the exemptions applied to marked gasoline and diesel for agricultural use, as well as other current and future tools implemented by the Government of Alberta to assist agriculture producers in balancing energy efficiency with operational viability. However, as the response does not indicate a willingness to meet the intent of the resolution, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**. The RMA's Climate Change Advisory Committee explored the impacts of the carbon levy on the agriculture industry and identified the need for continued advocacy for an exemption from the carbon levy on natural gas and propane used for food production. Advocacy on this issue will continue.

Resolution 15-16F

Species at Risk and the Need for an Overall Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties works with the Government of Alberta in a timely fashion, to complete an overall Socio-Economic Impact Assessment based on all the species at risk recovery plans and retention plans currently affecting the operations of all industries in the Province of Alberta, including but not limited to oil and gas, forestry, agriculture, tourism and mineral exploration.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response summarizes the work done to date to develop strategies to comply with the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) as it impacts Alberta's caribou population, and acknowledges that socio-economic impacts of habitat protection formed a component of the recovery planning process. In March 2018, the Government of Alberta delayed the development of caribou range plans to further understand the socio-economic implications of such plans. Though it is unclear if this is emblematic of broader change within the province's processes, it is a recognition of the importance of understand the impacts of SARA policies on local communities. A socio-economic study of caribou recovery plans is currently underway. Therefore, this resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Principle**, and the RMA will continue to monitor the development of the socio-economic study.

Resolution 7-16S

Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) requests Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, and all other relevant government ministries to review the current staffing situation, program administration, budgets and funding source of the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program to ensure its effectiveness; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request the Government of Alberta to compensate producers for confirmed cases of wildlife predation when livestock are missing and wolves, bears or cougars have been observed in area.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta's response indicates that Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) is aware of the weaknesses of the current Wildlife Predator Compensation Program identified in the resolution and are undertaking a program review to address issues related to funding and to proving wildlife predation. The review will involve the participation of other ministries involved in administering the Program. A recently released *Rancher's Guide to Predator Attacks on Livestock* was developed to provide ranchers with information about wolves, bears, cougars and coyotes and the attack characteristics specific to each predator to aid in the

identification of predator incidents to encourage more efficient investigations with Fish and Wildlife officers.

AEP has noted recent successes in reducing wolf predation of cattle on a provincial grazing reserve highlights the value of cooperation with stakeholders and that continued work with the Alberta Beef Producers, grazing reserves, the Waterton Biosphere Association will ensue. This resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Principle**, and the RMA will continue to monitor the issue in upcoming provincial budgets and program review processes.

HEALTH AND SENIORS

Resolution 14-17F

Cannabis Act

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties advocate that the Government of Alberta oppose the legalization of cannabis for recreational use in the Province of Alberta until a complete understanding of the implications that the legalization of cannabis will have on the health of individuals and on community safety is publicly available.

DEVELOPMENTS: While RMA appreciates that the Government of Alberta has conducted extensive public engagement, with input from health, law enforcement and other subject area experts to understand the impacts of cannabis legalization, the fact remains that there are significant gaps in academic, government and industry research efforts related to the impacts of legalized cannabis on public health and community safety. RMA acknowledges that there is a stark difference between understanding concerns from stakeholders and understanding actual implications gleaned from empirical research in communities in which cannabis is legalized. RMA recognizes that this issue is not well researched, however, staff have been actively assisting municipalities in adapting to these changes by providing workshops and information as it becomes available. This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**. RMA will continue to advocate that the Government of Alberta lead social and health impact assessments once cannabis has been legalized.

Resolution ER1-16S

Rural Physician Action Plan Funding

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties advocate that the Government of Alberta maintain the current provincial funding which is being provided to the Rural Physician Action Plan / Health Workforce for Alberta initiative.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates that RPAP will continue to be funded by Alberta Health and will continue to serve its mandate to the benefit for rural Albertans. This message is consistent with information received by the RMA through other advocacy avenues and the RMA would like to thank the RMA members for their direct advocacy on this issue as well.

In 2017, RPAP was renamed the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) and assigned an expanded mandate to support the recruitment and retention of all health professions in rural Alberta. Additionally, the RMA was offered, and accepted, an opportunity to serve on the RhPAP Board of Directors.

This resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted**.

INDUSTRY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Resolution ER1-17F

Support for Trans Mountain Expansion Project

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) urge the Government of Alberta to continue to support the Trans Mountain Expansion Project so it can meet its commitments to delivering jobs and economic benefits and meeting its regulatory requirements during the construction and operation of the pipeline;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC urge the Government of Canada to ensure that all regulatory processes that have been recommended for approval by the NEB and subsequently authorized by the Federal Governor in Council are permitted to proceed;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC urge the Government of Canada to exercise ancillary powers in order to enact the comprehensive regulatory scheme for the Canadian public interest, including the right to timely permitting, thereby enabling the commencement of construction.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta has been a strong supporter of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, and has worked to ensure Alberta's natural resources meet tidewater. Based on both the Government of Alberta's response to this resolution and recent comments from the Premier of Alberta and other provincial ministers, RMA is satisfied that the Government of Alberta is sufficiently supportive of this project.

The National Energy Board (NEB) response indicates that because the matters referenced in the resolution are currently before the NEB for decision, the NEB is unable to provide comment. Additionally, RMA has not yet received a response to this resolution from Natural Resources Canada.

The National Energy Board (NEB) response indicates that because the matters referenced in the resolution are currently before the NEB for decision, the NEB is unable to provide comment. Additionally, RMA is awaiting a response from Natural Resources Canada.

Given that the Government of Alberta's support of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project meets the intent of the first operative clause of the resolution, this resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Part**, and RMA will continue to advocate on this issue at the federal level.

Resolution 10-16F

Funding Model for Sand and Aggregate Pit Reclamation

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties encourage the Government of Alberta, in reviewing the *Community Aggregate Payment Levy Regulation*, to explore opportunities to allocate a portion of future provincial funds received from the

levy towards reclamation of orphaned and abandoned sites, should the current levy amount be adjusted to reflect current conditions and should provincial legislation be revised to better enforce the reclamation of gravel pits.

DEVELOPMENTS: The RMA is pleased by the Government of Alberta’s willingness to improve aggregate management and regulations through the release of the revised *Community Aggregate Payment Levy Regulation*. However, the government has not addressed the possibility of increasing provincial funding to municipalities to address reclamation of abandoned pits. Therefore, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met** and the RMA will continue to advocate on the need for funding to support reclamation of abandoned and orphaned pits.

Resolution 14-16F Conservation and Reclamation of Class 1 Gravel Pits

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta amend the *Code of Practice for Pits* to:

1. include an obligation for timely progressive reclamation including obligation deadlines that are enforceable; and
2. ensure securities reflect liability and provide sufficient incentive for progressive reclamation; and
3. ensure municipal land use and development approvals are obtained prior to the Province issuing pit registrations or accepting changes to existing pit registrations;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta maintain inspection and enforce compliance with the *Conservation and Reclamation Regulations* and the *Code of Practice for Pits*; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta amend the *Code of Practice for Pits* to put into place enforceable reclamation requirements for gravel pits established prior to August 15, 1978 so as to enhance the quality of life and opportunities for rural residents.

DEVELOPMENTS: The RMA appreciates the opportunity to be involved with other stakeholders through the engagement sessions offered by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) to discuss pit reclamation and compliance requirements in early 2017. Recognizing that AEP will be drafting revisions to improve Alberta’s pits program to address compliance and regulatory issues, the RMA assigns this resolution as a status of **Accepted in Principle** pending the results of this review. This resolution will continue to support RMA’s advocacy efforts as revisions to the Code for Practice for Pits are undertaken. This resolution status will be reviewed as additional information becomes available.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Resolution 1-17F

Centralization of Industrial Properties Assessment

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request Alberta Municipal Affairs to delay implementation of the centralization of industrial property assessment until such time as Ministry personnel can procure the appropriate resources to develop valuation standards, regulated assessment rates, undertake and complete impact studies, communicate and collaborate with municipalities so the identified risks to their primary revenue structure can be mitigated throughout the transition and beyond.

DEVELOPMENTS: The centralization of industrial assessment was a significant shift to the *Municipal Government Act* under the most recent review. This change has the potential to disrupt municipal assessment operations and remove established local knowledge of facilities within municipalities. The resolution requests a delay in the implementation of the centralization until "...Ministry personnel can procure the appropriate resources to develop valuation standards, regulated assessment rates, undertake and complete impact studies, communicate and collaborate with municipalities...." Since Alberta Municipal Affairs assumed their new responsibilities as of January 2018 and there was no delay, this resolution's intent has not been fulfilled. RMA will, however, continue to monitor this transition to ensure it meets the needs of municipalities. This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 2-17S

Amendments to Section 348 of the *Municipal Government Act*

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta amend Section 348 of the *Municipal Government Act* to reflect that no Crown lending institutions be allowed to take priority over any claims due to the municipality.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA members have been facing considerable challenges collecting unpaid taxes from property owners. These efforts are further frustrated by the hierarchy of claims that places municipalities at a significant disadvantage to collect unpaid property taxes against other liabilities that the property owner possesses. As indicated in the response from Alberta Municipal Affairs, amendments to Section 348 are not being considered and therefore, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 4-17S

Collection of Outstanding Taxes for Education Requisitions From the Province of Alberta

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta develop new tools or utilize existing mechanisms to ensure that municipalities that are unable to collect education property taxes through the tax recovery process be exempted from forwarding those uncollectible tax amounts to Alberta Education, or have the uncollectible amount refunded.

DEVELOPMENTS: In fall 2017, the Government of Alberta announced the Provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) program, under which municipalities who have no choice but to remit requisitions to the Government of Alberta for unpaid education property taxes on linear oil and gas properties may apply to receive a credit equivalent to the amount of the requisition. PERC is funded through the Alberta School Foundation Fund's net asset fund.

At this point, PERC extends to the 2019 tax year, and is capped at \$10 million per year. As of November 2018, 37 applications had been processed and approximately \$3 million of credits had been issued. Applications are expected to continue to be accepted in 2019 and 2020.

This resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted**, and the RMA will continue to work with the Government of Alberta to support the long-term viability of the PERC program and develop other mechanisms to address unpaid linear property taxes.

Resolution 8-17S

Oldman River Regional Services Commission Regional Planning Funding

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta provide long term, provincial funding to all municipalities for regional planning activities in a similar fashion to the Calgary Regional Partnership and the Capital Region Board.

DEVELOPMENTS: This resolution requests "long term, provincial funding to all municipalities for regional planning activities in a similar fashion to the Calgary Regional Partnership and the Capital Region Board", but as outlined in the response provided from Alberta Municipal Affairs, funding offered through the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant is not provided to meet the operational delivery of municipal services. ACP funding is instead provided to the Growth Management Boards (GMBs) to meet their legislated mandate. Though funding was provided to the Oldman River Regional Services Commission along with other regional planning service providers in 2017, this funding is not long term. ACP funding is available "to partnerships of two or more municipalities to develop or expand regional municipal service delivery," but such funding is not intended to be long-term in nature, but rather to define governance roles and responsibilities related to the partnership.

Given the differences between the GMBs and other planning bodies in the province, it is difficult to draw direct comparisons but given the lack of additional **long-term** funding provided to regional planning organizations such as the ORRSC, this resolution is identified as **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 3-16F

Implementation of the Centralized Industrial Property Assessment

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties call upon the Government of Alberta to delay or repeal the establishment of the Centralized Industrial Property Authority and the creation of the Provincial Assessor until such time as the appropriate studies, pilot projects, and consultation with all effected property owners has been completed and analyzed so the effectiveness of such a policy may be fully understood;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties call upon the Government of Alberta to consult with the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and the Alberta Assessors Association in order to answer the numerous procedural, policy and legal questions which arise from the decision to create the Centralized Industrial Property Authority under the newly created position of Provincial Assessor.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response does not indicate a willingness to delay or repeal the process of transitioning to centralized assessment for designated industrial property. The response indicates that the Government of Alberta received sufficient feedback in favor of the move to centralized assessment during previous MGA consultation opportunities to warrant the decisions being final. RMA appreciates the Government of Alberta's willingness to share as much information as possible with municipalities related to procedural changes, and to take into consideration municipal input on the draft list of industrial properties designated as "major plants," but this does not address the intent of the resolution.

In an effort to support a successful transition to a centralized industrial property system, Alberta Municipal Affairs has implemented an interim hybrid model in which municipalities will be contracted to continue to assess industrial properties on behalf of the provincial assessor. While the RMA appreciates this approach, a preferred alternative may be to maintain this contractual arrangement permanently, as it allows municipal assessors to utilize their local knowledge with increased provincial oversight of the assessment process. In 2018, the province is requisitioning about \$5.8 million in designated industrial (DI) property taxes from designated industrial property owners, through a separate tax rate applied to every DI property owner's municipal tax notice.

RMA and several RMA members have been involved in the planning of the transition to centralized industrial property assessment with the intent to minimize the disturbance to municipalities and assessors. This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**, and RMA will continue to advocate on this issue.

Resolution 4-16F

Centralized Industrial Assessment

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta to leave the responsibility of industrial assessment with municipal governments and to provide local assessors with updated manuals and regulations required to perform the services they currently provide to municipalities for industrial assessment.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response does not indicate a willingness to leave the assessment of industrial property as the responsibility of municipal assessors. RMA appreciates the Government of Alberta's willingness to share as much information as possible with municipalities related to procedural changes associated with centralization, but this does not address the intent of the resolution.

In an effort to support a successful transition to a centralized industrial property system, Alberta Municipal Affairs has implemented a interim hybrid model in which municipalities will be contracted to continue to assess industrial properties on behalf of the provincial assessor. While RMA appreciates this approach, a preferred alternative may be to maintain this contractual arrangement permanently, as it allows municipal assessors to utilize their local knowledge with increased provincial oversight of the assessment process.

This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**, and RMA will continue to advocate on this issue.

Resolution 17-16F

Capital Region Board Mandate Expansion

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to direct the Capital Region Board to preserve their current mandate as any mandate expansion beyond that mandate becomes governance that interferes with the governance of local elected officials and their roles.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates that the Edmonton region's growth management board as established under the revised *Municipal Government Act* will likely exist with a broadened scope that includes service delivery, infrastructure, environmental issues, and economic prosperity. However, the response does not address the role that a potentially expanded GMB will have on the governance functions of individual municipalities that participate in it.

In October 2017, the Government of Alberta enacted the *Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Regulation* under the *Municipal Government Act*. The regulation renamed the Capital Region

Board as the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB). The regulation also broadened the EMRB's mandate from a focus on enabling responsible regional growth to include the following (see the *Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Regulation*, s. 3(1)(a-f) for the complete mandate):

- Develop policies regarding the coordination of regional infrastructure investment and service delivery
- Promote the economic well-being and competitiveness of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region

To fulfill their expanded mandate, the EMRB is required to do the following (see the *Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Regulation*, s. 3(2)(a-e) for the specific mechanisms by which the EMRB shall fulfill its mandate):

- Prepare a growth plan
- Prepare a servicing plan
- Develop and implement policies for the sharing of costs for regional projects of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.

Based on the expansion of the EMRB's mandate to include service delivery and economic development, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 23-16F

List of Municipal Electors

Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to amend the *Local Authorities Election Act* to provide municipalities a practical and economical option to use a list of electors for proof of elector eligibility.

DEVELOPMENTS: As outlined in the Government's response, municipalities have the ability to prepare a list of electors and may work with the Chief Electoral Office to prepare that list. However, due to requirements for enumerating electors, the extent to which this is considered a 'practical' and 'economical' option is dependent on each individual municipality and their local capacity. Alberta is the only province in Canada where enumeration is required for the development of a list of electors, and one of only two where the use of lists of electors is not legislated.

In 2018, the Government of Alberta conducted a review of the *Local Authorities Election Act* which resulted in significant changes to areas such as campaign contributions and finances, campaign expenses, advertising, and others. Unfortunately, no changes were made to requirements related to developing a list of municipal electors. As a result, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 1-16S

Preservation of Linear Assessment for Rural Municipalities

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties continue to request the Government of Alberta to cease any consideration to redistribute linear taxation in any form, and allow rural municipalities the opportunity to continue to build partnerships with their urban neighbours that support services for all Alberta residents.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates that the proposed *Modernized Municipal Government Act (MMGA)* does not include any changes to the distribution of municipal taxes. Under the proposed legislation, municipalities will continue to collect taxes on property types within their jurisdiction, including linear property. Any sharing of municipal tax revenues will take place through mandatory intermunicipal collaboration frameworks developed locally among neighbouring municipalities. This approach has been confirmed with the requirement for intermunicipal collaboration frameworks and intermunicipal development plans under the amended *Municipal Government Act*. As such, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted**.

Resolution 2-16S

Notice Period for Adjustments to Linear Assessment Modifiers

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta provide municipalities with notice of any adjustments to its linear assessment modifiers well in advance of municipal budgeting processes.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta's response indicates an understanding of the concern with the timing of assessment modifier adjustments and is willing to expedite notice of such changes when possible. However, the response gives no commitment to formally changing the provincial process for determining and communicating these adjustments. In light of the extremely late notice of the Government of Alberta's decision to freeze 2018 assessment year modifiers, which impacted the budgeting processes of many municipalities, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**. The RMA hopes that this late notification is a one-time occurrence linked to the decision to review the modifier system, and has advocated that sufficient notice be provided in future years.

Resolution 3-16S

Recovery of Linear Property, Commercial Property, and Education Requisition Tax Arrears

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) request the Government of Alberta to amend the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*, and other provincial legislation to broaden the tax recovery power of municipalities to collect linear property taxes by granting a lien in favour of the municipality as follows:

A lien equivalent to that granted to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) by s. 103 of the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act (OGCA)* that being: “on the debtor’s interest in any well, facilities, and pipelines, land or interests in land, including mines and minerals, equipment and petroleum substances” and the power to garnish funds owed to the debtor;

A lien which ranks in priority (or equivalent) to the lien granted in favour of the AER by s. 103(2) of the *OGCA*;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC requests the Government of Canada to amend the federal *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* to recognize municipal linear property taxes and other municipal non-property taxes as a secured interest in priority to other unsecured interests;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request the Government of Alberta to provide a credit reimbursement to compensate for the education property taxes that become uncollectable due to linear and commercial property bankruptcy.

DEVELOPMENTS: In 2016, Alberta Municipal Affairs had convened an inter-ministry working group consisting of representatives from Municipal Affairs, Energy, Treasury Board and Finance, Education, and the AER. The purpose of this working group was to address the concerns identified in resolution 3-16S and resolution 5-15F. More specifically, the working group explored how the suite of tools available to municipalities to recover unpaid linear property taxes could be expanded, as well as possible legislative or regulatory solutions to relieve or exempt municipalities from paying provincial education property tax requisitions on linear properties in which the municipality has not been able to gather tax revenues from the property owner.

Early in 2017, the working group completed their research and Government of Alberta staff internally developed options for the Minister of Municipal Affairs based on the working group’s findings. In fall 2017, the Government of Alberta announced the Provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) program, under which municipalities who have no choice but to remit requisitions to the Government of Alberta for unpaid education property taxes on linear oil and gas properties, may apply to receive a credit equivalent to the amount of the requisition. PERC is funded through the Alberta School Foundation Fund’s net asset fund.

At this point, PERC extends to the 2019 tax year, and is capped at \$10 million per year. As of November 2018, 37 applications had been processed and approximately \$3 million of credits had

been issued. Applications are expected to continue to be accepted in 2019 and 2020. The creation of PERC meets the request in the third operative clause of this resolution.

The Government of Alberta has not amended the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) to broaden the tax recovery powers of municipalities, and municipal powers to seize assets to account for unpaid linear property taxes continues to rank lower in priority than that of the AER and other organizations.

Similarly, RMA has received no indication from the Government of Canada of a willingness to amend the federal *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* to place municipal interests above other non-secured interests.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part** and will continue to advocate on all aspects of this resolution.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 19-17F

Builder Licensing Program Impacts

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) request that the Government of Alberta delay the implementation of the Builder Licensing Program until such time it can reasonably demonstrate that the impacts of such a program will yield a positive impact on the residential construction industry and its participants;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request that the Government of Alberta recognize and resolve the negative impacts of the *New Home Buyers Protection Act* on rural Alberta tradesmen, municipalities, and home owners.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates a positive reception to the builder licensing program and clarifies that the program does not directly apply to trades involved in residential construction. The resolution requests that the builder licensing program be delayed until “it can reasonably demonstrate that the impacts of such a program will yield a positive impact on the residential construction industry and its participants”. Given that it is unclear whether a “positive impact” is resulting from the existing program, and it is implied in the resolution that the initial program was not having a positive impact, RMA assumes that continuing the program in its current format does not meet the intent of this resolution. Additionally, the government response does not include reference to the *New Home Buyers Protection Act*. This resolution has been assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Resolution 11-17S

Review of Standard Practices for Installation of High Tension Cable Barriers on Two-Lane Provincial Highways

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to review Alberta Transportation’s Standard Practices for installation of High Tension Cable Barriers (HTCBs) on two-lane provincial highways to ensure Alberta has the safest possible highways.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta’s response includes information detailing design options to ensure that HTCBs on two-lane highways are as safe as possible and do not impact snow removal or oversized vehicle travel on such highways. However, the resolution requests Alberta Transportation to review the current practices, which the response does not indicate a willingness to undertake.

This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met** and the RMA will continue to advocate on this issue.

Resolution 7-16F

Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to restore funding for summer maintenance programs for its vegetation management (weed control and mowing) along provincial highways; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to deliver a more effective maintenance program for vegetation management (weed control and mowing) along one, two and three digit highways in the province, which includes the herbicide application and other measures to control noxious weeds, prohibited noxious weeds and any unsafe vegetation on the full right of way; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request Alberta Transportation give the option in all districts of the province to enter into service agreements with municipalities for weed control.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates a plan to resume full vegetation management practices along provincial highways in the summer of 2017. This response meets the first “ask” of the resolution, which is to restore previous vegetation management funding.

The second “ask” in the resolution calls for not only the return of funding, but an improved vegetation management program compared to that previously utilized prior to the reduction in funding. At this point the Government of Alberta response indicates only a return to previous levels, and therefore does not meet the resolution’s second “ask.”

The third “ask” in the resolution calls for Alberta Transportation to enter service agreements with municipalities for the actual delivery of vegetation management. The Government of Alberta response indicates that this option will be considered, and may move forward based on further analysis of capacity and standards. In March 2018, the Minister of Transportation indicated that municipalities would be eligible to bid on maintenance contracts for provincial highways. RMA is encouraged by this and will follow up with Alberta Transportation in the future.

As the Government of Alberta response meets part of the resolution’s intent, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part**, and will continue advocating on it in the future.

Resolution 16-16F

Support for Continuation of Crude Oil Tanker Activity Along the Northern Coast of British Columbia

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties advocate to the Government of Canada expressing support for continued tanker activity along the northern coast of British Columbia.

DEVELOPMENTS: Shortly after RMA’s Fall 2016 Convention, during which this resolution was endorsed, the Government of Canada formally announced that they would introduce legislation to establish a moratorium on tanker traffic along B.C.’s north coast. According to the Government of Canada’s website, “the moratorium will cover the Great Bear Rainforest/Great Bear Sea area: an area from the Alaska/B.C. border down to the point on B.C.’s mainland adjacent to the northern tip of Vancouver Island, and this includes Haida Gwaii. The new legislation will prohibit oil tankers carrying crude oil or persistent oil products as cargo from entering or leaving ports and marine installations in this area.”

Due to this announcement, RMA elected not to submit formal correspondence to the Government of Canada calling for the continuation of tanker traffic in the area, as the Government of Canada made it clear that the matter was closed and a decision had been reached. Earlier in 2016, RMA provided input to the Government of Canada on this issue by responding to this question that the Government of Canada posed to stakeholders:

What do you believe are the most important issues the Government should address in its plan to formalize a crude oil tanker moratorium?

RMA’s response was as follows:

Placing a moratorium on any transportation mode or route is a drastic decision and should not be made without intensive analysis of local and national implications, projected future transportation needs and opportunities, and potential changes in technology that may render the moratorium unnecessary. Based on the discussion material that Transport Canada has shared with stakeholders, it is difficult to know the extent or level of analysis that has been undertaken to his point.

The AAMDC understands the importance of considering and mitigating local environmental impacts of tanker traffic on BC's north coast. However, such a significant decision must consider both local issues and upstream/indirect issues that may be caused by a moratorium. While the intent of a moratorium is to protect a relatively localized ecosystem, the potential social and economic impacts may spread much farther. For example, the tanker moratorium effectively eliminates the development of Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline from Bruderheim, Alberta to Kitimat, BC. For rural Alberta, the development of a pipeline to move crude oil from Alberta to a port facility for tanker transport to foreign markets is very important for the long-term sustainability of the oil and gas industry. While the moratorium is not directly related to the sustainability of the industry, it should not be placed into effect without considering the long-term impacts it may have on the industry. The formalization of a moratorium should be accompanied by a commitment from the Government of Canada to approve and facilitate the development of an alternative pipeline corridor from Alberta to a coastal port facility.

This input was provided prior to the submission or endorsement of resolution 16-16F, as the RMA Board of Directors identified the potential tanker moratorium and the associated consultations as an emerging issue worthy of RMA input.

Due to the moratorium, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 6-16S

Creating a Residential Exemption to Roadside Developments

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to amend legislation and/or regulations, including the *Highway Development Act* and the *Highway Development and Protection Regulations*, to exempt the erection of fences, primary single family residences and associated residential property upgrades such as accessory buildings, under 200 square feet, and pools in subdivisions that have already been approved by Alberta Transportation from requiring roadside development permits in residential multi parcel subdivisions that have received Alberta Transportation approval at subdivision stage.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates that the need for roadside development permits on parcels of land that have already been approved at the subdivision stage is necessary to ensure Alberta Transportation is apprised of development in the proximity of

roads that may otherwise not be adequately communicated due to requirements in existing legislation. While RMA appreciates Alberta Transportation's willingness to attempt to streamline the permitting process, the unwillingness of the Ministry to consider an exemption results in this resolution being assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

WATER

There are no active resolutions specifically focused on this topic.

OTHER

Resolution 9-17F

AAMDC Refusal to Engage in Exploratory Discussion to Merge with AUMA

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) refuse to enter into any discussions with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) that would result in any attempt to merge the AAMDC with AUMA.

DEVELOPMENTS: The AUMA is a valued partner for RMA, and collaborating to create a unified municipal voice on issues of mutual importance is an effective advocacy approach. However, RMA respects its members' direction that an independent rural municipal voice is needed in Alberta, and is committed to continuing to serve that role. This resolution is deemed **Accepted**.

Resolution 13-17F

AAMDC Advisory Committee to Support the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission in Reviewing Charitable Gaming in Alberta

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties establish an advisory committee with a mandate to provide a rural perspective in support of the efforts of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission's commitment in moving forward with changes in the charitable gaming funding to treat all organizations equally across the province.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA recruited members and initiated the committee in spring 2018. Since then, the committee has met several times. In December 2018, the committee finalized their report and recommendations, which were endorsed by the RMA Board of Directors. The recommendations are expected to support RMA, its members, and rural charitable organizations in providing input into the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission's review of the current charitable gaming model, expected to commence in early 2019. This resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted**.

Resolution 15-17F

Stopping the Implementation of Proposed Federal Tax Reforms

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Canada not to proceed with the proposed federal tax reforms that will negatively impact small to medium enterprises and the agricultural sector.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Canada response indicates that several proposed tax reforms will not be implemented due to concerns expressed by RMA and other stakeholders

across Canada. In particular, the response highlights the decision to not proceed with proposed measures to address the multiplication of the lifetime capital gains exemption due to the potential impacts on intergenerational transfers of family businesses, including farms.

The Government of Canada will also not implement changes related to the conversion of income into capital gains due to their potential unintended impacts on small businesses and farms. Additionally, the government of Canada plans to consult farmers, fishers, and other business owners on how to better accommodate intergenerational transfers of businesses while protecting the fairness of the tax system.

While RMA is pleased with the Government of Canada's willingness to re-evaluate these proposed changes, it should be noted that other proposed changes, such as those to address passive investment and its use by high income individuals will persist. As resolution 15-17F is very broad in its direction that all proposed federal tax reforms not be implemented, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part**, and appreciates the Government of Canada's willingness to re-evaluate and not proceed on several aspects of their initial proposal.

Resolution ER3-17F

Effective Representation for Rural Albertans in Alberta's Legislative Assembly

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta amend section 13 of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* to establish up to three new electoral divisions to accommodate the need for effective representation of Alberta's growing urban population, while not sacrificing current rural representation; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) urge the Government of Alberta to prioritize effective representation for rural Alberta by not approving a reduction in the number of constituencies in rural Alberta; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request the Government of Alberta to not implement the Alberta Electoral Boundary Commission's final recommendations until the following principles are prioritized:

- **That geographic size limitations, local variations in population density, and accessibility of MLAs be prioritized as a determining factor in developing electoral boundaries; and**
- **Constituencies structure should be maintained to combine urban and rural areas to include a balance of urban and rural populations to reflect the urban-rural connectedness and dependency that exists on the ground for Alberta's regions; and**
- **To the extent possible, no ridings fracture rural municipalities into multiple constituencies.**

DEVELOPMENTS: The government response to the resolution indicates that no additional changes were made or will be made to electoral boundaries and that the changes were codified in legislation in December 2017. As such, the resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**. RMA will continue to advocate for effective rural representation in future reviews of Alberta's electoral

boundaries, and work with urban MLAs to ensure issues important to rural Albertans are understood and acted upon in Alberta's legislature.

Resolution 8-16F

Resolution Process – Frequency of Similar or Duplicate Resolutions

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Association of Alberta Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) Board of Directors review the AAMDC Resolution Process Policy with the objective of limiting the frequency in which resolutions that duplicate previously endorsed resolutions or deal with subject matter recently addressed through endorsed resolution are presented to the convention floor.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA initiated a thorough review of the RMA Resolution Process Policy in the spring of 2017 which involved engagement with the RMA's resolutions committee, members, board of directors, and parliamentarian. Based on input received, the policy has been amended and includes clarification on the process the Resolutions Committee can use to address the frequency of similar or duplicate resolutions being brought forward. The RMA Board of Directors approved the revised policy in summer 2017. The revised policy was shared with members notifying of the key changes, and is being implemented effective immediately. As the policy reflects the request outlined in this resolution, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted**.

Resolution 20-16F

Casino Opportunities for Charitable Organizations

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to change Alberta's charitable gaming model so as to provide equity to all charitable organizations in Alberta, by addressing the disparity between the funding provided, and the frequency of opportunities available to charitable organizations in major urban centers compared with those in rural communities.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission (AGLC) response indicates an acknowledgement that the current charitable gaming model is disadvantageous to charities operating in rural Alberta. RMA is pleased that the AGLC is planning to revise the current model and hopes to be a part of the process, with the recommendations from the RMA Charitable Gaming Advisory Committee forming the basis of RMA's position. Recent information from AGLC indicates that a review is likely to commence in late 2018 or early 2019. As such, this resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Principle** and will be re-evaluated based on when the review of the current model begins.

Resolution ER1-16F

Save Vegreville's Case Processing Center

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the federal department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship reconsider their decision to close the Case Processing Centre (CPC) in Vegreville.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Canada response provides the rationale under which Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada made the decision to relocate their case processing centre from Vegreville to Edmonton. Unfortunately, the letter does not indicate whether the Government of Canada conducted a local impact analysis on Vegreville and the surrounding rural areas, or whether potential community impacts were considered as a component of their decision-making process. Most importantly, the response does not indicate a willingness to reconsider the final relocation decision.

In 2017, a report commissioned by the Town of Vegreville indicated that as many as 420 people could relocate from Vegreville as a result of the case processing centre closure. In addition to the Town of Vegreville report, the closure decision has drawn concern from oppositions MPs, as well as the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 4-16S

Improving Oversight of Delegated Legislation

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to enact a legislative requirement that all delegated legislation including regulations, orders in council, ministerial orders and codes, that are essential to the implementation of new or amending legislation, be submitted for review to the public and the legislature before final reading of the enabling legislation takes place.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response is not supportive of expanding the review of delegated legislation to the public and legislature. RMA appreciates the government's willingness to consult on the MGA review and other recent legislation, but as the resolution requests an expansion of current consultation processes, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

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