

# NORTHERN ALBERTA MAYORS' AND REEVES' CAUCUS MEETING

Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza – Whitecourt, AB

June 15, 2018

## Present:

Mayor Gerald Aalbers	City of Lloydminster
Reeve Leanne Beaupre	County of Grande Prairie No.1
Councillor Rebecca Blanko	Town of Morinville
Deputy Mayor Colette Borgun	Lac La Biche County
Deputy Mayor Bob Buckle	City of Cold Lake
Mayor Maryann Chichak	Town of Whitecourt
Mayor William Choy	Town of Stony Plain
Mayor Dan Deck	Town of Gibbons
Mayor Michael Doerksen	Town of Drayton Valley
Reeve Douglas Drozd	County of Barrhead
Mayor Rod Frank	Strathcona County
Mayor Allan J. Georget	Town of Spirit River
Reeve Bart Guyon	Brazeau County
Mayor Jim Hailes	Town of Fox Creek
Reeve Lou Hall	Westlock County
Mayor Cathy Heron	City of St. Albert
Mayor Stuart Houston	City of Spruce Grove
Mayor Don Iveson	City of Edmonton
Deputy Mayor Murtaza Jamaly	Town of Westlock
Reeve Craig Lukinuk	Smoky Lake County
Mayor Vern Lymburner	Town of Valleyview
Mayor Marcel Michaels	Town of Hinton
Mayor Maureen Miller	Town of St. Paul
Deputy Reeve Randy Orichowski	Smoky Lake County
Deputy Mayor Kevin O'Toole	City of Grande Prairie
Mayor Kate Patrick	Town of Mayerthorpe
Mayor Jim Rennie	Woodlands County
Mayor Gerald Soroka	Yellowhead County
Mayor Doris Splane	Athabasca County
Mayor John Stewart	Town of Beaumont
Mayor Kevin Zahara	Town of Edson

**Also In Attendance:**

- E. Dober, Ministerial Assistant
- D. Rude, Chief Executive Officer, AUMA
- N. Martel, Executive Officer, AUMA
- B. Lau, Office of the Mayor, City of Edmonton
- J. Laventure, Office of the Mayor, City of Edmonton
- Y. Oke, Chief Advisor, Policy & Coordination, Intergovernmental Affairs, City of Edmonton

**Guest Speakers:**

- O. Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and MLA Whitecourt-Ste. Anne Municipal Affairs Senior Official
- B. Morishita, AUMA Board Chair, Mayor, City of Brooks

### **Opening Remarks and Introduction:**

Mayor D. Iveson called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m., and acknowledged the meeting is on the traditional land of Treaty 6 Territory. Mayor Iveson sent good wishes to the community of Slave Lake, which is dealing with overland flooding.

M. Chichak, Mayor, Town of Whitecourt, welcomed the Northern Alberta Mayors' and Reeves' Caucus to the Town of Whitecourt, and to the Eagle River Casino and Travel Plaza.

J. Rennie, Mayor, Woodlands County, thanked everyone for attending, and offered small aircraft flights for groups of four, to those attendees who were willing to have an overhead tour of the area.

D. Iveson, City of Edmonton, thanked the hosts and organizers, noting that the Town of Whitecourt and Woodlands County represent a good model for inter-municipal relations.

### **Adoption of Agenda and Minutes:**

#### **Moved: Mayor D. Iveson**

That the June 15, 2018 Northern Alberta Mayors' and Reeves' Caucus meeting agenda be approved with the following addition:

Other Business:

- Business Arising From March 19, 2018 Northern Alberta Mayors' and Reeves' Caucus Meeting - Reaching out to the Alberta Utility Commission regarding the negative impacts of meter readers on communities.

That the minutes of the March 19, 2018 Northern Alberta Mayors' and Reeves' Caucus Meeting be adopted.

*Carried*

### **Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Update:**

B. Morishita, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Chair, made a presentation.

Keynotes:

- AUMA appointed Dan Rude as Chief Executive Officer; Dan is a 14-year veteran of the organization.
- AUMA has been working to help municipalities deal with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's mandate for municipalities regarding Indigenous Peoples.
- There has not been substantial progress on requested changes to the classification of marijuana grow operations.
- New rules on off-site levies – propose a working group to discuss how the regulations will be enacted.
- Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICF's) – encourage Caucus members to go on the AUMA website to use provided toolkits to help develop ICF's, and to reach out to AUMA for help.
- Continue to advocate for implementing changes to Alberta's recycling regulations and to encourage the Province to work with municipalities regarding producer responsibility.
- Brownfield remediation – some good progress has been made toward remediating brownfields in municipalities.

- Trans Mountain pipeline advocacy:
  - 167 municipalities signed the letter to the Prime Minister to demonstrate support for the project
- Contentious issues AUMA is dealing with:
  - Police funding / legislation – will be working toward ensuring that municipalities are receiving the police support they need. This will include a review of the Police Act and recommending improvements.
  - Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI)
    - AUMA has been very active in advocating for continued funding on behalf of municipalities.
    - There is a need to do a better job explaining MSI to the public, and what MSI means to a community vs. no MSI in a community.
    - It is important to have voices heard during the election.
- AUMA is renting a motorhome and touring the province, visiting 65 communities. This is a good opportunity for members to showcase their communities.

### **Facilitated Discussion on Municipal Sustainability Initiative Replacement & Revenue-sharing:**

D. Iveson, Mayor, City of Edmonton, made a presentation.

#### **Keynotes:**

- Draft questions for Minister Carlier were presented for Caucus members to review.
- Province has made plans to replace MSI with revenue-sharing for cities of Edmonton and Calgary, but not certain what is happening in other municipalities.
- AUMA stance has been to request a base level, plus a portion of revenue that moves with the ups and downs of the economy.
- AUMA has had discussions with Municipal Affairs – there is a need to settle on the base level.
- The Municipal Affairs website includes good examples of projects that MSI has funded.
- Discussed the need for municipalities to share their stories of success with MSI funding - both locally and provincially.
- Additional questions for Minister Carlier were formulated and assigned to volunteer spokespeople.

### **O & A Discussion with Government of Alberta:**

O. Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, acknowledged that the meeting is on the traditional land of Treaty 6 Territory, and brought greetings on behalf of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Shaye Anderson.

- D. Iveson, Mayor, City of Edmonton, asked Minister Carlier what kind of reassurance he could provide to municipalities regarding the program that will replace the MSI, noting that the MSI is the major mechanism for funding infrastructure in municipalities, and also that the new MGA requires municipalities to do multi-year infrastructure plans.

- O. Carlier stated that the Province remains committed to maintaining funding.
- O. Carlier's responses to further questions regarding MSI:
  - The Province remains committed to the total amount of \$11.3 billion of MSI funding.
  - It is possible for the new funding model to reflect revenue-sharing.
  - Will bring back to Minister Anderson the request for municipalities to be involved in consultation through AUMA and RMA.
- C. Heron, Mayor, City of St. Albert, asked Minister Carlier for acknowledgement from the Province that some of the costs of cannabis legalization will fall onto the municipalities. It was noted that AUMA sent a letter to the Alberta Treasury Board but no response has been received.
  - O. Carlier stated that he will follow up on this item.
- R. Frank, Mayor, Strathcona County, asked Minister Carlier for his thoughts on agricultural land preservation, and whether the Provincial Government is active in this area.
  - O. Carlier stated that as Minister of Agriculture, he encourages protecting what can be protected. It was noted that Alberta's Local Food Sector Act was recently passed, and a new Local Food Council is being established. It was suggested that the topic of agricultural land preservation could be a good topic for the Local Food Council to explore.
- G. Aalbers, Mayor, City of Lloydminster, asked Minister Carlier if the Province is considering any alternatives to policing in Alberta, noting that there are challenges with current levels of police funding and staffing.
  - O. Carlier stated that the recent budget translates to additional police staff, but the RCMP decides where the extra members will be. It was noted that he was not aware of any plans for a provincial police force, but this could be a discussion item.
  - In response to a question regarding whether the 40 additional new members would be adequate once cannabis is legalized, Minister Carlier responded that there are unknowns at this time regarding the effect of cannabis on policing.
- K. O'Toole, Deputy Mayor, City of Grande Prairie, asked Minister Carlier if the Province plans to redesign the distribution of tourism funding, as northern Alberta is underfunded when compared to the mountain parks and Calgary Stampede.
  - O. Carlier stated that he was not aware of any new policies that are coming out. It was noted that the National Parks receive federal funding, and that there are opportunities for agri-tourism funding in the Province.
- S. Houston, Mayor, City of Spruce Grove, asked Minister Carlier if there are any updates regarding Spruce Grove's request for funding through a community revitalization levy (CRL) for a multi-use sports centre.
  - O. Carlier stated that he would bring this item back for follow-up.

## **Collaboration & Municipal Partnerships:**

M. Chichak, Mayor, Town of Whitecourt and J. Rennie, Mayor, Woodlands County, made a presentation.

### **Keynotes:**

- Partnership between the Town of Whitecourt and Woodlands County began 20 years ago, and has evolved over time.
- Involves frequent, sometimes daily consultation.
- Over 20 different agreements in place for providing or sharing services on an inter-municipal basis.
- Mayors and Councillors will be touring each other's infrastructure and reviewing capital plans to become familiar with cost-shared items and issues.
- Participate in an annual two-day Joint Planning Session.
- Four pillars for success: Lobby, Share, Attract and Celebrate.
  - Lobby:
    - Advocate and lobby for caribou range planning, new hospital, Trans Mountain pipeline.
  - Share:
    - Cost-share on capital projects and operating costs: Recent successes include the Allan & Jean Millar Centre recreation complex; upgrades to the twin arenas at the Scott Safety Centre; and the conversion of the old pool to the Carlan Services Community Resource Centre.
    - Considering a performing arts and culture centre.
    - Share in joint events such as the annual Party in the Park, to keep tax dollars in the communities. Operate the tourism centre together.
  - Attract:
    - Regularly visit head offices, including oil companies, for business attraction. Promote family-friendly aspects of communities.
    - Staff attend Global Petroleum Show.
    - Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) is much busier in this area than Edmonton or Calgary.
  - Celebrate:
    - Regularly scheduled breakfast meetings.
    - Get together for annual Christmas dinners.
    - Friendly challenges such as a Food Bank Challenge, rowing, darts.
- When sharing tax dollars and funding, there is only one winner – the tax payer.

**Business Arising From March 19, 2018 Northern Alberta Mayors' and Reeves' Caucus Meeting – Reaching Out to the Alberta Utility Commission Regarding the Negative Impacts of Meter Readers on Communities:**

**Moved: Mayor J. Stewart**

That the Northern Alberta Mayors and Reeves recommend to the Alberta Utility Commission to review the negative impacts of demand meters on communities.

*Carried*

Mayor D. Iveson stated that he will send a copy of this motion to FCM for support and endorsement.

**Next Meeting:** October 2018

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.