

Deputy Mayors Report Nov 16 2023

Yellowhead Regional Library Oct 16 2023

This was my first meeting with Library Trustee Group. I found that it was a very organized, serious, and well run group. **Budget Details** Revenues are estimated low, Expenses are estimated high, based on 3 year averages with projections. There is presently a deficit in budget which is being covered from Reserve funds which are healthy. Budget planning is to reduce deficits within next 2 years. Population stats for revenue budgeting are based on Treasury Board figures which are more current than census numbers.

Main risk assessments for Library system are in Cyber security (phishing, and malware) targeted on the Public Computers. This will be addressed with the security programs already in place on the Internal System computers.

Information on the On Reserve/On Settlement grant funding and budget draft included.

Regional Municipalities Oct 17 2023

RCMP. Overall reduction in call-outs primarily due to 25% less Mental Health calls which are back pre covid levels. Increased monitoring of (Folks Out awaiting trial ect.) has seen positive results. Staff increases with new police-funding model. Although less Mental Health calls they still represent a major portion of call-outs.

Police will investigate call outs on suspicious vehicles or activity but they must get that call.

Meyerthorpe and other divisions are available to speak at community events.

Still problems and hang-ups with Judicial system (courts and process times)

ALUS Farmer led agricultural programs supporting conservation, biodiversity, land stewardship and climate is strong in Lac. Ste.Anne County.

Beaver Control County will only do beaver control to protect county infrastructure. This is partly due to more Federal & Provincial roadblocks 2019-2020.

Note on short term thinking and decisions. In 2020 Sunrise, Sandy and County had meeting to discuss build up of water at Anderson Lake, Duchaine (?) lake and several other locations that was not coming to Sandy Lake due to some drainage issues. The County was favorable to this and got an engineering quote to do a study on this issue, cost was to be split 3 ways (12 to \$15,000.00 each) which would have included work with Alberta Environment. Beaver Dams, with-holding much of this water were a major factor. Unfortunately Sunrise opted out, due to cost. It would appear that to day this idea may no longer an option which could be pursued..

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Medical Clinic Critical County is still recruiting for doctors but there are serious roadblock from AHS, Basically if they recruit an out of jurisdiction doctor they need to be re-certified. This is done by AHS and then AHS can decide or offer a different posting for that doctor. There may be some options due to new legislation with Nurse Practitioners but that is uncertain at this time and there is a limited supply of Nurse practitioners. If the Clinic is lost the lab services we have will be lost and there will be a price to pay for this region. Question should we become a member to support the Onoway Clinic?

Recreation Area pools, curling rinks, arenas, ball diamonds, and Halls. Also boat launches,atv/snowmobile trails. These facilities increase overall Health and viability of all communities. County charges each property \$100.00 annually. Silver Sands contributes \$500.00 annually. County will be sending out a list of all resources under recreation funding. Do we wish to contribute as member of the County?

Trails Continued development of both motorized and non-motorized trail systems. 10-15 year plan to provide trail activity, sustainability, connections and maintenance, for both residents and tourists. See County Map Section 3 of general strategy for info.

Northern Gateway Schools 2% increase in enrollment. Special needs students increase is higher than normal population. Buss Routes K to 6 grade 1 K from school. 7 and up 2 k from school. Resulting in routes closer to schools available.

Emergency Management County has mutual aid agreements with all surrounding Counties.

Ste. Anne Gas Up-coming emergency response to mock disaster. Will be expanding fire-breaks around block stations (Sandy beach). Presently the Carbon tax is more than cost of gas per gigajoule. Will come to village to talk to public on Carbon Monoxide and other.

Other Lac. Ste. Anne County has become partners with Sturgeon County and Edmonton Airport in ownership of Villeneuve Airport development. Boeing, Canadian Military, and large (40-50) acre hydroponic industries are some of the future proposed developments in this area.

Contact Tristan at County for information on Municipal Services package.

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ASVA Conference Oct. 19-20 Details on the conference at ASVA website annual report

LGFF Base funding still lower than advocated More info on report from SVLSAE Oct 28.

Provincial move to allow small communities to do their own census.

Municipal Planning Services Planning services for communities NOT developers.

MGA new "obligation to protect environment" Management of land use on redevelopment includes vegetation, storm water runoff and fixing poor previous development decisions. CPP Environment for data collection to assist in planning.

Best Management Resource Guide for bylaws for Riparian use.

Note Whispering Hills and Sylvan Lake Bylaws for Air B&B minimum 7 day rental.

ALMS Alberta Lake Management Society Bradley Peter 780-702-2567
info@alms.ca

Lake Keepers effective for small lakes Winter lake testing will train Recreational Beach monitoring

Next Generation 911 Municipal Address Management amdsp.ca

There will be request (ie Telus) for site specific addresses including stores, halls, for new 911 programs. The Telus Agreement for response to cell and internet.

Municipality is the authoritative source for this program confirming addresses and maps ect. Information will be used by Fire, Police, Ambulance, GPS companies. All info is Public no FOIT info is required. Needs to be done by March 2024.

403-461-4700 or support@amdsp.ca

LP&P legal Complaints who can make. Is up to council and outlined in the code of conduct. Should include -no anonymous complaints. -specific details/who it is /confidential and timelines. -avoid frivolous and internet complaints

MAP cycle 2. MAP is on a 5 year cycle. Works to help the Municipality. Review will be based on last MAP and will be possible to customize needs to Municipality, Review council meetings, discretionary and mandatory bylaws. Note. Comments CAN be included in council minutes, but caution re: Legal

Alberta Environment & Protected Areas Janice Higgins 587-986-6694
janice.higgins@gov.ab.ca

Nurse Practitioners New Prov. Regulations will make it possible for clinics to hire Nurse Practitioners without the need for a full time doctor compliment. They come with their own Provincial Funding. This is important for Onoway Clinic and County is aware of these new regulations.

MCS net. Refer also to info in conjunction with Connect Mobility SVLSACE meeting information on Broadband and grant funding.

Climate Plan in Small Communities Climate Caucus of Canada

50% of climate Emissions are under local government control. Include Buildings Vehicles Lights, and bylaws for building size, driveways and vegetation on development permits. Grants or borrowing available for Municipal Buildings under Green Municipal Fund. All One Sky Climate Resilience Plan for information also alex@climatecaucus.ca and Climate Resilience Capacity Building at ABMunis stressing increased lake water temperatures, fire/smoke high winds and tornado.

Emergency Management Lac Ste. Anne County

An extremely good and detailed presentation by Carole Marciszym Peacock DEM LSAC from wildfire and SOLE incident May 2023. Main Points as follow

- at the start elected officials take direction from DEMS DDEMS and administration
- Be prepared for food/water/clothing for a week Not just n72 hrs.
- make sure residents know to report signs of danger to 911 Not CAO, Not office, Not elected officials ONLY 911 CAN DISPATCH FOR AN EMERGENCY
- problems occur with poor internet and communication with co-ordination centers and evac centers
- have someone to call Fortis, AB Transportation, Gas co.'s, CN Rail, AUMA there are lots of calls to make designate
- designate designate designate, provide space for those in Command Center Have wall space for notes notes notes.
- Logistics and Planning very important to get resources May be in short supply
- TRACK everything Feed people in office and on the ground
- Elected officials messaging Keep it short Tell the truth Keep info release to few people to avoid poor information flow Council CAO
- Elected officials Resident safety comes first
- it takes an hour or 2 to evacuate but takes weeks to return re: gas & power lines, roads and hotspots,
- lack of resources due to many concurrent wildfires through out province
- AUMA will assist in financial recovery
- Burn out and emotional stress for staff. This is their community. Emotion=Problems

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Lessons Learned

Need to prepare for what might come

- Evacuations are tricky Minutes can change how an evac works
- How many people are at village regularly and on weekend or summer vacations
- Do All Residents Know The Plan??
- Burn out of staff and volunteers due to stress "This is their community"
- Burn-out and stress of staff and volunteers due to stress "This is their community"
- Emotion and stress of Staff and Residents. Need to be prepared to manage this.

Emotion can create problems

-Regional partnership is critical for small communities. How to get water, rooms, food, equipment, and support for workers coming in

PRIORITY SAVE LIVES OF residents and RESPONDERS

NEED EXERCISES AND PRACTICE

Fire Smart Laura Stewart Provincial fire smart specialist 587-985-2095

Wild fire to increase 14% by 2030 30% by 2050

80% of Alberta Fire departments are volunteer or semi-volunteer

Community Wildfire Risk Plan www.firesmartcanada.ca

possible \$500.00 for home-owners toward a plan

LAEMR Local Authority Emergency Management Regulations

Risk Assessment and Risk Tolerance What can you put up with?

- small single item drills
- understand obligations under LAEMR
- Establish By-law
- Develop EMP emergency management plan
- Training

SVLSACE Oct 28 2023

Hyw 43 Waste New loader in operation. Site truck needs replacement.

Waste Commission requires that all landfills need reserve funds specifically for environmental operations after site closure.

Seniors Foundation Over-all good financial state. Administrators doing good job at keeping costs in line. All 3 lodges are full with wait lists for all three. Min. Covid Cases to date.

East End Buss Full excursions with waiting lists. Rising cost result in transferring money from reserve to operation. Request for funding help.

Wild Water see report

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Census Municipalities can now do their own census, to be used by Prov. Gov. Question can temporary residents be included for funding needs.

Education Property Taxes. Prov. Is considering and/or implimenting reduced Education property tax, (which municipalities collect). Presently Education tax does go into General Revenue. There would be allowance for municipalities to collect that tax on their own behalf. However, reducing Education tax (as a separate item) could result in loss of other funding programs such as FCSS, LGFF and others. Also this puts the necessary replacement of the education tax as a direct increase in property taxes in the eyes of residents.

Discussion Party Politics in Municipal Elections Generally NOT wanted. Look to future letter to be sent advocating NO.

Connect Mobility also MCS net from ASVA conference. (Alberta Broadband Fund)
For communities not getting 50mps download and 10 mps upload speeds. Even with new Explore net tower we might not be getting these speeds. For Granting requires that 1 in 5 households submit speed tests of their internet. Connect will assist seniors with doing the speed tests. Getting these test has required much work to inform residents. Alberta Beach and others have had difficulty in getting response for residents.

LGFF Consistent downward trend in funding to Municipal Governments. Down 64% 2011 was \$424.00 per capita now \$154.00. Base funding SV's down from \$130K to \$60K.

Asva proposal is to put funding base on dwellings NOT population. Ie; 58% Dwellings 12% Roads Tangible Capital Assets 15% Other 15%.

For our village this would bring funding to \$78 K.

Emergency Management Yellowstone and ^{Sunset Point} Ross Haven have both sent letters to leave the Regional SV group. 4 inquiries have been made to County in respect to Emergency Management. Discussion was for our group as a whole to enter into negotiations with County for this service, could be stronger negotiating as a group. Indication that group is willing to pursue this. We would still want a voice a table thru Advisory Group.

Personally I am in favor of this. I am disappointed at the amount of money that we have had to spend on this mandated program, for the benefits that we have received. Could we really handle an emergency with out immediately going to the Province?? We need to look carefully at new bylaw (up-coming) to be sure that we will not be restricted from contacting the County ourselves, should group decide against.

1. See Brandon Stewart at Pigeon Lake

[Local Government Fiscal Framework \(LGFF\) | Alberta Municipalities \(abmunis.ca\)](https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/infrastructure/local-government-fiscal-framework-lgff)
<https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/infrastructure/local-government-fiscal-framework-lgff>
(Retrieved October 20th, 2023)

In 2016, ABmunis began work to design an infrastructure funding program that could replace MSI Capital and BMTG and better support municipal governments. That review led to ABmunis calling for a program that will:

1. Set annual funding levels based on a linkage to provincial revenues,
2. Provide more predictability so that municipalities can effectively plan for their future,
3. Be embedded in legislation to prevent changes based on short-term political goals, and
4. Adequately fund Alberta's community infrastructure needs.

What has been the Government of Alberta's response?

Fortunately, the Government of Alberta has listened to our calls and created the LGFF, which is set to replace MSI Capital and BMTG in 2024. Under its current design, LGFF will meet 3 of 4 of our requests. However, it fails in the most important area – **it does not provide an adequate level of funding to address community infrastructure needs.**

At this time, the Local Government Fiscal Framework Act will deliver a mere \$722 million when the program starts in 2024. This is 36 per cent less than the historical average of MSI Capital & BMTG.

Yes, the funding pot will grow over time based on growth in provincial revenues (some restrictions apply), but with the funding pot starting at only \$722 million, **it could take 20 to 30 years to get back to the level of investment that was in place a decade ago.**

The History on ABmunis' Work on LGFF

The following provides a chronological summary highlighting ABmunis' key work and notable developments in the pursuit to replace MSI with LGFF.

The Funding Pot

- 2016 – ABmunis develops recommendations for a new infrastructure funding program.
- 2017 – ABmunis seeks input from members and begins advocating to the province for the replacement of MSI.
- 2018 – The Government of Alberta announces that MSI will be replaced with a new program in 2022.
- 2018 – ABmunis and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) align positions and enter discussions with the province on the design and amount of funding for the new program.

LGFF

[Local Government Fiscal Framework \(LGFF\) | Alberta Municipalities \(abmunis.ca\)](https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/infrastructure/local-government-fiscal-framework-lgff)
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- 2018 – The Government of Alberta introduces the City Charters Fiscal Framework Act, which provides post-MSI funding for the cities of Calgary and Edmonton starting at \$500 million.
- 2019 – The Government of Alberta repeals the City Charters Fiscal Framework Act and introduces the Local Government Fiscal Framework Act, which sets the post-MSI funding at \$455 million for the cities of Calgary and Edmonton and \$405 million for all other municipal governments and Metis settlements. A total of \$860 million.
- 2020-2022 – ABmunis advocates for improvements by calling for the starting amount to be increased and to remove the 50 per cent cap on the revenue index factor calculation so that the annual changes in LGFF funding match annual changes in provincial revenue.
- 2021 – The Government of Alberta announces that MSI will be extended for two more years delaying the start of LGFF to 2024 and that the starting amount of LGFF is reduced from \$860 million to \$722 million. The decision reduces Calgary and Edmonton's starting amount to \$382 million and to \$340 million for the non-charter municipalities and Metis settlements.
- 2022 – ABmunis and RMA continue to jointly advocate for the starting amount of LGFF to be increased and for the removal of the 50 per cent cap.
- 2023 – The Government of Alberta's 2023 Budget announces that the Local Government Fiscal Framework Act will be amended to remove the 50 per cent cap on the growth factor calculation so that LGFF funding will grow at the same rate as provincial revenues.
- 2023 – ABmunis implements a campaign during the provincial election that calls for municipal infrastructure funding to be increased to \$1.75 billion.

The Allocation Formula to Distribute the Funding Pot

- 2019 – The Local Government Fiscal Framework Act defines the LGFF allocation formula for the cities of Calgary and Edmonton.
- 2019-2021 – ABmunis collects preliminary input from members on ideas and priorities for an allocation formula for the non-charter municipalities.
- 2021 – ABmunis tasks a Municipal Financial Health Working Group to develop a recommendation for the design of an LGFF allocation formula for non-charter municipalities.
- 2022 – ABmunis seeks input from members on the principles and proposed formula variables for an LGFF allocation formula.
- 2022 – Based on a request from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, ABmunis and RMA enter negotiations on the design of an LGFF allocation formula for the non-charter municipalities.
- 2022 – ABmunis and RMA are unable to reach an agreement and submit separate proposals to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.
- 2023 – The finalization of the non-charter allocation formula is delayed by the spring 2023 provincial election. ABmunis is hopeful to assist the Government of

So what are the facts when it comes to investments in provincial infrastructure?

1. Municipalities in Alberta are facing an estimated \$30 billion infrastructure deficit and don't have the financial means of other levels of government.
2. Community infrastructure has taken a backseat to other provincial priorities over the last decade.
3. Alberta's population continues to grow, and municipal infrastructure funding has not kept pace.

To understand why we are asking for \$1.75 billion please view this backgrounder and watch what some Alberta mayors say about the impacts of infrastructure funding on their communities.

History behind LGFF

To understand the context behind this work, we need to go back to 2007 when the Government of Alberta created a key infrastructure funding program, the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI). MSI was promised to be a 10-year funding program with a 3-year phase-in period. After the phase-in period, municipalities would receive \$1.4 billion per year between 2010 and 2016. This represented \$1.35 billion in MSI Capital for building infrastructure and \$50 million in MSI Operating for day-to-day operational expense.

At the time, the Government of Alberta was collecting about \$1.4 billion in taxes from communities through provincial education property taxes. The provincial education property taxes are collected by municipalities on behalf of the government. The province's intention was that MSI would indirectly transfer those funds back to municipal governments to be invested in local infrastructure.

However, the reality was something different. The highest that MSI Capital reached in any particular year was \$896 million in 2015. By that time, provincial education property taxes had grown to \$2.2 billion and are now at \$2.5 billion.

In 2014, the province rolled out the Basic Municipal Transportation Grant (BMTG) under MSI. If the MSI promise had been met, and combined with the BMTG, then the total funding should have been around \$1.73 billion annually. Instead, the funding has been on a downward trend, averaging \$834 million annually over the last five years (2019-2023).

How has ABmunis responded?

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One of the most pressing issues facing municipal governments today is the challenge of paying for the maintenance, replacement, and expansion of local infrastructure. Local infrastructure are things Albertans rely on day-to-day such as roads and transit, sidewalks, water and wastewater lines, fire trucks, recreation facilities, and public service buildings.

Since 2016, ABmunis has invested significant time and resources into helping the Government of Alberta design and finalize the creation of Alberta's newest municipal infrastructure funding program, the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF). To understand the context behind this work, we need to go back to 2007 when the Government of Alberta created a key infrastructure funding program, the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI).

Alberta's municipalities are facing an estimated \$30B infrastructure deficit that will worsen.

Compared to 2011, provincial infrastructure funding to municipal governments dropped by 64%.

Alberta Municipalities calls for \$1.75 billion in funding to keep pace with population growth.

What level of funding should LGFF start at?

During the 2023 provincial election, you may have heard us call for infrastructure funding to be set at \$1.75 billion. We were referring to LGFF. The fact is provincial investment in community infrastructure has been on a downward trend since 2011. For example, in 2011, the Government of Alberta provided infrastructure funding to municipal governments that was equivalent to \$424 per capita. Since then that figure has dropped by 64 per cent. In 2023, the province will invest only \$154 per capita through municipal infrastructure grants (excluding federal infrastructure funding that is transferred on by the Government of Alberta).

