

# RMA Spring 2020 Endorsed Resolutions

- 1-20S**      **Alberta Wetland Mitigation Directive** (*Saddle Hills County*)
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- ER1-20S**    **Loss of 2% Strychnine** (*Cypress County*)
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- ER3-20S**    **Housing Management Body Compliance Requirements During Pandemic Response** (*Mountain View County*)

## **Alberta Wetland Mitigation Directive**

Saddle Hills County

*Carried*

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

WHEREAS the Alberta Wetland Policy requires municipalities to implement practices that impact budgets and project timelines with minimal improvements to the environment; and

WHEREAS the wetland application process can take several months if a field assessment is required as it can only be completed during the plant growing season; and

WHEREAS most of the costs associated with the wetland restoration program are used for administration, with a minimal amount used to improve the environment; and

WHEREAS municipalities are required to hire engineers to complete desktop and wetland assessments and Alberta Environment and Parks use significant staff resources to review engineer assessments and process applications; and

WHEREAS rural municipalities manage the majority of Alberta's public road infrastructure; and

WHEREAS roads require consistent maintenance and/or re-building to support a growing province, ensure public safety, accommodate increased use including extra weight and more traffic, and align with current standards; and

WHEREAS the consequences of not completing road maintenance as required, due to extended time and extra cost, could include putting public safety in jeopardy due to a lack of upgraded roads, and loss of transportation routes for industry and the public due to road bans or road closure;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta urge the Government of Alberta to modify the Alberta Wetland Mitigation Directive to minimize the administration and assessment process to reduce costs and approval times for municipalities; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that funds collected through the Alberta Wetland Mitigation Directive be directed to environment improvement projects that have low administration fees.**

### **Member Background**

Recently, Saddle Hills County has hired consultants to complete wetland assessments on projects and have found the process is time-consuming and expensive, especially if wetlands are found. Below is a summary of an example of one such project:

#### *Summary of Wetland Assessment – Highway 725:02 / Township Road 811*

The Highway 725:02 and Township Road 811 intersection improvement project consists of a 0.31 km road widening for turning lanes, culvert extension and relocation of a private driveway.

A desktop assessment of the wetland was completed which identified impact to five wetlands including a 50 metre buffer. Therefore, a full wetland assessment and impact report was completed. The wetland assessment started on February 27, 2019 and was completed on July 17, 2019 at a cost of \$21,855 which includes \$7,400 of wetland compensation.

### **RMA Background**

9-18F: Impact of the Alberta Wetland Policy on the Cost of Maintaining Public Road Infrastructure

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta urge the Government of Alberta to modify the Alberta Wetland Mitigation Directive to allow all wetland impacts as a result of municipal road maintenance or re-building of existing roads to utilize a one to one ratio, or D to D value wetland replacement; and/or consider exempting all wetland impacts in road right of ways that are smaller than one hectare in size.

15-18F: Wetland Mitigation Directive – Restoration and Compensation

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that Alberta Environment and Parks follow the Wetland Mitigation Directive and that permittee-responsible mitigation either through enhancement or construction of wetlands be allowed, be it either through the Alternative Land Use Services program or through wetlands constructed as a part of stormwater management ponds.

**Additional Depreciation of Machinery and Equipment Property (Schedule D)**

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**Advocacy Target: Alberta Municipal Affairs**

WHEREAS machinery and equipment (M&E) property is assessed in accordance with the *Alberta Machinery & Equipment Assessment Minister's Guidelines* (the Guidelines), adopted by way of Ministerial Order every year; and

WHEREAS additional depreciation may be granted under Schedule D of the Guidelines "[f]or any depreciation that is not reflected in Schedule C...provided acceptable evidence of such loss in value exists"; and

WHEREAS several assessment complaints have been filed with the Municipal Government Board respecting assessments for M&E requesting additional depreciation under Schedule D of the Guidelines on the basis of industry-wide economic conditions; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Assessor's policy with respect to Schedule D is to not grant additional depreciation on the basis of industry-wide economic conditions; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Assessor's policy ensures that assessments are not affected by industry-wide economic conditions and that assessment of M&E is based on a stable, predictable system; and

WHEREAS policies are already in place to reduce assessments prepared for and taxes paid on M&E, including the reduction of all assessments of M&E to 77% of the value determined in accordance with the Guidelines, a 25% immediate depreciation on M&E pursuant to Schedule C of the Guidelines, and the exemption of M&E from education requisitions; and

WHEREAS municipalities depend on the stable, predictable assessment system established by the Guidelines; and

WHEREAS if the Provincial Assessor's policy respecting the assessment of M&E is changed, there will be a significant redistribution of the assessment base within municipalities;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate for the Government of Alberta to take steps to ensure that assessments for Machinery and Equipment are not adjusted under Schedule D of the *Alberta Machinery & Equipment Assessment Minister's Guidelines* on the basis of industry-wide economic conditions; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to amend Schedule D of the *Alberta Machinery & Equipment Assessment Minister's Guidelines* to confirm the status of the current policy that additional depreciation under Schedule D is not available on the basis of industry-wide economic conditions; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to not consider any changes to the *Alberta Machinery & Equipment Assessment Minister's Guidelines* without full consultation and consideration of the impact of any changes on all Alberta taxpayers.**

**Member Background**

Canadian Natural Resources Limited ("CNRL") filed complaints with the Municipal Government Board (MGB) for property assessments prepared by the Provincial Assessor for designated industrial property in the 2018 and 2019 tax years.

The complaints seek reductions in assessments for Machinery and Equipment (M&E), as well as Buildings and Structures, across Alberta. The requested reductions in assessments are in the range of 50%. The properties under complaint are found within 52 Alberta municipalities (the full list of which is provided below). The specific properties under complaint and the affected municipalities vary for 2018 and 2019. The full list provided includes those municipalities affected by both or either of the complaints.

In relation to the assessment of M&E in both 2018 and 2019, CNRL argues that the regulated standard found in the *Alberta Machinery & Equipment Assessment Minister's Guidelines* (the Guidelines) should include depreciation on the basis of industry-wide market or economic conditions under Schedule D.

The Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 understands that this same argument has been raised in other complaints before the MGB, and it is expected that further complaints will be filed in 2020 (and beyond) on the same basis.

If industry-wide market or economic conditions form part of the regulated assessments, then there is little difference between a market value assessment and the regulated assessment process established by the Guidelines.

The Provincial Assessor's current policy is to not allow additional depreciation under Schedule D of the Guidelines on the basis of industry-wide economic conditions. Regulated assessments are not intended to vary with general changes in the economy the way that market value assessments do; this perceived disadvantage is more than offset by the preferential policies embedded in the system. Municipalities depend on this stable, predictable system to ensure an even distribution of property taxes amongst all taxpayers.

If this current policy is changed, there will be a significant impact on the distribution of property taxes throughout every municipality in the Province that collects property taxes on M&E. The result will impact all taxpayers within those municipalities due to the resultant shifting of the tax burden.

No changes should be made to the current policy respecting application of the Guidelines without full consultation and consideration of the impact such changes would have on all taxpayers.

The following municipalities host assets that are subject to the complaints filed by CNRL:

- Athabasca County
- County of Barrhead No. 11
- Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87
- Camrose County
- Municipal District of Fairview No. 136
- Flagstaff County
- Foothills County
- County of Forty Mile No. 8
- County of Grande Prairie No. 1
- Special Areas Board
- Kneehill County
- Lac Ste. Anne County
- Lacombe County
- Lamont County
- County of Minburn No. 27
- County of Newell
- County of Paintearth No. 18
- Ponoka County
- Red Deer County
- Smoky Lake County
- County of St. Paul No. 19
- Starland County
- County of Stettler No. 6
- Sturgeon County
- Municipal District of Taber
- Thorhild County
- County of Two Hills No. 21
- County of Vermilion River
- Vulcan County
- Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61
- County of Warner No. 5
- Westlock County

- County of Wetaskiwin No. 10
- Wheatland County
- Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26
- Cypress County
- Clearwater County
- Brazeau County
- Woodlands County
- Municipal District of Greenview No. 16
- Yellowhead County
- Northern Sunrise County
- Birch Hills County
- Saddle Hills County
- Clear Hills County
- Mackenzie County
- Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124
- County of Northern Lights
- Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17
- Town of Drumheller
- Lac La Biche County
- Improvement District No. 349

### **RMA Background**

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

## **Water and Wastewater – Laws, Regulations and Funding**

County of Grande Prairie

*Carried as amended*

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### **Advocacy Target: Alberta Environment and Parks, Environment and Climate Change Canada**

WHEREAS the Government of Canada and Government of Alberta draft and implement laws and regulations to protect the environment and public health, including the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment, and release of wastewater; and

WHEREAS the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment, and release of wastewater are essential services crucial to safe, healthy communities; and

WHEREAS the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment, and release of wastewater are often provided by municipalities, municipal commissions, or municipally-owned utility companies; and

WHEREAS the laws and regulations governing the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment, and release of wastewater can have both direct and indirect effects on the cost of providing these services; and

WHEREAS many water and wastewater service providers are challenged to fund the infrastructure deficits under the current laws and regulations governing the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment, and release of effluent;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate that the governments of Canada and Alberta consider and evaluate the financial impacts that all existing and proposed laws and regulations governing the production and distribution of potable water and the collection, treatment and release of wastewater will have on municipalities, municipal commissions, or municipally-owned utility companies, and share this information with RMA; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA advocate to the governments of Canada and Alberta to recognize water commissions and cooperatives and deem them eligible for funding programs; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the governments of Canada and Alberta establish adequate, stable, long-term funding for all affected water and wastewater service providers which considers the rising costs of providing these services due to federal and provincial laws and regulations.**

### **Member Background**

Located in northern Alberta, the Water North Coalition's membership is comprised of 93 communities, service providers and organizations including cities, towns, counties and municipal districts, hamlets, Metis Settlements, and commissions. The Water North Coalition sent out a survey to its 93 members to gather input on the water and wastewater issues.

One significant concern which showed itself in the results was the rising cost of water and wastewater service delivery. The average water/wastewater infrastructure deficit reported among the respondents was \$36.4 million, with a lack of adequate, consistent and sustainable funding being cited as the largest challenge. Aging infrastructure and small customer bases in rural areas also add urgency and challenges, as service providers struggle to fund critical projects whose costs will be spread among relatively few customers, which can make the services cost prohibitive.

These challenges are often amplified in small and rural areas as funding criteria can exclude the water and wastewater service delivery models often found in these communities. These funding programs exclude commissions and water cooperatives from applying for funding as the process does not recognize these organizations as service providers. The commissions and water cooperatives, however, are expected to follow the same regulations. The funding programs often lack a formal application process, and have tight timelines when funding does become available, which often poses a disproportionate challenge for smaller and rural communities that lack the resources required to engineer shovel-ready plans, especially in the face of changing laws and regulations.

**RMA Background**

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.



## **Regional Economic Development Alliances Continued Provincial Funding**

MD of Spirit River

*Carried*

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### **Advocacy Target: Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism**

WHEREAS for 20 years the Government of Alberta (GOA) has embraced a partnership with Alberta municipalities to plan and undertake regional economic development initiatives of mutual interest; and

WHEREAS the success of this partnership has made Alberta a leader in the delivery of regional economic development; and

WHEREAS Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs) provide a cost-efficient venue for the GOA and municipalities to build partnerships to foster economic growth in their regions; and

WHEREAS REDAs provide a substantial multiplier effect on dollars invested; and

WHEREAS the GOA has limited staffing resources and capacity to offer comparable economic tools and opportunities to rural members to those in urban areas, and

WHEREAS the majority of rural municipalities cannot afford to hire their own economic development officers; and

WHEREAS REDAs are dependent on the GOA's support due to additional downloading onto municipalities such as policing, which limits the ability of REDAs to charge greater membership fees to municipalities; and

WHEREAS the five-year funding agreement for REDAs expired March 31, 2020 and there has been no response on a renewal of this contract; and

WHEREAS the loss of REDAs due to GOA funding cutbacks may result in the loss of strong intermunicipal collaborations in rural Alberta that have taken 20 years to build;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate that the Government of Alberta enter into a five-year contract with the existing nine Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs) at an equivalent or higher funding arrangement as was in effect in the previous agreement; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA request that the Government of Alberta enter into meaningful discussions with REDA chairs to ensure long-term sustainability of REDAs.**

### **Member Background**

Rural Alberta communities rely on REDAs to help plan and undertake economic development activities. REDAs provide a forum and mechanism for municipalities and other economic development agencies to identify common issues and solutions to problems or opportunities beyond the limited resources of individual municipalities. Examples of big problems that benefit from the collective actions of municipalities include: broadband research, alternate and value-added crop studies; medical training in rural communities; regional infrastructure needs including future access to water; the retention of companies in rural communities through productivity initiatives; and the importance of supporting innovation and competitiveness as a way to retain and grow rural communities.

REDAs are supported by their member municipalities, community futures, post-secondary institutions, chambers of commerce and industry. Member municipalities are being asked by the GOA to prosper on reduced provincial grants, less funding and increased costs such as policing. This challenges REDAs to go back to their municipalities for more funding to make up for any shortfall from the GOA.

### **RMA Background**

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

## **Economic State of Crisis**

Brazeau County

*Carried as amended*

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### **Advocacy Target: Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, Alberta Energy, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada**

WHEREAS Alberta's unemployment rate is trending upward and remains above the national average; and

WHEREAS consumer bankruptcies increased by 9.1% from November 2018 to November 2019; and

WHEREAS citizen dependence on employment insurance in Alberta is on the rise; and

WHEREAS consumer confidence is plunging due to sustained economic decline; and

WHEREAS rural crime, due in part to increased unemployment, has increased markedly since 2014; and

WHEREAS commercial bankruptcies are seeing a year over year increase since 2016; and

WHEREAS certain bureaucratic government policies in response to perceived environmental emergencies have resulted in actual corporate and personal financial crisis;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the governments of Alberta and Canada to declare an economic state of crisis and work with all levels of government to develop and enact policies designed to secure investment and employment in the energy and agricultural sectors.**

#### **Member Background**

Western Canada's resource-based communities are facing unprecedented challenges due to many factors. These factors connect western Canadians but create a disconnect from those elsewhere in the country. Such factors include a lack of awareness on the part of many Canadians about the challenges being faced in western Canada and the perceived indifference of the Government of Canada to continued attacks by radical environmental groups on the industries that are a major contributor to Canada's economic engine.

These factors have led to one common outcome: significant financial challenges for every Canadian who is reliant, either directly or indirectly, on the energy sector for their living. In Alberta, all business is impacted; not only direct energy-related businesses or secondary and tertiary businesses but the local grocery shops, clothing stores and other essential local businesses. Community organizations, sports teams, and schools are suffering due to a lack of membership and financial support as community members move or suffer mental/physical and emotional distress due to the loss of employment.

The energy industry's record of environmental stewardship, Indigenous outreach policy and proven economic success is something that governments at all levels should champion. There is significant scientific information supporting the environmental practices of Alberta's energy industry compared to other petroleum producers such as Saudi Arabia or Venezuela. Consultation and inclusion with Indigenous peoples has significantly increased as the reconciliation process has evolved. Alberta's Indigenous communities have played a significant role and investment in the energy sector which is a key economic driver of the Canadian economy.

#### **RMA Background**

1-19S: Municipal Support for the Energy Industry

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate for the Government of Alberta to further develop and implement a targeted, national education and marketing campaign on behalf of Albertans in order to offset foreign protectionism and de-marketing campaigns, regulatory delays, and the combined infrastructure and economic factors that are creating a significant, negative effect on Canada's local, provincial, and national economies. The elements of the education and marketing campaign include as outlined in "Schedule A";

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta provide resources to offset the combined negative impacts affecting the energy industry through:

1. the continuation of the Petrochemicals Diversification Program;
2. key energy industry-supporting infrastructure development; and
3. a continued strong presence and advocacy with federal, municipal and foreign governments.

## **Loss of 2% Strychnine**

Cypress County

*Carried as amended*

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### **Advocacy Target: Health Canada, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Pest Management Regulatory Agency**

WHEREAS the federal **Pest Management Regulatory Agency** (PMRA) has cancelled the registration for 2% Liquid Strychnine for use on **Richardson's Ground Squirrels** (RGS) as of March 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS agricultural producers require a product to effectively assist in the control of RGS; and

WHEREAS after March 4, 2023, owning and using strychnine will be illegal and owners/users could face fines;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) reinstate the use of 2% Liquid Strychnine on a permanent basis to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS), or that Health Canada and the PMRA provide an alternative solution that produces as effective a result as strychnine in a financially responsible manner for the continued control of RGS.**

#### **Member Background**

Cypress County learned that the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and Health Canada has cancelled the approved use of strychnine to control Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS). The PMRA's decision is based on anecdotal assumptions, not recent research.

PMRA's plan is to phase out the product over the next three years, making the product unavailable after March 4, 2021 and fully banned for use after March 4, 2023. There is currently no alternative to control RGS.

RGS (commonly known as gophers) have been a problem to landowners for several years. In the early spring they can destroy a large amount of seeded grain, as they are looking for a source of food and the crop is an enticing option. Producers are faced with a problem in trying to plant any forage crops, as well as native grass, as these are continually being eaten by the gophers. They not only destroy the crops, they dig so many holes that farmers often break machinery and livestock are often injured, causing both farmers and ranchers additional expense.

Several years ago, the Government of Canada allowed landowners to purchase a 2% Liquid Strychnine solution which they could mix with grain and place down gopher holes. This was effective in controlling RGS. Next, the Government of Canada allowed manufacturers to produce a 5% Liquid Strychnine solution for pocket gophers, which was very effective in controlling these pests.

The Government of Canada then restricted the sale of both 2% and 5% strychnine and allowed the manufacturers to produce a pre-mixed feed instead. This was both very expensive and not effective. As a result, the gopher population became out of control resulting in millions of dollars in losses to producers.

Since 2% Liquid Strychnine was reinstated for use in 2001, RGS populations have declined. Dry years with no effective method of control will result in devastating losses.

#### **RMA Background**

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

## **New Physician Funding Framework**

Lac La Biche County

*Carried*

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### **Advocacy Target: Alberta Health**

WHEREAS on February 20, 2020 the Government of Alberta ended negotiations with the Alberta Medical Association and terminated the master agreement with Alberta physicians; and

WHEREAS the master agreement ended on March 31, 2020, when a new physician funding framework was implemented; and

WHEREAS the new funding framework changes how Alberta physicians are compensated; and

WHEREAS physicians have expressed serious concerns about the viability of their practices under the new framework, especially in rural Alberta; and

WHEREAS rural and small municipalities have historically struggled to attract physicians under the now-terminated master agreement, making the prospect of doctors leaving under the new framework very likely;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta urge the Government of Alberta to reengage in negotiations with the Alberta Medical Association to mutually arrive at a new master agreement that ensures continued timely access to healthcare for all rural Albertans.**

### **Member Background**

Rural municipalities across Alberta have been expressing grave concerns with the new physician funding framework.

On February 20, 2020, the Government of Alberta ended negotiations with the Alberta Medical Association and unexpectedly terminated their master agreement with Alberta's doctors. The master agreement expired on March 31, 2020, with a new, much more restrictive funding framework taking its place. While enactment of the complex modifier and clinical stipend recommendations have been suspended, the nine other funding framework recommendations are currently in effect.

Doctors in Lac La Biche County, rural Alberta, and the entire province have serious doubts about the viability of their practices under the new framework. Even under the now-expired framework, it has been especially difficult to attract and retain doctors to rural Alberta.

With the new model in place, rural clinics could close as physicians move elsewhere. Without local practices, patients will travel long distances to other communities for routine medical check-ups, or take up valuable time in emergency rooms. Moreover, with fewer doctors in communities, local hospitals may have to reduce hours and services or shut down entirely. In emergency situations, where minutes or even seconds can make a difference, many Albertans will lack medical care when they need it most.

Lac La Biche County believes that the Alberta Medical Association and Government of Alberta must renegotiate and come to an agreement that ensures equitable access to medical services for everyone in this province, regardless of where they live. It is imperative that doctors are fairly compensated for the outsized role that they play in keeping our communities healthy and safe. This is especially critical in the midst of a global pandemic, when we need our medical community focused on their jobs rather than their compensation.

### **RMA Background**

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

## **Housing Management Body Compliance Requirements During Pandemic Response**

Mountain View County

*Carried*

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### **Advocacy Target: Alberta Seniors and Housing**

WHEREAS the World Health Organization has declared a global pandemic for COVID-19 on March 11, 2020 and Alberta **housing management bodies** (HMBs) and **continuing care operators** (CCOs) have been in pandemic response since that time; and

WHEREAS HMBs and CCOs have been proactive in taking preventative steps and complying with directives and orders from **Alberta Health** (AH); and

WHEREAS Alberta HMBs and CCOs have incurred unbudgeted costs for labour and supplies and lost revenues to vacancies in order to meet AH compliance requirements; and

WHEREAS the pandemic-related revenue and cost impacts for Alberta HMBs and CCOs are not currently funded by any federal or provincial programs; and

WHEREAS these lost revenues and costs are not recoverable through business interruption insurance; and

WHEREAS at some point, HMBs and CCOs must make up lost revenues and costs to sustain operations; and

WHEREAS in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in a facility, there is a clear current that a single HMB or CCO will not be able to supply full front-line labour requirements;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request the Government of Alberta to provide funding to Alberta housing management bodies (HMBs) and continuing care operators (CCOs) in support of front-line workers for the additional labour, personal protective equipment and operational supplies and lost revenues due to complying with COVID-19 pandemic directives and orders; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA request the Government of Alberta to immediately provide a plan for emergency supply of labour, personal protective equipment and operational supplies to Alberta HMBs and CCOs in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak at a facility in Alberta.**

### **Member Background**

At this time, Mountain View Seniors' Housing (MVSH) has remained free of any occurrence of the COVID-19 virus. However, MVSH has lost revenues because of requirements to restrict resident admissions and transfers due to expanded outbreak declarations, MVSH has added staffing costs for leaves of absence due to imposed 14-day and 10-day isolation rules, MVSH has added staffing hours for enhanced senior supportive living care, mealtime, housekeeping services and activities. Further, MVSH has been ordered and directed by Alberta Health to meet increased requirements to address care and social isolation, social distancing and restricted access controls to our facilities. MVSH has been ordered to place increased restrictions on staff and maintenance contractor movements between sites, MVSH has added costs to implement measures in the MVSH Pandemic Plan, MVSH has added measures and costs for securing a stable supply of labour, personal protective equipment (PPE) and operating supplies from vendors. The impact for all this at MVSH is estimated to be an additional \$50,000 per month to our operating budget for 2020, starting on March 11, 2020. It is likely that seniors housing providers across Alberta are facing similar labour and fiscal impacts due to the pandemic and require provincial support to comply with new requirements.

### **RMA Background**

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.