



MAYOR'S CAUCUS 2009

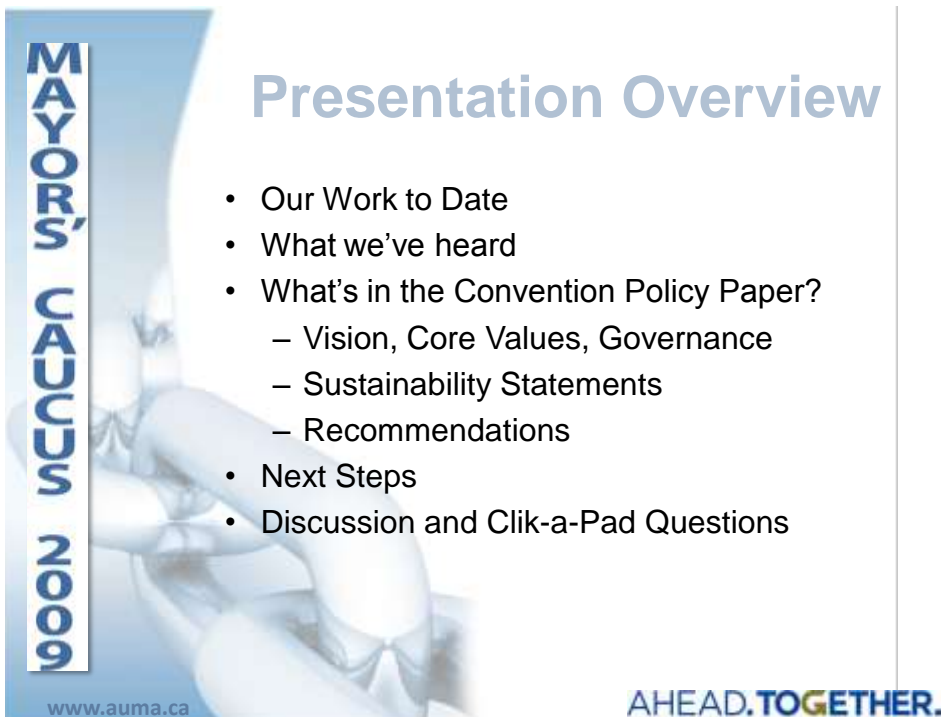
Future of Local Governance

**Mayors' Caucus,
Edmonton**

September 2-4, 2009

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Presentation Overview

- Our Work to Date
- What we've heard
- What's in the Convention Policy Paper?
 - Vision, Core Values, Governance
 - Sustainability Statements
 - Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Discussion and Klik-a-Pad Questions

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Our Work To Date

- Background Research Paper
- Online Survey
- President's Summit Discussion Paper
- President's Summit
- President's Summit Proceedings document
- Communications Material
- Convention Policy Paper

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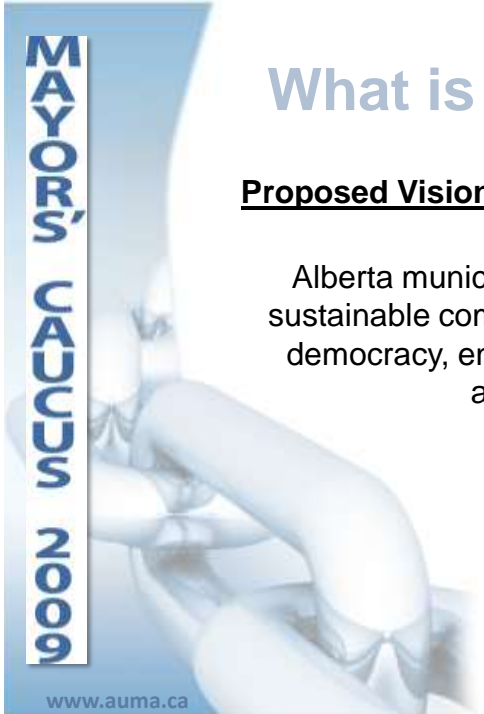
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What we've Heard

- At the last Mayors' Caucus, a large majority of the membership agreed with the values and recommendations presented in the Draft Convention Policy Paper.
- The draft paper was posted on the AUMA website for one month and comments received were highly positive.
- Areas noted as requiring further discussion:
 - rural and urban municipality types are not relevant to municipal governance sustainability.
 - Incentives for restructuring.

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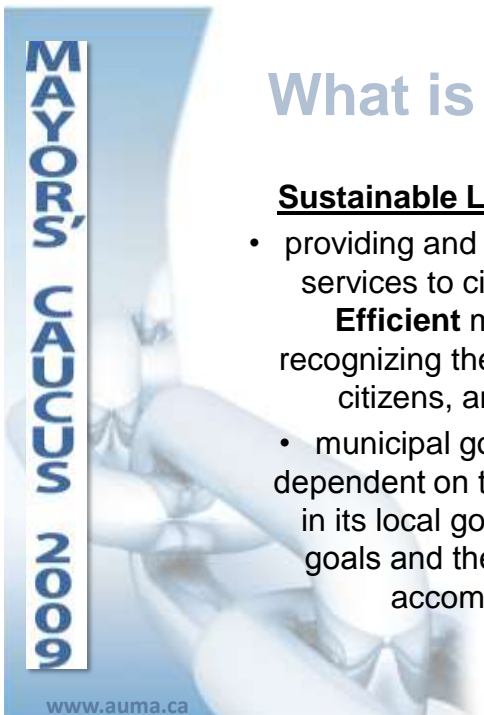
What is in the Paper?

Proposed Vision for Sustainable Municipal Government

Alberta municipal governments will foster sustainable communities that have a healthy democracy, environment, economy, social and cultural life.

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What is in the Paper?

Sustainable Local Governance Means

- providing and delivering infrastructure and services to citizens in an **Effective, and Efficient** manner, while all the time recognizing the paramount position of local citizens, and while engaging them.
- municipal governance sustainability is dependent on the community's **Confidence** in its local government to accomplish its goals and the community's **Support** for accomplishing those goals.

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What is in the Paper?

Sustainable Local Governance Means (cont'd)

- adhering to a consistent, strong and transparent **Accountability System** for all Municipal Governments, which is easily understood, trusted by citizens and recognized by the provincial government.
- developing **strong inter-governmental coordination and cooperation** (including partnerships with local governments) that enable responsiveness to citizen needs when those needs cannot be fulfilled by one government alone.

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What is in the Paper?

Core Values for Sustainable Municipal Governance

- Municipal governments are an **autonomous** order of government, and are responsible and accountable for governing their communities.
- In order to achieve sustainability, municipal governments **must have, or be in the process of developing the capacity** required for self-determination.

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What is in the Paper?


- **Core Values for Sustainable Municipal Governance (cont'd)**
 - **Sustainable and adequate revenue sources** for municipal governments will allow municipal governments to achieve their vision for sustainability.
 - When suggestions are made to change municipal governance structures in Alberta, the **citizens** must become educated about proposed changes and **decide** upon the changes.

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What is in the Paper?

- **Core Values for Sustainable Municipal Governance (cont'd)**
 - **Definitions of urban or rural types of government are not relevant** to enhancing the sustainability of Alberta's municipal governance system.
 - **There is no single governance model** that Alberta municipal governments should be forced to adopt. It is more important for municipal governments to evaluate their sustainability as a government.

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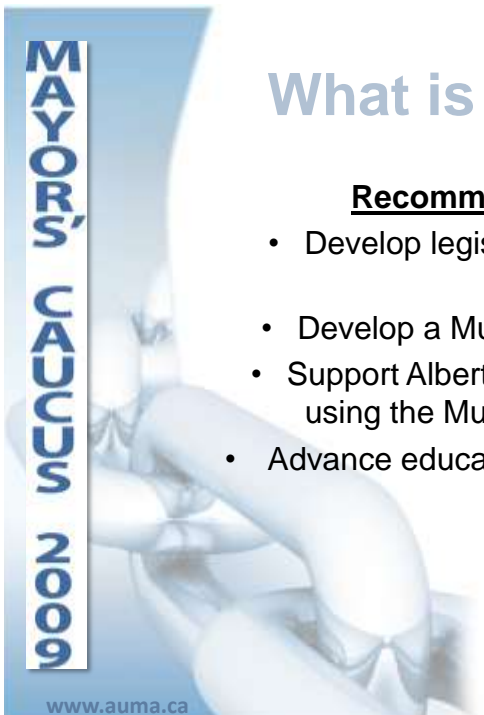
What is in the Paper?

Recommendations to municipalities

- Endorse and promote the Paper's definition of municipal governance sustainability.

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What is in the Paper?

Recommendations to AUMA

- Develop legislative, policy and program changes
- Develop a Municipal Governance Toolkit
- Support Alberta municipal governments in using the Municipal Governance Toolkit
- Advance education on municipal governance

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What is in the Paper?

Recommendations to the Government of Alberta

- Support the vision, core values and governance sustainability statements in the Policy Paper.
- Support AUMA by contributing to the development of a toolkit
- Work with AUMA to review incentive solutions
 - Enact a new Provincial-Municipal Partnership Agreement


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Next Steps

Meeting with Municipal Administrators

- AUMA organized a meeting in early August to facilitate an exchange of information, risks and opportunities with regard to the future of local governance in Alberta.
- Participants said that the meeting “was a historical coming together of municipal administrators. It is the culmination of a lot of work and has resulted in a new partnership to work through this issue together.”
- There was consensus around the issues and potential solutions.

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Next Steps

Subcommittee

- At the administrators' meeting, there was consensus around developing a subcommittee that would:
 - Assign an administrative representative to liaise with Municipal Affairs
 - Develop a toolkit
 - Promote the toolkit to the membership
 - Reach out to organizations that want to participate in toolkit development

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Next Steps

Develop a Toolkit

- Establish a sub-committee of the Task Force, that will develop a Municipal Governance Toolkit – the sub-committee will include representation from: AUMA, AAMDC, LGAA, ARMAA, SLGM, ASVA, City Managers.

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Next Steps

Municipal Affairs

- AUMA has met with the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs.

AAMDC

- It is clear there is a good opportunity for AUMA and AAMDC to work together in facilitating a united go-forward strategy, and developing a Municipal Governance Toolkit.

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Next Steps

AUMA Board

- Board has approved Convention Policy Paper
- There was Board discussion around:
 - the provincial economic reality, including municipal financial viability
 - the need for a timely and more specific recommendation to the Government of Alberta
 - municipal restructuring and impact on AUMA/AMSC
 - incentive-based solutions

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Discussion

- Components of Municipal Governance Toolkit
 - Assessment tool of governance sustainability,
 - Citizen engagement tool,
 - Tools to work through governance change,
 - Tools to transition to a new governance model
 - Performance measurement tools, and
 - linking long-term/sustainability planning to action and performance.

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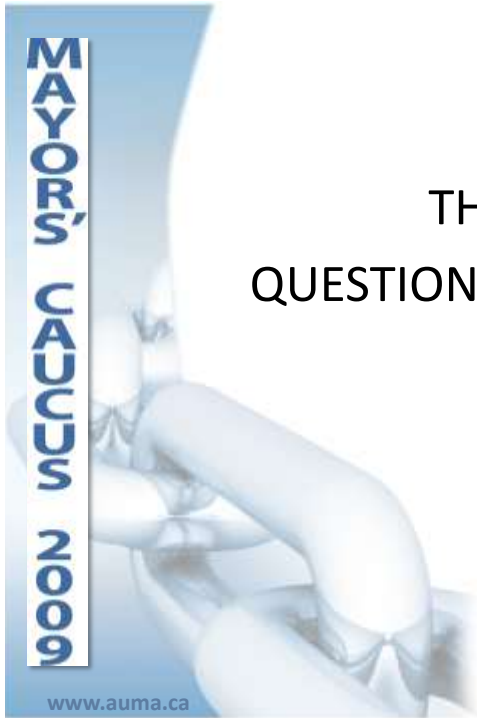
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Discussion

Possible incentives:

- Provincial Restructuring Grant,
- guarantees of governance representation on the new Council,
- guarantees that taxes and levies to citizens will not increase,
- assurance that staff of former municipalities be considered for employment positions,
- new powers and responsibilities for municipalities,
- no loss of transfers in the “joined” municipality,
- if new municipalities are significantly urban in population, they must become a “specialized municipality”.

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THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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