

**Town of Bowden - Regular Council Meeting**  
**AGENDA**

A Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Bowden  
to be held in Council Chambers, at 2101 – 20 Avenue, Bowden,  
on **Monday 12 May 2025**, at 7:00pm.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA & ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**  
3.a April 28, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.
- 4. PUBLIC HEARING**  
None scheduled.
- 5. DELEGATION**  
No delegation scheduled.
- 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**  
6.a Council Resolutions Follow Up Action.  
6.b Key Dates.  
6.c Property Updates.  
6.b Land Annexation.
- 7. BYLAWS & POLICIES**  
7.a Taxation Rate Bylaw 05 / 2025.
- 8. NEW BUSINESS**  
8.a Grants & Donation Policy (Financial Assistance Request).
- 9. FINANCIAL**  
No agenda item.
- 10. CORRESPONDENCE**  
As listed on content page.
- 11. REPORTS**  
11.a CAO's Report.  
11.b Council Committee Reports.  
11.c Society & Other Reports.
- 12. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**



**Town of Bowden – Regular Council Meeting  
held on Monday April 28, 2025  
at Town of Bowden Council Chambers.**

**MINUTES (unapproved)**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Robb Stuart called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**PRESENT**

Mayor  
Councillor  
Councillor  
Councillor  
Councillor  
Councillor  
Councillor

Robb Stuart  
Paul Webb  
Deb Coombes  
Randy Brown  
Wayne Milaney  
Marie Flowers  
Sandy Gamble

**ADMINISTRATION**

CAO

Arno Glover

**2. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA & ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion 2.a**

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown that Council adopts the agenda as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**Motion 3.a.**

Moved by Councillor Sandy Gamble that Council adopts the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of April 14, 2025, as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. PUBLIC HEARING**

There was no public hearing.

**5. DELEGATION**

There was no delegation.

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**Agenda item 6.a Council Resolutions Requiring Follow Up Action**

Administration provided Council with a summary of Council resolutions that remain as work in progress / ongoing.

**Motion 6.a**

Moved by Councillor Marie Flowers that Council accepts agenda item 6.a as information.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Agenda item 6.b Key Dates**

Administration provided Council with forthcoming key dates.

**Motion 6.b**

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown that Council accepts agenda item 6.b as information.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. BYLAWS & POLICIES****Agenda item 7.a Council Procedural Bylaw 04 / 2025**

Administration submitted to Council Procedural Bylaw 04 / 2025 as a Request for Decision.

The draft bylaw was submitted to Council for second reading.

First reading was given by Council during the RCM of April 14, 2025.

Administration recommended that Council give second and third reading to the bylaw.

**Motion 7.a** Moved by Councillor Paul Webb that Council gives second reading to Council Procedural Bylaw 04 / 2025

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion 7.b** Moved by Councillor Sandy Gamble that Council gives third reading to Council Procedural Bylaw 04 / 2025

**MOTION CARRIED**

Council Procedural Bylaw 04 / 2025 received third reading and was passed accordingly.

Council Procedural Bylaw 08 / 2020 is repealed.

**8. NEW BUSINESS****Agenda item 8.a Urban Hen Pilot Program**

Administration provided details on the terms of the program and stated that the sole participant had fully complied with the terms of the agreement and that there had been no complaints received to date regarding this scheme

Administration requested that Council provide an indication as to how to proceed prior to May 13, 2025 this being the end date of the one-year pilot program.

Options for consideration were put forward as follows:

1. Termination of the Urban Hen Pilot Program.
2. Extension of the Urban Hen Pilot Program.
3. Amendment of the Animal Bylaw to allow urban hens to be kept within the Town subject to any conditions deemed appropriate.

**Motion 8.a**

Moved by Councillor Marie Flowers that Council approves the extension of the Urban Hen Pilot Program for a further period of one year.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Agenda item 8.b Seniors Week 2025 Community Declaration**

Administration provided Council with a copy of an email received from the Government of Alberta encouraging communities to recognize Seniors Week (June 2 to 8).

**Motion 8.b**

Moved by Councillor Randy Brown that Council officially recognizes Seniors Week, and that the declaration is made by the Town.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9. FINANCIAL****Agenda item 9.a 2025 Operating & Expenditures Report (YRD 2025)**

Administration submitted to Council an Operating Revenues & Expenditures Report.

The report provides an analysis of (unaudited) financial performance with variance analysis against budgeted forecasts and is submitted quarterly to Council for review.

**Motion 9.a**

Moved by Councillor Marie Flowers that Council accepts the Operating & Expenditures Report for the period YTD for the 2025 financial year as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE****Agenda item 10.a Correspondence**

Expanding Horizons Bowden Cultural Enhancement Society (letter dated March 21, 2025)

Administration provided Council with correspondence received from the Society requesting that the Town consider donating a silent auction item for their annual Fundraiser event.

**Motion 10.a**

Moved by Councillor Paul Webb that Administration donates silent auction items to the Expanding Horizons Bowden Cultural Enhancement Society as discussed and agreed by Council.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11. REPORTS****Agenda item 11.a CAO's Report**

CAO Arno Glover provided Council with an overview (and update) on the items included within the CAO's report.

**Motion 11.a**

Moved by Councillor Deb Coombes that Council accepts the submitted CAO report as information.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Agenda item 11.b Council Committee Reports**

No reports submitted.

**Agenda item 11.c Society & Other Reports**

- i. Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission Meeting (April 9, 2025),
- ii. South Red Deer Regional Wastewater Commission (Agenda & Reports April 25, 2025),
- iii. Bowden Grandview School Council Meeting (March 18, 2025),
- iv. Bowden Grandview School Council Meeting (April 15, 2025),
- v. Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting (February 27, 2025)
- vi. Alberta Counsel (Bill 50 Summary)
- vii. Alberta Counsel News (April 2025)
- viii. FCSS Community Navigator Report (April 2025)

Agenda items 11.c.(ix) and 11.c.(x) were reviewed by Council under closed session.  
An exception to disclose under Division 2 of Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSA2000, Chapter F-25 applies on the basis of: Section 27 "deemed to be privileged information".

**Motion 11.b**

Moved by Councillor Deb Coombes that Council accepts agenda items 11.c.(i) to 11.c (viii) as information.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Mayor Robb Stuart called for a brief recess at 7:53 pm.**

**Mayor Robb Stuart called the meeting back to order at 8:00 pm.**

Mayor Robb Stuart requested that Council move into closed session.

**12. CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL**

**12.a Council Matter (Confidential). CLOSED SESSION**

This closed meeting of Council is permitted by section 197 of the MGA.

An exception to disclose under Division 2 of Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSA2000, Chapter F-25 (as amended over time) therefore applies on the basis of: Section 27 "deemed to be privileged information".

**Motion 12.a**

Moved by Councillor Marie Flowers at 8:00 pm that Council moves to an "in-camera" session.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council discussed and reviewed agenda item 12.a.

**Motion 12.b**

Moved by Councillor Paul Webb at 8:35 pm that Council return to an "open meeting" of Council.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no motion made with regard to agenda item 12.a.

**13. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion 13.a**

Moved by Councillor Paul Webb at 8:26 pm to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Minutes signed by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor  
Robb Stuart**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CAO  
Arno Glover**

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> May 12, 2025.	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 6.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Arno Glover	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Robb Stuart
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> 1 Council Resolutions Follow Up

Matters arising from past minutes.

#### **6.a Council Resolutions Requiring Follow Up Action**

A summary of past Council resolutions that require follow up action is attached.

Administration submits the revised document for Council to review.



## Town of Bowden

### COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING FOLLOW UP ACTION

(new comments in red - updated 8 May 2025)

Meeting Date	Resolution	Action By Whom	Date back to Council
24 Apr 23	<b>Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework</b> Motion 8.a ICF to be delayed for 2 years pending Provincial Government guidelines Municipal Services Agreement (planning services) with RDC expires 31 December 2025 ICF changes to be introduced into the MGA reference Bill 50. Current ICF expired in December 2022 – the provincial government 2-year moratorium expired in December 2024. Email sent to CAO of RDC to commence planning / discussions. No response to date	Council / CAO	progress
26 Aug 24	<b>Firehall Flag Poles</b> Motion 8.c Administration to liaise with RDC Protective Services	CAO	progress
27 Jan 25	<b>Emergency Management Bylaw</b> Motion 8.e an updated bylaw is to be submitted to Council	CAO	progress
10 Mar 25	<b>Elected Officials Orientation Training</b> Council requested that Administration investigate the possibility of other options for the required training. Olds Event cancelled due to lack of interest No further progress A meeting of the local Returning Officers in Innisfail may lead to a development.	CAO	ongoing

**Agenda item 6.a Council Resolutions (continued)****Recommended Motion:**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accept agenda item 6.a as information.



<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> May 12, 2025.	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 6.b
<b>Prepared by:</b> CAO Arno Glover	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Robb Stuart
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b>

**Content:****6.b Key Dates** *(for information)*

**May 26**                      **Special Events & Cultural Committee Meeting**  
**This is a Public Meeting (6:30pm Council Chambers).**

**May 26**                      **Regular Council Meeting (7:00pm Council Chambers).**

**July 12**                      **Bowden Daze Parade**

**Date tbc**                      **RCMP Open House**

**Alberta Municipalities**

**June 12**                      **Summer Municipal Leaders Caucuses (Town of Drumheller)**  
**June 26**                      **Summer Municipal Leaders Caucuses (Town of Devon)**

**November 12 to 14, 2025**      **Alberta Municipalities Convention and Trade Show**  
**(Calgary TELUS Convention Centre)**

**Hotel reservations have been made for 7 Councillors for the nights of**  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November to Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November (3 nights)**  
**Hyatt Regency Calgary**

**Recommended Motion:**

**Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accepts agenda item 6.b as information.**

## Draft Agenda for Summer 2025 Municipal Leaders' Caucus

**\*subject to change\***

Wednesday, June 11	Town of Picture Butte
Thursday, June 12	Town of Drumheller
Wednesday, June 25	Town of Peace River
Thursday, June 26	Town of Devon

<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
<b>10:05 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome from the Mayor of the Host Municipality</b>
<b>10:10 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome from MLA of the Host Constituency</b>
<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Icebreaker Activity</b>
<b>10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Municipal Election Resources</b>
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Municipal Financial Research Project</b>
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Police Governance and Funding</b>
<b>1:45 p.m.</b>	<b>President's Report</b>
<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Changes to the Municipal Government and Local Authorities Election Acts</b>
<b>2:55 p.m.</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

**Dates**

June 11 - Picture Butte (Picture Butte Community Hall)

June 12 - Drumheller (Canalta Jurassic Hotel)

June 25 - Peace River (Peace Valley Inn)

June 26 - Devon (Devon Community Hall)

The summer Caucuses will focus on smaller, more engaging conversations based on top-of-mind issues facing our communities. In-person registration will also include a light continental breakfast and lunch. There will not be a virtual offering.

[Review the 2025 Summer MLC Agenda](#)

Event Category Advocacy

Location

Various

Various AB T6E6E6

Ticket pricing

Member registration: \$115

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> May 12, 2025.	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 6.c
<b>Prepared by:</b> Arno Glover	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Robb Stuart
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s)</b>

Matters arising from past minutes.

### **6.c Property Updates**

#### **6.c.i**

Administration has received notice from a real estate agent that the listing for the sale of the former Bowden Hotel land (LEGAL DESCRIPTION PLAN 1905H BLOCK 2 LOTS 1 TO 3 INCLUSIVE) will take place next week.

#### **6.c.ii**

Administration has received notice from SLR Consulting that on behalf of Parkland Corporation that they will commence work on May 20, 2025 to install an additional 3 monitoring wells on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue near to the Reddi Mart. (these are in addition to the 22 boreholes that currently exist).

Patial road closure will be required.

Administration is also of the understanding that demolition work will commence on the former Reddi Mart building later this month.

#### **Recommended Motion:**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accept agenda item 6.c as information.

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> May 12, 2025.	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 6.d
<b>Prepared by:</b> Arno Glover	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Robb Stuart
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> 1 LPRT email dated May 6, 2025. 2 LPRT email dated March 26, 2025

### 6.d Land Annexation

Administration has received notice from the Land & Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT) that they have received one objection concerning the proposed land annexation on the land situated to the north of Bowden (refer to attached email dated May 6, 2025).

The process for dealing with objections was previously requested by Administration (this is provided within the attached email dated March 26, 2025).

**From:** [Breanna Case](#)  
**To:** [CAO; Chertzberg@rdcounty.ca](#)  
**Cc:** [Njeri Karanja](#)  
**Subject:** AN23/BOWD/T-01: File Transfer  
**Date:** May 6, 2025 1:50:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [RE AN23BOWDT-01 - Where Objections Filed with the Tribunal.msg](#)

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Good afternoon,

This email is to advise that I am transitioning from my role as Case Manager – Annexation. **My last day with the Tribunal is next Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.**

I have copied the Land and Property Rights Tribunal's Director, Hearings & Training, Njeri Karanja, to this email. She will be your point of contact for the Town of Bowden and Red Deer County's annexation after May 13th. Her email is [Njeri.Karanja@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Njeri.Karanja@gov.ab.ca) and her phone number is 780-422-9149.

Currently, I am in the process of ensuring knowledge and file transfers are in place before my departure. Njeri will be provided a comprehensive overview of your annexation matter in the coming days.

As discussed by email last week, one objection was filed with the Tribunal concerning the proposed annexation. As per the Tribunal's annexation procedure rules (referenced in the attached earlier email sent to both municipalities), this requires the Tribunal to hold a public hearing on the proposed annexation. Details of the steps involved in the hearing process are available in the email attached, and on the Tribunal's website ([Annexation board orders | Alberta.ca](#)). Njeri, or the person to whom she delegates the matter, will be in touch regarding scheduling and next steps.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I am available to discuss your file until I leave.

Kind regards,

**Breanna L. Case**, BA (hons), MA, JD  
Case Manager - Annexation  
Land and Property Rights Tribunal  
Phone: 780-422-8652  
Cell: 587-341-9036



**From:** [Breanna Case](#)  
**To:** [CAO](#)  
**Subject:** RE: AN23/BOWD/T-01 Case Management - Further Information Requested & Next Steps  
**Date:** March 26, 2025 2:49:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [ma-lprt-annexation-procedure-rules-2023-04.pdf](#)

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Hi Mr. Glover,

Certainly. Where an objection to an annexation application is filed with the Tribunal, the Tribunal is required to conduct a public hearing. As per the LPRT's annexation rules of procedure (attached for your reference, and available on the Tribunal's website), annexation hearings are held virtually through the WebEx Platform. Where a request is made, the hearing may occur in-person and typically would be held in the municipality that initiated the annexation.

A three-to-five-member Panel assigned by the Chair of the Tribunal will preside over the public hearing which includes one Presiding Officer (the Chair). The list of all members of the Tribunal is available on the Tribunal's website. The Panel may investigate, analyze, and make findings of fact about the proposed annexation. After considering all the submissions, the Panel will develop a recommendation for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Panel can recommend the approval, rejection or modification of the annexation proposed by the initiating municipality. The Minister may then forward the recommendation to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who may issue an Order in Council to approve, approve in part or refuse the annexation proposal.

There is no cost for the hearing. Where a hearing is required, hearing notices will be published in a newspaper or other publication circulating in the affected area at least once a week for two consecutive weeks (per *Municipal Government Act* requirement). The notice will include the purpose of the hearing, identify where a copy of the annexation application can be viewed, and provide the details of whether the hearing is in-person or online, the date and start time of the hearing. The notification will also outline the process for filing written submissions and will include registration details. Hearing letters may also be distributed to affected landowners or other affected persons. Please note that copies of written submissions received by the Tribunal will be forwarded to the municipalities and may be made available to other parties involved in the proceedings.

Each annexation hearing is different, and each Panel can establish its own hearing process; however, a typical agenda for an annexation hearing is as follows:

1. Opening Remarks and Housekeeping – Presiding Officer and Case Manager
2. Presentation by the Initiating Municipality
3. Presentation by the Responding Municipality
4. Presentations by Landowners and the Public
5. Response by the Initiating Municipality



6. Response by the Responding Municipality
7. Summary and Concluding Remarks by the Responding Municipality
8. Summary and Concluding Remarks by the Initiating Municipality
9. Closing Remarks – Presiding Officer

I will circulate the above to Red Deer County for their reference. Let me know if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

**Breanna L. Case**, BA (hons), MA, JD  
 Case Manager - Annexation  
 Land and Property Rights Tribunal  
 Phone: 780-422-8652



1229-91 Street SW | Edmonton, AB | T6X 1E9  
 Business Hours: 8:15 am - 4:30 pm (closed 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm)

Classification: Protected A

Classification: Protected A

**From:** CAO <cao@bowden.ca>  
**Sent:** March 26, 2025 12:21 PM  
**To:** Breanna Case <Breanna.Case@gov.ab.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: AN23/BOWD/T-01 Case Management - Further Information Requested & Next Steps

**CAUTION:** This email has been sent from an external source. Treat hyperlinks and attachments in this email with care.

Good morning, Breanna,

Could you please provide me with an indication of how the appeal process operates should

**Agenda item 6.d Council Resolutions (continued)****Recommended Motion:**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accept agenda item 6.d as information.

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> May 12, 2025.	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 7.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> CAO Arno Glover	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Robb Stuart
<b>Report Type:</b> RFD	<b>Attachment(s):</b> 1. Taxation Rate Bylaw 05 / 2025

## Taxation Rate Bylaw 05 / 2025

### 1 Background:

The attached draft Taxation Rate Bylaw is submitted to Council as a Request for Decision.

### 2 Legislative Requirement

Part 10, Division 2 Property Tax, of the MGA applies.

- i. Section 353(1) states that, *"each council must pass a property tax bylaw annually"*.
- ii. Section 353(2) states that, *"the property tax bylaw authorizes the council to impose a tax in respect of property in the municipality to raise revenue to be used toward the payment of: (a) the expenditures and transfers set out in the budget of the municipality, and (b) the requisitions"*.
- iii. Section 354 states that, *"the property tax bylaw must set and show separately all the tax rates imposed under this Division to raise the revenue required under section 353(2)"*.

### 3 Background Information:

In the Regular Council Meeting of April 14, 2025, Council carried a motion to adopt the 2025 Revised Operating Budget as presented.

The 2025 Operating Budget provided for a 1 (one) percent increase in Municipal Tax Revenues (based on actual 2024 tax revenues).

Property tax assessments are conducted by Wild Rose Assessments.

Property assessments for the 2025 tax year are based on property valuations as of July 2024.

The 2024 assessments reveal an increase in overall property assessments of 7.6% (2024 over 2023).

Mill rates (the amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property) for the calculation of the 2025 property taxation levies have therefore been reduced in order to return a 1% increase in municipal tax revenues.

The Alberta Government requisition for education rose by 12.3%.

The Alberta Government requisition for policing was reduced by 4.0%.

The combination of property assessments, mill rates and provincial requisitions form the basis of this bylaw.

**4 Request:**

Administration requests that Council by resolution adopt Taxation Rate Bylaw 05 / 2025.

**5 Recommended Action:**

That Council:

- i. grants first reading to Taxation Rate Bylaw 05 / 2025 as presented,
- ii. grants second reading to Taxation Rate Bylaw 05 / 2025 as presented,
- iii. after second reading unanimously vote in favour of allowing a third reading,
- iv. adopt Taxation Rate Bylaw 05 / 2025.

**6 Future Actions:**

- i. On passing of the Taxation Rate bylaw Administration will proceed to prepare and distribute the 2025 Combined Taxation Notice & Property Assessment Notices.
- ii. Administration to post a notice of taxation within the "Albertan" Newspaper.
- iii. Administration is to publish a copy of the bylaw on the Towns' website and update the Property Tax and Property Assessment web pages accordingly.



Town of Bowden  
Box 338, 2101 20<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bowden, Alberta, T0M 0K0

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## Town of Bowden – Province of Alberta TAXATION RATE BYLAW 05 / 2025

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**Whereas** the Municipal Government Act, RSA2000, Chapter M-26 provides that Council must pass a property tax bylaw annually (section 353),

**And whereas** the Town by bylaw wishes to establish rates of taxation to be levied against assessable properties within the Town of Bowden for the 2025 taxation year,

**And whereas**, the Town of Bowden has prepared and adopted estimates of the Town's revenues and expenditures, as required, at the Regular Council meeting held on April 14, 2025,

**And whereas**, the estimated municipal expenditures and transfers as set out in the Town of Bowden 2025 Operating Budget totals \$3,296,931.03,

**And whereas**, the estimated municipal revenues and transfers as set out in the Town of Bowden 2025 Operating Budget from all sources other than taxation is estimated at \$2,183,610.18 and the amount to be raised by general municipal taxation, is \$1,113,320.85,

**Now therefore**, the Municipal Council of the Town of Bowden hereby enacts as follows:

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### 1 SHORT TITLE

This bylaw may be known as, and cited as, the "Taxation Rate Bylaw".

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### 2 DEFINITIONS

In this bylaw the following definitions apply:

**Council**

Means the duly elected Municipal Council of the Town of Bowden.

**Municipal Government Act / MGA**

Means the Municipal Government Act, RSA2000, Chapter M-26.

**Municipal**

Means (of) the Town of Bowden

**Town**

Means the municipal corporation of the Town of Bowden.

### 3 REQUISITIONS

<b>Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF)</b>	
Residential and Farmland	\$295,514.34
Non-Residential	\$64,179.86
<b>Opted Out School Fund Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No 39</b>	
Residential and Farmland	\$9,772.53
Non-Residential	\$0.00
<b>Over / Under Levy</b>	
Residential and Farmland	0.00
Non-Residential	0.00
<b>Total School Requisitions</b>	<b>\$369,466.73</b>

### 4 ASSESSMENTS

#### 4.1

Council is required to levy on the assessed value of all property, tax rates sufficient to meet estimated expenditures and the requisitions for the financial year.

#### 4.2

Council is authorized to sub classify assessed property, and to establish different rates of taxation in respect to each class of property, subject to the Municipal Government Act.

#### 4.3

The assessed value of all taxable property in the Town as shown on the assessment roll is:

<b>Assessment</b>	
Residential	\$119,127,410.00
Non-Residential / Machinery & Equipment	\$19,619,850.00
Farm Order in Council 290/08 034/18	\$7,000.00
<b>Total Assessment</b>	<b>\$138,754,260.00</b>

## 5 TAXATION RATES

Council authorizes that the Chief Administrative Officer is to levy the following rates of taxation on the assessed value of all property as shown on the assessment roll of the Town.

### 5.1 General Municipal Tax Levy

Description	Assessment	Tax Rate	Tax Levy
Residential	119,127,410.00	.007179038	\$855,220.20
Non-Residential / Machinery & Equipment	19,619,850.00	.013151649	\$258,033.38
Farm Order in Council 290/08 034/18	7,000.00	.0109052	\$76.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>138,754,260.00</b>		<b>\$1,113,329.92</b>

### 5.2 Education Requisitions

Description	Assessment	Tax Rate	Tax Levy
Residential	115,340,350.00	.002562107	\$295,514.34
Residential (Catholic)	3,794,050.00	.002575751	9,772.53
Non-Residential	19,619,850.00	.000327117	\$64,179.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>138,754,260.00</b>		<b>\$369,466.73</b>

### 5.3 Designated Industrial Property Tax Requisition

Descriptions	Assessment	Tax Rate	Tax Levy
Designated Industrial Property Tax	2,990,940.00	.000070676	\$211.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,990,940.00</b>		<b>\$211.39</b>

### 5.4 Government of Alberta - Police Funding Model Requisition

Descriptions	Assessment	Tax Rate	Tax Levy
RCMP Police Funding Fiscal 2024 - 25	138,754,260.00	.000456389	\$63,325.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>138,754,260.00</b>		<b>\$63,325.92</b>

## 6 PENALTIES

### 6.1 Current Taxes

Subject to the provisions of Section 344 of the Municipal Government Act, a penalty of 12% will be levied on all current year taxes remaining unpaid after July 1, 2025.

### 6.2 Tax Arrears

Subject to the provisions of Section 345 of the Municipal Government Act, a further penalty of 15% will be levied on all taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2025, and in each following year as long as the taxes remain unpaid.



## 7 SEVERABILITY

Every provision of this bylaw is independent of all other provisions. If any provision of this bylaw is declared invalid for any reason by a Court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this bylaw shall remain valid and enforceable.

Nothing in this bylaw relieves a person from complying with any provision of any Federal, Provincial, or municipal law or regulation or any requirement of any lawful permit, order, or licence.

## 8 BYLAW AUTHORITY

### 8.1

Under the authority of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Town of Bowden, in the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

### 8.2

That the Chief Administrative Officer is hereby authorized to levy the rates of taxation on the assessed value of all property as shown on the assessment roll of the Town of Bowden and this bylaw for the 2025 taxation year.

### 8.3

That the Chief Administrative Officer is hereby authorized to recover the amount of the requisitions as set out within this bylaw for the 2025 taxation year.

### 8.4

Taxation rates and requisitions in previous Taxation Rate Bylaws remain effective for the recovery of tax levies due from previous years.

### 8.5

All references in this bylaw to an act, statute, regulation, or other bylaw refer to the current version of that enactment, as amended or replaced from time to time including all successor legislation.

### 8.6

This bylaw will come into effect on the date of the third and final reading and signature thereof.

**Read a first time in open council this, 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024,**

**Read a second time in open council this, 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024,**

**and finally passed by unanimous consent of the Councillor's present.**

**Read a third time in open council this, 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robb Stuart, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arno Glover, Chief Administrative Officer

**Taxation Rate Bylaw 05 / 2025 (continued)****7 Suggested Motions:**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council gives first reading to Taxation Rate Bylaw 05 / 2025.

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council gives second reading to Taxation Rate Bylaw 05 / 2025.

Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council unanimously considers a third reading of Taxation Rate Bylaw 05 / 2025.

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council gives third and final reading to Taxation Rate 05 / 2025 and is adopted accordingly and made effective once duly signed.

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> May 12, 2025.	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 8.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> CAO Arno Glover	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Robb Stuart
<b>Report Type:</b> RFD	<b>Attachment(s):</b> 1 Application submitted by Bowden Play & Learn

## 8.a Grants & Donation Policy (Financial Assistance Request)

Reference should be made to the Financial Assistance Application Form (provided under separate cover) subject to FOIP Act exception to disclosure (section 17 – harmful to personal privacy).

### Background.

The Town of Bowden Grants & Donation Policy was passed by Council during the RCM of January 9, 2023. The following is reproduced from the policy:

*“The Town of Bowden is committed to supporting sustainable activities that positively impact the local community.*

*Community grants and donations are available to projects or organizations which demonstrate and provide cultural, social, or economic benefit to the local community.*

*The purpose of the Grants & Donation Policy is to:*

- i. provide a framework that ensures financial assistance applications are assessed and awarded in a consistent and equitable manner and which positively support the social wellbeing of the Town of Bowden local community,*
- ii. provide an accessible and documented process for persons seeking financial assistance from the Town,*
- iii. provide the CAO and Council with clear direction for the consideration and approval of requests for financial assistance,*
- iv. enhance Council's appreciation and understanding of community groups and their programs within the local community,*
- v. maintain public trust and confidence in municipal government affairs and procedures”.*

The disbursement of monetary payments as donation, grants, or contributions as gifts in-kind does not form part of the Town's regular program of service delivery.

Any disbursement must therefore receive prior Council approval and must align with Council's core values on supporting community programs or initiatives.

### Application Received.

#### Bowden Play & Learn

An application has been received from the Director of Communications of Bowden Play & Learn.

The sum of \$500.00 has been requested to purchase capital equipment for sensory spaces and equipment for students with learning difficulties.

Administration requests that Council review the request made for Financial Assistance.

**Suggested Alternative Motions**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council approves a donation of \$500.00 requested by Bowden Play & Learn.

or

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accepts the financial assistance request as information.

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> May 12, 2025.	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 10.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Arno Glover	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Robb Stuart
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> as per content

**Agenda item 10****Content:**

**10.a** Red Deer County Protective Services (April Enforcement Contract)

**10.b** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission (email dated May 5, 2025)



**PROTECTIVE SERVICES**  
38106 Range Road 275  
Red Deer County, AB T4S 2L9  
Phone: 403.343.6301  
Fax: 403.347.0572

May 6, 2025

Town of Bowden  
2101 – 20 Avenue,  
Box 388  
Bowden, AB T0M 0K0

Sent Via Email to: [cfo@bowden.ca](mailto:cfo@bowden.ca)

Attention: Chief Administrative Officer

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: April Enforcement Contract**

Please be advised for the month of April, Red Deer County Patrol Officers spent 10 hours and 6 minutes in the Town of Bowden.

The 3 tickets were issued during patrols conducted between 0600-2100:

- 2025-04-16 at 07:14 hrs – Speeding in Playground Zone
- 2025-04-16 at 07:31 hrs – Speeding in Playground Zone
- 2025-04-23 at 07:36 hrs – Fail to Produce Registration

There were no incidents received in the month of April.

I trust you will find the foregoing satisfactory, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

On behalf of: Sgt. Irv Heide

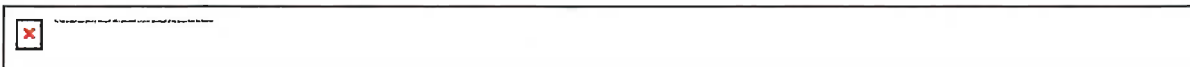
Sincerely,

Sgt. Irv Heide  
Patrol Manager,  
Red Deer County, Protective Services

**Mayor**

---

**From:** Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission <info@abebc.ca>  
**Sent:** May 5, 2025 10:08 AM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** Letter from the Chair of the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission



Dear Robb Stuart,

The Electoral Boundaries Commission was appointed on March 28, 2025, and is beginning its work. The next year will be spent reviewing the boundaries and names of 89 electoral divisions (2 more than the current composition of the Legislative Assembly) in the province, and proposing changes within the guidelines provided in the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act.

My colleagues in this task are Dr. Julian Martin from the Sherwood Park, Greg Clark of Calgary, John D. Evans, KC, of Lethbridge, and Susan Samson of Sylvan Lake, who have been appointed as the four members of the Commission.

One of the most important aspects of this review is hearing from interested Albertans who wish to help us shape the electoral map of the province. I am contacting you to encourage you to participate in this process of public consultation. You may participate by preparing a written submission or by making a presentation during one of the public hearings. The window for written submissions shall be from April 22, 2025, to 3:00 p.m. on May 23, 2025 (written submissions may be made public). Newspaper and social media advertisements will appear throughout the province providing information concerning the dates and locations for the first round of the public hearings beginning May 29, 2025.

Our interim report will be submitted to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly prior to October 28, 2025, and our final report will be submitted by March 28, 2026. There will be an opportunity for public input again after the interim report is submitted to the Speaker.

On behalf of the Commission, I invite you to call the Commission office at 1-833-777-2125 or visit our website [abebc.ca](https://abebc.ca) for more information.

Yours truly,



Hon. Dallas K. Miller



**Agenda item 10 (continued)****Alternative Motions:**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accepts the submitted items of correspondence as information.

## Reports (1)

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> May 12, 2025.	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 11.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Arno Glover	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Robb Stuart
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s)</b> 1 CAO's Report

**Content:****Agenda item 11.a (CAO's Report)**

<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> May 12, 2025	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 11.a
<b>Prepared by:</b> Arno Glover	<b>Approved by:</b> n/a
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b>

## CAO's Report

The following provides updates on some of those items where progress has been made.

### 1 Land Use Bylaw - Consultancy

The initial meeting with the consultant will be on May 21, 2025 (pm tbc).

As previously reported the initial purpose of the meeting is to define the full scope of the project and its requirements, typically might include:

- setting objectives and deliverables,
- defining a roadmap and timescales,
- allocating available resources (formation of a working party?),
- determining the budget,
- deciding what is in / or out of the project scope,
- communication to stakeholders.

### 2 Municipal Elections

#### 2.1

The Returning Officer has now provided to all those persons who to date have collected a Candidate Information Pack an updated USB flash drive containing the:

- 2025 Election Forms,
- Local Authority Election Forms Regulation dated January 2025,
- Municipal Government Act dated January 2025.

#### 2.2

The Returning Officer will be attending an election information sharing session in in conjunction with neighbouring municipalities (date tbc)

### 3 Training

The CAO has now completed 4 webinar courses provided by Alberta Municipal Affairs under the Municipal Affairs Administrators Training Initiative (MAATI).

These courses are:

- Electronic Council Meetings, completed April 7, 2025
- Elections Database Training, completed April 8, 2025
- Legislative Compliance, completed April 15, 2025
- Municipal Inspections, completed April 28, 2025

**4 Firehall Roof**

Administration has appointed a contractor to commence the repair work required on the firehall roof (3 contractors were invited to bid on the project).

Camdon Construction of Red Deer has been appointed to carry out these repairs in accordance with the recommendations made by the structural engineer.

They are currently scheduling resource however they have indicated that this work can commence sometime after the May long weekend.

The Project Manager at Camdon Construction has been informed that the firehall must remain fully operational at all times and that there must be no hindrance of access to either vehicles or equipment in the firehall.

Administration has appointed a Structural Engineer to sign off the construction work once completed.

Red Deer County have been informed of these plans and of the proposed timings.

**5 Public Works Update****5.1**

Road sweeping throughout the Town was carried out on Tuesday / Wednesday 6 / 7<sup>th</sup> May. The Town of Innisfail provided the resource and equipment to complete this task.

**5.2**

Crack sealing will take place week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> May throughout the Town.

This is a process where sealant is poured into the cracks in the road surface to prevent excess moisture from penetrating the asphalt so as to prevent further cracking, and deterioration of the road.

**5.3**

Work will start on the final phase of the walking trail week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> May.

The CAO will attend a site meeting on Monday May 12<sup>th</sup> to walk and mark out the path alignment.

**5.4**

Work is underway to install the concrete stormwater swales and the installation of the new sidewalk.

**5.5**

Other work has commenced on all of the 2025 Capital Projects. In all cases preliminary liaison work has been completed with contractors / suppliers to put in place plans / schedules / resource etc.

**5.6**

Outdoor maintenance has begun for the upkeep of the Town's parks and gardens.

The Town has employed 2 summer worker who will take up full time employment after the May long weekend.

## **6 Emergency Management**

### **6.1**

Administration (with guests) is planning to hold a discussion-based tabletop exercise (TTX) on either May 29 or June 5 (tbc).

The emergency scenario is based on the Dickson Dam reaching its maximum acceptable water level of 948m above sea level (ASL) with water being released into the spillway to relieve pressure against the concrete dam structure. Heavy rainfall is expected to continue.

The dam constructed in 1983 holds about 18 square km of surface water and 200 million m<sup>3</sup> of storage.

The dam is critical to reducing the impact of flooding. The Town of Drumheller would have faced severe flooding in 2005 and 2013 if the dam had not been in place to hold back floodwaters.

Phase 3 of the tabletop scenario assumes the full destruction of the dam with reconstruction estimated to take over a year to complete.

The exercise will be specific to the Town of Bowden. The purpose of the exercise is to identify a local response plan and strategy in the event of such an emergency.

Thereafter the Town of Bowden plan will be shared with all the other members of the Joint Municipal Emergency Partnership (who will have conducted their own TTX based on the same scenario) in a regional functional review exercise to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Members of the Regional Partnership include: City of Red Deer, Red Deer County, Town of Sylvan Lake, Town of Penhold, Town of Innisfail, Town of Bowden, Village of Delburne and the Village of Elnora.

### **6.2**

CAO, Jason Sahli and Jade Prefontaine met with a representative from the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), Regional Emergency Social Services.

The purpose of the meeting was to review Emergency Social Services requirements.

## **7 Planning & Development**

Administration staff attended a training session with Red Deer County Planning & Development Office on May 1, 2025. The purpose of this training was to enhance the level of in-house knowledge of Administration staff with the aim of providing an increased level of first line support for when planning applications / queries are received in the Town Administration Office.

The CAO is putting together an information pack as a reference guide for staff.

## **8 Parade Float**

Public Works have conducted a safety inspection on the parade float. Repair work was carried out on the braking system.

A recommendation was made to store the float in the museum in the weeks prior to the parade. This requires approval from the Museum board.

**9 Communications Tower**

Administration requested an update from Red Deer County on this project. The response received is as follows:

*VALO Construction and VALO Networks is no longer doing any work for the county of Red Deer. Rural Connect has taken over the remainder of the project as well as network operations. The company that will do the remediation work is Hybrid Telecomm Construction. There is not a lot of work left to do in town, there is some remediation work to back fill of any remaining holes / sinkholes and dress with gravel and or topsoil and seed. We have some gravel around the tower itself to clean up outside the tower fence. We have some work to get the tower operational, we are hoping to have the tower radio's up by the end of June. We would like to approach the town at that time about advertising on the town website and putting up a few billboards and signs.*

**10 Arena Plant Room (Repairs & Maintenance)****10.1**

The following repair work is required to the ice plant equipment within the "Igloo" Arena.

This was identified by CIMCO technicians during the plant shut down at the end of March.

**1 Dehumidifier**

Supply and install a new drive motor and tensioner assembly.

**2 Condenser**

Supply and install a new fan shaft, fan sheave, fan sheave bushing and bearings

The cost of this remedial work totals \$8320.00.

The 2025 Operating Budget provides for a total of \$2500.00. (Repairs & Maintenance Plant Room).

**10.2**

Section 8.26 of the Chief Administrative Office Bylaw 08 / 2022 states:

*The CAO will monitor, review, control, and regularly report to Council on expenditures within the approved operating and capital budgets and on any anticipated or actual material changes to operating or capital expenditures.*

**10.3**

Administration has in the past always pursued a policy of undertaking any essential work required in the Arena plant equipment room irrespective of cost as a matter of priority and safety.

There has never been a situation in the past 7 years whereby recommendations / requirements identified by CIMCO have not been rectified.

This work will therefore be completed in the summer months prior to the ice plant equipment start up.

**Agenda item 11.a CAO's Report (continued)****Recommended Motion:**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accepts the submitted CAO Report as information.



<b>Regular Council Meeting:</b> May 12, 2025.	<b>Agenda Item:</b> 11.b / 11.c
<b>Prepared by:</b> Arno Glover	<b>Approved by:</b> Mayor Robb Stuart
<b>Report Type:</b> Information	<b>Attachment(s):</b> As per content

**Agenda Item 11 b / 11.c****Content:****Council Committee Reports**

No reports submitted.

**Society & Other Reports**

- i. Bowden Ag Society Meeting (March 25, 2025)  
*(report submitted by Councillor Paul Webb)*
- ii. Alberta Counsel News (April 2025)  
*(report submitted by CAO Arno Glover)*
- iii. Alberta Municipalities – Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50 (April 17, 2025)  
*(report submitted by CAO Arno Glover)*
- iv. Alberta Municipalities – Preliminary Analysis of Bill 54 (May 1, 2025)  
*(report submitted by CAO Arno Glover)*

**Note:**

All meeting minutes submitted should be assumed to be “unapproved”.

## Bowden Ag Society

Meeting on March 25th, 2025 @ 7pm

Olde Library

Att: Melissa, Keith, Rick, Paul, Skye, Blake, Clay, Ian, Brad, Cody, Randene, Ky, Danny, Len, Garnet, Megan

1. Call meeting to order: 7:01 PM
2. Approval of Annual General Meeting 2024 Minutes
  - Was noted that we need to review the Queen Finances and amend the minutes to reflect
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Len, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rick, All in favor
3. Financials
  - General Account: \$36,254
  - Casino: \$14,645
  - Grant finalized: purchased \$4,000 of gravel to use the remainder of the grant money, the grant is finalized, other than a few pictures

## New Business

1. Summer Worker
  - Going to use Payton Sietzema again, she starts in early may
  - She was a great worker last year
  - She has a friend who will help during busy times, BDR, etc.
  - She will be working more full-time this year
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Brad, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rick, All in favor
2. Bowden Daze Rodeo
  - Announcer, sound, and bands have all been booked
  - Started working on the liquor license
  - Spoke with Ward
  - Same events as last year, no changes
  - Need to book vet
  - Need to book security
    - Was expensive last year, will look at a few other quotes/options this year
  - The vaulting club is going to run the gate again this year
  - Discussed having Ramona Miller's Group back again for the food trucks and Jolene for the concession
  - Not going to have Butterfield Acres for the petting zoo, not as big last year and is expensive
  - Len is still looking into getting some rides for the weekend
  - Going to do the bike give away again on the Sunday
  - Tickets:
    - Do individually per day? Different color for each day or should we have it so one ticket is good for any of the days?
    - Have online tickets
    - Sponsors will get mailed physical tickets
    - Kids tickets for Sunday, send to school before school is out
  - Buckles
    - Use the same as last year? They were expensive for what they were

- Could get another option, perhaps a bit cheaper, could save over \$2,000, Len will look into some other numbers/options and order them
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Clay, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Megan, All in favor
3. CPRA Approval Form
- Ian ran through the form, Date: July 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>
  - It was noted that the cost for timed event cattle could go up due to cattle prices, Ian will call to discuss
  - Reviewed and everything looked good
4. Sponsorship
- Megan updated the packages and sent them out to everyone
  - Keith will get started with sending those out
  - Keith will be going to the town council meeting
  - Sponsorship amounts are staying the same
  - Megan will speak with Bullseye

#### Round Table Discussion

Keith:

- Looking for gymkhana date clarification
- 30 events so far booked for the grounds this summer
- 1<sup>st</sup> event is April 30<sup>th</sup>, a sheep 4-H event

Len:

- Need to make arrangements to go through panels and take them to the auction market
  - Keep the good ones
  - Will need to call into the auction and let them know that they are coming in
- Len mentioned that we do get money back for sponsorships to 4-H and other ag related sponsorships on our grants
- Discussed booking the hall for the NFR night, Len will take care of this so we can get it booked early

Cody:

- Is there a gate going up on the grounds?
- People have been in there doing donuts
- We might look into one for next year

Megan:

- 4-H club is doing a Vegas theme for their sale and was wondering if they could use the NFR night decorations
- All good to use

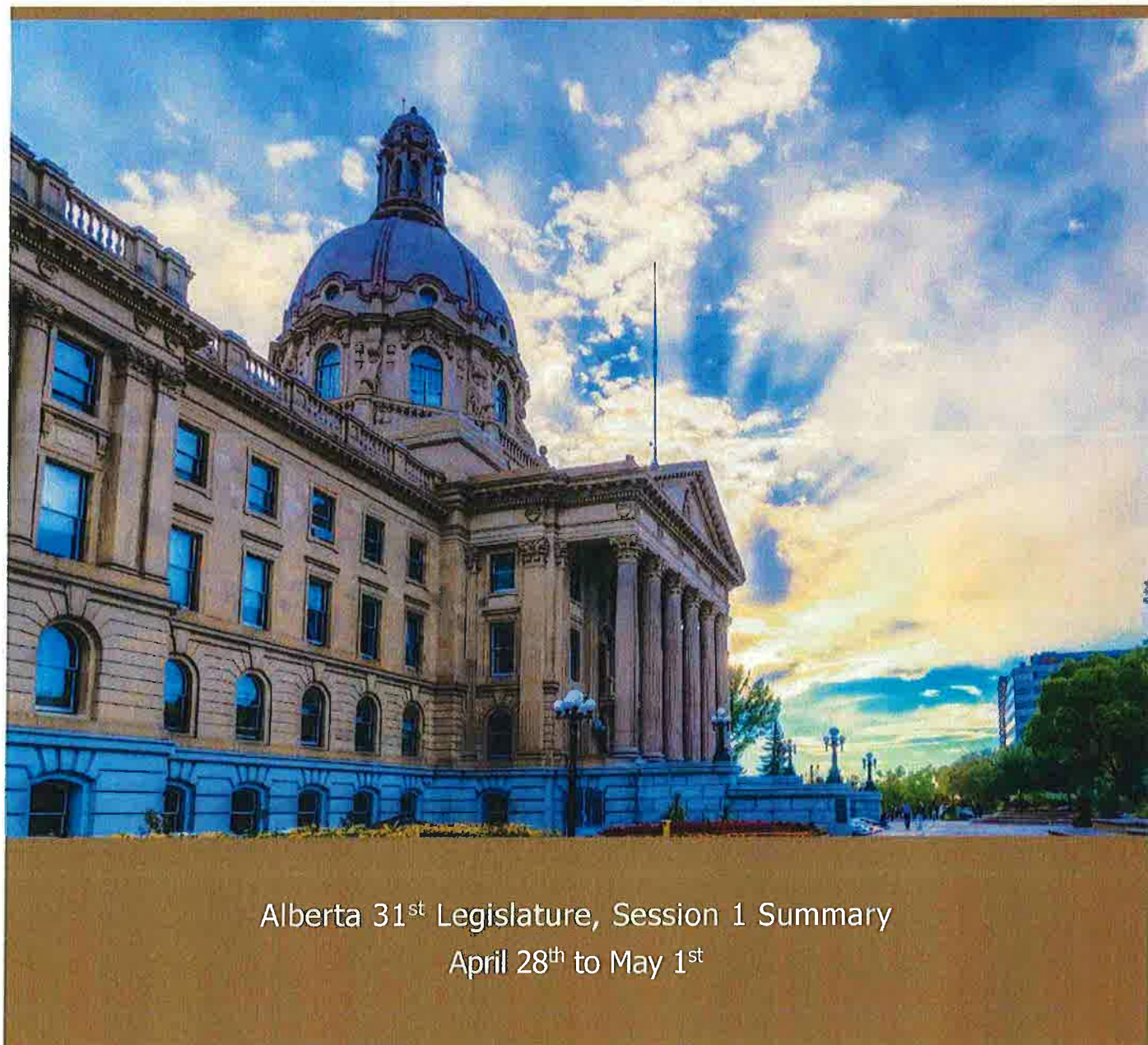
Meeting Adjourned @ 7:47 PM



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Alberta 31<sup>st</sup> Legislature, Session 1 Summary  
April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>

## Alberta 31<sup>st</sup> Legislature, Session 1 Summary: April 28 to May 1

### Bill Updates

#### Government Bills

- **Bill 37: Mental Health Services Protection Amendment Act, 2025:** proposes revisions to the existing *Mental Health Services Protection Act*. Key changes include updating definitions related to services and service providers, removing certain compliance requirements, and modifying the licensing provisions for specified service providers. Additionally, the bill amends the authority of directors to publish information about service providers, aiming to enhance clarity and oversight within Alberta's mental health services framework.

**Status:** Adjourned during Committee of the Whole

Bill text: [Bill 37: Mental Health Services Protection Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA overview: [Updating Regulation, Licensing of Addiction Treatment](#)

- **Bill 38: Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2025:** proposes changes to multiple Alberta statutes to streamline administrative processes. Notable amendments include transferring certain ministerial powers under the Charitable Fund-raising Act to a Director of Charitable Fund-raising, revising reporting requirements in the Child and Youth Advocate Act, and updating procedures in the Post-secondary Learning Act to facilitate amalgamations of student associations with societies. Additionally, the bill introduces provisions in the Residential Tenancies Act to allow electronic service of notices under specific circumstances.

**Status:** Passed Second Reading on Division

Bill text: [Bill 38: Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA overview: [RTR Bill Improves Housing, Trades, and Charities](#)

- **Bill 39: Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (\$):** serves as Alberta's *Budget 2025* bill, introducing amendments to various financial statutes. It adjusts corporate and personal tax provisions, including extending reassessment periods for corporate tax in specific cases and updating income tax brackets based on inflation. The bill also modifies the *Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act*, revising how funds are allocated to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

**Status:** Passed Second Reading

Bill Text: [Bill 39: Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 \(\\$\)](#)

GOA Overview: [Helping Alberta Meet the Challenge](#)

- **Bill 40: Professional Governance Act:** establishes a framework for regulating professional regulatory organizations in Alberta. It defines how organizations can be designated, sets governance and accountability standards, and outlines procedures for professional registration, competency requirements, and reinstatement. The bill also includes provisions for regulatory body amalgamations and name changes. These measures standardize the oversight of professional organizations across various fields.

**Status:** Adjourned during Committee of the Whole

Bill Text: [Bill 40: Professional Governance Act](#)

GOA Overview: [Modernizing Alberta's Professional Regulatory Laws](#)



## Government Bills Continued

- **Bill 41: Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025:** updates the *Wildlife Act* to refine definitions and clarify regulatory provisions. Key changes include revising the definition of "resident" to specify residency requirements for hunting and trapping, expanding the meaning of "tag" to include electronic tags, and clarifying the definition of "trap" and "vehicle" in relation to wildlife management. The bill also reinforces that ownership of wildlife remains with the Crown unless legally transferred and updates licensing provisions to streamline regulatory language. These amendments aim to modernize and improve the administration of Alberta's wildlife laws.

**Bill Status:** Adjourned during Committee of the Whole with Amendments Introduced

Bill Text: [Bill 41: Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA Overview: [Modernizing Hunting and Trapping Legislation](#)

- **Bill 42: Appropriation Act, 2025 (\$):** Bill 42 authorizes government spending for the 2025–26 fiscal year and implements the funding allocations outlined in Budget 2025. It provides legal authority for expenditures across government departments, including expenses, capital investments, financial transactions, and contingency funding.

**Bill Status:** Has Come into Force as Legislation

Bill Text: [Bill 42: Appropriation Act, 2025 \(\\$\)](#)

- **Bill 43: Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2025 (\$):** authorizes additional government spending to supplement funding for the 2024–25 fiscal year, as part of Budget 2025. It provides for extra allocations across various departments and enables limited transfers between ministries to address updated financial requirements.

**Bill Status:** Has Come into Force as Legislation

Bill Text: [Bill 43: Appropriation \(Supplementary Supply\) Act, 2025 \(\\$\)](#)

- **Bill 44: Agricultural Operation Practices Amendment Act, 2025:** updates the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* to refine terminology and adjust regulations related to organic material management. The bill replaces references to "composting materials" with "organic materials," expands the definition of composting, and formally defines "digestate" as a by-product of anaerobic digestion. It establishes a legal framework for diverting agricultural organic waste to biogas plants, which process it into energy or renewable natural gas. The legislation replaces an existing memorandum of understanding between government agencies with formal regulations, providing clearer guidelines for biogas operations. Additionally, the bill outlines conditions for storing and using digestate as a soil amendment, incorporating it into farm operations as an alternative to synthetic fertilizers.

**Bill Status:** Adjourned during Committee of the Whole with Amendments Agreed to

Bill Text: [Bill 44: Agricultural Operation Practices Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA Overview: [Growing the Agricultural and Biogas Industries](#)

- **Bill 45: Critical Infrastructure Defence Amendment Act, 2025:** updates the *Critical Infrastructure Defence Act* to expand the definition of "essential infrastructure" and clarify its application. The amendments add all land within two kilometers of Alberta's border with the United States to the list of protected infrastructure. The bill also includes facilities involved in bitumen, crude oil, and natural gas extraction, processing, and refining, as well as the head offices of companies operating such facilities. Additionally, the Act is amended to explicitly apply to the Government of Canada to limit federal jurisdiction over critical infrastructure in Alberta.

**Bill Status:** Passed Second Reading

Bill Text: [Bill 45: Critical Infrastructure Defence Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA Overview: [Protecting Alberta from Unconstitutional Federal Overreach](#)

## Government Bills Continued

- **Bill 46: Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025:** updates the *Access to Information Act* and *Protection of Privacy Act* to clarify data management and disclosure rules. It introduces provisions allowing the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulatory amendments to align with legislative changes. The bill also formalizes the role of the Office of Statistics and Information, specifying that certain data-sharing and privacy rules do not apply to it. Additionally, it adjusts provisions related to judicial records, data matching, and non-personal data disclosure, ensuring consistency between the *Access to Information Act* and *Protection of Privacy Act*.

**Bill Status:** Adjourned during Committee of the Whole

Bill Text: [Bill 46: Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA Overview: [Updates to Privacy and Access Legislation](#)

- **Bill 47: Automobile Insurance Act:** introduces a new framework for automobile insurance in Alberta, replacing existing provisions under the Insurance Act. It establishes a no-fault insurance model that provides benefits such as income replacement, health care coverage, and death benefits regardless of who is at fault in an accident. The bill outlines eligibility, benefit categories, and compensation procedures, while also limiting tort claims to specific circumstances. It creates the Alberta Automobile Care-first Tribunal to handle appeals and formalizes rules for insurers, claimants, and the oversight of the system. The Act is set to apply to accidents occurring on or after January 1, 2027.

**Bill Status:** Passed Second Reading on Division

Bill Text: [Bill 47: Automobile Insurance Act](#)

GOA Overview: [Enabling Better Auto Insurance](#)

- **Bill 48: iGaming Alberta Act:** establishes the Alberta iGaming Corporation to manage and operate online lottery schemes on behalf of the Government of Alberta. The bill defines the corporation's mandate, governance structure, and regulatory framework, including oversight by a board of directors and the ability to enter agreements with other provinces. It introduces rules for the registration and regulation of iGaming suppliers, standards for online gaming operations, and restrictions related to advertising and access. The Act also amends the Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act to integrate online gaming within Alberta's broader gaming regulatory regime.

**Bill Status:** Adjourned during Committee of the Whole

Bill Text: [Bill 48: iGaming Alberta Act](#)

GOA Overview: [Bet Safely, Bet With Confidence](#)

- **Bill 49: Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025:** amends four pieces of Alberta legislation, incorporating lessons from recent emergencies and aligning with recommendations from the Public Health Emergencies Governance Review Panel. The bill updates the Emergency Management Act to clarify funding eligibility, expand definitions, and introduce transitional and retroactive provisions for disaster response. It also amends the Police Act to formalize the independence of future provincial police services and enable municipalities to enter into policing agreements with independent agency police services. Changes to the Police Amendment Act, 2022 centralize complaint handling under a strengthened, arm's-length Police Review Commission, with new procedures and oversight powers. The Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act is amended to remove exemptions for corporate sellers, aiming to improve traceability of transactions.

**Bill Status:** Passed Second Reading on Division

Bill Text: [Bill 49: Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA Overview: [Improving Public Safety](#)

## Government Bills Continued

- **Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025:** introduces amendments to multiple pieces of legislation overseen by Alberta's Ministry of Municipal Affairs. It makes substantial changes to the Local Authorities Election Act, including new rules for candidate withdrawals, accessible voting equipment, and temporary voting provisions for displaced residents of Jasper following the 2024 wildfire. It also updates definitions and campaign finance rules related to local political parties and slates. The Municipal Government Act is amended to allow the Minister to set procedures for council meetings and removes the requirement for municipalities to adopt codes of conduct for councilors. It also introduces new expectations for intermunicipal collaboration and dispute resolution, particularly for services like water, waste, and emergency response. The New Home Buyer Protection Act and Safety Codes Act are amended to clarify requirements around home warranty exemptions and caveats, and to strengthen advisory roles for the Safety Codes Council.

**Bill Status: Passed Second Reading on Division**

Bill Text: [Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA Overview: [Modernizing Municipal Processes](#)

- **Bill 51: Education Amendment Act, 2025:** updates the Education Act with several changes to terminology, governance, and land use processes. The bill replaces the term "private school" with "independent school" throughout legislation and related statutes. It prohibits school boards from disqualifying trustees through internal codes of conduct and clarifies election residency rules for displaced residents of Jasper. The bill also introduces a process for the provincial government to acquire land for new school construction by transferring ownership from boards or municipalities to the Crown. Additional amendments streamline school facility agreements and teacher conduct procedures, while updating related legislation for consistency.

**Bill Status: Passed Second Reading**

Bill Text: [Education Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA Overview: [Strengthening Alberta's Education System](#)

- **Bill 52: Energy and Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025:** amends the Electric Utilities Act, Gas Distribution Act, Gas Utilities Act, Hydro and Electric Energy Act, and Petroleum Marketing Act to implement a restructured energy market and enable hydrogen blending in natural gas systems. It establishes new day-ahead and real-time electricity markets, updates rules for price-setting and transmission constraint management, and allows the Minister to issue binding REM ISO rules. The bill also creates a consumer awareness surcharge to support electricity education initiatives. Changes to gas legislation define hydrogen-blended natural gas, set regulatory conditions for its supply, and establish approval, consent, and cost-recovery frameworks.

**Bill Status: Passed Second Reading**

Bill Text: [Energy and Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA Overview: [Transforming the Utilities System](#)

- **Bill 53: Compassionate Intervention Act:** establishes a new legal framework for involuntary intervention and treatment of individuals with severe substance use or addiction issues. It creates the Compassionate Intervention Commission to oversee orders for apprehension, assessment, and care planning for adults and minors likely to cause harm without treatment. The Act outlines the roles of medical staff, facilities, and service providers, and sets out detailed processes for applications, hearings, reviews, and appeals. It also includes provisions for client rights, substitute decision-making, and post-discharge support. The bill repeals the *Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act*.

**Bill Status: Passed Second Reading**

Bill Text: [Bill 53: Compassionate Intervention Act](#)

GOA Overview: [Delivering on Compassionate Intervention](#)



## Government Bills Continued

- **Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025:** is an omnibus bill that amends eleven pieces of legislation governing provincial elections, referendums, recalls, and political financing in Alberta. It updates the *Election Act*, *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*, *Citizen Initiative Act*, *Recall Act*, *Referendum Act*, *Alberta Senate Election Act*, *Local Authorities Election Act*, *Alberta Taxpayer Protection Act*, *Alberta Personal Income Tax Act*, *Legislative Assembly Act*, and *Alberta Pension Protection Act*. The bill introduces new definitions, expands the powers of the Chief Electoral Officer, restructures campaign finance and advertising rules, revises voting and advance polling procedures, and changes timelines and thresholds for petitions and referenda. It also prohibits electronic vote tabulators, creates regulated prospective candidate associations, and standardizes financial disclosure rules across election types.

**Bill Status:** Passed First Reading

Bill Text: [Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA Overview: [Strengthening Democracy](#)

- **Bill 55: Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025:** amends more than 40 health-related statutes to align Alberta's legislation with the province's restructured health system. It repeals the *Hospitals Act*, consolidating relevant provisions under the *Provincial Health Agencies Act*, and replaces references to "regional health authorities" and "community health councils" with standardized terms such as "provincial health agencies," "provincial health corporations," and "hospital operators." The bill also formalizes governance and oversight roles, enables the transfer of public health functions to Primary Care Alberta and Alberta Health, clarifies the authority of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, expands investigative capacity under the *Protection of Persons in Care Act*, and updates the *Health Information Act* to support data use by the Ministry of Seniors, Community and Social Services for continuing care.

**Bill Status:** Passed First Reading

Bill Text: [Bill 55: Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#)

GOA Overview: [Reinforcing Legislation, Refocusing Health Care](#)

## Private Member Bills

- **Bill Pr5: Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta Act:** repeals and replaces the 2010 Act governing the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta. The new legislation continues the Foundation as a corporate body and outlines its objects, governance, and powers. It clarifies how donations may be received, managed, and applied, including provisions for investment, donor intent, managed funds, and trust property. The Act defines the geographical focus of the Foundation, formalizes the appointment and responsibilities of the Board, and includes updated provisions for indemnity, audits, and administrative costs.

**Bill Status:** Passed First Reading

Bill Text: [Bill Pr5: Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta Act](#)

- **Bill Pr6: Burman University Amendment Act, 2025:** makes minor updates to the Burman University Act by replacing outdated references to "College Heights" with "Lacombe" and updating the institution's terminology from "college" to "university." These amendments reflect the current name and status of Burman University and align the Act's language with the institution's existing operations and location.

**Bill Status:** Passed First Reading

Bill Text: [Burman University Amendment Act, 2025](#)

## Session Transcripts

Monday, April 28, 2025, Afternoon: [Transcript](#)

Monday, April 28, 2025, Evening: [Transcript](#)

Tuesday, April 29, 2025, Afternoon: [Transcript](#)

Tuesday, April 29, 2025, Evening: [Transcript](#)

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, Afternoon: [Transcript](#)

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, Evening: [Transcript](#)

Thursday, May 1, 2025, Afternoon: [Transcript](#)

# Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025



 **Alberta  
Municipalities**  
Strength  
In Members

April 17, 2025



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## Background

On April 8, 2025, the Government of Alberta released Bill 50: the [Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025](#), which proposes amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA), *Municipal Government Act* (MGA), the *New Home Buyer Protection Act* (NHBP) and the *Safety Codes Act*.

### Prior Consultation

Some of the proposed legislative changes are informed based on the province's consultation of municipalities in spring 2024 on how to improve the current rules for intermunicipal collaboration frameworks (ICFs). That consultation involved written submissions and in-person and virtual sessions with municipal administrators. Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) provided input based on our [Recommendations on the Future of Intermunicipal Collaboration](#), which we had released in August 2023.

In December 2024 and early 2025, ABmunis and RMA were engaged by Municipal Affairs to explore opportunities to overcome implementation challenges with the government's planned changes with ICFs. The Government of Alberta also had a working group which reviewed aspects of the *New Home Buyer Protection Act*, which ABmunis participated in.

### ABmunis' Perspective

We appreciate that Municipal Affairs engaged municipalities in 2024 to inform changes to ICFs and that Municipal Affairs proactively engaged ABmunis and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta in late 2024 on the government's vision for ICF rules so that implementation challenges could be addressed before the legislation was drafted.

ABmunis is supportive of some of the proposed changes in Bill 50, but it also falls short in many ways from what ABmunis had recommended to the province such as:

- Stormwater is excluded from the proposed list of mandatory services in ICF agreements.
- Libraries appear to be excluded from cost-sharing through an ICF.
- Non-mandatory services that benefit all residents of a region will be excluded from the arbitration of an ICF.
- Council code of conduct bylaws will be repealed instead of ABmunis recommendation that the province create an independent integrity commissioner to investigate code of conduct complaints and recommend sanctions when justified.

ABmunis also notes that we were **not consulted** on many aspects of Bill 50 including:

- The elimination of council code of conduct bylaws.
- Specific changes designed to alter the arbitration of ICFs.
- Requirement for the CAO to report when a municipality exercises natural person powers.
- A simple majority to appoint or revoke a CAO's appointment.
- Timelines for the CAO to share information with all of council.
- All proposed changes to the Local Authorities Election Act.

### Next Steps and Change Management

ABmunis is raising our questions and concerns with Municipal Affairs so they are fully informed about what these proposed changes would mean for municipalities. If passed, Bill 50 will require significant work by ABmunis, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, the Government of Alberta and municipalities including:

- Further engagement will be needed to inform the development of new regulations on provincial standards for meeting procedures and treatment of capital costs for new facilities.
- Updates will be required to the existing ICF Workbook to support municipalities.
- Tools need to be developed to support municipalities with cost calculation models and data collection.
- The inclusion of data to drive ICF decisions and the varying sophistication of municipal asset inventories will require a greater focus on asset management for municipalities.



## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

# Changes to the Municipal Government Act

The proposed changes to the *Municipal Government Act* will come into force upon Royal Assent.

## Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs)

Proposed Change	ABmunis analysis
<b>Definition of ICF Costs</b> Add a definition of “costs for intermunicipal services” meaning “operating, capital, and other non-operating costs required to deliver the services.” (section 708.29(0.1)(a))	<b>Support</b> ABmunis is supportive of this addition to the MGA to bring clarity for municipalities and that it includes capital costs, which has been a source of disagreement for some municipalities.
<b>List of Mandatory Services for ICFs</b> Add provision that all ICFs must address the following services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Water and wastewater</li> <li>• Solid waste</li> <li>• Emergency services</li> <li>• Recreation</li> </ul> (section 708.29(1.1))	<b>Support in principle</b> In August 2023, ABmunis published our <a href="#">Recommendations on the Future of Intermunicipal Collaboration</a> where we called for the MGA to include a clear list of services that are mandatory for each ICF. Bill 50 follows ABmunis' recommendations of the mandatory services except that stormwater is excluded. This is disappointing as there is a clear case to include stormwater as a mandatory service and when its not applicable to a community, the ICF can just acknowledge this. Municipalities can still include stormwater in an ICF if all parties agree but ABmunis will advocate for the inclusion of stormwater in any amendments made to Bill 50.  Section 708.27 confirms that ICFs are about stewarding scarce resources to efficiently and fairly serve all residents that benefit from a local service no matter which boundary they live within. While some services such as cemeteries, school sites, and social services are not included on the mandatory list, councils that act in good faith will understand that these services benefit residents of both municipalities and can still include them in an ICF.
<b>Option for Non-Mandatory Services</b> If all municipalities party to an ICF agree, then additional (non-mandatory) services may be included in an ICF, except for third-party services. (section 708.29(1.2))	<b>Support and Oppose</b> ABmunis supports that municipalities will have the option to include other services in an ICF as this aligns with our recommendations to enable broader collaboration between municipalities.  We oppose the proposed rule that third-party services may not be included in an ICF. Fortunately, Bill 50 adds a definition of “third-party services” to the MGA as outlined below so that municipalities will have more clarity. Unfortunately, the definition of a third-party service appears to target libraries as a service that may not be included in an ICF.  Under natural person powers, municipalities can still agree to cost-share a third-party service, but it would be outside the legislative parameters that apply to ICFs.

## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

Proposed Change	ABmunis analysis
<b>Third-Party Services</b> Add a definition of “third party services” meaning a service provided by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) a corporation independent from the municipalities to whom the services are provided, and</li> <li>(ii) the only services provider authorized under an enactment to provide the services it provides in or to the municipalities that are parties to a framework.</li> </ul> (section 708.29(0.1)(b))	<p><b>Concerns, but further details required</b></p> <p>The proposed definition appears to be targeted at libraries because library boards are often the “only service provider authorized under an enactment” to provide library services. This is concerning because it goes against ABmunis <a href="#">2023 resolution</a> that libraries should be within scope of ICFs.</p> <p>In Woodlands (County) v Whitecourt (Town), 2024 ABKB 388, the Court of King’s Bench ruled that operational library costs should not be included in their ICF, but it found that capital and maintenance costs of the building that is borne by the municipality should be considered as part of the ICF process. The Court made a similar ruling that operational costs under a Municipal Police Service Agreement or Provincial Police Service Agreement should not be included in ICFs but that capital costs borne by municipalities related to building detachments should be included. It is unclear how such costs would be treated under the proposed definition of “third-party services”.</p> <p>Despite third-party services being excluded from ICFs, ABmunis is supportive that Bill 50 adds a definition of a third-party service to offer clarity to municipalities. At minimum, the definition clarifies that municipalities can include third-party services in an ICF when the third-party corporation is not the only service provider authorized under an enactment. This suggests that ICFs could be used to help fund third-party organizations to operate a cemetery, a recreation service, or other local service.</p> <p><b>Outstanding Questions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the proposed definition prevent municipalities from including capital costs in ICFs for facilities that are used for third-party services?</li> <li>Does the proposed definition prevent ICF cost-sharing of other types of services that benefit the region when delivered by a separate corporation under an enactment (e.g. seniors housing)?</li> </ol>
<b>Capital Costs for a New Facility</b> Capital costs for a new facility can only be included in an ICF if all municipalities have participated in the design and decision to construct the facility. This requires a prior agreement detailing the nature of participation by each municipality. (section 708.29(1.7))	<p><b>Member feedback required</b></p> <p>Infrastructure and capital costs are an essential pre-requisite for providing services and we support that the MGA will clarify that ICFs include capital costs. It is reasonable to expect that municipalities should discuss and agree about the vision for a new facility and each municipality’s cost-sharing portion prior to construction proceeding. This proposed requirement will encourage municipalities to come to the table to share their respective visions and have frank conversations about the needs of all residents from the region.</p> <p><b>Differing Visions for Capital Needs</b></p> <p>This proposed change doesn’t overcome the potential scenario where two or more councils have different visions about what facilities are needed for the region or different expectations about what financial contribution should be made by each municipality. If the municipalities cannot come to an agreement and a municipality opts to proceed with construction, it could opt to charge different user</p>
This provision only applies to ICFs entered into after Bill 50 comes into force.	



## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

Proposed Change	ABmunis analysis
	<p>fees depending on where a user lives as long as this practice isn't restricted under their ICF. We acknowledge that this option is much more challenging to implement and may limit access to those that would benefit from the service. As user fees rarely offset new facilities, it is more likely that facilities that do not have the support of all councils will not be constructed, to the detriment of the broader region.</p> <p><b>Control Over Design</b> ABmunis also foresees potential conflicts where one municipality has a small minority stake in the costs of a new capital project but expects equal control over the design of the facility. ABmunis had recommended that if one municipality is only responsible for a small percentage of the project costs, the MGA could prescribe a threshold for when a municipality does not have design authority but maintains the right to be consulted.</p> <p><b>Definition of a New Facility</b> Bill 50 does not include a definition of what qualifies as a "new facility", which may be a source of confusion, but the Minister will gain authority to make regulations related to the treatment of capital costs under ICFs which could bring further clarity for municipalities.</p> <p><b>Outstanding Questions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If municipalities cannot reach agreement on the capital costs for a new facility that is a mandatory service, do the legislative requirements for arbitration apply or can one municipality decline to cost-share a new facility without an independent review?</li> <li>2. Will the planned regulations provide guidance, such as thresholds, on what level of control a municipality has over the design phase when they have a small minority interest in the cost of the capital build?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Regulations Related to Capital Costs</b> Adds a provision that the Minister may make regulations relating to the treatment of capital costs in ICFs. (section 708.29(1.91))</p>	<p><b>Support in principle</b> We expect that municipalities may need further guidance on the treatment of capital costs in ICFs so it is positive that the Minister will have the ability to create regulations as needed.</p>
<p><b>Cost Calculation Model</b> Municipalities may establish a cost calculation model within their ICF. (section 708.29(1.4))</p>	<p><b>Support</b> ABmunis is supportive of this enabling feature for transparency purposes. ABmunis has advocated for the development of potential models and tools to support municipalities with determining a fair cost-sharing model.</p>
<p><b>Sharing of Data</b></p>	<p><b>Support</b> In the spirit of collaboration, it is reasonable to expect that municipalities are transparent in sharing all information and assumptions when proposing cost sharing models. This is critical to building trust.</p>

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Proposed Change	ABmunis analysis
Municipalities must disclose all information, data, or assumptions used for its proposal for cost calculation. (section 708.29(1.5))	<p>That said, ABmunis understands that each municipality has different capacity and functionality in data collection and financial tracking systems and that the expectations of municipalities may differ when it comes to the quantity and/or quality of available data.</p> <p>To support effective intermunicipal collaboration, municipalities may want to consider shared systems (e.g. financial, IT, asset management) for cost efficiency and collaboration on data management for ICFs. Having apple-to-apple comparisons of data can mean the difference between getting to an agreement or stalling out. As the province is requiring more data driven decision making for ICFs, it is our hope that there will be additional support and funding for the practice of asset management made available to municipalities so they are able to collect and manage data related to their infrastructure with a standardized approach.</p>
<p><b>Definition of “Act In Good Faith”</b> Add a definition of “act in good faith” as it relates to ICFs meaning to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) act honestly, respectfully and reasonably,</li> <li>(b) communicate appropriately,</li> <li>(c) share necessary information,</li> <li>(d) meet through authorized representatives, and</li> <li>(e) be willing and prepared to discuss all issues and explain all rationale.</li> </ul> <p>(section 708.33(0.1))</p>	<p><b>Support</b> ABmunis supports this addition to the MGA and municipalities may find value adding these principles to any intermunicipal agreement or using it as a framework to support effective discussions.</p>
<p><b>Exceptions for Municipal Districts and Counties</b> Municipal districts and counties that share a common boundary may opt out of an ICF by mutual agreement. (section 708.28(1.1))</p>	<p><b>Support</b> Currently, every municipality including municipal districts must create an ICF if they share a common boundary. The proposed changes will allow municipal districts that share a boundary to opt out of an ICF if they follow these requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The municipal districts must review the existing agreements between them prior to agreeing that an ICF is not required.</li> <li>• Both municipalities must send the council resolution to the Minister.</li> <li>• Both municipalities must publish the reasons for not having an ICF on their website.</li> <li>• A municipal district may revoke its decision at any time and must enter into an ICF with the other municipal district within one year.</li> </ul>

## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

### Arbitration of Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
<b>Services Out of Scope of Arbitration</b> Services that are not in the mandatory list of ICF services will not be subject to arbitration. (section 708.34 and 708.35(1))	<p><b>Opposed</b></p> <p>ABmunis is opposed to the proposed restriction that arbitrators must limit their scope only to mandatory ICF services as there may be situations where municipalities would benefit from arbitration on other services. For example, municipalities may have historically collaborated on the provision of a service not considered mandatory and now find themselves in a dispute with regards to that service.</p> <p>For many municipalities, there will be municipal services that are not in the mandatory list but still benefit residents of two or more municipalities and therefore, those municipalities should jointly contribute funding (section 708.27(c)).</p> <p><b>Outstanding Questions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ABmunis is seeking clarity from Municipal Affairs on whether municipalities will be able to go to arbitration under the MGA rules in situations when disagreement has arisen after the parties already have had an existing cost-share agreement for a non-mandatory service. For example, if a council changes its willingness to cost-share a non-mandatory service, can they ignore any previous agreement on the cost-sharing of a non-mandatory service without consequence?</li> <li>2. What is the justification that arbitration under the MGA provisions will not be available to municipalities to resolve disputes on non-mandatory services that clearly benefit residents from both municipalities?</li> <li>3. If the absence of legislative parameters to deal with these types of situations, should municipalities take action to have their own arbitration process outlined in their ICF for non-mandatory services?</li> </ol>
<b>Responsibility and Timeline for an Arbitrated ICF</b> If an arbitrator makes an award, the arbitrator must prepare the ICF within 30 days and the municipalities are bound by the award and have 60 days to adopt the ICF. (section 708.4(1))	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>Currently, municipalities are required to develop an ICF that is in accordance with the arbitrator's award. ABmunis supports the proposed change, which removes the burden for the municipalities to develop the ICF and instead place that responsibility on the arbitrator. This removes the potential for further disagreements between the municipalities in forming an ICF that accurately reflects the arbitrator's award.</p>
<b>Payment of the Arbitrator's Costs</b> If a municipality fails to pay its proportion of the arbitrator's costs, the Minister may order the municipality to pay its proportion. (section 708.41(3))	<p><b>Support</b></p> <p>This issue is currently not addressed in the MGA. ABmunis supports the proposed addition to provide the Minister with authority to force payment by a municipality, which may include suspending council's bylaw-making authority, withholding of money, or requiring other actions as defined in section 708.43.</p>

### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

<p><b>Force Compliance with an Arbitrator's Award</b> Update section 708.43(2) to clarify that the Minister may take necessary action if a municipality does not comply with an arbitrator's award or does not adopt an ICF that reflects the arbitrator's award.</p>	<p><b>Support</b> Currently, the MGA only prescribes the Minister's authority when a municipality has not complied with a framework and so municipalities whose neighbours are non-compliant must resort to applying for an order from the Court of King's Bench. The proposed change adds clarity of the Minister's power when a municipality does not comply with the decision of an arbitrator. We are supportive of the change as it aligns with ABmunis recommendations to Municipal Affairs.</p>
<p><b>Limitations of an Arbitrator</b> An arbitrator may not make an award that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• negates a matter that the municipalities have agreed to, unless that matter is beyond the municipalities' jurisdiction. (section 708.36(7)(d.1))</li> <li>• addresses a matter not previously discussed by the municipalities. (section 708.36(7)(d.2))</li> </ul>	<p><b>Further review required</b> ABmunis is supportive that arbitrators will not be able to undo a matter that has already been agreed to by the municipalities. This will provide comfort to municipalities of what is in scope when going into arbitration.</p> <p>ABmunis understands the intent of preventing an arbitrator from addressing a matter not previously discussed by the municipalities as it will encourage municipalities to take the time to work out all issues before going to arbitration. However, ABmunis is concerned about how this provision could be weaponized during an arbitration. Whether a matter was previously discussed before arbitration is highly subjective. There is no guidance on what level of discussion is required on a matter prior to arbitration and there is a risk of information loss leading up to arbitration due to turnover of municipal staff or council and how it could be argued that specific matters were not previously discussed between the current representatives of the municipality.</p>

## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

### Councillor Code of Conduct and Council Meeting Procedures

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
<p><b>Elimination of Code of Conduct Bylaws and Resolutions Related to Behaviours</b></p> <p>Any municipal bylaw or portion of a bylaw or previous resolution that provides for a code of conduct or addresses the behaviour or conduct of a councillor(s) or members of council committees who are not elected officials are repealed. (section 145(10))</p>	<p><b>Concerned and further details are required</b></p> <p>ABmunis did not advocate for the elimination of code of conduct bylaws. We recognize there have been challenges with the implementation of codes, but in most cases, municipalities have used them appropriately. Both ABmunis and RMA had advocated for enhancements to the codes and that municipalities be supported by an independent integrity commissioner to investigate code of conduct complaints, which would prevent weaponization and support procedural fairness.</p> <p>The removal of codes of conduct for councils undercuts the autonomy of municipal governments to manage internal challenges with damaging behaviour by elected officials. ABmunis is concerned about the transition period after the repeal of codes of conduct bylaws where municipalities will have no mechanism to encourage accountability of council members in their behaviour towards other members of council, municipal staff, or the public, particularly outside of council meetings.</p> <p>We understand the province is committing to replacing code of conduct bylaws with a provincial standard for council meeting procedures and the possible creation of a municipal ethics commissioner. However, we foresee a few challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience has shown that when a councillor is unruly towards staff or other council members, it often takes place outside of council meetings, which we understand won't be captured by a new provincial standard for council meeting procedures.</li> <li>• The timeline for creation of a municipal ethics commissioner could be several years away, and in the meantime, councils will have no mechanism to hold councillors or unelected committee members accountable for damaging behaviour.</li> </ul> <p>The Minister of Municipal Affairs stated during his April 16, 2025, town hall that the government wants to repeal codes of conduct now because all court cases related to codes are now resolved and if a new case were to come before the courts it would prevent the province from proceeding to make changes or engaging on potential changes. The Minister stated that he is committed to creating the municipal ethics commissioner as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Unelected Members of Council Committees</b></p> <p>Council committees often rely on the participation of residents who volunteer to be appointed to committees and local boards. Municipalities often have respectful workplace policies that apply to these council committees to support the safety of municipal staff and all committee members. The proposed amendment appears to force the repeal of these types of policies when they apply to members of council or unelected members of a board or committee that are established by council. ABmunis is concerned that councils will not have a tool to deal with unruly behaviour by unelected committee members as per the proposed amendment.</p>

### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
	<p><b>Outstanding Questions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does the province plan to support municipalities during this transition if there is serious misconduct by a councillor or an unelected member of a council committee?</li> <li>2. Despite the proposed addition of section 145(9) that prevents a council from making a bylaw or resolution that addresses the behaviour of a councillor, is there an opportunity to remove council from the decision process and allow the municipality to hire an independent investigator?</li> </ol> <p>Overall, we are hearing from ABmunis members that there could be a wide range of unintended consequences with the full repeal of bylaws related to codes of conduct and any prior resolutions that relate to the behaviour or conduct of individuals.</p> <p>As part of our Fostering a Culture of Respect initiative, ABmunis intends to create new tools to support councils to build constructive relationships and proactively address issues before it turns into a larger problem.</p>
<p><b>Termination of Current Complaints or Sanctions</b> Any existing complaint or imposed sanctions related to a code of conduct bylaw are terminated.</p>	<p><b>Further details are required</b></p> <p>Although code of conduct bylaws are proposed to be repealed, this does not mean that current complaints that are under investigation do not have merit or that sanctions that were properly imposed by councils for past transgressions be universally set aside. This may create an environment where a councillor who was previously sanctioned believes that there was no harm in their past behaviour and may feel comfortable repeating it.</p> <p>Councils should be able to document damaging behaviours by council to ensure the safety of both elected officials and municipal staff.</p>
<p><b>Behaviour of Councillors or Committee Members</b> A council may not make a bylaw or a resolution that addresses the behaviour of a councillor(s) or members of council committees. (section 145(9))</p>	<p><b>Further details are required</b></p> <p>By removing the process in which councils are able to deal with inappropriate behaviours made by council members, and enforceable sanctions, there will be a lack of accountability both inside and outside of council chambers. ABmunis recognizes that there are concerns with how sanctions have been used, but taking away the option for municipalities to use codes of conduct is an affront to municipal autonomy and removes any mechanism for council to handle complex, repetitive, and damaging behaviours and leaves room for additional conflict and strain on municipal staff.</p> <p>Municipal Affairs has alluded to the fact that Alberta's occupational health and safety (OHS) legislation will be able to deal with instances of harassment, however there are currently gaps in this legislation which do not allow for councillors to be covered under the legislation as they are not employees of the municipality. ABmunis had recommended that code of conduct provisions be amended to specifically address OHS violations but now that is no longer possible with the</p>



### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
	<p>elimination of codes of conduct. In recent months, ABmunis has raised concerns with the gaps in OHS legislation regarding councillor actions but the province has not yet taken action to address these gaps.</p> <p><b>Protection of the Well-Being of CAOs and Municipal Staff</b>  As an employer, the municipality has a duty under occupational health and safety legislation to protect the physical and mental well-being of all employees including the CAO. If a councillor harasses an employee, ABmunis is concerned that the municipality will not have any tools at its disposal.</p> <p>ABmunis is committed to developing a toolkit for councils to self-assess their conduct and performance. As well, ABmunis will be hosting training for mayors and councillors to develop skills related to how to run meetings and developing leadership skills. We hope to collaborate with Municipal Affairs and other stakeholders as appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Meeting Standards</b>  Add provisions for the Minister to set standard meeting procedures for council meetings and council committee meetings. (section 145)</p>	<p><b>Further details are required</b>  Councils will still have the ability to have a procedural bylaw so long as the provisions in the procedural bylaw do not conflict with the standard meeting procedures that are set out by the Minister. Our understanding is that Municipal Affairs plans to engage municipalities on the creation of the meeting standards this spring. It is not clear when the meeting standards will be ready but once the Minister has made a Ministerial Order on this matter, municipalities will have six months to update their bylaws to align with the meeting procedures. (section 145(11))</p> <p>A Ministerial Order on meeting procedures related to section 145 will not apply to a board.</p>

## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

### Creation of a Municipal Ethics Commissioner

While not addressed in Bill 50, the Minister of Municipal Affairs has indicated that the ministry will engage municipalities in 2025 on the potential creation of a municipal ethics commissioner. Both ABmunis and RMA have long-called for the province to create an independent office to advise and investigate council code of conduct complaints including a [resolution passed by ABmunis members in 2024](#).

Depending on the scope of authority that the municipal ethics commissioner has, this may meet the expectations of municipalities. However, initial statements by the Minister of Municipal Affairs at his April 16, 2025, town hall suggest the province's initial vision for a municipal ethics commissioner may not include authority over activities that take place outside of council chambers. This would be highly concerning based on past experiences where councillors have bullied or inappropriately directed municipal staff or displayed unruly behaviour towards other members of council outside of council meetings resulting in an unsafe environment for staff and council members.

ABmunis understands that the creation of a municipal ethics commissioner will require new legislation in 2026, meaning the ethics commissioner may not be in operation for at least a year. This is problematic unless the province is willing to delay the removal of codes of conduct until the officer of the ethics commissioner is operational.

Municipalities may also reserve concerns about how the municipal ethics commissioner will be funded, particularly if municipalities are required to cost-share the expense.

At this time, ABmunis is supportive of the overall intent to have a municipal ethics commissioner, but more details are needed and ABmunis looks forward to being engaged on how the commissioner's office is structured.

### Accountability of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
<b>Number of CAOs</b> A municipality may only appoint one CAO. (section 205(2))	<b>Support</b> Currently, councils may appoint one or more persons to carry out the duties of the CAO. ABmunis supports the proposed change of only one appointed CAO for setting clear parameters for the relationship between council and administration through one appointed administrator.
<b>Appointment of a CAO</b> Council decisions to appoint, suspend, or revoke the appointment of a CAO must be by simple majority of the whole council. (section 206(1))	<b>Member Input Required</b> The proposed amendments suggest that some municipalities may have a bylaw that sets a different requirement for what is considered a majority vote for a decision regarding the appointment or termination of a CAO. The proposed amendments will force the repeal of related provisions in a municipal bylaw and set the standard requirement at a simple majority of the whole council.  Section 1(1)(cc) defines that "whole council" means all of the councillors that comprise the council, regardless of whether they are present at the meeting when the vote takes place.



### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
<b>Use of Natural Person Powers</b> Add provision that when the municipality exercises its natural person powers, the CAO must notify council in writing within 72 hours. (section 208(3))	<p><b>Opposed</b></p> <p>Per section 6 of the MGA, municipal governments have the rights, powers, and privileges of a natural person and can exercise powers that are not explicitly set out in legislation. These powers address daily operational matters such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>entering contracts,</li> <li>using a credit card,</li> <li>acquiring property,</li> <li>hiring, disciplining, or terminating staff,</li> <li>legal matters, and</li> <li>the general exercising of management rights like any other employer.</li> </ul> <p>Adding a provision which requires every use of natural person powers to be reported to council will add a significant burden to municipal administrations. This provision also blurs the lines of council's role as a governing body versus administration's role in the management of operations. ABmunis and many municipalities have raised this concern with Municipal Affairs, and they are exploring a possible amendment to narrow the scope of circumstances when this requirement would apply.</p>
<b>Duty to Provide Information to a Councillor</b> Add provision that a CAO will be responsible for providing information as soon as practicable when requested by a councillor (when the request is specific to the operation or administration of the municipality). (section 208.1(1))	<p><b>Support in principle</b></p> <p>Section 153(d) states that councillors have the duty "to obtain information about the operation or administration of the municipality from the chief administrative officer or a person designated by the chief administrative officer" but there is no current provision that indicates when the CAO must provide the information to the councillor. The proposed addition of section 208.1(1) will make it clear that the CAO must respond "as soon as is practicable." This still enables the CAO to have sufficient time to research the issue without unreasonable time parameters, but it is possible that the interpretation of what is considered "practicable" may result in potential conflicts between the CAO and councillors.</p> <p><b>Onerous Requests for Information</b></p> <p>Some municipalities have experienced challenges when an individual councillor feels entitled to continually request information based on personal interests to the point that it ties up significant time and costs for staff to research and respond to each request. Some municipalities have addressed this by implementing procedures so that an individual councillor does not have the authority to consume municipal resources for items that are outside of the authority prescribed by council.</p> <p><b>Outstanding Question</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the combination of section 153(d) and proposed section 208.1(1) create a potential environment where a councillor could be a strain on the municipality's administrative resources through frequent and frivolous requests for information and council have no power to curtail the</li> </ol>

### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
	<p>behaviour? Or do councils have the authority to pass a procedure that provides parameters for information requests by individual councillors while still remaining compliant with the MGA?</p> <p>NOTE: The proposed requirement to provide information to council within 72 hours does not apply to the original request for information. Only once the CAO has completed the original request for information, then the CAO will have 72 hours to share that same information with the rest of council.</p>
<p><b>Refusal to Share Information with Council</b> The CAO may decline to provide information in specific circumstances (e.g. personal information) but the CAO must provide the reason for the refusal to all councillors. (section 208.1(4))</p>	<p><b>Support in principle</b> For transparency purposes, it is reasonable for the CAO to be required to explain why specific information cannot be shared with council. We still foresee situations where there will be disagreement on when there is justification to withhold information from council for privacy or legal matters.</p>
<p><b>Sharing Information with all of Council</b> When the CAO, or designate, provides information about the operation or administration of the municipality to one councillor, the information must be shared with all other councillors within 72 hours. (section 208.1(3))</p>	<p><b>Concerns</b> Currently, section 153.1 states that when a CAO provides information to a councillor about the administration or operation of the municipality (section 153(d)), then the CAO must provide the information to the rest of council "as soon as is practicable". Bill 50 proposes to repeal section 153.1 and add section 208.1(3) that changes the timeframe that the CAO provide the information to council from "as soon as practicable" to "within 72 hours".</p> <p>The reality is its common for the CAO to have more regular contact with the mayor/reeve and it may be challenging for the CAO to communicate every detail that is shared with one councillor with all of council within 72 hours. Often times, the information is a low priority and there is efficiency in sharing low priority information through a briefing or CAO report in the next council agenda instead of being forced to share all details within 72 hours.</p> <p>ABmunis is also concerned that 72 hours may not be an adequate period to share information with all of council after it has been provided to one councillor. This is particularly relevant in small municipalities where the CAO works part-time and is only in the office two or three days a week. Or there are municipalities where the CAO works full-time but there are no other staff to designate this responsibility to when the CAO is ill, takes vacation, or is tied up with higher priority business.</p> <p>A timeline of 72 hours can also be problematic where information has been shared with a councillor late on a Friday, which means the CAO or designated staff would have less than one business day to provide the information to council. Some members have questioned how the proposed rule would apply when the deadline lands on a weekend or holiday and in that case, then section 22 of the <i>Interpretation Act</i> should apply to give administration until the next business day to complete the requirement, but few municipal leaders may be aware of that legislation.</p>

### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
	<p>Setting a 72-hour timeframe adds red tape for administration and in some cases, may be an annoyance for council members who prefer to receive information through regular agenda packages instead of ongoing emails or texts that are necessary to meet the 72-hour timeline.</p> <p><b>Recommendation Regarding the Timeline</b> Each council will have a different expectation for when and how information should be shared by their CAO depending on their local environment. ABmunis recommends that the proposed addition of section 208.1(3) be amended to change the timeline from "within 72 hours" to require that municipalities pass a bylaw that prescribes the timelines in which their CAO, or designate, must share information with council after the information has been provided to a councillor under section 153(d).</p> <p><b>The Realities of Section 208.1(3)</b> Regardless of the timelines that are set, the review of this section highlights the overall challenges with expecting the CAO to provide information to the rest of council based on one councillor's request for information. The provision impedes on a CAO's expertise and judgement to determine when information provided to one councillor must be shared with the remaining members of council depending on the importance and relevance of the information. It may be that a councillor is seeking information that is specific only to their ward, or the information being requested by one councillor is already known to be understood by the rest of council.</p>

We note the general focus of giving council higher expectations to receive information about the operation or administration of the municipality may create an environment that draws council into the weeds of focusing on administration rather than on council's role in governing. This has the potential to create greater conflict between the roles of council and administration and could potentially make CAOs more vulnerable to abuse or termination.

Some members have questioned why Bill 50 doesn't define the consequences if a CAO is not compliant with the requirements for information sharing. Councils may consider addressing those concerns through their regular performance management process.

## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

### Authority of Official Administrators

The Minister of Municipal Affairs may appoint an individual to serve as an [official administrator](#) of a municipality in extraordinary circumstances wherein the official administrator has the power to act as council. The most common situations are when:

- Members of council have been dismissed or resigned resulting in the loss of quorum of council.
- A municipality is restructuring through amalgamation or dissolution.
- An official administrator is appointed to supervise a municipality and its council where there are concerns about the governance of the municipality. In these circumstances, councils still make all decisions, and the official administrator is responsible to review.

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
<b>Notification of Meetings</b> An Official Administrator must be notified of any council meeting and may be present for any meeting of council that is closed to the public except in cases of legal privilege. (section 575(2)(c)(i)) and 575(2)(c)(ii))	<b>Support</b> The proposed change is in alignment with the role of an Official Administrator to ensure they are able to perform their duties effectively with full knowledge of all decisions being made by a council that is under supervision by an Official Administrator.
<b>Request for Information</b> Provide authority for the Official Administrator to direct the municipality to provide a copy of any records, except records that are subject to legal privilege. (section 575(2)(c)(iii))	<b>Support</b> The proposed change is in alignment with the role of an Official Administrator and allows them to perform their duties effectively.
<b>Approval</b> An Official Administrator must sign or authorize agreements, cheques, and other negotiable instruments of the municipality in addition to the person authorizing. (section 575(2)(c)(iv))	<b>More details required</b> The proposed change is in alignment with the role of an Official Administrator to ensure they are able to perform their duties effectively with full knowledge and final authorization on all municipal business. ABmunis notes that the Official Administrator rarely resides in or near the municipality that it is temporarily serving so this new rule may create delays if a physical signature is required.

## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

### Defining “Public Interest” and “Policy of Government”

In Spring 2024, the Government of Alberta passed Bill 20, the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act*, which amended the MGA to provide power to the Lieutenant Governor (via provincial Cabinet) to:

- order the CAO to conduct a vote of the electors to determine if a councillor should be removed from council. One of the possible criteria to make that order is based on the determination that a vote of the electors is in the “public interest” (section 179.1(2)).
- order a municipality to amend or repeal a bylaw if the Lieutenant Governor is in the opinion that the bylaw is contrary to a “policy of the Government” (section 603.01(e)).

Since the passing of Bill 20, ABmunis has noted the terms “public interest” and “policy of the government” need to be defined to provide clarity for the public and all stakeholders.

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
<b>Public Interest</b> Add authority for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations that define the term “public interest”. (section 179.2)	<b>Concerns remain</b> ABmunis still reserves concerns with the passing of Bill 20, the <i>Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act</i> , 2024, that provincial Cabinet may order the CAO to conduct a vote of the electorate to remove a councillor from office without requirement of an independent investigation into the matter so that all facts are available to residents before the recall vote.  ABmunis understands that the province does not plan to create a regulation to define “public interest” in the near future. Therefore, if Cabinet orders a CAO to conduct a vote of electors on the removal of a councillor on the basis of “public interest”, it will likely raise a legal challenge until the term is defined.
<b>Policy of the Government</b> Add authority for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make a regulation that defines the term “policy of the government.” (section 603.02)	<b>Concerns remain and more details required</b> Municipal Affairs has communicated that the Minister intends to create a regulation this year that defines “policy of the government” to mean publicly available legislative instruments such as acts, regulations, Orders in Council, and Ministerial Orders that have been formally approved by the Premier, a Minister, or Cabinet. This aligns with the recommendations made by ABmunis in 2024, but ABmunis will wait to review the actual regulation when it comes forward.  ABmunis still reserves concerns with the passing of Bill 20, the <i>Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act</i> , 2024, where section 603.01 was added to provide the province authority to amend or appeal or municipal bylaw. This impedes on municipal autonomy and the independent vision of council to best serve their community.

## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

# Changes to the Local Authorities Election Act

The proposed changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act* will come into force upon Royal Assent.

## Election Voting, Recounts, and Withdrawal by Candidates

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
<b>Candidate Withdrawal</b> A candidate may withdraw their name during the nomination period or within 24 hours after the close of nominations, regardless of whether there is a sufficient number of nominations for council. (section 32)	<b>Support in principle but further details are required</b> Currently, a candidate may only withdraw their nomination after the nomination period if there is more than the required number of nominations for the particular office. ABmunis supports the proposed change recognizing that a candidate's personal circumstances or commitment may change.
	<b>Outstanding Questions</b> 1. If there were sufficient nominations received on nomination day and the returning officer has closed nominations and then a candidate withdraws their nomination within the next 24 hours, what process is the returning officer to follow? Is the returning officer enabled to reopen nominations for 6-days as per section 31(1)? Is a further amendment required to clarify the process to be followed as it relates to the proposed amendment to section 32?
<b>Displaced Residents of Jasper</b> Add provisions to allow residents of Jasper who remain temporarily displaced to vote and run in the upcoming local election, provided they intend to return to the community. (section 48.1 and 53.03)	<b>Support</b> These proposed provisions are necessary to support residents of the Municipality of Jasper who are temporarily displaced from their home community due to the 2024 wildfire. The new provisions require a candidate or elector to sign a written statement that confirms they were a resident prior to July 22, 2024, and that they intend to resume residence in Jasper as soon as reasonably practicable. A person who wishes to vote in the Jasper election will need to produce a government issued ID that contains their photograph. ABmunis is reaching out to Jasper to confirm that the rules adequately meet the needs of their displaced residents.
<b>Permanent Electors Register</b> Add and amend provisions for how a permanent elector register may be used. (section 49(7.1) and 49(8))	<b>Support</b> The proposed amendments make it clear that a permanent electors register may only be used by the returning officer and only for the purposes in performing requirements under the LAEA.
<b>Voter Assistance Terminals</b> Allow municipalities to use elector assistance terminals so voters with visual or physical impairment can mark their election ballot independently. (section 78.1 and 84.1)	<b>Support</b> In 2024, the province made legislative changes to prohibit municipalities from using electronic tabulators, voting machines or similar equipment for local elections. This change clarifies that elector assistance terminals may be used as long as it creates a paper ballot which can then be counted by hand with all other ballots. Elector assistance terminals do not count ballots and must not be connected to the internet or other network.



### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
	<p>Municipalities who wish to offer an elector assistance terminal in the 2025 election will need to pass a bylaw by June 30, 2025.</p> <p>While ABmunis would prefer that municipalities still have the <a href="#">option to use electronic vote counting systems</a>, we support this change to ensure all Albertans can participate in the local election process.</p>
<b>Recount Process</b> Split up the provisions of the current recount processes into separate sections. (section 98)	<b>Support in Principle</b> The proposed change is intended to allow different requirements and timelines to be more easily understood.
<b>School Board Use of Electors Register</b> Provide authority for a school board to request a permanent electors register from the relevant municipality. (section 49.1)	<b>Support</b> Some school boards run their own election for school trustees, so the proposed change supports those school boards to have adequate tools for managing their election.

### Campaign Finances (the amendments are only applicable to Calgary and Edmonton)

ABmunis will seek clarity from Municipal Affairs to ensure that the Election Commissioner is engaged in the proposed changes as the Election Commissioner will be accountable for enforcement. The proposed changes are also being brought forward during the current election period so ABmunis will request that Municipal Affairs immediately update their information guides for candidates to reflect these changes if Bill 50 passes.

In addition to the following amendments under Bill 50, the Government of Alberta plans to amend the Local Political Parties and Slates Regulation in spring 2025. The amendments to the Local Political Parties and Slates Regulation are expected to deal with financial reporting requirements for local political parties and fines for those who exceed campaign expense limits.

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
<b>Definition of Campaign Expense</b> Update the definition of "campaign expense" to include references to a local political party or slate. (section 147.1(1)(a))	<b>Member feedback required</b> The current LAEA definitions do not reference local political parties or slates. The proposed change helps ensure that funds expended or contributions received by local political parties and slates to support or oppose other local political parties or candidates are fully captured in financial disclosures.
<b>Definition of Contribution</b> Update the definition of "contribution" to include references to a local political party. (section 147.1(1)(c))	
<b>Advising of Prospective Contributors</b>	<b>Member feedback required</b>

### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
Clarify that local political parties are required to advise prospective contributors of the rules relating to contributions. (section 147.13(2))	Currently the LAEA only requires candidates to advise prospective contributors about the rules relating to contributions to their campaign. The proposed change makes it clear that the same rule also applies to local political parties.
<b>Transfers Between Local Political Parties and Candidates</b> Add provisions for transfers between local political parties and their endorsed candidates. (section 147.25)	<p><b>Concerns remain</b></p> <p>The proposed change enables a local political party and their endorsed candidate to transfer or accept from each other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money or real property</li> <li>• Debt incurred during a campaign period</li> <li>• Goods or services</li> </ul> <p>The above-mentioned transfers are not considered a contribution or campaign expense but must be recorded and must be accounted for in annual disclosure statements.</p> <p>During the April 16 town hall, the Minister of Municipal Affairs stated that this change is to create alignment with how transfers are treated under provincial and federal rules involving political parties.</p> <p>As outlined in <a href="#">previous communications</a>, ABmunis remains concerned that the implementation of local political parties and the rules regarding the operation of local political parties provides a significant financial advantage to candidates who run under a political party versus independent candidates. This proposed amendment appears to further broaden that disadvantage.</p>



## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

# Changes to the New Home Buyer Protection Act

The initial legislation, passed in 2014, made home warranty coverage mandatory for new homes in Alberta. The Act applies to single-family homes, multi-family homes, duplexes, condominiums, manufactured homes and recreational properties where permits were pulled starting February 1, 2014. All new homes must have a minimum warranty coverage of one year on labour and materials, two years on delivery and distribution systems, five years for the building envelope, and ten years for major structural components. The proposed changes in Bill 50 are focused on owner-builders and would come into force on proclamation by Cabinet. Engagement is anticipated later in 2025 on builder competencies and claims dispute resolution.

Overall, ABmunis supports the proposed changes but it is not yet clear if the amendments will adequately address the challenges with new home buyer warranties so ABmunis will continue to monitor the issue.

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
<b>Digital Confirmation in Place of Notarized Statutory Declarations</b> Allows for the requirement for a statutory declaration to be replaced with a simple confirmation for owner-builders by regulation. (section 5(1))	<b>Support in principle</b> but <b>further review is required</b> Simplified digital confirmation in place of notarized statutory declarations for owner-builders will expedite approvals and construction. This change will not be implemented until the New Home Protection (General) Regulation is updated, which we expect to happen later this year.
<b>Selling a New Home without Warranty Coverage</b> Allows owners who have been granted an exemption to sell a home without warranty coverage provided they provide the prospective owner with a disclosure notice, in a form satisfactory to the Registrar. (section 3.01(1))	<b>Support in principle</b> but <b>further review is required</b> This will provide more flexibility to owner-builders while ensuring potential buyers are required to be made aware that the property has an exemption.
<b>Exemptions From Warranty Coverage Due to Hardship</b> Adds financial hardship as one of the grounds for receiving an exemption from warranty coverage. (section 3.01(2))	<b>Support in principle</b> but <b>further review is required</b> Currently, a person may be granted an exemption to obtain warranty coverage if the Registrar deems that the person would suffer undue hardship if the exemption were not granted. The proposed amendment adds financial hardship as an additional ground to qualify for an exemption. This provides greater flexibility in warranty exemptions and will ease the financial burden on owner-builders. While this is a step in the right direction, it does not solve all of the financial obstacles that owner-builders face such as high insurance costs.
<b>Caveat Against Certificate</b> Adds responsibility for the Registrar to register a caveat against the certificate of title to the land on which the new home is the subject of the warranty exemption. (section 3.01(4))	<b>Support in principle</b> but <b>further review is required</b> For consumer protection, the Registrar will register a caveat on a home built by an owner-builder without a warranty in place as soon as practicable. A process for discharge of the caveat is also added.

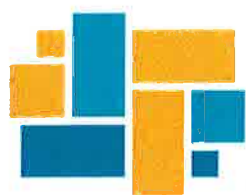
### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Status Amendment Act, 2025

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
<b>Appeals</b> Provides a mechanism to allow a person to appeal a Registrar decision related to definition, exemptions, and rental use designations. (section 17(1)(d))	<b>Support</b> This will expand the appeal process for homebuyer-related decisions through the Land and Property Rights Tribunal, ensuring homebuyers can challenge Registrar decisions related to exemptions, definitions, and rental-use designations.

## Changes to the Safety Codes Act

The proposed amendments to the *Safety Codes Act* are related to the amendments to the *New Home Buyer Protection Act* and will come into force upon proclamation by Cabinet.

Proposed Change	ABmunis Analysis
<b>Safety Codes Council Advice</b> Establishes areas the Minister may seek advice from the council on. (section 8.01(2))	<b>Support</b> The section clarifies that the Minister may request advice and recommendations from the council on any matter to which this Act applies, including the building or construction of a new home, the requirements applicable to a home warranty insurance contract and the licensing requirements applicable to a residential builder.
<b>Persons Appointed to the Safety Codes Council</b> Adds a provision that persons appointed to the Safety Codes Council include persons who are experts in or have experience with new home warranty coverage under the <i>New Home Buyer Protection Act</i> . (section 16(4))	<b>Support</b> The council is currently comprised of experts in fire protection, buildings, barrier-free building design, electrical systems, elevating devices, gas systems, plumbing systems, private sewage disposal systems or pressure equipment.  The type of expertise is being expanded to include additional appointees who are representatives of builders, warranty providers, insurers and specifically persons who are experts in or have experience with new home warranty coverage under the <i>New Home Buyer Protection Act</i> .  Transparent criteria for appointees and ensuring a broader range of expertise is available should produce better advice to support regulatory decisions made by the Government.
<b>Duties of the Safety Codes Council</b> Adds a provision that requires the Council to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister regarding <i>New Home Buyer Protection Act</i> if requested. (section 18(d.01))	<b>Support</b> Adding this responsibility to the Safety Codes Council's mandate appears reasonable given the changes to Section 16(4) to expand the expertise of the Safety Codes Council, to include representatives with experience with new home warranty coverage under the <i>New Home Buyer Protection Act</i> .



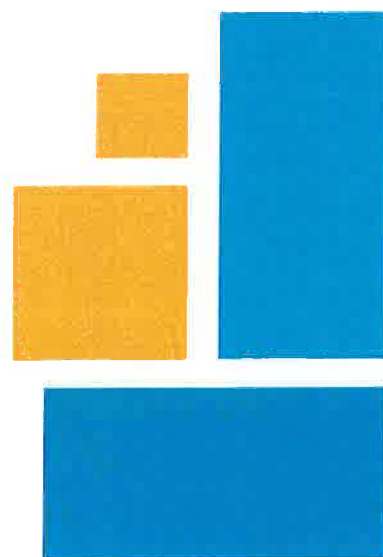
# Alberta Municipalities

## Strength In Members

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# Preliminary Analysis of Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025



 **Alberta  
Municipalities**  
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In Members

**May 1, 2025**

This report is considered a draft version being shared for information and input by our members. It does not represent Alberta Municipalities' official position as it has not been reviewed or approved by ABmunis' Board of Directors. Input may be sent to [advocacy@abmunis.ca](mailto:advocacy@abmunis.ca).

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## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

### Background

Bill 54, the Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, was released by the Government of Alberta on April 29, 2025. Bill 54 proposes amendments to several pieces of legislation, including the *Local Authorities Election Act*, *Recall Act*, *Election Act*, *Alberta Senate Election Act*, *Referendum Act*, *Citizen Initiative Act*, and the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*. While many of these changes may not directly affect municipalities, ABmunis has identified and highlighted those that could. ABmunis is particularly concerned that some of the proposed amendments may result in predetermined outcomes regarding municipal engagement in recall processes and local elections.

### Proposed Changes with Direct Impacts to Municipalities

Act	Current Status	Proposed Change	ABmunis analysis
<b>Local Authorities Election Act</b> (Municipal)	The <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i> (LAEA) requires all candidates in all municipalities to report their campaign finances by March 1 following each year that they receive contributions.  This applies to independent candidates across Alberta as well as candidates affiliated with local political parties in Calgary and Edmonton. A third-party advertiser who advertises messages that promote or oppose the election of a candidate or an issue on a ballot must file a campaign disclosure statement on March 1 after the general election.	Require all local municipal and school board candidates across Alberta and third-party advertisers to report their campaign finances by September 30 of the election year, in advance of elections that are regularly held in October.	This proposed change aligns with the Government of Alberta's commitment in April 2025 to amend the <i>Local Political Parties and Slates Regulation</i> to apply the same timelines to political parties and third-party advertisers.  The proposed changes align with ABmunis' previous recommendations on reporting finances to increase transparency in campaigning and elections.
<b>Election Act</b> (applicable to provincial elections)	Municipalities can enact bylaws related to provincial election signs and advertisements.	Allow the Minister to regulate provincial election signs and advertisements and prohibit municipalities from making further regulations on election signs and advertisements.	A singular piece of legislation makes it easier for those campaigning to understand advertising rules during a provincial election, regardless of the community.
<b>Election Act</b> (applicable to provincial elections)	There are no rules requiring municipal councillors and school board trustees to take an unpaid leave of absence when running in a provincial election.	Require municipal councillors and school board trustees to take an unpaid leave of absence when running for provincial office.	This change aligns with most employers' practices on taking a leave of absence while campaigning.



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Act	Current Status	Proposed Change	ABmunis analysis
<b>Alberta Senate Election Act</b> (Provincial)	The Alberta Senate Election Act is not aligned with the Local Authorities Election Act relating to the permanent electors register.	Apply a change from the Local Authorities Election Act relating to the permanent electors register.	While alignment makes sense, ABmunis is concerned that this is further indication that local elections will be combined with other election types, as happened with senate elections in 2021.  ABmunis will continue to advocate for keeping 'local elections local.'
<b>Alberta Senate Election Act</b> (Provincial)	There are currently no provisions related to emergency powers.	Extend emergency powers to Senate elections, allowing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chief Electoral Officer to adjourn voting due to emergencies (e.g., disasters or safety risks).</li> <li>• The Minister of Municipal Affairs to take actions such as extending or adjourning voting during emergencies.</li> <li>• The Lieutenant Governor in Council to discontinue and reschedule Senate election voting if emergencies significantly impact voting or public safety.</li> </ul>	ABmunis has provided input into Municipal Affairs' March 2025 engagement on the creation of a regulation for postponement of a local election during emergencies. ABmunis will continue to engage on this issue with Municipal Affairs until a regulation is in place.



### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

## Proposed Changes that Create Consistency with Existing Local Election Rules

The following changes do not necessarily have direct impacts to municipalities but would align the rules from the provincial *Election Act* to the current rules in the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

Act	Current Status	Proposed Change	ABmunis analysis
<b>Election Act</b> (applicable to provincial elections)	Chief Electoral Officers can make directives for advance voting to allow the use of electronic tabulators	Electronic voting tabulators are banned.	This change would align the <i>Election Act</i> with the LAEA. ABmunis is concerned to see this proposed change to the <i>Election Act</i> as it reduces the chances that the province will respond to ABmunis <a href="#">resolution</a> and advocacy to reverse its decision to ban tabulators in local elections.
<b>Election Act</b> (applicable to provincial elections)	When voting, Albertans can present ID or have another voter vouch for them.	Eliminate all vouching.  Expand types of ID used to prove residence.	This change would align the <i>Election Act</i> with the LAEA.
<b>Election Act</b> (applicable to provincial elections)	Special ballots are only available when a voter is unable to vote on the regular election day.	Expand the use of special ballots by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>allowing voters to use a special ballot without reason.</li> <li>allowing for special ballots to be sent to international destinations, military members and remote areas in advance of the writ for a set election.</li> <li>clarifying that a voter can cast a special ballot by indicating the name of the party leader.</li> </ul> Enhance the integrity of special ballots by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>requiring voters to request a special ballot themselves, except in cases where people need assistance due to disability.</li> </ul>	This change would align the <i>Election Act</i> with the LAEA.

### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

Act	Current Status	Proposed Change	ABmunis analysis
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>requiring the signature on the special ballot to match the signature on the voter's identification.</li> </ul>	

## Proposed Changes that May Influence Future Policy Approaches for Municipalities

The following proposed changes do not directly impact municipalities at this time, however, if the Government of Alberta intends to create consistency in the rules for elections and petitions between the provincial government and municipal governments, then Bill 54 may set a precedent for the direction on policy matters where municipal governments have not had the opportunity to provide input.

Act	Current Status	Proposed Change	ABmunis analysis
<b>Recall Act</b> (only applicable to MLAs)	An applicant may not submit an application for recall until 18 months after an election nor within six months of an upcoming set date general election.	Provide that recall petitions can only begin 12 months after an MLA is elected and may not be issued 12 months before a set date general election.	The proposed change for recall of an MLA aligns with ABmunis recommendations for potential improvements to recall rules for municipal elected officials.
<b>Recall Act</b> (only applicable to MLAs)	<p>Once the chief electoral officer issues a recall petition, there are 60 days to collect signatures.</p> <p>A recall vote is authorized if the recall petition has been signed by at least 40 per cent of the total number of electors on the post-election-day list of electors, for the electoral division named in the recall petition.</p>	<p>Extend the recall petition signature collection timeline to 90 days.</p> <p>Change the threshold for signatures to 60 per cent of the total number of electors who voted in the electoral district in the most recent election.</p>	<p>ABmunis is worried that by making this change to provincial recall legislation it will be used as grounds to change municipal recall rules so they align. Changing the timeline to collect signatures to 90 days from 60 days increases the period of uncertainty for councils and creates an additional burden for administrations to manage public communications during the petition period.</p> <p>ABmunis understands that the Government of Alberta plans to consult municipalities about potential changes to recall rules for municipal elected officials this spring. If the province intends to create consistency in the rules for recall of provincial and municipal officials,</p>

### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

Act	Current Status	Proposed Change	ABmunis analysis
			ABmunis is concerned that Bill 54 sets a precedent for what changes will be made to municipal rules despite no consultation of municipalities occurring yet.
<b>Recall Act</b> (only applicable to MLAs)	A recall application must include a statement of not more than 200 words explaining why the MLA should be recalled. There is currently no process for an MLA to provide a responding statement.	Reduce to 100 the number of words permitted from the applicant on the recall petition form and allow seven days for a responding statement from the elected MLA who is being recalled.	ABmunis is pleased to see that recall of an MLA will still require the petition organizer to provide a written statement on why the MLA should be recalled. This provision is not currently required for recall of a municipal elected official and ABmunis is hopeful that it will be considered when the province reviews the rules for recall of a councillor.
<b>Election Act</b> (applicable to provincial elections)	No timelines for unofficial counts.  Special ballots can be delivered until the end of the voting day.	Require the unofficial vote count to be completed within 12 hours of polls closing.  Require special ballots to be mailed back in time for Elections Alberta to receive them by the Friday before the election and allow special ballots and advance ballots to be counted three hours before polls close.	ABmunis is concerned that this change could later be extended to municipalities, who often face far more time-consuming processes for counting ballots and corresponding capacity issues for municipal and election staff.
<b>Citizen Initiative Act</b> (Provincial)	To be successful, an initiative petition must have signatures from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 per cent of registered voters province-wide for legislative and policy initiatives</li> <li>• 20 per cent of registered voters province-wide and in two-thirds of Alberta's constituencies for constitutional initiatives</li> </ul> The petition applicant is given 90 days to gather the required signature.	Align the three types of citizen initiatives (policy, legislative, and constitutional), by changing the threshold for a successful citizen initiative petition to 10 per cent of the number of eligible voters who voted in the last general election.  The petition applicant is given 120 days to gather the required signatures.	This proposed change would lower the threshold for initiating a provincial referendum, potentially resulting in a higher frequency of province-wide votes.  The possibility for more referenda raises concerns that these could be held in conjunction with local elections resulting in important community matters being overshadowed by provincial issues during a local election, causing confusion for the public. ABmunis will continue to advocate for keeping 'local elections local.'
<b>Referendum Act</b> (Provincial)	The chief electoral officer can conduct referendum votes for First Nations and Metis Settlements when held in	Enable the chief electoral officer to conduct referendum votes for First Nations and Métis Settlements when	ABmunis appreciates that this change is being made to address challenges experienced during the last municipal election.

### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

Act	Current Status	Proposed Change	ABmunis analysis
	<p>conjunction with a provincial election or when they are standalone.</p> <p>When a referendum is held in conjunction with a municipal election, the Minister of Municipal Affairs is responsible for conducting the referendum vote for First Nations. Métis Settlements are directly empowered to conduct the referendum vote.</p>	held in conjunction with a municipal election.	However, as we have stated in other sections of this analysis, we still maintain that local elections should be reserved for local issues.

## Additional Changes Proposed by Bill 54

The following section outlines remaining changes proposed by Bill 54. As they are currently presented, ABmunis does not foresee any impacts to municipalities related to these proposed changes.

### Recall Act

The *Recall Act* **only** applies to the recall of provincial elected officials. The rules for recall of a municipal elected official are prescribed in the *Municipal Government Act*.

Current Status	Proposed Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a recall petition meets the requirements, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) must issue a notice within 7 days.</li> <li>If the petition does not meet the requirements, the CEO must notify the applicant, but no specific deadline is set for this.</li> <li>The CEO must verify whether a recall vote is authorized within 30 days of receiving the petition.</li> <li>After verification, the CEO must report the results as soon as possible, though no fixed deadline is established for this step.</li> </ul>	<p>Require the chief electoral officer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>determine within seven days if the requirements for issuing a recall petition have been met,</li> <li>verify within 21 days whether a recall vote is authorized</li> <li>report the recall petition results within seven days after completing the verification of results.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recall vote must be issued within six months from the date on which the successful petition results are published.</li> </ul>	Reduce the period of time required for a recall vote to be issued to four months from the date on which the successful petition results are published.

## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

### Election Act

The *Election Act* governs the process for provincial government elections and should not be confused with the *Local Authorities Election Act*, which applies to elections of councils and school trustees.

Current Status	Proposed Change
Albertans can vote in person on election day, by special ballot or at advanced polls.  Elections Alberta must place voting locations where it is convenient to voters.	Requires voters to cast ballots in their riding or by special ballot.  Adds additional requirements to the location of voting stations.
Only candidates (or their official representative) can inspect documents or request judicial recounts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow parties to inspect documents.</li> <li>• Clarify that scrutineers may observe all aspects of the electoral process.</li> <li>• Allow parties to begin and participate in judicial recounts and be reimbursed by the Crown for legal expenses related to judicial recounts.</li> </ul>
An official agent for a candidate must be a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older, and a resident of Alberta but there are no other restrictions for official agents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent a single official agent from acting on behalf of more than one independent candidate.</li> </ul>
The Election Act largely prohibits any government department or provincial corporation from publishing information about its programs or activities during an election.	Clarify advertising rules for government during elections, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allow the Premier and ministers to make announcements during emergencies,</li> <li>• allow government advertising during a non-constitutional referendum that does not coincide with a general election,</li> <li>• clarify government and public agency advertising may continue during by-elections if it does not have a direct and disproportionate impact,</li> <li>• clarify that there are no restrictions on advertising or publishing information about programs and activities outside an election period.</li> </ul>
Chief financial officers only for candidates are not eligible to serve as election officers.	All chief financial officers appointed under the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act are not eligible to serve as election officers.

## Preliminary Analysis of Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

### Citizen Initiative Act

Current Status	Proposed Change
<p>There is no timeline for the chief electoral officer to decide if requirements have been met to issue a petition. The chief electoral officer is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide notice 14 days before the proceeding that a proposal for a petition has been forwarded to the court.</li> <li>Issue the initiative petition within 30 days after the Notice of Initiative Petition is posted on the chief electoral officer's website as a heads up to any interested third parties.</li> <li>Verify within 60 days whether an initiative petition has met signature requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>Require the chief electoral officer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>decide within 30 days if requirements have been met to issue a petition and within 60 days if the chief electoral officer refers the matter to the court,</li> <li>provide notice within seven days that a proposal for a petition has been forwarded to the court and that the petition applicant has the right to be a party before the court and has a right to be heard</li> <li>issue the initiative petition within seven days after the Notice of Initiative petition is posted on the chief electoral officer's website as a heads up to any interested third parties</li> <li>verify within 21 days whether a citizen initiative petition has met signature requirements.</li> </ul>
No current provisions.	<p>Specify that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>successful initiative petitions completed one year or more before the next set election date must, if required, have an initiative vote on or before that set election date</li> <li>initiative petitions successfully completed after this deadline would, if required, have an initiative vote after the set election date but before the next set election date.</li> </ul>
<p>An initiative vote must be set by order-in council under the authority of sections 128 and 130 of the <i>Election Act</i>.</p> <p>However, the <i>Citizen Initiative Act</i> does not expressly set out that the conduct for an initiative vote should follow, as closely as possible, the rules set out in the <i>Election Act</i>.</p>	Require that the rules set out in the <i>Elections Act</i> are followed, as appropriate, when a vote is held.
Union and corporation contributions are not permitted.	Allow union and corporation contributions. This aligns with proposed changes to the <i>Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act</i> and <i>Recall Act</i> .

### Referendum Act

Current Status	Proposed Change
Existing rules under the <i>Election Act</i> allow the chief electoral officer to adjourn voting in certain circumstances during emergencies. These rules apply to referendums held in conjunction with provincial elections or stand-alone referendums. The Minister of Municipal Affairs may extend,	<p>The Chief Electoral Officer can adjourn voting during emergencies (e.g., disasters or public safety risks).</p> <p>The Lieutenant Governor in Council can discontinue and reschedule voting during emergencies.</p>



### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

Current Status	Proposed Change
adjourn or take any other action in emergencies under the Local Authorities Election Act. These rules apply to a referendum held in conjunction with a municipal election. No requirements currently	These provisions apply to referendums held with municipal elections, aligning with similar powers under the Election Act and Local Authorities Election Act. Require third-party advertisers to indicate if they are for or against a referendum question or questions.
A referendum must be held before the Legislative Assembly makes a resolution authorizing an amendment to the Constitution of Canada.	Remove the requirement for a referendum to occur before the Legislative Assembly makes a resolution authorizing an amendment to the Constitution of Canada. This change would also be applied to the Alberta Taxpayer Protection Act.
A referendum can be held by mail-in ballot for non-constitutional referendums. The Act does not allow for a mail-in ballot for constitutional referendums.	Allow mail-in ballots to apply to a constitutional referendum.
The Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act sets out restrictions on referendum advertising contributions and spending limits, disclosure of referendum advertising contributions, reports and financial statements, and many more aspects of financing and disclosure for third party referendum advertisers	Allow the government to determine how and when the <i>Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act</i> would apply to a referendum through regulation. However, specify that only Alberta entities can engage in third-party referendum advertising.

### Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act

Current Status	Proposed Change
A person who is ordinarily a resident in Alberta may contribute a maximum of \$5,000 annually in the aggregate to one or any combination of a registered party, registered constituency association, registered candidate, nomination contestant or registered leadership candidate. Currently, a person who is ordinarily a resident in Alberta may contribute a maximum aggregate amount of \$5,000 in any year to one or more nomination contestants.  The maximum limit on contributions to third party advertisers is \$34,400. This limit applies to contributions to third parties engaging in election advertising, political advertising, Senate election advertising, and referendum advertising.	Corporate & Union Contributions: Now permitted to contribute to political parties, candidates, leadership contestants, and third-party advertisers.  New Limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual individual limit to leadership contestants: \$5,000 (separate from other political contributions).</li> <li>Contributions to third-party advertisers capped at \$5,000, down from \$34,400.</li> </ul> Nomination Contests: Removed from EFCDA regulation; oversight transferred to the Legislative Assembly Act.  Contribution Errors: If deemed inadvertent and under a regulatory threshold, no penalties or reprimands will be issued.
The maximum election expense limit for a registered political party during a general election is calculated using a formula.	Expense Limits Increased: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political party (general election): \$5 million.</li> </ul>



### Preliminary Analysis of Bill 54: Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

Current Status	Proposed Change
<p>The current maximum election expense limit for a registered candidate is \$60,800. The current maximum by-election expense limit for a registered political party is \$28,000. Amounts are adjusted for inflation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates: \$75,000.</li> <li>• By-election party spending: \$75,000.</li> </ul> <p>Prospective Candidate Associations: Can now be registered like constituency associations, with tax credit eligibility for donations.</p> <p>Merchandise &amp; Memberships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parties may sell merchandise at market value without contribution receipts.</li> <li>• Family memberships under \$50 don't require contribution receipts.</li> </ul>
<p>The current aggregate third party election advertising spending limit for each of the pre-writ and writ period is \$182,200. A third-party election advertiser is prohibited from spending more than \$3,700 to promote or oppose one or more registered candidates in an electoral division.</p>	<p>Spending Limits Raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Per period (pre-writ/writ): \$500,000 (up from \$182,200).</li> <li>• Per candidate (electoral division): \$10,000 (up from \$3,700).</li> </ul> <p>Affiliation Criteria Strengthened: A third party is considered affiliated with a political party if governance overlaps exist.</p> <p>Mandatory Declarations: Third parties must affirm they're not acting on behalf of a political party.</p> <p>Internal Party Campaigns: Ads for or against candidates in internal party elections are now permitted.</p>
<p>Currently:</p> <p>General contraventions carry a maximum fine of \$5,000.</p> <p>Neglecting duties as an election officer currently carries a maximum fine of \$5,000 for returning officers and \$2,000 for others.</p> <p>Damaging or removing required notices currently carries a maximum penalty of \$2,000. Making false statements in relation to the character of a candidate currently carries a maximum fine of \$10,000.</p>	<p>Timeline Reductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General investigations must conclude within one year.</li> <li>• Faster complaint handling during elections.</li> </ul> <p>Transparency &amp; Fairness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respondents notified at the start of investigations (unless it compromises the case).</li> <li>• Right to legal counsel and to record proceedings.</li> <li>• Clear rules for disclosing investigation outcomes.</li> <li>• Burden of proof during appeals lies with the election commissioner.</li> </ul> <p>Penalties Increased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General contraventions: \$10,000.</li> <li>• False claims about candidates: \$50,000.</li> </ul>

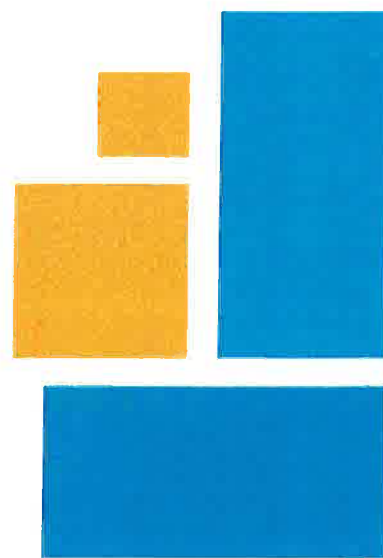


# Alberta Municipalities Strength In Members

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**Agenda item 11.b / 11.c (continued)****Recommended Motion:**

Motion by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that Council accepts the submitted reports as information.