

“*says YOU...*”

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What was the highlight of the 2011 AUMA convention for you?

Wayne Rempel, Councillor, City of Lacombe, “This year’s Education Sessions were some of the best I have ever seen. The WIC session was the highlight, that one really hit home for us.”

Ryan Maier, Assistant CAO, Town of Rimbey, “I liked the keynote addresses. They were inspiring, they make you want and do better when you get back home.”

Ron George, Councillor, village of Kitscoty, “Everything was really good, really interesting, but Paul Brandt stood out for me.”

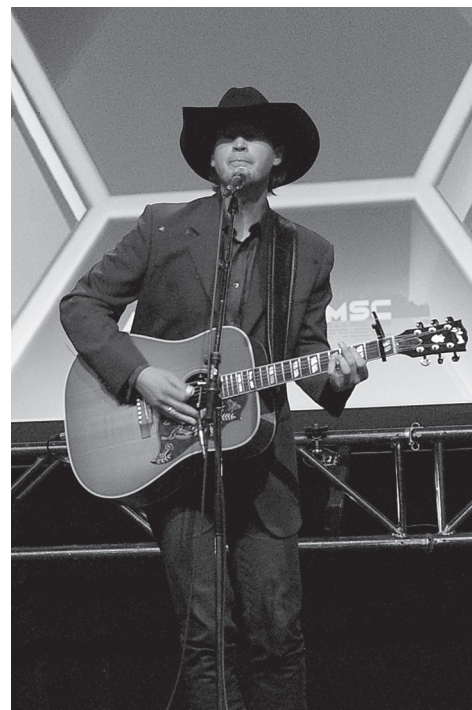
Gerry Matthews, Deputy Mayor, Town of Manning, “There are a few, but the session with Rosebud and the Arts and Culture topic was great. I’m going to go to Rosebud and see how what they’re doing fits into our small community.”

Hank Holowaychuk, Mayor, Town of Smoky Lake, “I think all the speakers were excellent, but the Mayor of Slave Lake was an inspiration to each and every person here.”

Debbie McMann, Deputy Mayor, Village of Innisfree, “The big surprise – Paul Brandt. It was a very good way to finish the convention.”

Glen Carroll, CAO, City of Lloydminster, “The PC Leadership Candidates Forum. It was interesting to see how committed both were and how passionate they are about local matters.”

Paul Brandt Raises the Roof with Alberta Bound



Paul Brandt inspired the delegates singing Alberta Bound, Small Towns and Big Dreams and Convoy

Convention Chair, Helen Rice warned delegates of “THE BIG SURPRISE” many times through convention and so it was – BIG and a surprise. Just as people were ready to hand in their clickpads for their boxed lunches, and after a few people snuck out early (too bad), in strolled the black-hatted Paul Brandt! Taking the stage to cheers and steady clapping, he wowed guests with three songs, including his trademark, “Alberta Bound.”

Brandt was the perfect person to close out convention as someone who can get all Albertans on their feet, clapping, smiling and singin’ along – uniting everyone from cities, towns, villages, and summer villages. Always a gentleman and a consummate Alberta performer, he stayed till long past the close of formal events to meet with convention goers and sign autographs for all that requested one.

What a way to wrap up a convention! 🗳️

Join a Standing Committee, Deadline October 7

Participating in an AUMA Standing Committee is a great way to influence the development of AUMA initiatives and policy and subsequently, the governance landscape across the province. Standing Committees are made up of elected officials and administrators from both small and large member municipalities. Participation in Standing Committees enables members to represent their particular community’s interests and to increase valuable networks and connections.

If you have an interest in one or more of a particular committees’ mandate areas and would like to serve on a committee, please contact AUMA.

Current Standing Committees are:

- Environment, Safe and Healthy Communities
- Infrastructure and Energy
- Municipal Governance
- Sustainability 🗳️

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A Tribute to Slave Lake, a Tribute to Albertans

“The events of the fire that decimated so much of the Slave Lake area are an important reminder about how critical the work we do at the municipal level is ... and what it really means to be the order of government closest to citizens. And although much of the work we do is routine, when disaster strikes, it’s the municipality that’s right there on the front lines,” began Darren Aldous, outgoing AUMA president.

It’s miraculous that we were able to do an orderly evacuation of over 10,000 people without any loss of life.

- Karina Pillay-Kinnee,
Mayor of Slave Lake

But nothing could truly have prepared Slave Lake for what happened on May 15 of this year. A forest fire burning southeast of the community was a concern, but didn’t appear to be an imminent threat to the town. Then, very quickly, the situation changed. Winds gusting up to 100 kilometers per hour suddenly blew the fire out of control ... picking up burning debris and throwing it ahead of the front lines that firefighters had established. With water bombers grounded because of the high winds, the fire split in two and circled the town. It’s difficult to imagine what it must have been like to be there.

Karina Pillay-Kinnee, Mayor of Slave Lake took the stage to help delegates do just that – imagine

what it was like to be there. She highlighted her town’s experiences - focusing on the incredible courage, resiliency, camaraderie, compassion and generosity by all those involved. She recalled how “there was no warning. Power went down. The radio station went down. The water treatment plant went down. Cell service was overloaded. With all the highways blocked because of the wildfires, residents were directed to safe areas within the town, such as parking lots, large fields, the airport and the lake and as soon as the RCMP deemed the highway passable, there was a mass exodus. It’s miraculous that we were able to do an orderly evacuation of over 10,000 people without any loss of life.

Within five days, there were more than 1,000 emergency personnel working around the clock to put

...we knew we were never alone and that our region would recover stronger and better than ever.

- Karina Pillay-Kinnee,
Mayor of Slave Lake

out fires, restore electricity and gas services, secure the community and highways, get communications online, potable water flowing, hospital and medical services operational, and secure the burned sites.

The stats say: it was the largest



A presentation of certificates recognizes the support received from so many quarters

evacuation in Alberta’s history ... and the 2nd largest insured disaster in Canada. There were 372 homes and six apartment complexes lost ... displacing over 730 households.

“It’s one thing to say you lost a third of your community overnight, but try to imagine ... 30% of our education staff, 50% of our Councillors, 85% of our doctors, and many RCMP officers and firefighters lost their homes to the blaze. Every sector of our community was impacted,” Mayor Karina explained.

What helped boost residents’ spirits most, though, was the truly remarkable generosity of Albertans and Canadians... “we knew we were never alone and that our region would recover stronger and better than ever.”

They have made tremendous progress towards recovery. Almost all burned sites have been cleaned up; utilities, sewer and water lines have been checked, and we have given the green light for 98% of

landowners to rebuild. Last week, the first family moved into their new home!

...Slave Lake was re-built on the solid foundation created by the partnerships that have surfaced this summer.

- Karina Pillay-Kinnee,
Mayor of Slave Lake

A presentation of certificates recognizing the support received from so many quarters: Provincial government; Alberta municipalities; firefighters, police officers and emergency services; as well as charitable organizations. In closing, Mayor Karina remarked “There is no way to adequately thank you for the helping hands you extended when we needed it most. But we will always remember that Slave Lake was re-built on the solid foundation created by the partnerships that have surfaced this summer.” 🗳️

Convention Closes with Renewed Energy and Passion for All Things Local

The final day of convention is often marked by a mix of emotions – nostalgia, anticipation, excitement and inspiration. And this year was no different. It was

hard not to catch yourself getting a bit misty eyed one moment and laughing out loud the next as people shared their experiences, observations and hopes for the

future. From the reflections of Convention Chair, Helen Rice, to the tribute to Slave Lake and the parting words of outgoing President Darren Aldous through

to the laughable observations of keynote speaker, Dan Clark and the inspirational musicianship of Paul Brandt it was a day at convention to remember. 🗳️

See you in Edmonton September 26 - 28, 2012!

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Elected as president for 2011-2012 on Friday Sept. 30, Linda Sloan has been an Edmonton City Councillor since 2004. She served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta from March 1997 to March 2001.



Linda Sloan
2011 - 2012 AUMA President

Since joining AUMA, Linda has served as Vice President, City of Edmonton on the Executive Committee; and on the Environment and Sustainability Committee; the AUMA Special Task Force on Ambulance Services; the Women in Municipal Government Committee, and as Chair on AUMA's Municipal Governance and Building Communities Committees. She was Convention Chair in 2010.

Thank you for your support. I am very proud to serve as your President in the coming year. I'd like to also acknowledge and thank my fellow candidates Martin Shields and Lloyd Bertchi, and my colleagues from the City of Edmonton council and administration. Thank you for your ongoing support and belief in AUMA.

For more than a century common people in elected positions like you and I have gathered together to seek a common cause: to strengthen our communities and thereby secure a better future for this great province we call home. The forum through which these deliberations and decisions occurred has been the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

Our recent campaign "Local Matters" strikes a chord that has resonated in this assembly since the inception of AUMA. No one amongst us has ever forgotten that local priorities are best determined and delivered by a government elected to serve its neighbours. This is the heart of the work we do. Our quest is to manifest a new reality

where this local priority setting is not only respected by all orders of Government but also personified in the commitment of legislation and funding sources that solidify our continued sustainability.

John Buchan, Canada's 15th Governor General said "The task of leadership is not to put greatness into people, but to elicit it for the greatness is already there." I have witnessed this greatness in this assembly and in the leadership of our current President Darren Aldous, in our Board members both past and present.

My role and my pledge in the year ahead is to listen, to engage you in the issues and decisions that lie before us; to respect our common desire to advance the collective communities we call home and to honour and advance the legacy our predecessors built.

We know the future holds change – we have a new Premier-elect and a new vision for the province. On your behalf the new Board and I will now work to maintain our focus on the priorities you have chosen for AUMA.

I believe in you and in the collective power of standing together as municipalities. Through AUMA we have and we will continue change our world. 🏡

- Linda

2010 – 2011 AUMA Board of Directors:

President
Councillor Linda Sloan*, City of Edmonton

Director, Cities over 500,000
Alderman Gian-Carlo Carra, City of Calgary
Alderman Jim Stevenson, City of Calgary
Councillor Kim Krushell, City of Edmonton
Councillor Amarjeet Sohi*, City of Edmonton

Director, Cities up to 500,000
Mayor Steve Christie*, City of Lacombe
Councillor Cindy Jefferies, City of Red Deer
Councillor Helen Rice, City of Grande Prairie

Director, Towns East
Councillor Jacqueline Biollo, Town of Beaumont

Director, Towns West
Deputy Mayor North Darling*, Town of Peace River

Director, Towns South
Mayor Ron Casey, Town of Canmore

Director, Villages East
Mayor Jenelle Saskiw, Village of Marwayne

Director, Villages West
Mayor Anita Gillard, Village of Clive

Director, Villages South
Deputy Mayor Cliff Ayrey*, Village of Longview

Director, Summer Villages
Deputy Mayor Reg Pointe, Summer Village of Yellowstone

*denotes newly elected, acclaimed, or appointed

2011 - 2012 AUMA Executive Committee
President: Councillor Linda Sloan, City of Edmonton
Vice-President, Calgary: Alderman Jim Stevenson
Vice-President, Edmonton: Councillor Kim Krushell
Vice-President, Cities up to 500,000: Councillor Helen Rice, City of Grande Prairie
Vice-President, Towns: Jacqueline Biollo, Town of Beaumont
Vice-President, Villages & Summer Villages: Deputy Mayor Reg Pointe, Summer Village of Yellowstone

Special mention of those who are leaving the Board from 2010 - 2011:
Darren Aldous, Councillor, Village of Breton
Bruce Rowe, Mayor, Village of Beiseker
Glenn Taylor, Mayor of Hinton
Martin Shields, Mayor of Brooks 🏡

Candidates Join AUMA Board to Accelerate Municipal Agenda

The approaches to campaigning for Board positions this year were as varied as the candidates themselves. Delegates enjoyed the personalized m&m's, blinking lapel pins, stickers and trying to figure out how to use a QR code. They also appreciated the thoughtful and substantive views of the candidates. However the message was presented, the message was clear: Elected Officials across the province care about their communities, want to accelerate the municipal agenda and recognize AUMA

as a cornerstone of support for municipal sustainability. Referring often to the theme Local Matters, candidates recognized the challenges AUMA faces and, on behalf of members, is striving to overcome. So with a mix of humour, humility, drive, and dedication to all things local, the candidates expressed their commitment to universal representation, collaboration, and working hard to ensure Alberta municipalities receive the consideration they deserve from all levels of government. 🏡

There may be no "I" in Team but There are Two "I's" in Winning

Author, singer/songwriter, and internationally recognized speaker, Dan Clark provided delegates with some comic relief as he related team-building in municipal government to that of team-building in professional sports. His introductory line to the subject: "Teams lose." What? Where could he possibly be going with a comment like that – a likely thought running through the minds of delegates. But there was a point to the comment and the point being: "There is no "I" in team, but there are two "I's" in winning." And with that, Clark



Clark: no one wants to be the weak link and it is critical for every single member of a team to stand out as an "I."

went about explaining that it is critical for every single member of a team to stand out as an "I." In working towards excellence and in achieving great things, every person contributing to the effort must always do their utmost to succeed and only then can the team succeed. There were many chuckles and nodding heads as Clark shared observations of and experiences with iconic sports teams – reinforcing that the "I's" on the team make the team. So, he asked delegates, "What will you do in the pre-election period? How will you make the future local every single day? What are you willing to do to affect change?" His challenge to everyone: "Make a difference one day at a time." 🏡

FCM Supporting Alberta Members at the Federal Level

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) President, Berry Vrbanovic, participated in the AUMA 2011 Convention in two different capacities. New at convention this year was the addition of an FCM Town Hall Forum. Speaking to all members, whether from a big city, a small town or somewhere in between, FCM wanted everyone to know that they are not alone when it comes to tackling municipal challenges at the federal level. In his remarks to all delegates on Friday morning, Vrbanovic described how his organization is positioned to help all communities across Alberta and across Canada, and how he and his team wanted to take the opportunity to connect with AUMA members to gather input on how they (FCM) can best support the Alberta delegation. In the spirit of a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, the discussion was collaborative and insightful. As FCM works to set their strategic direction for the next few years, they welcomed the insights shared



FCM President, Berry Vrbanovic

by various municipalities about the challenges they face and how FCM could assist in overcoming them. Influencing policy and programs that fall within federal jurisdiction is vital to helping municipal officials build strong, sustainable communities across the country and to sharing their expertise around the world. From roads and housing to policing and green innovation, municipalities contribute greatly to the quality of life in Canada and abroad – yet, their role is not fully understood. Through FCM, the goal is to change this. 🏡

Highlights from 2011 Convention Resolution Sessions

There were 25 resolutions submitted for discussion at convention: 23 were carried, two were defeated, one was withdrawn, one was split. Highlights include: Local Authority Election Act resolution (which includes 38 recommendations including 4 year terms for municipal elected officials) passed with a great deal of support
Off-site levy resolution passed – speaks to the need for more funding for community infrastructure (see resolution D.4)
Fluoride in public water resolution did NOT pass (resolution D.8)
Highspeed rail resolution (D.9) passed
Resolution on shared facilities funding (D.18) passed – speaks to the need for equitable funding solutions for municipalities and neighbouring communities
Several resolutions on first responders all passed.

Leaders of the Opposition Parties Address Delegates



Liberal - Raj Sherman, NDP - Brian Mason, Alberta Party - Glen Taylor and Wildrose Alliance - Danielle Smith, each highlighted their party platforms and their position on Local Matters

There were some old faces, some new faces and a familiar face in a new role at the podium on Friday morning as the leaders of the opposition parties shared their perspectives on provincial politics in Alberta. Brian Mason, Leader of the New Democratic Party, Raj Sherman, recently

elected Leader of the Liberal Party, Danielle Smith, Leader of the Wildrose Alliance, and Glenn Taylor, Leader of the Alberta Party (former AUMA Board member) each took a turn at highlighting their party platforms and their position on Local Matters. Collaboration, local

decision-making and the funding framework were common themes from each of the leaders as they positioned their respective party as the one to challenge the Progressive Conservatives of Alberta. 🏡

