

Small Communities Newsletter

Contact

Please feel free to contact any of the following people with questions or comments about the newsletter or the Small Communities Committee.

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Plan to attend risk modules!

Don't miss the opportunity to increase your community's knowledge of insurance and risk management at this year's AUMA Convention!

"AMSC Risk Management Services is pleased to offer the next instalments of the Risk Management Modules during convention," says Will Burtenshaw, Director, Risk Management Services.

Basic Risk Modules 5 and 6 are for municipal staff responsible for insurance and risk management. They are designed to help members operate municipal services and facilities in a manner that protects the community, citizens and the municipality's resources. Both will be offered on Wednesday, November 28, in half-day sessions at Calgary's Hyatt Regency Hotel. These modules are open to municipalities with a population of under 1,000.

Participants need to have completed Risk Module 1, Essentials of Municipal Risk Management, to attend.

"I encourage eligible communities to attend these sessions if at all possible," says AUMA Chief Executive Officer John McGowan. "We know from the past that participants find the sessions extremely helpful."

He says the modules are "an excellent example of how the AUMA is working to meet pressing, practical needs of communities of all sizes."

The modules will cover the following topics:

Module 5: Liability Loss Control – Contractual Issues: Contractual liability avoidance, purpose and application of bid and performance bonds, insurance certificates, review of contractual exposures and loss control measures, implementing a contract

review / administration process.

Module 6: Liability Loss Control – Municipal Errors and Omissions: Review of the program, review of key loss types and cost drivers by operational group: Building and Planning, Bylaw Development and Administration / review of draft policy and procedures for: building development and inspection, bylaw enforcement, administration.

Participating municipalities are eligible for MUNIX insurance premiums credits of 2 per cent per module, following implementation of a risk management policy and a successful audit.

Burtenshaw notes that the

sessions provide excellent value. For MUNIX subscribers (who are all clients of the AMSC general insurance program), there is no cost for the first four municipal representatives of each community. For more than four, the cost is \$50 plus GST per person per municipality per session.

For those municipalities not participating in the general insurance program, the cost per module is \$2,200 for towns, and \$1,100 for villages and summer villages. Those amounts permit up to four individuals to attend.

For more information, [click here](#).



New Peace Officer program provides alternative to photo radar for small communities

Speeding is an issue for many small communities concerned about the safety of their residents. But unless they are prepared to set up and pay for their own police service, communities with populations under 5,000 are prohibited from operating photo radar systems. As an alternative,

many municipalities choose to participate in the new Public Security Peace Officer program.

At the AUMA 2006 Convention delegates passed a resolution that AUMA petition the Government of Alberta to amend the legislation to allow municipalities with a

population under 5,000 to use photo radar and receive fine revenue on a cost recovery basis.

AUMA followed through with a letter to the Province. The response from the Alberta Solicitor General cited the provincial regulations regarding automated traffic

enforcement and reiterated the conditions under which municipalities with populations under 5,000 are allowed to use photo radar.

Most small communities cannot afford to create their own police service as required by the legislation. There are also conflicting views as to

Message from the Chair

Small Communities are being hit especially hard by the Provinces labour shortage. This year's Small Communities Symposium at Convention will feature solutions for attracting and retaining municipal Employees.

The theme of the Symposium is Learning to Share: How sharing administration can help small municipalities deal with the labour shortage.

It will feature speakers with experience working for different municipalities, including multiple small communities, as well as a combination large and small rural and urban municipalities.

They will discuss issues around building trust, and shifting between workplace cultures, as well as how young people entering the field view the opportunities that working for more than one municipality can provide.

This symposium promises to provide attendees valuable information on meeting labour force challenges. It will be held on Thursday, November 29th from 4:30-6:00 pm.

For more information visit the Convention page on the AUMA web site.

Bob Clark, Chair



Alternatives *continued*

whether or not photo radar is effective in improving public safety. Supporters say it is an effective deterrent against speeding. Others call photo radar a "cash cow" and say it does little to change driver behaviour because the penalty does not entail demerit points.

Hiring a Peace Officer is one option that is working for many small communities, according to Matthew Barker, Manager, Public Security Peace Officer Program, Policing and Community Safety Branch, Solicitor General and Public Security. The program is a result of the Special Constable Program review in 2005 and the subsequent *Peace Officer Act*, which came into force on May 1, 2007.

Barker says a community seeking to hire Peace Officers must meet requirements set out in the program's policy and procedures manual. For example, a community must show it has a code of conduct and proof of liability insurance, among other requirements. Once approved, the employer must apply for a candidate to hold a Peace Officer appointment and the candidate must take a course of training including legal studies, human relations and officer safety.

"Some municipalities enter into regional agreements," Barker says. "A lot of municipalities find it quicker to contract neighboring communities to provide the services of their Peace Officers." For example, Brooks has an agreement to provide Peace Officer services to the County of Newell.

Other municipalities, have found it worthwhile

to hire their own officers. The Village of Longview currently hires two full-time Peace Officers. They are responsible for monitoring speed through the village on Highway 22, which has a high volume of traffic, says Longview Mayor Ivor McCorquindale. "We have a school right at the bottom of a hill where the highway comes through. Safety for the school children crossing the highway is the main reason we started the program."

The Village operates the program on a cost recovery basis, Mayor McCorquindale says. "Some people think it's a cash cow, but it isn't. We do it for the benefit of our children and the safety of our residents. Our residents really like the program and feel it is very worthwhile."

Longview participates on a regional protective services committee with the neighboring communities plus the RCMP. Under the arrangement, the Village receives extra help from its neighbors for Check Stops and speed patrolling on long weekends. "It works very well for us to cooperate on these issue with our neighboring communities," Mayor McCorquindale says.

For more information on the Public Security Peace Officer Program, visit <http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/home/>, or contact Matthew Barker at (780) 427-3457; e-mail: matthew.barker@gov.ab.ca.

Are You Tuned In?

Events Calendar

The AUMA and other organizations host a number of conferences and events throughout the year that are of interest to small communities. To find out about events that are key to your community, [click here to visit the AUMA web site calendar](#).

Weekly Digest

Each week the AUMA and AMSC release a Digest that covers information on advocacy efforts, AMSC services and other topics of interest to municipal politicians and administrators. Make sure that you are in the know by subscribing via the AUMA web site. [Click here to subscribe](#).

