

Advocacy Statement

We are 15 mid-size towns currently, advocating to secure additional infrastructure funding as a strategic solution to address the challenges of aging infrastructure that many communities in Alberta face. While we currently lack comprehensive statistics and detailed information for all 84 mid-size towns, we are advocating on their behalf, and our aim is to grow our membership and gather additional data to strengthen our case.

We are working with the GOA to develop a formula and solution, and if we are successful in coming up with a sustainable model that addresses our challenges, this approach can be applied and extended to benefit all 84 mid-size town across the province.

WE ARE 15 STRONG MUNICIPALITIES TODAY AND LOOKING TO EXPAND OUR MEMBERSHIP. BE THE VOICE WITH US.

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MID-SIZE TOWNS MAYORS CAUCUS

Advocate for our Fair Share





MID-SIZE TOWNS MAYORS CAUCUS

Membership

We are an important voice within the province-wide framework, collaborating, strategizing, and advocating to address matters that impact mid-sized towns.

Advocate for 84 towns province wide between 1000 and 14,999 population.

Focus on advancing the interests of mid-size towns and support the enhancement of members through networking and information sharing.

About Our Caucus

The Alberta Mid-sized Towns Mayors' Caucus is a group of 15 mid-size urban communities that formed a year ago. We realize the unique challenges that are specific to us, and our individual requests cannot compete with those of our larger neighbors.

We have been successful in securing meetings with our Premier and Municipal Affairs to form a working group to work towards sustainable solutions.

Our caucus stands to solidarity for the needs of all mid-size towns across Alberta, recognizing that we share common issues and infrastructure challenges and the need for sustainable support.

WE INVITE you to join us and advocate for a brighter future for every mid-size town in Alberta.

Contact us at: rhunter@didsbury.ca



Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

Strengthen the significance and position of mid-sized towns as a relevant and important voice within the province-wide framework, collaborating, strategizing, and advocating to address matters that directly impact mid-sized towns.

2. Mid-sized Towns Mayors' Caucus (MTMC) Statement

The MTMC is a solution-based organization focusing on advancing the interests of mid-sized towns. The Alberta Mid-Sized Towns Caucus identifies mid-sized towns as those with populations between 1000 and 14,999, of which there are 84 towns with such populations within our province.

3. Objectives

- a) Recognize the unique needs and interests of the membership and develop strategies to respond and advocate for such.
- b) Provide a forum for information, best practice sharing, and developing solutions to issues that are of mutual interest.
- c) Advocate for mid-size towns through ongoing communication with the following:
 - i) Provincial Government
 - ii) Federal Government
 - iii) Alberta Municipalities
 - iv) other municipalities, including member municipalities
 - v) other groups/organizations as determined by a majority of the membership
- d) Support the enhancement of members through networking and information sharing.

4. Membership Requirements

- a) Members of the MTMC must
 - i) be a municipality located within the Province of Alberta, and:
 - (1) an incorporated town, or
 - (2) a town with a population between 1000 and 14,999.
 - ii) Pay the annual membership fee in the amount of \$250/year. Memberships run January 1 to December 31, and fees shall be due by January 31.
 - iii) Member municipalities will be responsible for per diems and expenses.

5. Membership, Representation & Voting

Each member municipality shall have one vote and shall be represented by their respective Mayors. Should a Mayor be unable to attend a meeting, an alternate member from their Council may attend on their behalf and have voting privileges. A Mayor may also send a proxy vote to an agenda item, by emailing their vote to the Chair.

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Meetings may take place without a quorum of the MTMC membership; however, matters requiring a vote shall not be called without a quorum of the voting membership being present. Quorum shall be as defined by the *Municipal Government Act* (i.e., the majority of the voting members that comprise the Mid-Sized Towns Mayor's Caucus). Abstentions must be noted in the meeting minutes and tie votes shall be considered defeated. However, the overarching goal of the MTMC shall be consensus building and collaboration.

The Membership Fee shall create a seed funding pool that will be used towards expenses of hosting meetings. Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to, conference room fees, beverages, and snacks. Host Municipalities must keep an accounting of the funds spent on meeting events and send a final report to the Chair Municipality. All funds distributed shall be reviewed and shared with members during the Chair's annual reporting. Host Municipalities shall submit an invoice to the Chair Municipality for reimbursement of costs for hosting meetings.

Any funds remaining in the seed funding pool at the end of each year shall be used for initiatives as determined by the MTMC Voting Membership.

6. Appointment of Caucus Committees

a) Executive Caucus Committee

Every two years in November, the MTMC shall elect a minimum of three mayors to represent the MTMC as the Executive Caucus Committee. The Executive Caucus municipalities shall be assigned funds as outlined in Section 5 above, to cover costs related to hosting the MTMC bi-monthly meetings. The Executive members shall be appointed as follows:

i) Chair

The Chair shall chair the meetings, prepare meeting agendas, and ensure meeting minutes are recorded.

ii) Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair shall perform the meeting duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair. The Vice-Chair municipality shall be the secondary administrative municipality, providing assistance to the Chair municipality where necessary

iii) Executive Board Member

The Executive Board Member shall provide additional support where necessary.

iv) Additional Executive Board Members

Where the MTMC membership determines appropriate, an additional two members may be appointed to the Executive as general Board Members.

v) A designated membership municipality will be responsible for accounts payable/receivable for MTMC. This municipality shall provide the membership with an annual financial report and budget.

vi) Chief Administrative Officers may be invited by their Mayor to participate in the regular meetings of the MTMC and may assist with the MTMC objectives.

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7. Meeting Schedule

- a) The MTMC shall meet in-person bi-monthly on the 1st Thursday of January, March, May, July, September (ABmunis Conference), and November, commencing at 3:00 p.m. Joining virtually will be an option.
- b) Executive Caucus Committee Meeting hosts shall be appointed by the membership annually and shall be distributed as evenly as possible throughout the province in order to create equitable travel for the membership in general. Considering the vast area of representation, virtual meetings will be available. Caucus hosts shall:
 - i) Plan and organize the Caucus agenda and activities (see Appendix A).
 - ii) Identify and invite government representatives and other guest speakers.
 - iii) Coordinate local and provincial post-caucus media release.
 - iv) Receive MTMC seed money to aid in the costs of hosting the event, as outlined in-Section 5 of this Terms of Reference.
- c) Once a year, meet in person at the annual ABmunis conference. The Host shall be determined by the MTMC membership in advance and be provided MTMC seed money as outlined in Section 5 to aid in covering costs of the event.
- d) This schedule may be changed through a majority vote of the MTMC membership. Slight adjustments to the general meeting schedule may also be made at the discretion of the Chair where it is determined reasonably necessary.

8. Advocacy

Recognizing that the MTMC can only effectively advocate for a limited number of municipal initiatives or issues, the membership shall ensure to keep advocacy items to a minimum, determining which are of the highest priority and thus garnering the main focus of the membership. Priority ranking may change, as municipal environments and issues change and as determined by the membership.

As the administrating municipalities, the Executive Caucus Committee shall work together to ensure the initiatives are advanced and to build an advocacy framework/plan to present to the MTMC for approval.

The MTMC may take on other small advocacy initiatives where time and resources permit and where the MTMC membership feel such initiatives are necessary and important to the group.

9. Confidentiality

The MTMC meetings shall be held in closed session and not open to the public; however, an outside party may be invited to speak to a topic of interest. Members should ensure confidentiality of the meetings remains intact, unless otherwise determined by the MTMC Membership (e.g. for a press release).

10. Communication

As a Caucus wanting to present a unified voice on advocacy initiatives, it is important to present consistency in messaging. Unless the membership directs otherwise, the Chair of MTMC is recognized as the official spokesperson, and, in the absence of the Chair, it is the Vice Chair. This includes commenting publicly on the decisions and business of MTM. MTMC members will refrain from publicly commenting on the decisions or business of MTMC and will defer all such comments to the Chair as the MTMC spokesperson.

Appendix A

Agenda Building and Workflow Best Practice

1. Mayors may request that general items be added to a meeting agenda.
2. Requests to have an outside party attend a meeting, should allow to have a meeting prior to their attendance, in order for the membership to prepare for the visit.
 - a. Invitations to outside parties should remain consistent and be sent by the Chair Municipality on behalf of the members.
3. Matters that may require a formal resolution from member municipalities must be brought forward with sufficient time to allow for this to happen.
4. For consistency, any correspondence or documentation drafted by a member municipality on behalf of the MTMC,
 - a. shall be sent to the Chair municipality for distribution to the group;
 - b. where necessary, shall be done in a timely manner to align with item 3 outlined within this Appendix A;
 - c. where necessary and once finalized, shall be forwarded to the appropriate party by the Chair municipality;
 - d. Letters of Support shall confirm permission of a municipality and will accompany correspondence or letters sent on behalf of MTMC; where a Letter of Support cannot be confirmed or has not been received that municipality shall not be included.