

Leanne Walmsley

From: Hazel Reintjes <khreintjes@hotmail.com>
Sent: April 30, 2020 5:27 PM
To: cao@hinescreek.com
Subject: FW: 2020 Municipal Sustainability Initiative Program Changes

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: MA.MSICapitalGrants@gov.ab.ca
Date: 2020-04-30 4:32 p.m. (GMT-07:00)
To: Hazel Reintjes <khreintjes@hotmail.com>
Subject: 2020 Municipal Sustainability Initiative Program Changes

Dear Chief Elected Officials,

Over the last few weeks, our government has taken strong measures to protect Albertans and to support our communities in these extraordinarily difficult times.

Municipal Affairs has carried out a number of initiatives to support local governments in responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we continue to look at other measures to help address your needs. We thank those of you that have submitted shovel-ready projects in your communities, and we will share more information regarding any stimulus funding as soon as possible. Today we are making some temporary administrative changes to the MSI program to help deal with the unique situation.

MSI Operating

We understand communities are facing unprecedented financial pressures. To help you in addressing these pressures, we are allowing local governments to use MSI operating for any local government expenditure in the 2020 program year. We are also expediting payment of 2020 MSI operating allocations to qualifying local governments. This will give you the flexibility to manage operating funding in a way that best addresses your own community's needs. These changes are detailed in the 2020 Addendum to the MSI Operating Program Guidelines, available [here](#). Please note these changes are in place for the 2020 program year only, and local governments will continue to be required to meet their annual SFE reporting obligations as outlined in the Addendum.

MSI Capital

In light of the significant urgent spending pressures on the provincial government, we want to make sure that our spending is as efficient as possible. At the same time, we want to ensure that capital funding is available as soon as it is needed to advance projects that are ready to proceed, in order to support jobs and economic activity

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in communities across Alberta. To that end, we will be implementing a new step in the payment process for the MSI capital program.

- Every month, Municipal Affairs will send an email to each municipality that qualifies for an MSI capital payment.
- To access their payment, each municipality must respond to the email indicating if they intend to spend the payment on a new or existing MSI capital project this year after spending any carry-forward amount from previous years.
- If a municipality does not intend to spend their payment this year or does not respond to the email, the payment will be withheld until February 2021.

I want to reiterate to you that these changes have no impact on the amount of funding any local government will receive. They are intended as temporary measures to help communities and the province deal with an extremely difficult situation. Again, we will share more information about any additional funding for shovel-ready projects once decisions are made.

I am proud of the work you and your staff are doing to protect our province and our communities, and I know that your good work on the front lines of the COVID-19 response will continue.

Sincerely,

Kaycee Madu, QC
Minister of Municipal Affairs

cc: Chief Administrative Officers