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ITEM: 10.1.2 IGA2022 -

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CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

2022 September 7

0982
Provincial Update (Verbal) - IGA2022-0982

Recommendation

That the Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Committee:

1. receive this verbal report for the Corporate Record; and
2. direct that the closed meeting discussions be kept confidential pursuant to s. 16, 21, and 24 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP), to be reviewed no later than one year from this date.

The following verbal update provides an overview of recent Government of Alberta engagement activities.

Modernization of the Police Act:

The Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's office invited Alberta Municipalities Board members and staff observers to participate in a confidential engagement regarding the modernization of the Police Act on July 28, 2022. Councillor Wyness attended in her capacity as Board member and a Government Relations team member attended as an observer. Staff from the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's office shared options under consideration for reforming the Police Act. Specifically:

- New local civilian governance bodies for the RCMP
- Creation of an independent oversight agency for ALL police services within Alberta (RCMP, municipal, Indigenous) that will handle complaints and disciplinary matters including code of conduct and performance complaint
- Development of a discipline and performance definition
- Creation of a guiding list of principals for policing
- Requirements for all Alberta police services (RCMP, municipal, Indigenous) to develop and have both community safety and diversity & inclusion plans
- Expand Alberta Serious Incident Review Team's (ASIRT's) role to cover armed peace officers
- Enhance ministerial oversight of municipal police services including ministerial appointments to municipal police commissions boards and expanding the minister's ability to intervene on matters

Some of the potential changes will be introduced during the Fall session of the Alberta Legislature (October 31 to December 1, 2022). The Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's office did not share their next steps regarding further engagements with municipalities and the public. Nor did they say whether police commissions or police forces across the province would be engaged. Government Relations team will continue to monitor and update.

Off-site Levies

The off-site levies engagement started on July 14, 2022, with an initial meeting between Municipal Affairs, Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), and the Cities of Edmonton and Calgary. Following that, on August 29 and 30, 2022 two facilitated workshops took place where the group discussed areas that would improve relationships and explored the overall off-site levies approach in the two cities. The participants also discussed differences in interpretation between the cities and BILD as it relates to City Charter Authorities and the Municipal Government Act. Municipal Affairs is summarizing the meeting proceedings and will circulate that to participants, future meetings have yet to be scheduled. We anticipate that this engagement will wrap up early in the fall.

Local Government Fiscal Framework

The Government of Alberta has provided funding since 2007 for local government infrastructure priorities through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI). The Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) Act was introduced in October 2019. The LGFF legislates the remaining MSI funding and implements a new program to replace the MSI in April 2024.

In June 2022, the Government of Alberta launched an online survey to gather input on the LGFF program design. The survey did not address allocation formula or amount of money in the MSI program.

The City of Calgary submitted a response to the survey communicating about the need for predictable, reliable, and flexible funding for municipalities. Calgary and Edmonton have more complex infrastructure needs and may require different eligibility requirements from other municipalities. The two big cities have robust accountability mechanisms which are often driven by Council strategic priorities and outcomes. A one-size-fits all reporting mechanism may duplicate local efforts, creating red tape and adding administrative costs. There may be a need for a distinct funding stream for Calgary and Edmonton, The City hopes that program design will also reflect these differences.

On August 11, 2022, Municipal Affairs and administration from Calgary and Edmonton met to review the results of the previous engagement activity and to discuss details on next steps in the consultation and program design.

On September 1, Municipal Affairs and administration from Calgary and Edmonton met again to discuss in greater detail project eligibility in relation to land purchases, timing of releasing funds, outcomes reporting and transitioning from MSI to LGFF. An additional meeting is expected to be scheduled in mid-September.