



AUMA Questions Regarding Alberta's Provincial Budget 2012

1. How does Alberta's 2012 Budget move towards a new Provincial-Municipal relationship, including providing municipalities with sufficient authority and direct access to revenue sources to deliver core services?
2. Does Budget 2012 address the mandate from the Premier to establish three-year funding cycles for municipalities and to review and assess the MSI grant program? What changes have been made with respect to MSI program guidelines, allocation formulas and funding levels?
3. Will there be any new or revised fees or charges levied on municipalities under Budget 2012? What is the estimated annual impact and rationale for these changes?
4. What is the budgeted break down of the Education Tax Requisition for 2012/2013?

Fiscal Year:

	2011-12 (\$million)	2012-2013	%change(+/-)
Residential	1,143		
Non-Residential	<u>693</u>		
Total	1,836		

Calendar Year:

	2011 (\$million)	2012	%change(+/-)
Residential	1,136		
Non-Residential	<u>689</u>		
Total	1,825		

5. What resources has the Government of Alberta allocated in Budget 2012 to ensure a comprehensive review and restructuring of the property assessment and taxation system in Alberta?
6. What processes are being resourced through Budget 2012 to ensure a comprehensive review of the Municipal Government Act?

7. What amount is allocated in Budget 2012 to increase the provincial contribution to policing costs? How is the funding distributed by types of municipalities?

	2011-12 (\$000)	2012-13	% change (+/-)
Municipal Policing Assistance Grants	49,505		
Assistance for New Hires	30,000		
Total	79,505		

8. What, if any, escalator is provided through Budget 2012 to account for increases to policing costs?
9. Does the 2012 Budget implement the principles of the 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 description of how the new surplus funds will be used;
 - A formula that includes the impacts of sharing police costs; and
 - A formula that addresses the shortage of transfers to those municipalities currently paying for police services?
10. What does Budget 2012 provide for municipal transportation infrastructure funding (e.g. roads and streets) as well as for non-transportation infrastructure (water and 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	2011(\$000)	2012	% Change
Provincial Programs				
Municipal Sustainability Initiative				
Basic Municipal Transportation Grant				
Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program				
Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Program				
Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTrip)				
Add others as appropriate				
Federal Programs				
Gas Tax Fund (federal)				
Add others as appropriate				
Total				

11. What activities are planned/funded in Budget 2012 to advance the long term (40 year) transportation plan? How will high speed rail be considered?
12. How does Budget 2012 support programs that address alternative and renewable energy?
13. What funding changes are reflected in Budget 2012 for Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)?
14. How does Budget 2012 support the Government of Alberta’s commitment to seniors’ housing, affordable housing and homelessness? What will change as a result of these funding levels?

	2011-12 (\$000)	2012-13	% change (+/-)
Seniors Lodge Assistance			
Family and Special Purpose Housing			
Rent Supplements			
Emergency/transitional Shelter Support			
Outreach Support Services			
Support to Providers of Seniors Housing			
Affordable Housing Program			
Homeless Prevention Initiative			
Housing Providers – Alberta Social Housing Corporation – Maintenance			
Affordable Supportive Living Initiative			

15. What has the Government of Alberta resourced through Budget 2012 to support the needs of our growing seniors population (e.g., “aging in place”, continuing care, transportation services) and how does this compare to Budget 2011?
16. Regarding Provincial Grants-in-lieu-of-taxes, does Budget 2012:
 - a. 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?
 - b. Commit to payment of Grants-in-lieu-of-taxes within the Municipality’s tax due dates?
17. How does Budget 2012 support programs and services for economic development across the province and are there changes from prior funding levels?
18. Given the critical nature of Alberta’s Municipal Water/Wastewater infrastructure, does Budget 2012 recognize the need for increased provincial support for water infrastructure by increasing the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Program? Does it provide other grants that:

- a. 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
- b. continue to support municipalities with drinking water operations by providing educational and technical resources and incentives for full cost accounting, regional systems, etc?

19. How does Budget 2012 support community infrastructure and non profit/voluntary organizations (e.g., library funding, arts and cultural programs)?

	2011-12	2012-13	% change (+/-)
Library Grants			
Lottery-funded Agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Foundation for the Arts • Alberta Historical Resources Foundation • Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks, and Wildlife Foundation • Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund 			
Community Initiatives Program			
Community Facilities Enhancement Program			
Community Spirit Donation Program			
Other Initiatives Program			
Other supports for the voluntary/non profit sector			

20. How does Budget 2012 realize the Government of Alberta's commitment to provincial/regional land use planning?