



NEWS RELEASE

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New survey shows few Albertans support creation of Alberta Police Service

EDMONTON – The results of a public opinion survey conducted by Calgary pollster Janet Brown for Alberta Municipalities in late January 2023 confirm what our association has been saying for almost a year: most Albertans see no reason to replace the RCMP with a new provincial police service.

A resounding 85 per cent of respondents said that if the Government of Alberta insisted on going ahead with the creation of an APS, the matter needed to be put to a provincial vote.

Sixty-six per cent of those surveyed thought the provincial government should spend its time, effort and resources on community service supports for Albertans who are marginalized and struggling with homelessness, addictions and mental health issues.

There was also broad support for increasing spending to improve current policing efforts in communities across Alberta and improve the provincial justice system.

“The results of this survey paint a very clear picture,” said President Cathy Heron. “Albertans are simply not interested in a discussion or review of community policing in Alberta that is based on political aims or recommendations from the 2020 Fair Deal Panel Report. Municipalities are interested in discussing the delivery of community policing with the primary goal of enhancing public safety.”

Alberta Municipalities has been calling for a province-wide Public Safety Task Force led by the Government of Alberta since September 1, 2022. Such a task force is urgently needed to explore and address the root causes of crime, as well as weaknesses in Alberta’s current justice system. Our member communities believe a province-wide task force is urgently needed, and they want to see it happen now.

We strongly encourage all the provincial political parties to include public safety and policing in their election platforms. Albertans deserve to know where the political parties and their candidates stand on these important issues as they prepare to vote in the 2023 Provincial Election.

The full survey report can be viewed [here](#) in the **Media** section of ABmunis' website.

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From the smallest village to the largest city, across every region of the province, Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) represents the communities where over 85% of Albertans live. Previously known as the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), ABmunis was founded in 1905 to provide urban and rural-region communities a united voice. Alberta Municipalities now serves and represents 275 of Alberta's 334 municipalities.

We work with elected and administrative leaders of Alberta's summer villages, villages, town, cities, and specialized municipalities to advocate for solutions to their common issues, which we categorize as economic, environment, governance, infrastructure, or social.

And we help them build resilient and thriving communities by providing valuable services. We use our members' combined purchasing power to negotiate the best possible value and competitive pricing on employee benefits, insurance, energy, and other services needed to run an effective and efficient municipality.