

## Complex Complaints versus Inventory Corrections

The Municipal Government Board (MGB) held its fourth annual linear client group workshop on October 15, 2003 in Red Deer. At this workshop the attendees agreed with the recommendation that the MGB schedule preliminary hearings for all complex complaints as soon as possible. The basis for this agreement was, that all complaints on properties that do not deal with inventory corrections are considered complex issues.

Complaints qualifying for inventory corrections are those pertaining to the following areas:

- Municipal Allocation
- Ownership
- Not Assessable  
("not built", permitted/operational)

The DLA proposed that all complaints on the above-noted issues be dealt with directly between the parties without MGB involvement. The MGB can then focus on scheduling and hearing complex complaints.

The MGB was asked to initiate preliminary hearings within 30 days of receiving complaints for all complex issues. This would allow exchanges to take place and hearings to be held prior to the start of the next assessment year. All complex complaints would follow this 30-day scheduling process. This process would also include any inventory type of complaints where the parties could not reach an agreement on the assessments under complaint.

## Changes to the Application for Linear Property Assessment Complaint

The 2003 assessment notices have been mailed to the Assesseees and municipalities. This year the Linear Assessor introduced uniform notices for all types of linear property, new identifiers for companies and properties as well as other changes. As a result, the MGB has adjusted its application forms to include all types of linear property and reflect the appropriate descriptions.

## Plans and dates for 2004

- The legislated timeline for hearing linear complaints is 150 days from the day the linear assessment notices are sent. In this case February 13, 2004.
- The deadline for filing 2004 linear complaint applications with the MGB is March 29, 2004.
- Linear Complaint forms are adjusted to incorporate the new identifiers and areas that qualify for inventory corrections. The new forms can now be downloaded from the MGB Internet site at: <http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mgb/LinearFormsRpts.cfm>
- Preliminary hearings for complex complaints (other than those identified as inventory corrections) will be initiated within 30 days of receiving the complaints. For the complex complaints arriving in the last week prior to the deadline, preliminary hearings will be grouped by company, by agent and scheduled for the week of April 26, 2004.
- For those inventory corrections where the MGB does not receive a withdrawal or a recommendation by May 13 (day 90 in the complaint process), the MGB intends to schedule hearings starting on June 7 (day 115). This supports the desire of the MGB and the parties to hear all linear complaints within the legislated timeframe (150 days).