

welcome..

2007 Board of Directors

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As the provincial election dust settles around the province, many municipalities are wondering how all the promised change will affect Alberta's communities.

As we move towards the future, municipalities must challenge council - and councils of neighboring communities - to determine the opportunities to work collaboratively to maximize funding announced prior to the election.

At this year's conference, we are pleased to offer a few sessions that highlight the value of collaboration and the success of effective planning.

The first session is **Development of a Land-use Framework for Alberta**

presented by Morris Seiferling, Assistant Deputy Minister, Sustainable Resource & Environmental Management.

The session will highlight Alberta's Land-use Framework, which is intended to be adopted as government policy for private and public land use in the future. The framework is

Other Featured Sessions...

Recruiting the Facebook Generation: Winning the Race for Talent by Tod Maffin

Tod walks audiences through the minefield of challenges involved in this new world of talent management. Learn about the future generation of workers, how to recruit them and keep them productive!

Tangible Capital Assets by Louise Frostad & Harold Johnsrude

This session will provide and update on the project to date and some information on the potential benefits and opportunities of this initiative for better asset management.

Raising Awareness of Local Government in Schools by Brenda Putz and Kristine Jonah

To help with this, the ministry has developed two new resources. Together we need to start increasing the awareness of local government both as a form of government and as a future career opportunity.

being developed through a dialogue with stakeholders, municipal governments, and Albertans. The process will allow Albertans to express their views on land use management in Alberta. The government policy framework will provide the context and guidance, based on a foundation of good environmental management to achieve provincial long-term social and economic goals.

The second session is **Establishment of Regional Water & Wastewater Infrastructure presented by** Darwin Dumie, President, Alberta Public Works Association.

Attendees will listen to the opportunities and challenges surrounding the establishment of Regional Water and Wastewater Infrastructure. This session will describe how to create simplified multi-year capital plans for small and mid-sized communities and it will highlight how to fully benefit from the regional services.

Summaries and session highlights will be posted on www.lgaa.ab.ca.

provincial and municipal scene

20 Year Capital Plan Supports Growth

Long term capital plan supports growth and prosperity for the province

Premier Ed Stelmach reinforced his commitment to address the infrastructure needs of today and the future with the release of government's 20-year strategy for capital projects.

"With forecasts indicating our economy will remain strong and our population will continue to grow, we have a responsibility to plan now for the infrastructure needs of tomorrow," said Premier Stelmach. "This plan shows us that Albertans have every reason to be hopeful about the future. It shows we can build responsibly and put ourselves ahead of the growth curve. We don't ever want to be in a position of playing catch-up again. With this plan, building tomorrow begins today."

This 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan sets clear directions for infrastructure based on demographic and economic forecasts, the need for capital maintenance and renewal, and budget considerations. It also makes a clear commitment to environmentally friendly design and building practices.

"This first-ever 20-year infrastructure plan for Alberta responds to immediate and medium-term needs, envisions what will likely be required 20 years down the road, and initiates preparedness now," said Gene Zwozdesky, Associate Minister of Capital Planning and author of the plan. "With this blueprint we are addressing Alberta's infrastructure needs and securing Alberta's future."

Alberta has made significant progress on infrastructure needs over the past few years. Since the first three-year Capital Plan of \$5.5 billion was published in Budget 2003, the Capital Plan has grown to \$20.7 billion for 2007-10. Alberta's per capita spending on infrastructure remains at more than three times the average of other provinces. However, no previous infrastructure plan has looked 20 years ahead with this range and scope.

This 20-year plan anticipates the need to invest, on average, \$6 billion (\$2007) per year to meet short and medium-term objectives. It is not intended to reflect a comprehensive list of all projects to be built, although a number are mentioned. Specific projects and costs will continue to be part of the annual budgeting process. This plan captures eight specific areas, including: municipal infrastructure; provincial highway network, other transportation and corridors; health facilities; schools; post secondary; housing and government facilities; community facilities; and water and wastewater facilities.

"This plan also initiates a new monitoring and reporting process that commits our government to report progress on this plan annually," said Zwozdesky. Alberta's 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan is an important part of Premier Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth, and creating opportunity.

Visit the capital planning site at <http://www.treasuryboard.gov.ab.ca/Planning/index.cfm>

Emergency Management Operating System (EMOS) Training

Under the Municipal Sponsorship Program, grants for disaster services training are available to municipalities with populations of 20,000 or less. This funding is intended to enhance community disaster preparedness and response by providing training to those individuals who are members of the municipal disaster services committee or agency. This may include municipal officials and departments, health and social services organizations, schools, institutions, industry and business partners, provincial governments and non-government organizations.

Upcoming Training

Dates: March 28, 2008

Objective/Purpose: The Alberta Emergency Management Agency uses EMOS to coordinate activities in our operations centre. Many government emergency management agencies as well as some municipalities have purchased E-Team making it the most commonly used platform out there. The benefits of being able to co-ordinate multi-agency response using a common web based program are immense. The Alberta Emergency Management Agency offers training in two EMOS components, E-Team and Geomatics, to ensure that our partners are able to take their desk in our operations centre and get right to work during activation without being bogged down by unfamiliar software.

To register or for more information contact Birgit Reid, Program Co-ordinator, Branch Operations and Training at 780-422-0304

provincial and municipal scene

Municipal Sustainability Initiative

The Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) is the Province of Alberta's ten year funding commitment (2007/08 - 2016/17) to assist municipalities in meeting growth-related challenges and enhancing long-term sustainability. MSI funding is provided in addition to other provincial grant programs.

Each year, municipalities will be advised of their annual MSI grant allocation following approval of the provincial budget. Amounts are formulated based on municipal populations, education property tax requisitions and kilometres of local roads and includes base funding for all municipalities and Sustainable Investment funding for municipalities with limited local tax bases.

A summary of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative Preliminary Estimates can be found at:

http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/documents/ms/MSI_Estimates_Summary.pdf

FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

In 2007, municipalities received a total of \$400 million. This amount will increase to \$500 million in 2008, \$600 million in 2009, and \$1.4 billion annually beginning in 2010.

Of the total MSI funding allocated each year, \$50 million is provided to municipalities in the form of conditional operating funding (see the Conditional Operating Program Guidelines link below). The remaining funds are to be used towards qualifying capital projects.

Municipalities will soon be advised of their confirmed 2008 MSI funding allocation amounts. The following Capital and Operating MSI funding amounts show actual MSI allocations for 2007 and preliminary ESTIMATES for 2008 to 2010. These estimates are based on municipal populations reported as of September 21, 2007 and on 2007 education tax requisitions. Subsequent year allocations will be updated annually based on relative changes in population, education tax requisition, and kilometres of local road.

Under the new guidelines, core and community capital funding components have been combined into one capital funding component. And while intermunicipal cooperation and jointly-funded projects continue to be encouraged, they are no longer MSI capital program requirements.

For more information, contact:

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Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 - 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4

Phone: (780) 427 2225
Dial 310 0000 for toll-free connection in Alberta
Fax: (780) 420 1016
E-mail: mah.msicapitalgrants@gov.ab.ca (capital funding)
mah.msiooperatinggrants@gov.ab.ca (conditional operating funding)

Government of Canada Delivers for Communities

Budget 2008 delivers good news for cities and communities. The decision to make the gas tax transfer permanent represents a critical move toward addressing the municipal fiscal imbalance and building vibrant cities and communities. The permanent gas tax fund sets a new standard for the way the Government of Canada supports cities and communities. It will provide the kind of funding support our cities and communities need: significant, sustained and predictable.

"Combined with the suite of infrastructure programs announced in last year's budget, which will deliver more than \$18 billion over the next six years, these measures clear the way for development of a national plan to eliminate the \$123-billion municipal infrastructure deficit." said Gord Steeves, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The \$500 million for public transit announced today, which will help meet critical community needs, underlines the importance of the federal government funding safe and reliable public transportation and leading a national transit strategy. FCM looks forward to working with the government to build on today's announcements and to develop long-term plans to provide our cities and communities with the infrastructure, public transit and housing they need.

Conference 2008 Sponsors

The Local Government Administration Association would like to thank this year's conference sponsors.

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The AMSC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AUMA, provides aggregated services to members including benefits, pensions, general insurance, utilities, casual legal and many other services creating stability and savings. Through these member-owned programs, we strive to grow and improve our offerings based on member needs.

AMSC's Emerald Award Winning Energy Aggregation Program was launched in 2001 and has over 190 participating members. The program enables participants to accurately plan and budget their long term energy costs through stable pricing. Renewable energy comprises a 20% threshold of all electricity purchased, with resulting emission credits provided to each member based on consumption.

One of the core services for member employees is a comprehensive Benefits & Pensions Program, with a large self-insurance component, which offers a variety of protection including Life, Disability, Prescription, Dental, Health Care coverage and others. This is unparalleled in the benefits industry where the trend is increased rates of 10-25% each year.

The General Insurance Program provides coverage for over 260 members through subscribing to a self-insurance reciprocal (MUNIX), are owners of the program. In self-insuring losses, MUNIX has delivered back participation and risk management credits of over \$7.3 Million since inception.

Risk Management is an important tool in managing risk in your community and is a critical component of self-insurance. Managing risk is about preventing loss to property, safety and reducing accidents. Human suffering and financial loss can be avoided with sound risk management policies and procedures. Everyone deserves safe and consistent service from their municipal service providers. Risk management advice and training is provided through the Risk Control Program.

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