



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary-Shaw*

AR111005

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

My colleague, the Honourable Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, has tabled *Budget 2023* in the Alberta Legislature. I am writing to share information with you about how *Budget 2023* impacts municipalities.

Alberta's government is helping to secure Alberta's future by investing almost \$1 billion to build stronger communities across our province. The Municipal Affairs budget reflects an overall increase of \$45.2 million from the previous budget. These investments will continue to support municipalities in providing well-managed, collaborative, and accountable local government to Albertans.

We have heard frequently how important it is for Alberta municipalities to secure reliable, long-term funding for infrastructure and services in your communities. Through *Budget 2023*, capital support for municipalities is being maintained with \$485 million provided through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI). In addition, we are doubling MSI operating funding to \$60 million. The estimated 2023 MSI allocations are available on the program website at [www.alberta.ca/municipal-sustainability-initiative.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/municipal-sustainability-initiative.aspx).

Next year, we will be introducing the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF), an updated framework that ties funding to provincial revenue changes, which will ensure sustainable funding levels for the province and allow municipalities to plan more effectively for the future. The baseline funding amount for the LGFF will be \$722 million in 2024/25. Furthermore, we heard your feedback and, subject to approval by the Legislature, are updating the legislation so that this amount will increase or decrease at 100 per cent of the percentage change in provincial revenues from three years prior, rather than 50 per cent as legislated. Based on the most current financial data and subject to approval of the legislation, we anticipate funding for municipalities will increase by 12.6 per cent to approximately \$813 million for the 2025/26 fiscal year.

The federal Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), which provides infrastructure funding to municipalities throughout the province, will see an increase of \$11.1 million to Alberta. The estimated 2023 CCBF allocations are available on the program website at [www.alberta.ca/canada-community-building-fund.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/canada-community-building-fund.aspx).

MSI and CCBF program funding is subject to the Legislative Assembly's approval of *Budget 2023*. Individual allocations and 2023 funding are subject to ministerial authorization under the respective program guidelines. Federal CCBF funding is also subject to confirmation by the Government of Canada. Municipalities can anticipate receiving letters confirming MSI and CCBF funding commitments in April.

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I am pleased to inform you that an additional \$3 million in grant funding is being committed in support of local public library boards, which means an increase of at least five per cent for all library boards. This funding increase will help maintain the delivery of critical literacy and skill-building resources to Albertans. There will also be an increase of \$800,000 in funding to the Land and Property Rights Tribunal to expand capacity for timely surface rights decisions.

Additionally, *Budget 2023* will provide an increase of \$500,000 to provide fire services training grants. Public safety is always a priority, and while we respect that fire services is a municipal responsibility, our government recognizes that a strong provincial-municipal partnership remains key to keeping Albertans safe.

As we all look forward to the year ahead, I want to re-iterate that Alberta municipalities remain our partners in economic prosperity and in delivering the critical public services and infrastructure that Albertans need and deserve. Municipal Affairs remains committed to providing sustainable levels of capital funding, promoting economic development, and supporting local governments in the provision of programs and services.

Alberta's economy has momentum, and we are focused on even more job creation and diversification as we continue to be the economic engine of Canada. At the same time, we recognize Albertans are dealing with the financial pressures of high inflation.

*Budget 2023* will help grow our economy while also strengthening health care, improving public safety, and providing relief to Albertans through the inflation crisis. Alberta's government will do its part by remaining steadfastly committed to responsible management, paying down the debt, and saving for tomorrow.

With these priorities in mind, we will move forward together in fulfilling Alberta's promise and securing a bright and prosperous future for Alberta families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Schulz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Schulz  
Minister