

Municipal Governance

During the COVID-19 Outbreak

Frequently Asked Questions – July 3, 2020

As we continue down the road to recovery, Alberta Municipal Affairs will continue to provide biweekly updates addressing frequently asked questions and providing information on new tools and resources for as long as required.

The following information revisits the special enforcement authority for community peace officers since the expiration of the provincial public health emergency declaration and also addresses municipal infrastructure funding, the Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant, 2019 statistical reporting and emergency management training requirements.

Municipal Affairs Updates

Previous COVID-19 updates are available at www.alberta.ca/municipal-government-resources.aspx

Enforcement Authority

When the provincial public health emergency declaration lapsed, did the special enforcement authority for community peace officers also come to an end?

YES. As outlined in a bulletin issued by AB Justice and Solicitor General on June 16, 2020, Ministerial Order 24/2020, enacted under the *Peace Officer Act* to authorize community peace officers to enforce health Orders, expired when the provincial state of public health emergency lapsed on June 15, 2020.

Community Peace Officers are encouraged to continue educating individuals on the public health Orders. If enforcement is required, the RCMP or Public Health Inspectors are still authorized to enforce Orders issued under the *Public Health Act*.

Alberta's Recovery Plan

Does the provincial economic strategy include investing in municipalities?

YES. Alberta's Recovery Plan includes the many government relief programs that have been put in place to support Albertans and Alberta job creators through the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan will continue under three main pillars: creating jobs, building infrastructure that will spur economic growth, and continuing to diversify our economy.

In addition to the \$50 million announced for municipalities through the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) to fund bridge improvements, upgrades to roads and community airports and other initiatives, and a further \$150 million for water infrastructure grants through the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership, the province has identified up to \$500 million in further funding for municipalities, which is expected to be matched by Ottawa. Even before the federal contribution, this represents an increase to municipal infrastructure funding of almost 30 per cent in the current fiscal year.

It is estimated this new \$500 million will support the creation of at least 2,500 jobs that support people in the communities where they live, and drive future economic growth in the province. More details will be released when they become available.

Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant

Is there information available that municipalities can share with local businesses and non-profit organizations within our community regarding the Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant?

YES The newly announced relaunch grant offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives, and non-profit organizations that faced restrictions or closures during the public health emergency, and experienced a revenue loss of at least 50 per cent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses and non-profits can access the application portal from the BizConnect website (www.alberta.ca/bizconnect). Additional information as well as a link to the program guidelines is available [online](#).

Municipal Advisory Services

If you have further questions, please call:
780-427-2225 or toll-free by first dialing
310-0000 or email ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca

2019 Statistical Reporting

In recognition of the COVID-19 public health emergency, has the deadline for municipalities to prepare and submit an annual Statistical Information Return (SIR) been extended?

YES. The Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. Kaycee Madu, signed Ministerial Order No. MSD: 036/20, which established the due date for submitting the 2019 SIR as October 1, 2020.

Unique submission links for the 2019 SIRs were emailed to all municipal CAOs on June 15, 2020. Questions or requests to resend links can be emailed to lg.update@gov.ab.ca.

Is a CAO or a duly authorized signing officer signature still required on the excel template if the Statistical Information Return (SIR) is being submitted online?

NO. When a municipality submits online through the link provided, they only need to attach a copy of the 2020 Tax Rate Bylaw and the Excel Template. The signing requirement, or certification, has been moved to the online submission portal.

AEMA Training Requirements

Has the training deadline stated in the Local Authorities Emergency Management Regulation been extended for Directors of Emergency Management?

YES. This spring, the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) placed a hold on in-person training for ICS-200, ICS-300, and the Director of Emergency Management (DEM) course due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

AEMA recognizes that the halted in-person training could impact the ability of local authorities to comply with training requirements for DEMs as prescribed by the Managing Director of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency under the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation by the deadline of July 1, 2020 (or within 18 months of appointment, whichever is later).

The Managing Director of AEMA has extended the deadline for DEMs to complete the prescribed training requirements under the authority of Section 13(1) of the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation to address this issue.

DEM's must now complete the prescribed training requirements **by January 1, 2021**, or within 18 months of appointment, whichever is later.

The [AEMA training webpage](#) will be updated to reflect the new deadline