

July 4, 2019

Engage Your Local MLA on the Importance of Rural Alberta

RMA has resources available to support local advocacy on rural municipal issues

Since the election this spring, RMA has been actively engaging with government and all MLAs to demonstrate the importance of rural Alberta. Our goal continues to be focusing on ensuring provincial decision-makers understand that rural Alberta is an integral piece of Alberta's economic, social, environmental, and cultural future. We have had the opportunity to meet with rural MLAs to discuss issues of importance to our members and have also met with some key cabinet ministers, with more Minister meetings being scheduled throughout the summer.

As a member-driven organization, our members play an important role in our advocacy efforts. With the legislative session likely wrapping up in July, this is a great opportunity for members to engage local MLAs and bring forward RMA messages to demonstrate a clear and concise rural perspective. The RMA has developed several resources to help members in this capacity, include the following five priority issues we have focused on during our election campaign:

- **The importance of “rural” in a changing province**
- **Long-term, predictable municipal funding**
- **Infrastructure and transportation in rural Alberta**
- **Supporting intermunicipal collaboration in rural Alberta**
- **Environmental stewardship**

Each of these issues has a video available that can be shared with local networks on social media to advance the rural perspective. The RMA has also developed several **position statements** on issues ranging from agriculture to policing and rural crime that we encourage members to utilize as they are connecting with MLAs.

As we like to say, Rural Alberta is where it all starts and carrying these messages forward consistently through local advocacy strengthens the rural voice.

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