




March 18, 2010

# AUMA Advocacy Update to LGAA

2010

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Outline

- Your Advocacy Team
- 2010 Key Advocacy Initiatives
- Update on Key Advocacy Matters
- Upcoming Events and Communications
- Thank-you

2010

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## Your Advocacy Team

- **John McGowan**, CEO
- **Bruce Thom**, Executive Officer, Legal & Policy
- **Sue Welke**, Director of Policy and Advocacy
- **Rachel Boccock**, Senior Policy Analyst
- **Sandy Bugeja**, Senior Priorities Coordinator
- **Zohreh Saher**, Research Analyst
- **Rose Dacyk**, Executive Assistant



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## Additional Project Resources

- **Joanne McGill**, Provincial Coordinator,  
Municipal Sustainability Planning
- **Marc Colbourne**, Senior Project Coordinator,  
Welcoming and Inclusive Communities



Welcoming  
& Inclusive

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## Key 2010 Advocacy Initiatives

- Government to Government Relationships
- Prevention of Crime through Social Investment
- Municipal Climate Change Action Centre



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## Government-to-Government Relationship

In 2010, AUMA will continue to pursue developing a stronger relationship with the Province.

It is hoped that the Working Protocol with AAMDC will strengthen this request for a new relationship, but it is also acknowledged that an entirely new approach to this issue may be necessary in 2010.

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## Prevention of Crime through Social Development

AUMA will establish the terms for a study on the correlation between crime and social factors such as age, class, gender, and race. The Terms will attempt to answer the following questions:

- 1) What do we know from criminological research about each of these relationships?
- 2) How can we explain the relationship between each?
- 3) What is the Canadian and Albertan context for each?

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## Municipal Climate Change Action Centre

AUMA, AAMDC, Alberta Environment and Alberta Municipal Affairs developed a Municipal Climate Change Action Plan:

- goal to increase the capacity of municipalities to increase energy efficiency and decrease greenhouse gas emissions

Main strategy to boost capacity:

- Climate Change Action Centre



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## Municipal Climate Change Action Centre

The Centre will:

- Be dedicated to supporting municipalities
- Include a website with information on tools, resources and promising practices specifically relevant to Alberta municipalities
- Provide support for municipalities in climate change and/or energy planning, completing energy audits, implementing new technologies etc.
- Stay tuned.....



## Update on Advocacy Matters

- MGA Review
- Assessment
- 2010 Budget
- Future of Local Governance & MSS Working Group
- Water Conservation
- EOEP

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## MGA Review

2010

- While MGA review is on the Ministry 2010 work plan, the department is uncertain about the extent of any review given the financial crunch and the change in Ministers.
- If the broad Part 17 review proceeds, then a process will be devised where AUMA will be involved from first instance.
- Legislative review takes 18-24 months.

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## MGA Review

2010

- The department has provided AUMA with a schedule with the current dates of various Regulation reviews, and an overall number (hundreds) of requests for MGA changes since 1995.
- Since 1995, the Province has made 128 of the AUMA and AAMDC Associations' requested 198 amendments.
- At this time, there has not been any indication that the assessment and taxation sections are included in 2010 amendments.

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## Assessment Task Force

# 2010

- AUMA's Assessment Task Force has had several meetings
- With expert help, they went through a process of reviewing the areas in most need of reform and identified in the 2009 AUMA policy papers on Assessment.

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## AUMA's Response to Budget 2010

# 2010

### Concerns:

1. The education portion of the property tax was increased by \$69M this year.
2. The transition of AMIP funds to MSI means that the majority of transfers to municipalities will occur through the MSI allocation formula thus funding for urban municipalities will be reduced.
3. The Municipal Water Wastewater Program has decreased by 57.2%.
4. The Municipal Sponsorship Program (MSP) has been eliminated.
5. The Community Initiatives Program (CIP) was cut by 6.4%. This is significant given the elimination of the Wild Rose Foundation and the re-direction of community groups to the CIP for funds.
6. The formula and total amount for the Municipal Police Assistance Grant remains the same, despite AUMA's vigorous efforts to make change in this area.
7. The Affordable Housing Program has been cut by 53.6 per cent.

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## Future of Local Government and MSS Working Group

In 2010, Municipal Affairs invited AUMA and other stakeholders to take part in its Municipal Sustainability Strategy Working Group.

The intention of the Municipal Sustainability Strategy Working Group was to consider:

1. What constitutes a viable and sustainable municipality and how can these be measured?
2. What basic services should a municipality provide?
3. What capacity building tools are required?
4. What restructuring processes should be used?

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## Water CEP

- AUMA's Water Conservation Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) plan was adopted with a resounding majority at the Annual Convention.

- Now working on resources to support municipalities:

- Water Microsite: <http://water.auma.ca/>

- Water Efficiency Bylaw primer

- Information on Alberta Environment's Water use Reporting system



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## Water CEP Cont'd

- Water Conservation Planning Guide in first draft
- Compiling case studies
- Held Water Conservation Webinars on ILI and Planning. Watch them on the microsite.
- Contact Rachel Bocock [rbocock@auma.ca](mailto:rbocock@auma.ca)  
780.409.4313



## Elected Officials Education Program (EOEP)

### Broad Objectives:

- Develop leadership skills
- Inform elected officials on issues and challenges
- Challenge thinking to improve municipal governance
- Cover content in an interactive and engaging manner
- Create a program that is accessible throughout Alberta

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## EOEP – Upcoming Courses

- March 15, 2010: **Ethics**, Location: Edmonton
- April 15, 2010: **Affordable Housing**, Location: Red Deer
- April 16, 2010: **Communications/Media Relations**, Location: Red Deer
- May 14, 2010: **Municipal Finance**, Location: Camrose
- June 3: **Human Resource Planning**, Location: TBD (in southern Alberta)
- June 18: **Performance Measurement**, Location: TBD (in southern Alberta)

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## Upcoming Events & Communications

- June Mayors Caucus will be held in...on June 16, 17, and 18<sup>th</sup>
- AUMA has introduced a new Newsletter aimed at MLAs called LINK.
- You can access this newsletter, along with our weekly Digest and other Newsletters from the Communications tab of the main AUMA website: [auma.ca](http://auma.ca)



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Thank you

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Questions or Comments?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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