

# AAMDC Advocacy Report Card

## Fall 2015



Prepared by the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties

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**AAMDC Advocacy Report Card:  
Fall 2015**

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# INTRODUCTION

The Advocacy Report Card is divided into two sections.

**Section 1** provides detailed information on the government response to the Spring 2015 resolutions and includes the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) Board of Directors' reaction to the response as well as anticipated follow up.

**Section 2** updates members by reporting on all active resolutions. The resolutions are grouped by advocacy area.

## Definition of Terms

Following the adoption of resolutions at AAMDC conventions, resolutions are sent to the appropriate level of government for response. Once a response is received, the AAMDC labels the resolution with one of five indicators which determines the status of that resolution. The intention of providing a status for each resolution is to evaluate whether the government response meets the intent of the resolution. The status is not intended to reflect the AAMDC's advocacy efforts on a resolution.

- The status of 'unsatisfactory' has been renamed 'intent not met.' The purpose of this is to clarify that the status relates to the government response to the resolution, not to the quality of the AAMDC's advocacy efforts or of the resolution itself.
- Colour coding has been incorporated into the 'reactions at a glance' to provide a visual representation of resolution statuses.

Below are the descriptions of all resolution ranking statuses.

STATUS	DESCRIPTION
Accepted	Meets the AAMDC criteria as outlined in a) the resolution and b) as per the expectations of the Board of Directors.
Accepted in Principle	The development addresses that action is being taken to meet the intent of the resolution, but further action is required.
Accepted in Part	Some resolutions include multiple 'asks' in the operative clause. This status indicates that one of the 'asks' has been met while others require further action.
Intent Not Met	The intent of the resolution has not been met as outlined in the resolution or the current developments do not meet the approval of the Board of Directors.
Incomplete Information	The AAMDC has not received enough information to assign a status. Further follow-up is required for the AAMDC to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

# SECTION 1: Government Responses to Spring 2015 Resolutions

The AAMDC recently received the Government of Alberta responses to the resolutions adopted at the Spring 2015 convention. The following table provides a quick overview of the initial assessment of the Spring 2015 resolutions following the Government of Alberta's response. The Spring 2015 resolutions and corresponding government response can be found below.

## REACTIONS AT A GLANCE

#	RESOLUTION NAME	STATUS
1-15S	Strategic Direction for the AAMDC	Accepted
2-15S	Elk Quota Hunt	Accepted in Part
3-15S	Legal Opinion on the Jurisdiction of the Weed Control Act on All Railways	Accepted
4-15S	Landowner Special Licence for Elk	Intent Not Met
5-15S	Review of Alberta Supernet Agreement with Axia Supernet Ltd.	Accepted in Principle
6-15S	Management of Farm Development and Agricultural Leases	Intent Not Met
7-15S	Reinstatement of Commercial Fishing Quotas in Alberta	Intent Not Met

**Strategic Direction for the AAMDC**

AAMDC

*Carried*

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**Advocacy Target: AAMDC**

WHEREAS the Alberta Association of Municipal District and Counties (AAMDC) is a member-driven organization; and

WHEREAS setting strategic direction is an important process in establishing a clear picture of organizational expectations in serving members and clients; and

WHEREAS a member approved strategic direction will guide the AAMDC Board of Directors and staff in developing a strategic plan in which association activities will align with strategic priorities; and

WHEREAS the AAMDC's previous strategic plan, *Mapping Success: The AAMDC's Strategic Plan*, expired in March 2014;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties adopts the Strategic Direction as presented at the Spring 2015 Convention to guide the planning and activities for the organization;**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties review the strategic directions document in four years.**

**Government Response**

This resolution did not require any action on the part of government.

**AAMDC Reaction and Follow-up**

The AAMDC has adopted the Strategic Direction as presented at the Spring 2015 Convention. Therefore this resolution is deemed Accepted.

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**Advocacy Target: Environment and Sustainable Resource Development**

WHEREAS many Eastern Slopes and Peace Region municipalities are having difficulties with problem elk populations; and

WHEREAS many Peace Region municipalities have submitted many resolutions in this regard for these same problems; and

WHEREAS minimal and modest increases have been made to Eastern Slopes and Peace Region Wildlife Management Unit's (WMU's) harvest limits; and

WHEREAS these increases in tag allocations have not resulted in alleviating or mitigating economic losses sustained by producers;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development implement an Elk Quota Hunt, based upon the principles of the former Chronic Wasting Disease Quota Hunt.**

**Government Response**

Environment and Parks: Environment and Parks recognizes the concerns expressed by municipalities regarding increased elk populations.

Management of Elk populations is a significant focus of Environment and Parks, and the department continues to implement liberal harvest regimes to help address elk depredation issues. In doing this, the department strives to strike a balance between the benefits of increased hunting and the potential negative impacts of increased hunter numbers, such as increased interactions with landowners and other hunters.

In February 2015, the department implemented a quota hunt at Canadian Forces Base Suffield to help address its high elk populations and associated landowner concerns. Environment and Parks now intends to add additional hunting seasons for both antlered and antlerless elk for 2015/16 and extending antlerless seasons in other areas where landowners are experiencing problems with elk populations.

**AAMDC Reaction and Follow-up**

The AAMDC appreciates the willingness of Alberta Environment and Parks to implement elk quota hunts and extend hunting seasons in order to address elk population growth. As the resolution specifically asks for an elk quota hunt based upon the principles of the former Chronic Wasting Disease Quota Hunt, and this has not yet occurred, this resolution is assigned a status of Accepted in Part.

**Legal Opinion on the Jurisdiction of the Weed Control Act on All Railways**

MD of Smoky River

*Carried as amended*

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**Advocacy Target: AAMDC**

WHEREAS the resolution “Legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the *Weed Control Act* on CN Rail” (attached, in member background) was carried at the October 24, 2014 Peace Region Agriculture Service Board Conference requesting that action be taken by the Alberta Association of Municipal District and Counties (AAMDC); and

WHEREAS during the debate on the resolution, the point was made that the AAMDC would require support from the member municipalities to take the requested action, and the support would be best garnered by resolution at the AAMDC Spring Convention; and

WHEREAS CN Rail has expressed the opinion that the *Weed Control Act of Alberta* (WCA) has no jurisdiction on their property; and

WHEREAS a legal opinion on this question was received by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, however it is unable to be shared due to attorney/client privilege; and

WHEREAS CN Rail operates in over 50% of the AAMDC member municipalities and the question of jurisdiction impacts whether municipalities can legally enforce the WCA and recoup weed control costs, as well as if appointed inspectors could be charged with trespassing; and

WHEREAS CP Rail, unlike CN, has made no claims regarding the jurisdiction of the WCA on their properties;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties obtain a legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the *Weed Control Act of Alberta* for all railways, and that the opinion be shared with all of its member municipalities.**

**Government Response**

This resolution did not require any action on the part of government.

**AAMDC Reaction and Follow-up**

The AAMDC obtained a legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the *Weed Control Act of Alberta* (WCA) for all railways. Generally speaking, the legal opinion indicates that federal railways within Alberta and provincially regulated railway lands must comply with the weed control requirements of the *Weed Control Act* (WCA). The legal opinion identifies that municipal inspectors have broad authority to enforce and monitor compliance under the WCA within geographical boundaries of each municipality and that activity undertaken by a federal railway company on its lands that are not integral to federal undertakings are subject to provincial legislation. Further, the legal opinion expresses that complying with the WCA will not impair the operation of any federal railways nor is there a federal law which directly conflicts with the provisions of the WCA in this regard.

This resolution has been assigned the status of Accepted.

**Landowner Special Licence for Elk**

Mountain View County

*Carried*

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**Advocacy Target: Environment and Sustainable Resource Development**

WHEREAS Alberta ungulate populations, primarily elk, are increasing rapidly due to current wildlife management policies; and

WHEREAS the increased elk population is responsible for damage to hay land, pasture, forages and other crops primarily located in agricultural areas; and

WHEREAS the introduction of an Antlerless Elk Season in many of the Wildlife Management Units (WMU), was to control elk populations; and

WHEREAS landowners are currently required to apply in the regular draw process if they wish to obtain an Antlerless Elk Licence; and

WHEREAS if the landowner is unsuccessful in the draw, they may apply for a Landowner Special Licence which requires ownership of a minimum of 160 acres and is only valid for the single season applied for; and

WHEREAS first parcel out subdivisions restrict the landowner's ability to obtain a Landowner Special Licence;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) amend the Landowner Special Licence criteria to remove the requirement to enter in the draw process and that landowners of agricultural property with less than 160 acres qualify for the special licence; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that ESRD permit Landowner Special Licences to be used in any declared season within that Wildlife Management Unit.**

**Government Response**

Environment and Parks: Environment and Parks will be developing a new game allocation policy through a collaborative process with the Alberta Game Management Advisory Group, of which the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties is a member. Objectives for landowner licenses will be discussed through this process. Environment and Parks values the perspective of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties in informing this program as it goes forward.

Currently, Environment and Parks is changing some requirements related to the landowner special licenses. For 2015/16, individuals who apply for either antlered or antlerless elk special licenses and are unsuccessful can now apply for antlerless elk landowner licenses where they are eligible.

**AAMDC Reaction and Follow-up**

Although the response indicates a willingness to address the issue of landowner special licenses through a new game allocation policy, at this point there has been no policy change to address the resolution request. As such, this resolution has been deemed Intent Not Met, and will be revisited as the collaborative process for developing a new game allocation policy takes place.

**Review of Alberta SuperNet Agreement with Axia SuperNet Ltd.**

MD of Taber

*Carried*

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**Advocacy Target: Service Alberta**

WHEREAS establishing a fibre optic network is essential for the provision of high speed internet services within the Province of Alberta and is a key element for future rural economic development; and

WHEREAS the Alberta SuperNet was constructed by the Province of Alberta at a cost of four hundred million dollars to provide a fibre optic high-speed wireless system across the Province; and

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta, through the Minister of Service Alberta, administers an agreement with Axia SuperNet Ltd. (a private corporation) for the management and operation of the Alberta SuperNet infrastructure under an agreement which is not public and which will expire in 2018; and

WHEREAS Axia SuperNet Ltd. has kept the price for access to the SuperNet high as compared to other fibre optic service providers; and

WHEREAS Axia SuperNet Ltd. has entered the retail market which conflicts with their Alberta SuperNet management role and which places them at a competitive advantage over other internet service providers; and

WHEREAS the underutilization of the fibre optic network within Alberta is directly attributable to the management of this public infrastructure by a private corporation focused on private profits rather than on a public good;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that Service Alberta not renew the Axia SuperNet Ltd. agreement until a complete examination of how the Alberta SuperNet can be managed in such a way as to promote a cost competitive, reliable, sustainable and Alberta-based solution for fibre optic internet services which meets the increasing demand for high speed internet service within the Province of Alberta with sufficient emphasis to rural connectivity.**

**Government Response**

Service Alberta: Service Alberta is actively engaged in a complete review of the current SuperNet agreements. Better access to information opens doors for all Albertans, including enabling new online government services and helping rural communities to ensure their sustainability. While most Albertans have access to basic levels of Internet, we recognize that this is only a beginning and does not address the growing demands for increased capacity, quality, performance and price equity across the province.

With the SuperNet contracts expiring in 2018, Service Alberta has been working on a 10-year digital strategy to leverage the government's initial investment to meet the needs of public sector service delivery and to better support reliable, competitive and affordable Internet for rural Albertans.

In addition to the work being led by Service Alberta on the digital strategy, the ministry continues to work with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and representatives from other key ministries to review the opportunities to improve high-speed Internet access in rural Alberta in support of the

Rural Economic Development Action Plan. These teams continue to propose solutions to address the unique challenges and opportunities surrounding rural Internet service delivery.

Service Alberta understands that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to address rural broadband, and the ministry will continue to seek the input of municipalities and community champions as we develop our strategies.

### **AAMDC Reaction and Follow-up**

According to the government response, Service Alberta is in the process of developing a long-term digital strategy to leverage its initial investment into SuperNet to ensure it supports reliable, competitive, and affordable internet service for rural Albertans.

As the response indicates that a new contract has not been signed with Axia, and that the current agreement as well as the overall role and effectiveness of SuperNet is being reviewed, the AAMDC assigns this resolution a status of Accepted in Principle, pending the completion of the ten-year digital strategy and review of the current SuperNet agreement.

**Management of Farm Development and Agricultural Leases**

MD of Big Lakes

*Carried*

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**Advocacy Target: Agriculture and Rural Development, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development**

WHEREAS currently the Department of Public Lands, under the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD), manage the use and operation of farm development leases and agricultural leases; and

WHEREAS Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development would be better adapted to manage the lease land as their expertise in agricultural production would give stronger representation to the needs of producers; and

WHEREAS the current policies and practices utilized by ESRD do not account for the unique nature of agriculture and the frequency in which the market changes, thus effecting the financial ability of producers to operate; and

WHEREAS more direct control from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development would allow policies and procedures to be adapted in a more timely manner minimizing the negative effects on producers;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development transfer management of farm development leases and agricultural leases to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.**

**Government Response**

Agriculture and Forestry: Agriculture and Forestry recognizes the concerns expressed by the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and its members regarding the management of these disposition types by Environment and Parks (EP). However, returning either partial or all administration of Alberta's public land management back to Agriculture and Forestry would require significant changes to current government structure.

EP's legislation allows for seven types of public land dispositions intended for agriculture purposes. Based on the information contained in the background to this resolution, the disposition types referred to are the Farm Development Lease (FDL) and Cultivation Permit (CUP). These disposition types are addressed by sections 85 through 90 of the *Public Lands Administration Regulation*, and are managed by qualified EP agrologists.

As of April 2014, over 7,600 public land dispositions, covering close to 8.8 million acres of public land, were issued for agricultural purposes. Of these, there were fewer than 820 FDL and CUP dispositions, covering an area of close to 112,000 acres, or less than two per cent of the total public land that was under some form of agricultural disposition (i.e. cultivation and/or grazing). Approximately 93 per cent of this area (104,000 acres) was specifically under the 643 FDL dispositions issued by EP.

Environment and Parks: The Government of Alberta is not considering transferring responsibility of agricultural leases from Environment and Parks to Agriculture and Forestry. Any such transfer would be costly and require significant changes to the organizational makeup of both ministries.

The Government of Alberta supports an integrated approach to public land management. As such, farm development and agriculture leases are managed to meet goals of sustainable management. To help achieve this, Environment and Parks regularly consults with its clients and with Agriculture and Forestry about policies that impact agricultural producers.

Environment and Parks has professional agrologists with training and experience in managing agricultural dispositions. These staff work collaboratively with holders of these dispositions to find adaptive and practical strategies that help to meet the sustainable management goals.

This year, Environment and Parks is planning to review Farm Development rental rates in consultation with Agriculture and Forestry.

### **AAMDC Reaction and Follow-up**

The government response indicates no willingness to transfer management of farm development leases and agricultural leases from Alberta Environment and Parks to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Although the AAMDC appreciates the fact that the government of Alberta takes an integrated approach to public land management that involves collaboration between Environment and Parks and Agriculture and Forestry staff, AAMDC members believe that the agriculture expertise necessary to understand how market changes impact the financial ability of producers to operate is best understood by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. As a result, this resolution is assigned a status of Intent Not Met.

**Reinstatement of Commercial Fishing Quotas on Alberta Lakes**

Mackenzie County

*Carried*

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**Advocacy Target: Environment and Sustainable Resource Development**

WHEREAS the Alberta commercial fishing industry was created in 1910, when Alberta issued its first commercial licence, ensuring all Albertans have access to a fresh food supply as is recommended in the Canadian Food Guide; and

WHEREAS prior to August 1, 2014, eight zones in Alberta were identified for commercial fishing with a total of 66 lakes (Zone A – 23, Zone B – 3, Zone C – 7, Zone D – 20, Zone E – 10, Zone F – 0, Zone G – 2, Zone H – 1); and

WHEREAS in 2012 Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) engaged Dr. Colby of Ontario to independently assess lakes in Zone E, with regards to the commercial fishing industry, with an undesirable outcome for Zone E; and

WHEREAS ESRD closed all lakes in Alberta to commercial fishing on August 1, 2014, stating “an extensive third-party review have been completed to assess the long-term viability of Alberta’s commercial fishery and determined that Alberta’s commercial fishery is no longer viable.”<sup>1</sup>, while utilizing Dr. Colby’s report for Zone E and some unidentified additional provincial assessments; and

WHEREAS ESRD released the latest Fish Conservation and Management Strategy for Alberta in September 2014, in order to “provide economic and biodiversity benefits and to enrich the quality of life for Albertans”<sup>2</sup>, with ESRD’s mandate “to develop an integrated resource management system” that “identifies and achieves the environmental, economic and social outcomes that Albertans expect from resource development and maintains the government’s social licence to develop resource through the province”<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS ESRD’s Fish Conservation and Management Strategy highlights public involvement and consultation as one of its priorities and objectives as “stakeholder’s expectations, biological realities and desired outcomes must be aligned to foster good decision making”<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS Alberta’s municipalities support ESRD’s strategy; however, ESRD has selected not to undertake assessments of other Zones or to undertake public and stakeholder consultations in all Zones prior to closing the commercial fishing industry in Alberta; and

WHEREAS ESRD selected to close all lakes to commercial fishing due to the perceived high cost to maintain the provincial licensing system, fishery regulation, monitoring, and enforcement for a few lakes; and

WHEREAS commercial fishing is a livelihood for many commercial fishermen in rural Alberta. The blanket suspension of the fishing industry in Alberta has created unnecessary hardships for many rural Albertans that conducted their fishing operations in a responsible and sustainable manner from the lakes that have not been scientifically identified to be “in danger”;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://esrd.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/fisheries-management/commercial-fishing-alberta.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> Pg. 4, Fish Conservation and Management Strategy, AB ESRD

<sup>3</sup> Pg. 39, Fish Conservation and Management Strategy, AB ESRD

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) to reinstate the commercial fish quotas on all lakes that were not assessed by the Colby Report, and commence an assessment of each individual Zone, with stakeholder input, to determine the sustainability of Alberta's commercial fishing industry, to ensure that the lakes, the industry, and the food source are sustainable in the future for all Albertans; and **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that ESRD engages the stakeholders of Zone E, and reassesses the Commercial Fishing Industry and practices in Zone E.

### **Government Response**

Environment and Parks: Reinstating a commercial fishery is not a viable option and the decision to close it is not being reconsidered by the Government of Alberta. The fishery closure decision was made to maximize the benefits to Albertans from the province's fishery resources.

Consultation with commercial fishers to find solutions to fishery conflict and sustainability issues has been extensive over many years. The Colby Review was the culmination of this process, and was agreed to jointly by fisheries managers and commercial fishers.

The sustainability of 102 commercially-fished lakes across all zones in the province was evaluated. Only nine lakes were determined to be viable commercial fisheries in the foreseeable future, and some of these fisheries would have still required substantial changes. Overall, maintaining a provincial commercial fishery on the basis of the very small number of potential sustainable minor fisheries available is not practical.

The decision supports positive economic outcomes for northern communities from strengthened recreational fisheries and increased angling-related expenditures. These benefits are expected to be greater than the loss of commercial fishing. Lakes such as Lesser Slave, Snipe and Winagami are expected to attract more recreational anglers as the numbers of large pike and walleye increase.

### **AAMDC Reaction and Follow-up**

The government response asserts that the closure of Alberta's commercial fishing industry will not be reconsidered or evaluated on a zone by zone basis. As stakeholders in all zones were not provided an adequate opportunity to provide input in to the decision prior to closure, the AAMDC has deemed this resolution Intent Not Met, and will continue to advocate for a discussion on the viability of Alberta's commercial fishing industry that includes input from stakeholders in all zones.

## SECTION 2: Advocacy Report Card

The following table is a summary of the AAMDC's current resolutions excluding the resolutions adopted in Spring 2015 and detailed in Section 1. Recent developments on the resolutions are detailed below in the corresponding categories, and readers are reminded that although resolution statuses may remain unchanged, work on each resolution is ongoing. Each resolution has a three year lifespan to reflect the nature of shifting government policy development and timelines associated with legislative changes and implementation.

### PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS AT A GLANCE

CATEGORY	#	RESOLUTION TITLE	STATUS
AGRICULTURE	3-14S	Wildlife Damage Compensation Program	Incomplete Information
	1-13S	Short Term Solid Manure Storage	Intent Not Met
COMMUNITY SERVICES	8-14F	Improvement of High-Speed Internet Services in Rural Alberta	Accepted in Principle
	10-14F	Temporary Foreign Workers Program	Accepted in Part
	14-14F	Provincial Funding for Municipal Public Libraries and Regional Library Systems	Accepted in Part
	16-14F	Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Funding	Accepted in Principle
	9-13F	Summer Temporary Employment Program	Accepted
	17-13F	Creation of a Provincial Combative Sport Commission	Intent Not Met
EDUCATION	18-14F	Sustaining Schools in Rural Communities	Intent Not Met
EMERGENCY SERVICES	9-14F	Fire Department Response to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Calls	Intent Not Met
	11-14F	Alberta Health Services – Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Review	Accepted in Part
ENERGY	7-13F	Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) of Transloader Facilities (a.k.a. "Pipeline on Rails")	Intent Not Met
ENVIRONMENT	2-14F	Controlling and Enforcing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (Quagga and Zebra Mussels)	Accepted in Principle

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>RESOLUTION TITLE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
	12-14F	Amend the Waste Control Regulation 192/1996 to Address Classification of Hazardous Wastes in Landfills	Intent Not Met
	4-14S	Species at Risk Act (SARA)	Intent Not Met
	15-13F	Provincial Funding of Locally Administered Air Shed Monitoring	Incomplete Information
<b>HEALTH</b>	7-14S	Amend the Legislation to Provide for Placement of Automatic External Defibrillators in Public Facilities Including Schools	Intent Not Met
<b>INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES</b>	8-14S	Timber Salvage on Recreational Areas	Intent Not Met
	3-13F	Got Gravel? Strategies to Secure Gravel for Rural Municipalities	Accepted
	2-13S	Natural Resource Exploration	Accepted in Part
<b>MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE</b>	10-14S	Proposed Amendments to the Determination of Population Regulation to Provide Greater Flexibility for the Counting of Shadow Population	Intent Not Met
	4-13F	Amend the Municipal Government Act to Provide Protection from Liability for Municipal Maintenance to the Physical Edge of Provincial Highways	Intent Not Met
	13-13F	Provincial Grazing Leases Municipal Tax Recovery	Intent Not Met
	ER1-13F	Suspend Bill 28 Pending Further Municipal Consultation Through the MGA Review	Accepted
	3-13S	Assessment of Part and Component Replacement for Linear Property	Intent Not Met
<b>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	1-14F	Amalgamation Process Amendments	Intent Not Met
	7-14F	Regional Partnership Solution to Municipal/Community Viability	Intent Not Met
	15-14F	Telus Line Locates	Incomplete Information

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>RESOLUTION TITLE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
	1-14S	Privatization of the Alberta Land Titles Registry System	Accepted
<b>SENIORS</b>	<i>No Active Resolutions</i>		
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	3-14F	New Building Canada Fund (Provincial – Territorial Infrastructure Component) – Guaranteed Equal Opportunity Funding for Rural & Urban Populations Under 10,000	Intent Not Met
	5-14F	Reinstatement of Funding For Resource Roads and Local Bridges in Rural Municipalities	Accepted in Principle
	6-14F	Improvement of Highways in Alberta	Intent Not Met
	17-14F	Mileage Signage Markers Along Provincial Highways	Intent Not Met
	2-14S	Increasing Railway Capacity for Grain Shipments	Accepted in Principle
	1-13F	Basic Infrastructure Funding as a Result of Dissolution	Intent Not Met
	2-13F	Reinstating Funding for Resource Roads and Local Bridges in Rural Municipalities	Intent Not Met
	8-13F	Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program	Intent Not Met
	11-13F	Marking of Meteorological and Telecommunication Towers	Incomplete Information
	4-13S	Local Road Bridge Program	Intent Not Met
	5-13S	Including Rail in Alberta's 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan	Accepted
<b>WATER</b>	4-14F	Reinstatement of Funding for Water and Wastewater Systems	Intent Not Met
	5-14S	Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Funding	Intent Not Met
	12-13F	Regional Governance of Municipal Water Systems	Accepted in Principle

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>RESOLUTION TITLE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
	14-13F	Use of Reclaimed Water in Private Systems	Intent Not Met
	ER1-13S	Funding of Approved Water for Life Projects Based on Actual Costs	Intent Not Met

## AGRICULTURE

### 3-14S: Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that all relevant Government of Alberta ministries review the current staffing situation, program administration, budgets, and funding source of the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program to ensure its effectiveness; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal District and Counties request that all relevant Government of Alberta ministries implement a monitoring and assessment program to ensure that predators, inclusive of wolves, bears, and cougars, are dealt with proactively.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** While the government responses to date have provided an explanation as to how the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program currently operates, there is no indication that the program and associated budgets and staffing levels will be reviewed in the future. The program was reviewed recently, but no detail is available as to the review's findings or if they led to changes in funding or operations of the program. The government response does not address the resolution's request for a strengthened government predator monitoring program, nor has there been increases to wildlife management in the 2015-16 provincial budget. As such, this resolution is deemed Intent Not Met.

The AAMDC has learned that the Alberta Beef Producers have similar concerns with livestock predation, and may pursue a joint advocacy effort on this issue in the future.

### 1-13S: Short Term Solid Manure Storage

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties bring forward to the *Agriculture Operations Practices Act (AOPA)* Policy Advisory Group the review of short term solid manure storage as it pertains to setback distances from residences as it does not include places of public gatherings or roadways.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The original government response indicated that the former Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is uncertain if a review of the *Standards Administration Regulation* under the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA)* will take place at this time. The AAMDC did raise this issue at the January 2014 AOPA Policy Advisory Group (PAG) meeting, but at this point it is unclear whether or not the PAG will move forward in presenting this issue as a concern to Alberta Agriculture and forestry or Environment and Parks. This resolution has been assigned a status of Intent Not Met until progress has been made addressing this issue.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### 8-14F: Improvement of High-Speed Internet Services in Rural Alberta

*Status: Accepted in Principle*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta to make the investments necessary to improve high-speed internet services in rural Alberta.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada are currently in the process of administering several programs intended to improve high-speed internet service in rural Alberta. As mentioned in the government response, the Government of Alberta will be moving forward with a competitive procurement process for Alberta SuperNet, and are in the process of developing SuperNet 2.0, although the details of what this will comprise are not yet known. The Government of Alberta has also indicated that they are in the process of developing a ten-year digital strategy to leverage the government's initial investment to meet the needs of public sector service delivery and to better support reliable, competitive and affordable Internet for rural Albertans.

Additionally, in the Rural Economic Development Action Plan (REDAP), the former Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has identified the following actions related to rural internet access in support of their strategy to ensure that rural businesses remain competitive. The actions are as follows:

- Identify and reduce constraints to rural Internet speed and capacity.
- Approve additional projects through the Final Mile program to further expand connectivity in rural areas.
- Negotiate a new SuperNet contract upon expiration in 2018 to ensure the appropriate broadband services continue to be available to rural businesses and communities and that the SuperNet can further enhance community broadband infrastructure, with approval from Service Alberta.

At this point, it is unclear when and to what extent the new provincial government will enact the recommendations made in the REDAP.

Additionally, Industry Canada is currently in the process of reviewing applications from internet service providers for their \$305 million *Connecting Canadians* program, and approved projects are expected to be announced late in 2015. The goal of the program is to provide 98% of Canadian households with internet speeds of at least 5 megabits per second (Mbps). At this point, it is unknown how many projects will be funded in Alberta.

Both the provincial and federal government are taking steps to improve rural internet service. However, all of the strategies and programs described above have yet to be completed, and their effectiveness is not yet known. As such, this resolution is assigned a status of Accepted in Principle, and will be revisited as the SuperNet 2.0, Service Alberta's ten year digital strategy, the REDAP, and *Connecting Canadians* programs progress.

#### **10-14F: Temporary Foreign Workers Program**

*Status: Accepted in Part*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Canadians should have first access to jobs in Canada and the Government of Canada and provincial governments should continue to develop a national labour mobility strategy that encourages and facilitates Canadians to fill jobs;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Province of Alberta to work with the Federal Minister of Employment and Social Development and the Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to:

- develop short and long term strategies in relation to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program,
- address the unique labour market needs of Alberta's economy, and
- explore such strategies including the protection of temporary foreign workers from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The AAMDC recognizes the steps taken by the Government of Alberta to improve the TFW program. As the Government of Canada has indicated that there will not be additional changes to the program following June 2014, it is unclear if the strategy developed by the federal government or provincial government will meet Alberta's unique labour market as the permanent residency process can take several years to complete.

Despite this, the AAMDC is encouraged that the Government of Alberta and Government of Canada have pursued alternative policy and program options to address the needs of Alberta's labour market. In addition the Government of Alberta's response indicates that they agree with the intent of the resolution and have been attempting to work with the federal government to ensure that the TFW program meets the needs of Alberta. As a result, this resolution is assigned a status of Accepted in Part, and will continue to be advocated on.

The new federal government has committed to reviewing the TFW program at some point in the future, which may provide an opportunity for greater dialogue on how to design a system that better meets the needs of employers and immigrants.

#### **14-14F: Provincial Funding for Municipal Public Libraries and Regional Library Systems**

*Status: Accepted in Part*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to review its funding formula for public libraries and regional library systems and develop a consistent approach and longer term plan to allow for increased funding that reflects current census information regarding populations in Alberta and multi-year planning, to ensure consistent delivery of library services for all Albertans in all regions.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The Government of Alberta has provided no indication that a review of the funding formula for libraries is forthcoming. However, the 2015-16 provincial budget allocated a \$3.5million increase in library funding over the previous budget year, which according to the Library Association of Alberta, indicates a per capita increase of 10 cents and a funding measure based on 2014, rather than 2010 population figures. Although it is unclear if this funding increase is accompanied by a multi-year plan for the further development of Alberta's public libraries, the AAMDC is encouraged by this increase in funding, and thus deems this resolution as Accepted in Part.

The AAMDC will continue to monitor this resolution to ensure rural municipalities are adequately served by Alberta's public library network.

#### **16-14F: Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Funding**

*Status: Accepted in Principle*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to immediately increase provincial funding to municipalities for Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) commensurate to the population growth and annual inflation, thereby relieving some of the pressure on crisis intervention and prevention services and ensuring the sustainability of these essential programs;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties work with other partners including, but not limited to Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and Calgary FCSS Sustainability Forum to advocate for a fully funded, sustainable provincial FCSS program.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS:**

In budget 2015-16, the Government of Alberta increased funding for FCSS services from \$76 million to \$101 million, which is a needed increase to ensure that FCSS services continue to assist vulnerable Albertans. It is unclear as to whether this funding will continue to grow commensurate to population growth and inflation, as requested in the resolution.

The AAMDC is currently in the process of collaborating with the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, and Inter-City Forum on Social Policy to engage the Government of Alberta in a strategy to strengthen FCSS programming.

As a result of the funding increase and the ongoing efforts of the AAMDC to work with other stakeholders on improving FCSS services, this resolution is deemed Accepted in Principle.

#### **9-13F: Summer Temporary Employment Program**

*Status: Accepted*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta to reintroduce the STEP grants or a similar wage support program for the non-profit and volunteer sector in Alberta.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** In the 2015-16 provincial budget, the Government of Alberta has dedicated \$10 million per year for the next two years to return the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP). The AAMDC is pleased by this decision and looks forward to the return of the program in the summer of 2016.

#### **17-13F: Creation of a Provincial Combative Sport Commission**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the provincial government to create a provincial commission to sanction combative sports events throughout the Province of Alberta.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** As the provincial government response provides no indication that this resolution will be met, the resolution is assigned the status of Intent Not Met. This resolution was also carried at the AUMA's 2013 Convention and advocacy efforts have

continued by both associations to address the intent outlined. Developments will be reported when they become available and the issue will be raised with the new provincial government at the appropriate time.

## EDUCATION

### 18-14F: Sustaining Schools in Rural Communities

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to amend the school funding formulas, policies, and regulations to ensure the continued equitable operation and predictable sustainable funding of Alberta's existing rural schools; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties continue to lobby the Government of Alberta in order to improve the provincial funding formulas to reflect the needs of rural schools;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that without rural schools the sustainability of rural communities is at risk.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The Government response provides no indication that the Small Schools By Necessity Grant formula will be revisited. This resolution has a status of Intent Not Met.

The provincial budget 2015-16 sees a reduction in the Small Schools By Necessity Grant from \$59 million in the 2014-15 budget to \$54 million in the 2015-16 budget. It is unclear whether this reduction is a result of changes to the formula that excluded metro students from receiving the funding in the 2013-14 budget but the AAMDC will monitor to determine whether this reduction in funding is having an adverse impact on rural students and communities.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

### 9-14F: Fire Department Response to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Calls

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that Alberta Health Services (AHS) provide compensation to municipalities when fire departments are dispatched to respond to emergency calls by the Emergency Medical System 911 dispatcher;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that an independent review of Alberta 911 procedures takes place to ensure the 911 system is operating efficiently between police, fire, and emergency medical services.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The government response provides no indication that compensation will be provided to municipalities when fire departments are dispatched to respond to emergency calls by the Emergency Medical System 911 dispatcher. Therefore, this resolution has a status of Intent Not Met. The AAMDC will continue to advocate for an independent review of Alberta's 911 system.

### 11-14F: Alberta Health Services – Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Review

*Status: Accepted in Part*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that Alberta Health Services provides an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system that ensures appropriate coverage and response in all areas of the province;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Health Services considers non-ambulance transportation (NAT) for clinically stable patients and considers reserving the use of ground ambulances for emergency events.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The AAMDC is encouraged by the steps taken to fulfill the intent of this resolution. At the AAMDC spring convention, the Government of Alberta released the *Rural Health Services Review Final Report*, which provides numerous recommendations related to rural health care service delivery, including emergency services. A commitment made by former Minister of Health Stephen Mandel was to ensure that ambulances that are transporting patients from a rural area to an urban centre return to their rural base as opposed to being diverted to another call in the urban centre. This, combined with the government response above, provides a satisfactory response to the second request made in the resolution.

However, the first request made in the resolution, that EMS coverage be adequate in all areas of the province, has not yet been achieved and the government response gives no indication of how this will be achieved. Many rural areas struggle with having appropriate EMS coverage in their communities, which compromises safety as well as the ability of rural municipalities to attract and retain businesses and residents. The Ministry of Health's 2015-18 Business Plan identified the need to "improve the effectiveness and efficiency of emergency and ambulance services" as a priority initiative. The AAMDC looks forward to the implementation of that initiative.

The AAMDC will continue to monitor all aspects of emergency services in rural Alberta and the recommendations made in the *Rural Health Services Review Final Report*. Until

concrete action has been taken to ensure appropriate coverage and response in all areas of the province, this resolution will have a status of Accepted in Part.

## ENERGY

### 7-13F: Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) of Transloader Facilities (a.k.a. “Pipeline on Rails”)

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties calls upon the Government of Alberta to consult on a priority basis with industry and municipalities to establish an appropriate set of regulatory requirements for “Pipeline on Rails” and that the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) be designated as the appropriate body to implement these regulations..

**DEVELOPMENTS:** Since indicating in early 2014 that Alberta Transportation, Alberta Energy, the Alberta Energy Regulator, and Transport Canada are collaborating to better define regulatory responsibility for transloader facilities, no ministry at either the provincial or federal level has indicated progress being made on this issue. Although the Alberta Energy Regulator has been willing to provide information to municipalities about how transloader facilities are regulated, there has been little progress on clarifying the regulatory process and filling regulatory gaps. As such, the government response to this resolution is deemed Intent Not Met until a clearer, streamlined regulatory process is implemented based on consultation with municipalities.

## ENVIRONMENT

### **2-14F: Controlling and Enforcing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (Quagga and Zebra Mussels)**

*Status: Accepted in Principle*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to enact/amend legislation and/or regulations, including the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*, to include prohibited species and encompass zero tolerance, mandatory inspections and the necessary enforcement authority for Aquatic Invasive Species, including dreissenid mussels, to ensure these species do not invade Alberta;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to take preventative measures by working with all levels of government to further develop the provincial Aquatic Invasive Species program to include:

- improved monitoring through the establishment, funding and staffing of mussel inspection stations at strategic entrances into Alberta,
- the funding of a comprehensive awareness campaign on the risk of the species entering the province and the preventative measures boaters must take to eliminate the risk,
- making the necessary policy and legislative changes, and
- working with all levels of government for implementation in preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The Government of Alberta's response to the resolution and actions to combat aquatic invasive species are encouraging and will have an important impact on the spread of aquatic invasive species. However, it is unclear whether a 'zero tolerance' approach has been adopted by the Government of Alberta as is specified in the resolution.

Alberta Environment and Parks' 2015-18 Business Plan identifies the development of a framework to address invasive species in Alberta. The AAMDC looks forward to the development of this framework, and will advocate for a zero-tolerance policy for aquatic invasive species within it. However, at this point, this resolution is deemed Accepted in Principle. The AAMDC will monitor the ongoing efforts to halt the movement of aquatic invasive species.

### **12-14F: Amend the Waste Control Regulation 192/1996 to Address Classification of Hazardous Wastes in Landfills**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties calls upon the Government of Alberta to revise the *Waste Control Regulation 192/1996* and *User Guide for Waste Managers* to reflect the recommendations for toluene and ammonia as outlined in the *Final Report, Updating Alberta's Hazardous Waste Regulatory Framework*.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** As the government response does not indicate the changes to the *Waste Control Regulation 192/1996* and *User Guide For Waste Managers*, this resolution is deemed Intent Not Met. the AAMDC will monitor and follow up on this issue as part of our advocacy efforts.

### **4-14S: Species at Risk Act**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and the Government of Alberta lobby the federal government to repeal the current Species at Risk Act and rebuild it in a way that better respects the socio-economic reality, seeking a balanced approach (economic, environmental, social).

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The response received from Environment Canada outlined the Ministry's recovery strategy and supporting action planning process for endangered and threatened species under SARA. The action planning stage includes evaluating the social and economic costs and benefits of actions and the integration of provincial management plans. Though this process works towards the request of this resolution, a recovery strategy is not a regulatory document and as such, it lacks enforcement. Based on this information, the AAMDC assigns this resolution a status of Intent not Met and will continue to assess Environment Canada's process to seek a balanced approach to enforcement and implementation related to the *Species at Risk Act*. There is a strong possibility the new federal government will review and possibly make changes to SARA in the near future.

### **15-13F: Provincial Funding of Locally Administered Air Shed Monitoring**

*Status: Incomplete Information*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties calls upon the Government of Alberta to:

- Continue to financially support the locally autonomous and self-directed air shed monitoring organizations that already exist in Alberta.
- Acknowledge and affirm that the current system of local stakeholders providing air quality monitoring is working well and does not require major change.
- Commit to providing additional funding going forward to cover 100% of any incremental costs that the Province may attempt to download upon these local groups should the Province mandate additional air quality testing, reporting, or procedural or reporting changes in the future.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The intent of this resolution is to maintain local autonomy in air shed monitoring across the province. While the Joint Canada-Alberta Implementation Plan for Oil Sands Monitoring has provided funding to some local organizations for continued air shed monitoring, the government response and 2015-16 budget does not provide any further indication to the direction of future funding and governance of air shed monitoring. The AAMDC deems this resolution Incomplete Information because further information and clarity is required to determine whether local autonomy will be preserved in air shed monitoring. The AAMDC will continue to be a representative on the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Board of Directors and be involved in related initiatives. The association will continue to advocate on the intent outlined in this resolution.

## HEALTH

### **7-14S: Amend Provincial Legislation to Provide for Placement of Automated External Defibrillators in Public Facilities Including Schools**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to amend the Alberta Safety Code to recommend the installation of Automated External Defibrillators in public facilities and schools.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** Although the Government of Alberta supports the voluntary use of AEDs in workplaces, the response indicates that there is no willingness to require the mandatory installation of AEDs in public facilities or schools, either through the Alberta Safety Code or other regulatory or legislative means. As such, this resolution is assigned a status of Intent Not Met.

## INDUSTRY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### 8-14S: Timber Salvage Fees on Recreational Areas

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta to change its policy by waiving the timber damage assessment fees on the expansion or new construction of public recreational areas if development is designed to limit the impact on the natural landscape.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The government response does not indicate a willingness to waive timber damage assessment fees (TDA) for the expansion or construction of municipal campgrounds or recreational areas under any circumstances. According to the Government of Alberta, TDAs serve to prevent municipalities from over-damaging forested areas in the process of expanding or constructing campgrounds or recreational areas. The assumption that municipalities would have no incentives to design these expansions in an environmentally-friendly way without TDAs is problematic, and does not reflect the stewardship role that many municipalities play in protecting and conserving their local natural environments. As such, this resolution is assigned the status of Intent Not Met.

### 3-13F: Got Gravel? Strategies to Secure Gravel for Rural Municipalities

*Status: Accepted*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties endorse the recommendations outlined in the paper entitled *Got Gravel? Strategies to Secure Gravel for Rural Municipalities* and the supporting Technical Report.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The AAMDC membership endorsed the recommendations outlined in *Got Gravel?*, which met the intent of this resolution. As such, it has been assigned a status of Accepted and the AAMDC has incorporated the recommendations outlined in the report into current advocacy efforts. The AAMDC has been involved, along with other stakeholders, in a review of the existing sand and gravel program to identify what could be clarified to streamline the process from application to reclamation. Recommendations from *Got Gravel?* will continue to be advocated on in future meetings with the Government of Alberta.

### 2-13S: Natural Resources Exploration

*Status: Accepted in Part*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Province of Alberta to:

1. Take all necessary steps to ensure natural resource exploration does not pose a threat to our environment; and
2. Require industry report, prior to the commencement of natural resource exploration an evaluation of the geologic conditions and pre and post monitoring for seismic activity; and
3. Require the mapping of all aquifers prior to any natural resource exploration; and
4. Protect surface and groundwater supply by imposing a minimum wellbore casing depth below aquifer zones.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The government's response summarizes a number of policies already in place to support clauses 1 and 4 of the resolution. The response also notes the work

being done related to mapping of groundwater (clause 3); however, this long-term project is still underway as the province currently focuses on high development areas.

In February 2015, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) released new seismic and monitoring requirements for hydraulic fracturing operators in Fox Creek which mandates that operators must monitor for seismic activity within five kilometers of their wells if hydraulic fracturing operations are being conducted. In addition, operators must have a response plan in place to address potential events and must follow a process with staged action thresholds.

The AER monitors seismic activity across Alberta using the Regional Alberta Observatory for Earthquakes Studies Network and networks operated by Natural Resources Canada, the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology and the University of Western Ontario. Data collected from these stations are also used to document natural and induced earthquakes which are compiled into a comprehensive earthquake catalogue, or seismic database for Alberta. The Alberta Geological Survey (AGS) website offers general seismic activity and the Alberta Earthquake Studies Project. The Government of Alberta, through the AER and AGS, is working with various public and private sector research organizations towards furthering understanding of the linkages between resource development and induced seismicity.

Based on the government response and associated actions, the AAMDC deems this resolution to be Accepted in Part. While the government has initiated the Alberta Earthquake Studies Project, it still serves as an educational study, not a mandatory function of industry.

## MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

### **10-14S: Proposed Amendments to the Determination of Population Regulation to Provide Greater Flexibility for the Counting of Shadow Population**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties requests that the Government of Alberta amend the Determination of Population Regulation to allow municipalities to use a shadow population count date outside of the current restriction of April 1 to June 30; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta amend the Determination of Population Regulation to allow municipalities to count all shadow population residents living within their municipality that otherwise qualify, regardless of whether or not they work within that municipality.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The government response does not support expanding the municipal census window beyond the current April 1 to June 30 window except by special permission of the Minister. It also does not discuss the possibility of allowing for individuals that live in one municipality and work in another to be counted towards the shadow population of the municipality in which they reside. This restriction results in an inability for the municipality that provides this resident with services to conduct an accurate population measure, which may negatively impact their ability to access population-based grants. As such, this resolution has been assigned a status of Intent Not Met.

### **4-13F: Amend the Municipal Government Act to Provide Protection from Liability for Municipal Maintenance to the Physical Edge of Provincial Highways**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Province of Alberta to amend the *Municipal Government Act*, immediately, to provide protection to rural municipalities from any and all liability associated with road maintenance, carried out by municipalities, within the provincial right of way leading up to the physical edge of provincial highways.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** While the option of entering into a Highway Maintenance Agreement with Alberta Transportation may be a short-term solution for some municipalities, a legislative solution that automatically protects municipalities from liability related to maintenance in provincial highway rights-of-way is necessary. As such, the government response to this resolution is assigned a status of Intent Not Met. The AAMDC continues to advocate on this issue through our engagement in the MGA Review Process.

### **10-13F: Provincial Grazing Leases Municipal Tax Recovery**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Province of Alberta create or improve existing policy for Provincial Grazing Leases to ensure unpaid municipal taxes are paid in full by the Province to the municipality in which they are owed if left unpaid by the lessee.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The provincial government response highlights the difficulty faced by municipalities in tax collection on public lands leased from the province by grazing leaseholders when such taxes are not paid in full. As there is no expressed intent by the Government of Alberta to create or improve policy as requested in this resolution, the

AAMDC has assigned this resolution an Intent Not Met status and will continue to advocate throughout the MGA review process and other future opportunities.

### **ER1-13F: Suspend Bill 28 Pending Further Municipal Consultation Through the MGA Review**

*Status: Accepted*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta suspend any further legislative actions regarding Bill 28 (Growth Management Boards) until there is further consultation on the Growth Management Board concept

**DEVELOPMENTS:** Following the advocacy efforts of the AAMDC, the provincial government opened Bill 28 to further consultation and a revised Bill 28 was released in November 2013. The revisions include wording explicitly stating that the establishment of Growth Management Boards would be voluntary. The AAMDC prides itself on having an effective working relationship with the government and we appreciate the Minister's willingness to hear our concerns and come to a satisfactory resolution. As such, this resolution is deemed Accepted. The AAMDC will continue to monitor and engage on this and other issues concerning municipal autonomy.

A recent speech made by former Minister of Municipal Affairs Deron Bilous indicated that mandatory regional growth boards would be implemented in the Edmonton and Calgary region. The AAMDC plans to provide input into the formation of these boards to ensure that the autonomy of AAMDC members impacted by their formation is not compromised.

### **3-13S: Assessment of Part and Component Replacement for Linear Property**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties hereby formally requests that the Government of Alberta amends Section 292 of the *Municipal Government Act* to add "part and component replacements of linear property during the life of the linear assessment constitutes a change in specifications and characteristics; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Construction Cost Reporting Guide for linear assessment be amended by the Province of Alberta to indicate that the Guide applies not just to construction when linear property is first built, but it also applies to construction projects during the life of the facility.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** While the Government of Alberta has noted this issue will be part of the MGA review, there is no indication of its favorability toward making the amendment suggested. Therefore, the AAMDC assigns this resolution a status of Intent Not Met. The AAMDC continues to advocate on this issue through our engagement in the MGA Review Process.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### 1-14F: Amalgamation Process Amendments

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to amend sections 102 and 103, subsections 1,2,3,4 of the *Municipal Government Act* so as to no longer enable a single municipality to initiate the process of amalgamation without prior negotiation with the municipal authority affected by the proposed amalgamation;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government to Alberta to also amend Section 104 of the *Municipal Government Act* so as to give equal responsibility to the initiating municipality to negotiate in good faith.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** As identified in the government response, the AAMDC continues to be involved in the review of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) and the specific issues outlined in this resolution have been brought forward by the AAMDC.

Although Alberta Municipal Affairs was not able to provide a detailed response due to the confidential nature of the ongoing MGA review process, the AAMDC is encouraged by the Government of Alberta's willingness to discuss improvements to the amalgamation process. In addition, the Minister of Municipal Affairs has voiced concern about a lack of consultation and collaboration among the initiating municipality and other impacted municipalities in recent attempted amalgamations, which is, in part, what the resolution is addressing.

*Bill 20: The Municipal Government Amendment Act*, which was passed in the Spring of 2015, includes new provisions to streamline the amalgamation process when there are two or more municipalities voluntarily amalgamating but it does not change sections 102, 103, or 104 in the manner consistent with the resolution. There is no wording in Bill 20 that requires any prior negotiation nor changes that would require both parties involved in the amalgamation to negotiate in good faith as per the request outlined in the resolution.

Via the MGA review process, the AAMDC will continue to advocate that any amalgamation application include the requirement for prior negotiation and the requirement for both sides to negotiate in good faith.-The status of this resolution is Intent Not Met, and it will continue to be advocated on.

### 7-14F: Regional Partnership Solution to Municipal/Community Viability

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to retain existing components of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) that enable local decision making in pursuit of inter-municipal cooperation and changes of municipal status, including specialized municipalities and the formation of new municipalities as a result of amalgamation, in any amendments to the MGA; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta require municipalities that are pursuing amalgamation to undertake a study identifying why this is the favoured alternative to address local need or encourage municipal viability; factoring in local governance structures, financial impacts, municipal service delivery and impacts to surrounding areas as part of the amalgamation process;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta retain the *Enabling Regional Growth Boards Act* as the supporting legislation for municipalities interested in the formation of voluntary growth management boards as a means in providing for integrated and strategic planning for future regional growth.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The AAMDC continues to be involved in the review of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) and is advocating for the position outlined by AAMDC members through this and other resolutions. The recent changes featured in *Bill 20: The Municipal Government Amendment Act*, do make reference to an amalgamation study but do not identify that such a study should focus on ‘why’ an amalgamation is the favoured alternative to address local need or municipal viability. The changes instead specify what an amalgamation report must include, all of which are items of ‘how’ an amalgamated municipality would be structured. As such the recently amended wordings of the MGA require an amalgamation report not to be a study identifying why amalgamation is the favored alternative but, instead, require the amalgamation report to be an implementation or “how to” plan on how to amalgamate if approved.

Via the MGA review process, the AAMDC will continue to advocate for any amalgamation application to require a study identifying why amalgamation is the favored alternative among options available. The revised MGA and associated regulations are expected to come into force in late 2016.

In addition to the MGA review process, the AAMDC has also completed the report *Examining Municipal Government Models from the Alberta Perspective* to inform AAMDC members of municipal government structures and how they would apply in Alberta. The report can be found online at [AAMDC.com](http://AAMDC.com). The AAMDC is also in the process of developing a report on key principles that should form the basis of an effective and fair amalgamation, annexation and dissolution process.

This resolution currently has a status of Intent Not Met, and will be reviewed as the MGA review process proceeds.

#### **15-14F: Telus Line Locates**

*Status: Incomplete Information*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta and Alberta One-Call to use all means available to ensure Telus Communications Inc. locate its underground utilities within the two day time parameters established by Alberta One-Call.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The Government of Alberta’s response encouraged further follow-up with the CRTC, Service Alberta, and Alberta One-Call to find a solution to the challenges identified in this resolution. As such, this resolution has been assigned a status of Incomplete Information. The AAMDC is in the process of seeking input from the CRTC, Service Alberta, and Alberta One-Call on this issue.

#### **1-14S: Privatization of the Alberta Land Titles Registry System**

*Status: Accepted*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to retain the Alberta Land Titles Registry System status quo or as a public system as a statutory non-profit corporation.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** Service Alberta has clarified, both in their response to this resolution and through a discussion between the Minister of Service Alberta and the AAMDC Board

of Directors, that the privatization of the province's land title registry system is not being considered. The new provincial government has given no indication that they are considering privatizing registry services. As such, this resolution is deemed to be Accepted.

## SENIORS

*No Active Resolutions.*

## TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### **3-14F: New Building Canada Fund (Provincial – Territorial Infrastructure Component) – Guaranteed Equal Opportunity Funding for Rural & Urban Populations Under 10,000**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta to designate a minimum of one-third of the Small Communities Fund (\$94 million) for communities under 10,000 population for essential infrastructure projects.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The eligibility requirements for Alberta's allotment of the Small Communities Fund (SCF) have been finalized and the application period closed on April 2, 2015. At this point, there is no chance that the funding will be subdivided to reserve a portion for communities under 10,000 because the program is currently active. The current SCF format places all municipalities with a population below 100,000 in direct competition with one another for limited SCF funding, despite that fact that this population threshold makes every municipality in Alberta eligible for SCF funding, with the exception of Calgary and Edmonton.

As the SCF will have only one intake opportunity, which has already been completed, there will be no opportunity to revise the eligibility parameters unless the program is renewed following the completion of the New Building Canada Fund in 2024 (assuming a similar program is continued in 2024). The status of this resolution is Unsatisfactory.

### **5-14F: Reinstatement of Funding For Resource Roads and Local Bridges in Rural Municipalities**

*Status: Accepted in Principle*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta to reinstate funding for the Resource Road Program and the Local Road Bridge Program in the 2015 provincial budget.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** In the 2015-16 provincial budget, the Government of Alberta allotted \$100 million towards the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP), which includes the Resource Road Program and Local Road Bridge Program, in its five-year capital plan. According to the capital plan, \$35 million will be contributed to STIP in 2017-18, and \$65 million in 2018-19. The Government of Alberta also dedicated \$19 million to the STIP program for the 2015-16 budget. At this point, it is unclear if the 2015-16 allocation is for new projects or to complete projects approved under the STIP prior to its zero-funding. Until this information is confirmed, this resolution has been assigned a status of Accepted in Principle.

### **6-14F: Improvement of Highways in Alberta**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta to improve the condition of highway infrastructure in Alberta.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** Unfortunately, the Government of Alberta's 2015-16 budget reduced highway maintenance funding from the previous year. This is expected to result in a reduction in preventative maintenance such as crack-sealing, which will likely decrease the overall lifespan of Alberta's highways. Alberta Transportation's 2015-16 business plan

identifies several priority initiatives that may lead to the long-term improvement of highway infrastructure, including the following:

- Create and implement a transparent and infrastructure plan to sustain an efficient and effective road network in Alberta.
- Enhance transportation asset management planning to support strategic decision-making, taking into account life-cycle costs, economic, environmental and social impacts.
- Implement approaches to ensure highway operations and maintenance achieve the results Albertans need.

While these priority initiatives are encouraging for the long-term improvement of Alberta's highways, the short-term reduction in highway maintenance is a troubling sign. As a result, this resolutions has been assigned a status of Intent Not Met, which will be re-evaluated based on future budgets and the implementation of the above priority initiatives.

#### **17-14F: Mileage Signage Markers Along Provincial Highways**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties advocate that the Government of Alberta be held accountable for placing highway kilometer markers at regular intervals along provincial highways that are under the Government of Alberta's management, control and responsibility, on highways that pass through vast tracts of Crown lands where there are no township road and range road signs, so that Albertans and visitors can have a means to identify where they are during emergency situations.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The intent of the resolution is to have Alberta Transportation be responsible for placing highway kilometer markers on provincial highways. While there is a process currently in place that allows municipalities to provide kilometer markers that meet provincial standards at their own expense, this creates an inconsistent patchwork of markers, and essentially places the responsibility for maximizing the safety of provincial highways onto municipalities.

Additionally, while the advancement of GPS and other location technologies may make these markers unnecessary in some cases, many older vehicles are not equipped with GPS systems, making the kilometer markers important, particularly in life-threatening situations.

As Alberta Transportation has shown no willingness to take on this responsibility, this resolution has a status of Intent Not Met.

#### **2-14S: Increasing Rail Capacity for Grain Shipments**

*Status: Accepted in Principle*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to enact a short-term and long-term strategy to increase railway capacity for grain shipments

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The Government of Alberta's has expressed interest in working with the federal government to improve the capacity and reliability of rail service for the agricultural sector. The federal government's *Fair Rail for Grain Farmers Act* presented an effective short-term solution to the 2013 grain backlog, mainly by imposing temporary grain hauling quotas and penalties for non-compliance upon Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways.

The AAMDC also appreciates the Government of Alberta's willingness to work with industry and other western provinces to address supply chain issues.

The outcome of the review of the *Canada Transportation Act* (which is scheduled to be completed with a report to the federal government in late 2015) will have a significant impact on the development of a long-term federal strategy for the efficient movement of grain by rail. In the discussion paper used to guide stakeholder input into the *Canada Transportation Act* review, the movement of grain by rail is identified as a major issue that the review and revised Act will address. Based on the willingness of the Government of Canada to rapidly implement a short-term strategy to address the 2013 backlog in grain movement, as well as both the provincial and federal government's willingness to develop a long-term strategy, the AAMDC deems this resolution to be Accepted in Principle, pending the outcomes of the *Canada Transportation Act* review.

In March 2015, the Government of Canada announced that they would not renew minimum grain quotas for the 2015 harvesting season because grain is now moving adequately through the supply chain and the new grain crop is of average size. As quotas were a short-term solution, the AAMDC is hopeful that the federal government will more directly address this supply chain challenge in the revised *Canada Transportation Act*.

### **1-13F: Basic Infrastructure Funding as a Result of Dissolution**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge Alberta Municipal Affairs to include and cover the costs of a Final Audited Financial Statement and also an Engineering Study to determine the status of water and wastewater infrastructure, which is basic necessity of life, as part of the new Viability Study under the Dissolution Process and in order that a budget be formulated for the receiving municipality; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that any effective date for a dissolution of an urban municipality into a receiving municipality be January 1 of the coming year following the Order in Council; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties initiate dialogue with Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Transportation and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to ensure that a funding model is implemented to cover the repair or replacement of water and wastewater infrastructure, which is a basic necessity of life, as identified in the Engineering Study, for receiving municipalities as a result of the dissolution process.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** Announced in the Budget 2014 was the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) program which replaced the Regional Collaboration Program (RCP), and is designed to improve the long-term viability of municipalities by providing support for regional collaboration. Included in the ACP is additional funding for Viability Review Support which includes funding towards an infrastructure audit for a municipality undergoing a viability review, a transitional stream to address immediate resource needs resulting from restructuring, and an infrastructure stream for the receiving municipality or amalgamated municipality, after infrastructure and debt servicing needs are known and prioritized following restructuring. The fall 2015-16 budget saw a decrease in the ACP by 18% to \$40 million.

With recognition of the important support offered through the ACP, this resolution is assigned a status of Intent Not Met as it does not meet the specific requests of the resolution. The

AAMDC will continue to monitor the implementation of the ACP, with a specific focus on its impact on water and wastewater infrastructure.

### **2-13F: Reinstating Funding for Resource Roads and Local Bridges in Rural Municipalities**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta to reinstate funding for the Resource Road Program and the Local Road Bridge Program in the 2014 provincial budget.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** As the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP), which includes the Local Road Bridge Program and the Resource Road Program, was zero-funded in the 2014-15 budget, the government response to this resolution is deemed Intent Not Met. Due to the specific nature of this resolution, the AAMDC cannot amend the resolution status in relation to the \$100 million committed to STIP in the 2015-15 Government of Alberta Capital Plan. Despite this, the AAMDC is pleased with the return of this funding for upcoming years.

### **8-13F: Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties call upon the Government of Alberta to restore funding to the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program in the 2014 budget.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** As the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP), which includes the Local Road Bridge Program and the Resource Road Program, was zero-funded in the 2014-15 budget, the government response to this resolution is deemed Intent Not Met. Due to the specific nature of this resolution, the AAMDC cannot amend the resolution status in relation to the \$100 million committed to STIP in the 2015-15 Government of Alberta Capital Plan. Despite this, the AAMDC is pleased with the return of this funding for upcoming years.

### **11-13F: Marking Of Meteorological And Telecommunication Towers**

*Status: Incomplete Information*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties consult with the Government of Alberta to request the Minister of Industry Canada to amend the *Telecommunications Act* to require the marking of radio communication and telecommunications towers with marking lights, aeronautical paint and balls on the guyed wires in rural areas.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The AAMDC is still awaiting a response on this issue from Industry Canada. The AAMDC plans to follow up with Industry Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and Alberta Transportation on this issue in the near future.

### **4-13S: Local Road Bridge Program**

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties call upon the Government of Alberta to ensure a second round of consultation is held after hearing data from the Committee by going to the region for a vote.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The AAMDC has assigned this resolution the status of Intent Not Met. Since this resolution was passed in spring 2013, the Local Road Bridge Program became zero-funded in the 2013-14 and 2014-15 provincial budgets. This directly shifts the entire financial burden of bridge maintenance and replacement to municipalities. Support through government funding and reduced bureaucratic process while maintaining needed safety is critical. The AAMDC was pleased to have collaborated with Alberta Transportation on a committee that has produced local road bridge design guidelines and standard design drawings for local road bridges. These guidelines and drawings will assist rural municipalities in constructing low-cost bridges. The AAMDC will monitor the entire bridge issue holistically going forward.

As funding for the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program has been renewed in the Government of Alberta's 2015-16 Capital Plan, the AAMDC anticipates that renewed discussions around how to distribute local road bridge funding will take place in the near future.

### **5-13S: Including Rail in Alberta's 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan**

*Status: Accepted*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties work with the Government of Alberta to include rail infrastructure in its 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan for the province and that the Government of Alberta seek opportunities for private-public partnerships (P3s) for additional rail infrastructure in the province.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** The AAMDC accepts this response from the Government of Alberta noting that railways fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government and private industry. The AAMDC is involved in a number of rail-based initiatives through FCM including proximity and crossing issues as well as safety. Rail is also likely to form a key aspect of the Government of Alberta's 50-Year Transportation Strategy.

## WATER

### 4-14F: Reinstatement of Funding for Water and Wastewater Systems

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Alberta to reinstate and enhance funding for the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Program – Water for Life in the 2015 provincial budget.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** In the 2015-16 provincial budget, the Government of Alberta has decreased Water for Life capital funding significantly while operational funding was zero-funded. These budget estimates and the government's response to the resolution earn this this resolution a status of Intent Not Met. Despite the short-term lack of funding, the Government of Alberta's Capital Plan identifies a significant funding increase for water/wastewater infrastructure beginning with the 2016-17 budget.

### 5-14S: Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Funding

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to provide funding for municipal water/wastewater infrastructure projects through the department of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development so that the agency responsible for regulating water/wastewater codes and practices also administers funding for water/wastewater infrastructure.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** While the AAMDC appreciates the Government of Alberta's preference to separate funding and regulatory functions across ministries, this system creates administrative challenges for municipalities, as municipal officials responsible for water/wastewater infrastructure must work with officials from two completely different ministries on various water/wastewater-related issues. Additionally, the need to separate funding and regulation responsibilities does not apply to other types of infrastructure such as municipal roads and bridges, in which Alberta Transportation is responsible for both funding, monitoring, and regulatory functions. As such, this resolution is assigned the status of Intent Not Met.

### 12-13F: Regional Governance of Municipal Water Systems

*Status: Accepted in Principle*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties oppose any forced regionalization of management control over municipally owned water utilities.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** Stemming from the *Water Conversations* held in 2013, the Government of Alberta released *Our Water, Our Future: A Plan for Action* in fall 2014. An item identified in the Action Plan includes the Government of Alberta working with municipalities to identify opportunities for enhancing the sustainability of municipal water systems, which includes helping municipalities identify and implement possible solutions to address regional challenges. As this is not intended to be a mandated move to forced regionalization for management control over municipally owned utilities, the AAMDC deems this resolution to be Accepted in Principle and will continue to monitor developments.

#### 14-13F: Use of Reclaimed Water in Private Systems

*Status: Intent Not Met*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Province of Alberta to further develop legislation to accept the use of reclaimed water through the Alberta Building and Plumbing Codes for private systems, and that processes be developed that maintenance, monitoring, reporting and operation responsibilities flow from the owner of such a private system directly to the Province.

**DEVELOPMENTS:** In fall 2014, the Government of Alberta released *Our Water, Our Future: A Plan for Action*, which identified action items resulting from the *Water Conversations* engagement in 2013. This includes supporting research and geographically distinct case studies in Alberta that will identify opportunities for flexibility in regulations to accommodate water re-use to meet regional needs. Although the AAMDC is encouraged that the Government of Alberta is moving forward on exploring this possibility, there is no indication that legislative changes will be made to address the request outlined in this resolution focusing on private systems. As such, the AAMDC assigns this resolution the status of Intent Not Met and will continue to monitor this issue.

# CONTRIBUTORS

The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties wishes to thank the Board of Directors members who provided content, input, and advice to this report card:

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