



FEATURED:

RMA Releases Bill 50 Analysis

RMA has published its analysis of Bill 50, the ***Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025***. The Bill proposes broad amendments to several key pieces of legislation.

[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.

RMA Advocacy Update Webinar Series – Register Now!

The members-only webinars will provide updates and allow for discussion on Bill 49, Bill 50, the assessment model review, the Mature Asset Strategy, and unpaid tax advocacy.

- **Wednesday, May 21, 2:00 – 3:30pm:** *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025*
- **Wednesday, June 4, 1:00 – 2:30pm:** Assessment model review and Mature Asset Strategy
- **Monday, June 16, 2:00 – 3:30pm:** Unpaid tax advocacy and Bill 49: *Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025*

[Learn more...](#)



AGRICULTURE UPDATE

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

JOB POSTINGS

City of Red Deer
Roads Superintendent

Second Phase of Provincial Water Management Engagement Now Open

The Government of Alberta has announced the second phase of the water engagement process which will inform future amendments to the Water Act.

[Learn more...](#)

RMA Assigns Statuses to Nine Fall 2024 Resolutions

The RMA has assigned statuses to nine Fall 2024 resolutions which have received an initial response from government.

[Learn more...](#)

Upcoming Webinar: OHS Proactive Inspection Program Expansion

AMHSA and OHS are jointly hosting a free informational webinar on the recently expanded Proactive Inspection Program.

[Learn more...](#)

RMA Insurance: Hiring Summer Students: Tips for Impactful Employment

Hiring summer students gives them experience they may not get elsewhere, opens the potential for future talent pools, and brings fresh perspectives to your organization.

[Learn more...](#)



Community Futures

Yellowhead East

**Regional Marketing
Strategist**

Rocky View County

Manager, People & Culture

Foothills County

**Economic Development
Officer**

Town of Rimbey

Municipal RCMP Clerk

Town of Hinton

GIS Asset Technician

City of Leduc

**Apprentice Heavy
Equipment Technician**

Strathcona County

**Utilities Asset Management
Coordinator**

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**.

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 28 to May 2, 2025.**

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REMINDERS

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...](#)

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...](#)

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...](#)

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

MCCAC Updates

- Lacombe County received a rebate of nearly \$13,000 through the Community Energy Conservation (CEC) program towards the purchase and installation more than 140 new LED light fixtures and new weather stripping on 21 bay doors at the Lacombe County Public Works Shop. These upgrades have reduced energy use, GHG

emissions and heating costs while simultaneously improving the work environment for county employees. Read the full success story [here](#).

IN THE NEWS

- **Barrhead mental health initiative expands operations through region**
- **Town of Bonnyville re-starts rural immigration program**
- **Rural hamlet in northwestern Alberta will lose its school at the end of June**
- **Rocky View County moving forward with multiple data centres**
- **Several hundred trees removed from public, private lands in Banff townsite to reduce wildfire risk**
- **Sturgeon County launches first-ever Youth Emergency Services Academy**
- **An improved roadmap of northern Alberta includes better emergency exits during wildfires, UCP says**
- **Much of northern Alberta under fire bans, restrictions as province faces hot, dry weather**



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Source URL: rma.alberta.ca/news/rma-releases-bill-50-analysis/

RMA Releases Bill 50 Analysis

Posted on: April 30, 2025



RMA has published its analysis of Bill 50, the ***Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025*** (<https://www.assembly.ab.ca/assembly-business/bills/bill?billinfoid=12078&from=bills>), which was introduced to the Legislative Assembly on April 8, 2025. The Bill proposes broad amendments to several key pieces of legislation, including the ***Municipal Government Act*** (<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/m26>) (MGA), the ***Local Authorities Election Act*** (<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/l21>) (LAEA), the ***New Home Buyer Protection Act*** (<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/n03p2>) (NHBPA), and the ***Safety Codes Act*** (<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/s01>) (SCA).

Changes to the MGA reform the intermunicipal collaboration framework (ICF) process to narrow the scope of the services that can be included in ICFs, as well as introduces expectations or requirements for use of data and joint input into service levels and capital costs for intermunicipal services. The Bill also significantly alters governance processes by eliminating codes of conduct, increasing CAO reporting requirements, and standardizing council procedures under ministerial authority. Official administrators will also have expanded access to municipal operations.

Amendments to the LAEA entrench political party involvement in elections and provide financial advantages to party-affiliated candidates. Changes to the NHBPA expand warranty requirements and restrict exemptions for owner-builders. SCA changes enhance ministerial oversight and require Council appointees to have experience with home warranty programs.

While RMA supports several of the proposed changes, numerous provisions require further clarification from Alberta Municipal Affairs.

To assist members in understanding the potential implications, RMA has developed a detailed analysis document titled **Bill 50: RMA Analysis** (<https://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Bill-50-RMA-Analysis.pdf>). Members are encouraged to read the document and contact RMA's Policy and Advocacy team with questions, comments, and concerns.

RMA will continue to monitor the progress of Bill 50 and will share updates with members, including responses to questions RMA has posed to the Minister, to keep members fully informed on how the proposed changes may affect municipal governance and operations.

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The webinars will provide updates and allow for discussion on Bill 49, Bill 50, the assessment model review, the Mature Asset Strategy, and unpaid tax advocacy.

- Wednesday, May 21, 2:00 – 3:30pm
 - Issue: Bill 50: *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025*
 - **Register here (https://rmalberta.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2Jj960MqRmeMU_GrcqpYVA)**
- Wednesday, June 4, 1:00 – 2:30pm
 - Issues: Assessment model review and Mature Asset Strategy
 - **Register here (https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frmalberta.zoom.us%2Fwebinar%2Fregister%2FWN_hbK8BjP0QGWCmP1wFmdJM0&data=05%7C02%7F)**
- Monday, June 16, 2:00 – 3:30pm
 - Issues: Unpaid tax advocacy and Bill 49: *Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025*
 - **Register here (https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frmalberta.zoom.us%2Fwebinar%2Fregister%2FWN_6jCq4Xy8St-vy5M0JagCHA&data=05%7C02%7Cwyatt%40RMAIberta.com%7Caf2dc78c333246dfddd108dd88ff3bf1%7C82b40ccb1811431a)**

The webinars will be open to elected officials and staff from full RMA member municipalities. To allow for open and frank dialogue, the webinars will not be recorded. If you or other members of your municipality are unable to attend any of the webinars, feel free to contact RMA's Policy and Advocacy Department with any questions or comments related to the issue being discussed.

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Source URL: rmalberta.com/news/second-phase-of-provincial-water-management-engagement-now-open/

Second Phase of Provincial Water Management Engagement Now Open

Posted on: May 2, 2025



The Government of Alberta has announced the second phase of the water engagement process which will inform future amendments to the Water Act.

On April 28, **Environment and Protected Areas (EPA)** announced (<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=93203EB30C919-B5C6-B695-7BDD9AB0C5A557DF>) the continuation of their engagement process on water management in Alberta. EPA is seeking input on more specific aspects of water management based on input provided from the initial engagement period that occurred from late 2024 to early 2025. These aspects include:

- Streamlining decision making and regulatory processes for water licenses, amendments and transfers
- Enhancing water use information to support effective and transparent management of water by all users, including licensing and license transfers
- Enabling lower risk inter-basin transfers where it is safe and appropriate to do so
- Enabling the use of alternative water sources such as rainwater, storm water, wastewater etc.

Although the engagement process is likely to inform amendments to the *Water Act*, the GOA has committed to adhering to the **Water For Life strategy** (<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/77189444-7456-47f7-944c-085272b1a79c/resource/17c41dc3-1692-4cf9-b931->

2892c57a62b1/download/2003-water-life-albertas-strategy-sustainability-november-2003.pdf), keeping the “First-In-Time, First-In-Right” system, not implementing changes that reduce current water allocations, and not adding any new royalties or bulk or volumetric pricing for water. High-risk inter-basin water transfers will continue to require approval by special act of the legislature (except during Cabinet-declared water emergencies under section 107 of the *Water Act*).

The GOA requests feedback from the public and stakeholders by June 30, 2025, by completing the survey (<https://your.alberta.ca/water-availability/surveys/proposed-amendments-to-the-water-act>) on the water engagement webpage. EPA is also in the process of confirming dates and times for in-person engagement sessions throughout May. RMA will share details when they become available.

Water management is increasingly a priority for rural municipalities, as exemplified by resolutions such as **8-25S: Opposition to Water Act Amendments and Lack of Consultation (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/8-25s-opposition-to-water-act-amendments-and-lack-of-consultation/>)** and **7-24F: Improved Water License Approval and Compliance Processes (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/7-24f-improved-water-license-approval-and-compliance-processes/>)**. Resolution 7-24F highlights concerns around freshwater use for industry licensees while 8-25S highlights concerns around water availability, conservation, and proper public consultation.

RMA will continue to monitor the status of this engagement, any amendments to the *Water Act* and will provide input representing the water management needs and perspectives of rural municipalities.

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Source URL: rmaalberta.com/news/rma-assigns-statuses-to-nine-fall-2024-resolutions/

RMA Assigns Statuses to Nine Fall 2024 Resolutions

Posted on: May 2, 2025



The RMA has assigned statuses to nine Fall 2024 resolutions which have received an initial response from government.

Immediately after resolutions are endorsed by RMA members, the RMA sends the resolutions to the relevant provincial or federal ministries or organizations for an initial response. Based on the response received, the RMA assigns the resolution a status and drafts an initial reaction.

The RMA updates the **resolutions database** (<https://rmaalberta.com/advocacy/resolutions/resolutions-database/>) and issues bulletins with updates as responses are received. The RMA has recently received responses to nine member resolutions passed at the 2024 Fall Convention. Given these responses, the RMA has drafted an initial reaction to the resolutions.

The government responses, statuses, and the RMA reactions can be viewed for each resolution on the **RMA resolutions database** (<https://rmaalberta.com/advocacy/resolutions/resolutions-database/>):

1-24F (https://rmaalberta.com/resolutions/1-24f-attraction-and-retention-strategy-for-rural-health-care-professionals/)	Attraction and Retention Strategy for Rural Health Care Professionals
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2-24F (https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/2-24f-increased-funding-support-for-rural-family-and-community-support-services-programs/)	Increased Funding Support for Rural Family and Community Support Services Programs
4-24F (https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/4-24f-amend-municipal-government-act-to-designate-police-funding-model-levy-as-requisition/)	Amend Municipal Government Act to Designate Police Funding Model Levy as Requisition
5-24F (https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/5-24f-tax-credits-for-volunteer-firefighting-and-search-and-rescue-volunteer-services/)	Tax Credits for Volunteer Firefighting and Search and Rescue Volunteer Services
10-24F (https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/10-24f-full-time-24-7-home-care-support-in-lodges-supportive-living-accommodations/)	Federal-Provincial Partnership to Counter the United States Inflation Reduction Act
12-24F (https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/12-24f-accountability-in-the-establishment-of-an-independent-agency-police-service-in-alberta/)	Accountability in the Establishment of an Independent Agency Police Service in Alberta
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
17-24F (https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/17-24f-improved-grizzly-bear-management-to-ensure-human-livestock-and-wildlife-safety/)	Improved Grizzly Bear Management to Ensure Human, Livestock and Wildlife Safety

19-24F (https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/18-24f-renewable-electricity-and-grid-stability/)	Exemption from Food Banks Canada's Standard of Excellence and Accreditation Requirements for Small and/or Rural Local Food Banks
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The RMA plans to release its 2025 Resolution Status Update – Volume 1 later this year, which will include statuses and reactions to all other Fall 2024 resolutions for which a government response is received, as well as status and reaction updates to all other active resolutions.

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Source URL: rmalberta.com/news/upcoming-webinar-ohs-proactive-inspection-program-expansion/

Upcoming Webinar: OHS Proactive Inspection Program Expansion

Posted on: May 2, 2025



AMHSA and OHS are jointly hosting a free informational webinar on the recently expanded Proactive Inspection Program.

Effective April 1, 2025, **Occupational Health and Safety** (<https://www.alberta.ca/occupational-health-safety>) (OHS) expanded the **Proactive Inspection Program** (<https://www.alberta.ca/ohs-proactive-inspection-program>) to include counties/municipal districts, towns, and villages; the program previously only included cities.

Each year, OHS proactively inspects employers to monitor compliance with legislation. The Proactive Inspection Program helps work site parties identify health and safety hazards and mitigation measures. OHS chooses employers and sectors with:

- Relatively high injury and illness rates
- High frequency of incidents
- Emerging trends

The **Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association** (<https://www.amhsa.net/>) (AMHSA) has partnered with OHS to host a free informational webinar to share important updates to the Proactive Inspection Program. The webinar will feature an OHS officer who will provide an overview of the program expansion followed by a live, 15-minute Q&A.

The webinar is scheduled for **Friday, May 9, 2025, from 12:00-12:45 pm.**

Use **this link to register**

(https://amhsa.zoom.us/webinar/register/5517460494865/WN_MKly73QKSfeB0w2Qnd2qBA)

as well as submit questions in advance. If you cannot attend live, a recording will be sent to all registrants.

AMHSA has created an **informational document**

([https://www.amhsa.net/filessharing/ohs-pdf-redirect-](https://www.amhsa.net/filessharing/ohs-pdf-redirect-final_20250409163430.html?utm_source=rma-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ohs-proactive-inspection-program-expansion)

final_20250409163430.html?utm_source=rma-

newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ohs-proactive-inspection-

program-expansion) providing details regarding the expansion of the program. The

Government of Alberta has also developed resources for what **workers** ([https://ohs-](https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/download/sample/734)

pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/download/sample/734) and **employers** ([https://ohs-](https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/download/sample/735)

pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/download/sample/735) can expect before, during, and

after an OHS inspection.

For more information on the Proactive Inspection Program:

Connect with OHS:

Phone: 780-415-8690 (Edmonton)

Toll free: 1-866-415-8690

Connect with AMHSA:

1-800-267-9764 or **safety@amhsa.net** (<mailto:safety@amhsa.net>)

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Source URL: rmaalberta.com/news/hiring-summer-students-tips-for-impactful-employment/

Hiring Summer Students: Tips for Impactful Employment

Posted on: May 2, 2025



Hiring summer students can be such an important part of teaching people in our communities skills and giving them experience they may not get elsewhere. It also opens the potential for future talent pools and brings fresh perspectives to your organization.

Here are some benefits of hiring summer students:

- **Skill development:** Students can gain practical experience and valuable skills that could help them in future careers.
- **Increased productivity:** Students can be more willing to learn and work hard, increasing productivity and efficiency.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** You can provide opportunities to students of various backgrounds.
- **Cost effective:** Hiring summer students provides a great opportunity within your communities at fair wage.

What are good practices when hiring summer students?

- Be open to understanding that every student applying may have different skill levels.
- Help find the position that best suits each student, to provide real life experience. For example, someone studying agriculture in school may be best suited working in that area.

- Ensure criminal record checks, vulnerable sector checks, and driver abstracts are obtained prior to employment.
- Create a performance objective plan for the students, so they have attainable goals during their employment. Ensure the plan is clear, but also enticing and rewarding so they enjoy the tasks they are learning. A great example of this could be a workplace bingo consisting of tasks and learning objectives. As they complete tasks or learn new skills, they can collect stamps. Students who complete the full bingo board receive a prize, for example, getting lunch with the CAO or someone who can help talk about their future and motivate them to be successful.

What can you do to make their work experience as impactful as possible?

- Create a work buddy system. Put students with experienced full-time or seasonal workers who can teach them the ropes. This will also show them a positive work environment and inclusiveness.
- Teach students essential skills they can use at any career they choose, like creative problem solving, how to develop your network, and how to work in a collaborative environment.
- Teach students how the public service sector operates and the importance of working in this sector.
- Provide a healthy and safe work environment.
- Be responsive if a concern is brought up. Students may notice a risk in your operations that was previously overlooked. Students may be more in tune with identifying hazards that other employees may have become complacent towards.

What risk management steps can you take with summer students?

- Provide comprehensive health and safety training.
- Provide adequate training and supervision in their role.
- Follow any safety precautions that are required for the tasks they will be performing.
- Provide regular communication to address any concerns or issues promptly.
- Have a system in place for documentation if concerns are brought to your attention.
- Have a clear termination policy.
- Ensure you are following all legal compliance requirements.

Driving Municipal Vehicles

In general, students may be allowed to drive municipal vehicles provided they meet the following criteria:

- **Valid driver's licence:** The student must hold a valid and appropriate class of driver's licence for the vehicle they are operating.
- **Driver abstract review:** It is recommended that the municipality obtain and review the student's driver abstract prior to granting access to any municipal vehicle.
- **Supervision and training:** Students should be given a clear orientation on municipal vehicle use policies, expectations, and safety procedures.
- **Permitted use:** Vehicle use should be limited to municipal business only. Personal or off-duty use should not be permitted.

Does insurance cover summer students?

As with any employee, your insurance policies extend to summer students. Your policy would respond to defend your municipality, county or town, should it be named in a claim, subject of course to the terms, conditions, deductibles, warranties, exclusions, and extensions of the policy.

Hiring summer students can also remind long-term staff how to have fun at work or teach them skills that they may have forgotten over time. It is a great opportunity for your staff to be involved and feel more included during the busy summer months. Summer students can also provide relief for staff who may be feeling overwhelmed with some of the day-to-day tasks and allow them to work on that work project they have been putting off for some time.

Have a safe and fun summer! If you have any questions or concerns that RMA can assist you with regarding your summer students, please contact us at risk@rmainsurance.com (mailto:risk@rmainsurance.com).

Source URL: rmalberta.com/news/rmas-legislative-update-week-of-april-28-may-2-2025/

RMA's Legislative Update: Week of April 28 – May 2, 2025

Posted on: May 2, 2025



Coming off the heels of the federal election, the Alberta Legislature got right back to work debating and passing meaningful legislation. Recognizing the importance of the direction Alberta will take in light of the new structure of Parliament, the Legislature sat for two consecutive evenings through Monday and Tuesday to focus on federal-provincial relations.

Visitors to the Legislature this week included the Ponoka Storm U15 Girls Soccer team who will be representing Canada at the Iber Cup in Portugal later this year, representatives from Water Movement, an Indigenous group ensuring communities have the training and resources needed to supply clean water, and a group of Buddhist monks from California. Legislature also took a moment to recognize the tragic loss of life that occurred over the weekend at the Lapu-Lapu Day festival in Vancouver.

Members' Issues and Related Bills or Activities

Bill 50 – Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

Honourable Ric McIver, 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 four 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>), 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>), and the **Safety Codes Act** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-s-1/latest/rsa-2000-c-s-1.html>).

The Bill makes significant changes to the intermunicipal collaboration framework process, repeals all municipal codes of conduct, and introduces a funding scheme for municipal parties during an election. The Bill also changes significant aspects of the practice, administration, and recall of chief administrative officers.

RMA recently conducted a detailed **analysis (<https://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Bill-50-RMA-Analysis.pdf>)** of Bill 50. Numerous questions have been raised by our members; RMA is actively seeking clarification from the Minister on several issues.

Bill 50 passed its second reading, on division, on April 30.

Bill 52 – Energy and Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 2025
Honourable Nathan Neudorf, Minister of Affordability and Utilities

Bill 52

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_052.pdf) makes several significant changes to the ***Electric Utilities Act*** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/sa-2003-c-e-5.1/latest/sa-2003-c-e-5.1.html>).

These include restructuring the energy market to replace the current Alberta Electric Systems Operator (AESO) power pool with a day-ahead and real-time market, modifying the duties of AESO to minimize interference in the energy market, and allow the Minister to create new regulations without committee oversight. The Bill would also permit hydrogen-blended gas to be used for residential and commercial purposes. These changes are expected to take effect by 2027.

If passed, Bill 52 would assist the electricity market move away from the current “zero-congestion” model which encouraged unfettered infrastructure expansion. In addition to market-based mechanisms, the amendments would encourage AESO to develop transmission systems that permit greater exchange of electricity through minimal infrastructure. The changes may introduce risk to generators seeking to deliver electricity to the grid, as there would be reduced capacity for new or growing generators, but would reduce costs associated with building and maintaining an ever-expanding grid.

Bill 52 passed its second reading on April 30.

Bill 54 – Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025
Honourable Mickey Amery, Minister of Justice

Bill 54

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_054.pdf) would introduce significant changes to seven pieces of election-related legislation. Among the many changes proposed, the Bill would ban electronic and out-of-riding ballots while expanding the use of special ballots, eliminates vouching for voters, require vote-counts to be complete within 12 hours of the closing of the voting period, reduce advertising

restrictions during elections, allow corporations and unions to make political donations, and increase the donation limit. The Bill would also make it easier for referendum questions to be initiated by citizens.

The GOA submits that the amendments will ensure democratic processes – elections and referendums – are aligned and conducted in a transparent manner. Premier Smith told a news conference that the changes “build on the integrity, trust, and openness that have always been at the heart of democracy and keep Alberta strong and free.” Critics of the Bill note that the increased donation and advertising amounts place average people at a disadvantage in terms of political influence, and that the new rules may make it more difficult to trace donation sources.

Bill 54 passed its first reading on April 29.

Other Notable Legislative Action

Bill 39 – Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

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

Bill 39

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_039.pdf) proposes several funding changes described in Budget 2025 to various acts. At issue during this week’s sittings were changes to funding for Legal Aid and the Law Society of Alberta. Lawyers have raised concerns with the proposed \$22 million cut in Legal Aid funding, noting there are already significant barriers to access to justice for the general population, and that these cuts will only delay or prevent this access. The GOA submits the changes are necessary to find efficiencies within the justice system. Bill 39 passed its second reading, unamended, on April 29.

Bill 40 – Professional Governance Act, 2025

Honourable Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Advanced Education

Bill 40

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_040.pdf) seeks to modernize and streamline professional governance by consolidating nine separate acts into one. This would bring more than 20 professional regulators – including accounting, engineering, geoscience, and veterinary medicine – under one entity. The Bill would standardize the framework for resolution processes, including complaints, disciplines, and appeals, across the professional organizations. The Bill passed its second reading on April 28. Debate continued through April 30, but was adjourned.

Bill 44 – Agricultural Operation Practices Amendment Act, 2025

Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

Debate continued on **Bill 44**

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_044.pdf) from its adjournment on April 15. The Bill seeks to encourage the emerging biogas industry in Alberta through clarifying waste management practices by amending 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>). While changes that are expected to reduce the amount of farm waste entering landfills was applauded, concerns were raised over the limited areas of development. The current limit to industrial areas away from the public, instead of farmland, regardless of proximity to municipalities, appears to contradict the stated environmental goals of the legislation. Debate was adjourned again on April 29.

Bill 45 – Critical Infrastructure Defence Amendment Act, 2025

Honourable Mickey Amery, Minister of Justice

Bill 45

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_045.pdf) updates the definition of “essential infrastructure” – infrastructure and land protected from protest and unlawful entering under the **Critical Infrastructure Defence Act** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/sa-2020-c-c-32.7/latest/sa-2020-c-c-32.7.html>) (CIDA) – to include a two-kilometre-deep area on the US-Canada border and oil and gas production facilities. The Bill, critically referenced by some commentators as “performative,” also seeks to apply the CIDA prohibition on entering essential infrastructure to the Government of Canada. The Bill passed its second reading on April 28.

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. The merits of the scheme continued to be debated, with special attention given to the inability of injured parties to sue for extenuating or debilitating injuries and the projected profits for private insurance companies. Critics note that the scheme may move significant funds from the insured to private companies without the corresponding and adequate coverage. The Bill passed its second reading, on division, on April 30.

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) further enables the establishment of a provincial police force in Alberta. 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>). The Bill may provide more policing options to municipalities; however, there remain concerns over the financial, governance and service level implications for municipalities. Bill 49 passed its second reading, on division, on April 30. RMA is currently conducting a detailed analysis of Bill 49 and will provide members with more information in the near future.

Bill 51 – Education Amendment Act, 2025

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education

Bill 51

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_051.pdf) is the education board version of the hotly debated Bill 50. Bill 51 seeks to update the **Education Act** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/sa-2012-c-e-0.3/latest/sa-2012-c-e-0.3.html>) by introducing a preamble that recognizes the various school boards within Alberta, removing duplicative reporting processes, and changing the removal procedure for school board trustees. School board trustees that breach the school board code of conduct would now only be able to be removed through the election process or a recall vote. The recall would be initiated after 40% of the voters in a trustee's ward sign a recall petition. Bill 51 passed its second reading on April 30.

Bill 53 – Compassionate Intervention Act, 2025

Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction

Bill 53

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_1/20230530_bill_053.pdf) would allow adult family members, guardians, healthcare professionals, and police to request a treatment order for those with addiction or substance use issues and are a danger to themselves or others. The Act would allow the internment of these individuals in a secure-treatment facility for three to six months without their consent. The GOA says that the Act aims to keep communities safe while ensuring vulnerable people have access to recovery supports. Debate was adjourned on April 29.

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 directly to the employees. The Bill was defeated on April 28.

Standing and Select Special Committee Meetings

May 6 and 13:

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

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