

Government of Alberta ■

Municipal Affairs

Municipal Sustainability Strategy Meeting - Summary

February 5, 2010

Representatives in attendance from:

AAMDC: Kim Heyman, Director of Advocacy and Communications

ARMAA: Pat Vincent, Director

AUMA: John McGowan, Chief Executive Officer

LGAA: Carol Revega, Director, Town of Westlock

Alberta Municipal Affairs: Michael Merritt, Assistant Deputy Minister, Gary Sandberg, Executive Director, Municipal Services, Theresa Ostrum, Director, Stakeholder Relations and Sustainability, Jessica Spratt, Communications

Meeting summary and highlights:

- The new mandate letter for the Minister of Municipal Affairs as provided by Premier Stelmach maintains a focus on municipal sustainability, by mandating the Minister to: Promote sustainability by strengthening regional cooperation, municipal viability and community accountability.
- Discussions continued around the first fundamental question that will be used to develop the Municipal Sustainability Strategy, which is: “What basic services should a municipality provide?”
 - The working group agreed to direct the subcommittee to discuss this item further within a framework of “services most commonly provided by municipalities.”
- The working group considered the second fundamental question which is: “what constitutes a sustainable municipality and how this can be measured?”
 - The subcommittee is working to develop a proposed list of indicators of sustainability.
 - The working committee has directed the subcommittee to continue their discussion and give consideration to the development of measures for each possible indicator.
 - It was agreed that the indicators and measures could potentially become part of a self-awareness tool for municipalities so they can be proactive in achieving and maintaining sustainability; and could also serve to increase public awareness of issues that impact municipal sustainability.
- The working group agreed to meet again in two weeks to continue discussions on the development of the Municipal Sustainability Strategy.