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From: Angela Duncan <duncan.angela.ad@gmail.com>
Sent: October 26, 2020 4:00 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: AUMA Villages West Update

Hello Mayors, Councillors, and CAOs,

First, thank you for your continued faith in me as both your AUMA Director, Villages West and Vice President, Villages and Summer Villages; I am grateful and I will continue to work hard and do my best to be transparent and accountable to you.

The new board had its first meeting since the Convention and has made its committee appointments. We had a very large number of applicants and the board had to make some tough decisions. All applicants will be receiving a letter from the AUMA informing them if they have been selected or not. Thank you to everyone who applied to sit on a committee this year, and congratulations to those who were selected.

As with all of our municipalities, the AUMA has been very busy. I will update you on our most current or pressing files.

Covid 19

As you are likely aware, in addition to the COVID 19 Capital Municipal Stimulus program announced over the summer, the AUMA has been advocating for provincial and federal support to help cover operating costs and losses associated with COVID-19. We are very happy that the provincial and federal governments have stepped up and provided operational supports for municipalities through the Municipal Operating Support Transfer. Information about this program including how it can be accessed and used should have been sent directly to your municipality from the GoA.

AUMA continues to work with the province on Covid 19 response as well as to provide support for municipalities through our advocacy and business lines. More information about AUMA's response and advocacy regarding COVID 19 can be found in our online [COVID 19 Hub](#).

Assessment Model Review

AUMA and RMA have been advocating very strongly on the proposed changes to assessment, as this issue has the potential to significantly impact municipal revenue, collaboration, and viability long into the future. Municipalities undertook an impressive letter writing and advocacy campaign and I am very happy that we were able to successfully advocate together and convince the province to change course. Thank you to all who sent letters, and lobbied your MLA's! It definitely shows that we are stronger together!

The province has implemented a 3 year tax relief program, worth approximately \$22 million, for wells and pipelines, while they conduct a thorough review of how assessment is done. While the 3 year relief program will have some impact on urban municipalities, through minor tax reductions, a shift of the education property tax to other residences and businesses (as the province will still be collecting their full amount), and potential impacts on Collaboration and Funding Agreements, the impacts are significantly less than they could have been.

Municipal Measurement Index

As Minister Allard has announced, the province is moving forward with their Municipal Measurement Index and the Minister has indicated that it is one of her top priorities. To my understanding, the index is meant to provide citizens with easy to understand and easy to compare information on Alberta's Municipalities. AUMA previously had an opportunity to provide input on the platform and we look forward to more information on what it will look like and how it will be rolled out. We anticipate that it will be released by the end of the year.

Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF)

We continue to work with the province to resolve some of our outstanding concerns regarding the LGFF that is set to replace MSI in 2022. However, considering the provinces financial situation, I am not too hopeful that we will be successful in seeing any further changes. We will also be working with the province and the RMA on putting together an equitable allocation formula. We sought feedback to help inform our advocacy on an allocation formula during our Summer Municipal Leaders Caucuses, but I am always open to suggestions, if you have any.

Policing

There is so much going on with policing in Alberta right now, that it is hard to keep track of! The main issues that I and the AUMA are focusing on are the establishment of a Police Advisory Board, the police funding model, the potential establishment of a Provincial Police Force, and the Police Act Review. The Interim Police Advisory Board continues to meet and make progress on our mandate. An update letter on the boards work was sent out last week, if you did not get it or you would like a copy, please let me know and I will forward it to you. Attached to the letter was a proposed RCMP reporting template, please take a look and let me know what you think of it and if the template would suit your municipalities police reporting needs. Unfortunately, I do not have very much additional information on the potential establishment of a Provincial Police Force or the Police Act Review. AUMA is engaging on these initiatives as much as we can and I will do my best to keep you informed as these issues progress.

In addition to these, the AUMA continues to work on the LAEA Act and Regulations (including Senate elections and referendums on the municipal ballot), EPR and Recycling, Red Tape Reduction, access to rural healthcare (including physician recruitment and EMS response times), broadband, etc. As you can tell, we are very busy during these rapidly changing and unprecedented times.

As always, please reach out to me via phone, text, or email if you would like additional information on these or any other issue, or if you would just like to chat about what is happening in your municipality. I always enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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