



Town of Hinton
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
Agenda
FEBRUARY 26, 2013 - 11:30 AM
Committee Room, Hinton Government Centre

TOWN COUNCIL MISSION
*Council serves the interests of our citizens
to enable our community to reach full potential.*

Page

ORDER

1. Call to Order

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. Standing Committee Agenda - February 26, 2013

ACTION ITEMS

2 - 11

1. Council Input into Municipal Government Act Review

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Urgent Matters from Council and Town Manager
2. Executive Assistant Logistics Information

IN CAMERA

1. Personnel Matter (FOIP)

ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjournment



TOWN OF HINTON DIRECTION REQUEST

DATE: February 22, 2013

TO: STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2013

FROM: Bernie Kreiner, Town manager *

REVIEWED BY: Bernie Kreiner

APPROVED BY: Bernie Kreiner

RE: MGA Review—Input from Hinton Town Council

Purpose

This item is before Council to seek direction to those Town Councilors and Town administration as to what Hinton would like to see improved in the Municipal Government Act.

Issue

What changes would you like to see improved in the Municipal Government Act? (Which is expected to be adopted in late 2015 or early 2016.)

Administration Comments on Situation / Options

Deputy Mayor Lorraine Johnston-MacKay and I participated in AUMA hosted workshop, and more specific all day engagement will occur on this issue in Grande Prairie on March 26th. I believe it is useful to have a broad series of perspectives from council on what this key legislation affecting the “constitution of Alberta local governments” into the future should be. The comments can be specific to particular issues of concern or broad, principle based visionary suggestions. The AUMA is generally breaking the MGA into three sections for discussion of the principles:

- Governance
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Revenue sources and authorities
-

(See page 2 and 3 of Attachment #1). A more specific paper on the revenue sources and authorities is found in Attachment #2)

The roundtable discussion can cover three questions:

1. Do you support the principles under the three discussion sections, or have any recommended changes/additions?
2. Are there any high level ideas you'd like to see addressed in the new MGA?
3. Are there any specific issues and changes to the MGA you'd like to see?

Administration's Conclusion / Proposed Direction

I believe this may be a pretty broad discussion of topics. To stimulate your creative juices more at a high-level, I provide the following:

---If a community (even physically) isn't set with firm boundaries that the public generally understands/relates to, why is it that only those elected from a physical boundary should make the municipal policy decisions for that community.

--Municipal governments provide services that usually cannot be fully paid for by the "users or beneficiaries" directly. Is the property tax the right basis for collecting the "deficit?" in all cases? I.e. The Edmonton new arena will see both tax dollars and a "sales tax" put on every ticket to use the venue provide \$100M each of the costs. If the demand for police costs is in part due to excessive liquor consumption, should not a local government have the right to collect a liquor sales tax.....just like the Province collects substantial cigarette and other sin taxes to finance the health system?

--If municipal governments can best deliver services that are provincial responsibilities i.e. Fire smarting government lands, securing local subsidized housing projects; how do we maintain clear public accountability between the levels of government for ensuring this is done legally and politically responsibly over the long-term. When you think of the results of the recent Early Childhood Mapping Project "Growing Great Kids"- which level of government would be responsible for establishing a "parent's license program" not unlike a "drivers license program"?

Town Manager Comments

I look forward to a wide-ranging discussion on this important long-term topic. It will be a question for the next elected town council to determine if advocating for particular topics in the next MGA makes the "top three-five" intergovernmental priorities of Hinton Town Council. Any discussions and consensus arising from standing committee should begin to be discussed with others including our MLA and Minister of Municipal affairs as the opportunities present themselves.

Attachments


1. Principles of the MGA (handout from AUMA)
2. Revenue sources and Authorities (handout from AUMA)

WE ARE ECONOMIES
WE ARE SUPPORT
WE ARE EXPERTS
WE ARE ADVOCATE

AUMA **AMSC**

Principles for the MGA

Governance, Roles & Responsibilities, Revenue Sources & Authorities
February 2013



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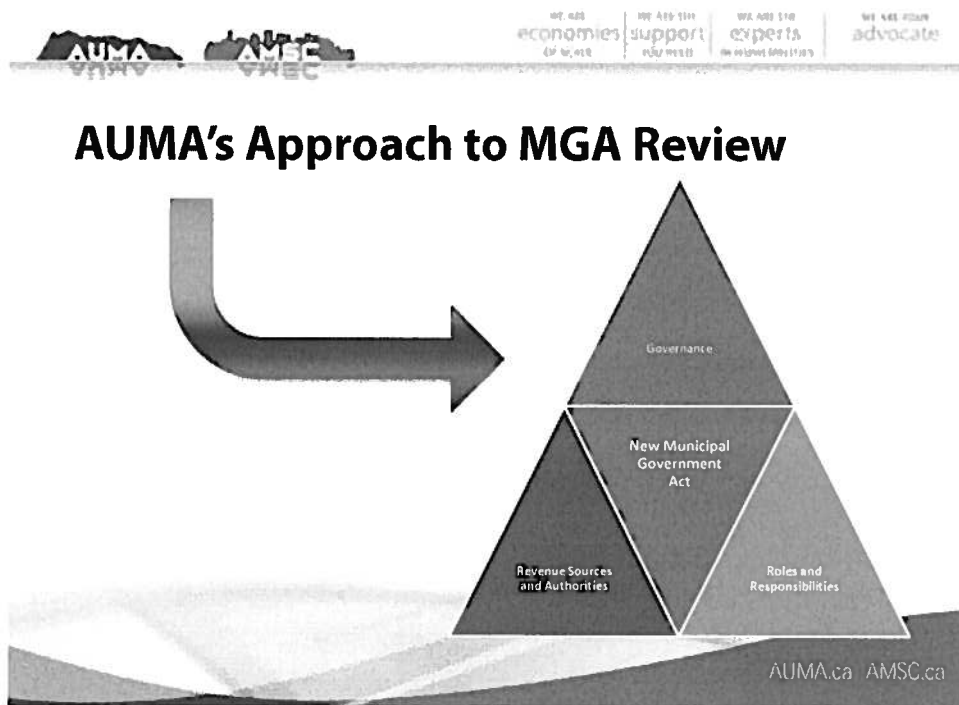
AUMA **AMSC**

Opportunity for Input

- ❖ March 26 Zone – Lethbridge and Grande Prairie
- ❖ March 27 Zone - Cochrane and Vegreville



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Draft Principles on Governance

Principle/ Desired Outcome	How we get there:
Local governments are open, responsive, and accountable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Local governments are a recognized and respected order of government. ✓ Local governments are empowered. ✓ Local governments are transparent. ✓ Local governments are innovative and viable and embrace partnerships, cooperative agreements, and intermunicipal relationships. ✓ Local governments have the authority to enter into agreements with others (including other orders of government). ✓ Local governments have the authority and flexibility to create diverse governance models and service delivery options.

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Draft Principles on Roles & Responsibilities

Principle/ Desired Outcome	How we get there:
<p>The respective roles and responsibilities of the provincial and municipal orders of government are clear and appropriate.</p> <p><i>*Local governments have autonomy to provide common municipal services outlined in the Municipal Sustainability Strategy.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Province is responsible for meaningful engagement with municipalities in legislative and regulatory changes with respect to the Municipal Government Act and related regulations. ✓ Provincial and municipal governments meet their respective responsibilities and must have agreement for delegated service delivery with adequate resource provisions ✓ Legislation and regulations need to recognize that Alberta's communities have different needs and capacity levels and thus require flexibility. ✓ Provincial decision making promotes equity among municipalities.

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Draft Principles on Revenue Sources and Authorities

Principle/ Desired Outcome	How we get there:
<p>Local governments have predictable, diverse, and sustainable revenue sources (including taxation) to deliver programs, services, and infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Local councils have the right to make decisions on multifaceted revenue sources (including different types of taxation). ✓ Through sharing of provincial revenues and other tools, local governments have the capacity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable, and • address growth, change, and decline pressures effectively through long term, predictable funding agreements. ✓ The Province encourages and supports long-term planning for municipal infrastructure including development, maintenance, and replacement. ✓ All provincial resource revenues should be shared equitably among municipalities.

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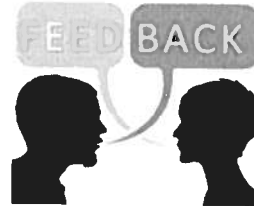
WE ARE
economies
OF SCALE

WE ARE THE
support
YOU NEED

WE ARE THE
experts
IN MUNICIPAL GOV (100)

WE ARE YOUR
advocate

Roundtable Discussion



- Will these principles meet your community's needs?
 - Is there anything that you do not support?
 - Is there anything that is not clear?
 - Is there anything missing?

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Attmt# 2



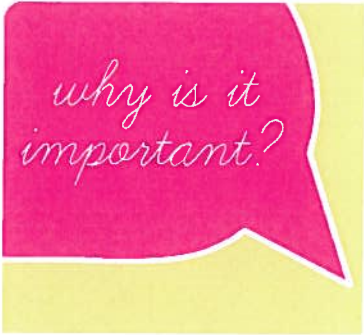
Revenue Sources and Authorities

February 2013



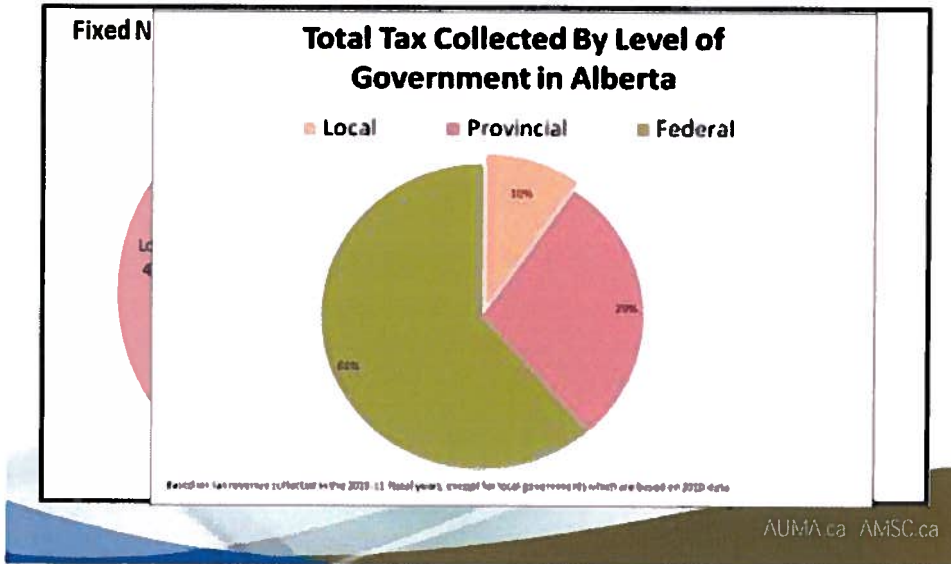
Revenue Sources

- Variety of Options
- Pros and Cons
- One Size Doesn't Fit All



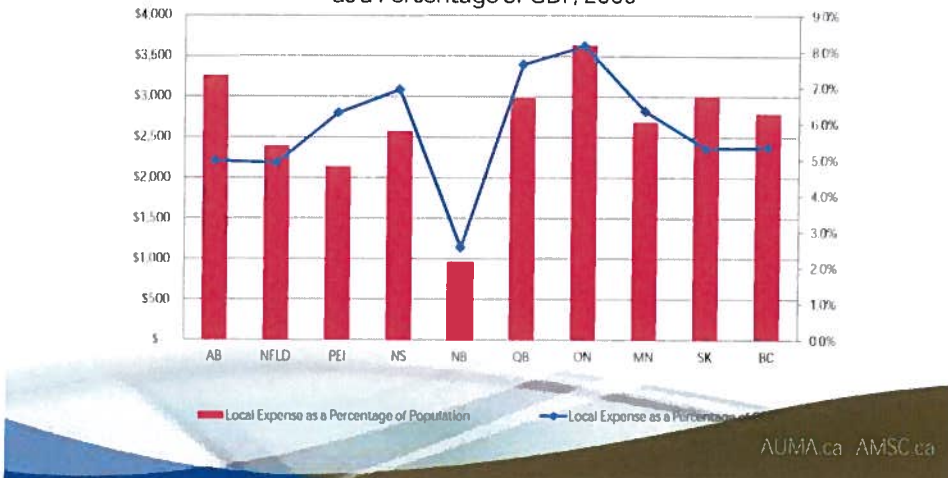


The Case For Local Matters...



The Case for Local Matters...

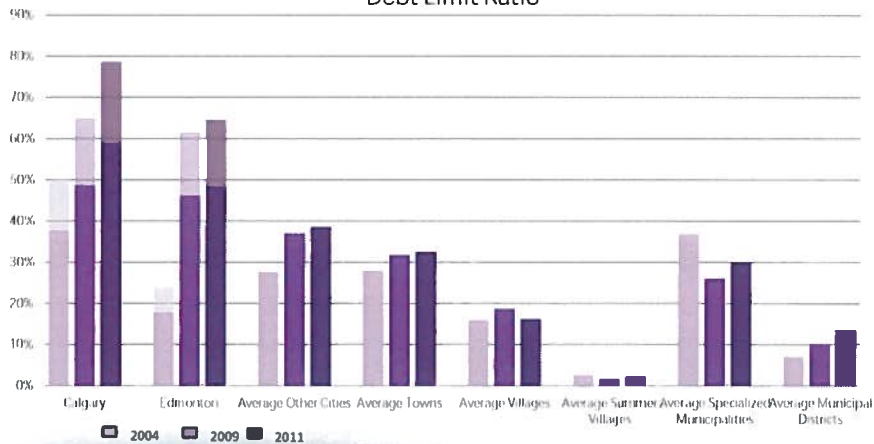
Local Government Expense Per Capita & as a Percentage of GDP, 2009





The Case for Local Matters...

Debt Limit Ratio



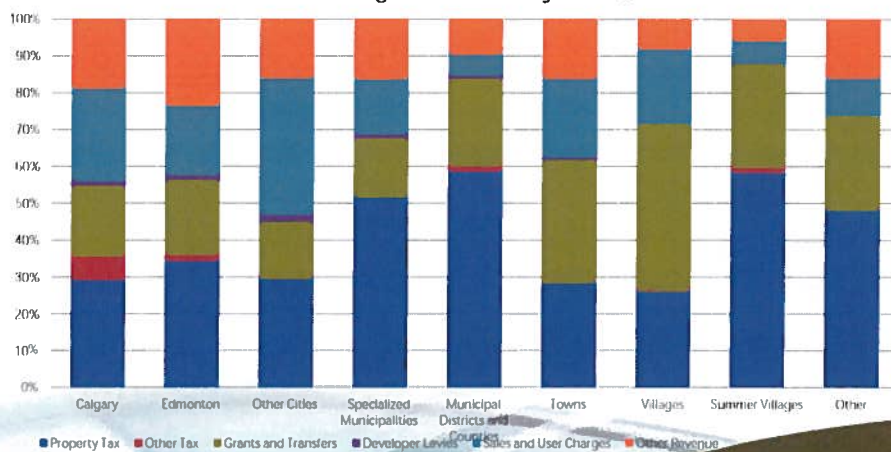
Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat and Woodbuffalo have a debt limit based on 2 times revenue compared to 1.5 times for other jurisdictions. The shaded areas above Edmonton and Calgary show their debt limit ratio had it been on the 1.5 times revenue basis.

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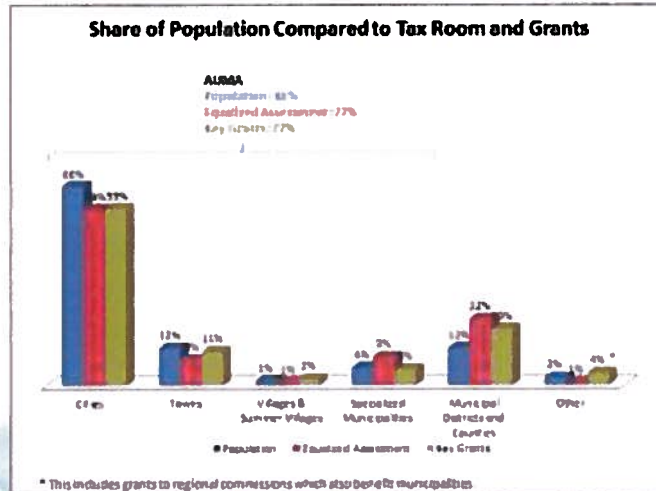
The Case for Local Matters...

Percentage of Revenue By Source



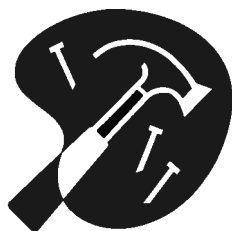
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The Budget 2013 ask...



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Let's get to work...



1. What revenue sources/authorities should AUMA ask for (e.g. increased grant funding, new or expanded fee authorities, new taxing authorities, a share in other revenue streams from the Province, etc.?)
2. What barriers will we need to overcome to implement these sources and/or authorities?

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