

October 11, 2018

Apply to Host a Blanket Exercise on Indigenous History and Culture

The deadline to apply is November 30, 2018.

Many municipalities indicate they want to build relationships with Indigenous communities, but do not know where to start. In response, RMA and AUMA are pleased to launch a new initiative that will help inform municipal governments on the history and culture of Indigenous peoples as a foundation for building understanding and strengthening relationships. The initiative is an opportunity for municipalities to host an experiential learning session known as a Blanket Exercise in their community. The Blanket Exercise is an effective tool for furthering the understanding of Indigenous history including the ongoing impact of residential schools and historical relations between Indigenous peoples and the Crown.

With funding support from Alberta Municipal Affairs, the Blanket Exercise Initiative is designed to support municipal governments to meet the new provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, which encourages more communication and collaboration with Indigenous communities. With increased knowledge of Indigenous history and culture, municipal governments will be better positioned to build respectful relations with Indigenous communities and Metis Settlements, as well as Indigenous peoples living within municipal boundaries. All municipalities are encouraged to consider this opportunity.

Applicants must guarantee that a minimum of 20 individuals will participate and that at least eight of those individuals are municipal elected officials. Applicants are encouraged to partner with other municipalities to meet the minimum requirements. For more information, [click here](#) for the guideline and application form.

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