



FEATURED:

Investing in Alberta Fire Weather Network

The Government of Alberta is providing a \$900,000 boost to the Alberta fire weather network to upgrade equipment, protect at-risk communities, and improve wildfire response.

[Learn more...](#)

MEMBER BULLETINS

Member bulletins are posted to RMAAlberta.com regularly each week. Below is a list of all the member bulletins compiled from the past week.

Consultation on Upper Smoky Sub-Regional Plan

The Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas is gathering feedback to help inform the completion of the Upper Smoky Sub-Regional Plan.

[Learn more...](#)



AGRICULTURE UPDATE

**Moisture Situation Update -
March 20, 2025**

JOB POSTINGS

Canoe Procurement Group of
Canada
Supplier Development



The RMA shares legislative updates during the times of the year when the legislature is sitting. This is our update for **the week of April 14 to 17, 2025.**

REMINDERS

Registration Now Open for Running for Municipal Office Campaign Webinars

As part of RMA and ABmunis' joint educational campaign, the associations are offering 20 live webinars to provide prospective candidates with the opportunity to learn more about running for municipal office.

Learn more...

Government of Alberta Introduces Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

Bill 50, the ***Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025***, proposes changes to numerous key municipal processes.

Learn more...

Government of Alberta's Provincial Priorities Act Takes Effect

This legislation establishes a new framework for municipalities and designated municipal entities when entering, altering, or renewing agreements with the federal government.

Manager

Town of Morinville
Manager, Infrastructure Services

Kneehill County
Shop Foreman

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
Legislative Officer

Strathcona County
Planning and Development Technologist

City of Leduc
Aquatic Operations Coordinator

Athabasca County
Community Peace Officer (CPO 1)

Town of Diamond Valley
Finance Clerk

VIEW OUR JOB BOARD

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION FROM A PREVIOUS ISSUE?

View our **Contact newsletter archive** or our **member bulletin archive**.

Learn more about the key issues facing rural Alberta by reading our **position statements**.

[Learn more...](#)

Government of Alberta Expanding OHS Proactive Inspection Program

Effective April 1, 2025, the OHS Proactive Inspection Program has been expanded to include counties/municipal districts, towns, and villages.

[Forward to friend](#)

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[Learn more...](#)

RMA Seeking Nominees to Participate on Safety Codes Council Building Sub-Council

RMA is seeking nominees to participate on the Safety Codes Council Building Sub-Council. Those considered for nomination should be actively engaged in the safety codes system.

[Learn more...](#)

Government of Alberta Removes 10% Holdback Requirement on Water License Transfers

The Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas has removed the requirement for water license transfers to retain 10% of the license to increase water availability and promote efficiency.

[Learn more...](#)

Government of Alberta Introduces Further Legislation for New Police Agency

If passed, Bill 49 would allow municipalities to choose the new police agency as their local policing provider, rather than the RCMP.

[Learn more...](#)

Affordable Housing Design Catalogue

The Government of Canada recently introduced the first product launch of the **Housing Design**

Catalogue organized by the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Learn more...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCCAC Updates

- Public libraries are a bright spot in any town, but Coaldale has taken it up a notch using funds from the MCCAC's Community Energy Conservation Program. Read on to see how they've updated their lighting with MCCAC's help. **Learn more...**
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IN THE NEWS

- **New program at Portage College will help address critical shortages in healthcare industry in northeastern Alberta**
 - **Show your Alberta side. Buy Local.**
 - **Rebuilding of fire-devastated Jasper expected to start this summer**
 - **'Community Economic Development' plans to be developed across southern Alberta**
 - **Travel Alberta highlights ag destinations**
 - **Canada's first tornado of 2025 touches down in southern Alberta**
 - **Alberta RCMP debuts provincewide non-emergency line**
 - **What to do if your voter information card is missing or has incorrect information**
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Source URL: rmalberta.com/news/investing-in-alberta-fire-weather-network/

Investing in Alberta Fire Weather Network

Posted on: April 17, 2025



The Government of Alberta is providing a \$900,000 boost to the Alberta fire weather network to upgrade equipment, protect at-risk communities, and improve wildfire response.

The Government of Alberta is investing an **additional \$900,000 over three years** (<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=93126490DFD87-9B2D-6B5A-36EDDA6256052602>), for a total of \$1.9 million, for upgrades to the province's fire weather network and to add new stations to key locations. The real-time data provided by the network will assist Alberta Wildfire in staying ahead of potential threats, guiding response teams, and ensuring resources are deployed to where they are needed most.

RMA is pleased with the province's additional investments in the fire weather network and the construction of new weather stations, which will increase the amount and quality of available fire weather data. This is a step in the right direction towards actioning recommendations 9 and 11 from RMA's **Wildfire Working Group Report** (<https://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/RMA-Wildfire-Working-Group-Report.pdf>), released in February 2025, which recommended:

- That municipalities use a data-driven, threat-based approach to determining their firefighting service level. This would include using existing information such as historic fire weather data and newly acquired information such as detailed fuel and fire risk mapping; and

- That the Government of Alberta and Government of Canada provide access to fuel inventory and fire behaviour data to municipalities in a manner that is practicable for their purposes. This should be supplemented with spatial data on critical infrastructure, both municipal and others such as pipelines and electricity distribution.

With that said, recommendation 11 also calls on the data to be provided in a manner practicable for their purposes, and recommendation 12 recommended that the Government of Alberta develop and offer training to municipal staff on how to use various available fire data sets. Increasing investment in the development of weather stations is helpful, but without appropriate training for municipalities, it may not be effectively utilized at a local level during major fire events.

RMA will continue to advocate for additional training as we continue to work with the Government of Alberta and other stakeholders in actioning the 31 recommendations stemming from the Wildfire Working Group Report.

Joseph Kay

Policy Advisor

780.554.4161

joseph@RMAAlberta.com (mailto:joseph@RMAAlberta.com)

Wyatt Skovron

General Manager of Policy & Advocacy

780.955.4096

wyatt@RMAAlberta.com (mailto:wyatt@RMAAlberta.com)

Source URL: rmalberta.com/news/consultation-on-upper-smoky-sub-regional-plan/

Consultation on Upper Smoky Sub-Regional Plan

Posted on: April 17, 2025

The Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas is gathering feedback to help inform the completion of the Upper Smoky Sub-Regional Plan.

On March 27, Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) began a **public engagement** (<https://www.alberta.ca/upper-smoky-sub-regional-plan-engagement>) on the **draft version** (<https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/epa-draft-sub-regional-plan-upper-smoky-plan.pdf>) of the Upper Smoky Sub-Regional Plan, which includes work to restore caribou habitat and identifies conservation areas and potential direction for forestry, grazing, recreation, energy development, tourism and other activities. The **online survey** (<https://your.alberta.ca/upper-smoky-sub-regional-plan-engagement/surveys/upper-smoky-sub-regional-plan-engagement-public-survey1>) associated with the public engagement closes on June 25, 2025.

EPA will be meeting with interested sectors within the **Upper Smoky Sub-Regional Plan area** (<https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/epa-upper-smoky-sub-region-map.pdf>), and will notify holders of statutory consents expressly identified by the **proposed regulatory details** (<https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/epa-draft-sub-regional-plan-upper-smoky-regulatory-details-plan.pdf>) within the draft to provide the opportunity to propose alternate means to achieve the plan's policy outcomes.

As part of the engagement, there will be public virtual information sessions on **April 16** (<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/fb120d2a-9539-41b9-b2d5-eb4a0a72db90@2bb51c06-af9b-42c5-8bf5-3c3b7b10850b>) and **May 6** (<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/87f71082-2707-4b04-ac59-82f1fec377f0@2bb51c06-af9b-42c5-8bf5-3c3b7b10850b>), as well as two public, in-person open houses:

- April 23, 2025 in Grande Prairie from 3:00 to 7:00pm
 - Teresa Sargent Hall, Montrose Cultural Centre
- April 30, 2025 in Grande Cache from 3:00 to 7:00pm
 - Multiple Purpose Room #4, Grande Cache Recreation Centre

Planning and development are core municipal functions. Municipalities are mandated as the agent of land-use planning by the Municipal Government Act, and each municipality has a fundamental interest in land-use planning within their own and neighbouring communities. While the draft Upper Smoky Sub-Regional Plan only affects a few of RMA's members, other municipalities' feedback on the draft Upper Smoky plan and engagement is a valuable asset to EPA for their future work on regional and sub-regional plans across the province.

In addition to the public engagement process put on by EPA, members may reach out to RMA staff for more information or to provide specific feedback on the draft plan or the engagement process.

Joseph Kay

Policy Advisor

780.554.4161

joseph@RMAAlberta.com (mailto:joseph@RMAAlberta.com)

Wyatt Skovron

General Manager of Policy & Advocacy

780.955.4096

wyatt@RMAAlberta.com (mailto:wyatt@RMAAlberta.com)

RMA's Legislative Update: Week of April 14-17, 2025

Posted on: April 17, 2025



Legislature sat for the 100th time this session, right before the long weekend. Members took the time to discuss, amend, and drop several packages. While a productive week, many debates were adjourned until next week. The members of the Legislature also spent substantial time discussing addiction treatment and the measles outbreak.

Visitors to the Legislature this week included members of the Sarb Akal society of Calgary, Christina Hollingworth, an 18-year-old singer-songwriter from Enoch Cree First Nation, and a plethora of Junior-High students from across Alberta. All visitors and guests received the Legislature's warm welcome.

Members' Issues and Related Bills or Activities

Bill 44 – Agricultural Operation Practices Amendment Act, 2025

Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

Bill 44

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_044.pdf) seeks to encourage the emerging biogas industry in Alberta through clarifying waste management practices. The Bill would amend the use and disposal of waste throughout the biogas creation process in the ***Agricultural Operation Practices Act***

(<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-a-7/latest/rsa-2000-c-a-7.html>) with the expectation of increased biogas development.

(<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-a-7/latest/rsa-2000-c-a-7.html>) with the expectation of increased biogas development.

Minister Sigurdson alluded that changes introduced under a memorandum of understanding in 2014, designed to address the emerging technology, have been integrated into the Bill 44. The Bill would allow those changes to remain in place, but place further administrative changes would fall under the review of the Legislature.

Debate was adjourned, without a vote, on April 15.

Bill 47 – Automobile Insurance Act, 2025

Honourable Nate Horner, Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board

Bill 47

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_047.pdf) introduces no-fault collision insurance into the Albertan vehicle insurance scheme. Debate continued on the merits of the scheme, including concerns over the limited breadth of coverage that may be available to injured parties and the limited risk to insurance companies after a settlement has been declared.

Debate was adjourned, without a vote, on April 16.

Bill 49 – Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

Honourable Mike Ellis, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Bill 49

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_049.pdf) empowers government to take another step towards establishing a provincial police force and an independent police agency to govern the force. It also introduces changes to how emergencies are declared and managed in the province. Bill 49 amends several Acts, including the ***Police Act*** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-p-17/latest/rsa-2000-c-p-17.html>) and the ***Emergency Management Act*** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-e-6.8/latest/rsa-2000-c-e-6.8.html>).

Bill 49 passed its first reading on Monday, April 8, where it was framed as providing increased policing options to municipalities. Members of the Legislature expressed concerns over the government's ability to deliver on their promise to smoothly integrate the new police force, as well as concerns over the financial implications for municipalities that do opt to introduce the police force.

Debate was adjourned, without a vote, on Tuesday, April 15. RMA is currently conducting a detailed analysis of Bill 49 and will provide members with more information in the near future.

Bill 50 – Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

Honourable Ric Mclver, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Bill 50

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_050.pdf) seeks to modify three pieces of legislation relevant to municipalities in Alberta: the ***Local Authorities Election Act*** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-l-21/latest/rsa-2000-c-l-21.html>), the ***Municipal Government Act*** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-m-26/latest/rsa-2000-c-m-26.html>), and the ***New Home Buyer Protection Act*** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/sa-2012-c-n-3.2/latest/sa-2012-c-n-3.2.html>).

The Bill makes significant changes to the intermunicipal collaboration framework process – many of which reflect RMA’s advocacy positions on this issue in recent years – while repealing all municipal codes of conduct and introducing a funding scheme for municipal parties during an election.

Election changes will only affect Calgary and Edmonton in 2025, but will expand to remaining municipalities for the following elections. Residents in Jasper will be permitted to run and vote in the Jasper municipal election without residing in Jasper barring proof of residency prior to the 2024 wildfires.

Debate was adjourned, without a vote, on Wednesday, April 16. RMA is currently conducting a detailed analysis of Bill 50 and will provide members with more information in the near future.

Other Notable Legislative Action

Bill 41 – Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025

Honourable Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks

Bill 41

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_041.pdf) would make several significant changes to hunting and trapping practices regulated by the **Wildlife Act** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-w-10/latest/rsa-2000-c-w-10.html>). These changes include permitting children as young as 12 to hunt without supervision, enabling persons with mobility issues to hunt while using a wheelchair, and allowing black bears and cougars to be hunted for their meat. The Bill was read for the second time, without a vote, on April 15.

Bill 53 – Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

Honourable Mike Ellis, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

The long-awaited **Bill 53**

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_053.pdf) was introduced on April 15. The Bill establishes the criteria, guidelines, and processes for a family member or guardian, health-care professional, or police officer to force someone into treatment. The Bill would allow members of the public to report an individual that they believe needs treatment. A lawyer would then determine if this individual was in danger of harming themselves or others, and, if so, the individual would be apprehended by police, and then a panel would determine if a mandatory treatment plan was necessary. If the panel concludes as such, that person would be required to apply the plan which may include use of medication and stays in a secure facility. The Bill passed the first reading on April 15.

Bill 210 – Employment Standards (Protecting Workers’ Tips) Amendment Act, 2024

Honourable Christina Gray, Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods

Bill 210

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_210.pdf) revises the *Employment Standards Code* to protect tips and gratuities from being allocated unfairly from employees who earn them. The Bill would also mandate that any pooled tips are distributed through agreement, and that the amount returns to the employees, not the owner of the establishment. The Bill passed its first reading on December 4, 2024; debate was adjourned due to time constraints on April 14.

Standing and Select Special Committee Meetings

April 29:***Standing Committee on Public Accounts*****Ian Profiri**

Policy & Research Analyst

825.319.2352

ian@RMAAlberta.com (mailto:ian@RMAAlberta.com)

Wyatt Skovron

General Manager of Policy & Advocacy

780.955.4096

wyatt@RMAAlberta.com (mailto:wyatt@RMAAlberta.com)