



2006

Convention Policy and Resolutions

Detailed Results

The following document provides the operative clauses and results of resolutions debated at the 2006 AUMA Convention. Adopted resolutions form AUMA policy and are forwarded to appropriate provincial and federal Cabinet Ministers for review and response.

October 13, 2006

Policy Papers

Policy Paper 2006.1: Alberta Municipal Affairs Targeted Investment Program

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT AUMA request Alberta Municipal Affairs continue the Targeted Assistance Program for 2007 and beyond with only two factors: a maximum equalized assessment per capita (or per parcel for Summer Villages) and a minimum grant allocation, to support those municipalities with low equalized assessments.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

Policy Paper 2006.2: MGA Review – General Ministerial Powers

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUMA 2006 General Assembly adopt the proposed changes to the *MGA* that are contained in the “AUMA *MGA* REVIEW Related to the General Ministerial Powers in the *MGA*”.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

Category A Resolutions: Governance

Resolution 2006.A.1: What Defines an Urban Municipality?

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, for the benefit of the public interest of all Alberta, define what an urban community is and how it is different from a rural municipality, and then request the Province of Alberta to incorporate these definitions into legislation.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.A.2: Linear Property Rates

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request the Government of Alberta to update the linear property rates and keep the rates current thereby addressing the existing inequity associated with the present situation.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.A.3: Mandatory Requirement for Inter-municipal Development Plans

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association communicate to the Government of Alberta that Inter-municipal Plans between urban and rural municipalities be mandatory.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

Category B Resolutions: Operating and Implementation

RESOLUTION 2006.B.1: Reducing the Cost of the Supernet

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) work with the Government of Alberta and Bell/Axia to develop a reduced, aggregated rate for monthly access fees and that the AUMA promote the resulting aggregated SuperNet rates to municipalities in order to obtain the critical mass needed as determined by negotiations.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

Category C.i. Issue-Based Resolutions – General Recognition

RESOLUTION 2006.C.i.1: Addressing the Shortage of Skilled and Unskilled Workers

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association requests:

1. the Government of Alberta to provide incentives for workers to relocate to Alberta, to improve skills training programs for trades/professions in demand and to urge professional associations to ensure their requirements properly credit credentials from other provinces and countries.
2. the Government of Canada to ensure its immigration policies do not create barriers to skilled and unskilled workers entering the country, and to join the Province in urging professional associations to ensure their requirements are adequately assessing the professional credentials of immigrants.
3. the Governments of Alberta and Canada implement effective strategies to include Canada's Aboriginal Peoples in Alberta's labour market such that they are provided with enhanced opportunities for employment.
4. The Government of Canada increases the total amount of funding to agencies providing settlement services, and adjusts the funding formula to account for the large number of secondary migrants moving to Alberta.
5. the Government of Alberta, in collaboration with Alberta municipalities, develop and implement a comprehensive immigrant attraction and retention strategy that addresses the wide range of challenges facing immigrants, including housing, language training, health and social services and educational opportunities.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED as amended

Category C.ii. Issue-Based Resolutions – Roles, Responsibilities and Resources

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.1: Compensation to Rural Health Professionals

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association advocate that the Province must accept recruitment, attraction, incentives and retention of Rural health professionals in Rural Alberta into their order of government and policy and eliminate that burden from Rural Municipalities and their tax revenue so that it can be better utilized towards sustainability and local government policy and that the Province be encouraged to be creative and think out of the box to develop ways and means to reward and compensate Rural health professionals so that they desire to practice and stay in Rural Alberta.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.2: Tourism Levy Tax

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT AUMA petition the Provincial Government to provide authority to municipalities to levy and collect the accommodation tax for economic development and tourism initiatives.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.3: Drug Enforcement

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association requests the Government of Alberta increase their initiatives and the funding allocation to more appropriately address the production and distribution of illegal drugs.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.4 : Increased Financial Support for Social Infrastructure Priorities

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association requests the Government of Alberta to provide increased funding for social infrastructure priorities which may include recreation facilities, social programming, neighbourhood reinvestment, green spaces and playing fields, universal play structures and community-based family centres.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution 2006.C.ii.5: Increased Funding for Family and Community Supports Services (FCSS)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association requests the Government of Alberta to increase the level of funding provided to the Family and Community Support Services program

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.6: Child Care

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Province of Alberta to remain committed to their *Five-Point Investment Plan* for child care.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.10: Photo Radar

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipal Association petition the Government of Alberta to amend the legislation to allow municipalities with a population under 5000 to utilize photo radar and to receive fine revenue only to offset operating costs of the service.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED as amended

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.11: Alberta Foundation for Funding of the Arts

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUMA encourage the Government of Alberta to restore financial support of the Arts to a level equitable to the original funding of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts by adjusting the fund for inflation and population increases.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.12: Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Government of Alberta to continue its support of the FCSS partnership between the province and municipalities utilizing local autonomy and decision making; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the province be urged to renew and strengthen its support and commitment to FCSS.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.13: Homelessness and Affordable Housing

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta to renew and strengthen their support for a long term plan and sustainable and predictable funding for minimizing homelessness and supporting affordable housing initiatives.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.14: Municipal Fiscal Sustainability

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Government of Alberta to give priority to the work of the Minister's Council on Municipal Sustainability so that Alberta municipalities might continue to satisfy their mandate.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.15: Urban Parks Program Re-Establishment

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request the Government of Alberta to partner with municipalities to re-establish the Urban Parks Program with capital funding by the Alberta Government, and operations and maintenance costs sustained by the participating municipality; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request the Government of Alberta ensure that the capital funding formula include a base amount and a \$10 per capita allocation for equity purposes.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.16: Recycling and Extended Product Stewardship

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request that the Government of Alberta extend Alberta's product stewardship programs to include high volume municipal waste streams (i.e. packaging, cardboard, paper products) and that any funding derived from such programs be redirected to municipalities to sustain and expand local recycling programs.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.17: Inclusionary Zoning for Affordable Housing

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request the Government of Alberta amend the *Municipal Government Act* to enable municipalities to impose inclusionary zoning on selected developments through their local land use bylaws.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.ii.18: Provincial Targeted Investment Grant

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT AUMA request the Government of Alberta ensure general unconditional municipal assistance grants are delivered to municipalities as a fair and equitable means of distributing Alberta's wealth to every municipality to enhance the delivery of municipal services.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

Extraordinary Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2006.EXT.01: Purchase of Crown Land

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request the Government of Alberta to work with the municipalities to develop an expedient and fair process to transfer/sell crown land to the municipalities who require this land for the development of residential, commercial and industrial land; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT land for affordable housing initiatives be transferred at no cost to municipalities.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED as amended

RESOLUTION 2006.EXT.02: Provincial Freeze on Development

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Alberta be urged to expedite all current urban annexation applications to ensure those municipalities can meet their long term planning needs; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Alberta be urged to adopt the position that if urban municipalities cannot accommodate growth demands within their boundaries, that those boundaries must be immediately expanded to accommodate the demand for urban-style development.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED as amended

Category C.iii. Issue-Based Resolutions - Goals and Objectives

RESOLUTION 2006.C.iii.1: Special Constables and Side-Arms

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request the Government of Alberta to change the legislation to allow each municipality, those who wish to, the choice of applying for permits and authority for their municipal Special Constables to carry side-arms as part of their personal protection gear, upon receiving appropriate formal firearms training.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED as amended

RESOLUTION 2006.C.iii.2: Prohibit Smoking in Public Places

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Government of Alberta to amend the *Smoke Free Places Act* to prohibit smoking in all indoor public places within the Province of Alberta.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED as amended

Category C.iv. Issue-Based Resolutions - Delivery Tools and Implementation

RESOLUTION 2006.C.iv.2: Affordable Housing Funding

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Government of Alberta to work with municipalities and the federal government to continue to implement an ongoing federal/provincial funding program for affordable housing;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association forward this request as an AUMA-sponsored resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED as amended

RESOLUTION 2006.C.iv.3: Punishment for Drug Production and Dealing Convictions

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request that the Government of Canada significantly increase the penalties for those convicted of the production and/or distribution of illegal drugs

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.iv.4: Introduction of an Urban Affordable Supportive Living Program

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, urge the Government of Alberta, through the Alberta Minister for Seniors and Community Supports, to introduce an Urban Affordable Supportive Living Program.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED as amended

RESOLUTION 2006.C.iv.5: Tools that would Allow the Chief of Police to Foster Ethics and Professionalism

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association requests the Government of Alberta to amend the Alberta *Police Act* and *Police Service Regulation* to include a broader set of disciplinary tools available to Chiefs of Police in order to allow more effective and timely discipline.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.iv.6: Inequity in Police Contracts

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AUMA encourage the Provincial Government to implement a single policing model for all municipalities.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED as amended

RESOLUTION 2006.C.iv.7: Municipal Risk Management Processes in Alberta

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- the AUMA request that the Minister of Municipal Affairs initiate changes to the *Municipal Government Act* to reduce the possible exposure of municipalities for actions taken when responding to emergencies or providing services inside and outside the municipality, including limiting the exposure to those situations in which the municipality can be shown to be grossly negligent; and
- the AUMA request the Minister to provide a Provincial risk management process including the establishment of a large loss insurance fund for use by those insured against small and medium losses and to provide a process to encourage municipalities to insure against small and medium losses with access to the large loss fund only if they do so.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.iv.8: Federal Income Tax on Rental Housing

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request the Government of Canada to implement changes to the federal income tax system for rental investment that encourage the development of affordable rental housing units;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association forward this request as an AUMA-sponsored resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

Category C.v. Issue-Based Resolutions – Results and Reactions

RESOLUTION 2006.C.v.1: Environmental Building Standard for New Residential Housing

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Alberta Government to amend applicable building codes to the equivalency of Built Green Alberta standards for new homebuilders, to ensure the future reduction of energy, water, waste, greenhouses gases, and the health and wellness of new home occupants are met.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2006.C.v.3: Alberta Building Code Changes

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association request the Government of Alberta to address the following concerns in the upcoming revision to the Alberta Building Code:

- spatial separation (distance apart) between buildings as it relates to construction materials and building design;
- determination of height limitations and fire safety system requirements for combustible multi-family buildings based on occupied levels and physical height; and
- safety concerns related to engineered wood floor systems when exposed to fire.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT there be interim code changes (Standata) issued on or before December 30, 2006 in support of the issues raised.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED as amended

RESOLUTION 2006.C.v.4: Support for Trail Systems

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association encourage the Government of Alberta to recognize trails as an important part of the local and provincial transportation infrastructure and develop, in conjunction with municipalities, a policy framework that will facilitate and encourage the development of trail networks in a local, regional and provincial context; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association encourage the Government of Alberta to provide the financial tools and resources to municipalities to enable the development and continued operation of local and regional trails.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED as amended

RESOLUTION 2006.C.v.5: Urban/Rural Cost-sharing

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the provincial government to take a lead role in developing a strategy-to implement the recommendations in the Policy Paper *Cost-sharing for Success: A Pro-active Approach* developed by the AAMDC/AUMA Rural/Urban Cost-sharing Task Force.

2006 Convention: Resolution ADOPTED