

ADDITIONAL: Request for Decision (RFD)

Topic: Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus – Members' RFD's
Initiated by: Alberta Municipalities
Attachments: Email of Notification from AB Municipalities
RFD – Ponoka – Lack of Consultation re: AHS, Provincial Govt, & Municipalities
RFD – Calgary - Children's Services – Improvement of Services' delivery

Purpose(s):

Council to review the presented Requests for Decisions that will be addressed at the March 30 & 31st Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus and provide the attending Village Representative with the Village of Innisfree Council's decision on the RFD's for voting purposes.

Background:

1. Councillor J. Johnson and Interim CAO T. Wiebe have registered for the Spring Municipal Leader's Caucus, being held in Edmonton.

Key Issues/Concepts:

1. The Town of Ponoka has presented two recommendations:
 - a. First, advocating that the Alberta Municipalities Board advocate the municipalities be included in the Alberta Health Services' decision-making process within their communities.
 - b. Secondly, requesting the Alberta Municipalities advocate for adequate Provincial financial resources for airports that require upgrades to comply with both the new AHS and provincial standards, and to commit to providing funding to other airports.
2. The Calgary City Council request that the Alberta Municipalities Board advocate to the Minister of Children's Services to increase protections for the youngest and most vulnerable Albertans; several points on how to improve the protection are listed within the attached RFD.

Options:

1. That Council endorses the Village Representative attending the 2023 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus, to endorse the Town of Ponoka recommendation that the Alberta Municipalities Board advocate the municipalities be included in the Alberta Health Services' decision-making process within their communities.
Secondly, that Council endorses the Village Representative attending the 2023 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus, to endorse the Calgary City Council recommendation that the Alberta Municipalities Board advocate to the Minister of Children's Services to increase protections for the youngest and most vulnerable Albertans, including the two points presented, providing suggestions on how to improve the protection.
2. That Council direct the Village Representative attending the 2023 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus, to oppose the Town of Ponoka Request for Decision.
3. That Council direct the Village Representative attending the 2023 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus, to oppose the Calgary City Council Request for Decision.

4. That Council file the Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus Request for Decisions for information.

Financial Implications: None Identified.

Relevant Policy/Legislation:

1. *MGA, Section 153(c) General duties of councillors*

Political/Public Implication(s):

The participation in the Alberta Municipalities' advocacy should be viewed in a positive manner.

Recommendation:

That Council endorses the Village Representative attending the 2023 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus, to endorse the Town of Ponoka recommendation that the Alberta Municipalities Board advocate the municipalities be included in the decision-making process within their communities.

Secondly, that Council endorses the Village Representative attending the 2023 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus, to endorse the Calgary City Council recommendation that the Alberta Municipalities Board advocate to the Minister of Children's Services to increase protections for the youngest and most vulnerable Albertans, including the two points presented, providing suggestions on how to improve the protection.

Village of Innisfree (CAO)

From: Cathy Heron <president@abmunis.ca>
Sent: March 20, 2023 9:33 AM
To: Village of Innisfree (CAO)
Subject: Member Requests for Decisions at Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus
Attachments: RFD Lack of consultation between Alberta Health Services, the provincial government, and municipalities - Town of Ponoka.pdf; RFD - Strengthening Provincial Regulations to Improve Safety of Unlicensed Private Day Homes- City of Calgary (1).pdf

Hello Mayors, Councillors, and CAOs:

During our upcoming [Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus](#), attendees will have the chance to consider the attached Requests for Decision (RFDs):

- *Strengthening Provincial Regulations to Improve Safety of Unlicensed Private Day Homes* submitted by the City of Calgary
- *Lack of Consultation Between Alberta Health Services, the Provincial Government, and Municipalities* submitted by the Town of Ponoka

The RFD Session is scheduled for Thursday, March 30 at 4:40 p.m. Elected representatives from the submitting municipalities have two minutes to introduce their respective RFDs. Then audience members can make comments or ask questions – you will have up to 45 seconds for your question or comment. Once there are no further questions or comments from the audience, the Elected Officials from ABmunis Regular Members, in attendance will be invited to vote on the RFD using the online platform Mentimeter.

An RFD is approved if 51 percent or more of votes cast are in favour. If the RFD is not approved, no further action is taken, and the matter is closed. If the RFD is approved, it is reviewed by one of ABmunis’ standing committees, which then makes recommendations to the ABmunis Board on next steps. A brief update on previous years’ RFDs will be provided at the session.

RFDs give members the opportunity to raise issues of concern outside of our annual Convention. As such, the process for submitting, considering, and following up on RFDs is less formal than the process for resolutions considered at Convention.

I look forward to connecting with many of you at Caucus, as well as at the [President’s Summit](#), which takes place directly beforehand.

Other ABmunis events that are coming up include the [Elected Officials Education Program](#) virtual offering of the [land use planning course](#) in April and [strategic planning course](#) in May. Don’t miss out on these opportunities to build essential skills for municipal leadership!

Cathy Heron | President

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MEMBER REQUEST FOR DECISION

SPRING MUNICIPAL LEADERS' CAUCUS

DATE:

March 30 and 31, 2023

TOPIC:

Lack of Consultation Between Alberta Health Services, the Provincial Government, and Municipalities

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Council from the Town of Ponoka requests that the Alberta Municipalities Board advocate for municipalities across the province to be included in the decision-making process when it comes to health care issues concerning their communities, which currently are being made almost exclusively and unilaterally by Alberta Health Services and the provincial government;
2. And further, that Council from the Town of Ponoka requests that the Alberta Municipalities advocate for the provincial government to ensure funding is made available to airports that currently find themselves in the position of needing upgrades to comply with both new Alberta Health Services and provincial standards, and to commit to providing funding to other airports who may find themselves in a similar situation in the very near future.

BACKGROUND:

Early in November 2022, with no advance notice or consultation with the municipality, Alberta Health Services placed the Ponoka Airport on a no-fly winter status. This restriction meant that air ambulance/medivac flights were prohibited from landing at the Ponoka Airport. Three weeks later on November 22, 2022, Alberta Health Services notified Ponoka Town Council of fixed wing safety concerns at the airport, and advised that patients requiring fixed wing air ambulances would be transported through the Wetaskiwin Airport and then be transported by ground ambulance to the destination facility.

Following these events, meetings were arranged with representation from MLA Ron Orr (Lacombe/Ponoka); MLA R. J. Sigurdson (Parliamentary Secretary for EMS Reform), Alberta Health Services, EMS/Air Ambulance Authority, Ponoka County and the Town of Ponoka, where information was shared after the fact.

At these meetings information was shared regarding the varying degrees of experience of pilots and that a risk assessment was conducted which identified hazards on landing the King Aircraft on the existing runway, which is at the minimum length, during winter conditions. It was also identified that in order to achieve full operation, the airport in the future would require an extension to the runway to achieve compliance with operational standards. Funding implications associated with an extension to the runway were also discussed



and it was suggested that Ponoka along with other municipalities lobby the government to ensure funding be made available.

In researching other airports across the province, it was noted that several other airport runways are of similar size and may become subject to the same restrictions imposed on Ponoka. Similarly, we have been informed of airport closures in Two Hills and Spirit River, with the same lack of consultation on behalf of the provincial bodies, whose decisions ultimately impact resources and residents at the local level.

Ponoka's circumstances are unique in that we have the Centennial Centre for Mental Health and Brain Injury, a 330-bed hospital, which serves residents from across Alberta and even some from out of province, as well as the Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre which no longer has a functioning Helipad. Both of these care facilities rely on the air ambulance operations coming into Ponoka, and represent 400 beds.

Additionally, while the Centennial Centre for Mental Health and Brain Injury serves the entire province, the Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre serves a catchment area of nearly 50,000 people, which is comprised of the Town of Ponoka, Ponoka County and Maskwacis residents. To that end, the Emergency Department at the Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre sees on average 70 patients in a 24-hour period.

One only wonders had Ponoka been involved in the consultation and decision-making process regarding the suspension of medivac flights to Ponoka, would the outcomes have been different.

The impacts of this decision include:

- Unknown effects on patients requiring transport. 101 medivac flights came into Ponoka in 2022 delivering 87 patients to the Centennial Centre for Mental Health and Brain Injury. As a designated provincial mental health facility, air ambulance services are paramount in ensuring that patients have access to the mental health services they need in a timely and least invasive manner. It is common practice that patients from across the province receive treatment at this facility, as these specialized services are not available in many municipalities.
- Placing additional stress and workload on an already over-taxed ground ambulance service as these patients have to be transported by ground ambulance from Wetaskiwin which is 39 km away and adds 78 km for a round trip, with at least another hour in travel time.

While we are using our own experience in Ponoka as an example, we understand that lack of proactive, and transparent communication on healthcare decisions with a direct impact on local communities is an issue faced by municipalities across Alberta.

Support of this issue from the Alberta Municipalities will raise an awareness of the importance of reaching out to those closest to the source and inviting them to participate in the decision-making process.

ENCLOSURES:

None



MEMBER REQUEST FOR DECISION

SPRING MUNICIPAL LEADERS' CAUCUS

DATE:

March 30-31, 2023

TOPIC:

Strengthening Provincial Regulations to Improve Safety of Unlicensed Private Day Homes

RECOMMENDATION:

That Calgary City Council requests that the Alberta Municipalities Board advocate to the Minister of Children's Services to increase protections for the youngest and most vulnerable Albertans by:

1. Mandating minimum safety standards for unlicensed private day homes including, but not limited to:
 - a) Valid First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification for the day home operator and any employees.
 - b) A criminal record check with vulnerable sector search for the day home operator and any employees.
 - c) A criminal record check with vulnerable sector search for any individual 18 years or older who resides at the day home, regardless of whether they are providing care to children.
2. Ensuring all unlicensed private day home providers across the province have access to affordable and timely First Aid/CPR training, criminal record checks and vulnerable sector searches.

BACKGROUND:

Alberta families should not have to sacrifice safety when choosing child care for their children. Currently, the *Early Learning and Child Care Act* allows for two types of home-based child care: licensed and unlicensed. Whereas licensed home-based child care providers are recruited, trained, and regularly monitored by provincially-licensed family day home agencies, there is no government oversight of unlicensed home-based child care providers and there are no minimum standards to operate an unlicensed private day home. Private day homes are businesses that provide care to children 12 and under out of the caregiver's own home but do not include babysitters, nannies and informal arrangements with family and friends. Currently, the only regulation in place for unlicensed private day home operators is that they are only permitted to care for a maximum of six children, not including their own.

Serious incidents, including traumatic injury, sexual assault, and death have occurred in unlicensed private day homes across the province. The tragic death of 22-month-old toddler Mackenzy Woolfsmith at an unlicensed private day home in Calgary in 2012 sparked a Public Fatality Inquiry led by Justice Joshua B. Hawkes in February 2018. In the Public Fatality Report, released in December 2018, Justice Hawkes detailed the lack of risk-focused regulation of the child care sector and made 10 recommendations to



enhance child care safety. Notably, in paragraph 63(b) on page 12 of the report, Justice Hawkes recommended that a legislative review of provincial regulations for child care be conducted and that “a specific focus of that legislative review should be to shift the focus from solely regulating the size of unlicensed daycare to a focus on reducing risk and increasing protective factors in all forms of child care. Academic research, the experience of other jurisdictions and the tragedy in this case all illustrate and support the need for risk focused regulation of child care¹”.

The Ministry of Children’s Services formally responded to the Public Fatality Report in September 2019 and accepted, or accepted in principle, all 10 recommendations proposed by Justice Hawkes. Following a legislative review, a new *Early Learning and Child Care Act* was introduced in February 2021. Although the updated Act made strides toward addressing some of Justice Hawkes’ recommendations, there were no proactive measures introduced to improve safety for children in unlicensed care. While child care providers operating under a provincially-licensed day home agency are required to pass a criminal record check, there are still no restrictions in place to prevent individuals with criminal records from operating an unlicensed private day home and no requirement that they disclose past convictions to prospective families. This leaves the door open for individuals like Mackenzy Woolfsmith’s care provider, who was convicted of manslaughter in connection with her death, to continue operating.

Municipalities across Alberta have been left to address this significant gap in provincial legislation through a variety of municipal interventions. Calgary City Council recently took steps to enhance safety in unlicensed private day homes by approving a municipal business licence to ensure applicants meet minimum standards, including valid first aid/CPR and criminal record checks and vulnerable sector searches for child care providers and residents of the home. Other municipalities have fewer requirements, and many more have no additional rules for private day homes over and above provincial legislation. This has led to a patchwork of regulations across the province, and a two-tiered system where children in licensed child care programs receive significantly more protections from the Government of Alberta than those in unlicensed care. In November 2022, the Children’s Services mandate letter was released and committed to ensuring more transparency and accountability in unlicensed day homes, including increased training. This is a positive step but falls short of the changes needed to ensure the safety of children in unlicensed child care.

All families care deeply about the health and safety of their children but must make decisions regarding their care within constraints such as child care space availability, location, cost, and work schedules. Currently, there are only enough provincially-regulated child care spaces in Alberta for approximately three out of every 10 children². This has made licensed child care unattainable for many families and, in the absence of provincial safety standards, has left municipalities to shoulder the burden of ensuring children in unlicensed private day homes are protected. Although the province recently committed to creating 42,500 new licensed child care spaces over the next five years, Statistics Canada reported in 2001 that 62 per cent of child care providers in Alberta were unlicensed home-based³. With so many children still in unlicensed care across the province, and an ever-increasing number of incidents occurring in the 10 years since Mackenzy Woolfsmith’s tragic death, it is time for Alberta Municipalities members to add their collective voices to the call for provincial accountability for improved safety and oversight of unlicensed private day homes.



The City of Calgary appreciates the feedback provided by the Alberta Municipalities Small Communities Committee on an early draft of this request for decision and acknowledges the need for the Government of Alberta to ensure that all unlicensed private day home providers across the province have access to affordable and timely First Aid/CPR training, criminal record checks and vulnerable sector searches.

¹ Report to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General Public Fatality Inquiry, 2018:

<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/c0485cf2-dc5f-4a49-8459-fe60e29d3bac/resource/adc0a267-4d51-4b91-9caf-c4a00fed419/download/woolfsmith-fatality-inquiry-report.pdf>

² Headed Up, But Still Behind, Child Care Coverage Rates in Alberta's Top Ten Largest Cities, 2016 – 2021:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f170b16bf7d977d587e43c4/t/62c46530ba63d74c32d55c64/1657038128826/Coverage+Rates+in+Albertas+Ten+Largest+Cities+2022-06-23.Final.pdf>

²Statistics Canada <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/210615/dq210615c-eng.htm>

ENCLOSURES:

None

ADDITIONAL: Request for Decision (RFD)

Topic: Bylaw Enforcement Services
Initiated by: Council and Administration
Attachments: Town of Vegreville email

Purpose(s):

1. Council decision regarding contracted Bylaw Enforcement Services from Town of Vegreville

Background:

1. Council has made a decision to secure Bylaw Enforcement Services and have allocated funds for this service in the 2023 budget.
2. Discussion amongst the local CAOs indicated that other municipalities were also interested in contracted Bylaw Enforcement Services.
3. The Town of Vegreville CAO offered to see if it was feasible for the Town to contract out Bylaw Enforcement Services from their BEO department to the local municipalities.

Key Issues/Concepts:

1. Village of Innisfree employees find it difficult to incorporate Bylaw Enforcement with their other duties.
2. Bylaw Enforcement would be improved if there was a dedicated individual to this task.
3. Hiring from outside of the Village of Innisfree for Bylaw Enforcement is better than an Innisfree Employee who interacts with residents on a personal level.
4. With the Town of Vegreville responsible to hire, train and supervise the employees and then contracting Bylaw Enforcement Service to the local municipalities, this eliminates work and duplication of Administration Services for each of the contracting municipalities.
5. NOTE: The Town of Vegreville's request for a Letter Of Intent(LOI) for Bylaw Enforcement Services is contingent on the Town of Vegreville securing an additional Officer.
6. The Town of Vegreville is requesting a 2- to 3-year term LOI.

Options:

1. Council to direct Administration to provide a Letter of Intent to the Town of Vegreville regarding Bylaw Services including desired service level and term of contract.
2. Council decline providing a Letter of Intent to the Town of Vegreville regarding Bylaw Services.
3. Council to direct Administration otherwise regarding Bylaw Services.

Financial Implications:

1. Financial implications will depend on the Level of Service that the Innisfree Council choose.
2. Funding has been allocated in the 2023 Operating Budget for Bylaw Enforcement Services.

Relevant Policy/Legislation:

1. MGA – Sections 541-559 – *Enforcement of municipal law*
2. Bylaw 660-20 - BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Political/Public Implication(s):

There should be less complaints regarding non-enforcement of Bylaws such as, but not limited to, Animal Control and unsightly yards.

Recommendation:

Council direct Administration to provide a Letter of Intent to the Town of Vegreville regarding Bylaw Enforcement Services including desired service level and term of contract.

Village of Innisfree (CAO)

From: Allan Weiss <aweiss@vegreville.com>
Sent: March 17, 2023 8:41 AM
To: Jennifer Hodel; Village of Innisfree (CAO); Pat Podoborozny (ppodoborozny@minburncounty.ab.ca)
Cc: Christopher Leggett, CLGA, CLGFA, CLGHRA
Subject: LOI Request for Bylaw Services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning CAOs,
 Further to our discussion regarding the Town of Vegreville providing contracted Bylaw Services to your municipality, we respectfully request that you provide a Letter of Intent(LOI) by April 15th,2023.
 The LOI can be written to indicate that should the Town of Vegreville Protective Services department be able to secure the required budget, staffing and resources, your municipality would be willing to enter into a written agreement for the provision of contract bylaw services. As such, please indicate the desired service level [Enforcement Activities], desired number of hours and/or days of service and the term (we would consider 2 to 3 Years) of the contract.
 Once we have this information on hand, we will be able to put together an aggregate proposal which would include all the items noted above from your respective municipalities and present it to Council including a full work plan and budget to achieve your desired service levels.
 We commit to working on a proposal to Council as quickly as possible with the goal of having the plan approved in time to begin providing the contracted services for late spring/early summer 2023.
 Thank you for the open and collaborative discussions and for reaching out to the Town of Vegreville to discuss your future enforcement needs.

Chris



People our core, innovation our strength, community our intention.



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ADDITIONAL: Request for Decision (RFD)

Topic: Birch Lake Campground - Issues
Initiated by: Administration
Attachments: Page 8 of Master Rates Bylaw – Recreation Rates

Purpose(s):

1. Council to address several campground-related issues:
 - a) opening of the campground early;
 - b) open up for campground reservations ASAP;
 - c) increasing the campground rates and adding a senior discount, and
 - d) implement the use of septic dump tank at the Birch Lake Campground.

Background:

1. The Campground Manager hired for the season has already been working on getting ready for the upcoming camping season.
2. The Provincial Parks are already taking reservations and will be opening up May 1st this year.

Key Issues/Concepts:

1. Opening up for early reservations means the campground could be booked up all summer, right from the start.
2. Use of a sanitary sewer dump at the campground would eliminate the need for campers to go across Highway 16, to the municipal sanitary dump station near the Petro-Can Gas bar.
3. The Village Camping fees are lower than comparable, surrounding rates; an increase could improve the financial standing of the Campground operations.

Options:

1. Council to endorse Camping rate increases for the campground.
2. Council request Administration to bring suggested increases for Master Rates Bylaw.
3. Council to direct Administration to open the campground early.
4. Council to direct Administration in another manner.

Financial Implications:

1. Opening up the campground early could increase income.
2. Increasing the campground rates could increase income.
3. Having a discount for seniors will make it more enticing for them.
4. There will be extra costs for the additional month for the Campground Manager contract.

Relevant Policy/Legislation:

1. None

Political/Public Implication(s):

1. The public would definitely prefer having access to the campground early.
2. The public would prefer being able to reserve a spot as soon as possible.

Recommendation:

Council direct Administration to open the Campground early.

SECTION 70

PARKS AND RECREATION

<u>FEE/CHARGE</u>	<u>SERVICE/GOODS</u>
\$ 25.00	Non-Powered Camping Site
\$ 30.00	Powered Camping Site
\$ 100.00	Weekly Non-Powered Camping Site
\$ 150.00	Weekly Powered Camping Site
\$ 250.00	Monthly Non-Powered Camping Site
\$ 500.00	Monthly Powered Camping Site
\$ 100.00	Group Camp Deposit (pay when booking)
\$ 225.00	Group Camp per night
\$ 100.00	Group Camp (for non-profit groups)
\$ 200.00	Ball Park per night (3 diamonds)
\$1,800.00	Powered Site from Park Open to Close (4 months)
\$ 4.00	Showers (Non-Campers)
\$ 10.00	Firewood (per bundle)
Per Village Service Contract	Septic Removal Services
50% of total cost	Deposit for Reservations of more than 2 Sites (Reservations held until 6:00 p.m. on day of scheduled arrival)

All campground prices include GST

addition 10.f



COUNTY OF ST. PAUL

NEWS RELEASE

March 21, 2023
For immediate release

St. Paul, AB – County of St. Paul, including the Town of St Paul, the Town of Elk Point, and the Summer Village of Horseshoe Bay, has been designated under the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program’s Rural Renewal Stream (RRS).

The RRS addresses current labour needs and skill shortages in rural Alberta communities and helps newcomers settle into the community. This stream is community-driven. Once designated the community works with employers to attract, recruit and retain newcomers by sharing information on settlement supports.

The RRS designation enables employers working through the program to provide foreign nationals with employment, surpassing the need for a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) and allowing the foreign national to enter directly into the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program.

The RRS designation was applied for and will be administered by STEP Economic Development Alliance on behalf of the municipalities, with the support of the St. Paul & District Chamber of Commerce, the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce, the Portage Community Adult Learning Program (CALP) and other community partners.

“STEP’s previous work with the Rural Development Network to assess the needs of newcomers to rural communities prepared us for the successful application,” STEP Chair and County Councillor Darrell Younghans said. “While the communities have been recruiting medical professionals through their own efforts, more was needed to be done to attract labour to the region.”

To be eligible for the program, businesses must be located within the boundaries of the County of St. Paul, inclusive of the Towns of St. Paul and Elk Point and the Summer Village, must have permanent, full time positions they are unable to fill, and good standing with federal, provincial and municipal regulations.

STEP will work towards standing up the program within the next four weeks and once completed, details of the RRS program will be advertised and made available online.

For more information, please contact:
Linda Sallstrom
Economic Development Officer
lsallstrom@stepeconomicdevelopment.ca
780-646-2975

addition 10.9

Village of Innisfree (CAO)

From: Events <events@abmunis.ca>
Sent: March 17, 2023 10:29 AM
Subject: Invitation to submit advance questions for speakers
Attachments: Agenda - Spring 2023 Municipal Leaders' Caucus.pdf

Thank you for registering for Spring 2023 Municipal Leaders Caucus.

This year's agenda (attached) includes sessions on topics including the ABmunis election strategy, RCMP police services, the Family and Community Support Services program, and the Victim Services program redesign, as well as remarks from the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition. To help inform our speakers about the issues that are top of mind for municipalities, I invite you to submit questions in advance using this [web form](#). We are accepting questions on any of the session topics, and the deadline for submitting questions is Tuesday, March 21.

Please note that there will not be questions from the floor following the session on the Victim Services program redesign, so make sure to submit your questions on this topic before the deadline.

I look forward to seeing you on March 30 and 31!

Nicole Martel
Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer