



FEATURED:

RMA Releases Mature Asset Strategy Response Document

RMA has **released a report** analyzing the Government of Alberta's recently released **Mature Asset Strategy (MAS) final report**.

[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.

Monthly Resolution Update – April 2025

To improve reporting on resolution advocacy, the RMA is releasing a monthly bulletin highlighting recent and upcoming actions undertaken on select active resolutions.

[Learn more...](#)

Bill 49 Proposes Changes to Emergency Response Management

Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services has introduced a bill with amendments that may change some aspects of wildfire, flood and other emergency response in Alberta.

[Learn more...](#)



AGRICULTURE UPDATE

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

JOB POSTINGS

Canoe Procurement Group of
Canada

Rural Medical Camp for Youth - Apply Now!

University of Alberta is running the **Asclepius Medical Camp for Youth** to support a 'grow your own' approach to healthcare worker attraction and retention by providing rural students with an opportunity to learn more about medical professions.

[Learn more...](#)

RMA, ABmunis, and the Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers Release Infographic

The organizations are calling on the Government of Alberta to provide presumed PTSD coverage for Community Peace Officers.

[Learn more...](#)

Lac La Biche County Wins First-Ever Community Wildfire Resilience Award

The award was presented by RMA Insurance and FireSmart Alberta at RMA Insurance's annual RiskPro event, held at the River Cree Resort & Casino. Lac La Biche County earned this distinction after achieving the highest score among participating rural municipalities in the FireSmart Alberta Community Scorecard pilot program, developed in collaboration with the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation (ICCA).

[Learn more...](#)

REMINDERS

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.

Supplier Development Manager

M.D. of Bonnyville
Grants Coordinator

Parkland County
Director, Planning & Development Services

City of Leduc
Fitness Centre Attendant

Athabasca County
Administrative Assistant to the Director

Town of Pincher Creek
Project Engineer

City of Leduc
LATS Operator

Safety Codes Council
Compliance and Technical Advisor, Building

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...](#)

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Consultation on Upper Smoky Sub-Regional Plan

[Share on Twitter](#)

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

[Share on Facebook](#)

[Learn more...](#)

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...](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On April 14, 2025, Energy Alberta proposed the construction of a new nuclear power project north of the Town of Peace River. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada invites comments from Indigenous communities, municipalities and members of the public in the surrounding proposed site area by 11:59 p.m. on May 14, 2025. Provide input by emailing **PeaceNuclear-NucleairePaix@iaac-aeic.gc.ca** or by commenting on the **Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's webpage**. [Learn more...](#)

MCCAC Updates

- MCCAC has extended the deadline on the Collaborative Learning Stream program to **April 28!** This program will help you develop the skills you need to build climate resiliency in your community. You'll work with peers and learn from experts to help

elevate your planning. This program is *absolutely free*. **Learn more...**

IN THE NEWS

- **Declining volunteerism rates on display in rural Alberta**
- **‘This is really what we’re aiming for’: Physicians pleased with improved student placement numbers**
- **‘Profound loss’: Many show support after fire ravages Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village**
- **Woodlands County expands ag plastic recycling program**
- **Bears are back in the Foothills: here's what to know**
- **Province invests millions into infrastructure in Okotoks**
- **Community Foundation of Central Alberta stops in Sylvan Lake**
- **With Jasper’s devastation in mind, Alberta communities gear up for wildfire season**



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Source URL: rmalberta.com/news/rma-releases-mature-asset-strategy-response-document/

RMA Releases Mature Asset Strategy Response Document

Posted on: April 25, 2025



RMA has **released a report analyzing (<https://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Mature-Asset-Strategy-RMA-Response.pdf>)** the Government of Alberta's recently released **Mature Asset Strategy (MAS) final report (<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/c1e0fc7b-ee55-4797-b640-5a2f4657d895/resource/0fcdf8c6-86a1-4e41-97f6-65e175982423/download/em-mature-asset-strategy-2025-04.pdf>)**. The MAS was launched in summer 2024 with the intent of developing a series of recommendations to support continued operations of and manage liabilities associated with Alberta's aging oil and gas assets. RMA participated in three of the six MAS working groups.

The response document is divided into the following sections:

- MAS Process
 - Lack of Definition of "Mature Asset"
 - Stakeholder Involvement
 - Inconsistent Use of Data
 - Municipal Data
 - Mature Asset Locations
 - Municipal Tax Impacts
- Defining Success
- Property Taxes and Mature Assets
- Recommendation Analysis

- Conclusion and next steps

RMA appreciates the intent of the MAS and supports a policy-based approach to balancing long-term industry viability with accountability for regulatory obligations and end-of-life liability management. However, as the response document explains, the MAS process was not structured in a way that allowed for critical, data-supported discussion and recommendation development. It did not include a clear definition of the issue, scope, analysis of impacts of the recommendations on industry and other non-industry stakeholders, or even a clear definition or inventory of a “mature asset.”

Given the weaknesses of the process that led to the 21 recommendations in the MAS final report, RMA expects that the Government of Alberta will undertake fulsome stakeholder engagement that includes both industry and non-industry perspectives prior to implementing any MAS recommendations.

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Monthly Resolution Update – April 2025

Posted on: April 25, 2025



To improve reporting on resolution advocacy, the RMA is releasing a monthly bulletin highlighting recent and upcoming actions undertaken on select active resolutions.

The Monthly Resolution Update Bulletin is a way of routinely highlighting a selection of the over 70 currently active resolutions, offering members a more detailed insight into the work being carried out on their behalf. For the latest formal statuses and reactions to all resolutions, view the RMA's **Resolutions Database** (<https://rmalberta.com/advocacy/resolutions/resolutions-database/>).

The April 2025 edition of the Monthly Resolution Update Bulletin features the following resolutions:

Resolution 7-22F Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Reform (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/7-22f-intermunicipal-collaboration-framework-reform/>) & **Resolution ER1-23F Limiting Third-party Services in ICF Agreements** (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/er1-23f-limiting-third-party-services-in-icf-agreements/>)

There has been significant interest in confining and tailoring the scope of Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICF) by our members. RMA members first endorsed Resolution 7-22F: Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Reform in 2022, calling for the Government of Alberta to define services that must be included when developing ICFs. After an initial **judicial review** (https://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Cardston-Town-v-Alberta-Municipal-Affairs-2022-ABKB-802-DISTRIBUTION-COPY_0001.pdf) of ICF legislation that declared some services “third-party services,” RMA members then endorsed Resolution ER1-23F seeking clarity from the government for the scope and limit on the inclusion of various “third party services.” In 2024, the Court of King’s Bench released the **Whitecourt** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/abkb/doc/2024/2024abkb388/2024abkb388.html?resultId=51017930bf674f8caff2ce39bfe04011&searchId=2025-04-14T11:47:52:539/4473dfbfde224d119b47461e128b6d27&searchUrlHash=AAAAQA1V29vZGxhbmRzIChDb3VudHkplHYgV2hpdGVjb3VydCA/>) decision which attempted to clarify the scope of inclusion for both mandatory and third-party services.

Earlier this month, the Government of Alberta released the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act* (**Bill 50** (https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill-050.pdf))) which – if passed – would clarify what matters must be addressed in ICFs and what third-party matters may be included. Bill 50 would mandate the inclusion of matters related to transportation, water and wastewater, solid waste, emergency services, and recreation in ICFs. Failure to agree on these matters would result in binding arbitration on matters still in dispute. Where there is disagreement outside these areas, the matter may be dropped. The clarity on mandatory and third-party services is a welcome development for RMA members.

Resolution 1-25S: Requirement for Municipal Consultation Prior to Registration of Conservation Easement (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/1-25s-requirement-for-municipal-consultation-prior-to-registration-of-conservation-easement/>)

At present, qualified organizations seeking to register a conservation easement on a given area of land are required to notify municipalities as per the **Alberta Land Stewardship Act** (<https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/A26P8.pdf>). Resolution 1-25S seeks to require that rural municipalities are consulted regarding impacts to local infrastructure and land use planning resulting from a forthcoming conservation easement. Resolution 1-25S calls for consultation between qualified organizations and municipalities to be mandated through the amendment of the **Conservation Easement Registration Regulation** (https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2010_129.pdf).

RMA sent this resolution to the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas and awaits a response. In the meantime, RMA will continue research on this resolution by reaching out to members and seeking information and data on conservation easements in Alberta. Together, these next steps will help RMA measure and demonstrate the specific impacts of conservation easements on municipalities in relation to infrastructure disruption and planned maintenance and enable RMA to advocate for legislative change to require consultation between qualified organizations and municipalities.

Resolution 14-24F: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Coverage for Community Peace Officers Under the Workers' Compensation Act (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/14-24f-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-coverage-for-community-peace-officers-under-the-workers-compensation-act/>)

RMA members endorsed Resolution 14-24F: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Coverage for Community Peace Officers Under the Workers' Compensation Act at the Fall 2024 Convention. Urban municipalities have sponsored an **identical resolution (<https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-resources/resolutions-library/post-traumatic-stress-disorder-ptsd-coverage-community-peace>)** through ABmunis. The RMA resolution highlighted that although Community Peace Officers – many of whom are employed by municipalities – have responsibilities similar to other first responders and regularly face high risk traumatic incidents that could lead to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), they are not considered first responders or awarded the same presumed PTSD protection under the Workers Compensation Act. This special protection, proposed in the resolution for Community Peace Officers, means that when other first responders, including police officers or paramedics, are diagnosed with PTSD, they are not required to prove that their PTSD is a result of their work. Presumed coverage results in system efficiencies and would help CPOs get the help they need sooner.

RMA has partnered with ABmunis and the **Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers (<https://aacpo.ca/>)** (AACPO) to advocate for this change. To date, the organizations have sent a letter to the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade asking him to reconsider his response to our resolutions. The Minister's initial response indicated that his ministry saw the value Community Peace Officers contribute to community safety, but that his ministry did not have any plans to change the legislation. In addition, RMA, ABmunis, and AACPO **released a joint infographic (<https://rmalberta.com/advocacy/community-peace-officers-presumed-ptsd-coverage/>)** that explains the problem and the traumatic nature of the work that CPOs do. Our organizations continue to collaborate and call on the Government of Alberta to provide CPOs with this protection in recognition of the critical ways CPOs serve Alberta communities.

Stay tuned for future editions of the Monthly Resolution Update Bulletin, where we will continue to feature updates on selected resolutions.

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Source URL: rmalberta.com/news/bill-49-proposes-changes-to-emergency-response-management/

Bill 49 Proposes Changes to Emergency Response Management

Posted on: April 25, 2025



Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services has introduced a bill with amendments that may change some aspects of wildfire, flood and other emergency response in Alberta.

On April 7, 2025, the Government of Alberta announced **Bill 49, the Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act**

(<https://www.alberta.ca/improving-public-safety/>). Along with changes to illicit scrap metal sales and **provincial police services**

(<https://rmalberta.com/news/government-of-alberta-introduces-further-legislation-for-new-police-agency/>), this bill also proposes changes to the *Emergency Management Act* that reflect lessons learned from wildfire and flood events and provincial COVID-19 response. An overview of the changes that concern wildfire and flood emergency management are included below:

Inclusion of a preamble

- Highlights rights and freedoms of individuals and local governments during emergency response delivery

Restrictions to the definition of “emergency”

- The new changes limit the application of the Emergency Management Act (EMA) to events that are unpredictable or are known for a limited duration. it is

unclear if the EMA would be activated only during events that are spontaneous, or if there is an acceptable time limit before an event to which the EMA may be activated.

Broadening the scope of Minister powers regarding financial damage compensation and funding to municipalities

- Allows Legislature to provide funding through a broader array of tools, from simple compensation for damages suffered during an “emergency” under the EMA, to compensation for the damage, funding assistance to rebuild lost and damaged structures, and the implementation of prevention measures for eligible hazards.
- Emergency events are expanded from floods to “potential hazards” which now includes wildfires and other emergency events
- Allows the Minister to differentiate classes of applicants, and provide allocations based on those classes.

Addition of transition legislation

- Assists the relevant Minister to transition previously guaranteed funding and emergency relief to the purview of the EMA as amended.
- Regulations that applied before the amendments still apply to decisions made through those regulations (funding, assistance, discipline, etc.); the old regulations apply to old decisions.
- Enables the Minister to create regulations related to the transition period between the implementation of the EMA as it was, to the amended EMA.

Broadening scope of types of insurance that the GOA may subrogate

- Expands the ability of the Minister, on behalf of the GOA, to enforce any right that an original creditor could have pursued against the principal debtor in relation to insurance payments related to the emergency.

Creation of Directives and Guidelines

- Requires the Minister to create or amend rules or requirements relating to the matter of funding in consideration of section 6(1). These rules do not appear to be tied to an act of Legislature.

Duty to Consult

- Allow the Minister to assume control of any powers of local authorities in respect of an emergency.
- The “duty to consult” as administered under this amendment is not extended to the local authorities. The Minister would not be required to consult the local authorities when putting an emergency plan into operation.

Association between declaring an emergency and funding

- Declaration of State of Local Emergency legislation is placed under the Disaster Relief Fund section of the EMA, which brings into consideration when and in what context an emergency is declared alongside the establishment or continuation of Disaster Relief Fund and Disaster Relief Committee.

Informing the public of details of the emergency response

- Inclusion of powers to prohibit travel, restore essential facilities and distribute essential supplies, coordinate emergency medical services, order evacuations, removal of livestock, and procure or fix prices of essential supplies within Alberta.
- Whenever the Minister exercises their powers as per the proposed amendments in the bill, they must inform the population of the affected area(s) and the public through appropriate and effective means.
- Enable the authorization and operation of an emergency plan, the acquisition of real or personal property, the authority to enter any building or land, the removal of natural barriers, and the authority to conscript qualified persons for the needs of the emergency.

In summary, some of the proposed amendments include changes that may benefit rural municipalities, particularly concerning local authority rights and freedoms as well as damage compensation and funding provision. However, the definitions for what constitutes an emergency are generally more limited and municipal consultation with the provincial government regarding the implementation of emergency plans is no longer required.

RMA is currently undertaking a more detailed analysis of Bill 49, and will share with members in the near future.

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Source URL: ruralmedicalcampfor-youth-apply-now/

Rural Medical Camp for Youth – Apply Now!

Posted on: April 25, 2025



In summer 2025, the University of Alberta is running the **Asclepius Medical Camp for Youth** (<https://sites.google.com/view/asclepiusmcfy/home>) in Grande Prairie and Edmonton. The camp was created to support a ‘grow your own’ approach to healthcare worker attraction and retention by providing (rural) students with an opportunity to learn more about medical professions. The camp includes talks on human anatomy and physiology, clinical skills, group activities, interaction with medical students, physicians and patients, learning about financial planning for training, and has games and social events.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- **Have a rural background** (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Tt-Sa3As-szKcJraY0AdqrO-qNg5pH00VjMADtbjVVE/edit?tab=t.0>), especially for the Grande Prairie Camp
- May come from a lower income and/or racialized family
- Be in grades 9-12 in the 2024-2025 school year
- Love learning, even if they don’t have high grades
- Have a good attitude and willingness to work as a team

The **Grande Prairie camp** (<https://sites.google.com/view/asclepiusmcfy/grande-prairie-camp>) runs from July 22-25, 2025. Some accommodation is available for students traveling to the camp from outside of the area. Rural students outside of Edmonton may attend the **Edmonton camp**

(<https://sites.google.com/view/asclepiusmcfy/edmonton-camp>) from July 7-11, 2025. While camp registration is free, students are required to pay for travel to the camp and two meals per day (lunch and snacks provided).

This camp supports two RMA resolutions:

1. **Resolution 1-24F: (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/1-24f-attraction-and-retention-strategy-for-rural-health-care-professionals/>)** Attraction and Retention Strategy for Rural Health Care Professionals
 - This resolution supports the 'grow your own' approach to rural healthcare worker shortages.
2. **Resolution 15-25S: (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/15-25s-enhancing-access-to-post-secondary-education-for-rural-alberta-students/>)** Enhancing Access to Post-Secondary Education for Rural Alberta Students
 - This resolution recognizes that rural students face challenges in accessing postsecondary education, which this camp addresses by offering a low-cost summer camp that enhances rural student exposure to postsecondary opportunities.

Let RMA know if a student you know attends this camp. We'd love to hear about it. Good luck with your application!

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Source URL: rmalberta.com/news/rma-abmunis-and-the-alberta-association-of-community-peace-officers-release-infographic/

RMA, ABmunis, and the Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers Release Infographic

Posted on: April 25, 2025



The organizations are calling on the Government of Alberta to provide presumed PTSD coverage for Community Peace Officers.

Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) members endorsed **Resolution 14-24F: (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/14-24f-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-coverage-for-community-peace-officers-under-the-workers-compensation-act/>)** Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Coverage for Community Peace Officers Under the Workers' Compensation Act. ABmunis members endorsed a resolution at their convention calling for the same action. This resolution explains that while first responders, including Peace Officers who are Sheriffs and other police officers, are given a special presumed PTSD protection in the *Workers Compensation Act*, this same protection does not apply to Community Peace Officers (CPOs).

After receiving resolution responses from the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Trade that did not express interest in providing CPOs with this protection, RMA, Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis), and the Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers (AACPO) united in advocating for this cause. Together, **an infographic has been released (<https://rmalberta.com/advocacy/community-peace-officers-presumed-ptsd-coverage/>)**, advocating for the Government of Alberta to make this

change. This infographic has key information on the work CPOs do, the risks and trauma they are exposed to, as well as what they must do to obtain PTSD coverage at present.

Key points:

- CPOs are first responders and deserve the same legislated protections as Sheriffs
- CPOs regularly face on the job risks and psychological trauma
- The Government of Canada reported that 23% of public safety officers, which includes CPOs, screened positive for PTSD. This rate is 4-5 times higher than the general population

For more information and to view the infographic, **click here** (<https://rmalberta.com/advocacy/community-peace-officers-presumed-ptsd-coverage/>).

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Source URL: rmalberta.com/news/lac-la-biche-county-wins-first-ever-community-wildfire-resilience-award/

Lac La Biche County Wins First-Ever Community Wildfire Resilience Award

Posted on: April 24, 2025

Lac La Biche County receives the inaugural Community Wildfire Resilience Award, presented by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and FireSmart Alberta at RMA Insurance's annual RiskPro event.



NISKU,

ALBERTA, APRIL 24, 2025 – The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), in partnership with FireSmart Alberta, is proud to announce Lac La Biche County as

the first-ever recipient of the Community Wildfire Resilience Award. The award was presented today during RiskPro, RMA's annual insurance and risk management education symposium, held at the River Cree Resort & Casino. This event brings together municipal leaders from across Alberta to explore and enhance local risk management practices.

"This award highlights the kind of leadership that makes a real difference for rural communities," said Kara Westerlund, RMA President. "Lac La Biche County's work sets a strong example for other municipalities navigating the growing risks of wildfire, and we're proud to recognize their efforts alongside FireSmart Alberta."

This new award recognizes municipalities that demonstrate exceptional leadership and commitment to wildfire resilience through proactive FireSmart initiatives. Lac La Biche County earned this distinction after achieving the highest score among participating rural municipalities in the FireSmart Alberta Community Scorecard pilot program, developed in collaboration with the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation (ICCA).

"Municipalities are on the frontlines of wildfire risk, and the work Lac La Biche County has done stands as a model for communities across Alberta," said Craig Pettigrew, General Manager, Insurance, at Rural Municipalities of Alberta. "We're proud to partner with FireSmart Alberta to recognize that leadership and encourage others to take proactive steps in protecting their residents and infrastructure."

Ten Alberta municipalities participated in the scorecard pilot. Lac La Biche County achieved top marks for its comprehensive wildfire mitigation strategy, which included public education, emergency response planning, vegetation management, and community engagement.

"Lac La Biche County became invested in Fire Smart in 2017. With our committed staff and highly dedicated community, we were able to lead the province per capita in Fire Smart initiatives – including assessments and educational events yearly since we began the program." Said John H. Kokotilo, General Manager, Protective Services. "We are very humbled and extremely appreciative to FireSmart Alberta and RMA Insurance in acceptance of the 2025 Community Wildfire Resilience Award."

Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks, said municipalities are key role in helping Albertans protect their homes from wildfires. *"FireSmart steps don't have to be complicated or expensive – small changes can make a big difference," he said. "Lac La Biche County is showing real leadership, and it's great to see them setting an example for others across the province."*

In addition to receiving the inaugural award, Lac La Biche County will also be eligible for a municipal insurance discount. Officially launching in April 2025, this initiative provides insurance savings to municipalities that strive for excellence on their FireSmart Community Scorecard.

The program is designed to support proactive wildfire mitigation by offering annual savings based on each municipality's insurance profile. These savings can be directly reinvested into future FireSmart initiatives identified in each municipality's wildfire mitigation strategies, providing much-needed, flexible resources for wildfire prevention activities often not eligible for other funding streams.

The Lac La Biche Forest Area would like to congratulate Lac La Biche County on receiving the first annual Community Wildfire Resilience Award. Lac La Biche County is a welcome partner in the FireSmart program, with a positive working relationship with Alberta Forestry and Parks. Congratulations to all the passionate team members on having their commitment to wildfire mitigation recognized through this award." Deanna Zelt, Forest Area Manager, Alberta Wildfire – Lac La Biche Forest Area.

The Community Wildfire Resilience Award will be presented annually moving forward, recognizing municipalities that are leading the way in wildfire preparedness and risk reduction. To learn more about the FireSmart program, **click here** (<https://firesmartalberta.ca/>).

About the Rural Municipalities of Alberta

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) is a trusted and independent association representing Alberta's 69 counties and municipal districts. Since 1909, RMA remains committed to empowering rural municipalities with strong, effective local governance. Through dedicated **advocacy** (<https://rmalberta.com/advocacy/>) and a suite of valued business services, including cooperative procurement and group benefits through the **Canoe Procurement Group of Canada** (<https://canoeprocurement.ca/>) and comprehensive coverage through **RMA Insurance** (<https://rmalberta.com/insurance/>), we strive to strengthen and support rural Alberta. Learn more at **rmalberta.com**. (<https://rmalberta.com/>)

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