

**NOTES OF THE CITY OF LEDUC
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING**

Monday, March 25, 2019

Present: Mayor B. Young, Councillor B. Beckett, Councillor G. Finstad,
Councillor B. Hamilton, Councillor L. Hansen, Councillor L. Tillack
Absent: Councillor T. Lazowski
Also Present: P. Benedetto, City Manager, S. Davis, City Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor B. Young called the meeting to order at 5 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor L. Hansen

That the Committee approve the agenda with the following amendments:

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE & ADMINISTRATION

Remove from Agenda:

8.4 Condominium Tax Enquiries - This item will be heard at the April 8, 2019, Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

Addition to the Agenda:

8.6 Alberta Global Trade Corridor Advocacy Update

8.7 Supporting Alberta Urban Municipalities Association ("AUMA") Provincial Election Advocacy

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS NOTES

There were no previous notes.

4. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

There were no delegations or presentations.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PRESENTATIONS

6. IN-CAMERA ITEMS

There were no In-Camera items for the agenda.

7. RISE AND REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA ITEMS

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE & ADMINISTRATION

8.1 Temporary Signage

S. Losier, Manager, Current Planning, N. Booth, Manager, Communications and Marketing Services, and H. Wilson, Manager, Economic Development, made a verbal presentation relative to signage within road right-of-ways. For safety purposes, traffic signs should take precedent over other signage.

Administration made recommendations for other ways that builders and developers could bring their advertising to the forefront. Those recommendations included: placing information on the City of Leduc website; producing maps outlining new developments and builders in that area; and developers and builders sponsoring public events. There will also be a relaxation of some of the requirements for temporary signage.

There was further discussion of other opportunities to advertise businesses in the City of Leduc.

8.2 2018 Year End Results

J. Cannon, Director, Finance, and C. Dragan-Sima, Manager, Financial Planning and Budget Services, made a PowerPoint presentation (Attached) providing information on the 2018 year end results.

J. Cannon and I. Sasyniuk, General Manager, Corporate Services, answered the Committee's questions.

8.3 2019 Mill Rate Process

J. Cannon, Director, Finance, and G. Damo, Manager, Revenue Services, made a PowerPoint presentation (Attached) on the 2019 Mill Rate Process.

M. Pieters, General Manager, Infrastructure and Planning, J. Cannon, G. Damo, I. Sasyniuk, General Manager, Corporate Services, and P. Benedetto, City Manager, answered the Committee's questions.

Mill-rate projections will be emailed to Committee members.

Committee members confirmed that they are comfortable with a 2.78% Tax Revenue Increase contained in Bylaw No. 1017-2019 - The 2019 Property Tax Rate Bylaw - coming forward to the April 8, 2019, Council meeting for first reading.

8.4 Condominium Tax Enquiries

This item was removed from the agenda.

8.5 Staff BBQ Update

I. Sasyniuk, General Manager, Corporate Services, confirmed with Committee members that they are comfortable with the Staff Appreciation Barbecue being part of the Leduc Recreation Centre 10 year anniversary.

8.6 Alberta Global Trade Corridor Advocacy Update

Mayor B. Young provided Committee members with the Advocacy Report on the Alberta Global Trade Corridor (Attached). Mayor B. Young advised that on his trip to Ottawa he had the opportunity to meet with a number of individuals who were very supportive of the initiative and of the proposed grant application for \$50,000.

Mayor B. Young and P. Benedetto, City Manager, answered the Committee's questions.

8.7 Support for Alberta Urban Municipalities Association ("AUMA") Provincial Election Advocacy

M. Hay, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs and Corporate Planning, provided Committee members with a handout (Attached) which contains information from the Alberta Urban Municipal Association on items that municipalities could consider for advocacy. Items could be separated into Provincial and local issues to be advocated. Committee members indicated that Leduc City Council does a very good job of advocating for local issues.

M. Hay and P. Benedetto, City Manager, answered the Committee's questions.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no information items.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

“Original Signed”

B. YOUNG, Mayor

“Original Signed”

S. DAVIS, City Clerk

2018 Year End Results



Presented By:
Jennifer Cannon, Director, Finance



2018 Surplus

2018 (Millions)	
Budget	97.85
Surplus	1.28
% of Budget	1.3%



Surplus



Deficit

Surplus History (Millions)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Budget	70.82	76.80	91.23	91.21	90.24
Surplus	1.19	1.73	1.61	1.61	1.92
% of Budget	1.7%	2.2%	1.8%	1.8%	2.1%

95% of surplus is transferred to the general contingency reserve to fund our capital plan

Projects Funded by Surplus

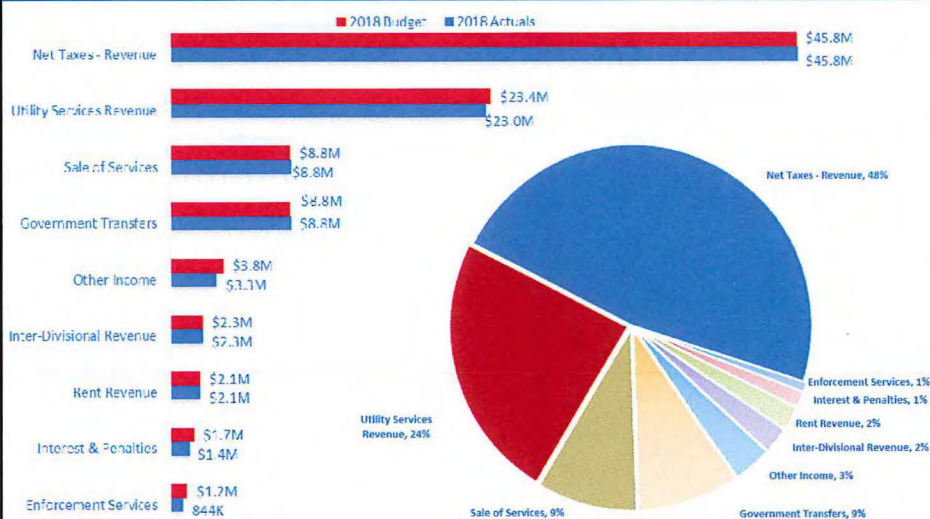
Past Projects

- Telford Lake Multiway
- Multiway Development
- Spray Park
- Civic Centre Concrete Replacement
- Eco Station & RV Dump
- Library Expansion
- Aerotropolis
- Cultural Village Amphitheatre
- Operations Building Solar
- Lede Park Road
- Alex Pool Building Capital Renewal
- Snow Storage Site

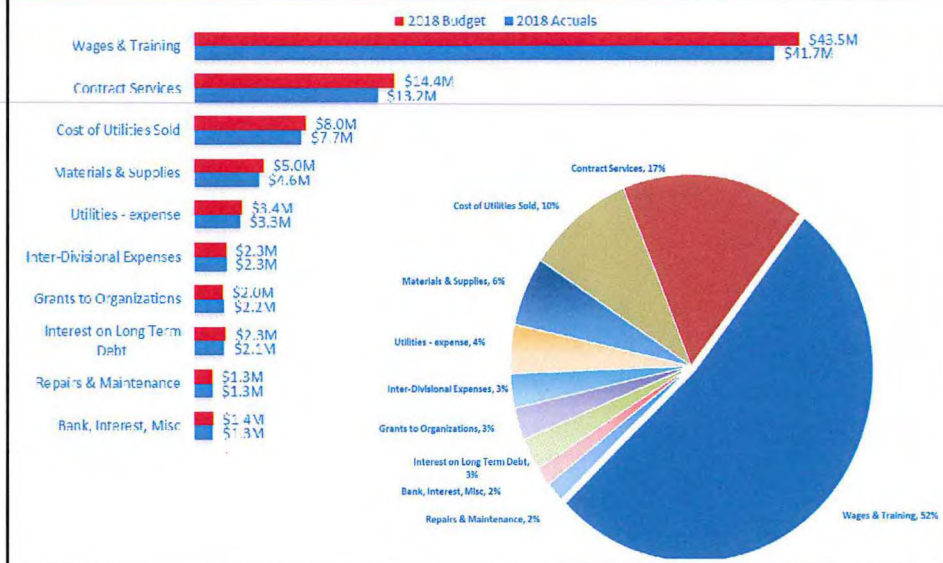
Future Projects

- Lions Park Trails
- Road Program
- LRC Cell Phone Coverage Upgrade
- Outdoor Rinks
- LRC Pool Renovations
- Protective Services Building
- Transit – capital requirements
- HR & Finance Integrated System
- LRC Capital Renewal
- Playground Equipment
- Community Reporting
- Lede Park Multiway

2018 Revenues



2018 Expenditures



Significant Favorable Variances

Revenue

County grants \$287K

Interest on bank deposits \$135K

Offsite Levies

- Water \$121K

Firefighting recoveries \$110K

Engineering sale of services \$71K

County Cost Share recreation \$67K

Ambulance recoveries \$66K



Expense

Salaries, wages & benefits \$1.7M

Contracted Services

- RCMP \$528K
- IT \$137K
- Marketing \$106K
- HR/OHS \$88K
- Maclab \$84K
- General Government \$73K
- Economic Development \$45K

Cost of Utilities Sold \$340K offset with Utility Services Revenue:

- Water \$230K
- Waste Water \$110K

Significant Unfavorable Variances

Revenue

Offsite Levies

- Transportation (\$450K)
- Sanitary (\$245K)

Water and Wastewater Fees (\$425K) – offset with Cost of Utilities Sold

- Water (\$225K)
- Waste Water (\$200K)

Interest on long term investments (\$422K)

Enforcement Proceeds (\$327K)

AHS contract (\$133K)

Maclab sale of services (\$129K)

Expense

Contracted Services

- Snow Removal (\$320K)*
- Waste water maintenance (\$96K)
- Water maintenance (\$86K)

Salaries, wages & benefits

- Fire & Ambulance (\$267K)

Repairs & maintenance

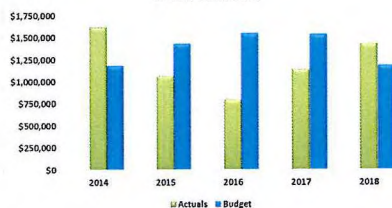
- Equipment repairs (\$78K)
- LRC Facilities (\$49K)
- Transit (\$42K)

* offset with transfer of \$243K from snow removal reserve

2018 Snow Removal Results



Snow Removal



Fiscal Year	Actuals	Budget	Favourable / Unfavourable
2014	1,621,182	1,185,722	435,459
2015	1,065,963	1,435,049	369,085
2016	793,694	1,552,918	759,224
2017	1,134,083	1,539,982	405,899
2018	1,431,215	1,187,998	(243,217)
2019 YTD*	1,269,795	355,060	28%

*YTD as of March 20, 2019

Rave: "to snow removal crews out on this cold morning for providing a breakfast show for my little one (she thinks they are Rubble from Paw Patrol @) and for clearing our way for school later. Much Appreciation!"

"Thank you to the snow removal in Corinthia today! I was rushing to pack my truck up as we are in the middle of moving and the gentlemen in the plow got out to help me with my last couple of boxes so I could get out of his way!"



2018 Fire & Ambulance Services Results



Fire & Ambulance Services	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	Variance
Revenues	4,277,454	3,569,913	3,713,570	3,763,826	3,720,938	42,888
Expenses	8,518,451	8,601,931	9,180,179	9,483,131	9,294,686	(188,445)
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(4,240,997)	(5,032,018)	(5,466,609)	(5,719,306)	(5,573,748)	(145,557)

2018 Enforcement Services Results

(Includes RCMP)

Enforcement Services	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	Variance
Revenues	2,607,743	3,525,916	2,152,235	1,681,904	2,027,975	(346,071)
Expenses	6,833,744	8,717,806	7,446,861	7,527,316	8,183,186	655,870
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(4,226,002)	(5,191,890)	(5,294,626)	(5,845,412)	(6,155,211)	309,799

Safe Communities
Reserve Balance

\$395K

2018 Actual Results

Budgeted Actual

32 FTE 27 FTE

\$530K favourable
RCMP Contracted Services

2018 Public Transportation Results

(City Inclusive of Joint Venture)

Public Transportation	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	Variance
Revenues	248,544	301,924	330,196	299,763	30,433
Expenses	1,789,576	1,906,369	2,608,727	2,596,720	(12,007)
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(1,541,033)	(1,604,445)	(2,278,531)	(2,296,957)	18,426

Welcome to
Leduc Transit

*Leduc Transit is an inter-municipal transit
partnership between the City of Leduc and
Leduc County.*



2018 Public Transportation KPI's

(City Inclusive of Joint Venture)

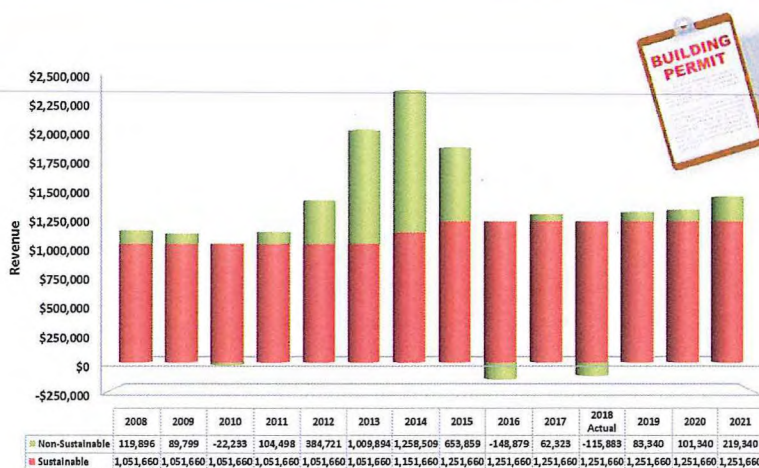
Public Transportation	2016 Actuals	2017 Actuals	2018 Actuals	2018 Budget
Cost Recovery	13.89%	15.84%	12.66%	11.54%
Contribution Per Capita*	\$ 50.53	\$ 51.54	\$ 70.22	\$ 70.79



Existing Routes ≈	Route 10	Route 747/EIA	Total
\$ 53.19	\$ 6.31	\$ 10.72	\$ 70.22

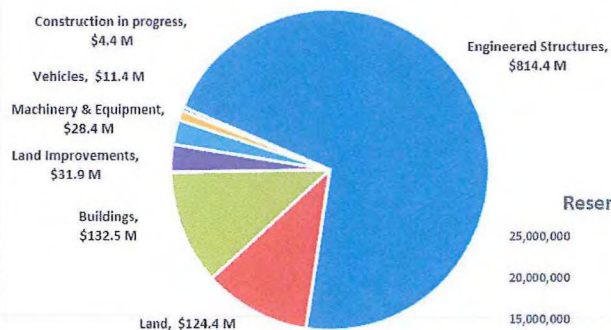
* Based on City of Leduc population only

Permit Revenue - Sustainable and Non Sustainable



Maintaining over \$1 Billion in Capital Assets

Tangible Capital Assets = \$1.15Billion

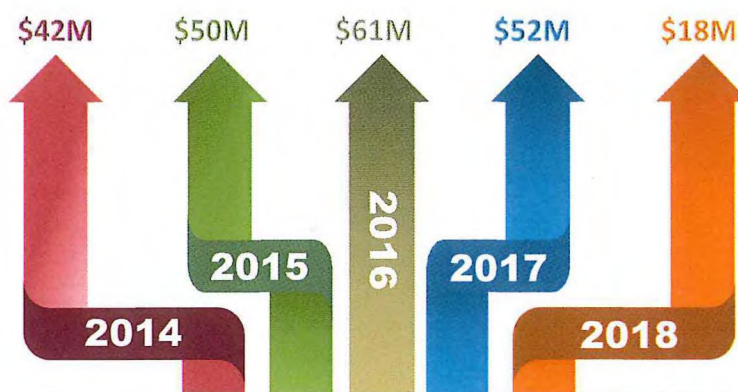


Reserve Transfers as % of Amortization



Contributed Assets: 2014-2018

Total Contributed Assets
\$223M



2018 Operating Reserve Balances

<i>In Thousands</i>	Audited 2018 YE Balance	2018 Committed	Available Balance
Operating Reserves			
General contingency reserve	8,300	5,058	3,242
Mill rate stabilization	1,094	-	1,094
Reserve for celebrations	183	-	183
Reserve for snow removal	1,179	-	1,179
Sports tourism reserve	140	-	140
Reserve for future expenditures - studies	1,299	663	636
Reserve for census and elections	62	-	62
Economic development reserve	50	-	50
Total Operating Reserves	12,308	5,721	6,587

2018 Capital Reserve Balances

<i>In Thousands</i>	Audited 2018 YE Balance	2018 Committed	Available Balance
Reserve for Lede room	6	-	6
Reserve for art acquisition	17	-	17
HPN monument fees	33	-	33
Public transit	47	-	47
Public services capital reserve	562	473	90
Cemeteries reserve	151	50	101
Downtown progress association reserve	107	-	107
Fixed communications reserve	356	239	117
Fire communication reserve	127	-	127
P. S. Equipment replacement reserve	697	521	177
Water reserve	1,650	1,456	194
Sewer reserve	560	302	257
Recreation levy - due to city	698	375	323

2018 Capital Reserve Balances - cont

<i>In Thousands</i>	Audited 2018 YE Balance	2018 Committed	Available Balance
Facilities reserve	1,119	767	352
Safe communities	548	143	405
Information system reserve	1,095	640	455
Waste minimization reserve	521	58	463
Reserve for library	699	-	699
Parks planning capital reserve	1,427	374	1,052
Protective services large equipment reserve	1,292	231	1,061
Cash in lieu of municipal reserve	1,510	52	1,458
Infrastructure investment reserve	2,490	992	1,498
Property sale proceeds reserve	1,562	-	1,562
Storm drainage	2,344	566	1,777
Developer contribution	2,078	-	2,078
Road reserve	3,121	611	2,510
Total Capital Reserves	24,816	7,851	16,965

2018 Debt vs 75% of Limit

2018 Debentures

Tax Supported: RCMP Facility - \$13.0M

Developer Supported: Lift Station - \$4.0M

\$80M remaining
to the Provincial
debt limit



2018 Results – Mayor Young

	2018 Actual YTD	2018 Budget	2018 Variance
Remuneration/Benefits	88,958	88,746	(212)
Travel & Training	11,798	25,300	13,502
Meetings & Public Relations	11,537	18,500	6,963
Total Expenditures	112,293	132,546	20,253

Note:

In 2018 Council was budgeted as a whole. At year-end all of Council was within budget.
In 2019 the budget process will change to budget each Council individually

2018 Results – Councilors

Finstad	2018 Actual YTD	2018 Budget	2018 Variance
Remuneration/Benefits	47,560	45,743	(1,817)
Travel & Training	9,038	5,200	(3,838)
Meetings & Public Relations	3,981	900	(3,081)
Total Expenditures	60,579	51,843	(8,736)

Beckett	2018 Actual YTD	2018 Budget	2018 Variance
Remuneration/Benefits	42,769	45,743	2,974
Travel & Training	3,796	5,200	1,404
Meetings & Public Relations	1,568	900	(668)
Total Expenditures	48,134	51,843	3,709

Note:

In 2018 Council was budgeted as a whole. At year-end all of Council was within budget.
In 2019 the budget process will change to budget each Council individually

2018 Results – Councilors

Lazowski	2018 Actual YTD	2018 Budget	2018 Variance
Remuneration/Benefits	45,740	45,743	3
Travel & Training	3,221	5,200	1,979
Meetings & Public Relations	329	900	571
Total Expenditures	49,289	51,843	2,554

Hamilton	2018 Actual YTD	2018 Budget	2018 Variance
Remuneration/Benefits	47,883	45,743	(2,140)
Travel & Training	1,400	5,200	3,800
Meetings & Public Relations	357	900	543
Total Expenditures	49,640	51,843	2,203

Note:

In 2018 Council was budgeted as a whole. At year-end all of Council was within budget.
In 2019 the budget process will change to budget each Council individually

2018 Results – Councilors

Tillack	2018 Actual YTD	2018 Budget	2018 Variance
Remuneration/Benefits	48,107	45,743	(2,364)
Travel & Training	4,879	5,200	321
Meetings & Public Relations	256	900	644
Total Expenditures	53,241	51,843	(1,398)

Hansen	2018 Actual YTD	2018 Budget	2018 Variance
Remuneration/Benefits	42,988	45,743	2,755
Travel & Training	4,463	5,200	737
Meetings & Public Relations	753	900	147
Total Expenditures	48,204	51,843	3,639

Note:

In 2018 Council was budgeted as a whole. At year-end all of Council was within budget.
In 2019 the budget process will change to budget each Council individually

2018 Organizational Wide Successes

National
Curling
Championships

GIS Department
Ranked 4th by
Public Sector
Digest

Launch of:
• Live Leduc
• Intellex
• Cityworks

FCSS Award
Outstanding Organizations
& People in Housing



Leduc Transit
Hits 94,000 Trips!

Emergency Management
Team Award

GFOA International
Budget Award

Expanded Transit
Routes

Questions



2019 Mill Rate Process

Presented by:
Jennifer Cannon, Director, Finance
Gino Damo, Manager, Revenue Services



Budget Approval December 3, 2018

	2019	2020	2021
Base Operational & Capital Requirements	0.83%	2.39%	3.15%
RCMP	1.32%	1.32%	-
Enhanced Transit	0.74%	0.74%	0.74%
Partnership Opportunities	-	-	1.16%
Tax Revenue Increase	2.89%	4.45%	5.05%

Proposed Tax Revenue Increase 2019 to 2021 Multi-Year Tax Strategy

	2019	2020	2021
Base Operational & Capital Requirements	0.83%	2.39%	3.15%
RCMP	1.32%	1.32%	-
Enhanced Transit	0.63%	0.63%	0.74%
Partnership Opportunities	-	-	1.16%
Proposed Tax Revenue Increase	2.78%	4.34%	5.05%
Proposed Target		2.00% to 3.00%	2.00% to 3.00%

Revised Strategy

Reduction of \$100K for Enhanced Transit

Proposed 2019 % Tax Revenue Increase Municipal Comparators



City of Edmonton
2.60% increase

City of Spruce
Grove
3.50% increase

City of Fort
Saskatchewan
2.80% increase

City of Leduc
2.78% increase

City of
St. Albert
0.40% increase



Strathcona
County
0.83% increase

Leduc
County
1.50% increase



What the 2019 Budget Brings



- Protective Services Building Expansion
- CP Rail Crossing Upgrades
- Increased focus on arts and culture within Leduc



- Energy Management Initiatives
- Implementing the IT Strategic Plan (supporting open government, open data, smart cities)



- Sport Tourism Events (e.g. Rogers Hometown Hockey)
- 65th Avenue Interchange - Phase 1
- Continued focus on Economic Development



- Leduc Transit-Regional Collaboration
- LED Streetlight Conversion Partnership
- Continued focus on Regional Partnerships

Enhanced Service Levels



Youth Wellness





LRC seniors – Facility Access





Waste Diversion Pilot Project






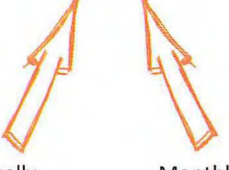
Enhanced Client Services



Municipal Tax Increase

2019	%
Base Operational / Capital Requirements	0.83%
Dedicated Mill Rate Strategy for Protective Services	1.32%
Enhanced Transit	0.63%
Proposed Tax Revenue Increase Requirement	2.78%





Annually
\$97

Monthly
\$8

*Based on home assessed at \$350,000

Next Steps

APRIL 8

Bringing forward a 2.78% Tax Revenue Increase for 1st Reading of Bylaw April 8, 2019

APRIL 29

2nd and 3rd Reading will be presented for Council's approval on April 29, 2019

MAY 15

2019 Property Tax Notice Mailing Date



Discussion



Alberta Global Trade Corridor Advocacy Report, Mayor Bob Young



BACKGROUND

Mayor Bob Young and Brandy Kelly, Government Relations Advisor, travelled to Ottawa on March 19th-21st to raise awareness and generate support for the Alberta Global Trade Corridor project. Mayor Young was attending a Sport Tourism conference in Ottawa already, which made it an ideal time to engage elected officials and policy leads.

The week was an exceptionally busy time on Parliament Hill with the federal budget being delivered on March 19th. Despite that fact, a large number of MPs and political staff committed to meeting with Mayor Young to discuss this important project.

While the budget created few difficulties with meetings and logistics, and ongoing dispute over the testimony of former Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould led to a dispute in the House of Commons. As a result, the opposition forced 30 hours of straight voting which led to some meetings being cancelled. Despite that fact, the meetings that were held generated considerable positive support for the project.





RESULTS

Mayor Young was very well received in each of the meetings we attended.

The office of the Hon. Mary Ng will receive a list of local small businesses and background information on the Leduc Food Processing Centre, where they were very interested in the incubator/ecosystem angle, to promote the trade corridor project with Minister Garneau

The office of the Minister of Infrastructure will be reaching out to their colleagues in the Minister of Transport's office to share background information about Leduc's EOI, and there is a strong personal connection with the Director of Policy for Minister Garneau

Minister Sohi will also be encouraged to speak with Minister Garneau by his Senior Stakeholder Relations Advisor to encourage support for the project.

All Edmonton area Conservative MPs will be co-signing a letter with the Shadow Minister for Transport to showcase bi-partisan support for the trade corridor





MEETINGS

Meetings were held with the following offices:

Jason Easton, Chief of Staff; Simon Robertson, Director of Policy; and Linda Campbell, Western and Northern Advisor to the Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion

Matt Jeneroux, MP for Edmonton Riverbend, and Member of the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities

Kelly Block, MP for Carleton Trail-Eagle Creek, Conservative Shadow Minister for Transport

Mike Lake, MP for Edmonton-Wetaskiwin

Damien O'Brien, Senior Advisor, Stakeholder Relations to the Hon. Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Natural Resources

Joseph Pickerill, Chief of Staff, to the Hon. Francois Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure



MEETINGS

Meetings were also scheduled with the following MPs, but were not carried out due to votes:

Hon. Wayne Easter, Chair of the Finance Committee

Randy Hoback, MP for Prince Albert and Member of the Standing Committee on Int'l Trade

Ron Liepert, MP for Calgary Signal Hill

Dane Lloyd, MP for Sturgeon River-Parkland

Ron Liepert and Dane Lloyd will both be making time to meet with Mayor Young in the near future to discuss this project.

Further, we will work to set up conference calls with the MPs who wished to meet that are located too far away for an in-person meeting.

Mayor Young will also be meeting with Randy Boissonnault in Edmonton in the near future.



From: President [<mailto:President@auma.ca>]

Sent: October 15, 2018 11:58 AM

Subject: AUMA Response to Municipal Cannabis Transition Program

Hello Mayors and CAOs,

Earlier today, the provincial government announced the cannabis revenue sharing deal under the Municipal Cannabis Transition Program (MCTP). This deal will hurt all municipalities and places the costs of legalization on the backs of Albertans, while the provincial government pockets the funds collected.

The federal government has been clear that 75 per cent of the Cannabis Excise Tax will go to provinces to share with municipalities according to shared responsibilities. But as today's MCTP outlines, over 215 Alberta municipalities will not receive any funds collected from that excise tax. Only 52 municipalities will be eligible for funding – funding that is inadequate and conditional on a grant application process that includes a reporting process full of red tape.

As a collective, we need to urge the province to come back to the table to create a revenue sharing program that provides municipalities with the necessary and reasonable funding required to manage cannabis legalization.

And we can only do that with your help.

1. Reach out to provincial and federal counterparts today. We have attached a template for you to use to let local MLAs know that because the provincial government did not engage municipalities in meaningful consultation, they failed to fully comprehend the impact legalization will have in our communities. You can also let local MPs know that the federal government entered into this agreement with the expectation that provinces would fairly distribute cannabis funds, but Alberta did not hold up their end of the bargain.
2. AUMA is providing key messages (attached) that can be used in conversations with stakeholders and other community leaders. A unified and shared message across the AUMA membership will amplify our voice. This issue hurts every municipality in Alberta, so the province should hear from every municipality. You can include examples of local costs that will affect your community as well.
3. Hold conversations with your council about a media engagement plan. A column has been provided for your use and we encourage you to share it with your local publications. Consider reaching out to your local media to provide input into the new MCTP arrangement and let them know it's a bad deal for residents in your community. This will ensure Albertans know that the province has left them on the hook to cover the costs of legalization.
4. Social media will be a useful tool in engaging with the province and informing our community members on the negative impacts of this deal. Follow @TheAUMA on Twitter and retweet important information that will be shared over the coming days. Actively share the unified key messages on your own social media channels as well.

In addition to our unified advocacy efforts in the province, AUMA has also reached out to the federal government. I will be sending a letter to Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau outlining our concerns with the province's failure to appropriately share excise taxes with municipalities and asking for

consideration of options which could include the potential of withholding Alberta's share of the excise tax until an agreement that provides municipalities with the resources needed has been reached.

Members, I know you understand the gravity of the situation and how this deal the province is attempting to force upon us will hurt our communities. Municipalities are being put in an unfair position of choosing between safe communities or increased taxes for our residents as the province downloads the costs of legalization onto us. We are here to collaborate in equal partnership with the province, so let's work together to make sure they hear our voices on this, loud and clearly.

Sincerely,

Barry Morishita | President
Mayor, City of Brooks

C: 403.363.9224 | president@auma.ca

Alberta Municipal Place | 300 8616-51 Ave Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6

Toll Free: 310-AUMA | www.auma.ca



This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this email.

STRONG COMMUNITIES



BUILD ALBERTA

#abvote

For immediate release

AUMA launches “Strong Communities Build Alberta” campaign for provincial election

(Edmonton, March 20, 2019) – Getting municipal issues front and centre of the election candidates is of primary importance for the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA). The three issues AUMA wants addressed by provincial candidates are **equitable infrastructure funding; a fair share of cannabis revenue; and improved resources for policing services.**

“These topics should not be a surprise to anyone who has been paying attention as AUMA has been advocating on these issues for quite some time,” says Barry Morishita, AUMA president. “Municipalities need equitable funding for infrastructure. The City of Calgary and the City of Edmonton have received a long-term funding agreement linked to provincial revenues, now is the time for the rest of Alberta municipalities to get the same type of deal. We also need a commitment for our fair share of cannabis revenue, and we need a new funding model to improve resources for police services.”

AUMA noted that, while it has several activities planned over the next four weeks, the primary focus of the campaign is engaging municipalities to add their voice to the conversation.

“The provincial election is an opportunity to unify our municipal voices so political parties across the spectrum will understand that it is strong communities that build Alberta,” says Morishita. “We are providing our members with tools and resources to help get the three key issues in front of the candidates in their riding and help them understand how important it is to get a commitment to resolve these issues - sooner than later.”

While the parties will be campaigning on what they will do for the province, President Morishita wants to ensure all candidates understand the bigger picture.

“Municipalities are the boots on the ground. It is in our communities where things happen and the only way to build a strong Alberta is to have strong communities.”

More information on the ‘Strong Communities Build Alberta’ campaign can be found on the [AUMA website at auma.ca](http://auma.ca).