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February 4, 2025

Dear Chief Elected Official or Library Board Chair:

I am pleased to invite your municipality or library board to provide submissions for the 2025 Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence (MAMPLE). This program recognizes excellence in municipal government initiatives and provision of library services and promotes knowledge-sharing to build capacity. These awards offer an opportunity to recognize the truly great work happening in communities across Alberta.

For the 2025 program, we have introduced modest changes to align with current priorities and enhance the recognition of successful initiatives that can be shared across the province. The updated program now features four municipal and two library award categories. For each municipal category, one award will be given for municipalities with populations under 10,000, and one for municipalities with populations over 10,000. For each library category, two awards will be given to library boards serving populations under 10,000, and two for library boards serving populations over 10,000.

Submissions will be accepted in the following categories:

- Building Economic Strength (open to all municipalities)
 Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:
 - building the economic capacity and/or resiliency of the community; and/or
 - improving the attractiveness of the community to businesses, investors, and visitors.
- Enhancing Community Engagement or Livability (open to all municipalities)
 Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:
 - increasing accessibility of community services;
 - fostering inclusive and welcoming communities:
 - improving engagement opportunities for community members; and/or
 - strengthening wellness and safety responsiveness.
- Partnership (open to all municipalities)

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- enabling a local or regional partnership* that achieves results that could not have been accomplished by the municipality alone;
- generating lasting relationships between partners; and/or
- leveraging unique skill sets or resources of each partner.
- *Partners may include municipalities, businesses, First Nations, non-profit organizations, community groups, and other orders of government.

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- Red Tape Reduction or Service Delivery Enhancement (open to all municipalities)
 Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:
 - improving upon or presenting a new approach to how a municipality can deliver a program or service;
 - streamlining processes and reducing administrative requirements, leading to more efficient service delivery;
 - saving time, money, and/or resources by implementing practices that enhance operational effectiveness:
 - reducing regulatory, policy, or procedural requirements to simplify access to municipal services for residents and businesses; and/or
 - promoting transparency and accountability in municipal operations, fostering trust within the community.
- Public Library Services (open to all library boards, serving a population of under 10,000)

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- demonstrating responsiveness to community need(s); and
- providing direct benefit to the public.
- Public Library Services (open to all library boards, serving a population of over 10,000)

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- demonstrating responsiveness to community need(s); and
- providing direct benefit to the public.

Details regarding eligibility and submission requirements are available on the Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence webpage at www.alberta.ca/ministers-awards-for-municipal-excellence.aspx or on the submission form. **The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2025.**

Questions about the program from municipalities can be sent to municipalexcellence@gov.ab.ca or program advisors may be reached at 780-427-2225 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

Questions about the program from library boards can be sent to <u>libraries@gov.ab.ca</u> or program advisors can be reached at 780-427-4871 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

I encourage you to share your success stories, and I look forward to celebrating these successes with your communities.

Sincerely,

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Minister