

February 2012

AUMA

Mayors Caucus


Municipal Roles and Revenue Authorities

2012

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AUMA

Alberta: A Dynamic Province

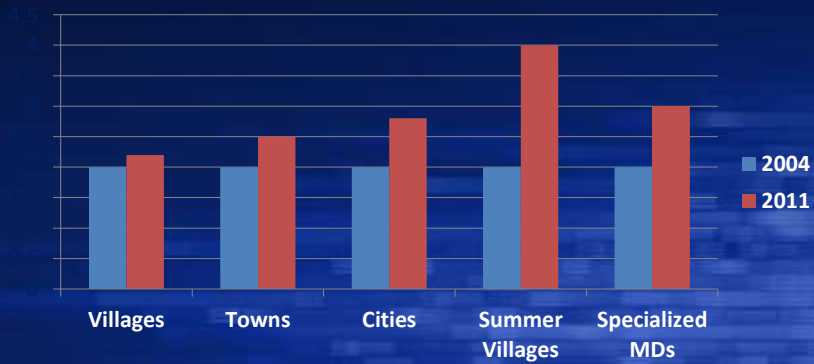


The collage consists of six rectangular images arranged in two rows of three. The top row shows a wide river with a dam, a green golf course with trees, and a city skyline. The bottom row shows a river with rapids, an industrial facility with blue buildings, and a wind turbine.

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Alberta: A Growing Province



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Introduction

Alberta's Diverse Municipalities



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Municipal Sustainability Strategy Working Group



What basic services should a municipality provide?



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Municipal Practice	What it Means
Council	Passing bylaws, adoption of policies, establishing budgets, raising funds borrowing, setting fines, land use plans, etc.
Disaster and Emergency Measures	Activities related to emergency measures, disaster prevention and recovery, and the designation of dangerous goods routes .
Fire Protection	Activities related to fire prevention, fire protection, fire suppression, and investigation services.
General Administration	Activities related to the administration of the municipality as a whole—property tax, licensing, census taking, etc.
Land-use planning and Development	Services provided by planning commissions, subdivision and development appeal boards, development officers, planning offices, research or studies involving planning and zoning for the municipality, etc.
Policing and Bylaw Enforcement	Activities may include crime prevention, peacekeeping, community peace officers, law/bylaw enforcement, municipal courts/jails, building inspections, parking enforcement, animal and weed control, etc.

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Municipal Practice	What it Means
Recreation	Activities include community parks and trails, baseball diamonds, beaches, curling rinks, golf courses, gymnasiums, recreation centres, skating rinks, ski areas, sports fields, swimming pools, or other recreation facilities and programs.
Roads and/or Street	Planning, design, construction and maintenance of roads, streets, walks and lighting, including medians, boulevards, sidewalks, street lighting, street signs, traffic signals, public parking facilities, etc.
Transportation	Public transit systems, handi-buses or senior citizens' transportation, airport services through community airports.
Waste Management	Collection of garbage and waste material, maintenance and operation of sanitary landfill sites, incinerators or other plants, trucks and other equipment used for collection and disposal, and solid waste landfill closure and post-closure costs.
Utilities (water and waste water)	Water supply, purification, transmission and distribution, operation and maintenance of facilities and lines, wastewater collection or removal, treatment and disposal , etc.

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A Question of (Im)balance: Municipal Revenue Authorities

Municipal revenue authorities include:

- Property tax;
- Fees and charges; and
- Franchise fees.

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A Question of (Im)balance: Shared Responsibilities

Municipalities share the responsibility and cost with the Government of Alberta for a number of critical services such as:

- FCSS
- Housing
- Emergency services (policing, fire, ambulance, etc)
- Land use planning

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A Question of (Im)balance

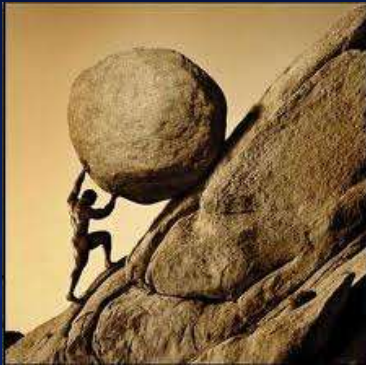
Based on member input, resolutions, and engagement, AUMA believes that one of the greatest challenges municipalities face is balancing their core responsibilities with their ability to raise revenue.



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Working Towards Balance: An Uphill Battle



- ✓ Making sure that Ministers, provincial departments, MLAs, opposition parties and the Premier understand municipal challenges.
- ✓ Working on improving the property tax system.
- ✓ Conducting research on municipal revenues.
- ✓ Advocating for increased municipal autonomy and the need to formally identify municipalities as an order of government.

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Obligations and Authorities

1. Where are your roles unclear and/or where do you lack authority to meet obligations?
2. What additional powers do municipalities need to be an effective order of government?
3. Do you agree that municipalities face considerable challenges because they lack the appropriate authority to raise revenue (excluding grants) to meet their core needs?

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Revenue Authorities

- What specific revenue authorities are required to strengthen and improve municipalities' financial capacity to meet their obligations?

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**THANK
YOU**

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