

THE RURAL MUNICIPAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT (MGA)

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ABOUT THE AAMDC



- Established in 1909
- Represents rural municipalities
- Approximately 18% of Alberta's population, approximately 85% of Alberta's land mass
- Advocacy focus is broad and encompasses providing rural municipal perspective on a wide range of issues
- Primary challenges for members include providing municipal services and infrastructure to sparsely populated areas
- Rural municipalities are diverse in terms of size, population, geography, industry, and capacity.
 - Planning needs and capacities vary. Some have in-house expertise, others contract.

THE AAMDC AND THE MGA



- The AAMDC has been a collaborative participant in the review of the MGA process
- Has advocated AAMDC member interests to the Government of Alberta and other stakeholders
- Significant consultation with AAMDC members in 2013 and following the release of Bill 20 in the spring of 2016
- Ongoing discussions on MGA regulations
- Seeking to prepare tools and resource for MGA change management

RURAL MUNICIPALITIES AND THE MGA



- A number of significant changes will impact rural municipalities beyond planning:
 - Centralization of industrial assessment
 - Expanded mandate for Alberta ombudsman
 - Municipal codes of conduct
 - Split mill rate on non-residential properties
 - Linking of the residential and non-residential millrates
 - Expansion of offsite levies

INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION



- Among of the most important changes are the requirement to develop:
 - Intermunicipal Collaborative Frameworks (ICFs);
 - Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs);
 - Growth Management Boards (Calgary and Edmonton regions); and,
 - Municipal Development Plans (MDP).
- All municipalities must be willing to look beyond their boundaries when assessing how to best serve the needs of their residents

RURAL PERSPECTIVE ON ICF AND IDP



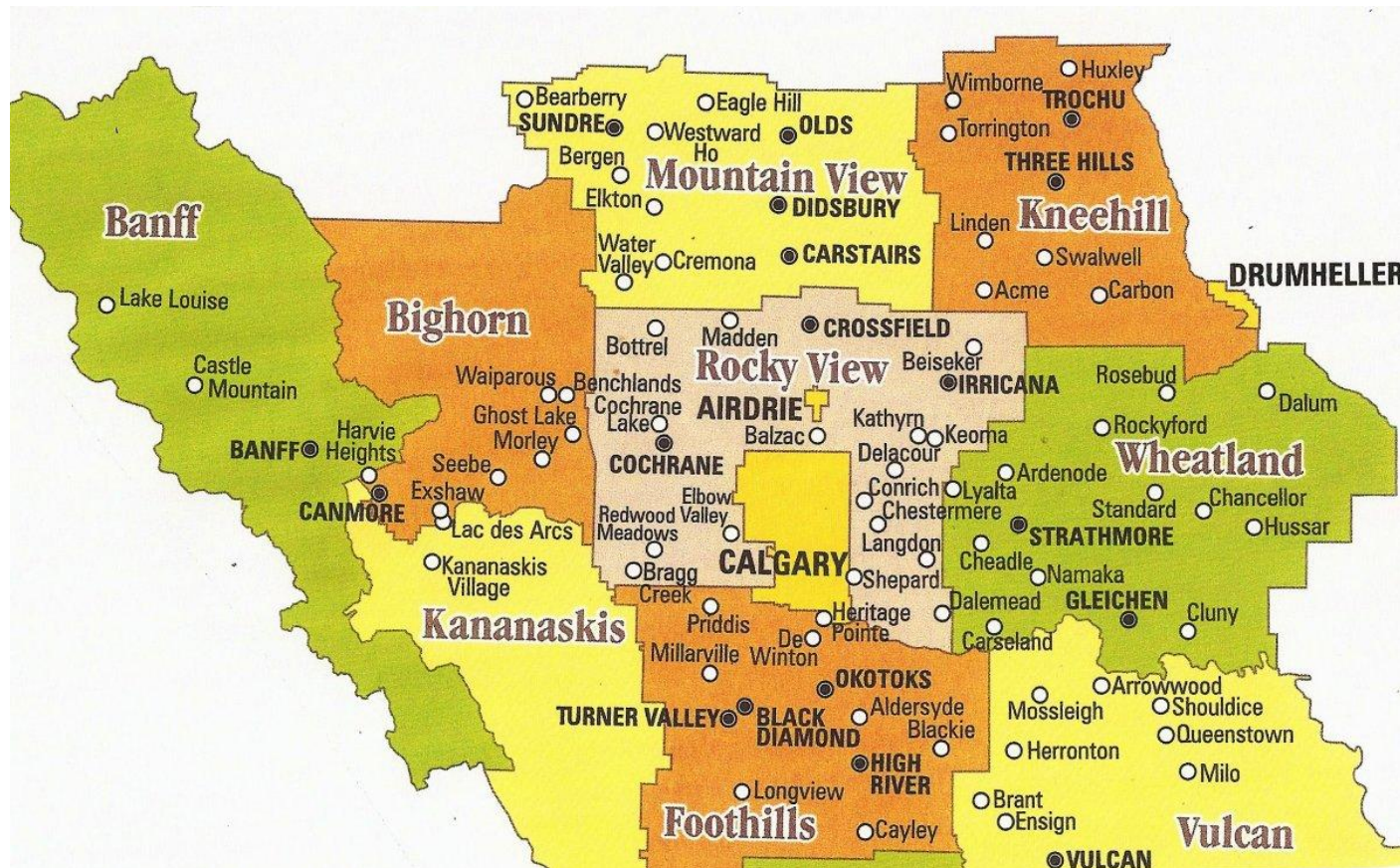
- Inter-municipal Collaborative Frameworks (ICF)
 - Rural municipalities will have to consider completing one regional agreement or multiple individual agreements
 - Municipalities need to be included in the planning, funding, and operations of projects from the onset
 - Important the municipal autonomy is maintained within regional partnership and inter-municipal arrangements
- ICFs are more than just planning documents

RURAL PERSPECTIVE ON ICF AND IDP



- Timelines to develop ICFs will be a significant challenge for rural municipalities (2 years)
- Rural municipalities will have to create multiple ICFs/IDPs
 - Mountain View County has to negotiate more than ten
- Considerable strain on municipal capacity and resources
 - M.D. of Foothills estimates negotiations and ICF/IDP development will cost \$2 million per year and three additional full time staff.

RURAL PERSPECTIVE ON ICF AND IDP



RURAL PERSPECTIVE ON ICF AND IDP



- Unique challenges will exist for municipalities to solve capacity challenges, especially in remote areas where consultants may not operate
- Details of the mediation and arbitration process will be important for those unable to reach agreements within the specified timelines

RURAL PERSPECTIVE ON GMB



- Membership and decision making structure will be important to the success of the GMBs and encourage rural municipal engagement
- Consensus based decision making and collaboration should be a priority
- Important that municipal autonomy is maintained
- Two regulations are forthcoming for the Calgary and Edmonton regions that we detail the future of these GMBs.

RURAL PERSPECTIVE ON MDP



- Majority of rural municipalities already have Municipal Development Plans (MDP)
 - Not seen as a particular concern from AAMDC members
- Forthcoming floodway regulations will be an important consideration for future MDPs, Area Structure Plans, other planning processes.

OTHER PLANNING AMENDMENTS



- Other planning related enabling amendments that municipalities *may* incorporate are:
 - Conservation and environmental reserves
 - Changes to reserve land assembly for parks and schools
 - Offsite levies
 - Inter-municipal offsite levies
 - Collaboration with Indigenous Communities
 - Inclusionary zoning
 - Brownfield redevelopment tools

AAMDC AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT



- AAMDC to work in collaboration with Alberta Municipal Affairs and the AUMA to develop change management tools that will assist all municipalities
 - Tools, templates, resources, sample bylaws, etc.
- Ideally, planning costs for municipalities can be reduced through economics of scale

THANK YOU



Questions?

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