



**Friday, February 20, 2009**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural  
Development  
and  
AUMA Executive**



# Outline

- 1. The Economy in 2009: Working Together for Alberta**
- 2. Throne Speech and Municipalities**
- 3. AUMA's 2009 Provincial Budget Submission: *Ahead.Together.***
- 4. Future of Local Governance**
- 5. Rural Development and Municipalities**
- 6. Upcoming AUMA Meetings and Events**
- 7. Update on Ministry Initiatives**



## The Economy in 2009

- AUMA is prepared to strongly support the Government of Alberta as it responds to an economic downturn.
- We believe that both orders of government can partner in the good times , as well as the bad times, through a new, more mature relationship.



# The Throne Speech

- Municipalities appreciate the focus on future to maintain confidence in Alberta
- We are ready with programs to leverage public infrastructure investments
- It is imperative that the integration of ambulance and emergency medical services be an immediate priority



## 2009 Provincial Budget Submission

- AUMA's Core Recommendation:  
using the *Framework for a Provincial-Municipal Sustainability Partnership Agreement*, discuss with Alberta municipalities a new permanent relationship with objective-based, annual transfers.



## How will this help going forward?

- Allows for better planning, permanence and predictability for both orders of government
- Streamlines and simplifies complex government programs and processes
- Builds-in accountability measures to ensure key objectives are being met



## How will this help right now?

- In an environment of economic instability:
  - *Increases accountability*
  - *Improves reporting of results for dollars invested in municipalities*



# Future of Local Governance

**In 2009, AUMA will:**

- **Review the current state of local governance;**
- **Develop clear options for more effective local governance;**
- **Consider the risks, benefits and incentives required for change; and**
- **Review examples of local government restructuring outside of Alberta.**



## Rural Development and Municipalities

- We appreciate Ministry contributions to:
  - First Impressions Community Exchange
  - Municipal Sustainability Planning Initiative
- AUMA represents hundreds of small, rural communities across the Province – they are concerned with a downturn in the economy, and support diversification of rural economies.



## Upcoming AUMA Meetings and Events

### *President's Summit on the Future Role of Municipal Governance:*

- April 30 to May 1, 2009  
Red Deer.

### *2009 Annual Convention:*

- November 4-6, 2009  
Calgary.



# Update on Ministry Initiatives

We would like to hear from you.

*Thank you for your time.*

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