

## **AAMDC Spring 2012 Order Paper**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Appointment of Parliamentarian
- 3) Acceptance of Order Paper
- 4) Resolution Session

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| <b>1-12S</b>  | <b>Placement of Additional Radios in Ambulance Units</b>                          |
| <b>2-12S</b>  | <b>Municipal Autonomy and Constitutional Recognition</b>                          |
| <b>3-12S</b>  | <b>Continuation of Well Drilling Equipment Tax Regulation</b>                     |
| <b>4-12S</b>  | <b>Senior's Foundation Requisitions</b>   |
| <b>5-12S</b>  | <b>Banking of Water License Capacity</b>  |
| <b>6-12S</b>  | <b>Rural Physician Recruitment and Retention</b>                                  |
| <b>7-12S</b>  | <b>Public Notification Requirements for Oil and Gas Development</b>               |
| <b>8-12S</b>  | <b>Flood Prone Properties</b>   |
| <b>9-12S</b>  | <b>Reactivation of the Provincial Regional Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory</b> |
| <b>17-11F</b> | <b>FCSS Program</b>   |

- 5) Acceptance of Emergent Resolutions (if needed)
- 6) Vote on Emergent Resolutions (if needed)
- 7) Closing of Resolution Session

## **Placement of Additional Radios in Ambulance Units**

MD of Willow Creek

Simple Majority Required

*Endorsed by the Foothills-Little Bow District*

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WHEREAS the delivery of emergency services is related as it applies to fire response, accident response and ambulance response; and

WHEREAS many municipalities provide medical co-response due to the unavailability of ambulances; and

WHEREAS the decision of the province to separate the dispatch and communications systems for ambulance service provided by Alberta Health Services has created communication barriers between fire and ambulance; and

WHEREAS an emergency that affects many properties and/or many people such as multi-peril accidents, wild fire and tornadoes create huge traffic through dispatch in order to have communication between fire, municipal services and ambulance;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request that the Province of Alberta address immediately, the lack of direct communication between fire, municipal services and ambulance to prevent lags in emergency response time during significant emergency events, by allowing the placement of additional radios in ambulance units.**

### **Member Background**

Recently the MD of Willow Creek experienced two significant wild fires, on the same day, at the same time 50 miles apart. Given the severity of the two fires, the threat to human life and property and the need to coordinate and communicate across all municipal and emergency services agencies, and given the amount of radio chatter through central dispatch, communications broke down between fire and ambulance resulting in the inability of fire to speak directly to ambulance when their services were needed.

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 2-11F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties (AAMDC) request the Province of Alberta to halt the transition of Ambulance Dispatch Centres and that the Standing Issues Committee undertake a joint review with Alberta Urban Municipalities Association to ensure that first responders, ambulance and fire remain as or be returned to one unified, efficient, dispatch to enhance communications while responding to emergencies in Alberta.

Resolution 21-11F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta pass legislation compelling cellular telephone service providers operating in Alberta to collect a monthly cellular 911 call answer fee from its subscribers and remit those revenues to the municipalities operating 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS).

## **Municipal Autonomy and Constitutional Recognition**

Clearwater County

Three-fifths (3/5) Majority Required  
*Endorsed by the Central District*

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WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act (MGA) grants limited natural person powers; and

WHEREAS the MGA does not provide municipalities recognition as a government; and

WHEREAS municipalities have no recognition within the constitution; and

WHEREAS municipalities are at the mercy of the province, through continued provincial and federal downloading with no requirement for notification or consultation; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Government Act is to be reviewed beginning in 2012;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the provincial government to include in its amendment of the Municipal Government Act that a municipality be recognized as an order of government and entitled to the same provisions and exemptions as the provincial government.**

### **Member Background**

Current provincial practices with municipalities are detrimental to municipal long term sustainability. Clearwater County would like to respectfully submit the following examples where the province has chosen to treat municipalities the same as any other "private organization".

#### Example 1:

Clearwater County is obligated to construct a new sewage lagoon for its citizens. Clearwater County found an appropriate location on crown property and applied for a license of occupation (LOC). The provincial government sent Clearwater County an invoice for \$45,940.00 (timber damage we're told). Weyerhaeuser (the FMA holder) sent another invoice for \$129,144.74 (timber loss, we're told). After consulting with Sustainable Resources, Clearwater County was told that if this was Alberta Transportation applying, they would be exempt – "there is no point in charging another level of government, government fees". Clearwater County was charged the same amount as any private company would have been, while Alberta Transportation would have been exempt. If Clearwater County is successful in its application for funding, the province may well be paying us back the fees regardless; this system seems redundant.

#### Example 2:

Alberta Transportation moved its gravel crusher into a gravel pit in Clearwater County that has sat dormant for a number of years. This pit is located adjacent to many acreages and a multi-lot subdivision. The citizens in the area phoned Clearwater County to find out what was going on. We had no clue, the public wanted to know why their county was so out of touch. When Clearwater County informed the public that not only are municipalities unable to place any restrictions on the hours of operating the crusher, but the province isn't even required to let us know of activities or projects being planned in our own backyard; they were astonished and some didn't even believe it as they stated it was to absurd to be true. The province's crusher worked 24 hours per day, 7 days a week for months. The public was irate and the county fielded the many calls.

### Example 3:

Clearwater County is actively seeking gravel deposits within our county in strategic areas to accommodate the long term maintenance of our gravel road inventory as economically as possible. Clearwater County discovered a gravel source located within an acceptable distance to the existing municipal gravel road system and applied to SRD for approval to open an aggregate pit (apply for an SML – surface materials lease). SRD denied the application as it was 320 acres and it is now their policy not to approval more than 80 acres for any private organization. This policy was put in place to alleviate the potential for hoarding. If Alberta Transportation applied, they would not be held to the same 80 acre restriction because they are a government and they have a need for long term planning and sustainability, municipalities are considered private and do not carry the same consideration at this time. The need for access to long term gravel supplies is as equally important to Clearwater County as to the Province but this need is somehow not recognized.

To summarize, frequently at AUMA and AAMDC conventions urban and rural municipalities are told how valuable we are in providing the levels of service needed by Albertans. Clearwater County respectfully submits that the rewrite of the MGA should reflect a true partnership between the province and its municipal partners, recognizing them as a level of government with all associated rights and responsibilities. The recognition that we propose is not one requiring constitutional change and may be achieved through change within provincial legislation or regulation - such as a “municipal charter”.

### **AAMDC Background**

With regard to the gravel examples provided in the member background, AAMDC Resolution 15-10F requests: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC encourage the Province of Alberta to develop a province wide strategy for the management of aggregate resources through the Provincial Land Use Framework; and that municipalities where the resource is located be given first priority when the Province of Alberta reviews applications for a Surface Material Exploration (SME) or Surface Material Lease (SML) on Crown Land.

With regard to municipal autonomy in a regionalization context, the AAMDC recently released the paper *Finding Local Solutions: Examining the Impacts of Forced Regionalization*.

## **Continuation of Well Drilling Equipment Tax Regulation**

Saddle Hills County

Three-fifths (3/5) Majority Required  
*Endorsed by the Northern District*

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WHEREAS legislation has been in place since 1948, authorizing municipalities to implement an oil well drilling equipment tax bylaw; and

WHEREAS those rural municipalities in Alberta that have implemented an oil well drilling equipment tax bylaw have received funding from this source to assist with the costs of maintaining roads in a safe driving condition for all traveling public and repairing municipal roads used by oil well drilling equipment; and

WHEREAS rural municipalities require this source of funding to enable them to continue to improve road infrastructure used by the well drilling industry; and

WHEREAS municipalities are using the well drilling equipment tax revenue in a prudent manner to make infrastructure improvements to road networks used by the well drilling industry and desire to continue to receive revenue through the said source; and

WHEREAS it has been suggested that TRAVIS is an alternate source of revenue that is able to replace the Well Drilling Equipment Tax Regulation, however, TRAVIS is a means of providing one-stop shopping for transportation permits and is not connected to the well drilling equipment tax in any way;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) request the Province of Alberta to retain the current Oil Well Drilling Tax Rate Regulation;**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC request the province review this legislation on an annual basis to ensure that the rates are adequate and the vertical and horizontal footage be included to meet the needs of rural municipal costs to repair and maintain roads used by oil well drilling equipment.**

### **Member Background**

The Well Drilling Equipment Tax Rate Regulation (WDET) has been in place since 1948. The WDET was introduced to provide municipalities with revenue to offset the cost of maintaining or repairing roadways used by oil and gas well drilling equipment. The heavy equipment that is required to drill and set up oil and gas wells can do varying degrees of damage to roads, depending on weather, size of equipment and time of year. The WDET is a one time tax charged to the leaseholder of the well in the year in which it is drilled, whether or not the well goes into production. Calculation of the tax is based on the length of the well casing and the rates set out in the regulation.

The last rate change to the WDET was in 2008, when an approximate 200 percent increase was phased in over a three year period (2008-2010). The previous rates had been set in 1977. Approximately 40 municipalities reported amounts in the Well Drilling equipment Tax portion of their financial returns from 2003 to 2010. There may be more municipalities that levy the WDET but do not report the revenue in that area of their financial returns. In 1998 the MLA Industrial Property Assessment Review Committee recommended in its final report that the WDET should be replaced by an alternate method to reimburse municipalities for the damage to roads as a result of overweight traffic.

It is now being suggested that Transportation Routing and Vehicle Information Services (TRAVIS) may be a replacement for WDET, however, as stated in the AR48619 APPROVAL REQUESTED FROM MINISTER ON TRAVIS MULTI-JURISDICTION LETTER AND COMMUNIQUE: "TRAVIS MJ is a one-stop-shop oversize/overweight permitting system". The intent of this program is to make it easier for the transportation industry to obtain permits and does not in any way reflect on the municipalities need for funds to repair and upgrade local infrastructure for use by industry. Nor does the TRAVIS system address the use of local infrastructure by loads which are of legal weight but which, due to their intense use of infrastructure over a short time period, place excessive wear and tear on local roads and bridges.

WDET allows municipalities to apply funding to not only maintain but also to improve local infrastructure in areas where improvements are needed to accommodate industry using the local road network. Road use agreements with industry typically address surface repairs of roads, grading the ruts, applying gravel to the surface, however, over the longer term the subsurface of the roadway deteriorates due to heavy use and requires more in-depth repairs. Funds from WDET do not pay entirely for these repairs, however, they do assist with the financial burden.

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 7-11F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Alberta Government expand the Well Drilling Equipment Tax provision in the Municipal Government Act to include high intensity, major reworking of existing well sites. The AAMDC recently surveyed members regarding their input for the upcoming review of the WDET Regulation.

## **Senior's Foundation Requisitions**

Lacombe County

Simple Majority Required  
*Endorsed by the Central District*

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WHEREAS the Alberta Housing Act allows that a management body that provides lodge accommodation may requisition those municipalities for which the management body provides lodge accommodation for; and

WHEREAS the requisition may be used to fund both operational and capital costs; and

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta regulates the amount of rent that a management body may charge to residents of a lodge; and

WHEREAS the funding levels from Province of Alberta for lodge facilities has not kept up with inflation and service demands; and

WHEREAS the needs of the lodge residents have forced lodge management bodies to expand their scope and levels of service;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties undertake a study of lodge management bodies to determine:**

- **the extent that municipalities are being requisitioned**
- **the extent to which requisitions are used for operational and capital purposes**
- **the rate of increase in requisitions over the past 10 years**
- **the level of funding provided by the Province of Alberta for operational and capital purposes over the past 10 years**
- **the number of management bodies that requisition on an equalized assessment basis as opposed to other formulas**
- **representation on lodge management bodies**
- **mandated and actual services offered by lodge management bodies**

**and to provide recommendations on alternatives for funding, representation and the mandate of lodge management bodies.**

### **Member Background**

Lacombe County and partner municipalities that are requisitioned by the Lacombe Foundation have experienced a significant increase in the requisition over the past few years. Until recently the Lacombe Foundation has only used the requisition powers to fund capital projects, usually with the full support of the member municipalities, however, in recent years the Lacombe Foundation has been forced to requisition for both operational and capital costs.

The reason for the large increase in the requisitions is that:

1. Municipalities are now funding operational deficits
2. Provincial regulations limit the amount that can be charged for rent
3. Provincial funding has not kept up with inflation
4. Residents require more care than originally contemplated in a lodge setting

This situation is not unique to the Lacombe Foundation as many municipalities throughout Alberta have experienced similar increases in the past. While we appreciate that the Province of Alberta has made some progress in expanding the number of assisted living and extended care facilities this has done little to ease the pressures on senior lodges.

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 2-10S: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Government of Alberta amend the Alberta Capital Finance Authority Act to add Seniors' Housing Authorities as shareholders of the Alberta Capital Finance Authority.

Resolution 4-10F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC urge the Province of Alberta and Alberta Seniors and Community Supports to review the formulas that determine rents for our senior's lodges, with an emphasis on a complete financial assessment of the lodge residents to determine their ability to pay. The AAMDC has also conducted a recent survey to better understand member concerns with housing authorities.

**Banking of Water License Capacity**

Cypress County

Three-fifths (3/5) Majority Required  
*Endorsed by the Foothills-Little Bow District*

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WHEREAS Alberta Environment has a current policy not to allow municipalities to bank water license capacity, and;

WHEREAS water is vital to future economic development, and;

WHEREAS there may not be a suitable license for sale when economic development potential arises, or, it may not be possible to acquire a license within the economic development potential time window, and;

WHEREAS economic development is vital to the growth of the Alberta economy as well as for the municipality;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC advocates to the Government of Alberta that municipalities be allowed to acquire and bank unallocated water license capacity.**

**Member Background**

This is essentially the same resolution approved by the Foothills Little Bow fall meeting, but was lost at the AAMDC Convention by less than 1% point. (Required 60%, got 59%). It has been amended to take out the phrase requesting banking of 50% of current usage. One of the frustrations of having the resolution not pass, was that there was absolutely no discussion, so the County does not know why 40% of the delegates voted against it. This revision takes out one variable that may have been a concern, but we are just guessing.

Cypress County went through the process of acquiring additional water license capacity. During this four-year process, the County had to specifically show need for every acre foot of the license being acquired. Economic development often requires water, and requests for suitable land can be made without long lead periods. When such a request comes, what if there are no licenses for sale at that time? Businesses cannot wait for the municipality to acquire license capacity, therefore, being able to bank water license capacity without specific allocation is necessary to ensure future supply if required.

**AAMDC Background**

Resolution 4-10S: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the provincial government to amend existing statutes and regulations to easier enable these communities to be connected to regional water treatment plants located outside of the river basin where the community is located.

## Rural Physician Recruitment and Retention

Vulcan County

Simple Majority Required

*Endorsed by the Foothills-Little Bow District*

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WHEREAS the delivery of medical services in Alberta by legislation is the responsibility of the Province of Alberta; and

WHEREAS there is a shortage of physicians in the Province of Alberta, and this shortage of physicians has more acutely manifested in rural Alberta; and

WHEREAS the provincial effort to address the shortage of physicians has not produced satisfactory results; and some policies have actually resulted in making rural physician recruitment more difficult; and

WHEREAS the lack of success by the province in addressing the physician shortage has compelled rural municipalities in Alberta to form and fund their own rural physician recruitment and retention programs; and

WHEREAS the municipally formed physician recruitment and retention programs have resulted in communities competing against each other, which does not serve to motivate the province to meet its responsibility to effectively address the physician shortage issue in Alberta;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC actively and continually hold accountable and encourage the Government of Alberta to fully attend to its federally and provincially legislated responsibilities of providing sufficient funding, staffing and programming so that there are enough physicians and other medical support staff in place to deliver universal and accessible health care in all of Alberta.**

### Member Background

The *Canada Health Act* contains a number of statements that relate to this issue:

- (i) In the preamble: *“that continued access to quality health care without financial or other barriers will be critical to maintaining and improving the health and well-being of Canadians;”* (emphasis added);
- (ii) Section 3: *“Primary Objective of Health Care Policy: It is hereby declared that the primary objective of Canadian health care policy is to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of residents of Canada and to facilitate reasonable access to health services without financial or other barriers”* (emphasis added)
- (iii) Section 7: *“. . . the health care insurance plan of the province must, throughout the fiscal year, satisfy the criteria described in section 8 to 12 respecting the following matters: (a) public administration; (b) comprehensiveness; (c) universality; (d) portability; and (e) accessibility.”*
- (iv) Section 10: *“In order to satisfy the criterion respecting universality, the health care insurance plan of a province must entitle one hundred percent of the insured persons of the province to the health services provided for the plan on uniform terms and conditions.”* (emphasis added)
- (v) Section 12: *“(1) In order to satisfy the criterion respecting accessibility, the health care insurance plan of a province (a) must provide for insured health services on uniform terms and conditions and on a basis that does not impede or otherwise preclude either directly or indirectly whether by charges made to insured persons or otherwise, reasonable access to those services by insured persons.”* (emphasis added)

While it may be argued that the health care insurance plan is not under question here, it is also arguable that by not only allowing but encouraging municipal physician recruitment and retention plans, the province is not meeting the spirit or intent of the Canada Health Act. When an environment is created and fostered by the province where insured persons in certain areas are indirectly paying through their property taxes a fee or charge for physicians to practice and deliver health care insurance plan services in their communities and other areas are not incurring these costs, the criterion of accessibility is not being met. When certain areas of the province are in a position where the only way for them to attract/retain physicians is to agree to terms and conditions of paying extra monies that other areas of the province do not have to pay to have health care insurance plan services delivered, the criterion of universality is not being met. It is also quite arguable that having to pay extra monies through property taxes so that there are physicians in one's local community to deliver health care insurance plan services is contrary to the primary objective of the Health Care Policy that health services are delivered without financial or other barriers.

The *Alberta Health Care Protection Act* contains a number of statements that pertain to this issue:

- (i) In the preamble: "*WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is committed to the preservation of the principles of universality, comprehensiveness, accessibility, portability and public administration, as described in the Canada Health Act (Canada), as the foundation of the health system in Alberta.*"
- (ii) In the preamble: "*WHEREAS regional health authorities are accountable to the Minister . . . determining priorities in the delivery of health services and allocating resources accordingly and ensuring reasonable access to those health services.*" (emphasis added)

This piece of provincial legislation clearly recognizes the objectives of the Canada Health Act and compels the province to allocate resources to ensure reasonable access. The determination of priorities may be in place, however, provincial oversight of an environment where municipalities have no choice but to subsidize physicians in order to receive provincial health care insurance plan services does not meet the provincial obligation of "allocating resources accordingly" in order to deliver on the priorities.

The yet to be proclaimed *Alberta Health Act*, a new piece of draft legislation that the provincial government intends to enact also contains a number of statements that pertain to this issue:

- (i) In the preamble: "*that Alberta is committed to the principles of the Canada Health Act (Canada)*"
- (ii) In the preamble: "*that accessibility to publicly funded health services is based on need, not on the ability to pay.*"
- (iii) In the preamble: "*that health decisions, financial stewardship and the allocation and use of resources are done in such a way that they are transparent to Albertans and ensure that Alberta's publicly funded health system is sustained for the future.*"

Recently, the province is clearly recognizing its obligations under the Canada Health Act and intends to enact new legislation stating such. Background provided earlier suggests that the current health care environment is not meeting those obligations. Health services are based on need but are not being delivered in certain areas without extra pay. Municipalities are competing with each other and are not fully disclosing all of the fiscal incentives provided to health care professionals as an attempt to mitigate 'bidding wars' between communities when it comes to physician recruitment and retention. This is neither transparent nor sustainable but municipalities are left with little choice but to operate in this manner.

The AAMDC has sent a number of resolutions to the province over the past few years pertaining to this and other like issues on health care. Unfortunately the provincial response to them has not resulted in solving this issue. Granted, a number of programs are in place and have made inroads but much more needs to be done. The program for providing locum services has provided much of the progress on those

inroads but from it there are unintended negative consequences. Under the program's current rules, a locum can provide health services in a community with a very low share of their income directed to clinic overhead costs. So low in fact, that if the locum is considering setting up their practice in that clinic, their share of overhead costs as a clinic partner, make it more attractive to continue providing health services on a transient basis and never locating in that community.

Legislative issues and obligations aside, the current environment of municipal subsidization of the provincial health care system is not sustainable and will become more unmanageable and unjustifiably more expensive the longer the situation persists. Albertans and their communities are depending on the province to provide a level playing field and not continue expecting certain communities to pay considerably more for health services than other communities.

### **AAMDC Background**

Resolution 1-10F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties work with Alberta Health and Wellness to modify its locum program to accommodate regions that have no physicians and allow these areas access to the locum doctors and allow the length of stay of these locums to be several months.

Resolution 2-10F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties encourage the Provincial Government, through Alberta Health and Wellness, to consent to pay travel expenses for out-of-province physicians willing to investigate relocating to "Communities in Need".

Resolution 18-09F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties advocate the Province to ensure the rural health care system is maintained, and that all decision-making processes and future intentions be transparent and thus sufficiently acknowledge the interests of rural municipalities and all rural Albertans.

## Public Notification Requirements for Oil and Gas Development

Rocky View County

Three-fifths (3/5) Majority Required

*Endorsed by the Central District*

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WHEREAS the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) requires energy companies to notify parties whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by the proposed energy development; and

WHEREAS energy development has the potential to have a significant impact beyond the minimum notification zones in areas of significant country residential development; and

WHEREAS the ERCB Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules (September 2011) outlines requirements and expectations for a participant involvement program (public and municipal notification); and

WHEREAS ERCB Directive 056 and Table 7.1 provide minimum distances for notification by energy companies, expanding the notification zone beyond minimum requirements is left to the discretion of an individual energy company; and

WHEREAS the energy industry is required to develop an effective participant involvement program that includes parties whose rights may be directly and adversely affected by the nature and extent of a proposed oil and gas (energy) application;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties work with the Government of Alberta to expand minimum public notification requirements for the energy industry, as outlined by the Energy Resources Conservation Board, Directive 056, when proposed energy development is located within areas of residential development.**

### Member Background

While oil and gas drilling and pipeline activity is a common occurrence within Alberta, much of the energy exploration and development activity has been focused in predominantly agricultural areas with limited residential development. Recently, energy companies have begun to explore and propose development in areas of significant country residential development. Oil and gas development within these country residential areas is of concern to these residents, particularly with respect to how energy development will affect their quality of life. Municipalities are frequently approached by residents seeking support and guidance on how to control and/or stop this activity. Issues of concern for residents include limited landowner notification, increased traffic generation, access impacts, visual impacts, health and safety, impact on property values and odors.

Oil and gas activity in Alberta is regulated solely by the provincial government through the ERCB. A company must receive approval from the ERCB prior to initiating energy activities having an impact on the public, land use, environment, conservation and equity. The company must first consult with the public about the proposed project. Within ERCB Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules (September 2011) and Table 7.1 of the Directive, the ERCB has set out minimum distances for public notification and consultation requirements which depend on the type of project proposed. In the case of a sweet oil well, the minimum distance for notification is a 0.2 kilometre radius, which often does not include the access/lease road to the proposed site. Within a densely populated country residential community, residents of the broader community, located beyond the limited 200 metre notification zone

for the proposed well, may be impacted; for example, by the location of the lease road gaining access to a municipal road near a residential property outside the 200 metre notification area.

ERCB Directive 56, Section 2.2 does contain provisions for an expanded notification area; however, it states industry is responsible to assess the area beyond the specified distance to determine if the radius should be expanded. In areas of significant country residential development, ERCB Directive 56 should provide more prescriptive direction to industry requiring an expanded radius for direct notification and an expanded participant notification program including broader community notification and consultation. Early consultation with the broader community will enable energy companies to understand and address issues of concern for residents including increased traffic generation, access impacts, visual impacts, health and safety, impact on property values and odors.

Further, although regulated by the ERCB, Directive 56 states "local authorities and Alberta Sustainable Resources (SRD) play an important part in the plan for orderly land use and should be involved at an early stage in planning an energy development and participant involvement program. Additionally, local authorities, ERCB Field Office staff and the applicant's previous knowledge of the area may help identify needs in the community." One of the fundamental areas of responsibility for municipalities', as defined by the Municipal Government Act, is to ensure the orderly, economical and beneficial development and use of land. The local municipality must be involved at an early stage in the planning process with respect to sharing community based knowledge with energy companies and understanding potential land use impacts.

Expanding notification requirements within ERCB Directive 56 for energy development proposed within areas of significant country residential density ensures appropriate consultation has occurred and potential community impacts are identified and discussed. Any outstanding concerns between the energy company and the community relating to proposed development can be addressed prior to formal submission to the ERCB, potentially resulting in an energy application being processed routinely by the ERCB and the need for a public hearing avoided.

See AAMDC expired Resolution 23-08F: Intervener Status ERCB Hearings and expired Resolution 21-07F: Timeline for Filing Objection to Well Site / Other Drilling Application or Pipeline Installation Application.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions related to this issue.

**Flood Prone Properties**

MD of Foothills

Simple Majority Required

*Endorsed by the Foothills-Little Bow District*

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WHEREAS information regarding properties that have been subject to flooding is not readily accessible; and

WHEREAS this type of information would be valuable to individuals considering a purchase of said properties; and

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has determined the location of flood prone lands in many areas of Alberta; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Province of Alberta provides financial relief to properties damaged during a flood event; and

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has records of properties which have received a payment as a result of flooding;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties encourage the Alberta Government to create a database, accessible to the general public, listing all properties that are within a flood plain as defined by the Province of Alberta and/or that have received flood relief payments.**

**Member Background**

Although there are many factors that go into making a decision on the purchase of a property, knowing whether or not a property has flooded should play an important role in the making of that decision.

When flooding occurs the taxpayer ends up footing the bill for damages or expensive flood protection projects. Diking or moving homes can cost in the millions and damages in the hundreds of millions. In many cases homeowners receive a cheque for damages. Instead of using the money to protect their property, they put everything back the way it was and then in the next flood expect to be paid again or worse they will sell the property. Once sold the new owner is surprised to learn during the next flood that the home had flooded previously.

An individual or agent doing their due diligence should be able to easily obtain information with respect to properties that are at risk. The Province of Alberta does not have flood plain information for all of Alberta but it does for many areas and that information combined with a listing of all properties that have received payments on an easily accessible website would be invaluable to a prospective purchaser.

**AAMDC Background**

Resolution 14-11F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that the Alberta Government invest in infrastructure projects for flood prevention that will prevent, or reduce the economic impact of disaster events.

## **Reactivation of the Provincial Regional Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory**

MD of Fairview

Simple Majority Required  
*Endorsed by the Northern District*

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WHEREAS the diagnostic laboratory in Fairview was the only one north of Edmonton and was quietly closed with high operating cost cited as the reasons; and

WHEREAS there was a staff of eight, four of them diagnostic professionals headed by a ranking pathologist; and

WHEREAS millions had been spent on constructing the laboratory, as well as \$1.5 million on a large animal incinerator that was never totally completed; and

WHEREAS now there is no laboratory and no large animal incinerator that is functioning, Fairview and area must dispose of their animals naturally and all animals that need pathological assessment must be submitted to Prairie Diagnostic Services in Saskatoon causing delays and extra expense in diagnostic assessments.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta, specifically Alberta Agriculture, to reactivate the Provincial Regional Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory to provide a much needed timely pathology service to farmers and vet clinics alike; and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the incinerator for large animals be repaired and reactivated in order to provide safe and orderly disposal of these usually diseased animals.**

### **Member Background**

The Provincial Regional Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory was constructed on the early 1970's and operational until 1999. It had a staff of up to eight members, headed by a pathologist and other professional staff. Animal diagnostic services were provided to both the public and to veterinarians. This helped to maintain an excellent level of animal health in the area.

Over the years the level of services was systematically downgraded and ceased totally in 1999. An important animal health surveillance tool had come to an end. There was now no pathology lab north of Edmonton. The large animal incinerator also became dormant because the original unit had fallen into disrepair, and although \$1.5 million were spent on renovations and rebuilds, it was never brought up to "restart level."

Today the lab does limited work only with elk heads in the ongoing battle with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Also, a small portable incinerator is used to support the previously mentioned initiative. Vets do not access the facility. For diagnostic assessment everything must be sent out to the lab in Saskatoon, SK. This is a time consuming and expensive procedure. We believe that it is imperative that the provincial government seriously consider the reopening of a facility that is critical to the sustained animal health of the north.

### **AAMDC Background**

The AAMDC has no active resolutions on this issue.

WHEREAS Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a partnership between the Province of Alberta, Municipalities and Metis Settlements that develop locally driven, preventative social initiatives that enhance the well being of individuals, families and communities; and

WHEREAS Family and Community Support Services is established pursuant to the Family and Community Support Services Act and the Family and Community Support Services Regulation; and

WHEREAS Alberta Legislation 218/94 Family and Community Support Services does not provide sufficient flexibility for funding to be used to respond to emerging local community social needs;

WHEREAS funding supports are limited when it comes to project initiatives that might help identify and create awareness around a community social need;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta amend Alberta Regulation 218/94 to add, section 2.1(1) paragraph (vi) to read “provide direct assistance as part of a Pilot Project established for the purposes of identifying and confirming an emerging community need which could then be addressed in the long term through other community means.”**

**Member Background:**

Unfortunately, because these service areas (money, food, clothing or shelter) are considered crisis/intervention services these costs are not eligible for FCSS funding support. Parkland County believes that there may be unmet, unconfirmed needs in these areas and feels that FCSS funding should be available to support short-term crisis intervention pilot projects for the purposes of exploring, assessing and confirming community needs. Once the projects have been carried out and needs confirmed, long-term operational funding support would need to be sought outside of the FCSS program. If the need does not exist, then community efforts can be redirected.

**AAMDC Background**

For clarity, the regulation currently reads as follows:

2.1(1) Services provided under a program must

- a) be of a preventive nature that enhances the social well-being of individuals and families through promotion
- b) or intervention strategies provided at the earliest opportunity, and
- c) do one or more of the following:
- d)
  - i. help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis;
  - ii. help people to develop an awareness of social needs;
  - iii. help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people;
  - iv. help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them;
  - v. provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community.

Resolution 9-10F: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties petition the Government of the Province of Alberta to increase provincial funding to municipalities for Family and Community Support Services to 100 million dollars annually thereby relieving the pressure on crisis intervention services.