



**Jasper Municipal Council
Legislative Committee Meeting**

April 4, 2023, 10:30am
Jasper Library and Cultural Centre - Quorum Room
AGENDA

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1. Call to order – Councillor Hall to Chair
 2. Additions or deletions for April 4, 2023 agenda
 3. Approval of April 4, 2023 agenda
 4. [Procedure Bylaw #190](#)
 - 4.1 Bylaw Redraft Update verbal
 5. Resolutions for 2023 Alberta Municipalities attachment
 6. Items for Intergovernmental meeting agenda – April 18 verbal
 7. Adjournment
-

Jasper Municipal Council Legislative Committee members and a limited number of staff are in Council chambers in the Quorum Room of the Jasper Library and Cultural Centre for meetings. Members of the public can attend meetings in person and are invited to view agendas and meeting minutes on the Municipality's website at <https://www.jasper-alberta.ca/>.

Legislative Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Quorum Room, Jasper Municipal Library & Cultural Centre



In attendance:

Mayor Richard Ireland, Councillors Wendy Hall & Rico Damota, CAO Bill Given and Christine Nadon (Director of Protective & Legislative Services and recorder)

1. Call to order – Chair Wendy Hall

- Councillor Hall called the meeting to order at 10:34 am

2. Additions or deletions to the agenda

- Councillor Damota, Inclusive Policy Writing (item 6)

3. Approval of the agenda

- MOTION by Councillor Damota to approve agenda as amended. – CARRIED

4. Procedure Bylaw #190

4.1 Bylaw redraft and update

- CAO Given and Director Nadon provided an update to indicate that a contractor has been hired to draft a final version of the Procedure Bylaw including edits brought forward by the Legislative Committee. A draft of the Procedure Bylaw should be available for review at the next Legislative Committee meeting.

5. Policy Review Update

- CAO Given provided an update on the status of various policies on the Policy Review Priority Review list as of January 2022. The Committee requested that Administration create a simple list of which bylaws Administration is currently working on, to foster a better understanding of Administration's workload in the legislative review process.

6. Inclusive Policy Writing

- Councillor Damota raised the importance of drafting municipal legislation with an inclusive approach, specifically with regards to the use of pronouns. Gender neutral wording should be used whenever possible. Policy E-115 provides a framework and guidance for inclusive language.

7. Adjournment

- Next meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 10:30 am
- Councillor Hall adjourned the meeting at 11:51 am

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Subject: Alberta Municipalities Resolutions 2023
From: Bill Given, Chief Administrative Officer
Prepared by: Christine Nadon, Director of Protective & Legislative Services
Christopher Read, Director of Community Development
Reviewed by: Emma Acorn, Legislative Services Coordinator
Date: April 4, 2023



Recommendation:

- That Legislative Committee further develop the attached draft resolutions for Alberta Municipalities; and
- That Legislative Committee recommend Council approve the 2023 resolutions for Alberta Municipalities as amended.

Alternatives:

- That Legislative Committee discuss with partner municipalities whether resolutions on the same topics are being developed for submission by the May 31 deadline;
- That Legislative Committee direct Administration to undertake further research on specific areas of interest to further develop the resolutions; or
- That Legislative Committee direct Administration to discontinue work on one or both of the draft resolutions.

Background:

Members of Alberta Municipalities have an opportunity to present resolutions at the annual conference to address topics of concern affecting municipalities in the province. These resolutions help direct the Alberta Municipalities board of directors to advocate to the federal and provincial governments on their members' behalf.

The deadline for submitting a resolution for consideration at Alberta Municipalities 2023 Annual Convention is Wednesday, May 31, 2023. Resolutions must be approved by the council of the sponsoring municipality, and seconded by an additional municipal council. At the March 14, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council passed the following motion:

- That Committee direct Administration to draft resolutions on the following items for the 2023 Alberta Municipalities to present at the next Legislative Committee meeting:
 - Victims of crime/trauma services
 - Rent control in Alberta

Administration has reviewed the documentation available on the Alberta Municipalities website, completed some research on existing or previous resolutions on Council's areas of interest, and drafted motions using the

prescribed template. The draft resolutions are attached to this report. As set out in the Alberta Municipalities Resolutions Policy, a resolution must not direct one or more municipalities to adopt a particular course of action or policy but must be worded as a request for consideration of an issue, including a call for action by Alberta Municipalities.

Discussion:

Administration has prepared draft resolutions for consideration and development by the Legislative Committee. The draft resolutions and other documentation attached to this report are intended to support the committee in further developing the resolutions, and perhaps identify opportunities to collaborate with other Alberta Municipalities communities on the topics of interest.

The Victim Services item appears to have some momentum across the province. The existing resolutions from two other Alberta communities present some relevant information and considerations for discussion by the legislative committee.

A review of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta and Alberta Municipalities book of resolutions showed no active resolutions on the matter of rent controls in the province. Administration's original intent was to recommend that the Legislative Committee recommend Council approve final resolutions at the April 4 regular meeting, but upon completion of additional research and work on this item, it appears additional development may be required to get the draft resolutions to their more final versions.

Strategic Relevance:

- Community Health
 - Take proactive steps to reduce the risk of people becoming vulnerable and respond when they are vulnerable.
 - Recognize the fundamental importance of our tourism economy.
- Relationships
 - Collaborate with other municipalities, orders of government, indigenous partners and advocacy associations.
- Advocacy
 - Strengthen our voice by partnering with those who share our interests.
 - Contribute our voice to support community, industry, and partners in their advocacy efforts.

Relevant Legislation:

- [Alberta Municipalities Policy AP-002 – Resolutions](#)

Attachments:

- [Alberta Municipalities Resolutions Guide](#)
- [Alberta Municipalities Business Plan and Strategic Initiatives](#)
- Alberta Municipalities Resolution Template
- Draft resolution, Support for Victims of Non-Criminal Trauma
- RMA resolution – Victim Services Delivery Model, 2023 (sponsored by Northern Sunrise County)
- Alberta Municipalities resolution – Victim Services Redesign, 2022 (sponsored by the Town of Canmore)
- Draft resolution, Provincial Residential Rent Control

Title of resolution: A title that is concise yet specific to the issue in the resolution

Moved by: Town of X

Seconded by: Village of Y

WHEREAS the purpose of the “Whereas clauses” is to clearly and succinctly describe the issue or opportunity that the resolution is bringing forward, and identify why the subject is relevant to Alberta’s municipal governments;

WHEREAS the clauses should identify whether the issue involves the need for information sharing, policy changes, legislative/regulatory change or a combination thereof, and refer to specific documents and sections whenever possible;

WHEREAS depending on the complexity of the issue, including roughly five “Whereas” clauses is ideal;

WHEREAS further information can be included in the background; and

WHEREAS these clauses should lead logically to the operative clause.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate forThis operative clause is the call to action. It should include a clear and specific request for the Government of Alberta, Government of Canada or another organization to act. This is the most important part of the resolution and should be written clearly, so there is no doubt as to what action is being requested.

BACKGROUND:

No preamble can be comprehensive enough to give a full account of the situation that gave rise to the resolution. In all cases, supplementary or background information is necessary (1 to 2 pages maximum).

The Background should answer the following questions:

- What is the impact of the issue on municipalities and how many municipalities are impacted? (Provide examples and/or statistics where possible.)
- What priority should the resolution be given?
- Does the issue and call to action align with one of Alberta Municipalities’ strategic initiatives?
- Has the issue been addressed by Alberta Municipalities in response to a resolution or otherwise in the past and what was the outcome?
- Have other associations or groups acted on this issue, or are they considering action? (e.g. Is a similar resolution being considered by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta?)
- What other considerations are involved? (e.g. Does the proposed action align with goals of the provincial or federal government, or other organizations?)

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

Note on fonts:

Headings - Franklin Gothic Book, 13

Body – Franklin Gothic Book, 11

Note on references:

If references are required, please use footnotes and not endnotes to make it easier to compile resolutions into the consolidated Resolutions Book.

Title of resolution: Support for Victims of Non-Criminal Trauma

Moved by: Municipality of Jasper

Seconded by: TBD

WHEREAS the provincial changes to victim services announced in 2022 outline a clear distinction between victims of crime and victims of non-criminal trauma;

WHEREAS the changes to victim services announced in 2022 include the condition that victim services support in communities are no longer permitted to support both victims of crime and victims of non-criminal trauma, including funding, structure, and personnel both paid and volunteer;

WHEREAS the changes to victim services announced in 2022 also severely reduce the pool of trained and available staff and volunteers, especially in smaller communities, to support victims of non-criminal trauma;

WHEREAS the changes to victim services announced in 2022 result in no direct provincial funding or operational support to victims of non-criminal trauma;

WHEREAS the above conditions severely restrict local crisis teams in their ability to provide supports and services to victims of non-criminal trauma, especially in smaller communities in Alberta, resulting in a gap in services in Alberta communities;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for

The Government of Alberta to allow the existing Victim Services Units to support victims of non-criminal trauma; and/or

The Government of Alberta to provide an adequate funding source and guidelines for communities to create and sustain their own parallel system of support for victims of non-criminal trauma.

BACKGROUND:

- In 2022, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services announced a change to a regional governance model for police-based victim services units. While this represents a significant change in the model, the main concern from municipalities is around the new proposed funding structure, which leaves victims of non-criminal trauma with little to no support at a time when they need it most.
- The change in funding structure leaves a gap in services in many communities, which is resulting in an increase in demand for municipal social services and municipal funding contributions to local crisis teams, which is effectively a form of provincial downloading. Services and support for victims of non-criminal trauma continue to exist despite the lack of funding available to provide them.

- This resolution should be given high priority as it is, in some cases, resulting in Albertans not receiving the support when experiencing a non-criminal traumatic event. When support is available, it is often limited and funded directly by municipalities.
- This issue and call to action align with the several Alberta Municipalities strategic initiatives, including Policing and Justice, and Social Issues Scoping.
- The Town of Canmore, seconded by the Town of Tofield, put forth a Victim Services Redesign resolution in 2022, advocating for “the Government of Alberta to halt the rollout of the new victim services model and initiate a new engagement process that involves municipalities of all sizes, ensures downloading to municipalities does not occur, explores how the current model could be maintained and adapted, and includes support for victims of tragedy.” Based on the latest correspondence from the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, the Honourable Mike Ellis, this has not happened and the issue is still pressing for Alberta municipalities.
- The Rural Municipalities of Alberta have an active resolution on this issue, which was put forward by Northern Sunrise County at the spring conference. The resolution advocates for maintaining the current model of victim services program delivery and providing direct assistance to communities that are struggling to operate.
- What other considerations are involved? (e.g. Does the proposed action align with goals of the provincial or federal government, or other organizations?)

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

Resolution 10-23S

Victim Services Delivery Model

Date:	February 23, 2023
Expiry Date:	March 1, 2026
Active Status:	Active
Sponsors:	Northern Sunrise County
District:	4 - Northern
Year:	2023
Convention:	Spring
Category:	Community Services
Status:	Sent to Government
Vote Results:	Carried

Preamble:

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is planning to shift the governance and delivery of victim services to a four-zone model in March 2024; and

WHEREAS the four-zone model will replace the existing local victim services governance and program delivery model; and

WHEREAS the unique needs of communities within these new zones may not be addressed; and

WHEREAS stakeholders were not given the opportunity to discuss the boundaries of the new zones even though the *Recommendations on Victims Services – Report to Government* (Report) identified that any model should recognize the unique need in each area; and

WHEREAS under the four-zone model, decision-making and service delivery approaches in smaller communities may be eliminated or modified to meet the needs of larger communities within each zone; and

WHEREAS this decline in services for lesser populated areas could disproportionately affect rural Alberta; and

WHEREAS many communities will be without representation on the new zonal boards, which will further limit their ability to address the unique needs of each community; and

WHEREAS the regionalization of many other professions in Alberta has not resulted in improved service provision for clients; and

WHEREAS the new zoning model could result in significant volunteer and staffing challenges, due to the large area that a single regional manager would oversee; and

WHEREAS the funding and delivery of victim services could be downloaded to municipalities under the new zoning model; and

WHEREAS Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) has taken the position that the current model of service delivery is effective for a large percentage of the population; and

WHEREAS the Report asserted that most stakeholders prefer to maintain the current model with increased funding levels; and

WHEREAS the Report did not document any problems with the current service delivery model, nor did it identify any existing gaps in services; and

WHEREAS the Report advised that “victims’ needs should be the number one priority” yet victims have not been given the opportunity to provide input as to what their needs are; and

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has not done its part in assisting those few communities that have been struggling in their effort to provide victim services;

Operative Clause:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Alberta to maintain the current model of victim services program delivery and instead provide direct assistance to the small number of communities that are struggling to operate under the current model and have insufficient services for victims; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA advocate to the Government of Alberta for more consistent funding for the current model and the development of an approach for more consistent regional collaboration and information-sharing within the current model.

Member Background:

The existing model of Victim Services Units (VSU) has worked well for 30 years engaging local board members, local volunteer advocates and local staff from their respective communities. These local police based VSUs have always had huge support from the police and their communities and are appreciated for the quality one-on-one service they are able to give victims of crime and tragedy in their communities. With the very small percentage of problems that have arisen within these current VSUs, there was never any real effort from the Government of Alberta to resolve any conflict issues. Instead, these isolated problem areas were left to deteriorate. In the past (10 years ago) a team of two provincial representatives would come to the VSU with a problem and conduct a program review to identify and resolve issues. These communities should receive the help they need, without resorting to zonal model that penalizes every other VSU that was operating effectively.

RMA Background: RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

E1: Victim Services Redesign

Moved by: Town of Canmore

Seconded by: Town of Tofield

WHEREAS the province has announced a redesign to the current victim services program based on a recently released “Recommendations on Victims Services” report;

WHEREAS there has been no meaningful consultation with municipalities during the MLA led review of Victim Services but yet the report proposes a new zonal model for police-based victim services program delivery that will create 4 zones throughout the province and end locally run boards OR have municipalities take over the service delivery, a form of provincial downloading, (see recommendation #3 of the final report);

WHEREAS the during the engagement that did occur, stakeholders were presented with three concepts for service delivery (zone, government employer, and municipal employer) but did not include the option of maintaining the current service delivery model as an option (and again, municipalities were not consulted, but municipal employer was provided as an option without our input);

WHEREAS support for victims of tragedy (sudden death, car accidents, and potentially even victims of non-violent crime) will not be provided, (see recommendation #5 of the final report). For context, in the Bow Valley, over 2,400 individuals who received support between 2015-2020 would not be eligible for support under this new model; and

WHEREAS the report advises that stakeholders were concerned “that smaller communities would be ‘swallowed up’ by bigger communities and victims would lose access to local services”, yet the recommendations do nothing to address this concern. No detailed information is available on implementation of the new model and the Government of Alberta has called for another phase of stakeholder engagement to determine rollout details.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to halt the rollout of the new victim services model and initiate a new engagement process that fully involves municipalities of all sizes, ensures downloading to municipalities does not occur, explores how the current model could be maintained and adapted, and includes support for victims of tragedy.

BACKGROUND:

In 2018, Alberta Municipalities passed a resolution that called for the Government of Alberta to use the Victims of Crime Fund to adequately fund provincial Victim Services Units (VSUs) so they can provide the staffing levels required to assist victims of crime after a 2016 Auditor General’s Report which indicated the need for improved fund management and funding of VSU programs.

Alberta Municipalities submitted the following key recommendations in 2019 to the provincial government during its short consultation period:

- The needs, concerns, and diversity of victims of crime should be centered in the development and delivery of programs and services, as well as in related education and training.
- Programs and services for victims of crime need to be better advertised and coordinated at both the local and provincial level.
- The province can assist victims of crime in accessing services by supporting rural transportation initiatives and leveraging technology to promote equitable access.
- VSUs should receive adequate funding so that they can provide general information, needs assessment/service planning, and emotional support to victims, with mental health services for victims being prioritized.
- The Victims of Crime Fund must be maintained as a distinct fund in order to fulfill its legislated purpose, and not be put into general provincial revenues.

Almost all police-based VSUs in Alberta must fundraise so they can fund basic services to victims of crime – services that are guaranteed to all Canadians under the federal Victims' Bill of Rights. Some programs must fundraise as much as 50% of their total operational expenses to continue operating from one year to the next.

This issue was highlighted in the 2016 Alberta Auditor General's report, which stated that without improved management of the Victims of Crime Fund, "programs for victims of crime that are run by police-based VSUs and community organizations may not receive sufficient grant funding to deliver on the intent set out in the *Victims of Crime Act*."

Two years ago, the Government of Alberta passed legislation that expanded the scope of the Victims of Crime Fund to include public safety initiatives, making Alberta the only province that did not restrict the use of its Victims of Crime fund to supporting victims. Two MLAs (Nathan Neudorf and Angela Pitt, both from urban areas) were tasked with leading a working group to review gaps in VSU service. The Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (JSG) also replaced financial benefits for victims with an interim program while a new victims' assistance model was developed. According to the Ministry's 2021-22 annual report, 59% of the \$64.7 million spent from the Victims of Crime fund went toward public safety initiatives. About one-third, or \$21 million, was allocated to victim services organizations. Only 8.5%, or \$5.5 million, went directly to victims. In 2018/19, before these changes were made, \$19.4 million was spent directly assisting victims.

- Alberta Municipalities strongly opposed these changes and worked with the Alberta Police-Based Victim Services Association to launch an MLA letter writing campaign, calling on the province to reverse its changes to the Victims of Crime Fund and provide ongoing, sustainable funding to victim services programs.
- On July 19, 2022, the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General released a recommendations report after a limited consultation process and announced that the Victims of Crime Fund will again be used entirely for helping victims recover from their physical and psychological injuries and supporting them through the court process (but has yet to advise how the Act will be amended to reflect this change). The province is also expanding supports and providing emergency assistance when required.

The new victim assistance program launched September 1, 2022 will:

- Give victims quick access to emergency financial assistance, such as emergency support for domestic violence victims and relocation assistance for human trafficking victims.
- Increase the 45-day limit on applications to two years.
- Increase financial support for counselling services to \$12,000.
- Provide extended medical health benefits to victims with serious injuries.
- Provide additional financial supports to victims with severe injuries.
- Provide victims with court attendance reimbursement.
- Reimburse families of homicide victims for funeral expenses.

Alberta Municipalities published a newsletter article titled "Advocacy win: Province reverses changes to Victims of Crime Fund and supports" that celebrated the success of the advocacy to reverse the changes to the Victims of Crime Fund. While there is some good news worth celebrating, there is also cause for concern. Because of the nature of how the information was released, it is likely that Alberta Municipalities and its members may have missed the implications of additional elements of the July 19 announcement. The "Recommendations on Victims Services" report contains 19 recommendations, one of which is to dissolve 62 local board operated VSUs across Alberta and shift to a zone model or to have municipalities take over service provision. Another removes all support for victims of tragedy (i.e. sudden death, car accidents, and potentially even victims of non-violent crime).

Multiple concerns exist with the current proposal and information shared to date including:

- This change was recommended despite a lack of consultation with municipalities.
- If municipalities were to take over service provision, there is no information on how long-term funding for municipalities would be guaranteed, so a likely result is another form of provincial downloading.
- Nowhere in this report does it document any problems with the current service delivery model, nor does it consider keeping the current model as an option. This, despite the fact that MLAs Neudorf and Pitt advise in the report that "organizations and people go above and beyond every single day to ensure victims are not

alone. Your passion, commitment and dedication are an inspiration to all of us and truly make a difference in our communities.”

- This consultation was not conducted by an independent consultant and as such, did not include gaps in provincial services created by the government’s closure of multiple VSU programs, prior to and during the consultation.
- The report advises “victims’ needs should be the number one priority,” yet at no time during this three-year process were victims given the opportunity to provide input as to what their needs were. This is in contradiction to the provincial government’s own rights and protections afforded to victims under the *Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act* that states the “needs, concerns and diversity [of victims] should be considered in the development and delivery of programs, education and training.”
- An August 26, 2022, letter from Minister Shandro to Mayor Dueck (Town of Tofield) states that Alberta Municipalities attended engagements on the proposed changes and by all indications were comfortable with this approach.
- The recommendations outline several program elements of concern because it is not clear if supports will be provided for the following:
 - support for those who have to flee and require assistance;
 - injury benefits for survivors with chronic issues or traumatic injuries;
 - financial compensation for transportation to access health or legal services; and
 - financial assistance for Indigenous cultural practices.
- There is inadequate information on the transition, timing, or new program details.
- Funding has been guaranteed for current programs until March 2023. The redesign committee has asked for an extension to March 31, 2024, but that has not yet been granted.
- The local paid VSU staff will be invited to apply to see what positions they could fill within the new model but there are no guarantees they will be hired.
- If there is a reduction in the number of VSU staff (as the item above) or current, local VSU staff are not hired, there is a loss of community relationship and local expertise.
- The funding model appears to be improved, but it also appears that new high paid positions are being created.
- it is unclear if the new structure model could change the identity and function of local VSUs.
- The zonal approach adds another layer of bureaucracy, but also further removes the funder from the victim. The proposal indicates that an Area Manager is allotted dollars based on reportable data and community size from regional bodies (zones), which is allocated from JSG. In the existing model, dollars were provided to municipal police through JSG directly.
- Currently VSU not only supports victims of tragedy but also connects these individuals with the Red Cross. This new model, which does not include victims of tragedy, also does not provide funding for this connection to other services. This will be a form of provincial downloading.

For perspective, 2019/2020 was the last pre-COVID operational year for Bow Valley Victims Services, which supports Canmore and surrounding communities. Under the new model, out of the 669 people assisted in that year, the following people would have received no help at all:

- Sudden death - 106 people
- Suicide and attempts - 62 people
- Motor Vehicle Collisions - 47 people
- Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions - 2 people
- Serious Accident/Illness - 13 people
- Fire - 10 people
- Mischief - 13 people
- Break and Enter - 5 people
- Theft/Fraud - 56 people
- Mental Health /Public Assistance - 25 people

This resolution is being brought forward as an emergent issue because the announcement was just made by the province on July 19, 2022, and it has taken some time for local victim services organizations to understand the extent and impact of the proposed changes and for them to alert their local boards and municipalities. Information

shared by the province to date indicates that current Victims Services Units are guaranteed current funding (until end of March 2023) with the potential for a one-year extension if necessary and budget approval is granted. It is possible that implementation of these changes could be rolled out within six months and the new structure would begin with the April 2023 budget cycle. To ensure timely advocacy, Alberta Municipalities is being asked to consider this resolution as an emergent issue.

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS:

This resolution aligns with previous ABmunis advocacy on the Victims of Crime Fund and victim services. If this resolution is adopted, it would be forwarded to the Government of Alberta for response and further advocacy would be recommended to ABmunis' Board by the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee.

Title of resolution: Provincial Residential Rent Control

Moved by: Municipality of Jasper

Seconded by: TBD

WHEREAS the Alberta Residential Tenancies Act presents no limit on how much a landlord can increase the rent annually;

WHEREAS residential tenants in Alberta communities are vulnerable to unregulated annual rent increases, which can result in increased negative outcomes for Albertans, such as homelessness;

WHEREAS rental vacancy rates in Alberta communities are at historic lows; **need citation**

WHEREAS residents living on a fixed income are already required to use an increasingly large portion of the financial support available to them to pay rent and have very little money left to live on, causing unregulated increases in rent to disproportionately affect vulnerable Albertans;

WHEREAS it is within provincial authority to set rent controls on residential tenancies through the *Residential Tenancies Act*, and it is also within provincial authority to create or increase rental subsidies and other housing supports to the most vulnerable Albertans;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for

The Government of Alberta to amend the *Residential Tenancies Act* to institute rent control based on annual rent increase maximum guidelines such as those found in other jurisdictions; and/or

The Government of Alberta to create and/or improve financial supports available to vulnerable residents, especially those on a fixed income.

BACKGROUND:

- Unregulated residential rate increases contribute to a variety of social issues in Alberta communities, including but not limited to:
 - Increased access to foodbank and food recovery programs;
 - Increased need for donated or free hygiene products, such as feminine hygiene products, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste;
 - Decreased ability to pay childcare bills and extracurricular activities for children;
 - Increased applications to Alberta Support and Evergreen Applications for rent subsidies;
 - Increased job hunting for a second income;
 - Increased waitlists for Social Housing;
 - Increased need for employers to provide affordable staff housing which has increased corporate buying and renting of properties, restricting what is available to individual residents;

- Increased mental health crisis and anxiety around homelessness and paying rent or bills.
- Families reporting having to leave a community due to rent increases (at least five families working with Community Outreach Services in Jasper within the last six months).
- Other jurisdictions do have provincial residential rent controls in place (British Columbia; Manitoba; Ontario; and Prince Edward Island). Some models are based on provincial inflation, while most utilize annual rent increase maximum guidelines to support affordability for residential tenants.
- This resolution should be given (high/medium/low) priority as it (insert rationale).
- This issue and call to action align with the Alberta Municipalities strategic initiatives of Welcoming and Inclusive Communities (WIC) and Social Issues Scoping.
- (...)

ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES COMMENTS: