



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133 Council
Agenda for Regular Council Meeting RM.12.26
9:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 24th, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 will be held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office situated at 4202 50th Street in the Town of Spirit River in the Province of Alberta on Wednesday, June 24th, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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16.	<u>COUNCIL ISSUES AND CONCERNS</u>	
17.	<u>CLOSED MEETING (FORMERLY IN-CAMERA)</u>	
	Closed Session as per Municipal Government Act R.S.A. 2000, Section 197 (4) to discuss:	
	A. Intermunicipal Relations: (<i>Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 26</i>) – for information	
	B. Third Party Business Interests: (<i>Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 16, Third Party Business Interests</i>)	
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MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133 Council
 Minutes for Regular Council Meeting RM.11.26
 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 10th, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office situated at 4202 50th Street in the Town of Spirit River in the Province of Alberta on Wednesday, June 10th, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

In attendance:

Council Members: Reeve Tony van Rootselaar
 Deputy Reeve Dean Wark
 Councillor Shelley Rozecki
 Councillor Evelyn Bzowy
 Councillor Bernie Schoorlemmer

Absent: No Councillor Absences

Administration: Shirley Hayden, CAO
 Monty Bremont, Assistant CAO
 Rebecca Fitzsimmons, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting RM 11-26 called to order by Reeve van Rootselaar at 9:03 am.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS

New Business Items:

- 13.D. Build Communities Strong Fund
- 13.E. Confidentiality Policy ADM.42
- 13.F. Council, Committee and Board Remuneration Leg. 18
- 13.G. Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Auditor

Closed Session Items:

- 17.F. Third Party Business Interests
- 17.G. Intermunicipal Relations
- 17.H. Economic and Other Interests

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION 282.06.10.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark to approve the agenda for the June 10th, 2026 Regular Council meeting with the following additions:

New Business Items:

13.D. Build Communities Strong Fund

13.E. Confidentiality Policy ADM.42

13.F. Council, Committee and Board Remuneration Leg. 18

13.G. Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Auditor

Closed Session Items:

17.F. Third Party Business Interests (Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 16, Third Party Business Interests).

17.G. Intermunicipal Relations (Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 26).

17.H. Economic and Other Interests (Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 30, Economic and Other Interests).

Carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A. **MOTION 283.06.10.26** Moved by Councillor Bzowy to approve the minutes for May 27th, 2026 Regular Council meeting RM 10-26 as presented.

Carried unanimously.

B. **MOTION 284.06.10.26** Moved by Councillor Rozecki to accept the minutes for May 27th, 2026 Municipal Planning Commission MPC 03-26 meeting as presented.

Carried unanimously.

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

6. COUNCILLOR ABSENCES

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. DELEGATIONS

- A. Chief Brian Kroes, Central Peace Fire & Rescue Commission, and Brice Daly, Central Peace Regional Emergency Management, joined Regular Council Meeting RM 11-26 at 9:07 am, and left the meeting at 9:44 am.

Public Works Supervisor Dave Johnson joined Regular Council meeting RM 11-26 at 9:39 am.

Councillor Rozecki left Council Chambers at 9:44 am , and returned at 9:48 am.

- B. Delegation GEM Holdings, represented by Sarah Smith and Murray Smith, joined the meeting RM 11-26 at 9:45 am, and left the meeting at 10:26 am.

Councillor Bzowy left Council Chambers at 10:19 am, and returned at 10:21 am.

- C. Delegation UFA (United Farmers of Alberta) represented by Andrew Wells joined the meeting RM 11-26 at 10:27 am and left the meeting at 11:05 am.

CFO Elena Valdes joined meeting RM 11-26 at 10:37 am, and left the meeting when recessed at 11:05 am.

MOTION 285.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Administration purchase a membership to United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) in the amount of five (5) dollars (\$5.00), to come from the Membership Fees GL.

Carried unanimously.

Reeve van Roostelaar recessed meeting RM 11-26 at 11:05 am and the meeting resumed at 11:12 am.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

10. REPORTS

A. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

MOTION 286.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council accept the Public Works report as presented.

Carried unanimously.

B. AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT

MOTION 287.06.10.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Council accept the Agricultural Fieldman report as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Public Works Supervisor Dave Johnson left meeting RM 11-26 at 11:32 am.

C. FINANCE REPORT

MOTION 288.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki that Council accept the Finance Report as presented.

Carried unanimously.

D. CAO REPORT

MOTION 289.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki that Council direct Administration to pay the Wildfire Invoice in the amount of \$76, 867.70, and further to apply for the Municipal Wildfire Assistance Program (MWAP) grant.

Carried unanimously.

CFO Elena Vaides joined meeting RM 11-26 at 11:51 am and left the meeting at 11:58 am.

MOTION 290.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer that Council approve Infotech proposal for enhanced cybersecurity in the amount of \$1,134.00 annually, to come from Training Fees GLs allocated by department.

Carried unanimously.

MOTION 291.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council be authorized to attend the Empowering Minds Elected Officials session on June 16th, 2026, and June 17th, 2026 evening Public session being hosted at the Rycroft Agricultural Society.

Carried unanimously.

MOTION 292.06.10.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Councillors Rozecki and Bzowy and CAO Hayden attend the Central Peace hospital tour scheduled for June 19, 2026.

Carried unanimously.

MOTION 293.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki that Council accept CAO Report as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Reeve van Rootselaar recessed meeting RM 11-26 for lunch at 12:33 pm and reconvened the meeting at 1:04 pm.

E. COUNCIL REPORTS

MOTION 294.06.10.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark to accept Central Peace Regional Water Project update for information.

Carried unanimously.

11. TABLED ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

A. MOTION 295.06.10.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Council authorize the reimbursement of the development permit fee in the amount of \$3,690.00 for Permit 07-DP-26 to Saddle Hills County.

Carried unanimously.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. MOTION 296.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki that Council direct Administration to coordinate the annual Municipal District of Spirit River road tour for July 20th, 2026.

Carried unanimously.

B. MOTION 297.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer that Council accept the Peace Regional Economic Development Association (PREDA) request regarding the invitation for appointment of PREDA Board of Directors member for information.

Carried unanimously.

C. MOTION 298.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council approve the letter to Forestry and Parks Wildfire Management Branch regarding the 2024 wildfire mutual aid response invoice, with the following amendments:

- paragraph 2: remove the word 'graciously', to read fully "The correspondence pertains to a wildfire that occurred within the Municipal District of Spirit River on August 24, 2024, during which Alberta Forestry and Parks responded to a Mutual Aid request from the Central Peace Fire and Rescue Committee (CPFRC)."
- paragraph 3: insert 'unforeseen financial consequence and created hardship', to read fully "Council's primary concern centers around the timeline of this correspondence and the significant administrative challenges, as well as unforeseen financial consequence and consequent hardship that it has unintentionally created for our municipality."

Carried unanimously.

- D. MOTION 299.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer that Council authorize Administration to submit an application to the Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF) Local Impact Stream(administered regionally via PrairiesCan) for the maximum allowable grant of \$1,000,000; and further, direct Administration to formally request a commitment for the remaining \$1,714,988 from the Government of Alberta to be approved prior to the federal application submission in order to satisfy federal eligibility requirements proving the project is fully funded.
Carried unanimously.
- E. MOTION 300.06.10.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Council approve the Confidentiality Policy ADM.42 as presented and direct Administration to Implement amendments.
Carried unanimously.
- F. MOTION 301.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council direct Administration to update the Council, Committee, and Board Remuneration Leg. 18 policy to reflect that when Council is attending staff events, Council may submit for mileage reimbursement.
Carried unanimously.
- G. MOTION 302.06.10.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Council authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposals for external audit services and direct Administration to return with an evaluation summary and recommendation for Council's consideration prior to awarding the contract.
Carried unanimously.

14. BYLAWS

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION

- MOTION 303.06.10.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Council accept Information & Correspondence Items A through G for information.
Carried unanimously.

16. COUNCIL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

17.

CLOSED MEETING (FORMERLY IN-CAMERA)

MOTION 304.06.10.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark to enter closed meeting at 1:51 pm, for the purpose of discussing;

- A. Intermunicipal Relations (*Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 26*).
- B. Legal (*Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure, ATIA, Section 27*).
- C. Legal (*Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure, ATIA, Section 27*).
- D. Intermunicipal Relations (*Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 26*).
- E. Advice from Officials: (*Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 24, Advice from Officials*).
- F. Third Party Business Interests (*Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 16, Third Party Business Interests*).
- G. Intermunicipal Relations (*Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 26*).
- H. Economic and Other Interests (*Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 30, Economic and Other Interests*).

Carried unanimously.

Meeting RM 11-26 entered Closed Session at 1:51 pm.

Councillor Bzowy recused herself due to a perceived conflict of interest regarding Item 17.C. Legal, at 2:08 pm, and left Council Chambers immediately prior to discussion on Item 17.C. Legal commencing. Councillor Bzowy returned to Council Chambers and meeting RM 11-26 at 2:40 pm, following the conclusion of discussion regarding 17.C. and whereupon discussion on Item 17.D. Intermunicipal Relations commenced.

MOTION 305.06.10.26 Moved by Reeve Van Rootselaar to leave closed session at 3:47 pm.

Carried unanimously.

Regular Meeting RM 11-26 resumed at 3:47 pm.

MOTION 306.06.10.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark to proceed as discussed in closed session regarding Item 17.A, regarding Intermunicipal Relations (*Access to Information Act, Part 1, Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure ATIA Section 26*).

Carried unanimously.

MOTION 307.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council accept Item 17.B. for information.

MOTION 308.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki that Council direct Administration to proceed as discussed in closed session regarding Item 17.C. Councillor Evelyn Bzowy abstained from voting on Motion 308.06.10.26.

*In Favour - Reeve van Rootselaar
In Favour - Deputy Reeve Wark
In Favour - Councillor Schoorlemmer
In Favour – Councillor Rozecki
Abstained - Councillor Bzowy
Carried.*

MOTION 309.06.10.26 Moved by Reeve Van Rootselaar that Council direct Administration to proceed as discussed in closed session regarding item 17.D.

Carried unanimously.

MOTION 310.06.10.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Council table Item 17.E. to a future meeting.

Carried unanimously.

MOTION 311.06.10.26 Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council direct Administration to proceed as discussed in closed session regarding Item 17.F.

Carried unanimously.

MOTION 312.06.10.26 Moved by Reeve van Rootselaar that Council accept Item 17.G. for information.

Carried unanimously.

MOTION 313.06.10.26 Moved by Reeve van Rootselaar that Council accept Item 17.H. for information.

Carried unanimously.

18.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting RM 11-26 adjourned by Reeve van Rootselaar 3:56 pm.

These minutes approved this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Reeve
Tony Van Rootselaar

CAO
Shirley Hayden

From: Piper Reid <piper@veklabs.com>
Sent: June 5, 2026 3:45 PM
To: Shirley Hayden <cao@mdspiritriver.ab.ca>
Cc: Andrew Peloso <andrew@veklabs.com>; Riley Patten <riley@veklabs.com>; Production Team <production@veklabs.com>
Subject: Great connecting today - next steps for your VEK Labs project

Hi Shirley and Monty,

Thank you both so much for taking the time to meet with us today, and congratulations again on your winning bid at the Dine & Dance silent auction! We're thrilled to be partnering with the MD of Spirit River and can't wait to help put the region on the map.

As a quick recap of where we landed: the focus is shaping up around economic development and attracting industry, while leaving room for council to weigh in with their own priorities. We will discuss the vision in more depth during a formal Pre-Production meeting.

Next steps:

- We're booked for a virtual delegation to present to the council on Wednesday, June 24th at 9:00 AM, where we will discuss the project and its needs in more detail.
 - Please let me know if a formal link will be provided for this meeting, or if there is an online location where we can join.
- After your council meeting this coming Wednesday, you and your team will compile and send a preliminary list of community leaders and voices worth featuring in the video.

We're genuinely looking forward to working with you both, and creating something special for the your Municipality!

All my best,



Please let us know how we are doing by leaving a Google Review! <https://g.page/veklabs/review?mt>



**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

DATE: June 24th, 2026

Administrative

Grading Grading in between rain storms, which helps o blade out washboard on roads;

Plowing

Gravel Operator is gravelling to south of Spirit River;

Grimshaw Gravel is crushing gravel at Whitclaw pit and hauling to stockpile in Dunvegan;

Culvert Installation/Repair Replacing culverts that have failed during spring thaw;

Washouts

Brushing

Signage

Bridge Files

Nardam ASB & crew have been working at Nardam;

Public Works has hauled topsoil to Nardam;

Public Works Shop

Equipment

Training

Ratepayer

Comments

Miscellaneous

Held lunch for Ron Oe, he is retiring from driving MD Transit Bus, have hired new driver;

The Finance Department continues to support Council through the administration of taxation, financial reporting, and community funding initiatives. The following updates are provided for Council's information and direction.

Property Tax Update

- The 2026 property tax process has been successfully completed.
- Tax notices have been finalized and are scheduled to be mailed on **June 22, 2026**.
- Administration appreciates the cooperation of all departments that contributed to the completion of this year's tax roll and mailing process.

Donation Update – Spirit River Agricultural Society

- Following the distribution of the 2026 community donations, Administration received a cheque returned by the **Spirit River Agricultural Society**.
- Historically, this donation has been used to assist with the maintenance of the local skating rink. As responsibility for the skating rink has now been assumed by the Town, the Society has returned the donation.
- Administration is seeking Council's direction on how they would like to proceed with these funds. Options may include:
 - Returning the donation to the Spirit River Agricultural Society for use toward another eligible community initiative; or
 - Redirecting the funds to another organization or project as determined by Council.

Administration welcomes Council's direction regarding the preferred allocation of these funds.

LAPP Audit Update

- Administration is currently in communication with the auditor to facilitate the completion of the upcoming **LAPP audit**.
Required documentation is being gathered and reviewed to ensure all reporting requirements are met and the audit is completed within the prescribed timelines.

General Reminder to council:

Please remember that council timesheets and expenses are due by the 25th of each month.

Reporting Period: June 3rd – June 18th , 2026

Hospital Tour:

Ryan Squires, director of the Central Peace Health Complex , Tour on June 19th
Councillor Rozecki and Councillor Bzowy to attend.

Alberta Forestry Wildfire Invoice (GMD-004-24)

Continuing to follow up with Theo Bailey – the payment will be made this week, working on the application for the MWAP grant.

Cenera - Policy Compliance and Governance Update

Administration is currently collaborating with access and privacy experts at Cenera to draft and customize a comprehensive municipal policy framework. The primary goal of this project is ensuring absolute compliance with Alberta's governing provincial legislation—the Access to Information Act (ATIA) and the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA). We are working in the final stages of policy development, and next steps for training staff and council members.

Friendly Reminders: Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Rycroft Ag Centre is hosting: Empowering Minds Initiative - Ian Hill, national leadership and community-building speaker.

Attended the Empowering Minds initiative; a province-wide rural mental health movement in Alberta. Developed by the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS), the program partnered with motivational speaker Ian Hill to bring a proactive approach to mental health support and rural and agricultural communities across the province. The session was a highly engaging and valuable session and highlighted the intense financial and environmental stressors facing resource-sector and agricultural workers. Mental health resources are often sparse in rural areas, this initiative focuses on a grassroots approach—empowering neighbors to intervene early and support one another. This proactive, community-led model offered great insight into how we can better support wellness and combat stigma within our own rural communities and ultimately focus on the people closest to us , ensuring they feel needed, known and connected.

RMA Member Visit – MD SPIRIT RIVER NO.133 VISIT - 2026**RMA VISIT**

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) coordinates member visits with all municipalities on a three-year rotation. The MD is scheduled to meet with RMA on June 24th taking place after the regular council meeting.

These visits are an important initiative led by the RMA President, District Director, and members of their administrative team. They provide a valuable opportunity to meet with our MD council members in their communities, allowing them to gain a deeper understanding of local priorities, initiatives, and challenges.

The insights shared during these visits are instrumental in informing the work of the RMA Board and staff, and we consistently find them to be mutually beneficial.

Kara Westerlund – President

Karen Rosvold – District 4 Director

Duane Gladden – CEO/Executive Director

Tasha Blumenthal – Chief Relations Officer

Policy and Advocacy staff member – TBD

Confirmed Date and Time:

- **Date: June 24, 2026**
- **Time: 11:00 a.m.**

The visit will include the RMA President, our District Director, and members of the RMA administrative team. This engagement serves as a vital opportunity for Council to: Discuss local priorities and municipal initiatives directly with RMA leadership, highlight specific regional challenges facing our municipality and strengthen our advocacy efforts by ensuring the RMA has a firsthand understanding of our current requirements.

G5 Municipalities Meeting (July 8) – 5:00p.m. @ the Brownlee Building**Guest Speakers:**

Derek Young: Operations Manager, Regional Representative, Alberta Transportation: Update on regional projects.

Max Fritz, owner, Western Sky Land Trust: Strategic Planning, Community Building

Strategic Planning - Max Fritz, Western Sky Land Trust

Full day session: July 9th - 9 a.m.

Half day session: July 10th - 10a.m.

Alberta Sheriffs Police Service Presentation

Brian Kostyniuk, Executive Officer and Chief Satpal Parhar:

Confirmed Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. (Regular Council Meeting)

RMA DISTRICT FOUR ZONE MEETING***RMA District Four Zone Meeting***

Friday, August 14th, 2026

Pioneer Threshman's Hall (located 14km west of High Prairie)

Tax Roll Out & Team Appreciation: A sincere thank you goes out to Elena and Lori for their incredible hard work and dedication in preparing and finalizing the municipal tax packages. Additionally, a huge shout-out to the rest of the staff who stepped up to assist with folding and stuffing the envelopes. This was a true team effort that ensured our annual tax notices were processed and dispatched smoothly and on schedule. The collaborative spirit demonstrated by the entire team is highly commendable.

I want to extend my deepest, most sincere thanks to Rebecca for her outstanding dedication and tireless hard work across multiple vital areas of our administration. She is invaluable in managing preparing our Council Agendas. She regularly checks in with the staff and steps up to train new team members also overseeing HR files ensuring a smooth onboarding process and is heavily involved in working on our privacy policy and new complex legislation. Rebecca truly wears many hats within our organization. Her adaptability, expertise, and willingness to tackle any challenge make her an absolute lifeline for me and our entire administrative team. Thank you, Rebecca, for your unwavering support and exceptional work.



COPY

Central Peace FCSS
Minutes
May 12, 2026
Peace Wapiti Sub office council room
6:30pm

In Attendance:

Chair: Rhonda Yurchyshyn
Pat Sydoruk
Tammy Yaremko
Tamara Babcock
Nelson Kitchen
Anne Silvius
Evelyn Bzowy

Town of Spirit River, Member at large
MD of Spirit River, Member at large
Town of Spirit River Council
Village of Rycroft
Birch Hills County Council
Village of Rycroft, Member at large
MD of Spirit River #133

Regrets: Vanessa Pybus
Carrie Jackson
Dianne Nellis

MD of Spirit River, Member at large
Village of Rycroft, Member at large
Town of Spirit River, Member at large

Staff: Shelley Loroff

FCSS Coordinator

1. Welcome
2. Call the meeting to order: Chair Rhonda Yurchyshyn called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
3. Approval of
 - a. Agenda: add 7a. Labour **Motion 40-26** Tamara Babcock moves to accept the agenda as amended. **Carried**
 - b. Minutes: **Motion 41-26** Pat Sydoruk moves the minutes as amended by rearranging motion 46-26 to reflex moving in camera . **Carried**
 - c. Coordinators Report: Shelley Loroff presented the coordinators report and answered questions **Motion 42-26** Ann Silvius moves to accept the coordinators report. **Carried**
4. Financial
 - a. Financial Report: Shelley Loroff presented the financial report and answered any questions. **Motion 43-26** Pat Sydoruk moves the financial reports as presented seconded by Tamara Babcock **Carried**
5. Business arising from the minutes:
 - a. Camp Wanago: Discussion took place regarding camp and the building of the Daycare in the future. **Motion 44-26** Pat Sydoruk moves that the location of Camp Wanago be moved to another location in Spirit River. **Carried**

- b. Volunteer supper: Shelley Loroff asked for an update from the board members that were there
- c. Motion for deferred money: **Motion 45-26** Pat Sydoruk moves that \$13607.61 be moved from Deferred Reserves to the regular operating budget. Nelson Kitchen Seconded. **Carried**

6. New business

- a. Spirit Days: Discussion took place if FCSS was putting a float in the parade. Consensus was not this year
- b. Coordinators Evaluation: Rhonda Yurchyshyn asked for 1 or 2 other board members to meet with her to give the Coordinator's probationary evaluation.

Motion 46-26 Tammy Yaremko moves that the board move to In camera at 7:40pm. Carried

7. In Camera:

- a. Labour
Motion 47-26 Pat Sydoruk moves that the board reconvene to regular session at 7:46. Carried. The board asked if the new assistant could come to the next meeting.

8. Correspondence: Letter from Birch Hills County regarding Donation to Camp Wanago

9. Council updates:

- a. MD of Spirit River: Evelyn Bzowy reported that the Spring break up dance was held and proceeds were for the Daycare, a young boy, and the Woking skating rink. She then gave us an update on the Full Steam Ahead Daycare which is going to be build behind the Brownlee Building and open 24/7
- b. Town of Spirit River: Tammy Yaremko reported that the Town is looking for a CAO. The pool is looking for staff
- c. Village of Rycroft: Tamara Babcock reported a car show will be part of Race The 8 in July .
- d. Birch Hills County: Nelson Kitchen reported that flowers will be place in all villages

10. Next meeting date: June 9, 2026 at Peace Wapiti Public School Division at 6:30 pm

11. Adjournment: meeting was adjourned at 8 pm



Chair

Recording secretary

June 17/2026
Date

Date

FW: From the Executive Director's Desk: Update on the Provincial FCSS Team

Summarize



Shirley Hayden

Reply Reply All Forward

Fri 2026-06-05 9:11 AM

This message was sent with High importance.

Start your reply all with: Feedback**From:** FCSS Admin <FCSSAdmin@gov.ab.ca>**Sent:** June 5, 2026 9:09 AM**Cc:** FCSS Admin <FCSSAdmin@gov.ab.ca>**Subject:** From the Executive Director's Desk: Update on the Provincial FCSS Team**Importance:** High**Sent on behalf of Marilea Pattison-Perry, Executive Director:**

Good morning,

On June 2, 2026, the Government of Alberta reorganized some ministries and responsibilities, realigning legislation, staff, and operational responsibilities.

As part of this reorganization, the [Family and Community Support Services program](#) and legislation has been moved from the ministry of Assisted Living and Social Services to the ministry of [Arts, Culture, and Status of Women](#).

The minister of Arts, Culture, and Status of Women is [Tanya Fir](#).

This reorganization does not change the FCSS program or legislation or the FCSS Accountability Framework or the funding agreements and reporting processes with municipalities and Metis Settlements. It only changes the ministry where the FCSS program, the provincial program staff, and FCSS provincial budget is located within the Alberta Public Service.

We are working to update information materials and brief our new leadership on the history and nuances of the FCSS program. During this transition, our focus will be on continuity of operations and minimizing disruption of services to our external partners and, most importantly, Albertans.

Contact information for the FCSS provincial team remains the same.

Warmly,

Marilea Pattison-Perry (she/her)

Executive Director, Civil Society & Community Initiatives

Arts, Culture, and Status of Women (ACSW)

Government of Alberta

Tel 780.903.4748 | Marilea.PattisonPerry@gov.ab.ca



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Peace River*

AR122263

May 26, 2026

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

While most oil and gas companies pay their property taxes promptly, the Government of Alberta recognizes the ongoing challenges unpaid oil and gas property taxes pose for municipalities, particularly in rural areas.

In response, the Government of Alberta recently partnered with the Rural Municipalities of Alberta and municipal and industry stakeholders through the Property Tax Accountability Strategy (PTAS) Working Group to develop recommendations to address this issue. The final report was released on March 16, 2026, and is available at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/property-tax-accountability-strategy-final-report>.

Alberta is taking the report's recommendations under consideration with the intent of responding with an actionable set of regulatory, administrative, and system-level improvements to promote oil and gas industry property tax compliance and municipal tax recovery.

As part of these considerations, I am pleased to announce the Provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) and the Designated Industrial Requisition Credit (DIRC) programs are approved for a three-year extension through 2028. This extension aligns with recommendation 12 of the PTAS report and will provide continued support to municipalities, while PTAS recommendations are examined.

Key details of the program extension include:

- continued eligibility of uncollectable education property taxes and designated industrial requisition amounts retroactive to the 2015 tax year, with credits to be considered up to and including the 2028 tax year; and
- an increase in the annual PERC program cap to \$7 million, reflecting the growing level of claims in recent years.

Our government is committed to a practical and balanced approach and will continue to work collaboratively with municipalities, industry, and partners to identify opportunities to streamline the PERC/DIRC programs, strengthen tax recovery tools, and improve program delivery.

.../2

- 2 -

Thank you for your continued collaboration and partnership as we work together to address the challenges created by uncollectable property taxes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Williams', written over a horizontal line.

Dan Williams, ECA
Minister

cc: Chief Administrative Officers

FW: July 3 Spruce Meadows North American Tournament



MD of Spirit River 133



Fri 06-12

MD #133 of Spirit River
780-864-3500
mdsr133@mdspiritriver.ab.ca

From: Bonokoski, Alex <alex.bonokoski@atco.com>
Sent: June 12, 2026 9:33 AM
To: MD of Spirit River 133 <mdsr133@mdspiritriver.ab.ca>
Subject: July 3 Spruce Meadows North American Tournament

Hi Tony,

I wanted to personally reach out and extend an **invitation** to join us at our upcoming Spruce Meadows event on July 3. As one of our valued customers, I thought this would be a great opportunity to connect outside of our day-to-day conversations, catch up, and enjoy an afternoon together.

We genuinely appreciate the relationship we've built with you and your organization, and events like this give us a chance to thank our customers for their continued partnership and support.

You should have already received the formal **invitation**, but I wanted to follow up personally to let you know that I hope you'll be able to attend.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you on July 3.

Regards,

Alex Bonokoski, MA, PMP
Stakeholder Relations Manager

C. 587 785 8954
A. 10035 105 Street, Edmonton, AB, Canada, T5J 1C8

ATCO Energy Systems

From: ATCO Energy Systems <corporateevents@atco.com>

Sent: June 3, 2026 4:43 PM

To: MD of Spirit River 133 <mdsr133@mdspiritriver.ab.ca>

Subject: You're invited to join ATCO Energy Systems at the Spruce Meadows 'North American' Tournament



Join us!
'North American'
at Spruce Meadows

ATCO

Join ATCO Energy Systems at Spruce Meadows

Hello Tony Van Rootselaar,

Jason Sharpe, Chief Operating Officer, ATCO Energy Systems,
cordially invites you and a guest to join us for an afternoon
of exceptional sport, fellowship and hospitality at the
Spruce Meadows 'North American' Tournament.

Join the ATCO team to learn how we power possibilities for generations
by delivering reliable energy, investing in modern infrastructure, and
supporting the communities we serve.

Friday, July 3, 2026

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Spruce Meadows, Canada House
18011 Spruce Meadows Way SW
Calgary, AB

ATCO

[HOME](#) [FAQS](#) [LOCATION](#) [CONTACT US](#)

REGISTER NOW

[Already Registered?](#)

Join us!
'North American'
at Spruce Meadows



ATCO

When

July 3, 2026
3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Viewing in Mountain Time

Where

Spruce Meadows
18011 Spruce Meadows Way SW
Calgary, AB
Canada

[Contact Us](#)

Join ATCO Energy Systems at Spruce Meadows

We hope to see you on July 3 at the
Spruce Meadows 'North American' Tournament.

Join the ATCO team to learn how we power possibilities for generations by delivering reliable energy, investing in modern infrastructure, and supporting the communities we serve.

Please click the link below to let us know if you are able to attend.

Friday, July 3
3:00 p.m. - Venue Opens (Canada House)
3:30 p.m. - ATCO Cup
7:00 p.m. - Event Concludes

NOTE: You must RSVP with the same email to which you are receiving this invitation; invitations are non-transferable. Please RSVP by June 19, 2026. Age limit: 18+

REGISTER NOW

[Already registered?](#)

[Decline invitation](#)

FW: CRAA Federal Advocacy Update



Shirley Hayden

To: Rebecca Fitzsimmons



2026-06-05

Start your reply all with:

Yes, will do.

It has been added.

Done!

(i) Feedback

Hi everyone,

On behalf of the Community Rail Advocacy Alliance Executive, we are sharing the below update regarding a recent meeting held between CRAA Executive and Senior Advisors to Federal Transport Minister Steven MacKinnon on Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

1. Both Mayor Clayton and Mayor Hilts were on the call and articulated challenges that mills in their communities have had with the rail. Including product being stored in the parking lot because rail cars weren't available, changes to service frequency with no prior consultation with the mill, car auctioning, and retribution against companies that speak out.
2. Brock Mulligan spoke about how inconsistent service and labour disruptions affect the forestry sector's reputation with customers abroad. Alberta Grains echoed these concerns. Brock also spoke about the need for infrastructure investment, as outlined in the [Canadian Forest Sector Transformation Task Force Final Report](#).
3. The Executive pitched several solutions, including declaring rail an essential service to mitigate strike risk, forcing rail companies to share data on car fulfillment, increasing interswitching, and promoting more shortline rail competition.
4. The Minister's office was more candid and action-focused than we usually get.

- They let us know that many other stakeholders allege retribution for speaking out from CN and CPKC. They suggested that if we are getting less of that now that we have municipal leaders speaking out, the path we are taking is effective.
 - They believe the twin monopolies do lead to customers being pushed around by the railways and plan to take action.
 - They let us know that the Minister is planning to roll out fairly aggressive action plans – likely in September. Investments in infrastructure through the major projects office and data sharing are definitely on the menu. Interswitching was a campaign platform item – they're still trying to figure out the most effective way to implement it.
 - They do plan to take action on the labour front. The minister's office had a statistic that Canada used to be the 7th most stable jurisdiction from a labour and strike perspective. We have now fallen to 39th, behind Azerbaijan. They were lukewarm on our suggestion of declaring labour an essential service – this may be a trestle too far with organized labour.
 - They are working with the Department of Finance to develop incentives for short rail. Transport likes the idea of tax incentives, but these can be a hard sell with Finance.
5. The Minister's office also committed to a follow-up conversation with CRAA once they have rolled out their announcements.
 6. CRAA's message is getting through to the federal minister's office.

As a reminder, fees are also due for those interested in renewing their membership with CRAA. This last meeting stands as a good reminder of what collective advocacy can accomplish for communities and industry. If you have any questions about your invoice or making payment, please contact Shannon at SSereda@albertagrains.com.

Thank you,
Kayla

Webinar Invitation: Bill 28 Rural Municipal Impact Analysis

Dear Mayors, Reeves, and CAOs,

I am writing to personally invite you to attend an upcoming RMA webinar on **Bill 28 and its implications for rural municipalities**.

As you know, Bill 28 introduces significant changes that may affect how municipalities operate, plan, and make decisions. Given the potential impact, it is important that members have a clear understanding of what these changes mean in practice.

RMA has prepared a comprehensive analysis of Bill 28, which outlines key provisions and considerations for rural municipalities. If you have not yet had the opportunity to review it, I encourage you to do so in advance of the session. [Access RMA's Bill 28: Rural Municipal Impact Analysis resource](#).

Next week, we will be hosting a webinar to walk through this analysis, highlight key issues, and provide an opportunity for questions and discussion. I'm happy to be leading this webinar, alongside senior RMA staff.

WEBINAR: Bill 28 Rural Municipal Impact Analysis

Thursday, June 25, 2026 | 12:00pm – 1:30pm

[Register Here](#)

This session is an opportunity to hear directly from RMA, better understand the legislation, and consider how it may impact your municipality.

I encourage you or a member of your team to attend. Ensuring rural perspectives are informed and aligned will be important as the implementation of this legislation moves forward.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement on this issue. I hope you can join us.

Sincerely,

Kara Westerlund

President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta

From: Kara Westerlund <kwesterlund@rmalberta.com>
Sent: June 12, 2026 4:15 PM
To: Kara Westerlund <kwesterlund@rmalberta.com>
Subject: RMA Bill 28 Impact Analysis & Upcoming Webinar

Good afternoon RMA Mayors, Reeves, and CAOs,

I am pleased to share RMA's *Bill 28 Impact Analysis*, attached to this email. This document builds on our original Bill 28 summary that was shared with members following the bill's introduction in April.

Since then, we have had the opportunity to conduct a deeper review of some of the most significant changes introduced by Bill 28. This analysis focuses on the potential cost and autonomy impacts for rural municipalities. We hope this document will support your local advocacy efforts with MLAs, assist in communicating changes to residents and stakeholders, and help inform your internal planning as you prepare for and adapt to these changes.

We will also be hosting a **Bill 28 Impact Analysis Webinar** from **12:00–1:30 PM on June 25**. The session will expand on the attached report, with a deeper dive into key changes as well as potential advocacy and implementation next steps for RMA members.

Registration details will be shared next week.

Thank you, and we hope you find this resource valuable.

Kara Westerlund, ICD.D
President



Cell: 780-898-4561
RMAAlberta.com

2510 Sparrow Drive, Nisku, Alberta T9E 8N5



RMA
RURAL MUNICIPALITIES
of ALBERTA

Bill 28:
*Municipal Affairs
and Housing Statutes
Amendment Act, 2026*

**Rural Municipal
Impact Analysis**

June 2026

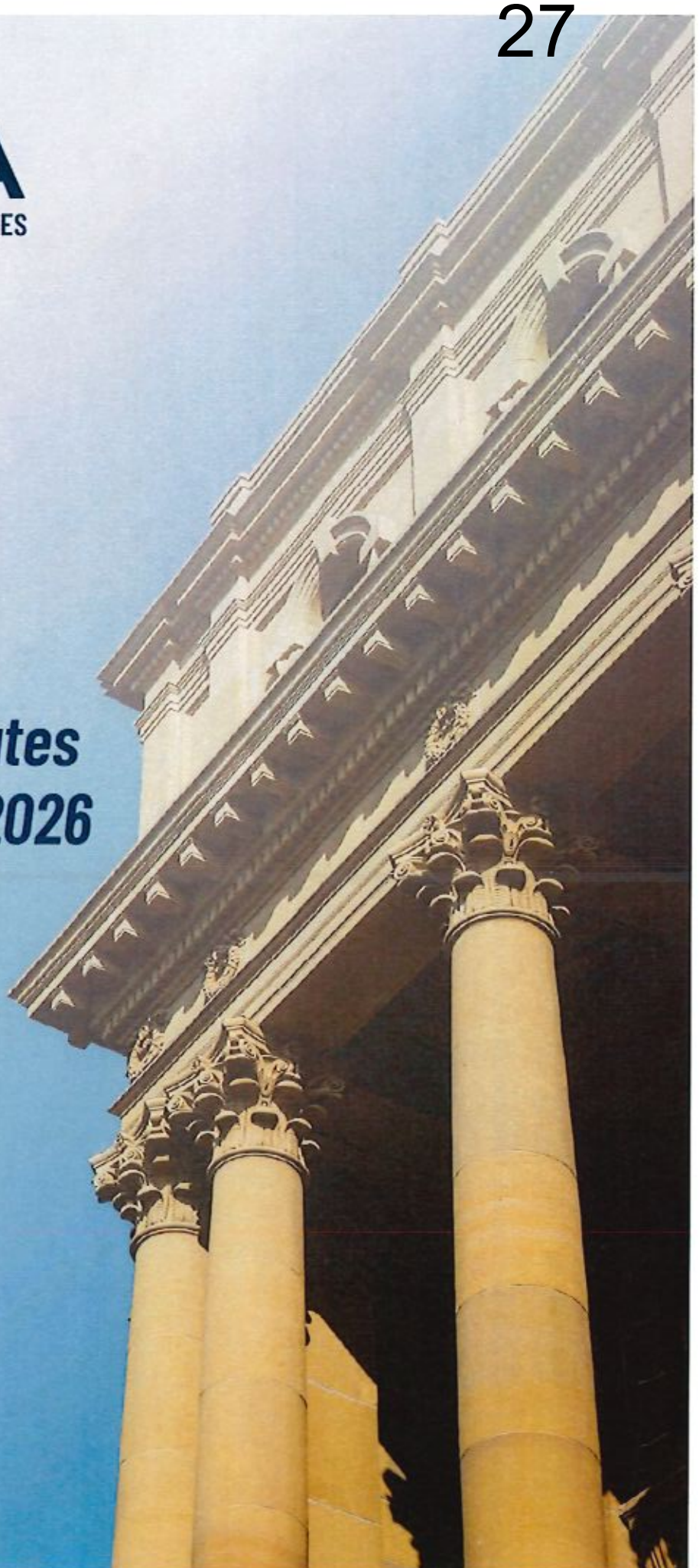


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Understanding Bill 28

Bill 28: *Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026* received Royal Assent on May 14, 2026. The Bill amends the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA), the *Alberta Housing Act*, the *Libraries Act*, and the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025*. Bill 28 introduces a wide range of amendments across several areas of municipal responsibility:

- ◆ **Growth and Housing:** Reduced municipal autonomy related to planning and development
- ◆ **Aggregate Pits:** Limits municipal ability to regulate development of aggregate pits
- ◆ **Seniors Housing:** Broadens reserve requirements and requisitioning scope related to seniors and social housing, and increases power of Minister to determine reserve levels and requisition responsibilities
- ◆ **Assessment and Property Tax:** Adjustments to regulated assessment and taxation authority
- ◆ **Governance and Accountability:** Creation of a new councillor accountability framework and updates to municipal governance processes
- ◆ **Municipal Transparency:** Expanded reporting, disclosure, and information-sharing requirements
- ◆ **Public Institutions:** New oversight mechanisms for libraries and governance of municipal utilities

Following Bill 28's introduction in April 2026, RMA released an [initial summary and analysis document](#) to provide members and other stakeholders with a general understanding of the wide range of changes made in the Bill, its potential impacts on rural municipalities, and outstanding questions.

Municipal Impacts

Further analysis of Bill 28 confirms RMA's original position: as a whole, the Bill continues multi-year Government of Alberta (GOA) focus on reducing municipal autonomy, centralizing authority and shifting power and decision-making on local issues away from municipalities. Alongside recent omnibus bills such as Bills 20 and 50, and related legislation like Bill 19, Bill 28 reflects a continued trend of provincial intervention in local governance. Bill 28 also introduces uncertainty into municipal planning and governance processes by providing the GOA significant discretion over when and to what extent it will exercise its new powers to proactively limit or reactively over-rule municipal plans or decisions.





Bill 28 also shifts additional costs and risks onto municipalities, and by extension, local residents and businesses. While many Bill 28 changes reflect lobbying efforts of specific industry sectors, the benefits those sectors may receive in the form of reduced regulatory requirements will be borne by everyone else, a reality that the GOA has either not considered or does not deem important enough to inform their municipal policy approach.

The changes in Bill 28 are wide-ranging and varied. Some will have major impacts on urban municipalities, with little relevance in a rural context. For others, the opposite is true. Additionally, a small number of changes are positive for rural municipalities. While Bill 28 will have different impacts across the province, as a whole it undermines the ability of all municipalities to effectively serve local residents and businesses.





How to Use this Document

Building on RMA's initial Bill 28 summary and analysis, this document is intended to provide members, stakeholders, and government with an understanding of the immediate or potential impacts various changes will have on municipalities, and by extension, all Alberta residents and businesses. For each significant change introduced in Bill 28, the document includes the following:

- **Summary of change:** A short overview of what changed. For a more detailed explanation refer to RMA's initial summary and analysis document.
- **Autonomy impacts (ranked for each issue out of four):** If and to what extent does the change pose a risk to the ability of municipal councils to make local decisions at the local level?

Low autonomy impact		Immediate or potential impacts on municipal decision-making are minimal.
Some autonomy impact		Depending on implementation details, municipalities will likely incur some level of reduced autonomy in relation to governance, planning, decision-making, etc.
Significant autonomy impact		Local autonomy will likely be reduced for most, if not all, municipalities as a result of the change, though the degree of impact will vary by municipality.
Extreme autonomy impact		The change poses an immediate or potentially fundamental threat to municipal autonomy and removes municipal involvement on issues that have clear and significant local impacts. The voices of municipalities and individual residents will be lost or significantly weakened as a result of the change.

- ◆ Cost impacts (ranked for each issue out of four): If and to what extent does the change introduce a risk of increased costs for municipalities, and by extension, all Alberta residents and businesses?

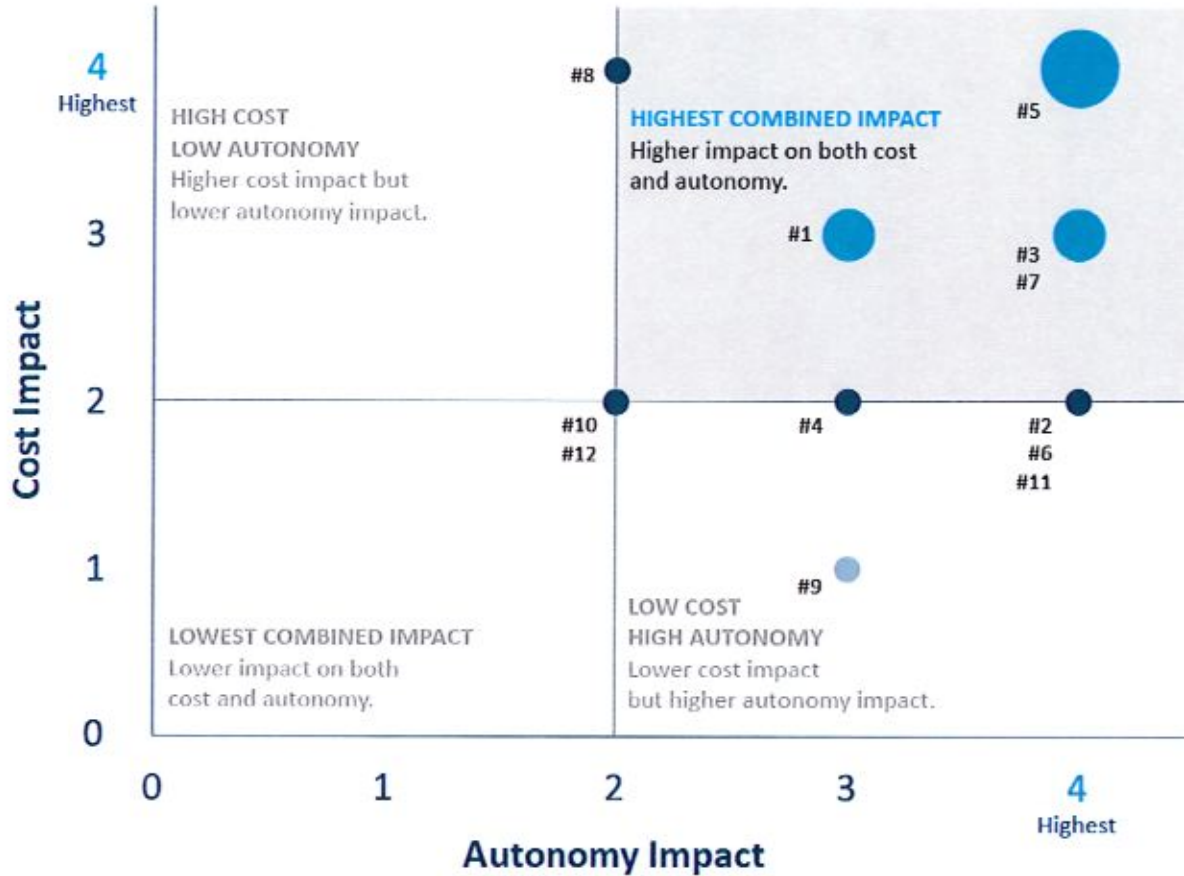
Low cost impact		Immediate or potential cost implications are minimal for municipalities and property owners.
Some cost impact		Depending on implementation details, some municipalities or property owners could incur significant costs as a result of the change.
Significant cost impact		Some or all municipalities or property owners are likely to incur cost impacts as a result of the change. The extent of the cost impacts are dependent on implementation details.
Extreme cost impact		Most or all municipalities will incur significant cost impacts as a result of the change.

- ◆ Outstanding questions or unknowns: What information is required to better understand the change?
- ◆ RMA go-forward priorities: How does RMA plan to advocate in relation to this issue moving forward?

Please note that not all Bill 28 changes are included in this document, as the focus is on those with the most direct impacts on local costs and autonomy.

The Overall Impact of Bill 28



The graph below plots each of the changes in the document based on the cost and autonomy impacts (out of 4). Those situated at the top right quadrant of the graph have the largest combined impact.





#1	"Automatic Yes" and Automated Systems, S. 640(2)	#7	Primacy of Provincial Approvals for Aggregate Pits, S. 619.1
#2	Regulation-Making Authority Related to Development Applications and Permits, S. 694	#8	Requisition Scope and Reserve Requirement Changes, S. 1, 7, 7.1, 34 (Alberta Housing Act)
#3	Community Design Codes, S. 640.3	#9	Property Tax Sub-Class Prohibition, Ss. 297 & 297.1
#4	Off-Site Levy Restrictions, S. 648(2.11)	#10	Ministerial Authority Over Municipal Dissolution Decisions, S. 130.1
#5	Authority Over Municipal Public Utility Governance, S. 44.1	#11	Councillor Accountability Framework, S. 146.01-09
#6	Expanded Ministerial Oversight of Public Libraries, S. 39, 40, and 40.1 (Libraries Act)	#12	Public Disclosure of Employee Compensation, Ss. 215.1-7

Enabling Growth and Housing



1. "Automatic Yes" and Automated Systems, S. 640(2)

Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enables municipalities to use automated permitting systems for making decisions on and issuing development permits. Provides Minister with power to develop regulation requiring one, some, or all municipalities to use automated permitting system. Described by Ministry staff as intended to apply to "routine or low-risk" development permits; because Bill 28 does not define these terms or include limits on the Minister's regulation-making authority, the provision could be applied broadly. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for potential "one-size-fits-all" requirement. No legislated limits on scope of automated decision-making, or clarity that municipalities will be empowered to exempt certain development types, development in lands zoned for certain uses, or specific applications from an "automatic yes" regulation. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs of technology, training, and ongoing maintenance of automated system could be prohibitive, especially for smaller municipalities with limited development permit requests. Increased risk of erroneous automated approvals resulting in land use conflict, Infrastructure Impacts, or safety risks.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Minister plan to immediately develop a regulation requiring adoption of an automated permitting system? Will degree of voluntary uptake and scope of usage across municipal sector inform the Minister's decision to develop a regulation? Will "automated system" be defined in a regulation? How prescriptive will requirements be as to system function and scope? How does the GOA define "low risk" permits? Will a regulation define this universally or based on local conditions? If automated systems are mandated, will GOA provide municipalities with implementation funding and capacity-building support? Would mandatory uptake be tailored to different development types (i.e., residential)? Will municipalities assume additional liability resulting from permits issued incorrectly through an automated system? 	
RMA Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with members to understand potential costs and administrative requirements associated with automated systems. Advocate for use of automated systems to continue to be a local decision. If the Minister develops a regulation, advocate for inclusion of standards reflecting varying levels of capacity and volumes of permits. 	



2. Regulation-Making Authority Related to Development Applications and Permits, S. 694

Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly expands regulation-making authority related to how municipalities receive, review, and approve develop permits. • Allows the Minister to issue regulations prescribing processes and timelines for development permit issuance, as well as prescribing or limiting the information that municipalities can request related to development applications. • Allows for the development of general regulations related to subdivision of land. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows the Minister to reduce additional information requests related to development permits, or establish an exhaustive and standardized list for all development types. • Imposition of extremely short approval timelines could combine with expanded requirement for automated systems to limit or eliminate manual review and verification of permit applications. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reductions to approval timelines could require municipalities to invest in additional staff capacity or automated systems. • Municipalities may incur long-term costs related to infrastructure strain, missed development opportunities, environmental and safety remediation, and increased legal risks or litigation costs arising from flawed or rushed approvals.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Minister immediately develop a regulation limiting approval timelines or information that municipalities can request? • How will the Minister balance industry requests for reduced regulatory requirements with the need for local planning accountability? • How will the Minister balance differing local contexts, including nature of development, local capacity, local growth rates, land use risks, etc. when considering whether to develop a regulation, and how a regulation should be scoped? • Does the Minister envision creating regulations aimed at individual municipalities, certain types of municipalities, or associated with certain types of development? If so, how will the scope be determined? • Does the GOA expect municipalities to assume legal liability for permits approved under provincially-mandated processes? 	
RMA Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek clarity from the GOA on if and how existing development approval timeliness is measured and benchmarked currently? • Advocate for continuation of status quo approach in which municipalities have appropriate flexibility in legislation to abide by general timelines and seek supplementary information from applicants when required. • If Minister pursues regulation development, seek to hold GOA and industry accountable for justifying need for limitations on timelines or scope of information based on specific evidence of unreasonable cost or growth impacts associated with the status quo. 	

3. Community Design Codes, S. 640.3



Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes the Minister to establish community design codes that set rules for design of residential and commercial development or redevelopment, including architectural style, districting, frontage standards, landscaping, parks, parking, and street design. • Allows municipalities to voluntarily adopt a design code by bylaw, while authorizing the Minister to require, by regulation, one, some or all municipalities to apply a design code. • Links imposition of design codes to imposition of alternative development approval timelines. • Clarifies that if implemented, design codes take precedence over all other statutory plans and land use bylaws. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows the Minister to mandate appearance/function of infrastructure, regardless of alignment with local priorities. • Could reduce developer costs by mandating under-designed public infrastructure such as parks and streets. • Could undermine local uniqueness of communities by imposing “cookie cutter” design across province. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduces a new layer of regulatory complexity for municipalities related to aligning local plans and standards with provincially-imposed codes. • Requirements for extremely high design standards may transfer excessive costs associated with development to broader property tax base.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Minister intend to develop community design codes immediately? If so, will they be mandated in some or all municipalities? • What level of detail will the codes include? High-level, principle-based guidance or prescriptive, mandatory standards? • Will municipalities retain an ability to modify design codes to reflect local conditions, servicing realities, or community priorities? • How will the GOA address local input or concerns with development prescribed based on community design codes? • Does the GOA intend to apply community design codes to rural and/or non-residential development? 	
RMA Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek clarity from the Minister on the intent in developing and mandating community design codes. • Seek clarity on terms such as “districting,” “frontage standards,” “landscaping,” and others that are not defined in legislation. • Understand policy intent and intended outcomes of community design codes, especially related to reducing costs for developers. • Advocate for limiting community design codes to enabling tool by emphasizing cost and autonomy risks of province-wide application. 	

4. Off-Site Levy Restrictions, S. 648(2.11)

Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduces a series of development-related costs that are specifically prohibited from being recovered through off-site levies (OSLs), including operational costs, capital costs related to commercial retail within public facility, moveable capital assets, any costs required to build infrastructure beyond the minimum building code standards. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is unknown if and to what extent current OSL regimes seek developer contributions for the now-prohibited costs. RMA is most concerned with prohibition of costs for building beyond minimum design standards. This will discourage proactive planning related to building resilient infrastructure. While initial list of restrictions may have minimal impacts in most municipalities, the creation of s. 648(2.11) creates a precedent for further restriction of OSL scope in the future. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limiting the extent to which municipalities can apply a "growth pays for growth" approach to funding public infrastructure costs associated with private development will shift costs to the broader tax base in the form of increased property tax rates or reduced service levels. The specific impacts of the existing list included in s. 648(2.11) are unknown.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What analysis or data supported the list of prohibitions? Are the prohibited items currently included in some OSL regimes? Given these prohibitions, what is the GOA's view of the concept of "growth pays for growth," especially given the broader downloading and fiscal challenges facing the municipal sector? How significant does the GOA anticipate municipal revenue losses will be as a result of the new levy exemptions, and has any modelling been completed to assess these impacts across different types of municipalities? 	
RMA Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for no further prohibitions to OSL scope. As Alberta leads the country in housing starts, request that the GOA and development industry provide evidence that OSLs were a legitimate barrier to new developments. 	

Public Institutions

5. Authority Over Municipal Public Utility Governance, S. 44.1



Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet can now require a municipality to transfer ownership or control of a public utility to a designated public utility entity. Terms such as “public utility entity,” as well as how such entities would be governed, operated and managed, are all subject to regulation-making authority and not defined in the MGA. Regulations made under this section of the MGA would prevail over any other section of the MGA. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The change affords Cabinet wide latitude to modify governance and delivery of local services, completely eliminate municipal control or involvement in a service, or transfer ownership entirely. The intent of this change has not been articulated by the GOA, including concepts such as a “public utility entity,” the situations that would warrant use of the power, and the characteristics or composition of a public utility entity formed as a result of the power. Based on the existing MGA definition of “public utility” (s. 1(1)(y)) this power applies broadly and includes services such as water, public transit, irrigation, and waste management. S. 44.1 allows Cabinet to make regulations that would prevail over the remainder of the MGA. This would include designating additional services as “public utilities” beyond what is defined in the Act. This could allow for forced removal of local control over delivery of any municipal service. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This power has the potential to shift ownership, delivery, oversight, or governance of a broad range of services from the municipal level to a “public utility entity.” Many of the services that could be impacted by s. 44.1 are those that generate revenue for municipalities through user fees. This power introduces significant cost and service risks to local property owners. It is important to be aware that s. 44.1 has been introduced while the GOA is undertaking research on “alternative financing tools” for municipalities, such as asset recycling, P3s, and others that reduce municipal control and increase private sector involvement in operating and deriving revenue from municipal services and infrastructure. While these tools may be effective in some cases, it is concerning that s. 44.1 will give the GOA authority to force transfer of ownership or control over public services to entities that could include the private sector if such an arrangement is opposed locally.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What criteria, principles, or evidence will guide Cabinet as to whether a public utility should be transferred to a public utility entity? 	

- ♦ How will the GOA ensure that use of this authority respects municipal autonomy, local service level requirements, and the operational realities of local utility management?
- ♦ Will municipalities be consulted before Cabinet compels a transfer, and what opportunities will exist for alternative solutions?
- ♦ Will the province define or limit the types of “public utility entities” that may be prescribed by regulation, particularly given the broad ability to designate “any other entity”?
- ♦ Will private sector organizations be included as potential “public utility entities” for the purposes of s. 44.1?
- ♦ How will the province assess and mitigate potential impacts on utility rates, service levels, and long-term infrastructure planning if ownership or control is transferred away from municipalities?
- ♦ How does the GOA justify authority to transfer ownership or control of municipal utilities, which have been built, maintained, and paid for by local ratepayers, without local consent.
- ♦ What principles will ensure that taxpayer-funded infrastructure is not transferred against the interests of the community?
- ♦ How does the GOA justify allowing regulations made under s. 44.1 to prevail over the remainder of the MGA?

RMA Priorities


- ♦ Seek commitment from GOA for collaborative development of clear thresholds, criteria and processes by which s. 44.1 will be used, including clear principles for gathering local input and consent prior to using s. 44.1 powers.
- ♦ Advocate for proactive development of regulations clearly scoping concepts such as “public utility entity,” as well as an assurance that s. 44.1 will not be used for any municipal services not listed in MGA s. 1(1)(y).

6. Expanded Ministerial Oversight of Public Libraries, S. 39, 40, and 40.1 (*Libraries Act*)

Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister's inspection powers related to public libraries are expanded to include any matter related to management, administration, or operation of a public library, including library property, services, and staff information. The Minister may now issue any order considered appropriate following an inspection. The Minister may make regulations limiting public access to specific library materials, including based on age. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant expansion of the Minister's power to inspect nearly all aspects of library functionality risks undermining local governance and operations of library services. Province-wide restrictions on access to certain materials may not align with local preferences, and may place library staff and boards in conflict with library users. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library boards may incur costs related to new technology or additional capacity to monitor access to materials restricted at the provincial level. Frequent or wide-ranging inspections, as well as orders directing changes in governance or operations, may introduce added administrative and adaptation costs for library boards.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the GOA plan to establish criteria, thresholds, or defined circumstances of what would trigger an inspection of different aspects of a library's operations? What principles or criteria will guide the Minister's decisions when issuing orders or directives following an inspection? Will the province provide capacity supports or funding if new regulations or inspection outcomes require operational, administrative, or infrastructure changes for libraries? How will the province address privacy, equity, and operational concerns if age-based or other access restrictions require libraries to verify age or other personal information, and is it reasonable to expect library staff to act as gatekeepers in this way? Will library boards or staff incur any liability risk related to inadvertent misalignment with age-based or other access restrictions? 	
RMA Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure changes to both inspection powers and access requirements are properly scoped in terms of policy intent, implementation process, and mitigation of cost and liability risks for library boards and staff. 	



Aggregate Pits

7. Primacy of Provincial Approvals for Aggregate Pits, S. 619.1

Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial approval of pits under the <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act</i> take primacy over municipal plans, bylaws, etc. Require municipalities to amend plans, bylaws, permits, approvals, or any other document to align with a provincial pit approval. Municipalities may continue to regulate or place conditions on issues not addressed in the provincial approval. To RMA's knowledge, the GOA will not amend the provincial approval process to include municipal plans and landowner perspectives. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipalities will no longer regulate aggregate-related issues addressed in the provincial approval process, despite such issues having local impacts not addressed at the provincial approval level. Changes result in a lack of requirements for if and how municipal plans and landowner input will be addressed in the provincial approval process. When provincially-approved pits create land use and nuisance conflicts or impact municipal infrastructure, it is likely that residents will view municipalities as accountable. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pits approved provincially may have significant infrastructure or land use impacts that could lead to increased municipal costs. Pits approved near other existing or planned development could sterilize or devalue land and ultimately eliminate or reduce long-term opportunities for economic development and assessment base growth.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas commit to meaningful engagement with municipal stakeholders on how to ensure municipal plans and perspectives and landowner input are properly weighed in the provincial approval process? Given that pit registrations override municipal statutory plans, land-use bylaws, subdivision decisions, and development permits, how will the province ensure that local planning objectives, infrastructure constraints, and cumulative impacts are not disregarded? How do Bill 28 changes align with ongoing changes related to the Code of Practice for Pits and the Sand and Gravel Task Force? 	
RMA Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate GOA on local risks and impacts of gravel pit development, and importance of maintaining a local lens on approvals. Advocate for GOA to undertake meaningful, fulsome, and municipally-focused engagement on implementation of Bill 28 changes, Code of Practice, and Sand and Gravel Task Force recommendations. Explore alternate options by which municipalities can regulate aggregate pit development in context of Bill 28 changes. 	

Seniors Lodges



8. Requisition Scope and Reserve Requirement Changes, S. 1, 7, 7.1, 34 (*Alberta Housing Act*)

Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expands the scope of municipal requisitions for housing management bodies (HMBs) by introducing a capital maintenance reserve. The Minister is now empowered to determine the annual capital maintenance reserve amount required for each individual HMB, which forms the basis as to the amount that impacted municipalities are requisitioned. The Minister may now determine how requisition costs are divided among municipalities that contribute to a given HMB, and require additional municipalities contribute to a given HMB's requisition. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downloads additional public housing costs onto municipalities without proportional changes in municipal input into HMB management and decision-making. Centralizes decision-making on capital maintenance reserve investment at the provincial level, reducing local control over public housing service levels and management. The changes may force municipalities to financially contribute to HMBs that provide little or no service to their residents and for which they have little or no governance input. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The combined impact of expanding the scope of municipal requisitions, centralizing how requisition amounts and proportional municipal contributions are determined could have significant local fiscal impacts. Requiring municipalities to contribute to capital maintenance reserves when they have little to no say in determining reserve levels or how reserve funds are used is a significant download. It is crucial that municipal input into reserve use is proportional to the increased fiscal requirements that municipalities will incur.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the province's policy justification for downloading housing costs onto municipalities through increased requisition scope? What methodology will determine capital maintenance reserve levels for HMBs? Will HMBs be required to provide evidence-supported information on asset condition to government to inform determination of reserve levels? If so, how will this information be verified and how will incomplete or inaccurate information be addressed? 	
RMA Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for fulsome provincial engagement on methodology for setting capital maintenance reserve levels, criteria to warrant minister modification of municipal requisition contributions levels, and other <i>Housing Act</i> changes with municipal fiscal impacts. Collaborate with members to understand long-term fiscal impacts of changes. 	

Assessment and Property Tax



NOTE: Bill 28 changes related to the regulated assessment model are being contemplated as part of the ongoing assessment model review, and are not included in this document.

9. Property Tax Sub-Class Prohibition, S. 297 & 297.1


Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits the ability of municipalities to create a separate property tax sub-class for vacant residential properties owned by Alberta residents, defined as individuals who resided in Alberta for at least 183 days in the previous year. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the specific issue of vacant properties and limited housing supply tends to affect a particular subset of municipalities, the change further reduces municipal autonomy related to taxation and creates a concerning precedent for further provincial control of local tax rates based on industry lobbying. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The specific cost impacts in the municipalities directly impacted by the change is unknown. In general, restricting municipal tax rate flexibility limits the effectiveness of tax rates as a policy tool to incentivize development or ensure that various property types are contributing their "fair share" based on the local context.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did government balance property owner/development industry lobbying with the perspective of municipalities using tax rates as a policy tool to address housing undersupply when implementing this restriction? What is the policy intent of basing the restriction on the residence of the property owner rather than the status of the property itself? Does this change indicate a broader willingness on the part of the GOA to further limit or restrict local autonomy over tax rates in response to industry lobbying? 	
RMA Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek clarity from GOA on whether they view this change as a "one-off" to address a unique situation, or as a pre-cursor to broader shifts to local autonomy in setting tax rates. 	

Governance and Accountability

10. Ministerial Authority Over Municipal Dissolution Decisions, S. 130.1



Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows the Minister to override a public vote on dissolution following a viability review by recommending to Cabinet that a municipality dissolve, or that it remain a municipality while meeting viability directives, regardless of the public vote results. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending on how the Minister uses this new override power, local direction on the future of a municipality subject to a viability review could be eliminated. Absorbing municipality has no input into decision despite direct impacts. If Minister uses this power to override a vote result that significantly impacts absorbing municipality, this power could support autonomy for absorbing municipality. Broader changes to the viability review process are required to properly weigh impacts on the absorbing municipality. If the process is improved, this power should not be required. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending on how override power is used, Minister could transfer significant costs to absorbing rural municipalities such as infrastructure deficits, urban servicing expectations, and others. If the Minister uses this power to prevent resident-supported resolutions that will place unreasonable fiscal pressures on the absorbing municipality, this change could serve as a source of fiscal protection for rural municipalities. Changes to the viability review process are needed to gather and weigh fiscal impacts of dissolution on absorbing municipality. If the process is improved, this power should not be required.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the GOA plan to develop guidelines or criteria as to when this power will be used? If so, will they engage with stakeholders? How will the GOA ensure that this power is used transparently and that the GOA maintains accountability to local residents? 	
RMA Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasize that this power should only act as a short-term back-stop for the current viability review process, which requires change. Recommend to the GOA clear criteria and situations for which the Minister may exercise this power, in relation to three scenarios: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inadequate or incomplete viability review process resulting in un- or mis-informed residents. Repeated viability reviews, with resident votes to remain a municipality, during which local fiscal conditions continue to worsen. Unreasonable or extreme impacts or risks posed to the absorbing municipality as a result of the resident vote outcome. Continue to advocate for improvements to the viability monitoring and review process to better understand and weigh impacts on potential absorbing municipalities and ensure that resident votes are based on accurate, relevant, and understandable information. 	

11. Councillor Accountability Framework, S. 146.01-09

Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill 28 Introduces a new MGA section establishing the broad parameters of a “councillor accountability framework,” with many of the details related to how the framework would be applied deferred to regulation-making authority. • Details of the framework that will be addressed through regulation include rules of conduct that may warrant a complaint, complaint submission processes, investigative processes, sanctioning processes, appeal processes, and others. • The Minister has broad authority to develop the overall process and shape individual complaint processes, including through defining the scope of complaints, qualifications and powers of investigators, and many other areas. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for the Minister to direct complaints risks politicization of the framework, undermining its intent. • Minister discretion to accept, reject, or adjust recommendations from an appeal commissioner risks weakening independence of the process. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requirement that all complaints be referred to a third-party investigator could result in significant cost implications for municipalities and be subject to process abuses in the form of repeated filing of vexatious complaints. • Costs for investigation, appeals, and records retention, will depend on future regulations, leaving municipalities with significant uncertainty about financial implications.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will the engagement process look like, and how will municipal input be incorporated into the final model and regulation? • How will the GOA ensure that the framework is practical, proportionate, and workable for municipalities of all sizes and capacities? • Will municipalities retain ability to supplement the framework with local expectations or values, or will provincial rules be exhaustive? • How will municipal costs associated with third-party investigations, appeals, and process requirements be determined, and will funding support be made available to municipalities incurring significant or disproportionate costs? 	
RMA Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit to government policy positions to ensure the framework supports accountability, local autonomy, and efficient processes. • Clarify government policy intent related to framework based on 2025 decision to repeal Initial codes of conduct completely. • Better understand role of Minister in complaint, investigation, and appeal processes. • Undertake ongoing monitoring and evaluation of framework in effectively addressing local conduct issues. 	

Municipal Transparency

12. Public Disclosure of Employee Compensation, S. 215.1-7

Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipalities will now be required to annually publish on their website compensation information for employees earning an amount in excess of the threshold defined in the <i>Public Sector Compensation Transparency Act</i>. The new requirements also establish Ministerial authority to order audits of municipal employee compensation, creating a provincial oversight mechanism with associated municipal compliance obligations. 	
Potential Autonomy Impact	Potential Cost Impact
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transferring existing provincial “sunshine list” requirements to the municipal sector ignores differences in local context in areas such as municipal type, capacity, level of expertise, etc. Some employees may face privacy risks and unwarranted scrutiny from local residents, or increased tension and animosity within the workplace as a result of their salary being disclosed. Both could result in added retention challenges for municipalities. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salary disclosure could result in increased salary expectations for municipal employees based on what individuals employed in similar roles in other municipalities earn. While this may help to counteract other retention risks associated with public salary disclosures, it may place municipalities with limited capacity in a difficult position requiring significant salary increases or a loss of key employees to other sectors. Minister-ordered audits make municipalities responsible for all related audit costs, creating a potentially significant and unpredictable financial burden.
Outstanding Questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will the province respond if this change creates retention challenges across the municipal sector? How will the Minister’s audit powers be exercised in practice, and what criteria or triggers will determine when an audit is initiated? On what basis will disclosure exemptions be determined? Will this power rest with the Minister or be determined locally? 	
RMA Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Alberta Rural Municipal Administrators Association and other stakeholders to consider development of best practices or other guidance related to how municipalities can provide context to residents in relation to various positions and associated responsibilities to support better understanding of the value provided by various municipal positions likely to be included on most local sunshine lists. 	



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister**MLA, Peace River*

AR122580

June 17, 2026

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar
 Municipal District of Spirit River
 PO Box 389
 Spirit River AB T0H 3G0

Dear Reeve Van Rootselaar:

I am pleased to confirm the 2026 funding allocations for your community.

For the Municipal District of Spirit River:

- The 2026 Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) Capital allocation is \$539,631.
 - This includes \$56,047 in needs-based funding allocated to local governments with a population less than 10,000 and a limited local assessment base.
- The 2026 LGFF Operating allocation is \$93,528.
- The 2026 Build Communities Strong Fund-Community Stream (BCSF-CS) allocation is \$89,046.

LGFF Capital is a legislated program aimed at providing local governments with advanced notice of their future infrastructure funding. As indicated on the program website, in 2027, your community will be eligible for \$591,842. Information on 2028 LGFF Capital allocations will be shared with local governments this fall, after changes in provincial revenues between 2024/25 and 2025/26 have been confirmed. I would like to also inform you that work is underway to develop a new allocation formula for the LGFF Operating program, which will be announced later this year.

As you may be aware, in 2025, the Government of Canada launched the BCSF, which included a renaming of the Canada Community-Building Fund to the Community Stream under the BCSF. Please note that no program or funding changes are being made apart from the name change.

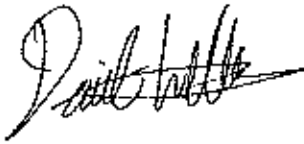
LGFF and BCSF-CS funding amounts for all municipalities and Metis Settlements are also posted on the Government of Alberta website at www.alberta.ca/municipal-affairs-funding-programs.

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- 2 -

I look forward to working together with you to support your local infrastructure and operating needs, and building strong, vibrant communities across Alberta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dan Williams, ECA
Minister of Municipal Affairs

cc: Shirley Hayden, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipal District of Spirit River