



Discussion Paper: Future of Local Governance

Presented by: Task Force on the Future of Local Governance

Presented to: AUMA 2009 President's Summit

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Outline

1. Why an AUMA Future of Local Governance Initiative?
2. Task Force Mandate and Reporting
3. What's in the Discussion Paper?
 - Current State of Local Governance
 - Governance Sustainability Statements
 - Governance Models
4. Thank You!

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Why an AUMA Future of Local Governance Initiative?

- 2008 AUMA Board Special Assignment (review of capacity concerns in municipalities)
- 2008 AUMA Convention:
 - Workshop participants strongly agreed that AUMA should make this a special initiative
 - Members indicated this initiative is a priority, through their Klik-a-Pad choices.

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Why an AUMA Future of Local Governance Initiative? (cont.)

- What we've heard:
 - Minister of Municipal Affairs has publicly stated that municipalities must be sustainable and viable in order to survive.
 - Our members have reacted to the Minister's statements with studies and reports.
 - Our members want to be leaders in setting out their own future.

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Task Force on the Future of Local Governance

- Senior administrators from Cities, Towns, Villages and Summer Villages.
- Reports to the Municipal Governance Committee, which makes recommendations to the AUMA Board.
- Developed the Discussion Paper.
- Discussion Paper and President's Summit Proceedings will be used to create a Policy Paper for the 2009 Convention.

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What's in the Discussion Paper? Current State

- The Discussion Paper includes background on the “current state” of municipal governance in Alberta:
 - Legislative State
 - Restructuring
 - Planning and Development
 - Financial

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A 3D rendering of a hand holding a globe, symbolizing global or local governance. The hand is positioned on the left side of the slide, with the fingers wrapped around the globe. The background is a light blue gradient.

What's in the Discussion Paper? Governance Sustainability Statements

Sustainable Local Governance means providing and delivering infrastructure and services to citizens in an **Effective, and Efficient manner**, and depends upon the community's **Confidence** in its local government to accomplish its goals (municipal administrative capacity, local democracy).

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What's in the Discussion Paper? Governance Sustainability Statements

Sustainable Local Governance means instituting a strong and clear **Accountability System** for the Municipal Government, which is easily understood and is trusted by the citizens and recognized by the provincial government.

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What's in the Discussion Paper? Governance Sustainability Statements

Sustainable Local Governance means developing **strong intergovernmental coordination and processes** (including partnerships with other local governments) that enable responsiveness to citizen needs when those needs cannot be fulfilled by one government alone. Developing processes and coordinating with other governments depends, in part, upon the community's **Resources or Adequate Access to Resources** (population, local economy, property tax assessment base).

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What's in the Discussion Paper? Governance Models

Model #1 – Status Quo

- No change to local governance.
- Municipalities continue to function as they do today.
- No additional changes for formation, fundamental changes or dissolution of municipalities.

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What's in the Discussion Paper? Governance Models

Model #2 - Status Quo + Financial Change

- No change to municipal boundaries
- Municipalities that are unable to meet the needs of their citizens through own-source revenues, yet meet other criteria, would get a new and substantial provincial grant.

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What's in the Discussion Paper? Governance Models

Model #3 - Status Quo + Functional Change

- No change to municipal boundaries
- “regional cooperation”. (voluntary)
- Create a new system of local governance made up of municipal governments in a region that are on equal footing, and that keep the citizen (of the region) in mind at all points of decision-making.

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What's in the Discussion Paper? Governance Models

Model #4 – Single tier, full capacity (fewer municipalities)

- Agreement on defining a sustainable municipality; need an analysis tool.
- Model depends on consensus as to the process of evaluating sustainability & then restructuring.
- *Result:* fewer municipalities.
- The few municipalities, however, have full capacity to deliver effective, efficient and responsive infrastructure & services to citizens.

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What's in the Discussion Paper? Governance Models

Model #5 – Regional Government - 2 tiers.

- Additional layer of local government.
- Regional government responsible for municipal functions that can be better carried out over a region, rather than a single urban municipality or MD. (E.g. land-use planning, transportation & transit, water and wastewater systems, recreation.)
- Councils could be elected by citizens in the region or appointed through existing members of municipal councils located in the region.

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What's in the Discussion Paper? Governance Models

Model #6 – Council members or Committees take on localized responsibilities

- Can be combined with other models above.
- Model refers to having a larger municipal government as a result of amalgamating several municipalities into one (model 4), yet put in place certain features that allow municipalities to maintain their identity and autonomy over certain municipal functions.

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Thank You!

Your Working Sessions are next – don't be shy to provide feedback.

If you have more feedback on the Discussion Paper following the Summit, send it to the AUMA Office.

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