



ADDENDUM/ERRATA TO  
2008  
Convention Policy and Resolutions  
Handbook

**September 15, 2008**

Please note the following corrections and/or additions to the 2008 Convention Policy and Resolutions Handbook:

1. Special Resolution #2: *Electoral Boundaries* contained small errors that are now corrected. The corrections are included in this ADDENDUM/ERRATA package...**page 2**
2. The *Regular Membership Discussion Document* was inadvertently left out of the published Handbook. It is included in this ADDENDUM/ERRATA package....**page 3**
3. The numbering in the Tables to the AUMA Policy Paper #3, *Revitalizing the Convention Resolution Process* was incorrect in the Handbook. The correct numbering for the Tables is included in this ADDENDUM/ERRATA package....**page 7**
4. The AUMA Executive Committee approved the consideration of an Extraordinary Resolution. The Extraordinary Resolution is included in this ADDENDUM/ERRATA package...**page 14**

## ERRATA

### Reference Page 31 of 2008 Policy and Resolutions Handbook

#### Special Resolution #2 – *Electoral Boundaries*

The changes from the original version of the policy are:

- Heisler was listed in the East Zone; it is now in the West
- Forestburg was listed in the West Zone; it is now in the East
- Halkirk was listed in the West Zone; it is now in the East

All of these changes arise from reviewing larger scale maps than originally and making the corrections.

<b>Villages transferring from East to West:</b>	
<b>Alix</b>	<b>Ferintosh</b>
<b>Bawlf</b>	<b>Gadsby</b>
<b>Big Valley</b>	<b>Hay Lakes</b>
<b>Bittern Lake</b>	<b>Heisler</b>
<b>Clive</b>	<b>New Norway</b>
<b>Delburne</b>	<b>New Sarepta</b>
<b>Donalda</b>	<b>Rosalind</b>
<b>Edberg</b>	<b>Ryley</b>
<b>Elnora</b>	<b>Strome</b>

## ADDENDUM

**The following Discussion Paper is inserted after Page 31 of the 2008 Convention Resolutions and Policy Handbook. This Discussion Paper and Recommendation will be discussed at the 2008 Annual General Meeting (AGM), following discussion on the 2 Special Resolutions.**

### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the membership instruct the Board to present the necessary documentation to the 2009 Annual General Meeting to enable all Alberta municipalities to become regular members of the Association.

#### Background Information

In August, 2007, the provincial government decided to establish the merged Town of Lac la Biche and Lakeland County as a rural municipality, Lac La Biche County, rather than as a specialized municipality. Many local leaders had anticipated that the new municipality would be formed as a specialized municipality which would continue the former Town of Lac La Biche AUMA regular membership.

There is currently no provision for a rural municipality to be a regular member of AUMA. There are discussions underway in various areas of the province for similar mergers so in the future the issue will be larger than simply the Lac La Biche County example, if the province takes a similar approach to those mergers. Rural municipalities are able to become Associate Members. 45 of the 64 rural municipalities are Associate Members, enabling them to purchase services from AMSC.

In addition, there is a developing body of thought that municipal governance in Alberta would be better served if there was one Association representing all Alberta municipalities. There is one leading association, representing the interests of all municipalities, in

- British Columbia – Union of British Columbia Municipalities
- Manitoba - Association of Manitoba Municipalities
- Newfoundland & Labrador - Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Municipalities
- Northwest Territories - Northwest Territories Association of Communities
- Nova Scotia - Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities
- Nunavut - Nunavut Association of Municipalities
- Ontario - Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Prince Edward Island - Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities
- Yukon - Association of Yukon Communities
- Canada – Federation of Canadian Municipalities

While the detailed arrangements for each of these organizations are different, there are some “big picture” features worthy of note:

- All have a primary focus on advocacy
- All provide a venue for all municipalities in the jurisdiction to participate in developing the municipal advocacy positions
- All provide a single point of contact for another order of government which wants to consult or cooperate with municipalities
- All include some means, either geographical or by type of municipality, for their members with some particular interests to consult with each other

In its report *Apples and Oranges* the Fraser Institute concluded that “size affects the scale of issues, but not the issues themselves”. In the vernacular, the bigger the municipality the more zeros it takes to describe the issue. Most rural municipalities are substantial municipal corporations with transportation as a high priority. The substantial capital investment required in major cities for arterial roads, for example, is not particularly different than the issue of transportation routes for large grain trucks in rural municipalities, which also requires substantial capital investment.

While there are significant differences in density of population, rural municipalities are increasingly facing what have traditionally been called “urban” issues. Population growth in rural municipalities is being spurred by new residential development which is unrelated to agriculture. The dissolution of villages places intentional urban type of developments under the jurisdiction of rural councils. Lac La Biche County has a hamlet that was formerly the Town of Lac La Biche and other rurals have fairly large hamlets. Strathcona County and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo are examples of specialized municipalities which have characteristics of a rural government and of a city. The differences between the agendas of rural councils and urban councils are disappearing.

As long as most people can remember, municipalities have complained that the provincial government played the urban association off against the rural association. Conversely, the province has been left wondering what the municipal position is when the two associations have confidently expressed differing views as the municipal view.

Municipalities, both urban and rural, have complained that the province has taken actions without consultation. The province, after discussions with the associations, has thought it did consult. Often in the absence of a common view among the associations, the province has made whatever decision it wanted.

The Municipal Government Act does not differentiate between municipalities. In terms of the Act a municipality is a municipality. The Act states the intention that

*3 The purposes of a municipality are*  
*(a) to provide good government,*

- (b) to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality, and*
- (c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.*

and that

- 9 The power to pass bylaws under this Division is stated in general terms to*
- (a) give broad authority to councils and to respect their right to govern municipalities in whatever way the councils consider appropriate, within the jurisdiction given to them under this or any other enactment, and*
  - (b) enhance the ability of councils to respond to present and future issues in their municipalities.*

So the Legislative Assembly in enacting the Municipal Government Act anticipated that different municipalities would use the powers in the Act differently. The challenge is to ensure that the powers are sufficient to enable different types of municipalities to provide “good government” for their communities and to ensure that the powers exercised by one municipality do not prevent other municipalities from developing and maintaining “safe and viable communities”. Such cross-border implications involve members of the two associations. There is no municipal group bringing together all of the players to develop municipal solutions to such issues. The provincial government has to step in to sort out the differences, rather than municipalities developing their own solutions.

AUMA and AAMDC have been attempting to cooperate on projects but the process is cumbersome and the results may not be as effective as possible if one organization was overseeing the project. On some recent projects, one Association has been designated as the lead which has improved things somewhat. However, AAMDC has been promoting itself as the representative of rural communities, meaning all municipalities outside of the cities, even though the towns and villages have no voice in AAMDC affairs.

On the other hand both Associations have substantial commercial operations – the AAMDC Trade Division and AMSC. While there is an understanding not to compete in the general insurance field, a substantial number of AUMA members are AAMDC Trade Division customers and a substantial number of AAMDC members are AMSC customers. In these practical respects, Alberta municipalities could be better served if the two corporations were one.

It is known that some if not all of the AAMDC Board members are adamantly opposed to the idea of combining the two associations into one. It is likely that the AAMDC Board will see this as a “raid” on its membership. It can be expected the AAMDC Board will mount a campaign to discredit the proposal. In the extreme, AAMDC could seek an amendment to the Private Act which established it to allow urban municipalities to become members.

If the required actions are approved in 2009, the AAMDC Board will likely initiate a campaign to convince AAMDC members to ignore the opportunity offered by the AUMA initiative.

The initiative could result in the end to such cooperation as currently exists between the two Associations and result in a very negative environment between the two Associations.

However, for all their differences, AUMA and AAMDC have a great deal in common. All municipalities in Alberta belong to one or other of the associations. A great many members of each association are what AUMA terms "Associate Members" of the other organization. Each has a substantial commercial operation which provides important services to members and subsidizes the advocacy activity of the primary organization.

AUMA has a history of finding ways to respond the special interests of groups of its members, for example the big cities, and the Small Communities Committee. AUMA can be expected to develop similar ways of respecting the special interests of rural municipalities.

The question is whether it is time for AUMA to take the initiative which may bring a single organization into being. Considerable work will be required including

- amendments to AUMA's Object to delete reference to "urban" and simply refer to advancing the interests of Alberta municipalities and any other desired amendments
- amendments to AUMA's Bylaws to enable municipal districts and counties to be Regular Members and any other legal items
- identifying ways to understand and deal with the special rural interests of municipal districts and counties
- consideration of the place of municipal districts and counties in the membership categories and related items
- consideration of the Association name if rural municipalities become members
- transitional provisions to ensure the security of the employees of the 35 rural municipalities who are AMSC employee benefit customers

The Board believes that there should be an indication that the membership is interested in investigating this option, before resources are committed to the work involved. The purpose of presenting the Recommendation in this report is to determine the general view of the membership.

## ERRATA

**Reference Pages 81 – 90 of the 2008 Convention Policy and Resolutions Handbook  
AUMA Policy Paper #3, *Revitalizing the Convention Resolution Process***

**POLICY AP002 – AMENDMENTS TO INTRODUCE CONSENT AGENDA**

(in the Proposed Column, new/revised provisions are shown in **bold type**)

<b>EXISTING POLICY</b>	<b>PROPOSED POLICY</b>
<b>Committee Review</b>	<b>Committee Review</b>
16. The Municipal Governance Committee shall review each proposed resolution and may recommend that the Board refuse to submit to the convention any resolution deemed inappropriate for consideration by the Association.	16. The Municipal Governance Committee shall review each proposed resolution and may recommend that the Board refuse to submit to the convention any resolution deemed inappropriate for consideration by the Association.
17. The Municipal Governance Committee will notify the appropriate policy committee of any proposed resolution related to its policy.	17. The Municipal Governance Committee will notify the appropriate policy committee of any proposed resolution related to its policy.
18. The Municipal Governance Standing Committee may:	18. The Municipal Governance Committee may:
a. amend the grammar or format of the resolution;	a. amend the grammar or format of the resolution;
b. consolidate resolutions of similar intent or subject matter;	b. consolidate resolutions of similar intent or subject matter;
c. provide comments on each resolution with regard to its background;	c. provide comments on each resolution with regard to its background
d. inform the sponsoring municipality where the resolution will materially change or contradict current AUMA policy.	d. inform the sponsoring municipality where the resolution will materially change or contradict current AUMA policy.
e. recommend to the Board of Directors, that resolutions already adopted and/or forming AUMA policy (see clause 54 of this Policy) NOT be considered at the Convention, and be returned to the sponsor(s) of the resolution(s) with an explanation of the reason for return.	e. recommend to the Board of Directors, that resolutions already adopted and/or forming AUMA policy (see clause 54 of this Policy) NOT be considered at the Convention, and be returned to the sponsor(s) of the resolution(s) with an explanation of the reason for return.

EXISTING POLICY	PROPOSED POLICY
	<b>and will prepare a resolutions report to the Board which includes all proposed resolutions determined appropriate for submission to the convention.</b>
19. When the Committee determines that a proposed resolution is appropriate for submission to the convention, the Committee shall categorize the resolution as:	19. When the Committee determines that a proposed resolution is appropriate for submission to the convention, the Committee shall categorize the resolution as:
(a) Governance	(a) Governance
(b) Operating and Implementation	(b) Operating and Implementation
(c) Issue Based	(c) Issue Based
i. General Recognition	i. General Recognition
ii. Roles, Responsibilities and Resources	ii. Roles, Responsibilities and Resources
iii. Goals and Objectives	iii. Goals and Objectives
iv. Delivery Tools and Implementation	iv. Delivery Tools and Implementation
v. Results and Reactions	v. Results and Reactions
20. The Governance category would have resolutions that are very broad and contain fundamental statements of policy and principle, such as the Association's guiding principles.	20. The Governance category would have resolutions that are very broad and contain fundamental statements of policy and principle, such as the Association's guiding principles.
21. The Operating and Implementation category would have resolutions that address matters of implementation and operating indicating how the Association does its business and how it expects others to interact with it.	21. The Operating and Implementation category would have resolutions that address matters of implementation and operating indicating how the Association does its business and how it expects others to interact with it.
22. The Issue Based category would have resolutions related to specific current issues and initiatives indicating the Association's position on specific issues and challenges emerging from the current environment. Within this category there are five sub-categories.	22. The Issue Based category would have resolutions related to specific current issues and initiatives indicating the Association's position on specific issues and challenges emerging from the current environment. Within this category there are five sub-categories.
(a) General Recognition is a resolution in which the Association is making a general statement about actions that should be taken in response to a situation affecting a wide range of its members, or is making a statement recognizing the status or contributions of some group or organization - for example, a statement recognizing the contributions of the military or a voluntary organization in response to an emergency.	a. General Recognition is a resolution in which the Association is making a general statement about actions that should be taken in response to a situation affecting a wide range of its members, or is making a statement recognizing the status or contributions of some group or organization - for example, a statement recognizing the contributions of the military or a voluntary organization in response to an emergency.

EXISTING POLICY	PROPOSED POLICY
(b) Roles, Resources and Responsibilities is a resolution in which the Association is making a statement addressing overall relationships between and/or capacities of different orders of government, such as statements regarding access to revenue streams, or reaffirming that a current challenge is the responsibility of another order of government.	b. Roles, Resources and Responsibilities is a resolution in which the Association is making a statement addressing overall relationships between and/or capacities of different orders of government, such as statements regarding access to revenue streams, or reaffirming that a current challenge is the responsibility of another order of government.
(c) Goals and Objectives is a resolution in which the Association is raising questions or taking positions regarding goals and objectives being pursued by others. There is no question of jurisdiction or responsibility, just the objectives to be achieved.	c. Goals and Objectives is a resolution in which the Association is raising questions or taking positions regarding goals and objectives being pursued by others. There is no question of jurisdiction or responsibility, just the objectives to be achieved.
(d) Delivery Tools and Implementation is a resolution in which the Association is addressing the actual implementation instrument being used by another order of government, or other stakeholder.	d. Delivery Tools and Implementation is a resolution in which the Association is addressing the actual implementation instrument being used by another order of government, or other stakeholder.
(e) Results and Reactions is a resolution in which the Association is addressing the evaluation by another order of government or other stakeholder of the effects of some initiative or policy.	e. Results and Reactions is a resolution in which the Association is addressing the evaluation by another order of government or other stakeholder of the effects of some initiative or policy.
	<p><b>23. The Board will consider each resolution and</b></p> <p><b>(a) recommend its adoption, amendment and adoption or defeat; or</b></p> <p><b>(b) except the resolution from the consent agenda.</b></p>
23. The Committee will prepare a resolutions report which will include all proposed resolutions determined appropriate for submission to the convention including the following information on each resolution:	24. The Committee will prepare a resolutions report which will include all proposed resolutions determined appropriate for submission to the convention including the following information on each resolution:
(a) Number and Title of Resolution	(a) Number and Title of Resolution
(b) Name of Sponsoring Member(s)	(b) Name of Sponsoring Member(s)
(c) Proposed Resolution	(c) Proposed Resolution
(d) Resolutions Category	(d) Resolutions Category
(e) Municipal Governance Committee Comment (if any)	(e) Municipal Governance Committee Comment (if any)
	(f) <b>Board recommendation</b>

EXISTING POLICY	PROPOSED POLICY
24. Resolutions will be presented in the following order:	25. Resolutions will be presented in the following order:
<b>Governance</b>	<b>Governance</b>
<b>Operating and Implementation</b>	<b>Operating and Implementation</b>
<b>Issue Based</b>	<b>Issue Based</b>
(i) General Recognition	(i) General Recognition
(ii) Roles, Responsibilities and Resources	(ii) Roles, Responsibilities and Resources
<b>Extraordinary Resolutions</b> added by the convention	<b>Extraordinary Resolutions</b> added by the convention
<b>Issue Based</b>	<b>Issue Based</b>
(iii) Goals and Objectives	(iii) Goals and Objectives
(iv) Delivery Tools and Implementation	(iv) Delivery Tools and Implementation
(v) Results and Reactions	(v) Results and Reactions
25. The Committee will recommend to the Board a Policy and Resolutions Book including the resolutions report together with such other information on bylaws, policies and procedures as the Committee may deem appropriate which shall be provided to members at least eight (8) weeks prior to the Convention.	26. The Committee will recommend to the Board a Policy and Resolutions Book including the resolutions report together with such other information on <b>the consent agenda process</b> , bylaws, policies and procedures as the Committee may deem appropriate which shall be provided to members at least eight (8) weeks prior to the Convention.
	27. <b>The Policy and Resolutions Book will be accompanied by a notice to members that</b> (a) <b>a council may request that</b> (i) <b>the Board recommendation on a resolution be excepted from the consent agenda, or</b> (ii) <b>a resolution sponsored by the council be withdrawn by a specified date which will be not later than two weeks before the Convention and</b> (b) <b>that the Board recommendation on any resolution which is not excepted or withdrawn by the deadline date will be considered approved by the members.</b>
<b>Resolution Session Agenda</b>	<b>Considering Resolutions</b>
26. Prior to the beginning of the first resolution session the Chair will ask for a motion from the floor to adopt the Resolution Session Agenda as presented in the Policy and Resolutions Book.	28. <b>At the beginning of each resolutions category, the Session Chair will report the exceptions by Board direction under 23(b) above and requested under 27(a)(i) above and any withdrawals under 27(a)(ii) above and will report that the Board recommendations on the remaining resolutions have been approved.</b>
27. Amendments from the floor to the Resolution Session Agenda will be accepted when duly moved and seconded.	29. <b>An approved Board recommendation may be excepted from the Consent Agenda if a three-quarters (3/4) majority of the representatives of Regular Members in good standing present at the meeting vote in favour of the Exception.</b>

EXISTING POLICY	PROPOSED POLICY
28. No debate on the proposed amendments to the Resolution Session Agenda will occur.	
29. A 2/3rds majority of the delegates will be required to change the Resolution Session Agenda.	
30. If there are no amendments to the Resolutions Session Agenda, resolutions will be debated in the order they are presented in the resolution booklet. No further amendments to the resolution agenda will be accepted.	
<b>Considering Resolutions</b>	
31. Resolutions sessions at the convention will be chaired by the Municipal Governance Committee chair or his/her designate.	30. Resolutions sessions at the convention will be chaired by the Municipal Governance Committee chair or his/her designate.
32. The session chair will introduce each proposed resolution by indicating its number, the name of the sponsoring municipality, and then will move the resolution. The Chair will then call on the sponsoring or a supporting municipality to second the resolution. If no municipality seconds the resolution, the resolution dies.	31. <b>The session chair will introduce each excepted Board recommendation in order by indicating its number, the name of the sponsoring municipality, and then will move the Board recommendation. The chair will then call on a member of the Board to second the motion.</b>
33. If the resolutions report includes a comment by the Municipal Governance Committee on the proposed resolution, the session chair will then call on a member of the Municipal Governance Committee to give the views of the Municipal Governance Committee (if necessary).	
34. The session chair will then call for a spokesperson from the sponsoring municipality(ies) to speak to the resolution and open the debate. The spokesperson will be allowed two (2) minutes for the opening.	32. <b>The Session Chair will then call for a spokesperson from the municipality(ies) which sponsored the resolution and from the municipality(ies) which requested the exception to speak to the recommendation. The spokesperson, in each case, will be allowed two (2) minutes for the opening.</b>
35. In the case of a proposed new policy position paper, the session chair will allow a spokesperson or designate a maximum of five (5) minutes to introduce the new policy position paper and place the resolution on the proposed new policy before the convention and to name the seconder.	33. In the case of a proposed new policy position paper, the session chair will allow a spokesperson or designate a maximum of five (5) minutes to introduce the new policy position paper and place the resolution on the <b>Board recommendation</b> before the convention and to name the seconder.

EXISTING POLICY	PROPOSED POLICY
<p>36. Following the initial speaker, the session chair will then call alternately for persons opposing and supporting the resolution. These speakers will have a two (2) minute time limit and shall not speak more than once on any one question. When no alternate position speaker is available, the Chair will declare the end of the debate and the spokesperson will be allowed one (1) minute for the closing of debate.</p>	<p>34. Following the initial speaker, the session chair will then call alternately for persons opposing and supporting the <b>Board recommendation</b>. These speakers will have a two (2) minute time limit and shall not speak more than once on any one question. When no alternate position speaker is available, the Chair will declare the end of the debate and the <b>spokespersons</b> will be allowed one (1) minute <b>each</b> for the closing of debate.</p>
<p>37. If no one rises to speak in opposition to a proposed resolution, the question will be immediately called.</p>	<p>35. If no one rises to speak in opposition to a Board recommendation, the question will be immediately called.</p>
<p>38. A sponsoring municipality or designate may declare its intent to withdraw a proposed resolution when the resolution is introduced. In this event, the session chair shall declare the resolution withdrawn and no further debate or comments will be allowed.</p>	
<p>39. Amendments, including "minor amendments" from the floor will be accepted when duly moved and seconded. Amendments, including "minor amendments" must be submitted in writing to the Chair prior to the amendment being introduced.</p>	<p>36. Amendments, including "minor amendments" from the floor will be accepted when duly moved and seconded. Amendments, including "minor amendments" must be submitted in writing to the Chair prior to the amendment being introduced.</p>
<p>40. The session chair will rule whether or not an amendment complies with the intent of the original resolution.</p>	<p>37. The session chair will rule whether or not an amendment complies with the intent of the original resolution.</p>
<p>41. Discussion procedures for an amendment shall be the same as for a resolution.</p>	<p>38. Discussion procedures for an amendment shall be the same as for the <b>main motion</b>.</p>
<p>42. The conflict of interest guidelines for council votes, as outlined in the Municipal Government Act, shall also apply to convention resolution votes for all delegates. It is incumbent upon each delegate to ensure adherence to this rule.</p>	<p>39. The conflict of interest guidelines for council votes, as outlined in the Municipal Government Act, shall also apply to convention resolution votes for all delegates. It is incumbent upon each delegate to ensure adherence to this rule.</p>
<p>43. Voting may be by  (a) a show of delegate accreditation cards, or  (b) electronic means  and if necessary, the session chair may call for a standing count and shall conduct a standing vote if requested by the assembly.</p>	<p>40. Voting may be by  a. a show of delegate accreditation cards, or  b. electronic means  and if necessary, the session chair may call for a standing count and shall conduct a standing vote if requested by the assembly.</p>
<p>44. As long as there is a quorum present (as provided in the Bylaws a quorum is comprised of representatives of twenty-five percent [25%] of the Regular Members) the final resolution session shall not be closed until all resolutions listed in the agenda are debated and voted upon, or the allotted time for the session has expired unless the majority of delegates present vote to extend the allotted time.</p>	<p>41. As long as there is a quorum present (as provided in the Bylaws a quorum is comprised of representatives of twenty-five percent [25%] of the Regular Members) the final resolution session shall not be closed until all Board recommendations excepted from the Consent Agenda are debated and voted upon, or the allotted time for the session has expired unless the majority of delegates present vote to extend the allotted time.</p>

<b>EXISTING POLICY</b>	<b>PROPOSED POLICY</b>
45. Resolutions which are not debated at a convention resolutions session because of insufficient time or lack of quorum, will be presented by the Municipal Governance Committee, with its recommendations, to a meeting of the Board of Directors following the convention.	<b>42. Board recommendations</b> which are not debated at a convention resolutions session because of insufficient time or lack of quorum, will be presented by the Municipal Governance Committee, with its recommendations, to a meeting of the Board of Directors following the convention.
46. Resolutions passed by the membership shall not be amended or modified by the Municipal Governance Standing Committee or the Board of Directors.	<b>43. Board recommendations approved</b> by the membership shall not be amended or modified by the Municipal Governance Standing Committee or the Board of Directors.

## ADDENDUM

### RESOLUTION 2008.EXT.01

#### Town of Bonnyville Impacts of Ground Ambulance Transition on Municipal Emergency Services

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**WHEREAS** the renewed model for “Patient-Centered and Coordinated EMS” will have impacts on other municipal emergency services including the Fire Service and the 911/dispatch service; and

**WHEREAS** other jurisdictions in Canada that have moved to provincial EMS models have relied on Fire Services to provide medical first response programs to supplement EMS; and

**WHEREAS** approximately 95 per cent of fire services in Alberta are staffed by volunteer members who are employed elsewhere; and

**WHEREAS** the decline of volunteerism and lack of incentives to become a volunteer firefighter in a municipality is increasing the risk of losing key volunteers; and

**WHEREAS** the training demands placed on volunteer firefighter have increased drastically over the past 10 years; and

**WHEREAS** any move within Alberta Health to centralize and reduce the number of EMS dispatch centers will have an impact on the quality of service and options available to municipalities for dispatching other municipal emergency services including increased costs; and

**WHEREAS** the lack of information available from Alberta Health in these areas is creating unnecessary concerns and confusion.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AUMA request the Alberta Government Health and Wellness Department to include the AUMA as a major stakeholder in all future consultations regarding the renewed model for patient-centered and coordinated EMS to allow input on decisions that may have a negative impact on other municipal emergency services or cause increased costs for delivering these other services.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Other Jurisdictions, in particular British Columbia and Ontario, have found that medical first response is needed in many areas of these provinces to meet medical intervention targets. The medical first responders primarily come from Fire Services. They are used as follows:

- First response to pre-arrival of ambulance where there is immediate threat to life or limb
- First response in areas which are remote from EMS stations
- First response when EMS will be delayed due to call volume or transfers
- First response to large incidents that will tax the available resources of EMS

A pre response system has been established and been operating in Alberta for long periods in both urban and rural areas. These systems are cooperative effort of fire departments and EMS departments at local levels supported by municipal councils and administrations. First responders can intervene with immediate care in a critical time frame while ambulances often travel long distances – this intervention includes automated defibrillation and CPR and the treatment of traumatic injuries.

If the new system in Alberta follows the same models used in the other two provinces, it will become increasingly necessary for these programs to be expanded and developed by municipal fire services with the costs incurred by the municipalities. In B.C. the increased demand in training and response as first responders has had a negative impact on volunteer firefighter recruiting and retention. Many areas have seen the average career of a volunteer firefighter drop to as little as two and a half years. With an average time to train a volunteer fire fighter at two years this is a significant investment of time and funding for a very limited return.

The EMS transitional Handbook contemplates centralizing EMS dispatching at first into 9 dispatch centres and in the future even less. This will make many of the current 27 Public Safety Answer Points (911 centres) non viable as the revenue from the fees on telephone lines for this service is far from sufficient to fund their operations and most require the revenue from EMS services, Fire Services and Municipalities for Emergency dispatch centres to survive. The transfer of EMS dispatching will not remove the need for municipalities to provide 911 service and Fire Service Dispatching to their residents. The EMS shift will incur additional costs for municipalities and potentially require many municipalities to look for new service providers as PSAPs cease to operate and close their doors. The Province of Alberta does not provide any funding to municipalities for the provision of 911 services to Albertans.

Further to the centralizing of EMS dispatch the British Columbia and Ontario experience has shown that in other than the very expensive fully computer controlled dispatch systems available in large metropolitan areas there has been major concerns about delayed dispatch of Fire and Police Services to emergencies requiring multi agency responses such as Motor Vehicle Collisions, mostly due to increased call volumes in EMS dispatch centres as they were reduced in numbers.