



2007 AUMA Policy Statement on Municipal and Social Infrastructure

Introduction

Alberta's municipalities are challenged by the need to upgrade current or build new municipal infrastructure, and to deal with increasing difficult issues regarding social infrastructure without the revenue streams that are available to other orders of government. While new federal and provincial investments in municipal and social infrastructure are welcome, they have not yet reached an amount which will compensate for years of government cutbacks which have been detrimental to municipal governments. **Sustained, predictable and adequate funding of municipal and social infrastructure is needed to keep Alberta communities competitive, and maintain quality of life.**

Grant programs and one-time funding for infrastructure are effective only as a stop-gap measure. Municipal governments request that grants be replaced with long-term, predictable, sustainable funding.

The AUMA Policy Statement on Municipal and Social Infrastructure is AUMA's position on these infrastructure issues, and reflects Member resolutions adopted at the 2006 AUMA Annual Convention.

Statement of Principles

AUMA Guiding Principles:

Principle 1.	Municipal Governments must have the fiscal capacity to fulfill their mandate through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• primary access to the property tax base; and• sustainable, predictable, long-term sources of revenue
Principle 2.	The federal and provincial governments have sole responsibility for direct income redistribution programs and services.
Principle 3.	The primary focus of urban government is to provide locally oriented services to property and people.
Principle 4.	Each local urban council will maintain responsibility for the establishment of local standards of services to property and people
Principle 5.	Any new standards or requirements imposed by the provincial or

	federal orders of government must be fully funded by that order of government.
Principle 6.	Amendments and changes to legislation and regulations relating to municipal governments shall only proceed when AUMA has actively participated and agreed, through meaningful input in a review process.
Principle 7.	Responsible stewardship of our ecological systems is essential to the economic viability, quality of life, and sustainability of our community.
Principle 8.	Quality infrastructure is critical to supporting healthy, financially sustainable communities, and strengthens the quality of life for all Albertans, and is the foundation for the Alberta Advantage.

AUMA's policy development is guided by these eight general principles.

MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The last two general AUMA principles above are especially important to any discussion of municipal infrastructure, and the following specific principles support them.

Municipal Infrastructure Principles:

1. ***Quality municipal infrastructure that allows for efficient and effective delivery of services is the responsibility of all orders of government and all users/beneficiaries of municipal infrastructure***

AUMA supports municipal autonomy in infrastructure planning/visioning, identifying priorities and selecting delivery models that are consistent with the vision and priorities. The provincial and federal governments must be responsive to municipal needs by understanding the current state of infrastructure and what is needed to replace and maintain infrastructure such that our citizens continue to enjoy a high quality of life. The Government of Alberta must communicate to affected municipalities, in writing, its upcoming road infrastructure plans to maximize efficiencies and provide coordination. Users of municipal infrastructure are responsible for using municipal infrastructure and services in a sustainable manner and respecting municipal infrastructure investments such that they retain or gain value over time. Funding should be provided to encourage greater community use of community facilities over extended hours to maximize usage.

2. ***Long-term funding commitments are necessary***

Municipal governments are run in an extremely cost-efficient manner. Long-term infrastructure funding commitments are essential to long-term municipal planning for sustainable and cost-effective infrastructure. Long-term

commitments to municipal infrastructure funding give governments greater flexibility in planning, thereby minimizing adverse environmental impacts and maximizing service delivery to citizens. The Government of Alberta should annually allocate surplus funds to fund future infrastructure projects, and it should address accumulating provincial highway debt.

3. ***Municipal representatives must be “at the table”***

Decisions on infrastructure program design and implementation cannot be made without municipal participation. AUMA appreciates the Government of Alberta’s recognition that municipal representation on infrastructure program decision-making bodies is essential. Co-operation and strong partnerships among all stakeholders of infrastructure enhances empowerment, promotes accountability and results in innovative, cost-effective and sustainable infrastructure projects. Government Boards must be balanced with representation by service providers, municipalities and users.

4. ***Infrastructure funding must be flexible and fair***

AUMA supports programs that give all member municipal governments access to funds. Small communities can be at a disadvantage when it comes to preparing project proposals. Providing all communities with a base allocation of infrastructure funds empowers Alberta’s communities to identify their most pressing needs, and allows many to meet those needs by initiating infrastructure projects and taking a long-term approach to planning future infrastructure expenditures.

Traditional infrastructure programs are tri-partite, involving financial contributions by the three orders of government. In most cases, overall municipal financial capacity to deal with these fixed capital assets for public use or benefit is low, and thus the elimination of the municipal portion is advocated.

Strategies:

AUMA will:

1. recognize the Government of Alberta for including municipal representatives on infrastructure program management committees, and request a decision-making role for municipal representatives on all federal and provincial committees dealing with policies and programs of importance to municipal governments;
2. encourage the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to set aside a base portion of infrastructure funds for each municipality, ensuring all Alberta communities access to some infrastructure funding;

3. work with the Government of Alberta and Bell/Axia to develop a reduced, aggregated Supernet rate for monthly access fees and promote the resulting aggregated rates to municipalities in order to obtain the critical mass needed as determined by negotiations [**cf.RESN2006.B1**]
4. support non-competitive processes for infrastructure funding applications, and urge the Government of Alberta to develop funding programs accessible by volunteer non-profits to continue their work to enhance infrastructure (e.g. trail development);
5. request that funds for infrastructure from other orders of government include funding for technical assistance to communities who require assistance in identifying infrastructure options and writing proposals;
6. request that additional funds for infrastructure from other orders of government provide financial incentives for regional/inter-municipal co-operation on infrastructure projects;
7. urge the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada to respect local priorities and ensure that the portion of infrastructure funds dedicated to green infrastructure not restrict local needs and priorities;
8. promote the use of green technologies in municipal infrastructure by continuing to design and implement environmental initiatives;
9. urge the Government of Alberta to ensure that other entities with infrastructure in communities be responsible for their maintenance and repair;
10. encourage the Government of Alberta to recognize trails as an important part of the local and provincial transportation infrastructure, to provide the financial tools and resources to enable the development and continuation of trails and to develop, together with municipalities, a policy framework which will facilitate and encourage the development of trail networks in a local, regional and provincial context; [**cf.RESN2006.C.v.4**]
11. request the Government of Alberta to partner with municipalities to re-establish the Urban Parks Program, with capital funding by the Province and operating costs by the municipalities and to ensure that the capital funding formula includes a base amount and a \$10 per capita allocation for equity purposes. [**cf.RESN2006.C.ii.15**]

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

(the fundamental facilities, organizations, services and opportunities that are essential to a well functioning person, family and community);

The following specific principles regarding social infrastructure support the following AUMA Guiding Principle:

Principle 8.

Quality infrastructure is critical to supporting healthy, financially sustainable communities, and strengthens the quality of life for all Albertans, and is the foundation for the Alberta Advantage.

Social Infrastructure Principles:**1. Federal and Provincial governments have primary responsibility to fund and support social infrastructure.**

The FEDERAL government is responsible for setting national standards that are flexible enough to fit the different needs of communities and for providing financial and income support.

As part of this responsibility as it relates to safety, it should provide increased funding for federal policing services to municipalities.

The PROVINCIAL government must ensure that adequate federal and provincial resources are available to help effectively meet the demands for social infrastructure and must assist municipalities in identifying needs. The Provincial government is also responsible for ensuring funding equity between groups and municipalities.

As part of this overall responsibility, the Provincial government should provide increased, adequate benefit levels, annually adjusted for inflation, in the areas of Alberta Works, AISH and minimum wage. The Provincial government should also provide increased, adequate funding for Seniors Housing and Libraries.

2. Municipal Governments have a role in social infrastructure.

MUNICIPAL governments facilitate collaboration between local stakeholder groups, and identify needs in communities and potential solutions.

3. Consultation and cooperation is essential in meeting social infrastructure needs.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL - between federal, provincial and municipal governments

INTRAGOVERNMENTAL - between and within federal, provincial and municipal government departments

INTERSECTORAL – between government, non-government groups, other stakeholders and citizens

4. Municipalities, in the context of available resources and Council approval, may choose to deliver social infrastructure components.

The Alberta Municipal Government Act is explicit in saying that the power of the municipality is “to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable” to “maintain safe and viable communities”. To help municipalities in this role, the Government of Alberta can assist by providing increased incentives and funding to support apprenticeship and municipal internship programs, incentives for youth to stay in or return to rural/small municipalities and start a business, trade or profession, and by allowing municipalities to recognize non-permanent residents as part of the population for any per capita grant allocations.

5. Medical care and adequate police, fire and ambulance services are important components of the goal of social infrastructure to create and maintain safe and viable communities.

The Provincial government must ensure that its funding formula for health care purposes ensures equal access to all municipalities, and that it has in place appropriate medical emergency plans, linked to the Health Canada national plans where required (e.g. pandemics). As well, it should provide funding for increased physician student positions, and fully fund all aspects of healthcare in Alberta. Additionally, the Province must accept that the recruitment, attraction, retention and incentives for rural health professionals are a Provincial responsibility, and the Province needs to think innovatively to develop ways and means to reward and compensate rural health professionals to increase attraction and retention. **[cf.RESN2006.C.ii.1]**

Further, the Provincial government must provide additional and ongoing funding and training for police, special constables and related technical staff, together with funding for local emergency and disaster response. In addition, the Province should consider implementing a single policing model for all municipalities **[cf.RESN2006.C.iv.6]** Also, the Provincial Government must increase safety in communities on various fronts, by assisting in drug prevention program funding, increasing initiatives and funding to more appropriately address the production and distribution of illegal drugs, **[cf.RESN2006.C.ii.4]**, expanding its Emergency Public Warning System, by creating standard levels of service for emergency services, by holding parents legislatively accountable for their children and by adequately funding safe community initiatives.

Strategies:

AUMA will:

1. urge the Government of Alberta to provide incentives for workers to relocate to Alberta, to improve skills training programs for work in demand and encourage professional associations to properly credit credentials from elsewhere;
2. request that the Government of Canada ensure its immigration policies are not barriers to incoming workers and that it join with urging the Province in encouraging professional associations to adequately review foreign credentials;
3. seek to have both the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta implement effective strategies to include Canada's Aboriginal Peoples in Alberta's labour market and enhance their opportunities;
4. ask the Government of Canada to increase the total amount of funding to agencies providing settlement services, and to adjust the funding formula to account for the secondary migrants moving to Alberta;
5. urge the Government of Alberta to collaborate with Alberta municipalities to develop and implement a comprehensive immigrant attraction and retention strategy; **[1-5 above, cf.RESN2006.C.i.1]**
6. request the Government of Alberta provide increased funding for social infrastructure priorities, including recreation facilities, social programming, neighbourhood reinvestment, green spaces and playing fields, universal play structures and community-based family centres; **[cf.RESN2006.C.ii.4]**

7. urge the Government of Alberta to renew and strengthen its support and commitment to FCSS and increase the funding provided to the FCSS program **[cf.RESN2006.C.ii.5]** and to remain committed to the Province's *Five Point Investment Plan* for child care **[cf.RESN2006.C.ii.6]** and to continue its support of the FCSS partnership between the Province and municipalities utilizing local autonomy and decision-making; **[cf.RESN2006.C.ii.12]**
8. 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; **[cf.RESN2006.C.ii.11]**
9. urge the other orders of government to renew and strengthen their support for a long-term plan, and to provide sustainable and predictable funding for minimizing homelessness and supporting affordable housing initiatives **[cf.RESN2006.C.ii.13]** and to work with municipalities to continue to implement an ongoing Federal/Provincial funding program for affordable housing, **[cf.RESN2006.C.iv.2]** and also urge the Province to introduce an Urban Affordable Supportive Living Program **[cf.RESN2006.C.iv.4]**
10. request that the Government of Canada implement change to the federal income tax system for rental investment that encourage the development of affordable rental housing units. **[cf.RESN2006.C.iv.8]**
11. lobby the Government of Alberta on behalf of municipalities for adequate and equitable funding of libraries.
12. urge the government of Alberta that any new standards or requirements imposed by the province must be fully funded by that order of government.

APPENDIX 1



**2006
Convention Policy and Resolutions
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

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

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

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.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.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.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.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.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.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.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

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