Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Reform



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Overview: Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks

• Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs) are mandated by the Municipal Government Act (MGA), part 17.2.

- ICFs intend to:
 - 1. Provide for integrated and strategic planning, delivery and funding of intermunicipal services;
 - 2. Allocate scarce resources efficiently in providing local services; and
 - 3. Ensure municipalities contribute funding to services that benefit residents.
- Potential re-opening of the MGA this fall provides us with an opportunity to amend part 17.2

The Current State

- Under the current framework, ICFs must:
 - 1. Describe the services that benefit residents;
 - 2. Identify which municipality is responsible for providing said services;
 - 3. Outline how the services will be delivered and funded; and
 - 4. Include a process for resolving disputes that occur while the framework is in effect.
- Issues impacting the current framework:
 - a. No definitional clarity to define **what** constitutes an intermunicipal service
 - b. No mechanism to ensure costs are justifiable and verifiable
- Outcome: Leads to significant inconsistencies and cost overruns/uncertainties in mandated arbitration settlements

The Call to Action

- To form an advocacy coalition consisting primarily of rural municipalities to ensure:
 - 1. Intermunicipal services are clearly defined within the *Municipal Government Act* in relation to ICFs; and
 - I. Limit scope
 - II. Mitigate unbudgeted cost overruns
 - 2. Enshrine a mechanism to ensure costs are verifiable when composing ICFs
- Proposed short-term deliverables:
 - 1. Co-sign correspondence to outline proposed issues and future/amended framework;
 - 2. Meet with the Department of Municipal Affairs as a collective;
 - 3. Present resolution at the upcoming fall RMA Convention;
 - 4. Meet with the Minister of Municipal Affairs