



RMA
RURAL MUNICIPALITIES
of ALBERTA

2025 Resolution Status Update

Volume 1

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2025 Resolution Status Update - Volume 1

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Introduction

The Resolution Status Update is divided into two sections.

- ♦ **Section 1** provides detailed information on the government response to the spring 2024 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.

Definition of Terms

Following endorsement by RMA members, 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 Fall 2024 Resolutions

RMA recently received responses to the resolutions adopted at the Fall 2024 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 |
|--------|--|-----------------------|
| 1-24F | Attraction and Retention Strategy for Rural Health Care Professionals | Intent Not Met |
| 2-24F | Increased Funding Support for Rural Family and Community Support Services Programs | Intent Not Met |
| 3-24F | Collection of Unpaid Municipal Property Taxes by Way of Royalties | Intent Not Met |
| 4-24F | Amend Municipal Government Act to Designate Police Funding Model Levy as Requisition | Intent Not Met |
| 5-24F | Tax Credits for Volunteer Firefighting and Search and Rescue Volunteer | Intent Not Met |
| 7-24F | Improved Water License Approval and Compliance Processes | Intent Not Met |
| 8-24F | Reinforcing Railway Fire Mitigation Procedures | Intent Not Met |
| 10-24F | Full-Time (24/7) Home Care Support in Lodges/Supportive Living Accommodations | Intent Not Met |
| 11-24F | Enhanced Brushing Along Powerlines to Mitigate Wildfires | Intent Not Met |
| 12-24F | Accountability in the Establishment of an Independent Agency Police Service in Alberta | Intent Not Met |
| 13-24F | Review of Broadband Funding Application Processes | Intent Not Met |
| 14-24F | Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Coverage for Community Peace Officers Under the Workers' Compensation Act | Intent Not Met |
| 15-24F | Member Committee to Understand the Criminal Justice System | Accepted in Principle |
| 16-24F | Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Amendment to Include Coyotes | Intent Not Met |
| 17-24F | Improved Grizzly Bear Management to Ensure Human, Livestock and Wildlife Safety | Intent Not Met |
| 18-24F | Renewable Electricity and Grid Stability | Intent Not Met |

| | | |
|--------|--|-----------------------|
| 19-24F | Exemption from Food Banks Canada's Standard of Excellence and Accreditation Requirements for Small and/or Rural Local Food Banks | Intent Not Met |
|--------|--|-----------------------|

Resolution 1-24F

Attraction and Retention Strategy for Rural Health Care Professionals

County of Stettler

Carried

► ***Advocacy Target: Alberta Health, Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services, Alberta Mental Health and Addiction, Alberta Advanced Education***

WHEREAS adequate medical services and the professionals required to deliver those services are critical to the safety and well-being of all Albertans; and

WHEREAS Albertans living in rural and remote areas face the largest impact from shortages of health care workers; and

WHEREAS a robust and diverse workforce of health care professionals is needed in Alberta to provide equitable access to appropriate health care services no matter where Albertans live; and

WHEREAS a cohesive provincial strategy focusing on increasing the number of health care professionals in rural Alberta is critical to ensuring stability and equity in Alberta's health care system; and

WHEREAS health providers across most professional groups are overrepresented in urban areas compared to the proportion of Albertans living in rural areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate for the Government of Alberta to urgently prioritize a commitment to long-term sustainable funding to accelerate implementation of the Rural Health Action Plan 2024-2027 and the work of the Rural Health Professions Action Plan that focuses on increasing the total number of health care professionals in rural and remote Alberta.

Government Response

Alberta Health

As highlighted in my mandate letter, a key government priority is to attract, train, and retain health professionals, particularly in rural and remote communities. To support this mandate, Alberta's Health Workforce Strategy is managing immediate challenges facing the health workforce while preparing for future needs. A \$16 million Rural and Remote Family Medicine Resident Physician Bursary Pilot Program is benefiting family medicine residents interested in practising in rural or remote Alberta. In return for funding, bursary recipients commit to delivering comprehensive patient care in eligible communities after completing their residency.

Additionally, Rural Capacity Investment Funds (RCIFs) have been established under recent collective agreements to support retention, recruitment, and relocation initiatives for health workers in rural areas across Alberta. These funds, totaling \$17.4 million annually, enable site-specific and collaborative initiatives to increase clinical capacity and address workforce shortages.

Further the Rural Health Action Plan includes several targeted strategies, such as collaborative recruitment efforts, investment in medical education in rural settings, and multi-disciplinary team-based care models that provide comprehensive care while reducing the burden on individual providers. It also supports initiatives like peer networking, rural-specific education programs, and cultural competence

training. Other innovative approaches are also being utilized, including the use of technology and mobile clinics to expand access and streamline care in rural and remote areas, while reducing administrative tasks for doctors.

To increase physician numbers, Alberta is working with medical schools to train over 100 additional physicians annually. Regional training centres in Lethbridge and Grande Prairie will enable medical students to complete most of their education in rural areas, based on evidence that rural training fosters rural practise.

Further, to attract more health care workers, creative strategies like international recruitment and targeted incentives are being used. Digital tools and virtual care also help improve access to health services in remote areas while reducing administrative tasks for doctors.

Alberta Mental Health and Addictions

Alberta's government is committed to increasing access to mental health and addiction services in Alberta, helping to ensure all Albertans can receive the care they need when and where they need it. Ensuring mental health and addiction professionals are available to support programs and services is vital to this commitment.

Recovery Alberta is an agency responsible for the delivery of publicly funded mental health and addiction care in Alberta. Recovery Alberta has recruitment initiatives currently ongoing for both domestic and international applicants, for which Alberta Health Services provides human resources supports through a transitional shared services agreement. Recovery Alberta is focused on establishing itself as an employer of choice by offering competitive wages and benefits and meaningful career growth.

Recovery Alberta is working with partners, including the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and the Association of International Medical Graduates of Alberta, to highlight opportunities and streamline the recruitment process. Alberta Health Services also works with existing programs on behalf of Recovery Alberta, including the Rural Health Professionals Action Plan, to support community integration, setting candidates up for success in their new communities.

Recovery Alberta is removing as many barriers as possible for Internationally Educated Nurses(IENs) to join the workforce by working with nurses at each step of the process. The process to hire IENs is being expedited, reducing the time to hire from two years to six months, placing Alberta at the forefront of IEN recruitment nationwide. Recovery Alberta is committed to ensuring each IEN feels safe, supported, and valued as members of their new teams and communities, and are working closely with sites to foster these welcoming environments.

In the last round of collective bargaining, the Rural Capacity Investment Fund was established to support recruitment and retention strategies in rural and remote areas in the north, central, and southern Alberta. Approximately \$17 million annually was allocated to support recruitment, retention, and relocation incentives, as well as to support team and professional development opportunities for clinical staff in these three rural zones.

Alberta's government continues to invest in mental health and addiction supports and services across the continuum of care, including intervention, prevention, treatment, and recovery. Budget 2024 invests more than \$1.55 billion to continue building the Alberta Recovery Model and to ensure Albertans living with mental illness and/or addiction have an opportunity to pursue recovery. This includes investments

in services to ensure Albertans living in rural communities have access to the mental health and addiction programs and services they need.

Mental Health and Addiction provides funding to the Canadian Mental Health Association – Alberta Division for the Rural Mental Health Project (ruralmentalhealth.ca) in rural communities across Alberta. This project strengthens community capacity for better mental health in rural and remote communities through ongoing training, network collaboration, and funding. Funding is also provided to Counselling Alberta (counsellingalberta.com) to provide affordable virtual mental health counselling services across Alberta, and partners with local organizations in seven communities, including Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat, to provide affordable virtual and in-person mental health counselling with no waitlist.

Since 2019, the Government of Alberta added over 10,000 annual additional addiction treatment spaces across the province. This includes adding new spaces, funding spaces that were previously unfunded, and upgrading existing detox spaces to medically supported detox. These spaces are in addition to the approximately 19,000 publicly funded addiction treatment spaces in Alberta, resulting in the Government of Alberta now funding approximately 29,000 addiction treatment spaces annually. This includes spaces in north, central, and southern Alberta.

Recovery Alberta's publicly funded mental health and addiction services are available in communities across the province. Albertans living in north, central, and southern Alberta can contact Recovery Alberta's Access Addiction and Mental Health (1-888-594-0211) for support accessing the services they need.

Recovery Alberta's Virtual Opioid Dependency Program provides technology delivered same day medication starts, opioid treatment transition services, and ongoing opioid dependency care to Albertans living with opioid addiction. This service is available to Albertans across the province, particularly those unable to access one of Recovery Alberta's opioid dependency program clinics, especially those in rural areas. The program helps ensure smooth transitions for patients who are moving from one care setting to another, including from hospital-based care to community-based care.

By continuing to invest in recovery-oriented mental health and addiction programs and services, Alberta's government is working to meet the mental health and addiction recovery needs of Albertans. This helps ensure a healthy, strong Alberta for the future.

Seniors, Community and Social Services

I have forwarded your letter to my colleague, the Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Health, as the mandate of increasing rural health care providers falls under her portfolio.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

RMA sent Resolution 1-24F to several ministries and agencies including Alberta Health Services, Alberta Health, Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services, Alberta Mental Health and Addiction, and Alberta Advanced Education. To date, RMA has received a response from the previous ministers of Health, Mental Health and Addiction, and Seniors Community and Social Services. Resolution 1-24F calls on the Government of Alberta to support rural healthcare worker attraction and retention by prioritizing the implementation of the [Rural Health Action Plan](#) and the [Rural Health Professions Action Plan](#). The Rural Health Action Plan includes the following workforce focus areas:

- Rural and remote resident physician bursary program

- Grown our own
- New physician compensation model
- MAPS and I-MAPS Implementation Plans
- Expand Rural Health Care Provider Education and Training Opportunities
- Partnerships to Enhance Health Care Attraction
- Regional and Indigenous Advisory Councils

The Minister of Health's response draws attention to their work with the resident physician bursary program and other related attraction and retention activities. RMA has previously expressed concern that some health worker grant funding may download healthcare costs onto municipalities. Many of these actions do not entail long-term sustainable funding. The Minister of Seniors, Community, and Social Services, who is the sector minister for the Continuing Care healthcare pillar, declined to comment on the Continuing Care rural health workforce. This is disappointing given how quickly rural Alberta is ageing and how important these rural health services are.

The Minister of Mental Health and Addiction describes several of the Government of Alberta's rural mental health initiatives including streamlining credential recognition for internationally educated mental healthcare workers and investments in (rural) mental health services and associations.

Responses do not refer to the Rural Health Action plan or reference the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) nor indicate additional supports for their work.

RMA plans to learn more about how responsibility for implementing the Rural Health Action Plan will be allocated among the newly formed ministries of Hospital and Surgical Services (Minister Jones) and Primary Care and Preventative Services (Minister LaGrange), and how rural healthcare will be impacted by Bill 55 (continued healthcare restructuring/service delivery privatization). RMA has asked to meet with Minister LaGrange for an update on the Rural Health Action Plan.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to advocate.

Resolution 2-24F

Increased Funding Support for Rural Family and Community Support Services Programs

Vulcan County, Wheatland County

Carried

► ***Advocacy Target: Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services, Alberta Health Services, Children and Family Services***

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta (GOA) identifies proactive and preventive approaches to social issues as being key to building and sustaining a system that improves outcomes for children, families, seniors and communities; and

WHEREAS Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a partnership between the GOA, municipalities and Métis Settlements that develop locally driven, preventative social initiatives that enhance the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities; and

WHEREAS FCSS is established pursuant to the Family and Community Support Services Act and the Family and Community Support Services Regulation, in which the Government of Alberta contributes 80% of program costs and municipalities contribute at least 20% of the program cost; and

WHEREAS there are 210 local FCSS programs representing 316 municipalities participating in the provincial FCSS program; and

WHEREAS FCSS services include programs for parent and family support, early childhood development, youth programs, and programs to keep seniors connected to the community; and

WHEREAS the seniors demographic is growing in Alberta and around the world and the cost of institutional health care and housing for this vulnerable population has been proven to be unsustainable; and

WHEREAS investments in proactive and preventative actions lead to less pressure on crisis management and intervention services related to justice, health care, child intervention, family violence, and seniors' institutional housing, which will ultimately reduce the economic and social costs to the GOA and all Albertans; and

WHEREAS in 2010 and 2014, RMA endorsed resolutions calling for the GOA to increase FCSS funding as it had remained stagnant for years; and

WHEREAS in 2015, the GOA responded by increasing FCSS funding by 33% from \$76 million to \$101 million, however, has not increased FCSS funding by more than 5% in the last nine years since then; and

WHEREAS In 2023, RMA recognized the challenge posed by rural FCSS programs and enlisted the University of Alberta's Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) to develop a report that specifically outlines the issues faced in local rural FCSS programs; and

WHEREAS the ACSRC report noted key challenges facing rural programming including insufficient provincial funding, increasing inaccessibility of provincial social services in rural Alberta, and changing and increasing social needs in rural Alberta; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with a period of high inflation has left more Albertans in need of social services provided by FCSS programs; and

WHEREAS rural FCSS programs are faced with an increased challenge of providing preventative services that meet local needs, with limited funding and reduced access to provincial support services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta (GOA) to immediately begin indexing provincial Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding to population growth and inflation;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate that the GOA improve accessibility to provincial supports for vulnerable rural residents to allow for fair and equitable access to critical services throughout Alberta that adequately meet their needs.

Government Response

Alberta Health Services

With regards to resolution 2-24F in relation to funding support for rural family and community support programs, as these services are funded and provided by the Government of Alberta, AHS is unable to provide a response to this resolution. Responsibility for this also falls under the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services.

Seniors, Community and Social Services

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) programs are critical to helping ensure preventive social services are available, meet local needs and address social problems. FCSS programs are also supporting Albertans with increasingly complex needs. Budget 2024 maintained FCSS funding at \$105 million to ensure services remain available for those requiring help. Alberta's government will continue to work with municipalities and Metis Settlements to help meet the changing needs of vulnerable Albertans and support the well-being of our province's diverse communities.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

Resolution 2-24F called on the Government of Alberta (GOA) to index provincial Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding to population growth and inflation and that they improve access to rural FCSS. Prior to Resolution 2-24F, rural municipalities passed a series of now expired resolutions calling on the GOA to increase FCSS funding. In 2023, in partnership with the University of Alberta's Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, [RMA released a report](#) on rural FCSS that found rural FCSS programs are underfunded, struggle to attract and retain staff, and that these services fill a critical gap in rural municipalities whereas urban municipalities have more services to call upon to form a combined approach to meeting residents' needs. FCSS costs are intended to be split 80/20 between the GOA and municipalities, but to keep FCSS afloat and maintain an adequate level of service, rural municipalities often contribute in excess of 20% of total FCSS costs.

The previous Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services' response reiterated how valuable FCSS programs are and that they are meeting increasingly complex needs. Yet, FCSS funding remained unchanged in budget 2025. The minister noted they would continue to work with municipalities to meet the needs of vulnerable Albertans, but did not explain how or why this would not entail additional FCSS funding.

RMA has met with the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services (now Assisted Living and Social Services) twice in 2025 to discuss this issue, including in a joint meeting with Alberta Municipalities (ABMunis) and the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA). In both meetings, the Minister acknowledged the operational pressures facing rural FCSS services but indicated it was unlikely that provincial funding levels would increase due to competing budgetary pressures. RMA plans to continue to advocate for increases to, at minimum, maintain FCSS funding at levels consistent with inflation. RMA is also exploring opportunities to work with ABMunis and FCSSAA to play a role in identifying local gaps in provincial social service delivery as a way to assist the Government of Alberta in making targeted funding and operational capacity more effective.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 3-24F

Collection of Unpaid Municipal Property Taxes by Way of Royalties

MD of Taber

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Energy and Minerals, Alberta Energy Regulator**

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta manages 81% of the province's mineral rights and resources on behalf of Albertans; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta sets conditions and the royalty framework for resource development, specifically, producing oil and/or gas wells and oil sand projects; and

WHEREAS rural municipalities provide delivery of essential services to industry, including the oil and gas industry, on behalf of the Government of Alberta; and

WHEREAS rural municipalities and the Government of Alberta have a rich tradition of positive partnership in solving problems for the benefit of Alberta residents and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS Alberta municipalities fall within the jurisdiction of the Government of Alberta including in the form of support in their role and mandate in delivering essential local services on their behalf;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate that the Government of Alberta (GOA) require oil and gas developers and operators to pay municipal property taxes on oil and gas properties as a condition of being granted and/or retaining the right to develop oil and natural gas resources;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA advocate to the GOA to collect unpaid oil and gas municipal property taxes on behalf of municipalities through the collection of royalty revenue and distribute them accordingly.

Government Response

Alberta Municipal Affairs and Alberta Energy & Minerals

While most oil and gas companies pay their property taxes, the Government of Alberta is aware of the impact of unpaid property taxes on rural municipalities, and we have taken a series of actions to address this issue in recent years.

The Minister of Energy and Minerals directed the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), via Ministerial Order 043/2023, to require payment of municipal taxes as a condition for approving new well licences and well licence transfers, effective May 1, 2023. The AER will not approve licensing applications from companies with over \$20,000 in cumulative provincewide arrears. We have seen signs that these actions have resulted in municipalities receiving overdue taxes from some operational companies.

The original directive was amended, effective September 15, 2024 (Ministerial Order 096/2024), to allow for the transfer of productive assets in tax arrears to operators with no arrears (above the threshold). This facilitates the acquisition of assets by companies that can continue to operate them productively. A company receiving assets in arrears will be liable for any previously unpaid amounts related to those assets, which should also aid in tax recovery.

An additional tool under development will provide municipalities with a process to refer companies with persistent unpaid taxes to the AER for further compliance and enforcement actions.

Additional tools will be explored as necessary, and government continues to involve RMA in efforts to promote tax recovery. While systems in place to collect resource royalties may seem like a straightforward means of collecting unpaid property taxes, several complicating factors would need to be considered before government could pursue such a course of action.

Any avenue for the recovery of property taxes through the royalty system would achieve little for most unpaid amounts because most of the companies in arrears are insolvent or no longer operating and likely not generating production that is subject to royalties. Property taxes and royalties are governed by two separate legislative frameworks, the Municipal Government Act (Municipal Affairs) and the Mines and Minerals Act (Energy and Minerals, and Environment and Protected Areas).

Considerable legislative changes would be necessary before property tax arrears could be recovered under different legislation.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The government response acknowledges the impact that unpaid oil and gas taxes have on rural municipalities and outlines some of the steps the province has taken to address this issue, including Ministerial Orders 043/2023 and 096/2024.

In April 2023, MO 043/2023 required payment of municipal taxes as a condition for approving new well licenses and transfers, and was a partial solution to the unpaid tax issue; when an oil and gas company wanted to sell or purchase an asset, both parties in the transfer needed to be current on their municipal taxes. While this did not solve the broader issue of operating companies not paying taxes, it did limit their ability to transfer assets in such cases.

Then, in September 2024, MO 096/2024 provided an exemption to the conditions set out in MO 43/2023, stating that the conditions do not apply when the asset being transferred has been designated as an orphan. The intent of this exemption appears to be to prevent producing assets held by a company with tax arrears from becoming orphaned assets that require abandonment and reclamation by the Orphan Well Association; this was to be accomplished by decreasing the up-front cost for an operational company to purchase and continue operating the asset.

RMA learned that this exemption was designed such that the tax arrears on the asset being transferred become the obligation of the new owner, but without an enforcement tool or Ministerial Order, there were no mechanisms that required the purchasing company to actually pay municipal tax arrears. RMA is cautiously optimistic that the “additional tool under development” will lead to more positive outcomes and the payment of municipalities’ tax arrears, but RMA will reserve a full analysis of the tool’s efficacy until it is officially implemented. Therefore, it will not impact the status of this resolution at this time.

As for the second ask of this resolution, being the collection of unpaid municipal taxes through the royalty system, the government’s response outlines the difficulty in making “considerable legislative changes” to the existing royalty framework under three separate ministries, and the challenges in tying a non-operational company’s unpaid tax burden to its royalty payments, which they would also not be paying due to being non-operational and not producing any resources. However, the response seemed to focus solely on non-operational companies, despite RMA’s considerable advocacy around “Zombie”

oil and gas companies throughout 2024; Zombie companies are those that still hold and operate producing assets (and pay royalties) but are otherwise unable to meet their obligations.

In March 2025, the former Minister of Municipal Affairs responded to an RMA request to collaborate with the GOA in the creation of a working group to address the ongoing unpaid tax issue. Minister McIver stated that the GOA recognized the continued and dramatic impact that unpaid property taxes have on rural municipalities and reiterated their commitment to continue working collaboratively with RMA and other municipal stakeholders to explore methods to recover the unpaid tax through the development of a Property Tax Accountability Strategy. RMA plans to advocate for the use of royalty collection mechanisms as a backstop for unpaid taxes through this process.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**. RMA will continue to build a common understanding between municipalities and the GOA on the scope of unpaid taxes and the impacts, with the goal of developing and implementing plans that support the recovery of existing unpaid taxes and prevent the non-payment of taxes moving forward, including those requested in this resolution. RMA will continue advocating for the payment of municipal property tax arrears owed by oil and gas companies, and for the province to actually commit to making “considerable legislative changes” instead of half-measures that fail to make our members whole.

Resolution 4-24F

Amend Municipal Government Act to Designate Police Funding Model Levy as Requisition

MD of Spirit River

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services**

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta (GOA) introduced the Police Funding Model (PFM) in 2019; and

WHEREAS the PFM requires urban municipalities with a population under 5,000 and all rural municipalities to pay a portion of the provincial policing costs associated with the Provincial Police Services Agreement; and

WHEREAS the GOA does not permit municipalities to designate the police levy as a requisition on their tax rate bylaw nor on their tax notices because policing is not identified under Section 326(1)a of the Municipal Government Act as a requisition, even though Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services issues an invoice for services which the municipality is required to pay; and

WHEREAS municipalities strive to be open and transparent to their ratepayers; and

WHEREAS municipalities want to make ratepayers aware that their property taxes are paying for policing services ;THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta to refrain from formalizing partisan politics in local government elections;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta allow municipalities to denote the collection of funds that cover the police funding model on taxation bylaws and tax notices by identifying the Police Funding Model payment as a requisition through the amendment of Section 326(1) of the Municipal Government Act.

Government Response

Alberta Municipal Affairs

The Municipal Government Act requires municipalities to include all costs, including policing expenses, in their annual budgets. Through the budgeting process, municipalities communicate the costs of each municipal program and service to their residents and taxpayers, which could include a breakdown of the municipal tax rate.

Policing services costs are shared between the federal, provincial, and municipal governments. Municipalities are invoiced annually for their portion of the policing costs within their boundaries. The mechanism for collecting these funds is enshrined in statutory law. Policing costs are typically included in the municipal tax levy, which is established through the annual property tax rate bylaw and communicated to property owners through annual tax notices.

Unlike schools, seniors, or housing requisitions, municipalities are not authorized to consider police funding costs as a separate requisition in their tax rate bylaws or property tax notices. The Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services administers the annual policing model and would be responsible for legislative amendments that could authorize municipalities to add policing costs as a requisition to their tax rate bylaws and property tax notices.

Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services

With respect to resolution 4-24F, to amend the Municipal Governance Act (MGA) to designate the policing funds from municipalities as a requisition, ministry staff consulted with Municipal Affairs on how municipal costs for policing can be communicated to ratepayers. Under the MGA, policing costs cannot be shown as a separate tax rate on municipal tax notices; however, there are alternative methods that communities can utilize to inform their ratepayers of the cost of policing, including:

- ♦ Through a detailed line item in their annual budget; and/or
- ♦ Through tax notices, municipalities are permitted to provide brochures or other written material explaining their property tax and what makes up the municipal tax rate, including a detailed breakdown of policing costs.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

Resolution 4-24F calls for the Government of Alberta to legislate a municipality's ability to list the PFM as a requisition on their tax notices and in their bylaws to promote transparency among rate payers and provide consistency in comparison to public disclosures of other required requisitions. The Municipal Affairs response indicates that the PFM cannot be listed as a requisition like schools, seniors, or housing requisitions and defers any comment on changing the PFM to a requisition to Public Safety and Emergency Services. Alberta Public Safety recognizes that the resolution intent is to amend the MGA but then goes on to say why the PFM can't currently be listed as a requisition due to the current MGA, without commenting on or making a commitment to change the MGA.

RMA is disappointed that the Government of Alberta has opted for such an indirect explanation and not shown any meaningful engagement with the idea of listing the PFM as a requisition or interest in supporting municipalities' intent to be fully transparent with rate payers. Given the complete lack of accountability and connection between PFM levies and levels of policing service, it is frustrating that the Government of Alberta does not even seem interested in working with RMA to help municipalities better explain to ratepayers how policing costs impact property taxes.

While the Municipal Affairs response indicates that this issue is best addressed by Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services, the rationale for this is not explained, particularly as the MGA includes requisitioning abilities for other services that are under the authority of external ministries.

In May 2025, the Government of Alberta launched an engagement on possible changes to the PFM in advance of the expiry of the Police Funding Regulation in 2026. Among RMA's recommended changes to the PFM is the following:

The Municipal Government Act must be amended to designate the PFM levy as a requisition

In Fall 2024, RMA members passed Resolution 4-24F, calling for an amendment to the Municipal Government Act (MGA) to classify the PFM levy as a requisition. This resolution was driven by concerns over the transparency of PFM costs and the need for residents to be fully aware of their contributions toward policing services.

Currently, municipalities are required to pay into the PFM, but the funding is collected without clear visibility to residents on their property tax notices. By amending Section 326(1) of the MGA, municipalities would gain the authority to clearly list the PFM levy as a separate

requisition on tax notices, ensuring that residents understand exactly how much they are contributing to provincial policing services.

RMA PFM resources are available here:

- [PFM member resource](#) – provides a detailed overview of how the PFM currently functions and general priority areas for change
- [“What We Heard”](#) summary of RMA’s fall 2024 PFM member survey
- [Bill 49 member resource](#) – While Bill 49 is not directly related to the PFM, it introduces significant complexity into how municipalities that choose to receive policing through the IAPS (as authorized in Bill 49) will impact the PFM.

RMA will continue to advocate to both Municipal Affairs and Public Safety and Emergency Services on this issue. This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 5-24F

Tax Credits for Volunteer Firefighting and Search and Rescue Volunteer Services

Athabasca County

Carried as amended

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services, Emergency Preparedness Canada, Finance Canada**

WHEREAS Canada has 90,000 volunteer firefighters who provide fire and all hazard emergency services to their communities; and

WHEREAS Canada has approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers who respond to thousands of incidents every year; and

WHEREAS many of these individuals receive some form of pay on call, an honorarium, or are given some funding to cover expenses, but they do not draw a living wage from firefighting; and

WHEREAS without volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, thousands of communities in Canada would have no fire and emergency response coverage; and

WHEREAS in 2013, the Government of Canada initiated a tax credit recognizing these individuals; and

WHEREAS volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers can claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of volunteer services were completed in a calendar year; and

WHEREAS the \$3,000 tax credit is inadequate to encourage recruitment and retention of volunteers or to properly recognize the risks and importance of their role; and

WHEREAS volunteer firefighters account for 71% of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the governments of Alberta and Canada to increase the amount of the volunteer and paid on call firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services tax credit to \$10,000.

Government Response

Alberta Municipal Affairs

Municipal Affairs recognizes the critical role firefighter and search and rescue volunteers play in protecting lives and ensuring community safety across the province. This importance was also acknowledged by the federal government when it announced plans to amend the Income Tax Act to double the tax credits, from \$3,000 to \$6,000, as part of its Budget 2024.

In Alberta, municipalities are responsible for ensuring their fire services meet the needs of the community, as they are in the best position to determine service levels and provide incentives to local volunteers. The Government of Alberta does not legislate provincial fire service standards.

Municipal Affairs is currently undertaking a Fire Service Review and recently completed engagement with stakeholders to better understand what changes could be made to best support fire services and the communities they serve.

Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services

To introduce tax credits for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue workers, ministry staff consulted with Treasury Board and Finance on potential tax credits for first responders, such as firefighters and search and rescue workers. The volunteer firefighter and search and rescue volunteer tax credits are federal income tax measures that are only used to reduce federal personal income taxes. Increasing the credit amount from \$3,000 to \$10,000 is a decision that can only be made by the federal government. The Government of Alberta encourages volunteer work by keeping our overall taxes low, making it more affordable for Albertans to contribute their time and resources to worthwhile causes.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

Resolution 5-24F calls for RMA to advocate to the provincial and federal governments to increase the amount of the volunteer and paid on call firefighting and search and rescue tax credit from \$6,000 to \$10,000. RMA sent this resolution to Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services, Emergency Preparedness Canada and Finance Canada. To date, RMA has received a response from Municipal Affairs and Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services.

The response from Municipal Affairs explains that the federal government increased the volunteer firefighter and search and rescue volunteers tax credit from \$3,000 to \$6,000 in budget 2024. They go on to say that while firefighters and search and rescue volunteers play a critical role in community safety, Alberta municipalities are ultimately responsible for providing this critical service and that they believe municipalities, rather than the provincial or federal government, should be incentivizing these volunteer services. Their remarks do not comment on what extent they believe the results of the Fire Service Review will benefit or speak to support for these critical services.

Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services take a different approach. Their response suggest that they considered introducing a provincial tax credit for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers by consulting with Treasury Board and Finance, but ultimately decided that the federal tax credit was sufficient and that the province provided adequate support for volunteers more broadly by keeping provincial taxes low.

RMA's [Volunteerism Report](#) found declining rates of volunteerism in Alberta, the implications and increased costs that result for rural municipalities, and recommendations on straight forward incentives like a tax credit, that the Government of Alberta could offer to make volunteering more appealing. Additionally, RMA's continued work on a firefighter recruitment and retention committee with the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association has provided insight into just how difficult it can be to operate these essential services.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to advocate for a higher tax credit.

Resolution 7-24F

Improved Water License Approval and Compliance Processes

Mountain View County

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, Alberta Energy and Minerals, Alberta Energy Regulator**

WHEREAS the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) have duplicate responsibility to regulate fresh water use and approval of diversion licenses; and

WHEREAS EPA's primary responsibility is to protect and enhance Alberta's environment and ecosystems to ensure a sustainable future, making life better for Albertans; and

WHEREAS the AER is currently issuing fresh water Temporary Diversion Licenses (TDLs) for use by industry without verifying approvals have met the processes and policies developed by the EPA; and

WHEREAS residential and agricultural use of water should be prioritized above industry needs for hydraulic fracking; and

WHEREAS TDLs are not appealable and neither the AER nor EPA will accept statements of concern from the public prior to industry utilizing the TDLs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta (GOA) to develop alternatives to the use of fresh water for hydraulic fracking;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the GOA require the oil and gas industry to reduce water use proportional to all other users if drought restrictions are implemented;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that that the GOA amend the Responsible Energy Development Act to remove from the mandate of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) "to consider and decide applications and other matters under the Water Act in respect of energy resource activities" to ensure that all authority for granting water licenses falls to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and that the AER continue to be responsible for industry compliance;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that that the GOA, without exception, require all Temporary Diversion License (TDL) applications, including those diversions from alluvial aquifers, follow the process outlined in legislation, policy and directives and that the information on which the approving authority has used to issue the TDL be made available to the public.

Government Response

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

The RMA's resolution is timely as EPA is engaging in opportunities to address barriers and enhance water availability. The department will ensure the RMA's resolution is considered as an opportunity

identified to enhance water management as part of this engagement. EPA staff appreciate the RMA's input to the engagement process so far, and if you would like more information on the process, it is available at alberta.ca/water-availability-engagement. Please note the water availability engagement has been extended until January 24, 2025.

The AER's assessment of TDL applications is undertaken in accordance with Alberta's Surface Water Allocation Directive. Many energy development activities can use freshwater alternatives; however, there can be technical and logistical challenges, along with an increased environmental risk if spilled. The provincial Water Conservation Policy for Upstream Oil and Gas Operations and AER's companion document, Manual 025: Applications Under the Water Conservation Policy for Upstream Oil and Gas Operations, include specific requirements to identify alternative water sources and examine the environmental net effects of using potentially available alternatives. In 2023, the AER made additional regulatory changes (found in Directive 077: Pipelines – Requirements and Reference Tools) to encourage the use of alternatives to non-saline water by enabling poor-quality water to be stored and used for operations and providing options to move water between sites using temporary pipelines.

Under the Water Act, if drought restrictions are implemented, all water licensees are required to reduce water use. Implementing drought restrictions is based on the terms and conditions of each licence, including the maximum rate of water extraction, and the water level at which extractions must cease to ensure water is available for other users (based on licence priority). TDLs are generally first to be suspended or cancelled because they have no priority.

It is important to note the above mechanism for implementing drought restrictions is distinct from the 2024 water sharing agreements applied in southern Alberta, which are voluntary in nature. Earlier this year, major water users voluntarily agreed to reduce their water use so that drought restrictions could be avoided.

For new TDLs issued during drought conditions, drought response measures may vary depending on the location and seasonal factors. In some instances, EPA may issue low-flow advisories that restrict the approval of new TDLs. At such times, the AER would adhere to department's direction and guidance, which may result in TDLs being issued for water sources such as borrow pits, dugouts, or reservoirs in preference to natural sources.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

Although the Government of Alberta response acknowledges some of the concerns and requests highlighted in Resolution 7-24F, it does not make commitments towards the specific action items in the resolution's operative clauses. It is encouraging that EPA references past actions taken to limit freshwater usage by industry in Directive 077. However, the response does not address the lack of adherence to and inconsistent enforcement of this policy observed by RMA members concerning the requirement for industry applicants to consider all other alternative water sources to discourage the use of freshwater, as highlighted in the resolution. Additionally, the government response does not address one of Resolution 7-24F's operative clauses which calls for amendments to the *Responsible Energy Development Act* that would ensure license granting authority for only EPA instead of the Alberta Energy Regulator as well.

On April 28th 2025, EPA announced the launch of Phase Two of their engagement process on water availability which includes a survey designed to gather feedback from key stakeholders and members of the public that will inform future amendments to the *Water Act*. Some of the survey questions seek to streamline administrative processes that will increase water availability, promote transparency and improve efficiency. These would be welcome changes for rural municipalities, especially in the southern regions of the province that routinely have challenges with water availability during drought periods or other shortages.

However, there continues to be no indication from both the government response and the current engagement that industry compliance will be re-evaluated or re-considered in any capacity. Furthermore, the key asks of this resolution continue to be unaddressed: that only EPA has deciding authority on water licenses, that TDL usage adheres to existing legislation, and that industry freshwater use is not being prioritized at the expense of municipalities.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to participate in the Water Availability Engagement and monitor other opportunities for input related to this resolution.

Resolution 8-24F

Reinforcing Railway Fire Mitigation Procedures

MD of Lesser Slave River

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Forestry and Parks, Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors, Alberta Emergency Management Agency, Transport Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Emergency Preparedness Canada**

WHEREAS wildfires pose a significant threat to rural municipalities in Alberta, endangering lives, property, and the environment; and

WHEREAS the rugged terrain and expansive forests found within many rural municipalities increase both the complexity of wildfire management and the urgency of preventative measures; and

WHEREAS wildfire seasons are growing increasingly longer and more intense, placing a significant strain on provincial and municipal wildfire resources; and

WHEREAS railways operate extensive railway infrastructure throughout Alberta, intersecting with wildland areas prone to fires; and

WHEREAS railway operations could result in the creation of fires; and

WHEREAS the implementation of effective mitigation measures during train movement could significantly reduce the occurrence and severity of wildfires in affected areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate for the governments of Alberta and Canada to work with railway companies to enhance railway wildfire mitigation strategies and procedures; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate for railway companies to ensure adequate fire suppression assets follow trains during train movement within high fire risk areas during fire season as a means of mitigating wildfires.

Government Response

Natural Resources Canada

Thank you for your correspondence of November 25th, 2024, addressed to the Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, about RMA Fall 2024 Resolution 9-24F: Reinforcing Railway Fire Mitigation procedures. As the lead for NRCan's Wildland Fire Risk Management Program, I am responding on behalf of Minister Wilkinson.

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is mandated to conduct science-based research and other activities that support wildland fire resilience (response/operations, preparedness, prevention, mitigation, and recovery). To that end, we work closely with provinces and territories to transform national approaches to wildland fire management. This includes delivery of the Fighting and Managing Wildland Fire in a Changing Climate program (which is helping provinces and territories acquire and update needed firefighting equipment and training hundreds of new wildland firefighters across the country), and the

Wildfire Resilient Futures Initiative (which, includes a focus on enhancing community-based resilience). Recently, through the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers, we also worked to establish Canada's first ever Wildland Fire Prevention and Mitigation Strategy. The strategy recognizes the importance of a whole-of-society engagement and the need for combined efforts from all sectors of society to build a more wildland fire resilient society.

The RMA's interest in working with railway companies demonstrates the important role for whole-of-society can play in wildland fire risk management. I am unable to speak directly to the issue of railway company activities in relation to wildland fire mitigation, but I note that your resolution also identifies Transport Canada as an additional federal contact. Transport Canada is best positioned to provide response on rail companies' wildfire mitigation procedures, resources, and other activities. I have copied my Transport Canada colleagues on this response, for their awareness.

You may be interested in knowing that I met with RMA officials in April for a discussion on NRCan wildland fire risk assessments tools and services and the Wildland Fire Resilient Futures initiative. I would be pleased to have any additional conversations related to CFS' wildfire risk management science, policy, and program activities, if the RMA is interested.

Alberta Emergency Management Agency

Thank you for sending the RMA Resolution regarding railway safety for our consideration. I appreciate the interest of RMA and your member communities in community safety and resiliency.

The Alberta Emergency Management Agency is not involved in the federal or provincial regulation of rail systems.

I trust that the other ministries and levels of government that you have contacted on the topic will advise of their respective roles and responsibilities for rail safety.

Alberta Forestry and Parks

The Government of Alberta also recognizes the risk of fires caused by railways and is working with railway stakeholders to mitigate those hazards.

Railway companies operate under federal regulatory jurisdiction within the province of Alberta. Although the Government of Alberta has limited regulatory authority regarding railway operations, the Forest and Prairie Protection Act require railway operators take immediate action to fight and extinguish wildfires on rail right of ways and report fires to local authorities. The government supports the investment by railway operators for specialized firefighting resources to take suppression action on wildfires on rail right-of-way.

The federal Railway Extreme Heat and Fire Mitigation Rules impacts federally regulated railways, such as Canadian National Railway Co. and Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd. under the authority of Transport Canada. The Government of Alberta continues to monitor these rules and their impacts during extreme fire danger conditions that occur along the railway corridors in our province.

My ministry is developing a province-wide wildfire mitigation strategy with support from various stakeholders, including the rail and power line industry. This strategy will develop actions and strategies aimed at mitigating wildfire risk throughout the province.

We continue to work closely with all industries to collectively address wildfire risk to communities and increase resiliency.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The government responses highlight that railway companies operate under federal jurisdiction while outlining railway operator obligations under legislation as well as actions undertaken by both railway companies and government to promote wildfire mitigation.

Although Alberta Forestry and Parks express support for railway companies that invest in wildfire suppression resources, the ministry does not commit to working more closely with railway operators and the federal government to further support the implementation of suppression strategies and resources, as requested in Resolution 8-24F. However, RMA looks forward to the results of the [Wildfire Mitigation Strategy Engagement](#) referenced in the government response which is set to be approved in Fall 2025.

The status and usage of firefighting trains since [Canadian National Railway's \(CN\) launch of the wildfire suppression program in 2024](#) is not well known. RMA intends to request this information from the major railway operators as part of our ongoing advocacy efforts.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue advocating to both government and railway companies for enhanced railway wildfire suppression in Alberta.

Resolution 10-24F

Full-Time (24/7) Home Care Support in Lodges/Supportive Living Accommodations

Beaver County

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services, Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services**

WHEREAS the needs of rural Alberta seniors lodge residents are increasing beyond the service levels provided by the traditional staffing model in seniors housing facilities; and

WHEREAS small rural communities wherein the seniors housing facilities are located face challenges to provide required amenities and community supports; and

WHEREAS relocation of seniors to higher-care facilities is contrary to the Government of Alberta's expressed desire to enable seniors to age in community (age in place), and imposes undue mental and physical stress on seniors; and

WHEREAS the mandate of the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services is to work with seniors lodge providers to expand seniors lodges and facilities to keep up with increased growth and demand;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to incentivize transportation and health care services to enable the provision of unscheduled home care for rural seniors, including those in supportive living accommodations.

Government Response

Alberta Health

Thank you for your letter regarding the resolutions passed at the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Fall 2024 session. I appreciate the vital role rural municipalities play in serving Albertans, and I welcome the opportunity to provide information on Resolution 1-24F. I understand that Seniors, Community and Social Services is responding to you regarding Resolution 10-24.

Alberta Health Services

As you may be aware, in late 2023 the Government of Alberta announced a refocusing of the health care system to align services with four major pillars. As the responsibility for home care and continuing care services is moving to a new continuing care provincial health agency, we would encourage you to contact the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services in relation to Resolution 10-24F.

Seniors, Community and Social Services

Alberta's government is refocusing the health care system to make health care better for Albertans and the front-line workers who work tirelessly every day to serve their patients.

As a part of government's plan to refocus the health care system, I will assume the role of the sector minister, including oversight of all aspects of continuing care. This change will not interrupt service delivery in any way. This refocusing will allow government to place a unique social service lens on continuing care and deliver care more effectively and consistently throughout the province. Combining the medical and non-medical services of continuing care will provide seniors, people with disabilities and vulnerable Albertans with expanded supports and services to access the care they need and maintain their quality of life. It will ensure the full continuum of care will be available to Albertans, from

continuing care, home care and community care systems to housing, social supports and wraparound services.

One of the government's key priorities is to help seniors to age safely and independently in their homes and communities. SCSS is responding to recommendations from the Continuing Care Transformation Review to support older adults to live and age well in community by funding projects for the delivery of Social Prescribing and Non-Medical Home Supports (including assisted transportation) across the province in urban centres and rural communities. The work and funding in this space is part of a system of supports for Alberta seniors, linked with supports provided through health, housing, FCSS and financial assistance programs.

Social prescribing is a holistic approach to healthcare that bridges the gap between medical and social care services. Through this approach, health care professionals refer and connect patients to community-based programs, services and activities to improve their health and enhance their quality of life via a link worker who connects them from the health system to social supports. Currently, the government is funding seven social prescribing projects aimed at supporting older adults in major population centres and surrounding rural communities. These projects aim to supplement existing community supports and focus the extended social services outreach in alignment with the social prescribing model.

Non-Medical Home and Community Supports provide social supports for the overall health and well-being for older adults and seniors in their homes. This includes assistance related to system navigation, housekeeping, yard maintenance, groceries and meal assistance, recreational activities, social connection and assisted transportation. These supports are usually provided in an independent living setting, though some are also appropriate for supportive living situations where requested.

This work will allow us an opportunity to explore how we can bring together the full continuum of health and housing care for seniors. We want to ensure those living in their chosen community, whether in their own homes or in seniors lodges, have the supports they need to continue to do so for as long as possible. Since March 2023, SCSS has partnered with Healthy Aging Alberta(HAA) to fund 20 community organizations (rural and urban) to provide home and community non-medical supports.

We also recognize that transportation is a social determinant of health impacting access of older adults and seniors to healthcare services, social services, employment, and social opportunities, with rural and remote communities particularly affected. Since March 2023, SCSS has partnered with HAA to provide funding to 19 rural/remote communities where transit does not exist to allow seniors and individuals with disabilities to access medical appointments, complete errands, engage in social activities and get where they need to go.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

Resolution 10-24F calls on RMA to advocate to the Government of Alberta to provide new supports for seniors in affordable housing, to encourage ageing in place and prevent seniors from having to relocate into facilities with higher, and more expensive, levels of care.

Since RMA received responses from the Government of Alberta, ministry names have changed. Alberta Health was divided into three ministries: primary and preventative health services, hospital and surgical services, and mental health and addiction. The Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services was renamed Assisted Living and Social Services, which suggests the ministry may devote heightened attention to supporting seniors.

Formerly, Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services was responsible for affordable housing, continuing care, and other seniors care facilities. The Minister's response indicates that the ministry is responding to recommendations from the Continuing Care Transformation Review and transitioning to the four-pillar healthcare model which will change the way continuing care is presently delivered in Alberta. The Minister's response indicated a community supports-oriented approach as opposed to an institution-based model that supported "social prescribing" or connecting seniors to existing community supports. While social prescribing seems like a positive approach to ageing in place, RMA is concerned that some rural municipalities and communities may not have appropriate supports programs and that available supports may vary significantly between communities.

As the Minister's response did not indicate plans to increase services within seniors' lodges, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to monitor and advocate on this resolution as the continuing care health pillar is implemented.

Resolution 11-24F

Enhanced Brushing Along Powerlines to Mitigate Wildfires

MD of Lesser Slave River

Carried as amended

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Forestry and Parks, Alberta Affordability and Utilities**

WHEREAS wildfires pose a significant threat to rural municipalities in Alberta, endangering lives, property, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS powerlines traverse vast areas of the province, including areas of high fire risk; and

WHEREAS overgrown vegetation along powerlines increases the risk of wildfires due to potential contact with power infrastructure; and

WHEREAS select locations across the province feature a single egress, creating a risk of individuals becoming trapped if a fire were to occur along this single egress; and

WHEREAS proactive measures such as brushing along powerlines have been proven effective in reducing wildfire risk by creating firebreaks and limiting the spread of fires; and

WHEREAS the current level of brushing along powerlines in high-risk areas does not adequately mitigate wildfire risk; and

WHEREAS the rugged terrain and expansive forests found within many rural municipalities increase both the complexity of wildfire management and the urgency of preventative measures; and

WHEREAS the cost of wildfire suppression and recovery places a significant burden on provincial and municipal resources;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) urge relevant provincial authorities to prioritize and expand brushing initiatives along powerlines on all lands within forested areas to reduce the risk of wildfires;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate to relevant provincial authorities for a comprehensive review of powerline right-of-way widths across the province, considering local conditions, tree length, surrounding vegetation, and fire risk to ensure adequate right-of-way widths are in place for purposes of wildfire mitigation through vegetation management.

Government Response

Alberta Forestry and Parks

From 2006 to 2024, an average of 75 wildfires per year ignited in the Forest Protection Area were attributed to power lines. Specific causes included vegetation and tree contacts, infrastructure-related faults, and animals interacting with the conductor. The Government of Alberta is aware of these issues and has been working collaboratively with power line operators to proactively identify and reduce wildfire risks.

Power line operators have standing wildfire agreements with the province, which require them to develop wildfire mitigation strategies to reduce ignitions. In 2015, government and power line operators formed a Wildfire Risk Mitigation Task Group to strategically and continuously assess the overall wildfire risk posed by the power line industry. The group developed strategies, programs, and actions to reduce wildfire risk to communities and industry. This work informed the development of

wildfire risk plans by industry, which identified areas of risk and prioritized mitigation efforts accordingly.

Power line operators have a number of options to reduce wildfire risk, particularly in high-risk areas. Options include adopting grid technology to identify system deficiencies and faults; applying for increased right-of way widths and vegetation control easements to reduce vegetation contacts; increasing line patrols, hazard tree removals and brushing programs; replacing aging infrastructure; burying lines; and installing wildlife deterrents. Some companies have implemented or are in the process of building Public Safety Power Shutoff programs aimed at proactive de-energization of assets in advance of conditions that could cause a catastrophic wildfire in a community. In addition, the power line industry recently completed the Alberta electric utility wildfire risk management: best management practices 2024 guide to assist companies in actively managing wildfire risk. The guide is available to view online at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/alberta-electric-utility-wildfire-risk-management-bestmanagement-practices.323>

Power line companies and other partners are working with the Alberta government to further enhance the provincial weather station and camera detection networks to improve wildfire detection, monitoring, and preparedness. The power line industry has been funding a project to support the province in enhancement of a fuel grid for Alberta, which is an integral input into developing wildfire risk assessments.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The response from Alberta Forestry and Parks indicates acknowledgement of the issues highlighted in Resolution 11-24F and past government/industry action to mitigate powerline wildfire risks. However, powerlines are still a significant contributor to wildfires in Alberta; [from 2018 to 2024, there is an upward trend in the number of wildfires caused by powerlines](#). Furthermore, powerlines have caused 86 wildfires on average during this time period and 602 wildfires overall. Despite the efforts and initiatives undertaken by government as highlighted in the response from Forestry and Parks, they have not resulted in meaningful change towards reducing powerline-caused wildfires in Alberta, especially in recent years. Additionally, the response does not commit to working collaboratively with power line companies to initiate a review of powerline right of way widths or to expand brushing and vegetation management initiatives.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue researching and advocating for the successful implementation of existing and new powerline brushing and vegetation management strategies.

Resolution 12-24F

Accountability in the Establishment of an Independent Agency Police Service in Alberta

County of Northern Lights, Thorhild County

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services**

WHEREAS the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) has been clear in its opposition to the creation of an Alberta Provincial Police Service; and

WHEREAS RMA has formally requested that rural municipalities be consulted on proposed Police Act changes and the future of policing in Alberta; and

WHEREAS the regulation implementing the current Police Funding Model, introduced by the Government of Alberta in 2020, is due to expire at the end of 2024; and

WHEREAS an independent agency police service may be created by the Government of Alberta through unilateral amendments to the Police Act that were not considered by municipalities or key stakeholders prior to their introduction and adoption; and

WHEREAS while an independent agency police service may provide supportive functions to existing Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), municipal, or Indigenous and First Nations Police Services, no consultation was provided to any such existing agency, thereby not accounting for cost, personnel, or other service impacts; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has confirmed and committed to the RCMP's role in providing contract policing until the end of current contract agreements in 2032 and beyond for all interested contract partners, as communicated to all provincial ministers of Public Safety in spring 2024;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate that the Government of Alberta provide a public itemized costing of any independent agency police service, complete with a detailing of costs borne by municipalities through the existing or a future Police Funding Model facilitated by the Government of Alberta;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta not introduce an independent agency police service prior to substantive consultation and quantifiable significant majority support from municipalities and Albertans-at-large.

Government Response

Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services

In regard to resolution 12-24F, which requests accountability in the establishment of an Independent Agency Police Service, the new independent agency would perform policing functions currently carried out by and planned for peace officers in the Alberta sheriffs, who have taken on more police-like roles over the past several decades. As such, it is prudent to improve civilian oversight by creating a dedicated police service. This change to having policing roles carried out by police officers under the authority of the Police Act, rather than being conducted by peace officers under the Peace Officer Act and aligns

with best practices for police work and would result in more transparency and accountability for the public.

It is important to note that this legislation does not create a provincial police service to replace the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Rather, this new independent agency would strengthen the current policing model and augment the efforts of Alberta's police services, whether the RCMP, First Nations police services, or municipal police services.

This legislation also established the Independent Police Agency Police Service Oversight Board, ensuring that when this agency is established, it will have the same civilian oversight, police governance, and accountability mechanisms as all other police services in Alberta, including relevant provisions in the Police Act, the Police Service Regulation, and the Alberta Provincial Policing Standards.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The resolution requested an independent police service should not be created without majority public approval. Despite a lack of public support, the ministry's response outlines their commitment to create a dedicated provincial police service that would exist alongside the RCMP. Their response did not commit to provide a detailed costing list for an independent police service.

The Government of Alberta introduced Bill 49, the *Public Safety and Emergency Services Amendment Act*, in April 2025. RMA's Bill 49 announcement is available [here](#) and RMA's analysis of Bill 49 [here](#). In follow-up to Bill 49, RMA reached out to Minister Ellis with the following questions:

- ♦ What is the rationale for the creation of this new police agency?
- ♦ How will oversight of this new police agency work alongside/interact with the newly formed Provincial Police Advisory Board (PPAB)?
- ♦ How will this new police service ensure that there are increased service levels and enhanced local input from communities?
- ♦ Will there be a new oversight board for the new police agency? Will it be a duplicate of the PPAB or will it have a different mandate?
- ♦ How will the presence of a new police agency in small municipalities impact the Police Funding Model and municipal obligations to contribute to RCMP contract policing under the Provincial Police Services Agreement?
- ♦ Many of the questions RMA has about the new police agency will be worked out in the regulations. How will the creation of these regulations be approached?
- ♦ Will the Government of Alberta meaningfully engage with municipalities and Albertans at large during the creation of the regulations and other details related to the implementation of a new independent police agency?
- ♦ How will this new police agency address the challenges in recruitment that are currently affecting other policing services?
- ♦ How will this new police agency work alongside other police services in the province?

- ♦ Will Alberta Sheriffs transition into this new police agency, if they are fulfilling the same duties? Or will they work alongside each other?

RMA has not yet received a response at the time of writing.

Bill 49 provides the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services with broad regulation making authority around the creation of an Independent Agency Policy Service (IAPS). RMA is concerned that this regulation making authority will allow the Minister to make cost-, governance-, and service-related decisions with limited transparency or engagement.

In July 2025, Minister Ellis announced the appointment of a IAPS Chief, indicating a further step towards operationalization, even as questions remain related to costs, governance, staffing, and service levels.

RMA will continue to carefully monitor the introduction of an Independent Agency Police Service and advocate accordingly. This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 13-24F

Review of Broadband Funding Application Processes

Sturgeon County

Carried

► ***Advocacy Target: Alberta Technology and Innovation, Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada***

WHEREAS the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) deems broadband a “basic” or “essential” service for Canadians; and

WHEREAS broadband service in rural, remote and northern communities is slower, with less capacity (bandwidth) and significantly higher cost than services in urban centres; and

WHEREAS broadband connectivity is vital to ensuring rural residents are not left behind in accessing online services (e.g., online learning, education, employment, and health, financial and government e-services); and

WHEREAS providing these services in rural and remote areas requires innovative strategies and partnerships; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada (GOC) has a goal to provide access to high-speed internet to all Canadians by 2030; and

WHEREAS the GOC defines highspeed internet as 50 megabits per second (mbps) download and 10 mbps upload speeds; and

WHEREAS there is a role for all levels of government to play in promoting the development of high-speed internet service; and

WHEREAS current federal and provincial funding programs, including the Alberta Broadband Fund, limit municipalities’ application options;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate that the governments of Alberta and Canada accelerate the implementation of broadband infrastructure projects in rural Alberta and improve the quality of the National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map to reflect connectivity speeds actually experienced by rural residents and businesses.

Government Response

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

Thank you for your November 25, 2024, correspondence to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), regarding The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Fall 2024 Resolution, where members endorsed Resolution 13-24F: Review of Broadband Funding Application Processes to advocate that the Government of Canada accelerate the implementation of broadband infrastructure projects in rural Alberta and improve the quality of the National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map.

Access to mobile service is essential and the CRTC is committed to doing its part to meet the universal coverage target of 2026. The CRTC has established the Broadband Fund to help provide all Canadians with access to broadband Internet and mobile wireless services. Throughout its first five years of operation, up to \$675 million will be available for projects that help achieve the Universal Service Objective across Canada.

The CRTC relies on coverage estimates from the mobile service providers to create its maps and we have confirmed that they report coverage in the areas you claim do not. There is some doubt as to the accuracy of mobile coverage estimate in some areas and the CRTC is committed to working with the carriers to come up with more accurate coverage estimates, as per the Telecom Policy Direction to the CRTC (paragraph 17.d.ii). We are alerting the carriers of the situation so they can address the coverage in these areas.

You can stay up to date on the latest Broadband Funding announcements by subscribing to our RSS feed or by checking the Broadband Fund website under the Projects selected for funding at the following link: <https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/internet/internet.htm> as we continue to announce successful Call 3 applications.

Alberta Technology and Innovation

The Government of Alberta recognizes the challenges rural communities experience with accessing high-speed broadband and cellular services. The Alberta Broadband Strategy sets out our commitment to connect every Alberta community to high-speed internet by 2027. This goal is more ambitious than the 2030 timelines for universal access set out in both the federal connectivity strategy and under the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) Universal Service Objective.

The Government of Alberta is investing \$390 million over five years in Alberta's Broadband Strategy to support underserved communities. The federal government has matched our \$390million commitment dollar for dollar, bringing the total investment to \$780 million through the Universal Broadband Fund. To date, the Governments of Alberta and Canada have allocated \$371 million through the Universal Broadband Fund to fund 52 projects in 328 communities across Alberta, connecting over 51,000 households. Several of which are either led by, or partnered with, rural municipalities and are now underway across Alberta.

Telecommunications is a matter of federal jurisdiction, and the National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map (map) is a federal product. It was developed and is maintained by Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada and is heavily dependent on data the industry reports to the CRTC. Technology and Innovation recognizes that enhanced and more granular data would improve the effectiveness of the map for all interested stakeholders. Improvements are essential given the map's central role in determining whether a community is considered underserved and eligible for funding, or deemed served and ineligible for funding.

During the first Alberta Broadband Fund intake, Technology and Innovation facilitated an opportunity for Alberta stakeholders who had reason to believe the map does not offer an accurate representation of the situation in their communities to gather the evidence required to challenge the reported service availability. Additionally, Technology and Innovation commissioned Cybera, an independent expert organization, to work with certain communities to look at the local broadband situation in detail.

Further to working with Cybera, Alberta and several other provinces are supporting a formal application to the CRTC from the Government of British Columbia, which requests public disclosure of internet service providers' service availability data. This will allow a more granular, local view of the current broadband landscape on the map.

A recent amendment to Canada's Telecommunications Act will also require internet service providers to disclose the typical upload and download speeds during peak periods, rather than only their theoretical "up to" speeds. Once implemented by the CRTC, it is expected this change would generate additional data points that can support a much more accurate view of service availability and quality.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The response from the CRTC does not provide any explanations for the discrepancy between its broadband coverage compared to what is actually reported by rural municipalities. The response does state that the CRTC is working with service providers to improve accuracy yet does not acknowledge or seek to correct how eligibility for the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) relies on inaccurate broadband coverage maps.

The response from Alberta Innovation and Technology highlights the ministry's past funding commitments to broadband infrastructure and recognizes the eligibility issues with the UBF. RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will monitor the progress of the actions undertaken by both Alberta Innovation and Technology and the CRTC to support broadband projects and improve broadband coverage and reporting.

Resolution 14-24F

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Coverage for Community Peace Officers Under the Workers' Compensation Act

Brazeau County

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services, Alberta Jobs, Economy and Trade**

WHEREAS Bill 1: Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2012, was introduced to amend the Workers' Compensation Act to include provisions under part 4, that if a first responder, correctional officer, emergency dispatcher or a member of any other class of worker prescribed by regulations is, or has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder by a physician or psychologist, the post-traumatic stress disorder shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proven, to be an injury that arose out of and occurred during the course of the worker's employment; and

WHEREAS public safety personnel are at an increased risk for developing a psychological injury due to the nature of their work and 44.5% meet the criteria for one or more mental disorders; and

WHEREAS post-traumatic stress disorder is a potentially disabling condition that is now a widely recognized public health issue, particularly among public safety personnel. And

WHEREAS the Workers' Compensation Act, part 4, defines a "first responder" as a firefighter, paramedic, peace officer, or police officer; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has confirmed and committed to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's role in providing contract policing to the end of current contract agreements in 2032 and beyond for all interested contract partners, as communicated to all provincial Ministers of Public Safety in spring 2024; and

WHEREAS the Workers' Compensation Act, part 4, defines a "peace officer" as an individual appointed as a peace officer under section 7 of the Peace Officer Act who is authorized by that appointment to use the title "Sheriff"; and

WHEREAS the restricted definition of "peace officer" to only include those authorized to use the title of Sheriff under part 4 of the Workers' Compensation Act, does not encompass approximately 3000 community peace officers and peace officers throughout Alberta under the presumptive provisions for PTSD coverage; and

WHEREAS municipalities, their residents, businesses, and visitors benefit from having community peace officers in their communities to preserve and maintain the public peace and benefit from an engaged mentally healthy and resilient workforce;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate for the Government of Alberta (GOA) to, by regulation, add all peace officers appointed under the Peace Officer Act as an "other class of worker" referred to in section 24.2(2) of the Workers' Compensation Act until such time as the Act can be amended;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate for the GOA to amend the definition of "Peace Officer" under the Workers' Compensation Act, Part 4, section 24.2(1)(f) to include all peace officers appointed under section 7 of the Peace Officer Act.

Government Response

Alberta Jobs Economy and Trade

Thank you for your November 25, 2024 letter regarding the Rural Municipalities of Alberta's Resolution 14-24F regarding providing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) presumptions for all peace officers. The Government of Alberta appreciates the vital role peace officers play in keeping our communities safe and secure in Alberta. As Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade, I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

In Alberta, only peace officers who are sheriffs are eligible for presumptions for PTSD. Presumptions simplify the claims process, but do not guarantee claim acceptance. All peace officers in Alberta who experience psychological injuries due to work, including PTSD, can access workers' compensation coverage through the standard claims process.

Across Canada, community peace officers are eligible for PTSD or psychological injury presumptions only in jurisdictions that offer these presumptions to all workers. Those jurisdictions that offer presumptions to peace officers specifically limit eligibility for presumptions to sheriffs.

If peace officers are having trouble navigating the workers' compensation system, they can receive free support from the Advisor Office for Alberta Workers' Compensation Board. More information on the services the Advisor Office provides is available at <https://advisoroffice.alberta.ca/>.

Although the government is not planning to expand PTSD presumptions at this time, my department will continue to look at new research regarding links between professions, psychological injuries and the workers' compensation system. Your suggestions will be taken into consideration for future reviews of the legislation.

Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services

Resolution 14-24F, which requests enhanced Workers Compensation Act coverage for Community Peace Officers, falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade, who will respond directly to RMA on this matter.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The Government of Alberta response highlights community peace officers' (CPOs') "vital" role in keeping communities safe and reiterates that only peace officers who are sheriffs have access to presumed PTSD coverage. The response states that the Government of Alberta does not plan to expand PTSD presumptions.

RMA is disappointed by the Government of Alberta's lack of interest in providing CPOs with presumed PTSD coverage given their frontline public safety role. Furthermore, RMA does not believe that further research is needed to justify CPO presumptive coverage given that presumptive coverage has already been extended to first responders in other professions.

RMA has partnered with Alberta Municipalities as urban municipalities endorsed an identical resolution, and the Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers (AACPO) to advocate for this resolution. Together, RMA, Alberta Municipalities, and AACPO:

- ♦ sent two letters and information supporting presumed PTSD coverage for CPOs to the Ministers (Jones and later Schow) requesting they change the *Workers Compensation Act* to accommodate this change

- ♦ The second letter highlighted evidence as to why presumed PTSD coverage for CPOs is both critical for their well-being and reasonable given allowances in other provincial and territorial legislation.
- ♦ Generated an [infographic](#) to raise awareness and promote understanding of the problem that garnered notable attention on each partners social media platforms

RMA looks forward to continuing to work with AACPO and Alberta Municipalities to advocate for CPOs' presumed PTSD coverage. RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 15-24F

Member Committee to Understand the Criminal Justice System

County of Barrhead

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Rural Municipalities of Alberta**

WHEREAS the complexity of the Canadian criminal justice system creates ongoing confusion and frustration when trying to address rural crime and safety within rural communities; and

WHEREAS rural crime continues to be an issue regardless of the small decreases in provincial key crime indicator statistics reported for the second quarter of 2024; and

WHEREAS February 2023 Statistics Canada data presents a clear picture of how over the past 10 years, the gap between rural and urban crime statistics has widened; and

WHEREAS the 2023 RMA Rural Perception of Policing in Alberta survey illustrates the frustration and lack of faith that taxpayers have with the criminal courts and criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS many elected officials and agencies are trying to develop solutions to address rural crime and the impact on their communities; and

WHEREAS these attempts are often emotional conversations met with the response “that’s not our jurisdiction”; and

WHEREAS the RMA previously supported members in understanding a complex topic by creating the Quasi-Judicial Agencies Member Committee (QJAC) to conduct research and consider solutions to issues created by quasi-judicial agencies approval processes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta create a member committee to examine and understand the challenges of addressing rural crime and improve RMA members’ collective knowledge of how the criminal justice system works;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the committee develop recommended solutions and advocacy approaches for criminal justice systems changes that will support safe rural communities.

Government Response

N/A

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The criminal justice system is complex. This complexity can present difficulties in navigating the system for those within it, and in understanding impacts on crime and community safety for external stakeholders such as rural municipalities.

Resolution 15-24F calls on RMA to create a member committee to develop a stronger understanding of the criminal justice system, presumably through a rural municipal lens. Based on this understanding, the committee will then develop solutions and advocacy approaches to recommend to other levels of government to enhance rural community safety.

RMA plans to commence this committee in 2026. As there is currently significant change underway in relation to policing in Alberta, waiting until at least some degree of certainty is confirmed in this area will increase the likelihood that a criminal justice system-focused committee will develop effective and implementable recommendations. RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Principle**, and will re-evaluate when the committee's mandate is complete.

Resolution 16-24F

Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Amendment to Include Coyotes

Clear Hills County

Carried as amended

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation**

WHEREAS coyote predation is a significant concern for livestock producers across Alberta, due to considerable economic losses, especially during the calving season; and

WHEREAS according to the Government of Alberta, the coyote is the major predator of livestock in Alberta, accounting for over 75% of all predation losses each year; and

WHEREAS current information and statistics on rural coyote predation losses are limited; and

WHEREAS the current provisions under the Agricultural Pest Act, which designate the coyote as a “nuisance” and provide authority for coyote control on a landowner’s property, are insufficient in mitigating the growing coyote population and the resulting livestock losses; and

WHEREAS the rapid increase in the coyote population exacerbates the predation problem, leading to greater financial strain on livestock producers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Alberta review and amend the terms of the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program to include coyotes as a compensable species, thereby providing financial restitution to livestock producers for losses due to coyote predation.

Government Response

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

As Resolution 16-24F falls under the purview of Forestry and Parks, I have forwarded your incoming letter to the Honourable Todd Loewen, for his consideration.

Alberta Forestry and Parks

The Government of Alberta has periodically reviewed and considered adding coyotes into the compensation program. Two separate third-party reviews addressed this issue in detail and provided recommendations to the Government of Alberta that coyotes not be included in compensation programs. These recommendations and other considerations concluded that:

- ♦ the inclusion of coyotes as a “nuisance” species under the current Agricultural Pest Act provides for a different status for coyotes than other predators, with additional control resources and mechanisms for agricultural producers that exceed those provided for other wildlife;
- ♦ these additional resources include provisions that allow rural municipalities the authority to assist producers experiencing livestock losses through direct control actions via a variety of mechanisms in order to alleviate predation from coyotes;
- ♦ as coyotes can be shot on private land and public lands where livestock grazing is authorized throughout the year, many producers effectively carry out control activities themselves and utilize the trapping and hunting community to achieve population reductions. These partnerships are often successful when carried out on a regular basis. In cases, where normal

actions to control coyotes have not been successful, producers may request a Damage Control Licence, which can authorize hunting activities and techniques outside of typical situations;

- ♦ producers are encouraged to utilize the available resources as part of a predation mitigation plan where losses occur. The predation mitigation plan includes elements of livestock monitoring and husbandry and predation prevention and control measures. It may require adaptation and scaling throughout the year depending on the nature of predation risk; and
- ♦ agricultural producer stakeholder groups have produced excellent, up-to-date resource materials on techniques to reduce predation risk.

At this time, there are no plans to expand the list of eligible predator species for the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program. I recognize your support in the efforts to provide additional support to the provincial Human-Wildlife Conflict Program.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

The response from Alberta Forestry and Parks indicate that no further actions will be taken to add coyotes to the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program.

[A 2017 study](#) on Agriculture and Livestock predation in Alberta found that among survey respondents, 74% reported that coyote was the species of most concern when asked about impacts and loss to livestock. Furthermore, coyote predation was repeatedly identified as the largest source of economic loss for producers, attributed largely to coyotes being an excluded species in the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program. [Another study](#) on the subject notes that Alberta's original Livestock Predator Compensation Program covered coyotes until they were removed in 1981, likely due to provincial austerity measures, despite coyote predation accounting for the majority of compensation claims. Both research papers highlight the concerns raised by producers and the significant impacts on livestock due to coyote predation.

The government response references third party reviews of the issue and of the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program, which are not currently available to the public. RMA will follow up with Alberta Forestry and Parks to request the third-party reviews as part of our ongoing advocacy efforts. This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met** and RMA will continue research and advocating for amendments to the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program to include coyotes.

Resolution 17-24F

Improved Grizzly Bear Management to Ensure Human, Livestock and Wildlife Safety

MD of Pincher Creek

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Forestry and Parks, Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services**

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta (GOA) is responsible for the monitoring and management strategies for grizzly bears; and

WHEREAS the Environmental Enforcement Branch of Alberta Forestry and Parks (Conservation Officers) is responsible for conserving and protecting Alberta's natural resources and Crown lands through the provision of education, prevention, public safety and conservation enforcement services; and

WHEREAS Conservation Officers are mandated to promote the protection of life and safety across all public lands through effective human-wildlife conflict prevention; and

WHEREAS due to the increasing number of grizzly bears and the expansion of their territories, the grizzly bear is becoming increasingly habituated to living within proximity to humans; and

WHEREAS problem bear encounters are increasing, creating a heightened safety issue for rural residents in areas along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains; and

WHEREAS bear encounters present both an agriculture or livestock predation risk and a human safety risk for those living and working in these rural areas; and

WHEREAS a very small percentage of grizzly bears become problem bears, but these bears have to be dealt with quickly and efficiently; and

WHEREAS the current management plan and number of conservation officers and wildlife specialists do not allow problem bears to be properly addressed; and

WHEREAS this problem is compounded by the GOA's continued underfunding of Conservation Officers and problem wildlife specialists;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to increase funding for Conservation Officers and problem wildlife specialists to ensure that an updated and properly funded grizzly bear management plan is in place to protect both the public and bears.

Government Response

Alberta Forestry and Parks

Your resolution around managing problem wildlife, such as grizzly bears, is acknowledged and valued. I encourage you to look at the role of the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Service that is mandated as the primary responder for wildlife control issues in the province and has significantly more resources for this task than Conservation Officers. These two groups work together to ensure public safety and wildlife conservation. I will share your feedback with my counterpart at Public Safety and Emergency Services for further consideration.

Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services

With respect to resolution 17-24F, which calls for improved grizzly bear management, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services (FWES) remains committed to providing prompt responses to reports of grizzly bears causing property damage or posing public safety concerns, on private or public lands. FWES currently has 128 funded officer positions across the province and routinely shifts manpower to address priority calls for service. FWES is currently near full staffing levels, particularly in the southern part of the province where grizzly bear management is a priority.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

Along with the response from Alberta Forestry and Parks, the response from Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services points to the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement services stating that this agency is well-resourced and equipped to minimize and address human-grizzly bear encounters. However, the government response does not commit to increasing support or funding for Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officers.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**. RMA will continue assessing existing provisions and funding towards conservation officers that operate under the FWES and will continue to advocate for more support for wildlife officers that seek to minimize risks to human safety, livestock and property.

Resolution 18-24F

Renewable Electricity and Grid Stability

Kneehill County

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Affordability and Utilities, Alberta Utilities Commission**

WHEREAS the Alberta Utilities Commission has the ability to unilaterally approve renewable energy power plant proposals; and

WHEREAS Albertans expect and require the provision of electricity through a stable electrical grid; and

WHEREAS municipalities and the Government of Alberta require a stable, reliable, and robust electrical grid for economic development; and

WHEREAS Alberta has experienced shortfalls in meeting electrical demand; and

WHEREAS renewable energy development and expansion continues to be a provincially supported initiative;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to adopt requirements for Alberta Utilities Commission-approved renewable energy developments to have an identified minimum amount of electricity available to contribute to Alberta's electrical grid on demand.

Government Response

Alberta Affordability and Utilities

Our government's primary aim is to ensure that Albertans have access to reliable and affordable power. To achieve these goals, government has reinforced its commitments to the current energy-only market framework and has taken significant steps to modernize Alberta's electricity grid. In March 2024, government implemented two interim measures (which are the Market Power Mitigation Regulation and the Supply Cushion Regulation) that aim to promote affordability and reliability. Specifically, the Supply Cushion Regulation ensures that the province always has access to adequate generating capacity, while the Market Power Mitigation Regulation promotes affordability for Albertans.

In addition to these interim measures, I also directed the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) to progress the technical design of a Restructured Energy Market (REM). The REM will implement long-term measures to enable modernization of Alberta's wholesale electricity market and provide appropriate incentives for investments in firm generating capacity. Among other things, the REM will include the creation of a mandatory day-ahead market (DAM). The DAM is expected to promote reliability by requiring that generators commit their generating capacity in advance of when they are required and include penalties for unfulfilled generator commitments. This will provide appropriate market incentives for investments in firm generating capacity and the firming of intermittent renewable energy resources.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

Although existing regulations were referenced in the government response, they do not specifically apply to renewable energy, which is the area of concern highlighted in resolution 18-24F in relation to electrical grid stability, and do not reference a requirement that new renewable energy projects produce a minimum amount of on-demand electricity. The Market Power Mitigation Regulation

excludes renewable energy while the Supply Cushion Regulation does not reference renewable energy at all.

Bill 52 amends the *Energy and Utilities Statutes Amendment Act* and is intended to make changes to the province's utilities and power grid by implementing a day-ahead reliability market and enabling a market restructure to be carried out by the Alberta Electricity System Operator (AESO). This Bill received royal assent in May 2025. Although Bill 52 was introduced to support power grid reliability and stability, it does not specifically require renewable energy projects to contribute a minimum amount of electricity to the grid on demand.

AESO's engagement process for market participants is still underway with Week 4 of the REM Design Finalization Session taking place in mid to late June 2025. RMA will revisit this resolution and status following the results of this restructuring and will look for changes that improve electric grid reliability and stability, especially concerning renewable energy developments. In June 2025, the AESO announced that new large load projects such as data centres will be subject to a collective 1200 Megawatt limit until at least 2027 due to a lack of grid capacity to support the load requirements of this emerging sector. While this decision is beyond the scope of the resolution, it does demonstrate the need for significant growth in Alberta power generation and transmission infrastructure, which could be at least partially supported by a requirement that new renewable energy facilities provide a minimum amount of electricity to the grid.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 19-24F

Exemption from Food Banks Canada's Standard of Excellence and Accreditation Requirements for Small and/or Rural Local Food Banks

Brazeau County

Carried

► **Advocacy Target: Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services, Food Banks Alberta, Food Banks Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**

WHEREAS Food Banks Canada supports a network of 10 provincial associations and 5,100 hunger relief organizations from coast to coast to coast, in every province and territory; and

WHEREAS the food banking network acknowledged a need for a set of standards that would create performance benchmarks of a well-run organization, while promoting transparency and accountability to the public; and

WHEREAS Food Banks Canada formed a National Standards Committee, to develop and inform the standards ultimately proposed to Food Bank Canada's board in 2021. These standards were then piloted to a group of small, medium and large food banks, as well as provincial associations, as a "real world" test and an opportunity to provide feedback, review and refinement; and

WHEREAS Food Banks Canada released their Standards of Excellence in January of 2024 which consist of expectations for all food banks in Canada to complete and receive accreditation by March 2025; and

WHEREAS Indigenous communities and northern food banks are exempt from the Standards of Excellence; and

WHEREAS Food Banks Alberta, a member of Food Banks Canada, has over 100 members and offers programs and assistance to those members such as food sharing programs, the Bulk Food Purchase Subsidy Program, and the Rural Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS there are 69 rural municipalities within Alberta with several food banks among them; and

WHEREAS many of these rural food banks are run by small groups who have neither the volunteers nor resources required to meet the Standards of Excellence; and

WHEREAS failure to comply to the Standards of Excellence results in local food banks losing their membership with both Food Banks Canada and Food Banks Alberta and, as a result, lose access to important resources and programs; and

WHEREAS many local food banks have expressed concern about longevity should memberships to these organizations be suspended;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate the Government of Alberta to add further exemptions to the Standards of Excellence established by Food Banks Canada for small, rural food banks similar to the exemption to northern and Indigenous food banks.

Government Response

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

While Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada does not have a direct role in the development of standards by Food Banks Canada, the Department appreciates being made aware of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta's endorsement of the Resolution, as well as its concerns about the challenges facing smaller and rural food banks regarding potential new requirements.

Food Banks Canada

Food Banks Canada (FBC) is an independent nonprofit and registered charity governed by a board of directors. We are not affiliated with the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta or any other government body. FBC launched the Standards of Excellence in 2023 with the aim of supporting food banks across the country to meet a baseline set of standards. We are supporting food banks to do this with extensive grants, staff support and tools and resources. In recognition of the scope of work required by the standards as well as the pressure food banks are currently facing, we have recently extended the timeline for food banks to meet the standards to 2026. This extension also responds to a number of the issues that have been raised in the resolution you provided. It is our goal to provide every food bank with the support they need to meet standards. We are committed to continuing to work directly with member food banks across the country to resolve the issues raised.

Seniors, Community and Social Services

The Government of Alberta has no role in the Food Banks Canada's Standards of Excellence, including exemptions. Food Banks Alberta has confirmed that while it will support its members to achieve the Standards of Excellence, it will not require food banks to acquire accreditation to maintain their membership. We encourage Rural Municipalities of Alberta to contact Shawna Bissell, Executive Director, Food Banks Alberta, to discuss any concerns related to the Standards of Excellence.

RMA Reaction and Follow-up

Resolution 19-24F calls on the Government of Alberta to advocate for Food Banks Canada to make rural Alberta food banks exempt from Food Banks Canada Standards of Excellence. Rural municipalities are concerned that rural food banks are precariously positioned and that additional requirements pose a significant challenge to their viability and ability to continue supporting food insecure rural Albertans.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's response indicates that they are aware of rural municipalities' concern but cannot act on it directly. The response from Food Banks Canada indicates that they appreciate the work required for some rural food banks to meet the standards they have introduced and that they offer various supports to help rural food banks reach these standards by 2026.

The response from the Minister of Seniors, Community, and Social Services indicates that while they don't have a role in determining Foodbanks Canada's Standards of Excellence and are not interested in advocating to them on rural municipalities behalf, they did reach out to Food Banks Alberta. Food Banks Alberta shared that rural food banks will not have to meet Food Banks Canadas' Standards of Excellence to maintain their Food Banks Alberta membership. Rural Municipalities are welcome to connect with Food Banks Alberta with their concerns.

Responses do not indicate that Food Banks Canada have changed exemptions to their Standards of Excellence. This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**. RMA will continue to advocate on this issue.

Section 2: Resolution Status Update

The following table is a summary of RMA's current resolutions excluding the resolutions adopted in fall 2024, which are detailed in Section 1, and spring 2025, some of which are still awaiting government responses. 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 | | |
| 8-24S | Support for the Export of Live Horses for Slaughter | Intent Not Met |
| 8-23S | Provincial Review of Agribusiness and Agritourism | Intent Not Met |
| 5-22F | Fertilizer Emission Reduction Target Impacts | Accepted |
| 24-22F | Improved Crop Insurance for Market Gardens | Accepted in Principle |
| BROADBAND AND CONNECTIVITY | | |
| 5-23S | Access to Mobile Wireless (Cellular) Services | Intent Not Met |
| COMMUNITY SERVICES | | |
| 4-23F | Provincial Downloading of Operating Costs for Deteriorating Provincially Owned Housing | Intent Not Met |
| 9-23F | Review of Affordable Housing Funding Programs | Intent Not Met |
| 20-23F | Post-COVID Bridging Support for Small and Medium Community Facilities and Agricultural Societies | Accepted in Part |
| 10-23S | Victim Services Delivery Model | Intent Not Met |
| 12-23S | Casino Opportunities for Charitable Organizations | Intent Not Met |
| 15-23S | Capital Funding Support for Housing Management Bodies | Intent Not Met |
| 10-22F | Sustainability of Small Rural Schools | Intent Not Met |
| EMERGENCY SERVICES | | |

| # | RESOLUTION TITLE | STATUS |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 7-24S | Establishing a Provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services | Accepted |
| 1-24S | Declining Fire Department Service Across Rural Alberta | Intent Not Met |
| 3-23F | Minimum Standards for Adequate Ambulance Services in Rural Alberta | Intent Not Met |
| 9-23S | Rural Fixed Wing Medivac Services | Intent Not Met |
| 1-22F | Volunteer Firefighters as Medical First Responders | Intent Not Met |
| 6-22F | Financial Burden of Emergency Service Response on Crown Lands | Intent Not Met |
| ENERGY | | |
| 14-23S | Hydrogen Industry Support | Accepted |
| 9-22F | Renewable Energy Project Reclamation Requirements | Intent Not Met |
| 11-22F | Disparity in Electricity Distribution and Transmission Rates | Intent Not Met |
| 21-22F | Loss of Agricultural Land to Renewable Energy Projects | Accepted in Principle |
| 23-22F | Small Scale Generation Regulation – Interconnection Challenges | Intent Not Met |
| ENVIRONMENT | | |
| 2-24S | Water Apportionment Performance | Intent Not Met |
| 6-23F | Expediting the Implementation of an Alberta Flood Regulation | Intent Not Met |
| 7-23F | Strategy for Management of Wildland Fires Outside Forest Protection Area | Intent Not Met |
| 13-22F | Enhanced Wetland Replacement Program | Accepted in Principle |
| 14-22F | Third Party Inspections for Gravel Pit Reclamation | Intent Not Met |
| 16-22F | Exemption of Natural Gas and Propane for Agriculture Under the <i>Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act</i> | Accepted |
| 19-22F | Portion of Funding from Public Lands Camping Pass Directed to Municipalities | Intent Not Met |
| HEALTH AND SENIORS | | |
| ER1-24S | Government Support for Physician Assistants | Accepted in Part |
| 10-23F | Enhancing Home Care Services for Rural Residents in Alberta | Accepted in Principle |

| # | RESOLUTION TITLE | STATUS |
|---|---|------------------------|
| 17-23F | Sustainable Community Hospice Funding Model | Intent Not Met |
| 6-23S | Rural Access to Supports for Addictions, Homelessness and Mental Health | Intent Not Met |
| 2-22F | Laboratory and X-Ray Technologists Training for Rural Healthcare | Intent Not Met |
| 8-22F | Rural Mental Health Advocacy | Accepted in Part |
| 12-22F | Restore Grants-in-Lieu of Taxes for Public Housing Management Authorities | Accepted in Part |
| 17-22F | Government Funding For Nurse Practitioners | Accepted in Principle |
| MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE | | |
| ER2-24S | Municipal Taxes Misrepresented as Municipal Franchise Fees | Intent Not Met |
| 6-24S | Interim Funding for Lost Oil and Gas Revenue | Intent Not Met |
| 5-24S | Legislation Consultation with Municipalities | Intent Not Met |
| 4-24S | Maintaining Non-Partisan Municipal Elections | Intent Not Met |
| 2-23F | Amendments to the Municipal Government Act – Section 619 | Intent Not Met |
| 12-23F | Growth Management Board Voluntary Membership | Accepted |
| ER1-23F | Limiting Third-party Services in ICF Agreements | Accepted |
| 1-23S | Enhanced Support for Receiving Municipalities in Dissolutions | Intent Not Met |
| 3-22F | Provide for a Uniform Method of Auditing and Enforcing Compliance with Community Aggregate Payment Levy Bylaws | Intent Not Met |
| 4-22F | Well Drilling Equipment Tax Regulation | Intent Not Met |
| PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT | | |
| 3-24S | Continued Support for Regional Economic Development Alliances | Intent Not Met |
| 5-23F | Municipal Involvement in Quasi-Judicial Agencies | Accepted in Part |
| 11-23F | Compensation Resulting from Regulatory Changes | Incomplete Information |
| 16-23S | Applied Research Associations Funding | Intent Not Met |
| 13-23S | Municipal Access to Open Data | Accepted in Part |
| 7-23S | Revision of the <i>Alberta Land Stewardship Act</i> to provide for an Expiration Date in Conservation Easement Agreements | Incomplete Information |

| # | RESOLUTION TITLE | STATUS |
|--|---|------------------------|
| 7-22F | Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Reform | Accepted in Part |
| POLICING AND RURAL CRIME | | |
| 8-23F | Implementation of Provincial Police Advisory Board | Intent Not Met |
| 11-23S | Reforming the Bail System to Address Rural Crime | Intent Not Met |
| TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | | |
| ER3-24S | Opposition to Federal Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate | Incomplete Information |
| 1-23F | Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program Funding | Intent Not Met |
| 14-23F | Provincial High-Load Corridor Protection | Intent Not Met |
| 15-23F | Province-Wide Regulations for E-Scooters and Miniature Personal Electric Vehicles | Intent Not Met |
| 2-23S | Provincial Funding Stream for Non-Residential Infrastructure | Intent Not Met |
| 3-23S | Amendments to the National Building Code | Accepted in Part |
| 18-22F | Regulations for Motorists Passing School Buses with Amber Lights Flashing | Intent Not Met |
| 20-22F | Lost Road Closure Files | Accepted in Part |
| OTHER | | |
| 16-23F | Federal-Provincial Partnership to Counter the United States Inflation Reduction Act | Intent Not Met |
| 19-23F | Government of Alberta Ministry Changes | Incomplete Information |
| 4-23S | Strategic Direction for the RMA | Accepted |
| 17-23S | Negative Impact of Bill C-21 on Albertans | Intent Not Met |
| 19-23S | Non-Profit Exemption from Federal Fuel Charge | Incomplete Information |

AGRICULTURE

Resolution 8-24S

Support for the Export of Live Horses for Slaughter

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta collaborate with the Government of Alberta and Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards to oppose federal legislation restricting the export of live horses for slaughter.

The response from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation indicates an acknowledgment of the issues related to the export of live horses for slaughter, and while the ministry is monitoring Bill C-355's progress, the response does not include clear commitments to oppose federal legislation that negatively impact the live horse export industry.

Bill C-355 is still undergoing debate and is at second reading in the Senate as of June 2025. . Many of the amendments follow a structure similar to that of section 19 of the *Health of Animals Act* but with restrictions specific to the export of live horses rather than animals in general. Overall, the amendments add further restrictions and prohibitions surrounding the export of live horses for slaughter by air.

The Bouvry Exports Ltd. meat-packing facility has since had its license reinstated effective April 8, 2022. Additionally, Bill S-270 a similar bill that proposes regulations and restrictions on the export of live horses for slaughter by air, has been inactive since March 2024. Although it is unclear when Bill C-355 will progress to third reading in the senate, the bill may still reach royal assent, causing a significant impact to the industry of live horses for slaughter, including wasted revenue from unusable livestock and related unintended consequences of animals set loose or euthanized. RMA assigns this resolution a status of Intent Not Met and will continue to advocate against restrictions and prohibitions of the export of live horses for slaughter.

Resolution 8-23S

Provincial Review of Agribusiness and Agritourism

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request the Government of Alberta to undertake a joint provincial/municipal review of agribusiness and agritourism operations that includes considerations related to sector promotion and incentivization, municipal/provincial regulatory alignments, potential transitional building code or taxation options for operators, and other matters to help clarify and align the responsible growth of these value-added sectors in Alberta.

DEVELOPMENTS: Alberta Municipal Affairs' response indicates a willingness to work with RMA, rural municipalities, and other stakeholders to identify opportunities to enhance the province's agribusiness and agritourism sectors. The response also outlines several existing municipal tools and assessment/tax policies intended to support the agriculture sector.

While the Municipal Affairs response is encouraging, RMA has not received a response from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. RMA met with the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Sport in summer 2024 to promote agritourism, rural tourism and opportunities for collaboration. In October 2024, the Government of Alberta introduced a new AgriStability program to the

Agriculture Financial Service Corporation stating it would reduce paperwork and lower producer costs. In December 2024, The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation announced changes to the agri-processing investment tax credit with the intent to simplify the application process and encourage agricultural investment.

Minister Andrew Boitchenko was appointed the new Minister of Tourism and Sport in May 2025. RMA sent Minister Boitchenko a letter highlighting the importance of rural agribusiness and agritourism and a request to meet with him to discuss collaboration on undertaking a review and developing a strategy.

It is notable that the Economic Development in Rural Alberta Plan (EDRAP) includes a new action to “Support Alberta’s rural visitor economy to ensure rural and Indigenous communities are strong and vibrant with opportunities for employment and economic diversification.” While this is encouraging, it is currently unclear if or how this action will be implemented. As a result, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**.

RMA is developing an updated version of the 2018 [The Economic Contribution of Rural Alberta Report](#). Agriculture, agribusinesses and tourism, are a dominant rural economy that makes sustainable and highly valued contributions to rural economies. RMA believes rural municipalities and industries are key provincial economic drivers.

Resolution 5-22F

Fertilizer Emission Reduction Target Impacts

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Canada either cancel the 30% fertilizer emissions reduction target or ensure that said target remains voluntary.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA continues to request a response from the Government of Canada regarding this resolution. An April 2023 report from the federal Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food came to a similar conclusion and recommended that “the Government of Canada

- ♦ Recognize that Canadian agricultural producers are leading the world in the efficient use of fertilizers and that it not proceed with any mandatory fertilizer emissions reduction policy that would jeopardize farmers’ yields, but instead encourage them to implement best nutrient management practices such as the 4R Program; and
- ♦ Examine opportunities to fund research and development and further innovation in the use of fertilizer in agriculture.”

Additionally, a 2023 study from the Simpson Centre within the University of Calgary’s School of Public Policy found that the fertilizer emissions reduction target would hamper Canada’s agricultural competitiveness on the global market, as the study found that global prices do not respond to individual countries’ climate policy.

As of June 2025 the [fertilizer emissions reduction target](#) continues to remain voluntary and the Government of Canada has made no recent announcements related to making it mandatory, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted** and will monitor for updates to the target.

Resolution 24-22F

Improved Crop Insurance for Market Gardens

Status: Accepted In Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta for cost effective crop insurance for market gardens.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Agriculture Financial Services Corporation is engaged with market garden producers to explore crop insurance options. For straight hail insurance, the maximum insurable value for market gardens has increased to \$19,050 per acre and the maximum size has increased from 30 acres to 60 acres. Additionally, strawberries and cocktail crops have been included in the coverage eligibility and some requirements, such as minimum crop amounts, have been loosened or removed. As details on the cost-shared crop insurance and its cost effectiveness are not yet available, RMA is not able to confirm if the new policies are acceptable to market garden operators. This resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Principle** and RMA will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these policies for Alberta market gardens.

BROADBAND AND CONNECTIVITY

Resolution 5-23S

Access to Mobile Wireless (Cellular) Services

Status: Incomplete Information

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta engage the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to address the lack of reliable cellular network coverage for mobile wireless (cellular) service.

Developments: This resolution was sent to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) and a response has not been received. Although the CRTC has invested \$17 million through the Broadband Fund to improve cellphone coverage in rural areas, none of these areas were located in Alberta. No further updates, including changes or acknowledgement of the inaccurate cellular coverage maps, have been shared by the CRTC otherwise.

Although mobile wireless service provision falls largely under federal purview, the Alberta Minister of Technology and Innovation's mandate letter indicates that cellular network coverage across is a priority for the Government of Alberta. However, no specific commitments have been made by either level of government. As such, RMA assigns this resolution a status of Intent Not Met and will continue to advocate by seeking out further opportunities for correspondence and input.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Resolution 4-23F

Provincial Downloading of Operating Costs for Deteriorating Provincially Owned Housing

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta (GOA) to retain fiscal responsibility for all provincial housing and to increase the grants provided to housing management bodies for operation and maintenance; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocates to the GOA to ensure that municipalities and ratepayers are not held accountable for absorbing the operating and repair costs of these deteriorating provincially owned buildings.

DEVELOPMENTS: Since RMA last reported on this resolution the Government of Alberta (GOA) has not assumed any change in responsibility for affordable housing in the province and RMA members continue to observe discrepancies in the capital maintenance and renewal funds available to government owned affordable housing versus affordable housing that is available to private and/or non-profit owned affordable housing.

RMA has previously participated in the Seniors Lodge Program Review. RMA's input during the review emphasized that increased cost pressures are impacting housing management body (HMB) operations, and forcing municipalities to take on a larger fiscal burden for seniors housing that impacts their ability to provide other services.

RMA conducted a member survey in spring 2025 seeking input on the availability of capital maintenance and renewal funding for seniors lodges, type and extent of future maintenance requirements for seniors lodges, member impressions of the physical condition of affordable housing their municipality financially contributes to, and more. RMA learned that the average RMA member perceives a high need for more affordable housing (7.8/10, 10=very necessary). The average respondent rated the physical condition of the affordable housing units they financially contribute to at 6/10 (10=very good). The survey results also indicated that HMBs do not receive provincial capital maintenance or renewal funding support on a consistent basis, leading to challenges in long-term capital planning. This survey is part of a broader RMA project on and investment in affordable housing advocacy.

RMA is continuing this work with a second survey focusing on working relationships between municipalities and housing management bodies, as well as requisitioning. Survey findings will be reported to the Government of Alberta, Ministry of Assisted Living and Social Services, and shared publicly in fall/winter 2025.

Given the Government of Alberta's unchanged investment in operating and capital costs for affordable housing units, RMA assigns this resolution as **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 9-23F

Review of Affordable Housing Funding Programs

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta (GOA) to review the application process for the Affordable Housing Partnership Program and any future affordable housing funding programs to minimize financial commitments that municipal applicants are required to make to a project before the grant funding is confirmed; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate to the GOA to use a data-driven allocation model to determine funding priorities, incorporating a distinct rural-focused stream within this system; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate to the GOA to create scalable, replicable modular designs for affordable housing projects that could be utilized by housing management bodies for approved projects.

DEVELOPMENTS: In December 2024, RMA hosted a Government of Alberta-led webinar on the Affordable Housing Partnership Program (AHPP) and application process to provide members with more insight into this program and opportunity provide the Government of Alberta with an opportunity to hear member concerns.

The Government of Alberta has not undertaken a review of the AHPP application process and a more data-driven approach to funding allocation has not been introduced. As a result of the webinar organized by RMA, the Government of Alberta is exploring how they can more transparently communicate data on seniors lodges.

RMA conducted a member survey in spring 2025 seeking member input on:

- ♦ when member municipalities and/or their affordable housing partner applied for and/or received AHPP funding;
- ♦ how AHPP funding was used if received;
- ♦ how likely members perceived AHPP grant applications to be successful; and
- ♦ how much members and their partner invested in preparing an application.

RMA found several RMA members and their HMB partners applied for AHPP funding every year. A minority of members who received funding had both invested significant resources into the applications in the form of either staff time or consultant costs. Member HMBs used funds for both seniors' lodges and community housing units. They thought their application had equal likelihoods of receiving or not receiving AHPP funding.

In relation to the third operative clause, the federal government continues their preparation on a phased release of a housing design catalog. The Government of Canada released the first component in April 2025. This consisted of a summary package that included seven Alberta specific designs with a summary package/high level overview with 3D drawings, building dimensions, and a unit summary. The Government of Canada expects to release the next component, architectural design packages, in spring 2025.

Given the lack of action on requests one and two, and the specific request for RMA to advocate to the province rather than the federal government on housing designs, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to advocate on this issue. RMA will combine survey results in a report with a review of the AHPP application process to better understand areas of improvement and grant selection criteria. RMA will continue to monitor

Federal Housing developments. RMA will share details on the final federal housing catalog when it is available.

Resolution 20-23F

Post-Covid Bridging Support for Small and Medium Community Facilities and Agricultural Societies

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to enhance its capacity-building efforts and financial investments to ensure that small and medium community facilities and agricultural societies remain viable as they recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta has taken some steps to support the viability of small- and medium-sized community centres and agricultural societies. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation introduced an Agricultural Societies Infrastructure Revitalization Program that provided \$2.5 million in grant funding for major repairs. While this funding is appreciated, it does not sufficiently support small and medium sized agricultural societies, which are not classified as regional agricultural societies.

RMA has taken several actions to advocate on this resolution. RMA met with the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS) in fall 2024 to discuss their priorities. The AAAS also participated in a panel on rural volunteerism at the Fall 2024 RMA Convention to communicate the needs and values of these societies. RMA's [Rural Volunteerism Report](#), released in fall 2024, was designed to meet the intent of this resolution more broadly. The County of Barrhead also participated on the rural volunteerism convention panel and presented the county's "Community Hall Strategy."

As the response indicates the Government of Alberta has made financial investments in small and medium community facilities and agricultural societies, but not addressed capacity building, the RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part** and will continue advocacy efforts to ensure that small and medium-sized community centres and agricultural societies get the funding and capacity building support that they need to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolution 10-23S

Victim Services Delivery Model

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta to maintain the current model of victim services program delivery and instead provide direct assistance to the small number of communities that are struggling to operate under the current model and have insufficient services for victims; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA advocate to the Government of Alberta for more consistent funding for the current model and the development of an approach for more consistent regional collaboration and information-sharing within the current model.

DEVELOPMENTS: Despite concerns from RMA and other stakeholders, the Government of Alberta implemented the new regionalized Victim Services Delivery Model in summer 2024.

The previous model allowed local victim services units (VSUs) to address community needs on a case-by-case basis in a way that reflected the local community. Although RMA recognizes that some weaknesses existed in the previous model, these could have been addressed without creating a new centralized model that did not have RMA's or Alberta Police Based Victim Services Association's (APBVSA) support. Furthermore, RMA did not receive a meaningful explanation from the Government of Alberta as to why these changes were required or why the province could not fund the existing model at an adequate level. APBVSA found that the province's 2024-2025 victim services spending, \$36 million, was below victim services spending in the past nine years.

As the creation of this regionalized model directly contradicts the intent of this resolution, and RMA is concerned that the regionalized model does not appropriately fund victim services, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**.

The RMA has maintained regular contact with APBVSA and shares many of APBVSA's concerns around the zonal model. The RMA maintains that the new regional model cannot support the unique needs of rural communities and will provide inadequate assistance for victims of crime when needed most. Further, RMA is concerned that some members of Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services have shared misleading information about the state of local VSUs and the volunteer, staff, and executive members that support those VSUs. This has been used to foster public support for the transition to a zonal model and does not reflect the actual state of healthy local VSUs. RMA members and stakeholders continue to report that the new model is not meeting local needs and will continue to advocate for VSU model that better serves rural municipalities and rural Albertans. As the new model has now been in place for nearly a year, RMA plans to seek information from the Government of Alberta on metrics used to determine the effectiveness of the new model, and the extent to which the change has impacted the level of service available in rural areas of the province.

Resolution 12-23S

Casino Opportunities for Charitable Organizations

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta and Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis to reform Alberta's charitable gaming model to provide equity to all charitable organizations in Alberta, by addressing the disparity between the funding provided, and the frequency of casino opportunities available to charitable organizations in major urban centers compared with those in rural communities.

DEVELOPMENTS: In spring 2025, RMA released an updated charitable gaming report titled [More Work for Less Money: A Losing Bet for Rural Communities – Alberta's Charitable Gaming Model](#) following a [five week lead up campaign](#) that highlighted key components of the report. The updated report marked RMA's commitment to continue to prioritize this issue following a 2018 report and recommendations that were the outcome of RMA's charitable gaming committee.

The new report makes the following recommendations:

- 1) Use online gaming funds to equalize regional casino revenue
- 2) Address inequities associated with the model

- 3) Stakeholders, including the Government of Alberta, RMA and ABmunis, should take a collaborative approach to improve the gaming model
- 4) Conduct a meaningful review of the model

RMA shared the new charitable gaming report with the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction. RMA has not yet received a response.

RMA participated in Alberta Gaming Liquor and Cannabis' 2021 review of the charitable gaming model and advocated in support of the Camrose casino's application to relocate from Camrose to Edmonton as a rural supporting casino. RMA continues to monitor the Camrose casino's relocation.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to advocate on this issue.

Resolution 15-23S

Capital Funding Support for Housing Management Bodies

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to increase funding to housing management bodies to alleviate the affordability crisis and provide funding for capital upkeep or replacement needed to sustain supportive living at senior lodges.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA members continue to struggle with insufficient capital maintenance and renewal (CMR) funding, which places a burden on rural municipalities to contribute to costs beyond their legislated requirements, particularly as the Government of Alberta has limited CMR funding to government owned affordable housing units. Recently, the Auditor General released a report that current CMR processes are inadequate to appropriately manage and maintain the condition of government-owned affordable housing. RMA met with staff from the Ministry of Seniors, Community, and Social Services in October 2024 to discuss the government's 2022-2023 CMR review, which has not been made publicly available. An overview of the recommendations from that review is available on the Government of Alberta website.

The 2025 business plan for Alberta Assisted Living and Social Services (formerly Seniors, Community and Social Services) includes goals to increase the number of affordable housing units as outlined in the "Stronger Foundations" affordable housing strategy. In the 2025 provincial budget, \$150 million was included for the Seniors Lodge Modernization Program. Funding for seniors facilities and housing capital maintenance and renewal was budgeted at \$42 million 2025-26 compared to \$47 million forecast in 2024-25.

RMA conducted a member survey in spring 2025 that explored capital maintenance and renewal funding for seniors lodges and member perceptions of affordable housing funding. Part two of the survey, planned for later in 2025, will explore member working relationships with housing management bodies in greater detail.

This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met** and RMA will continue to advocate for changes to reduce the pressure on rural municipalities to subsidize affordable housing costs.

Resolution 10-22F

Sustainability of Small Rural Schools

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Alberta engage with rural school boards and rural municipalities to develop solutions to support the sustainability of small rural schools.

DEVELOPMENTS: While the Government of Alberta’s recent changes to capital funding of rural schools is an improvement over the previous approach, there is a need to develop strategies that will reduce the issues faced by rural schools. The development of these strategies will require cooperative work between the province and the municipalities and school boards impacted. In rural communities, schools play a role beyond education; they are often viewed as community hubs and a symbol of a rural community’s resilience.

In May 2024, the Government of Alberta announced a one-time investment of roughly \$1.7 million for education training at the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary that will fund seats for 59 additional students in rural, remote, and/or Indigenous communities across the province. The program will be more flexible than existing education programs and support students to remain in their community for much of their education.

The federal government has continued their investment in the National School Food Program and announced funds for after school learning in low income and Indigenous communities.

RMA will launch a “Back to School” Campaign in late summer of 2025 that will highlight the importance of developing policy and funding approaches that meet the needs of rural schools. Additionally, the campaign will address concerns regarding rural students’ transition to post-secondary training as expressed in Resolution 15-25S: Enhancing Access to Post-Secondary Education for Rural Alberta Students.

Although funds and rural training seats are a step in the right direction, these actions do not meet the request to engage with school authorities and rural leaders on how to best leverage schools and support their long-term viability. RMA assigns this resolution the status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to advocate for provincial engagement on this issue.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Resolution 1-24S

Declining Fire Department Services Across Rural Alberta

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to collaborate with the Government of Canada and Fire Underwriters Survey to assist municipalities to retain fire services by recruiting firefighters and addressing the declining fire department services across rural Alberta.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA sent Resolution 1-24S to Municipal Affairs, Public Safety and Emergency Services, and Emergency Preparedness Canada.

. Responses describe several positive actions being taken to better prepare for and manage wildfires across Canada. In particular, the RMA appreciates funding for wildland firefighter equipment, training, and the doubling of the fire fighter tax credit. The response does not, however, address the resolution's request for the Government of Alberta to collaborate with the Fire Underwriters Survey. Other areas the response does not address include challenges to volunteer firefighter recruitment generally or refer to any initiatives regarding the Fire Underwriters Survey. RMA sits on a fire fighter attraction and retention committee organized by the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association and will continue to seek tools to attract and retain rural firefighters through this committee.

RMA is also aware Alberta Municipal Affairs conducted a fire service review in 2024. Although the review is currently complete, there is limited information available on recommendations or next steps, including in relation to this resolution. RMA is currently seeking more information on the review outcomes.

RMA recently released the results of the [Wildfire Working Group](#) which included the following recommendations related to rural fire service standards and training:

- ♦ That the Government of Alberta develop a competency-based approach to firefighter training and certification based on skills, regardless of specific training standards
- ♦ That the Government of Alberta increase funding for the Fire Services Training Grant and other wildfire training grants.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** .

Resolution 7-24S

Establishing a Provincial Level of Service for Emergency Social Services

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate that the Government of Alberta create a provincial level of service for emergency social services as a framework for municipalities to use when providing support to individuals from outside of their jurisdiction during emergencies or disasters;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed provincial level of service for emergency social services include schedules that indicate services that are considered basic survival needs, and which services are discretionary; with identification of what costs are eligible for cost recovery;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed provincial level of service for emergency social services acknowledge that the host municipality is providing a fee for service and that they will directly invoice the home jurisdiction, or the Government of Alberta and will not be required to apply for Disaster Recovery Program funding to recover their costs.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta released an updated [Alberta Emergency Social Services Framework](#) in May 2025 that addresses all three operative clauses in the resolution. The updated framework provides new guidance and standards for municipalities providing emergency social services (ESS) for non-resident evacuees, establishes the ESS that are considered a “provincial standard,” differentiates between basic survival needs and discretionary needs and therefore eligible for cost recovery, and provides a fee for service-based cost schedule.

While RMA has outstanding questions about the new framework and was not invited to provide input to inform its development, the framework’s release fulfills the intent of the resolution. RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted**. RMA will continue to update members as new information becomes available.

Resolution 3-23F

Minimum Standards for Adequate Ambulance Services in Rural Alberta

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate that the Government of Alberta and Alberta Health Services ensure every area of Alberta has available ambulances with qualified emergency personnel, capable of providing response times that ensure lifesaving measures.

DEVELOPMENTS: It is essential that Alberta Health creates a solution that ensures every area of Alberta has available ambulances with qualified emergency personnel, capable of providing response times that ensure lifesaving measures. Although Alberta Health’s response acknowledges the unique needs of EMS in rural and remote areas, there is no clear plan or funding to ensure that there are accessible services available to residents living in rural and remote areas.

AHS’ initial response to this resolution referenced the actioning of the 2023-2024 EMS operating plan. Although not publicly reported on to RMA’s knowledge, RMA is regularly updated on EMS operating plans through participation on the Alberta EMS Standing Committee. The Ministry of Health created this committee in 2023 to ensure EMS operates as effectively and efficiently as possible. RMA sits on subcommittees regarding air ambulance services, dispatch, and Medical First Response. Prior to this more recent committee, RMA sat on the Alberta EMS Provincial Advisory Committee (AEPAC).

Bill 55, the *Health Statutes Amendment Act*, made changes to a number of acts, including the *Emergency Health Services Act*. These amendments make it unclear as to who will provide ambulance services in the new healthcare model. Additionally, dispatch centres may be further

centralized. RMA will continue to monitor the rollout of the new healthcare model and watch for impacts on ambulance response times and service disruptions.

Given this lack of focused action on the resolution intent, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to advocate for improved rural EMS service.

Resolution 9-23S

Rural Fixed Wing Medivac Services

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request that the Government of Alberta ensure that air ambulance service providers adhere to their existing contract and restore air ambulance service to the three municipalities that have recently lost this service either by compelling the contractor to subcontract the air ambulance service to a contractor with appropriately skilled pilots; requiring the contractor to train their existing pilots to achieve industry standards, or by providing funding to municipalities to upgrade airports to meet the new standard required for lower skilled pilots; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA request that the Government of Alberta compel Alberta Health Services (AHS) to provide any airport slated for discontinuance of any AHS transportation services a detailed analysis of necessary changes (within reason and based on industry standards) required to be made by the airport and a commitment that if those changes are completed, full transportation services will be reinstated.

DEVELOPMENTS: In 2023, Alberta Health Services hired a contractor to conduct a review of air ambulance landing sites to assess their suitability for accommodating safe access by fixed wing air ambulances. RMA continues to watch for the review's release. Depending on its outcomes, the review may represent a step in the right direction for effected airports to understand their gaps in services and what is needed to ensure they can safely operate as air ambulance landing sites. The RMA was listed as a key stakeholder in this consultation process and staff completed a joint submission on this issue with ABmunis that reiterated the need for all consultation to include impacted members. The submission includes the following key concerns:

- ♦ Efficient access to health services is essential to the health and safety of citizens and should be at the forefront of any decisions made.
- ♦ Any changes to airport standards, air ambulance service delivery, or other areas identified in the report should not proceed without municipal stakeholder engagement.
- ♦ Financial support is necessary for the maintenance and upgrades of airports being used for air ambulance services.
- ♦ Pilots must be adequately trained at an identified municipal airport to ensure capability and safety.

It is important to note that the review may also pose a risk to small municipalities if outcomes include recommendations for airport standards that small municipalities may be unable to meet, particularly without targeted funding support from the Government of Alberta.

The review does not make up for the closure of air ambulance landing sites without consultation and does not restore services and adhere AHS to their existing contracts. There needs to be

adequate training of contracted pilots working in these rural areas and the RFP does not account for this.

This resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**. RMA awaits the release of the air ambulance landing site review and will watch for any impacts resulting from healthcare restructuring. RMA will continue to advocate for the complete restoration of air ambulance services.

Resolution 1-22F

Volunteer Firefighters as Medical First Responders

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to compensate municipalities that operate a fire service with volunteers or employees that are qualified as Medical First Responders in instances when those volunteers or employees respond to emergencies due to the absence or delay of provincial emergency medical technicians and paramedics in their service area.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta has made several recent announcements about Medical First Response (MFR), including:

- ♦ \$3.75 million in funding for Medical First Response Programs in February 2024, distributed between 200 urban and rural municipalities and Indigenous communities. Of the \$3.75 million, \$1.35 million was designated for supplies, equipment, and training courses, while \$2.5 million was reserved for operational expenses. It appears that these funds are a one-time top up.
- ♦ The introduction of an \$800,000 Medical First Responder Grant Program which will provide grant based funding to develop new MFR programs and build community capacity to effectively respond to medical emergencies.
- ♦ The introduction of a \$600,000 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Education Grant that will fund EMR training to support EMS in the community.

The latter announcements were made in Fall 2024 as part of the Rural Health Action Plan.

While these funding programs are adjacent to this resolution's intent, they do not include the introduction of an ongoing "bill per response" system to remunerate fire departments for their MFR costs. RMA is concerned that not only do new funding sources not properly support municipal MFR programs for responding to emergencies within provincial jurisdiction, they incentivize a download by encouraging the expansion of municipal MFR capacity without corresponding operational support. For this reason, RMA assigns this a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 6-22F

Financial Burden of Emergency Service Response on Crown Lands

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Alberta develop a fee for service/compensation schedule for emergency services dispatched to respond to calls on Crown land.

DEVELOPMENTS: The response provided mentions that some aspects of Medical First Response (MFR) is compensated, including training, equipment and supports, however the response does not acknowledge the time taken out of a municipal MFR's shift to respond to emergencies which are not located within a municipality, but still require emergency assistance. Additionally, not all municipalities participate in the MFR program but may still respond to calls on Crown land due to a lack of available provincial response capacity. The Government of Alberta is currently conducting engagement on Alberta's Plan for Parks. RMA's input into the process will include a focus on proper recognition for the costs incurred by park-adjacent municipalities, including emergency services.

As the response does not indicate that any additional compensation will be provided for calls on Crown Land, RMA assigns this a status of **Intent Not Met**.

ENERGY

Resolution 14-23S

Hydrogen Industry Support

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to increase their commitment to support and resource current hydrogen initiatives throughout the province so that Alberta and its innovative energy industry partners may become leaders in the developing hydrogen economy.

DEVELOPMENTS: As a result of the increased funding from both the provincial and federal governments, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted**. Furthermore, [the recent opening of the Calgary Region Hydrogen Hub](#), of which Wheatland County is a partner, demonstrates the Government of Alberta's commitment to supporting the industry. RMA will monitor for further advancement in the hydrogen sector in rural communities.

Resolution 9-22F

Renewable Energy Project Reclamation Requirements

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Alberta implement a mandated collection of adequate securities for future reclamation of renewable energy projects on private lands, either by requiring renewable energy project proponents to post a reclamation surety bond as a condition of any renewable energy project approvals;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the amount of the required securities be calculated based on data-driven projections of actual reclamation costs to protect municipalities and residents of Alberta from incurring costs associated with the decommissioning of all renewable energy projects.

DEVELOPMENTS: The intent of the resolution is to call on the Government of Alberta to mandate that renewable energy project proponents provide an actual security deposit in the form of a surety bond or similar means. In 2023, the AUC launched an inquiry and engagement process for possible changes to Rule 007, which establishes the renewable energy project approval process. The results of this inquiry were released in early 2024 and were partially used to inform new policy changes announced by the provincial government.

In response to the AUC inquiry, RMA provided the following input into how a renewable energy development and a financial security system should proceed:

- ♦ Ensure accountability for end of life without disincentivizing industry investment;
- ♦ Be easily transferable to ensure accountability remains with the project owner if the project is sold; and
- ♦ Ensure that adequate assets are available to the province to reclaim the land in the event that the owner becomes insolvent or otherwise unable to meet reclamation requirements.

- ◆ Balance between renewable energy demand and agricultural land preservation to minimize economic loss from both industries.
- ◆ Security amounts should be calculated based on the full estimated cost of reclaiming the land to as close to its original state as possible.

While the costs may be assessed on a project-by-project basis, the Government of Alberta or the AUC need to prescribe expectations as to the state in which the land should be returned to. It will also be key that as a project progresses into its life span, regular assessments of what expected decommissioning and reclamation be reviewed.

As the Government of Alberta has the expertise and fiscal capacity to manage the reclamation process, including disbursement of the funds, the RMA believes this responsibility should be assigned to the AUC itself or the government ministry. Individual landowners who may not have the capacity, resources or expertise to make informed decisions regarding security requirements should not be responsible for this technical process.

In October 2024, the Government of Alberta launched a specific engagement related to the development of a reclamation regime for renewable energy projects. RMA submitted written input to this engagement and also provided members with an engagement guide to support municipalities seeking to provide their own submissions.

In January 2025, the Government of Alberta updated the Conservation and Reclamation Regulation to reference a forthcoming *Code of Practice for Solar and Wind Renewable Energy Operations*, which would outline reclamation security requirements for such developments. RMA views this as a crucial step towards resolving the request in this resolution.

The Government of Alberta released the Code of Practice in May 2025. The Code of Practice outlines requirements for several aspects of determining reclamation security amounts for wind and solar projects, including the minimum cost types that must be accounted for when determining security amounts.

Although the Code of Practice provides some more details and clarity on reclamation security, the new provisions do not go far enough to ensure that the full costs and risks associated with decommissioning are accounted for. RMA has previously advocated for the full cost of reclamation to be provided as a condition of operating a renewable energy project in Alberta. However, the Code of Practice only requires a minimum of 30% of the full reclamation costs for new operations and 15% of the full reclamation costs for existing operations to be included in the security estimate of a renewable energy registration. Furthermore, only 60% of the full reclamation amount is required at the 15th year of a renewable energy operation. RMA is disappointed by these new requirements outline in the Code of Practice that discourage full and meaningful accountability for renewable energy proponents and put rural municipalities at risk of incurring significant and preventable reclamation costs.

Additionally, RMA is concerned about the “dual stream” approach that will allow some landowners to continue to hold reclamation securities instead of a provincially-held security. While the Code of Practice outlines requirements for provincially-held securities, it is currently unclear whether landowner-held securities will be required to adhere to the same standards. Allowing for different guidelines and less regulation for landowner-held securities enables

proponents to more easily negotiate security amounts that are inaccurate and inadequate to reclamation and decommissioning costs, which risks adding undue financial burdens onto landowners and municipalities. The “dual stream” approach also creates inconsistency within the reclamation security system province-wide and undermines public interest and trust in the renewable energy industry. RMA will continue to learn more about how the two security approaches will be implemented following the release of the Code of Practice.

While the implementation of more specific reclamation security standards is a positive development on this issue, RMA is not yet confident that the requirements will lead to the collection of “adequate” securities, as requested in the resolution. Therefore, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to monitor the implementation of the mandatory reclamation system.

Resolution 11-22F

Disparity in Electricity Distribution and Transmission Rates

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate for the Government of Alberta to adopt a new electricity pricing model for transmission and distribution that eliminates the disparity in pricing across Alberta.

DEVELOPMENTS: The initial Government of Alberta response acknowledges that rural areas are facing higher distribution charges than urban areas. While the initial response indicated there is no plan to modify how distribution costs are assigned, the 2023 mandate letter tasks the Minister of Affordability and Utilities with reviewing the electricity pricing system, with the goal of reducing transmission and distribution fees for end users.

In late 2023 Alberta Affordability and Utilities released a public engagement survey related to the Transmission Policy. The engagement focused on how Alberta’s transmission development and approval process can best support affordability, reliability and decarbonization. The RMA’s input into this process emphasized the need for some level of transmission planning that better balances continued freedom for generators to build where they choose while recognizing that projects requiring significant new transmission infrastructure may require higher public investment. This approach should not be prescriptive but rather based on stronger locational pricing signals to incentivise projects in optimal areas. Further, RMA commented on the need to include climate change discussions within congestion conversations, as severe weather incidents have been impacting the reliability of electricity to rural Alberta in recent weather events and this must be considered as part of the conversation moving forward. Although this approach is not perfect, the RMA sees value in providing input on this approach and ensuring that it meets the needs of rural Alberta.

In October 2024, the Ministry of Affordability and Utilities hosted a webinar to introduce new and potential transmission policy changes after which the ministry launched a very short feedback and input period. The proposed legislative amendments are due to take effect in spring 2025 and address policy implementations related to topics such as investor incentivization and transmission infrastructure renewal. Bill 52, which received royal assent in May 2025, is the culmination of this feedback period and the proposed legislative changes which seek to restructure the province’s power grid by introducing a day-ahead reliability

market. However it is unclear whether Bill 52 will specifically address inequitable transmission/distribution cost discrepancies for rural residents compared to urban residents.

RMA appreciates the Minister of Affordability and Utilities plan to include these issues in the implementation of their mandate and the 2023 engagement. However, until meaningful action and implementation is taken, to fulfill the mandates related to improving transmission and distribution rate costs, this resolution is assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**. RMA will continue to participate in engagement opportunities related to electricity transmission and distribution in Alberta, and advocate for this resolution.

Resolution 21-22F

Loss of Agricultural Land to Renewable Energy Projects

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request the Government of Alberta to work collaboratively on policy that will find a balance between the development of renewable energy and protection of valuable agriculture lands.

DEVELOPMENTS: In 2022, RMA formed a member committee to review the mandates of quasi-judicial agencies, as well as if and to what extent they act in the public interest and the role of municipalities in their approval processes. Additionally, in 2023, the AUC launched an inquiry and engagement process for possible changes to Rule 007 and other policy changes related to renewable energy development. For both the quasi-judicial agencies member committee and for the AUC's recent inquiry, RMA provided the following recommendations, among others:

- ♦ The AUC should specifically include a consideration of the land and soil type to the proposed project, as well as other considerations such as current and historical land use, climate and weather trends, drought and flood risk etc. within their project review process.
- ♦ Rural municipalities have a long history of balancing preservation of agricultural land with development and their input should be weighted in the approval process.

In early 2024, the AUC announced new policy changes as a result of the inquiry in its Module A report, which emphasizes an “agriculture-first” approach to renewable energy development. Using the Land Suitability Rating System (LSRS), new renewable energy projects are no longer permitted on Class 1 and 2 lands. This is a promising change indicating that RMA and member feedback has been considered and that the provincial government along with AUC recognize the value in minimizing economic losses to both the agricultural and renewable energy sectors. However, there is still a lack of clarity regarding how the new regulations will account for nuance in local conditions, considerations of other productive land classes, the presence of irrigation or the implementation of agrivoltaics.

In December 2024, the new Electric Energy Land Use and Visual Assessment Regulation (EELUVAR) was announced, which seeks to follow the “agriculture-first” approach previously outlined as a priority for the provincial government. According to this regulation, Agricultural Impact Assessments (AIA) are required for renewable energy proponents as a condition of constructing and operating on high-quality agricultural land. RMA will monitor the impacts of this regulation on members and assess its effectiveness as its implementation progresses.

The recent Rule 007 changes would impact renewable energy operation siting and agricultural land preservation in the following ways:

- As part of their applications to operate, renewable energy proponents are required to include an LSRS ranking of the project land, a consideration of irrigation impacts, and an AIA
- AIAs include more than the LSRS soil classification and must consider
 - o Measures of agricultural productivity on project lands
 - o Constraints on project co-location of existing agricultural activities or co-locating alternatives
 - o Upgrades to necessary equipment to maintain existing agricultural activities
 - o Agricultural reporting requirements
 - o An explanation of why existing agricultural activities may not be feasible, if applicable
- Rather than a blanket ban, AIAs are required for any wind or solar renewable energy operation that includes Class 1 or 2 lands
- AIAs are also required for renewable energy operations proposed on Class 3 lands or located within Class 3 municipalities, as identified in the EELUVAR
- AIAs are not required for other forms of renewable energy such as biomass or geothermal power plants

RMA finds many of these changes encouraging as they help to provide clarity and more specific guidelines on the selective approach to renewable energy operations introduced by the provincial government in recent years. While the blanket ban approach on Class 1 and 2 lands was a promising change, it also lacked the ability to allow municipalities to conduct context specific decision-making. The new AIA approach may help ensure agricultural land preservation while still enabling more municipal input, supporting local decision-making. However, AIAs and the overall policy development process that resulted in Rule 007 changes were not conducted by the GOA through legislation or collaboratively with municipalities. Changes were instead carried out through the quasi-judicial AUC and municipalities were only invited to provide input at later stages of the consultation process. While restrictions that preserve prime agricultural land are beneficial, it is important that the measures that ensure this are informed by the needs and input of rural municipalities. This way, rural municipal interests are accounted for and embedded in legislation rather than addressed retroactively at later stages of a renewable energy project. RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Principle** and will continue to monitor the implementation of new policies that seek to achieve a meaningful balance between agricultural operations and the renewable energy industry. This includes advocating for legislated protections for agricultural land and future collaborative opportunities to review the outcomes of AUC's Rule 007 changes.

Resolution 23-22F

Small Scale Generation Regulation – Interconnection Challenges

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to apply distribution and transmission connection timelines and study exemptions that are currently provided to micro-generation projects under Alberta Utility Commission Rule 24 to community generation projects under five Megawatts.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Ministry of Affordability and Utilities response recognizes the benefits that small scale power generation brings to communities, through job creation and the preservation of prime agricultural land. The government response explains the approval processes and procedures currently in place are linked to the safe and reliable use of the electricity grid. However, it is not clear whether the exemptions would create unsafe transmission from a generator project under five megawatts.

The Small-Scale Generation Regulation was updated in March 2024. Section 4 of the regulation states that small scale generating units must be connected to the distribution system “within a reasonable time” but does not specify what that time should be or describe accountability measures if the stated requirements are not adhered to. RMA assigns this a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue advocating for updates to the Small-Scale Generation Regulation that enable more streamlined procedures for community generation projects.

ENVIRONMENT

Resolution 2-24S

Water Apportionment Performance

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate that the Government of Alberta continue to collaborate with stakeholders to ensure that, to the extent physically practical, Alberta retains its share of the natural flow of the South Saskatchewan River in 2024 and in future years when Alberta is able to divert, store, or consume its full share of the natural flow.

DEVELOPMENTS: While the Government of Alberta response outlines a variety of initiatives that are or will be carried out to increase water supply, none reference the specific measures described in Resolution 2-24S which call for the government to increase its share of the South Saskatchewan River flow according to the terms of the 1969 Master Agreement. Rather than the methods listed in the government response, RMA members seek to increase water supply by retaining a greater share of the river flow particularly at government owned dams, reservoirs and other related infrastructure. Given that the government response does not make any commitments towards increasing water retention on the South Saskatchewan River specific to the methods outlined in this resolution, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Recently, the Government of Alberta began engagements on new policies, regulatory tools and potential amendments to the *Water Act* to improve water availability. Although transboundary water management and water restrictions at government owned infrastructure were not specifically outlined as within the engagement scope, one of the engagement goals is to enhance water conservation, efficiency and productivity through changes to policies, programs, regulations and approaches to meet this goal. RMA will continue to monitor developments related to this resolution and seek opportunities for advocacy and correspondence.

Resolution 6-23F

Expediting the Implementation of an Alberta Flood Regulation

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta (GOA) to develop and implement the regulations allowed under the *Flood Recovery and Reconstruction Act*; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate to the GOA to coordinate an approach among relevant agencies and stakeholders to ensure swift regulation development and implementation, the allocation of sufficient resources and funding for infrastructure and public awareness, and a commitment to regular assessment and refinement of the regulations.

DEVELOPMENTS: Responses from Alberta Municipal Affairs and Alberta Environment and Protected Areas indicate no intention to move forward with a provincial flood regulation at this time.

The *Flood Recovery and Reconstruction Act* provides the GOA with the ability to map floodways, restrict floodway development, prepare emergency response plans, and more.

Working with municipalities and other stakeholders to enable some or all of these powers through a province-wide regulation under the *Flood Recovery and Reconstruction Act* would ensure that municipalities have the necessary resources available to prepare for and recover from imminent flooding, and reduce risks to developers, property owners, and other stakeholders.

RMA understands that much like any regulatory changes impacting land use and development, implementing a provincial flood regulation comes with risks and potential liabilities for the province. However, continuing to take a sporadic and disjointed approach to discouraging floodway development is even riskier as it contributes to a lack of understanding of risks, rules, etc. by landowners and municipalities. RMA is frustrated by the fact that enabling legislation was passed over 10 years ago, and the Government of Alberta is still unwilling to even engage in an in-depth consultation on how a regulation could be developed in a way to mitigate current gaps in provincial and municipal regulation of development.

The Drought and Flood Protection Program (DFPP), launched in March 2024, provides municipalities with critical funding to implement flood management and prevention projects. However, policy and regulatory changes are also required to ensure municipalities can adequately carry out flood management and fulfill all the asks of this resolution. For this reason, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue monitoring developments and advocating on this issue.

Resolution 7-23F

Strategy for Management of Wildland Fires Outside Forest Protection Area

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) engage with the Government of Alberta (GOA), Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis), and the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) to develop a long-term strategy for the resourcing and management of wildland fire events outside the Forest Protection Area (FPA); and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA collaborate with ABmunis, the AFCA, and the GOA to establish a working group consisting of municipal and provincial subject matter experts, elected officials, and senior municipal administrators to develop a long-term strategy for wildfire management outside the FPA; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the RMA advocate that the GOA allocate additional funding to train more rotary wing pilots in bucketing and strategically place these bucketing resources inside and outside the FPA.

DEVELOPMENTS: In response to this resolution, RMA formed a wildfire working group (WWG) with representation from RMA member municipalities, ABmunis, the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association, Alberta Forest Products, the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA), and Alberta Forestry and Parks. The WWG held five meetings during which members discussed challenges, lessons learned and best practices for wildfire management outside the FPA. [The final report, including recommendations, has been finalized and was released in early 2025.](#) The report contains

various recommendations that are targeted to specific stakeholders and organizations including municipalities and government ministries.

RMA sent the final report and relevant recommendations to a variety of government ministries and stakeholders, seeking a commitment to collaborate with RMA to make progress on implementation. Various ministries have provided responses and expressed a willingness to work collaboratively with RMA and other stakeholders to action the recommendations of the WWG report. RMA has since appointed representatives to the Provincial Fire Liaison Committee and the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Advisory Committee. RMA also met with EPA and has committed to reaching out to relevant organizations as part of our advocacy efforts regarding the WWG recommendations.

Another component of this resolution is the need to ensure that adequate funding is allocated for the training of rotary wing pilots in bucketing, especially in areas outside of FPAs. RMA understands that additional capacity has been obtained for 2024 in the form of five night vision-equipped helicopters that can provide support after sunset. Furthermore, the provincial government has committed more support for wildfire evacuees, invested \$160 million in wildfire response through Budget 2025 and allocated \$7 million to support new WUI teams.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part** and will revisit the status as progress on the WWG recommendations are made.

Resolution 13-22F

Enhanced Wetland Replacement Program

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta engage with the Government of Alberta to simplify and expand the eligibility for projects under the Wetland Replacement Program.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response does not address the intent of the resolution: to expand the project eligibility scope of the Wetland Replacement Program (WRP) to include projects that enhance existing wetlands or redevelop constructed wetlands to provide enhanced community benefits. However, the response indicates that these types of projects may be considered under the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP), which is a competitive grant program. WRRP eligible projects specifically include wetland enhancements, as called for by the resolution. Several municipalities have applied and received funding towards wetland and watershed rehabilitation projects from each program.

While the WRP does not fund wetland enhancements, the WRRP does. Therefore, this resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Principle**.

Resolution 14-22F

Third Party Inspections for Gravel Pit Reclamation

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to amend the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* to allow qualified third parties to conduct inspections and approve reclamation certificate applications for Class I gravel pits.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates that the gravel pit inspection backlog has been reduced due to the hiring of additional inspectors and improved training. The government response also indicates work to expand the Digital Regulatory Assurance System (DRAS) to include applications under the *Public Lands Act*. While this is a positive development, the resolution requests that the Government of Alberta amend the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* to allow the hiring of qualified third-parties to undertake inspections. From RMA's perspective, this amendment would not undermine or replace the current inspection process, but rather provide another "tool in the toolbox" if the backlog returns in the future.

Starting in early 2025, the Government of Alberta has been engaging with stakeholders in the aggregate industry to identify potential policy changes to help ensure balance between economic development and environmental protection. RMA will use this engagement as an opportunity to advocate for the enablement of qualified third parties for inspections and reclamation certificate approvals, highlighting the potential for more streamlined and efficient procedures and development.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to advocate for the inclusion of this enabling clause in the Act.

Resolution 16-22F

Exemption of Natural Gas and Propane for Agriculture Under the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Canada to amend the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* to include natural gas and propane as exempted fuels for agricultural production.

DEVELOPMENTS: Bill C-234, an act to amend the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*, was amended to exempt carbon taxes from propane and natural gas used to heat or cool barns and livestock buildings and dry grain – extending the carbon tax exemptions available to farmers on gasoline and diesel. This bill has yet to receive royal assent, however in April 2025, [the consumer carbon tax was removed](#), adding needed economic relief measures to a vital rural Alberta sector that relies on propane and natural gas. Along with the removal of the carbon tax, the Farmers Tax Credit will also end in the 2024-25 fuel charge year. As such, this resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted** and RMA will continue to monitor the outcomes of this new policy change.

Resolution 19-22F

Portion of Funding from Public Lands Camping Pass Directed to Municipalities

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) requests that the Government of Alberta provide a portion of the revenue generated from the Public Lands Camping Pass to municipalities with adjacent public lands for the purpose of offsetting additional costs of municipal fire services, peace officers and solid waste services, along with municipal facilities and washrooms associated with recreational use of public lands;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA requests the Government of Alberta establish a program, funded by a portion of the Public Lands Camping Pass funds, for municipalities to be a coordinating agency for local stewardship and community groups impacted by public lands use.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response acknowledges the impacts of provincial recreation areas on neighboring municipalities yet does not provide a subsequent plan or approach to consider how municipalities can be better supported. Although public lands camping is under provincial jurisdiction, neighbouring municipalities are still obligated to provide emergency assistance within the camping areas. Additionally, municipalities that incur related costs and even provide services within public lands have no specialized tool or fund to off-set these costs. The increase in camping increases the need for other services within the municipality, such as waste management, parking lots, road maintenance, and general support for people accessing public land use areas. These services are not only essential, but promote the area as a safe and well-maintained place to visit and experience. Providing these services is expensive and requires adequate compensation, especially if the camping pass is already implemented.

In 2023, RMA staff met with several municipalities bordering major provincial parks to discuss the importance of offsetting costs of public land camping passes for neighbouring municipalities. This conversation developed into the formation of the Eastern Slopes Task Force, with seven participating member municipalities. RMA is facilitating the task force and gathering information from group members. The task force's purpose is to work collaboratively to gather data and examples of the impacts of public land use on Eastern Slopes municipalities, and develop recommendations for how the province can work with impacted municipalities to off-set those costs or take on a larger share of services linked to public land use. RMA will update members on progress as appropriate.

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

HEALTH AND SENIORS

Resolution ER1-24S

Government Support for Physician Assistants

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate that the Government of Alberta assist physicians to standardize the scope of practice for Physician Assistants employed in rural Alberta care settings to ensure they can be co-located with supervising physicians and have comprehensive medical directives;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT RMA advocate that the Government of Alberta allocate funding to post-secondary institutions for the development of Physician Assistant educational programs;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT RMA advocate that the Government of Alberta increase funding for rural Physician Assistant positions.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Physician Assistants became a regulated profession in Alberta and have been able to practice in the province since 2021. They are regulated by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA), who also regulate physicians. Joint regulation may be ideal to standardize Physician Assistant and Physician scopes of practice, promote information sharing and resources, and the ability for Physician Assistants to work collaboratively as part of a care team with a Physician, medical direction and appropriate supervision. According to the CPSA, Physician Assistants do not bill Alberta Health, but are paid by their group or Primary Care Network. As a result, Physician Assistants and Physicians have standardized scopes of practice. However, the CPSA and Alberta Health Services are responsible for privileging, or granting Physician Assistants and Physicians permission to perform certain skills and procedures in a facility.

In March 2024 the Government of Alberta announced the creation of the first training program for Physician Assistants in Alberta at the University of Calgary. This two-year training program will welcome its first class of 20 students in August 2024. Program enrollment will grow by 20 students per year over the next three years.

Prior to this announcement, 53 Physician Assistants worked in the province. The profession was regulated by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta in 2013. The RMA expects this announcement to have a positive and significant impact on the number of Physician Assistants who practice in the province. Program entry requirements dictate that “prior client-facing health experiences,” which may suggest any physician assistants will not be new healthcare workers, but healthcare workers with a new skill set and capacity.

While this is an extremely positive step taken by the Government of Alberta, it does not address the full scope of resolution ER1-24S.. RMA is not aware of a program requirement that the University of Calgary Physician Assistant program reserve any of the training seats for rural applicants.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part**. RMA will continue to advocate for the increased presence of Physician Assistants in rural comprehensive practice and will monitor the new program.

Resolution 10-23F

Enhancing Home Care Services for Rural Residents in Alberta

Status: Accepted in Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to enhance home care services for rural residents by increasing funding, improving accessibility, implementing innovative care models such as community-based care tailored for rural settings, and other means.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA appreciates the measures being taken for continuing care services across the province. The initiatives proposed for rural Albertans to receive more equitable access to care are a step in the right direction and will be monitored closely.

However, the response from Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services do not acknowledge the unique needs and challenges of people requiring care in rural and remote areas. There are a variety of unmet service needs that are not accounted for in this response, and there is no clear increase in funding for how these needs will be met.

Since RMA received the initial government response, Alberta Health and Seniors, Community, and Social Services ministries have changed to Primary and Preventative Health Services, Hospitals and Surgical Services, Addictions and Mental Health, and Assisted Living and Social Services. RMA looks forward to meeting with ministers to learn more about the scopes of their new ministries and their mandates. RMA plans to continue monitoring progress in the coming months. RMA assigns this resolution as **Accepted in Principle** and will continue advocacy efforts on this issue.

Resolution 17-23F

Sustainable Community Hospice Funding Model

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate for the Government of Alberta to implement a sustainable operational funding model for the provision of hospice services by community hospice societies across the province.

DEVELOPMENTS: Alberta Health Services' response to this resolution showed commitments to enhancing hospice services for communities across the province. However, it did not address the resolution requests for sustainable operational funding for community hospice societies. The creation of a sustainable operational funding model for the provision of hospice services by community hospice societies across the province will ensure that sites are receiving the support that they need to succeed.

In December 2024, RMA released a report titled [End-of-Life Care in Rural Alberta: The Case for a Sustainable Community Hospice Funding Model](#), which includes recommendations for the

creation of a sustainable community hospice funding model. RMA has shared the report with the ministries of Seniors, Community, and Social Services, and Alberta Health.

RMA continued to advocate on this issue using the data and recommendations in the report as guidance. More specifically, RMA has explored a new partnership with an organization with a similar interest in seeing an operational funding model for hospice. RMA has made efforts to meet with the Rural Health Outreach group within Alberta Health Services, housed within the previous Ministry of Health, to facilitate more in-depth discussions with the Government of Alberta on rural hospice support. RMA has plans to continue bringing this issue to the Government of Alberta's attention.

RMA is committed to learning more about the transformation of the continuing care system and will continue to report on any updates as a result of this advocacy. RMA assigns this resolution with a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 6-23S

Rural Access to Supports for Addictions, Homelessness and Mental Health

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to provide funding to rural municipalities and community service organizations to address the issues of addiction, homelessness and public safety, and build on the province's recovery-oriented system of addiction and mental health care at a level similar to the funding provided to Edmonton, Calgary and other large urban centres in late 2022.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta's (GOA's) response to this resolution focuses on various existing mental health supports available for Albertans, including those living in rural areas. However, the response does not indicate that the GOA will take any additional efforts to ensure that rural Alberta has the same access to funding for mental health, addiction, and homelessness that was provided to cities such as Edmonton and Calgary in 2022.

In December 2024, the Government of Alberta announced the creation of a new homelessness funding model and an expert panel that will help shape the province's future approach to combatting homelessness. The new funding model would shift the approach for funding homelessness supports from one in which the Government of Alberta provides funding to designated community-based organizations in Alberta's seven largest urban centres, which subsequently further distribute funds to local frontline organizations, to a competitive grant-based model through which organizations all over the province may apply if they meet certain eligibility criteria. RMA has questions around the extent to which rural organizations may be able to benefit from this model and will continue to monitor implementation. RMA sent a letter requesting more information and a seat on the Advisory Panel, but has not yet received a response.

As the extent to which this new funding model will support rural addiction, mental health, homeless, and public safety, while building on the province's recovery oriented system remains unclear, RMA assigns this resolution the status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 2-22F

Laboratory and X-Ray Technologists Training for Rural Healthcare

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request the Government of Alberta to immediately expand the number of seats available to train Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technologist (CLXT) for rural Alberta by increasing the number of seats for CLXT training at NAIT by twenty seats and explore means by which an additional twenty seat capacity can be created at NAIT or another Alberta Institution.

DEVELOPMENTS: The initial government response to this resolution indicated additional funding had been allocated to programs such as nurses and laboratory professionals. However, RMA is not aware of how these seats were allocated and to what extent they were available for rural Albertan students.

Further, Alberta Advanced Education's response indicates that they have not yet received a proposal for the Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technologist programs. RMA would like to see Alberta Advanced Education collaborate with NAIT and other relevant expert stakeholders on how to expand this.

As a result, RMA assigns this a status **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 8-22F

Rural Mental Health Advocacy

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request that the Government of Alberta advocate to the Government of Canada to add provisional psychologists, psychologists, and registered counsellors with the Canadian Counselling & Psychotherapy Association to the list of qualifying professions for the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness program, provided that their professional practices are located within a designated under-served rural or remote community within Alberta;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA urges the Government of Alberta to work in conjunction with the Association of Counselling Therapy of Alberta to create a regulatory body that would be responsible for developing, maintaining, and enforcing regulations, standards of practice, and codes of ethics to protect the public in the Province of Alberta.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta's (GOA's) response to this resolution provided insight into several additional mental health supports that have been put into place for rural Alberta, and more recent rural healthcare investments anticipated to extend to mental health. However, the response does not indicate that the GOA will take any advocacy efforts to ensure that provisional psychologists, psychologists and registered counsellors with the CCPA will be included in the loan forgiveness program, provided that their practices is located in an under-served rural or remote community. Allowing these practitioners to participate in the loan forgiveness program is a key recruitment strategy to support the health and well being of rural Albertans.

RMA understands that Counselling Therapists are now regulated by the College of Alberta Psychologists as per a government announcement in spring 2024. RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part**. RMA will continue to monitor concerns around rural mental health and counselling therapists' regulation.

Resolution 12-22F

Restore Grants-in-Lieu of Taxes for Public Housing Management Authorities

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta to increase funding towards the Rent Assistance Benefit program; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate to the Government of Alberta to reinstate grants in-lieu-of taxes for housing units operated by public housing management bodies; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA advocate to the Government of Alberta to revise the *Alberta Housing Act* by replacing “may” with “shall” in section 27(1) and by deleting section 27(2).

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates a plan to respond to one of the three asks of resolution 12-22F. RMA is pleased to see the commitment to action the 10-year strategy’s recommendation to increase rent supports.

In 2024 the Government of Alberta amended the *Municipal Government Act* to exempt non-profit affordable housing from municipal property taxes and enable the option to offer multi-year residential property tax exemptions. While this change may encourage the development of affordable housing in some communities, it shifts costs onto municipalities and their taxpayers. The Government of Alberta has also provided no indication that they plan to reinstate grants-in-lieu of taxes.

The RMA is actively engaged in affordable housing advocacy. An RMA member survey conducted in spring 2025 asked members how much their municipality lost from a lack of grants-in-lieu of tax funding in their most recent tax year to help make a case for operative clause two, which calls on the Government of Alberta to reinstate grants in-lieu-of taxes. While a number of members were unaware of how much they had lost, those that reported values noted losses ranging from \$50,000 to \$120,000. As the government’s response does not commit to restoring grants in-lieu-of taxes for public housing bodies or addressing specific changes to the Alberta Housing Act, this resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Part**.

Resolution 17-22F

Government Funding For Nurse Practitioners

Status: Accepted In Principle

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request the Government of Alberta to establish a salary-based funding model that will fairly and equitably compensate nurse practitioners for work in rural local care facilities and rural independent clinics.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta has committed to a new salary-based pay system for Nurse Practitioners (NPs), launched in 2024. The model is expected to include payment for a specified number of clinical hours and other commitments, such as caring for a certain number of patients.

NPs who opt into the compensation model will also qualify for caseload support once their patient caseloads are established, as announced in October 2023. The three-year, \$57 million support program will help primary health care providers manage an increasing number of

patients. Each provider has the potential to receive up to \$10,000 annually to help support the added administrative work associated with implementing the new model.

RMA staff have collaborated and discussed this issue with the Nurse Practitioner Association of Alberta (NPAA) and are pleased with the new funding model for NPs in Alberta.

The Government of Canada mandated that “[...provincial and territorial health plans will cover primary care provided by nurse practitioners...](#)” beginning in 2026.

Due to the continued commitment from the GOA to move towards a salary-based funding model for NPs in Alberta, RMA has assigned this resolution a status of **Accepted In Principle** and will continue to monitor program rollout.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Resolution 5-24S

Legislation Consultation with Municipalities

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to amend the *Municipal Government Act* to include the following statement:

Requirement to notify

(1) The Minister shall notify the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) and Alberta Municipalities (ABMunis) at least one year prior to the effective date of any legislation, regulation or administrative action undertaken by or on behalf of the Government of Alberta that would have the effect of decreasing the revenue received by the membership of RMA and ABMunis or increasing the required expenditures of the membership of RMA and ABMunis.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply with respect to any legislation, regulation or administrative action applying to the Province generally and not specifically to municipalities.

DEVELOPMENTS: While the Government of Alberta (GOA) regularly engages RMA on policy changes, including those with fiscal impacts on municipalities, RMA has observed a trend of shorter timeframes for input and multiple concurrent engagements, which combine to strain RMA and member capacity, and make it more difficult for RMA and other stakeholders to understand possible fiscal impacts of policy changes. Recent amendments made to the MGA through 2025's Bill 50 have further demonstrated the GOA's lack of consultation with stakeholders before legislating drastic and, often, cumbersome changes that present fiscal and governance impacts for municipalities. The GOA's response, combined with their increasingly rushed approach to engagements, suggests that they have no intent to proceed with any of the amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* proposed by this resolution.

As a result, this resolution has been assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**. RMA will continue to advocate for amendments to the MGA to provide earlier notification to municipal associations of legislative changes impacting municipalities' revenue.

Resolution 4-24S

Maintaining Non-Partisan Municipal Elections

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta to refrain from formalizing partisan politics in local government elections;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the RMA advocate for the Government of Alberta to amend the *Local Authorities Elections Act* (LAEA) to prohibit partisanship from infiltrating local elections or politics in any way including political party endorsements of local candidates, donations directly or indirectly from political parties to local candidates, or by way of any other influence.

The Government of Alberta's response indicates that political parties at the municipal level will proceed as planned, despite RMA's advocacy and widespread public disapproval of the change. While political parties are being trialed in Calgary and Edmonton for the 2025 election, they may be expanded in the future to encompass other municipalities as well.

Two regulations related to municipal parties were released in fall 2024: the *Local Political Parties and Slates Regulation* (LPPSR), and the *Expense Limits Regulation* (ELR).

- ♦ The LPPSR allows local political parties and slates to register and be listed on municipal election ballots in Edmonton and Calgary for the October 2025 election. The regulation for local political parties and slates provides rules for their registration, operation and financial administration, similar to existing rules that govern local candidates and provincial political parties. Local political parties and slates will not be permitted to have formal affiliation with a provincial or federal political party, may not have a name or acronym that resembles a provincial or federal political party.

The ELR creates expense limits for local candidates and third-party advertisers across Alberta, while introducing similar limits for local political parties in Edmonton and Calgary. The regulations specify expense limits during both the year of the election as well as non-election years. These new limits tie campaign expense limits to municipal populations and automatically adjust with changes in population over time.

The *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act* (Bill 50) passed in April 2025. Bill 50 amends the LAEA to align with changes promised by the GOA regarding municipal political parties, while greatly expanding funding amounts and uses granted to municipal political parties and their candidates. Bill 50 formalized the funding and expense rules laid out in the LPPSR and ELR within the LAEA itself, establishing it as law specifically for municipal elections.

Candidates in municipal elections may now share campaign funds and expenses between themselves and their political party to a seemingly unlimited amount, greatly increasing the potential for disproportionate spending on individual campaigns. Contributions to political parties and candidates may now also include money, personal property, real property, and services – widely expanding from simple currency. These contributions may also now be used for any purpose that may be tangent to the campaign, a much looser standard than before.

RMA is concerned that these new funding and expense rules affiliated with political parties will create an uneven playing field between potential candidates and, ultimately, increase Alberta's democratic deficit. These changes do not align with RMA member desires nor widespread public opinion. While it is still currently unknown whether municipal political parties will be expanded provincewide for the 2029 municipal elections, the legislative changes made in this area suggest that this is highly likely, even as the impacts and outcomes of applying the party model to Edmonton and Calgary for the 2025 election are not yet known.

RMA will continue to advocate against political parties in municipal politics, but as the provincial government continues to entrench their position on them at this time, this resolution has been assigned a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 6-24S

Interim Funding for Lost Oil and Gas Revenue

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate for the Government of Alberta to reinstate the Well Drilling Equipment Tax and eliminate the thirty-five percent (35%) assessment reduction and additional depreciation adjustments for lower-producing wells.

The Government of Alberta response indicated no intent to reinstate the Well Drilling Equipment Tax (WDET), and that the economic benefits resulting from increased drilling, such as increased number of assessable structures and properties and a stronger economy stemming from a strong oil and gas sector should make up the difference for lost municipal tax revenue. The GOA's response advises municipalities to rely on other avenues, such as road-use agreements, to make up for the lack of WDET funding going to municipal infrastructure. RMA's Below the Drill campaign showed that from 2021 to 2023, rural municipalities lost approximately \$92 million in WDET revenue. To RMA's knowledge, no data or analysis has been provided linking the removal of the WDET to an increase in drilling activity. As it relates to the 35% assessment reduction, the GOA's response signals their intent to remove the assessment reduction once the Assessment Model Review is completed and implemented, but it will remain in place for the time being.

Despite RMA's advocacy through the Below the Drill campaign and other approaches, the GOA's responses indicate no intent to revisit either policy decision, both of which subsidize the oil and gas industry on the backs of rural municipalities. As a result, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution ER2-24S

Municipal Taxes Misrepresented as Municipal Franchise Fees

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate that the Government of Alberta require all public utility providers, including those delivering electricity and gas, to list all fees and charges implemented by the distributor accurately, including municipal taxes and municipal franchise fees.

Municipal Affairs' response fails to address any of the requests in the resolution, largely because the *Municipal Government Act* lacks any details or specifications about how municipal franchise fees should be displayed on a consumer's utility bill; it only provides the authority to charge franchise fees.

Municipal Affairs essentially passes responsibility to the Ministry of Affordability and Utilities (AU), whose response is equally underwhelming. AU states that as long as the utility company or retailer meets the minimum requirements under s. 4 of the *Natural Gas Billing Regulation*, Alta Reg 185/2003, it is up to the retailer whether they choose to display the municipal taxes and franchise fees separately or as one single line item.

Neither ministry is considering any legislative amendments to the minimum content requirements for utility bills or any further steps to ensure the bills provide the correct details in a clear and transparent manner. Therefore, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**, and will continue to advocate for amendments to ensure municipal taxes are not misrepresented on ratepayers' utility bills.

Resolution 2-23F

Amendments to the Municipal Government Act – Section 619

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta urge the Government of Alberta to amend Section 619 of the *Municipal Government Act* to state that decisions made by provincial regulators in granting licenses, permits, approvals and other authorizations under their jurisdiction must be consistent with municipal statutory land use planning related to the protection of productive agricultural lands, impacts on municipal infrastructure, existing land uses, and other possible local project impacts.

DEVELOPMENTS: Municipal Affairs' response in late 2023 stated that regulatory entities such as the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) are "encouraged" to consult with municipalities, but did not show any intent to make regulators' decisions regarding licenses, permits, approvals, and others consistent with municipal statutory land use planning. Since then, no further progress has been made on any amendments to s. 619 of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA).

Encouraging rather than legislating consultation with municipalities and adherence to municipalities' statutory land use planning documents remains an insufficient policy approach, especially when projects or licenses granted by quasi-judicial agencies have significant local impacts.

In December 2024 the GOA released the *Electric Energy Land Use and Visual Assessment Regulation*, Alta Reg 203/2024 (EELUVAR). The EELUVAR created new application and reporting requirements – including land use planning and conflict management – for renewable energy and agricultural developments. While this is an encouraging step within the context of the renewable energy approval process, it falls short of the requirements of the resolution, which seek clarity within the MGA that all provincially-regulated land use decisions must align with municipal plans.

Section 619 of the MGA insulates quasi-judicial agencies from being accountable to municipalities or even considering municipal planning documents unless they choose to do so in many circumstances. As the GOA has indicated no further plans to amend the section, RMA's status on this resolution remains as **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 12-23F

Growth Management Board Voluntary Membership

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate that the Government of Alberta (GOA) remove mandatory growth management boards (GMBs) from the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA); and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that should the GOA fail to abolish GMBs, the RMA advocate to amend the MGA to change the membership in GMBs from mandatory to voluntary.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA members that have been part of growth management boards (GMBs) have had long standing concerns with the impact of GMBs on rural land use planning and service delivery. This included issues with a voting and governance structure that provided urban municipalities with a disproportionate level of control over both regional plans developed by the

GMB and local planning decisions made by individual municipalities that are required to align with GMB plans.

In late November 2024, the Minister of Municipal Affairs informed both the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB) and the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) that the Government of Alberta would no longer provide funding to either board beginning in the 2025 budget year. In 2024, each board received \$1 million through the Alberta Community Partnership Grant.

The Minister's announcement also indicated that while GMBs would still be a part of land use planning and service delivery in Alberta, municipal membership in GMBs would be voluntary moving forward. In February 2025, RMA organized an engagement session with rural municipalities that were formerly GMB members. The session was intended to allow members to share their experience in GMBs and to discuss short- and long-term challenges and opportunities in a post-mandatory GMB environment. While the flexibility and collaborative environments that have been fostered by removing mandatory requirements have been welcomed by members, there are outstanding questions on how to best address collaboration in areas such as economic development and land use planning moving forward. RMA will continue to monitor developments for opportunities to continue advocacy efforts to maintain the benefits of this resolution.

The removal of the mandatory component of GMBs satisfies both asks of this resolution. While the legislative changes announced by Municipal Affairs have not yet been officially made, RMA is comfortable assigning this resolution a status of **Accepted**.

Resolution ER1-23F

Limiting Third-party Services in ICF Agreements

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta (GOA) that third-party services should not be included in intermunicipal collaboration frameworks (ICFs) and should be left to each ICF negotiation partnership to determine external to the ICF process;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the RMA advocate to the GOA to limit the funding demands by urban municipalities, particularly when these demands arise from their independent decisions and are based on an assumption that rural municipalities will subsidize a portion of their costs or shortages.

DEVELOPMENTS: In 2024, the Government of Alberta undertook engagement on possible ICF changes. This includes broad municipal engagement as well as more targeted discussions with RMA and ABMunis. Included among RMA's formal recommendations related to ICFs were the following that are relevant to this resolution:

Recommendation 3: Clarify that third-party services cannot be addressed through ICFs.

It is completely reasonable for municipalities to collaborate with one another and non-municipal entities to deliver certain types of services. This is by no means a new practice and reflects the

importance of the non-profit sector in delivering many community services, especially in rural areas.

Despite this, ICFs are not an appropriate tool to facilitate third-party service agreements. By their very nature, ICFs are a formal agreement that municipalities are required to complete with **one another**. Including third parties in ICF negotiations adds complexity to the process and leads to legitimate questions as to the appropriate scope and level of involvement of the third party. Are they a signatory to the agreement? Should they have a say in how other services are negotiated if it impacts the level of support available for their service? Should third parties have a right to demand involvement in an ICF process if they believe they provide a service benefitting multiple municipalities? These questions demonstrate the potential complexity and unintended consequences of including third-party services into the ICF process.

Clarifying that third-party services should be addressed outside the ICF process will make life easier for both municipalities and non-profits. Amending the legislation to specifically clarify this will eliminate the current ambiguity on this issue and ensure that ICF renegotiations are not derailed by third-party service debates and can focus on direct municipal services.

Recommendation 5: Require ICFs to include agreement on both cost-sharing and joint input into service levels, service delivery mechanism, etc. for each service included within the ICF.

ICFs focus primarily on how and to what level services are provided across municipal boundaries, and how costs for delivering the service is divided. What is absent in the ICF development processes is a requirement to consider if and how decision-making related to shared services should be determined. In many cases, both municipal partners are comfortable leaving decision-making around how a particular service is delivered to the municipality that already provides it, with the other municipality simply providing a set monetary contribution to recognize the fact that its residents access the service. However, in some cases reported by RMA members, the contributing municipality was uncomfortable with how a particular service was being delivered and the associated costs in delivering it. This often occurred in cases in which services brought forward during an ICF negotiation were not previously recognized as “intermunicipal” and lacked an existing service sharing agreement or even informal discussions.

From the perspective of rural municipalities, which in most cases are responsible for contributing to services delivered by urban municipalities but accessed to some extent by rural residents, it is problematic to expect contributions without any consideration of a corresponding portion of input into service level determination and service delivery mechanisms. Some examples of this issue include rural contributions to urban-delivered recreation services, after which the urban municipality increased user fees for rural residents without consulting with the rural municipality. In this case, the rural municipality viewed the urban municipality as “double-dipping” by using an intermunicipal tool to gather contributions directly from the rural municipality, and using local decision-making to further increase their revenues directly from rural residents. If the rural municipality is contributing to the service at a level proportionate to its residents’ usage levels, they should expect to have input into the service at a similar proportion, and at the very least an assurance that its residents will have equitable access. Under the current structure there is no requirement that municipalities even discuss decision-making collaboration, which places the contributing municipality at great risk in comparison to the municipality responsible for delivering the service.

In spring 2025, the GOA passed the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act* (Bill 50). Bill 50 completely restructured the ICF process as described in the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA). The amendments to the MGA were significant. They include a defined scope of core municipal services that must be included in an ICF, stricter rules around inclusion of other municipal services that may be included, and new data sharing and good faith negotiation requirements into the development of ICFs.

There are now five mandatory services that must be included in ICFs: transportation, water and wastewater, solid waste, emergency services, and recreation. If a service does not fall under one of these categories, parties may unilaterally revoke consent to include the specified service in the ICF. Where parties cannot agree on the delivery of one or some of the mandatory services, municipalities will now be required to go to binding arbitration.

“Third-party services” are defined by Bill 50 for the purpose of an ICF. A “third-party service” is one for which a third-party is legislatively required to provide the service in question. It is RMA’s understanding that this would apply to libraries, policing, post offices, and other services for which there is legislation that oversees and manages the delivery of the service.

While there is no mandate on municipalities to establish a cost calculation model, Bill 50 signals an expectation that municipalities collaborate when developing a method for measuring costs as part of the ICF process. There are no defined requirements for this cost-calculation model; however, parties must share their data and assumptions made in forming the cost calculation model between the parties. Parties must also agree on the roles and responsibilities that each party undertakes. Failure to agree on a cost-calculation model will result in binding arbitration.

Bill 50 also introduces the ability for municipalities to decline contributions to new capital projects undertaken a neighbouring municipality (even those linked to a mandatory service) unless the contributing municipality has “participated in the design of and decision to construct the facility.”

As the requirements related to third-party services was adopted and appropriate limits to municipal funding demands under the resolution have been adopted, RMA assigns a status of **Accepted**. RMA plans to continue to advocate for enhanced funding and capacity-building support from the province in fulfillment of the creation of ICFs.

Resolution 1-23S

Enhanced Support for Receiving Municipalities in Dissolutions

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate that the Government of Alberta review the total financial compensation, timelines, process, and other support provided to receiving municipalities to better mitigate and manage the immediate and ongoing impacts resulting from the dissolution or amalgamation process.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA released its *Post-Dissolution Impact Study – Summary Report* in March 2024. The study identified many areas of improvement in terms of how absorbing municipalities can be better supported financially and in terms of administrative and capacity-building support following a dissolution. It also examined possible changes to the viability review process to better consider the potential impacts of dissolution on the absorbing municipality and improve

infrastructure and financial data disclosed during the review. The recommendations in the Report are as follows:

Financial Support

- ♦ Recommendation 1: That Municipal Affairs to increase the ACP Infrastructure funding available to absorbing municipalities, with a formula that considers the cost identified in the infrastructure audit and emergency repairs.
- ♦ Recommendation 2: That Municipal Affairs to reinstate ACP Transitional funding to previous levels.
- ♦ Recommendation 3: That Municipal Affairs to provide expanded ACP Transitional funding for an optional dedicated administrative project resource.
- ♦ Recommendation 4: That Municipal Affairs to provide new funding for emergent issues discovered during post-dissolution.
- ♦ Recommendation 5: That Municipal Affairs to explore a 'tiered' funding model, with additional funding supports available to municipalities absorbing large, complex dissolutions.

Viability Review and Pre-Dissolution Process

- ♦ Recommendation 6: That Municipal Affairs to provide strict guidelines for Infrastructure Audits to ensure comprehensiveness and to incorporate the absorbing municipality's infrastructure standards.
- ♦ Recommendation 7: That Municipal Affairs to implement an Official Administrator (Supervisory only) for municipalities that have approved dissolution votes.
- ♦ Recommendation 8: That Municipal Affairs to implement formal participation and code of conduct requirements for municipalities participating in viability reviews.
- ♦ Recommendation 9: That Municipal Affairs to revise the existing workbooks to better enable absorbing municipalities to project potential impacts to them.

Post-Dissolution Process

- ♦ Recommendation 10: That RMA work with Municipal Affairs to implement a guidebook and resource directory for absorbing municipalities to inform them, and provide dedicated staffing resource supports for questions and emergent issues.
- ♦ Recommendation 11: That RMA develop specific resource materials, communities of practice and other supports for absorbing municipalities to support members dealing with dissolution related issues.
- ♦ Recommendation 12: That Municipal Affairs implement a sustainability monitoring and supports program for RMA members deemed 'at-risk' of dissolution related sustainability issues.

RMA has engaged in discussions with Municipal Affairs staff about a possible upcoming review Alberta's viability review and dissolution process, which would presumably include changes to

post-dissolution supports for absorbing municipalities. RMA is encouraged by this possible review, but no formal plans have been confirmed to this point. RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to advocate on this issue based on the recommendations listed above.

Resolution 3-22F

Provide for a Uniform Method of Auditing and Enforcing Compliance with Community Aggregate Payment Levy Bylaws

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta for a change to the Community Aggregate Payment Levy (CAPL) Regulation to explicitly define a mechanism or framework for how municipalities should audit CAPL shipment reports and define standardized penalties when aggregate producers fail to meet their obligations under the CAPL Regulation and related municipal bylaws;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate to the Government of Alberta to consider noncompliance with CAPL bylaws when contemplating company applications, renewals, and reporting for Class 1 gravel pits.

DEVELOPMENTS:

As part of an engagement process on possible changes to the CAPL, RMA gathered input from members throughout summer 2024 to better understand how the CAPL was working within their communities. As part of the engagement process, RMA advocated for the inclusion of a mandatory auditing framework. In December 2024, the Government of Alberta announced that the CAPL Regulation would be extended without changes until December 31, 2029. RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 4-22F

Well Drilling Equipment Tax Regulation

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request the Government of Alberta reintroduce a Well Drilling Equipment Tax Regulation or otherwise provide funding to restore municipal revenue streams that assist with recovering costs for maintenance of public infrastructure from active industry participants.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response references the elimination of the Well Drilling Equipment Tax (WDET) as a relief measure provided to industry in 2020 as an alternative to significant changes to the regulated assessment model that were then under consideration. While this approach may have had merit during the difficult economic period of 2020, it is currently unnecessary and is subsidizing oil and gas companies by removing a revenue source for rural municipalities during a period of record profits for the industry. According to the Alberta Economic Dashboard, the total number of wells drilled in October 2020 (when the WDET was eliminated) was 202, while 508 wells were drilled in February 2025.

The intent of the WDET is to provide rural municipalities with much-needed revenue to offset increased infrastructure strain associated with the drilling of new wells. In some municipalities,

drilling is occurring at an extremely rapid pace. The lack of a WDET, combined with the tax holiday on new wells provided by the province at the same time, as resulted in municipalities having virtually no abilities to raise revenue to offset new costs associated with oil and gas industry growth. RMA's Below the Drill campaign showed that from 2021 to 2023, rural municipalities lost approximately \$92 million in WDET revenue. To RMA's knowledge, no data or analysis has been provided linking the removal of the WDET to an increase in drilling activity.

RMA appreciates that the current WDET structure does not consider industry trends such as the level of drilling activity or commodity prices. RMA plans to reach out the Government of Alberta and other stakeholders to discuss the possibility of a new WDET structure in which the implementation of the tax, and potentially the rates charged, are linked to industry economic performance. As the WDET is directly linked to short-term infrastructure impacts associated with new drilling, this approach would allow for a balance between industry and municipal concerns. The Government of Alberta has not reinstated the WDET for 2025, and has not discussed any plans to do so with the RMA.

Therefore, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to advocate on this issue.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 3-24S

Continued Support for Regional Economic Development Alliances

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT BE RESOLVED that Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request that a memorandum of understanding be held, in committee, between the Government of Alberta (GOA), Alberta's municipalities, RMA, ABmunis, and existing Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDAs) to redevelop a clear purpose and program structure for the REDAs, inclusive of a stable, long-term, collaborative approach to funding the same; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the GOA provide continuous, stable funding to existing REDAs to support a combined budget of \$125,000/year in operational funding and \$100,000/year in project funding, until a memorandum of re-organization is complete and enacted.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA members place significant value on Rural Economic Development Alliances (REDAs) as an ongoing source of economic development knowledge, capacity and strategy that reflects the needs of specific regions. By their nature, REDAs are not well-suited to rely on a series of project specific grants, as their role is not specific to individual projects. In 2024 the Government of Alberta announced plans to restructure and eliminate operating funding for REDAs in favour of an competitive, project-based economic development grant programs. This decision moved economic development decision making further away from local governments and communities. From RMA's perspective, this decision is essentially downloading the costs of supporting-REDAs from the Government of Alberta to municipalities, which will likely face a decision: to increase the funding they already contribute to REDAs or lose their REDA completely. Unfortunately, the smallest, lowest-capacity municipalities that most rely on REDAs will be least able to increase their contribution.

In Summer 2024 RMA, along with other rural economic development stakeholders, met with the Premier to discuss RMA's ongoing and continued support for REDAs. The Premier reiterated the government's plan to eliminate the current allocation-based REDA funding. And instead require REDAs to seek full operating funding from municipalities or other sources, and compete for project-based economic development funding. RMA has heard from a number of members that REDAs and economic development in general remains an important priority.

RMA released the [Rural Economic Development Toolkit](#) in spring 2025 and hosted a series of webinars to support toolkit use. The toolkit was made possible by funding from the Government of Alberta. The toolkit was designed to assist RMA members with no or minimal economic development staff capacity.

The RMA has assigned this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to advocate for government to contribute to REDAs in a manner that reflects their ongoing regional economic development support role.

Resolution 5-23F

Municipal Involvement in Quasi-Judicial Agencies

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta work with the Government of Alberta to ensure coordination and/or consideration between municipal land-use planning processes and bylaws and quasi-judicial agency approval processes, establish more meaningful engagement between local municipalities and quasi-judicial boards and agencies, and ensure legislative mechanisms and processes are put into place to hold agencies and the proponents accountable for reclamation of a site from the onset of a project.

DEVELOPMENTS: In 2023, RMA formed the Quasi-Judicial Agencies Member Committee (QJAC). QJAC proposed several recommendations to improve the approval processes of the AER, AUC and NRCB. QJAC recommendations related to this resolution include:

- ♦ That the GOA and quasi-judicial agencies work with stakeholders to develop a public interest evaluation framework to assess decision-making and engagement processes.
- ♦ That the GOA and quasi-judicial agencies work together and with stakeholders, including municipalities, to regularly adapt approval processes to industry changes.
- ♦ That both quasi-judicial agencies and applicants play a direct role in initial project engagement processes.
- ♦ That agencies review and redevelop current notification systems to better engage with municipalities at the onset of projects.
- ♦ That the AER and AUC adopt NRCB requirements related to aligning projects with municipal development plans.
- ♦ That municipalities have automatic status as directly affected parties and automatic standing at all hearings.
- ♦ These recommendations align with this resolution and support the need for increased and enhanced collaboration between regulators and municipalities.

Both Alberta Affordability and Utilities and Alberta Municipal Affairs mentioned the ongoing inquiry into renewable energy, which RMA participated in. RMA's input aligned with the ask of this resolution, supporting the need for municipalities to be involved in regulator processes proactively and to be identified as key stakeholders. The submissions made by RMA to the AUC brought together member concerns through resolutions as well as the Quasi-Judicial Agency Committee, which was composed of several RMA members. The inquiry concluded in February 2024 and resulted in several recommendations from the AUC, as well as policy direction from the Government of Alberta. Recommended changes related to this resolution include:

- ♦ Municipal participation rights will be automatically granted and municipalities will be eligible to request cost recovery for participation (AUC commitment).
- ♦ The Commission will undertake a review of Rule 007 related to municipal submission requirements and clarify consultation requirements (AUC commitment).

The AUC engaged on changes to Rule 007 intended to implement the commitments above. This includes the development of a municipal engagement template form that proponents will be required to complete to record and confirm support from municipalities. In October 2024, RMA submitted written input to this engagement and also provided members with an engagement guide to support municipalities seeking to provide their own submissions. In March 2025, the AUC released a draft

blackline version of Rule 007 and invited written feedback from interested parties and stakeholders. RMA also developed a [member guide](#) for this second round of input.

The RMA is pleased to see that securities continue to be required for developments following the inquiry and draft blackline. Reclamation securities are necessary to protect the public interest and ensure that industry is held accountable. However, there needs to be certainty that the securities are appropriately funded, especially in the case of landowner held securities. Securities should be calculated according to the estimated expected costs of land reclamation efforts. As such, in order to protect landowners and municipalities, renewable energy projects should not be approved until all provincially determined security requirements are met.

In June 2025, the AUC also released the [Renewables Code of Practice](#), which states the minimum cost types that must be accounted for when determining security amounts, listed in Schedule 1. However, RMA advocates for the implementation of a Base Security Deposit akin to those referenced in the AER's Specified Enactment Direction on the Rock-Hosted Mine Liability Process. Furthermore, the cost types outlined in Schedule 1 of the Code of Practice, though comprehensive, would only apply to government-held securities. Further details on required security submission timelines would also help provide clarity and ensure the newly implemented reclamation security system functions effectively.

As of early 2024, Municipalities have been granted automatic standing in AUC hearings and are eligible for cost recovery for participation. However, the rule 007 draft blackline does not include provisions that trigger automatic hearings in cases where a proponents project does not align with municipal bylaws or development plans.

The RMA appreciates the NRCB's response to the QJAC recommendations. The NRCB has remained responsive and open to exploring legislative changes in collaboration with RMA that help ensure meaningful municipal involvement and consultation on proposed agricultural operations. RMA will continue working with the NRCB as part of our advocacy concerning this resolution.

The AER's response, while focused on specific examples of possible changes outlined in the resolution background and not on the actual operative clause of the resolution, implies that the current AER approval process either already fulfils the requested changes, or that the changes would have unintended consequences for municipalities. This is disappointing as the work of the QJAC and input from specific municipalities indicates that this is not the case. For example, the AER's indication that municipalities are notified of new projects in their boundaries may technically be true, but RMA members have explained that the form of notification and the limited project information included makes it extremely difficult and labour-intensive to determine if a project poses local risks or concerns. RMA and its members are aware of the AER's current processes and are disappointed that there is no initial interest in engaging around how they could be improved.

While RMA is optimistic that the work being undertaken by the AUC will enhance municipal input into the approval process for renewable energy projects, the outcomes are yet to be determined. The RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part** and will continue to advocate for a provincewide shift in collaboration between quasi-judicial agencies and municipalities on project approval processes.

Resolution 11-23F

Compensation Resulting from Regulatory Changes

Status: Incomplete Information

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta (GOA) to implement a mechanism that will require a review of all existing and future legislation to determine negative financial impacts to private property; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA request the GOA to implement recommendation six from the Special Committee on Real Property Rights, and that private property owners impacted by the changes to the *Historical Resources Act* be compensated.

DEVELOPMENTS: A response from government has not yet been received. For this reason, Resolution 11-23F is assigned a status of **Incomplete Information**. RMA will continue to advocate on this resolution by seeking out further opportunities for correspondence and input.

Resolution 16-23S

Applied Research Associations Funding

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Alberta provide sustainable operational funding to applied research associations to maintain local, unbiased research and extension services that keep Alberta's agriculture industry innovative and competitive.

DEVELOPMENTS: The government response from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation outlines the overall positive commitments made by the provincial government to address the issues presented in this resolution. The RDAR is expected to continue receiving \$38.5 million in funding according to Budget 2024. However, the most recent budget commitments represent gradual decreases in funding in the future.

Although [Budget 2025](#) does not allocate funding from 2025-2026 onwards, [the Government of Alberta recently announced](#) a one-time grant of \$3.2 million to invest in agri-research through twelve Applied Research Associations. Because this announcement represents a one-time allocation rather than a long-term funding commitment, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue advocating for more sustainable funding and support for Applied Research Associations.

Resolution 13-23S

Municipal Access to Open Data

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to continue to prioritize increased access to Open data for municipalities.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates an awareness of the need for improved access to Open Data and a commitment to continue to utilize Alberta's Technology and Innovation Strategy to advance this priority. The ministry also welcomed feedback and specific opportunities from municipalities, which aligns with the RMA's goal of increased communication between levels of government. In Budget 2024-2025, \$10 million was allocated towards addressing data constraints for upcoming unspecified programs. Furthermore, the 2025-2026 provincial budget allocates \$7.5 million towards the implementation of the Data Strategy, which outlines the government's vision for publicly beneficial open data through the Ministry of

Technology and Innovation. The RMA will engage with members to develop a better understanding of what data municipalities require access to and will use this information to follow up with the Government of Alberta. RMA will monitor the implementation of the Alberta's Technology and Innovation Strategy in regards to open data access. RMA will also use government engagement opportunities prompted by Recommendation 11 of the Wildfire Working Group report to advocate for greater access to data to support municipal decision making, particularly during emergencies and times of crisis.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part**. The resolution will be revisited moving forward to determine whether municipalities' open data needs have been met through government commitments and initiatives.

Resolution 7-23S

Revision of the Alberta Land Stewardship Act to provide for an Expiration Date in Conservation Easement Agreements

Status: Incomplete Information

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Alberta revise the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act* to require that an expiration date, not exceeding 40 years, be included in conservation easement agreements to ensure future landowners can influence, and benefit from, land use decisions.

DEVELOPMENTS: Since the Government of Alberta is unable to review the Land Stewardship Act at this time, this resolution is assigned a status of **Incomplete Information**. RMA will update the resolution status when a response is received.

RMA has engaged with members and stakeholders from various sectors on this issue, including several land stewardship organizations concerned about the impacts that placing an expiration date on easements may have on the protection of land. RMA is hopeful that there will be an opportunity to discuss the resolution request in more detail with government and relevant stakeholders to discuss the benefits and risks of a mandatory expiration date, as well as other possible approaches to balancing land preservation with the reality of changing land uses and land values.

In late 2024, RMA participated in a Government of Alberta engagement on various land conservation tools. During this process, RMA advocated for the allowance of non-permanent conservation easements. The outcomes of this engagement are not yet known.

Resolution 7-22F

Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Reform

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request the Government of Alberta amend the *Municipal Government Act* to define "core municipal services" for the purpose of intermunicipal collaboration frameworks and mandate that municipalities present verifiable costs to justify cost sharing for the aforementioned defined core municipal services;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA request that the Government of Alberta ensure that members of a growth management board are not required to enter into an intermunicipal collaboration framework with each other.

DEVELOPMENTS: The GOA passed the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act* (Bill 50) in April 2025. Bill 50 completely restructured the ICF process as described in the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA). The amendments to the MGA were significant. They include a defined scope of core municipal services that must be included in an ICF, stricter rules around inclusion of other municipal services that may be included, and new data sharing and good faith negotiation requirements into the development of ICFs.

Mandatory Services

There are now five mandatory services that must be included in ICFs: transportation, water and wastewater, solid waste, emergency services, and recreation. Where parties cannot agree on the delivery of one or some of the mandatory services, municipalities will be required to go to binding arbitration. The arbitrator will create an ICF for the service in dispute that must be implemented by the affected municipalities.

If a service does not fall under one of the mandatory categories, parties may unilaterally revoke consent to include the specified service in the ICF. Parties are not required to negotiate or proceed to binding arbitration on the delivery of any service that falls outside the scope of the mandatory services.

“Third-party services” are now defined. A “third-party service” is one for which a third-party is legislatively required to provide the service in question. It is RMAs understanding that this would apply to libraries, policing, post offices, and other services for which there is legislation providing for oversight and management of the delivery of the service.

The combination of these amendments cements a definition of “core mandatory services” as requested by the resolution, fulfilling the resolutions first requirement. The five mandatory services are “core” services; the remainder fall outside the definition.

Mandatory Verifiable Costs

While Bill 50 signals an expectation that municipalities will collaborate in good faith when developing a cost calculation model as part of the ICF process, apart from during participation in the arbitration process, there is no explicit mandate to do so.

Parties *may* establish a cost calculation model respecting intermunicipal services when outside of arbitration, and, concerningly, there is no requirement to ensure that the information shared is verifiable. Instead, parties must share information, data, or assumptions relied upon in forming the cost calculation model. This is a far lower standard than the requirement of the resolution to mandate municipalities present verifiable data to justify cost sharing.

GMB Involvement

In November 2024, Municipal Affairs announced that both the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board and the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board would no longer receive funding from the GOA. Both Boards elected to dissolve in December 2024.

Both Boards represented the total number of practicing Growth Management Boards (GMBs) in Alberta at the time, and their dissolution represents the discontinuation of GMBs in Alberta. Regardless, the Bill 50 amendments to the MGA do not require the participation of GMBs in the creation of an ICF.

However, former GMB member-municipalities are still required to enter ICFs for the designated core mandatory services. RMA has concerns that this may increase the level of complexity from the totality of

applicable ICFs on any individual former member, potentially increasing associated time, effort, and costs. These concerns are magnified as former members will be required to enter ICFs with the two large municipalities: Edmonton and Calgary.

While the creation and definition of “core mandatory services” is a welcome amendment, the failure to mandate municipalities present verifiable costs and the new practical realities of ICF negotiations overall prevents the complete fulfillment of this resolution. RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Accepted in Part**.

POLICING AND RURAL CRIME

Resolution 8-23F

Implementation of Provincial Police Advisory Board

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to implement the operational Provincial Police Advisory Board to ensure small and rural communities served by the RCMP under the Provincial Police Service Agreement are equally and fairly represented.

DEVELOPMENTS: The response from Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services (PSES) emphasized the need for a Provincial Police Advisory Board (PPAB) that adequately represents the needs of communities across the province. The Government of Alberta informed RMA in December 2024 that the PPAB will begin in March 2025. Based on the Police Governance (Ministerial) Regulation, the PPAB will include two representatives each from RMA, ABmunis, and First Nations, as well as one representative from each of the four RCMP districts in Alberta, and any additional members as long as the total size of the PPAB does not exceed 15 members. .

RMA was part of the Interim Police Advisory Board (IPAB) since it was formed. One of the primary purposes of the IPAB was to develop a governance and recruitment structure for a permanent board; work which the IPAB completed but which was subsequently rejected by the former Minister. Since then, there has been very little ministry engagement and no recognition of the recommendations that the IPAB has put forward. IPAB will hold its last meeting in early 2025, prior to PPAB's commencement.

In March 2024, RMA prepared a submission for the Government of Alberta's engagement related to developing Police Act regulations to allow for the implementation of the PPAB. Specific input included:

- ♦ The PPAB should provide ongoing input, advice, and recommendations to the Government of Alberta and RCMP on policing in Alberta.
- ♦ The PPAB should collaborate with the Government of Alberta and RCMP to develop annual provincial policing priorities.
- ♦ The PPAB should engage with the Government of Alberta and RCMP to provide input on any policing-related issues that the Board identifies as relevant.
- ♦ The PPAB should not only be designed to represent PPSA municipalities at a provincial level, but it should also serve a capacity-building function by providing advice and support to municipalities and local organizations as to how they can better engage with police at the local level.
- ♦ The PPAB must have clear and enforceable expectations for reporting back to the communities it represents on how local input is integrated into provincewide priority development.
- ♦ The PPAB must be accountable to the municipalities it represents. If a municipality is not being heard or included in PPAB business, it should have an outlet to share this concern and have action taken.

- ♦ The PPAB must be resourced at a level that allows for ongoing, high-quality engagement with the municipalities it represents.
- ♦ Before the PPAB begins its work in collaborating with the RCMP and Government of Alberta on policing-related issues, it must have accountability processes in place, including a process for regularly gathering input from the communities it represents, regularly reporting back to such communities, and a process for communities to share urgent issues, concerns, or recommendations with the PPAB.

In December 2024, PSES requested that RMA provide the names of two PPAB representatives. RMA provided this information. Since then, PSES has provided RMA with no information as to next steps in the PPAB's mandate, scope or function.

Given that PSES previously indicated the PPAB would be operational in March 2025, the lack of progress and update is not only frustrating, but also reflects a lack of urgency on the part of the Government of Alberta in ensuring that municipalities that receive policing under the Provincial Police Services Agreement have some level of input into local or provincewide policing priorities. It is important to note that *Police Act* amendments in 2024 removed the legislative ability of municipalities to form local policing committees. As a result, rural and small urban municipalities currently have no functioning legislatively-supported means of having their voices heard on policing issues.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will re-evaluate the resolution status when the PPAB is officially operational.

Resolution 11-23S

Reforming the Bail System to Address Rural Crime

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to:

1. **Require that justices receive a complete bail package, that a summary of the details of the arrest circumstances be read before the courts, and that reverse onus situations be identified;**
2. **Increase funding to enable the Edmonton bail office to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week;**
3. **Advocate to the Government of Canada to amend the bail ladder system such that if an accused has not lived up to the conditions of a no cash bail from a previous charge or offence, then a judge must now move forward with a cash bail alternative for this and future offences;**
4. **Direct the Government of Alberta to complete a cross-jurisdictional analysis of other provinces to see how they address bail packages, bail Crown offices, bail ladder systems, and any other issue that may be impacting the increase in catch and release of criminals;**
5. **Create a bail sub-committee composed of municipal and Alberta Justice representatives to examine other bail systems, canvass Albertans on ideas for improving the justice system, and present an annual report with recommendations to the Minister of Justice.**

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta has taken action to make changes to the bail system. Their response to this resolution made it clear that they are advocating for amendments to the bail system from the Government of Canada and Premier Danielle Smith, among many other premiers across the country, have signed a letter advocating for changes to the bail system. Alberta Justice continues to work with and advocate to the Government of Canada for changes to the current bail system. Furthermore, the RMA co-signed a letter with other western Canadian municipal associations calling on the Government of Canada to reform the federal bail system to better address risks associated with repeat offenders.

RMA staff followed up with Alberta Justice to learn more about the status of bail system reform in Alberta. RMA received a letter on November 16, 2023 that outlined the complexities of the bail system and the role that the Government of Canada plays pursuant to the *Criminal Code*. While not directly requested in the resolution, the Government of Alberta has made changes to the Alberta Crown Prosecution Service Bail Practice Protocol to provide guidance to Crown prosecutors to seek to detain any accused who is a threat to public safety, especially repeat violent offenders. If a prosecutor agrees to the release of an accused under these circumstances, they must articulate, in writing, how bail conditions are expected to address public safety concerns, including the risk to re-offend. The amendments also remind prosecutors that, for particularly serious offences, detention can be sought even if there is no prior criminal record.

In 2024, the Government of Alberta passed Bill 11, the Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act. Along with creation of an independent agency police service, Bill 11 will invest \$2.8 million dollars into an ankle monitoring program for high risk offenders and relocate the program from private delivery services to Alberta Correctional Services. The new program will provide 24/7 coverage in place of the current 9 to 5 coverage. Without federal law changes, Alberta judges compliance with the new program would be discretionary.

While these efforts and changes address the spirit of this resolution in part, apart from the second point, the specific asks are not met. For this reason, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**. RMA will continue to advocate for the Government of Alberta to take further action on this issue at the provincial level and to continue their federal advocacy.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Resolution ER3-24S

Opposition to Federal Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate

Status: Incomplete Information

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and to the Government of Canada (GOC) to reconsider and revise the ZEV mandate to address the unique challenges faced by rural communities and develop a more flexible, market-based approach that removes the 100 percent ZEV requirement.

DEVELOPMENTS: The proposed ZEV mandate was reportedly developed as a result of extensive public consultation from several thousand stakeholder respondents. However, the submission period lasted from Dec 10, 2021 to January 21, 2022 (extended from January 14, 2022), indicating an unreasonably short timeline for many types of stakeholders to submit their feedback. RMA did not provide input and it is unclear whether rural Alberta municipalities were able to provide input when the mandate was in development. As of June 2025, the ambitious ZEV targets originally proposed by the federal government remain unchanged, which will continue to have impacts on vital rural industries and communities in Alberta.

RMA will continue to follow up with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and other relevant agencies for a formal response. Until then, this resolution is assigned a status of **Incomplete Information**.

Resolution 1-23F

Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program Funding

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to substantially increase the funding available for the Local Road Bridge Program stream in the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response speaks to the funding allocated and approved projects in 2023 through the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program. In Budget 2024, STIP funding increased slightly from \$43 million to \$43.5 million; In Budget 2025, STIP funding decreased slightly to \$42.3 million (or \$127 million over three years beginning in 2025). The STIP program remains heavily oversubscribed throughout 2025, and rural municipalities still need additional funding streams in order to maintain crucial infrastructure.

Rural infrastructure funding needs will continue to grow. RMA's Infrastructure Deficit Report, released in November 2024, quantified Alberta's overall rural municipal infrastructure deficit at \$17.25 billion. The report projects that the deficit will grow to \$40.71 billion in 2028 based on current provincial funding available for rural municipal infrastructure projects. The report also found that a one-time investment to return the portfolio to good condition would have a return on investment of approximately 3.3 years

due to the lower annual maintenance costs required to maintain the network at an optimal condition level.

RMA has engaged with the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors to review STIP funding criteria to identify areas of improvement to align with infrastructure and economic development goals. Substantial STIP funding increases are necessary to avoid the worst results of from a crumbling infrastructure. Failure to adequately provide for repair or replacement of infrastructure across Alberta poses a significant risk to industry and communities alike. As a result, this resolution's status remains as **Intent Not Met** and will be re-evaluated based on 2025 funding allocations. RMA will continue to advocate and work with the GOA for better funding solutions for infrastructure repair and replacement moving forward.

Resolution 14-23F

Provincial High-Load Corridor Protection

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to collaborate with municipalities to protect and coordinate the provincial high-load corridor network.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA appreciated the Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) response to this resolution and their commitment to the Edmonton Region Network Study (ERNS). While the ERNS is a promising study, there is still a need to review the rest of the province's high load corridors. RMA met with representatives from TEC in 2024 to discuss the continued protection of HLCs, and the Ministry reiterated their plans to continue protecting HLCs. RMA will work with TEC to bolster the communication of our members' local issues with HLCs to government and looks forwards to collaborating on an approach that best serves RMA members.

Work is being done to meet the intent of this resolution; RMA will continue to work with TEC to ensure progress is being made on this file. However, RMA did not see any significant changes or improvements on the protection of HLCs in 2024, and until results are seen, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 15-23F

Province-Wide Regulations for E-Scooters and Miniature Personal Electric Vehicles

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate to the Government of Alberta to engage with municipalities and the public to develop consistent province-wide regulations relating to the operation and personal use of e-scooters and miniature personal electric vehicles.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA appreciates the Government of Alberta's recognition of the need for collaboration with municipalities on updating legislation. The ongoing review of the e-scooter pilot project is a promising start to updating legislation and achieving the desired outcome of this resolution. The GOA promised to share the findings in fall 2024; however, these findings have yet to be released. As the findings have not been released and engagements with rural

communities have not yet been organized, the RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**.

Resolution 2-23S

Provincial Funding Stream for Non-Residential Infrastructure

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate that the Government of Alberta establish a dedicated provincial funding model to enable long-term investment in capital infrastructure to support industrial economic development in rural Alberta.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA members are unique in Alberta and across Canada due to their large size and responsibility for providing municipal infrastructure and services to isolated areas of the province with limited populations but extremely high levels of industrial activity. In other provinces and territories, rural and remote areas typically have a much less active industrial base and the province plays a direct role in providing traditionally local services and infrastructure. For this reason, much of the infrastructure built and managed by Alberta's rural municipalities provides limited benefits to residents, but is hugely important to industries such as oil and gas, forestry, agriculture and renewable energy.

The Government of Alberta's response is disappointing; it fails to recognize this unique and valuable rural municipal responsibility. RMA members have shared multiple examples of major infrastructure projects designed to attract new industrial development or to service expanding existing developments including water lines, stormwater management upgrades, road and intersection improvements, bridges, and even the creation of entire industrial parks, including all utilities, transportation access, etc. While such investments certainly provide local benefits in the form of property tax revenues and some job creation, there is an increased benefit to the province in terms of increased royalty production, income tax, business creation, industrial and residential development, and demand for urban and commercial development, among many other economic and social benefits.

While some of the existing programs referenced in the Government of Alberta's response could potentially be used to support rural industry-specific projects, many cannot. Programs that do allocate funding do so on a per capita basis – based on the number of people living in an area – not in a holistic manner that quantifies the potential economic benefit of projects, or non-residential drivers of municipal infrastructure more common in rural municipalities. RMA does not suggest that the Government of Alberta does not support municipal projects that support residents; however, the massive grant funding gap when supporting industry-linked projects reflects a lack of understanding of the unique role that Alberta's rural municipalities play in this area, and undermines further economic growth in the province by not providing rural municipalities the grant support required to meet existing, emerging, and evolving industry needs.

RMA is hopeful that this issue will be addressed in future budgets through a combination of enhanced road and bridge funding and an expansion of the eligibility criteria for provincial water/wastewater grants to include water infrastructure specifically supporting industrial developments.

To demonstrate the need for increased industrial and infrastructure funding directly, RMA released a four-part infrastructure deficit project report and recommendations in November 2024. The report analyzes the current funding deficits related to rural municipal road, bridge,

utility and water/waste water infrastructure. The report showed Alberta's overall rural municipal infrastructure deficit was \$17.25 billion in 2023, and demonstrably projected the deficit to grow to \$40.71 billion in 2028 based on current provincial funding available for rural municipal infrastructure projects. The current holding cost – the amount needed to maintain infrastructure at its current state of repair – was found to be \$6.41 billion in 2023, a number that would increase if adequate funding was not allocated. The report also found that a one-time investment equal to that of the deficit would return the portfolio to optimal condition and would have a return on investment of approximately 3.3 years (at the 2023 level) due to the lower annual maintenance costs required for to maintain the network at an optimal condition level. These timelines have likely expanded due to further deterioration.

The Alberta *Budget 2025* allocated just \$820 million for the Local Government Fiscal Framework in 2025-26, an amount much lower than what would be required to maintain 2023 infrastructure deficit levels let alone return Alberta's infrastructure to "ideal" condition. Also frustratingly, the GOA has allocated only \$127 million over three years for STIP funding meant for maintenance and repair of infrastructure – the estimated cost to maintain all of Alberta's bridges at their current state was \$354 million in 2023. Both of these figures have since only increased.

Current funding amounts will not allow rural municipalities to restore their infrastructure to a condition that will be easy or inexpensive to maintain. The creation and development of potential future programs – such as the Integrated Water Program – may help alleviate concerns with infrastructure funding, but implementation of these programs has not yet confirmed. Aside from the increased strain on industry in dealing with delays in from repairs and faults, it is highly likely that municipalities and the Alberta government will spend more over time in an attempt to maintain deteriorating infrastructure if current trends remain.

As it stands, the Government of Alberta has not announced any dedicated, adequate funding streams for non-residential municipal infrastructure; therefore, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**, but will continue to advocate on this issue.

Resolution 3-23S

Amendments to the National Building Code

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta to ensure that the proposed changes to incorporate greenhouse gas emissions reduction into the National Building Code consider the negative effects to all Albertans, specifically rural Albertans and their quality of life; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate to the Government of Alberta and the Safety Codes Council to participate in the consultation process related to updating the National Model Codes to ensure that the needs of Albertans are at the forefront; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA advocate to the Government of Alberta to not incorporate net-zero emissions code requirements into the 2025 National Building Code – Alberta Edition (NBC(AE)).

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta's response indicates the province's efforts to support a consistent nationwide approach to building codes with a willingness to diverge from national consensus to adopt requirements that meet the needs of Albertans. While this is appreciated, the resolution requests Alberta not adopt net-zero emissions code requirements

into building codes, but Alberta has adopted Tier 1 requirements in the 2023 Alberta Edition of the *National Building Code*. No changes were made to the *Code* in 2024 that would satisfy the intent of this resolution.

Because the Government of Alberta has participated in national building code engagements (as requested in the second operative clause of the resolution), this resolution is assigned a status of **Accepted in Part**, and RMA will continue to advocate for more flexibility in building codes related to net zero requirements.

Resolution 18-22F

Regulations for Motorists Passing School Buses with Amber Lights Flashing

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta urge the Government of Alberta to enact or amend legislation to address motorists passing school buses with amber lights flashing, and that the legislation include the following:

- ♦ **setting a maximum speed limit of 60km/hour or slower on all roadways when passing school buses, in both directions, with flashing amber lights;**
- ♦ **providing regulations for roadside signage for school bus stops on primary highways in Alberta.**

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta response indicates that there have been issues raised as it relates to school buses and student safety. However, the specific issues raised in this resolution have not been addressed through the Task Force, nor the ministry itself. The response also indicated that any changes made will need to go through a significant review process in order to ensure safety standards are met.

Currently, The *Traffic Safety Act* and applicable regulations require motor vehicles that are approaching a stopped school bus with flashing amber lights to reduce their speed so as to pass the school bus “in a cautious manner” in the furthest available lane away from the stopped school bus. There is no applicable definite speed limit.

RMA appreciates that this letter was forwarded to the appropriate staff for consideration; however, this action does not meet the requirements of the resolution which calls for setting a maximum speed limit of 60km/hour or slower on all roadways, in both directions, when passing school buses with flashing amber lights or providing regulations for roadside signage for school bus stops on primary highways in Alberta. There have been no further developments from Transportation and Economic Corridors on this resolution. As a result, RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met** and will continue to advocate on this issue.

Resolution 20-22F

Lost Road Closure Files

Status: Accepted in Part

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) requests that the Government of Alberta streamline the Minister of Transportation’s approval processes associated with municipal road closures;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA requests that the Government of Alberta create a digital tracking system that would ensure bylaws or resolutions are not misplaced or lost by Alberta Transportation.

DEVELOPMENTS: The Government of Alberta's response outlines the Roadside Planning and Application Tracking Hub (RPATH), a program updated in 2022 that is intended to streamline municipal road closure processes. This program includes features which aim to make information more readily available to members.

This resolution asks specifically for the Government of Alberta to streamline application processes for road closure processes and create a digital hub which will track bylaws and resolutions within Alberta Transportation. Although RPATH appears to streamline the process for applications, there is no indication that Alberta Transportation has developed a system to track and store bylaws and resolutions as they relate to municipal road closures. As only one part of this resolution has been addressed, RMA assigns this a status of **Accepted in Part**.

OTHER

Resolution 16-23F

Federal-Provincial Partnership to Counter the United States *Inflation Reduction Act*

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta (GOA) to initiate meaningful dialogue with the Government of Canada (GOC) to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnerships in addressing the challenges posed by the *Inflation Reduction Act* (IRA) and the competitive advantage it provides to the American agricultural sector; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate for the GOA and the GOC to form a joint task force, including members from the RMA, industry, and agricultural groups, to evaluate the IRA's impact on Canadian producers and recommend policy adjustments to enhance the competitiveness, sustainability, and resilience of Alberta's agricultural sector.

DEVELOPMENTS: There have been significant political and legal developments since the passing of Resolution 16-23F as it relates to the *Inflation Reduction Act* (IRA) in the US.

In April 2024, the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (BBB) was introduced which would repeal or dismantle – among many other social safety net acts – the majority of the IRA.

Specifically, the BBB targets clean energy tax credits and other tax breaks related to industrial and agricultural developments. These developments tended to have higher outputs of CO₂e gases (including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrogen fluorocarbons, among others). The applicable tax breaks resulted in financial boosts to the US agricultural economy, which ultimately provided the sector competitive advantages – to the detriment of the Canadian agricultural sector.

The passing of the BBB – as currently written – would likely remove many of the advantages provided in application by the IRA to the US agricultural sector, potentially moving the Canadian agricultural sector into a position of greater strength.

The BBB has hit several significant roadblocks to becoming law. The US Senate adjudication of the BBB discovered that planned repeals of sections of the IRA could not be passed on a simple majority vote as they violated certain budget reconciliation principles – basically, the difference between the passed federal budget and the changes proposed would be great enough to substantially alter the budget entirely meaning that the budget was invalidated. Without significant changes, the BBB would require a super majority (60%) of the vote to pass in the US Senate.

Significant changes to the language of the impugned provisions allowed the BBB to be passed on a simple majority vote; the BBB was approved on a narrow majority by the Senate on June 3, 2025. The BBB now goes to the President to be signed into law, the agricultural tax provisions intact.

No further responses have been received from the federal or provincial government at this time. RMA assigns this resolution a status of **Intent Not Met**. RMA remains committed to Alberta's

agricultural sector and will continue to advocate for better policy development between all levels of government to create beneficial circumstances irrespective of the existence or repeal of the IRA.

Resolution 19-23F

Government of Alberta Ministry Changes

Status: Incomplete Information

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate that the Government of Alberta (GOA) report on the cost of organizational adjustments such as portfolio shuffles and ministry name changes; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate for the GOA to minimize organizational modifications as much as possible.

DEVELOPMENTS: A response from government has not yet been received. For this reason, Resolution 19-23F is assigned a status of **Incomplete Information**. RMA will continue to advocate on this resolution by seeking further opportunities for correspondence and input.

Resolution 4-23S

Strategic Direction for the RMA

Status: Accepted

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) adopts the Strategic Direction as presented at the Spring 2023 Convention to guide the planning and activities for the organization from 2023 through 2027; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA review the strategic direction next in 2027.

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

Resolution 17-23S

Negative Impact of Bill C-21 on Albertans

Status: Intent Not Met

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Canada to not proceed with any amendment to the *Firearms Act* that will unfairly restrict access to recreational or hunting opportunities for rural Albertans; and

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED that the RMA advocate to the Government of Canada to review the classification of what constitutes a “prohibited firearm” to ensure that it balances safety with the access to firearms for rural residents to enjoy recreational activities.

DEVELOPMENTS: This bill was passed on December 15, 2023. RMA continues to advocate for changes specific to the definition of “prohibited firearm.”

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

Resolution 19-23S

Non-Profit Exemption from Federal Fuel Charge

Status: Incomplete Information

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Canada to amend the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* to allow registered non-profit organizations to apply for an exemption certificate from the federal fuel charge; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA advocate for the Government of Canada to meet their previous mandate of support for registered non-profit organizations by allowing them to access a portion of the direct proceeds from the federal fuel charge to fund their increasing operating expenses.

DEVELOPMENTS: RMA has not received a formal response on this matter, however, staff continues to work with the Government of Canada to ensure a rural voice is at the table when carbon tax exemptions are discussed at the federal level. As RMA has not yet received a formal response, this resolution is assigned a status of **Incomplete Information**.

CONTRIBUTORS

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta wishes to thank the Board of Directors members who provided content, input, and advice to this Resolution Status Update:

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