



AUMA Questions Regarding Alberta's Provincial Budget 2011

1. Has the Government of Alberta returned to its 2007 commitment of \$1.4 Billion annually for the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI)?

2009 MSI announced	2009 MSI actual	2010 MSI announced	2010 MSI actual
\$600,000,000	\$400,000,000	\$1,400,000,000	\$876,000,000

2011 MSI announced	2011 MSI actual
\$1,400,000,000	

2. Following the 2010 Provincial Budget, AUMA pointed out the \$124,258,319 shift in funding as a result of the change in funding formulas from the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program (AMIP) to the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI). Has the Government of Alberta implemented the AMIP's base amount + per capita funding formula for delivering the MSI?
3. Does Alberta's 2011 Provincial Budget move towards the signing of a new Provincial-Municipal Contract, including annual transfers from the Government of Alberta to Alberta Municipalities? If not, how can AUMA and the Government of Alberta work in partnership to achieve such a Contract?
4. What is the budgeted break down of the Education tax requisition for 2010/2011?

FISCAL YEAR:

	2010-11 (\$million)	2011-2012	%change(+/-)
Residential	1177		
Non-Residential	674		

CALENDAR YEAR:

	2010 (\$million)	2011	%change(+/-)
Residential	1106		
Non-Residential	668		

5. Has the Government of Alberta budgeted monies in 2011 to ensure a comprehensive review and restructuring of the property assessment system in Alberta?

6. Has the Government of Alberta budgeted monies in 2011 to ensure a comprehensive review of the *Municipal Government Act* that would consider principles-based municipal legislation?

7. What amount is allocated in the 2011 Budget to increase the provincial contribution to policing costs? How is the funding distributed by types of municipalities?

	2010-11 (\$000)	2011-12	% change (+/-)
Municipal Policing Assistance Grants	49295		
Assistance for New Hires	30000		

8. Does the 2011 Budget introduce an escalator that accounts for increases to policing costs into the funding formula for policing?

9. Does the 2011 Budget utilize a new Law Enforcement Framework Funding Model in which all municipal governments contribute to the costs of policing? If so, does the new Funding Model for policing include the following:
 - a. A description of how the new surplus funds will be used;
 - b. A formula that includes the impacts of sharing police costs; and
 - c. A formula that addresses the shortage of transfers to those municipalities currently paying for police services?

10. What is being budgeted in 2011 for municipal transportation infrastructure funding (e.g. roads + streets) as well as for non-transportation infrastructure (water + sewer)? How do these amounts compare to last year's budget for each of these budget line items? Has the formula for calculation changed?

Grant	Formula	2010(\$000)	2011	% Change
Municipal Sustainability Initiative	Base amount, population, assessment, road length	826000		
City Transportation Grant	\$.05/litre	100185		

Basic Capital Grant	\$60 per capita	51500		
Provincial Highway Maintenance Grant	\$1,959 per lane km	1300		
Street Improvement Program	\$60 per capita	37500		
Rural Transportation Grant	Based on kilometres of open road, population, equalized assessment and terrain	60000		
Resource Road Program	Projects that enhance the movement of goods/people to new or expanded, value-added processing facilities	36000		
Community Airport Program	Assistance for runway/taxiway rehabilitation and construction	2000		
Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Program	Grants based on % of project costs. The % is calculated with a population-based formula.	113000		
Green Transit Incentives Program	Project-specific	52000		
Federal Programs				
Building Canada – Communities Component	Project specific	66000		
Building Canada – Communities Component Top-up	Project specific	84200		
Infrastructure Stimulus Fund	Project specific	157200		
Building Canada – Major Infrastructure	Project specific	30000		
Canada/Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (federal)	Project specific funding	35475		
Gas Tax Fund (federal)	Population	199503		
Federal public transit trust	Base + ridership	0		
Other/New Initiative				

11. Has the Government of Alberta budgeted monies in 2011 to ensure a comprehensive review of transportation programs, to be conducted in partnership with AUMA during 2011?

12. Does the 2011 Budget include funding for programs that address alternative modes of transportation such as cycling, running and walking (e.g.: funding for the construction of trail systems)?
13. Does the 2011 Budget include funding for the Major Community Facilities Program, and if so, is there a long-term commitment to this Program?
14. Does the 2011 Budget establish a new Urban and Countryside Parks Program that supports municipalities in parks planning, parkland acquisition, park development, conservation, operations and promotions?
15. What has been budgeted in 2011 to meet the Government of Alberta's commitment to seniors' housing, affordable housing and homelessness?

	2010-11 (\$000)	2011-12	% change (+/-)
Seniors Lodge Assistance	35420		
Family and Special Purpose Housing	45256		
Rent Supplements	75100		
Emergency/transitional Shelter Support	40500		
Outreach Support Services	42100		
Support to Providers of Seniors Housing	8087		
Capital Grants:			
Affordable Housing Program	88310		
Homeless Prevention Initiative	100000		
Housing Providers – Alberta Social Housing Corporation - Maintenance	45380		
Affordable Supportive Living Initiative	50000		

16. Does Budget 2011 renew the Government of Alberta's commitment to provide Block Funding for Housing to jurisdictions under a multi-year plan?
17. Regarding Provincial Grants-in-lieu-of-taxes, does Budget 2011:
- provide municipalities with grants-in-lieu-of-taxes to pay for the costs of municipal services to non-profit housing agencies that are not Management Bodies formed pursuant to the *Alberta Housing Act*, where those agencies are exempt from the payment of municipal and education property taxes?
 - Commit to payment of Grants-in-lieu-of-taxes within the Municipality's tax due dates?

18. Through Budget 2011, has the Government of Alberta restored provincial funding to nonprofit/voluntary organizations, and acknowledged that municipal governments are not expected to make up for provincial funding cutbacks to the nonprofit/voluntary sector?
19. Does Budget 2011 return the grants available through the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Program to the 2008 level, and does it provide other grants that:
- incent Water Conservation, Energy and Productivity, as identified in the Alberta Water Council’s Recommendations for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning (moving towards full cost accounting, and grant support for good planning/actions); and
 - continue to support municipalities with drinking water operations by providing educational and technical resources, including full cost accounting workshops?
20. What has been included in the 2011 Budget for library funding and arts and cultural programs impacting communities?

	2010-11	2011-12	% change (+/-)
Library Funding	30119		
Lottery-funded Agencies	38925		
Community Initiatives Program	25500		
Community Facilities Enhancement Program	38000		
Community Spirit Donation Program	16000		
Major Fairs and Exhibitions	22000		
Other/new initiatives			