

Rural Alberta is “where it all starts.”

Alberta’s municipal districts and counties are vibrant, diverse and forward-thinking. The AAMDC is proud to represent all of Alberta’s municipal districts and counties, and strives to serve as an advocate for rural perspectives and priorities on key policy issues at the provincial and federal level. Rural Alberta is an economic driver comprised of strong, vibrant and resilient communities that deserve a unified voice. The AAMDC is proud to serve in that role.

What is unique about rural Alberta?

- Rural municipalities are characterized by low populations and large geographic areas.
- Alberta is the only province where the entire land mass (with the exception of national and provincial parks) is municipally managed. AAMDC members are responsible for municipal service provision to 86.5% of Alberta’s total land mass, with the remainder comprised of urban municipalities and national/provincial parks.
- Rural Alberta is vital to the province’s and nation’s economy. Rural Alberta’s contribution to Canadian economic activity was \$77.4 billion in 2009 (to be revised based on study completion)
- Out of a provincial population of approximately four million people, rural municipalities are home to 17% (approximately 680,000 people). However, rural municipalities manage the majority of province’s transportation infrastructure. Rural municipalities are responsible for approximately 75% of Alberta’s roads and 60% of Alberta’s bridges.
- Alberta’s rural municipalities collaborate with their urban neighbours on regionally-beneficial infrastructure and services. In 2014, rural municipalities contributed approximately \$160 million to their urban neighbors through a variety of inter-municipal agreements.

What is the AAMDC?

- Founded in 1909, the AAMDC represents Alberta’s sixty-four municipal districts and counties, four specialized municipalities, and the Special Areas Board. We

provide our members with advocacy and aggregated business services, and our work is in pursuit of the continuation of strong, vibrant rural communities.

- The AAMDC has a proven track record of advocating on behalf of its members.
- The AAMDC strives to work *with* members by sharing ideas and ensuring that rural municipalities have representation on issues that impact them.

What does the AAMDC think about the importance of rural Alberta?

- Rural sustainability is critical to a healthy and vibrant province and country.
- Rural Alberta is diverse, but has certain common priorities that require a unified province-wide voice.
- Rural Alberta is the economic engine that supports the needs of Alberta's large centres.
- In the past, present, and into the future, rural Alberta is "Where it All Starts".

How does the AAMDC represent its members?

- The AAMDC has a strong relationship with the Government of Alberta and continues to positively influence policy decisions.
- The AAMDC regularly produces reports and bulletins intended to influence government and keep members informed about key policy developments.
- The AAMDC regularly shares information with its members and the broader public through the *Contact* newsletter, the AAMDC website, social media, and other means.
- The AAMDC ensures that its advocacy efforts reflect rural interests by basing priorities on member-driven resolutions.
- The AAMDC advocates for members at the federal level through its involvement with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
- The AAMDC collaborates with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association to strengthen the municipal voice on issues that impact both rural and urban municipalities.

What else does the AAMDC do for members?

- The AAMDC provides members with an opportunity to interact and share ideas through conventions and district meetings.
- The AAMDC provides educational opportunities for members to improve their skills as elected officials and gain a greater understanding of key rural issues.

- The AAMDC goes beyond advocacy – it is also a strong supplier of aggregated business services and goods and a progressive insurance company.
- The AAMDC provides cost savings to its members through its insurance and group purchasing initiatives.

For more information, visit www.aamdc.com for [reports](#) and an online, searchable [Resolution Database](#) which includes information on active resolutions and emerging issues.