



FEATURED:

RMA Releases Bill 28 Analysis and Announces Member Webinar

RMA provides an in-depth review of Bill 28, including key concerns and opportunities for member engagement via a webinar taking place April 29, 2026.

[Access the full analysis and register for the webinar...](#)

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.

Cemetery Risk Management: Best Practices

Municipal cemeteries are dynamic workplaces where maintaining grounds, managing burials, operating heavy equipment, and preventing unauthorized access require careful planning and deliberate procedures. The team at RMA Insurance has laid out best practices in their latest bulletin.

[Learn more...](#)



AGRICULTURE UPDATE

Moisture Situation Update
March 27, 2026



RMA's legislative updates will return next week.

REMINDERS

Emergency Preparedness Week 2026: May 3-9

Research shows that communities who have established strong social connections before an emergency often experience better outcomes following the emergency. Emergency Preparedness Week takes place May 3-9 and will be focused on the steps to make community connections.

[Read the preliminary analysis now...](#)

Enhancing Grocery Accessibility – Engagement Opportunity

The Government of Alberta is working to understand grocery accessibility in different communities, including rural. Opportunities for written submission and to attend a virtual engagement session are available.

[Learn more...](#)

Mitigating Root Intrusion

Tree and shrub roots will find a way to infiltrate municipal sewer systems. Having a well-planned approach to mitigate this risk will help prevent loss, and the resulting downtime of a costly and lengthy sewer repair. RMA Insurance has prepared this in-depth resource to help guide your preventative maintenance.

JOB POSTINGS

RMA Insurance
Claims Adjuster (Northern AB)

Canoe Benefits
Group Benefits Account Manager

Parkland County
Environmental Specialist

Stettler County
Municipal Engineer

Lacombe County
Assistant Construction Supervisor

Foothills County
Recreation Facility Operator

Flagstaff County
Agriculture Inspector

Parkland County
Fire Chief

[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...](#)

Spring Cleaning Your Property

Alberta's harsh winters can lead to accumulated snow, ice buildup, and moisture infiltration, increasing risks of flooding, mould, and structural weakening. This bulletin from RMA Insurance is designed to help build up your best practices around spring cleaning and upkeep.

[Learn more...](#)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder - You're Invited to the 2026 Charity Golf Tournament - Registration Now Open!



- Our Charity Golf Tournament in support of the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation is returning June 19, 2026! Join us at the Cougar Creek Golf Resort in Carvel, AB for a great day on the links in support of an even greater cause.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

MCCAC Update: Alberta Climate Resilience Cohort

- The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre's (MCCAC) new program is exclusive to communities with a population under 30,000. The Alberta Climate Resilience Cohort will enable communities to advance climate-resilient infrastructure projects through expert guidance, peer learning, and tailored technical support. This program is offered in partnership with MCCAC as part of the Climate Ready Infrastructure Service (CRIS), delivered by the Canadian Urban Institute and funded by the Government of Canada.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

belairdirect Preferred Member Rates for Home Insurance

- RMA members have access to preferred rates on home insurance through belairdirect! Utilize RMA's group ID code for:
 - Preferred rates & interest free monthly payments
 - Exclusives for Rural Municipalities of Alberta members such as our Affinity Plus Endorsement, built in critical illness coverage, identify theft coverage, and much more
 - Use of the industry leading digital and mobile Insurance application
 - Access to the claims handling of the largest Property & Casualty organization in Canada.
- Get your quote today with our **group ID code RURAL** at belairdirect.com/savings. Or call 1-866-423-5247.

FireSmart Alberta: Upcoming 2026 FireSmart Opportunities for Alberta Communities

- Community leaders across Alberta are encouraged to take advantage of several FireSmart opportunities in 2026 to support local wildfire preparedness and strengthen community resilience.
 - The **FireSmart Alberta Community Scorecard** provides communities with an opportunity to assess their current wildfire preparedness, identify areas for improvement, and track progress over time. It is a practical tool that can support planning, local decision-making, and ongoing risk reduction efforts.
 - Communities can also build capacity through FireSmart training opportunities.
Neighbourhood Recognition Program Specialist training supports local leaders working with neighbourhoods, while **Home Ignition Zone Specialist** training helps prepare participants to support the

Advanced Home Assessment Program

and homeowner-level wildfire risk reduction.

- In addition, the **FireSmart Community of Practice** is a monthly virtual meeting where community leaders managing the FireSmart portfolio within their communities can connect, receive updates, and share experiences and promising practices.
- For more information on these opportunities, please contact firesmart@gov.ab.ca or visit www.firesmartalberta.ca.

Elected Officials Education Program (EOEP)

Upcoming Courses

- EOEP equips municipal leaders with the knowledge and skills required under the Municipal Government Act (MGA) to govern effectively, lead strategically, and serve their communities with confidence. **Learn more and register.**
- **Expand Your Knowledge on Public Engagement**
How much should you engage your residents for input and how should you do it? This course will offer tips, help you strengthen transparency and incorporate public input into council decision-making.
 - Date: May 6 | May 13 | May 20, 2026 (must attend all three sessions)
 - Time: 9:00 – 11:30 am
 - Location: Online
 - Cost: \$295

IN THE NEWS

- **Government of Canada helping Edmonton-area businesses modernize operations and increase sales**
- **More modulars, more space for students**
- **Alberta town council wants province to pause viability review into Town of Gibbons**

- **Redraw of electoral boundaries would present challenging timeline: Elections Alberta**
- **Alberta rejects federal nature strategy, redefines protected land**
- **Gas tax suspended for gasoline, diesel: PM Carney**
- **Alberta launches transportation hub to help truckers avoid bridge strikes**
- **44 wood bison relocating to Alaska from Elk Island National Park**



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RMA Releases Bill 28 Analysis and Announces Member Webinar

Posted on: April 17, 2026



RMA provides an in-depth review of Bill 28, including key concerns and opportunities for member engagement.

RMA has published its analysis of Bill 28, the **Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026**

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill_028.pdf), which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on April 2, 2026. The Bill

proposes significant amendments to several key pieces of legislation, including the

Municipal Government Act (<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/m26>), the **Alberta**

Housing Act (https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=A25.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779850976), and the **Libraries Act**

(https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=L11.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779847631).

Following a detailed review, RMA

has completed its initial analysis to support members in understanding the scope and

potential implications of the proposed changes.

Bill 28 introduces amendments across seven key themes:

- Enabling Growth and Housing
- Assessment and Property Tax
- Aggregate Pits
- Seniors Lodges
- Governance and Accountability
- Municipal Transparency
- Public Institutions

Overall, the Bill reflects a broad shift toward increased provincial oversight in areas that have traditionally been part of municipal decision-making. While some amendments clarify existing processes or introduce new tools, others establish new oversight mechanisms or standardize municipal practices in ways that may influence how municipalities plan, regulate development, manage assessment and taxation matters, and deliver services. Several changes appear to stem from provincial engagements focused on reducing administrative requirements for industry, and the resulting amendments shift decision-making authority away from municipalities in ways that raise important questions about local autonomy and accountability.

A key consideration for members is that many of the most consequential impacts of Bill 28 will be determined through regulations that have not yet been developed. From RMA's perspective, it will be critical that the province clearly articulate the purpose behind these changes, address practical implementation needs, and meaningfully engage with key stakeholders throughout the process. It will also be important that municipal decision-making continues to be respected as these amendments are contemplated. RMA has concerns with several amendments included in the Bill and does not support them in their current form. RMA's analysis outlines these issues in detail and highlights the implications for rural municipalities.

To assist members in understanding the potential implications, RMA has developed a detailed analysis document found here: **Bill 28: RMA Analysis (<https://rmaalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/04-17-26-Bill-28-RMA-Analysis.pdf>)**. Members are encouraged to read the document and contact RMA's Policy and Advocacy team with questions, comments, and concerns.

Access RMA's Bill 28 Analysis (<https://rmaalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/04-17-26-Bill-28-RMA-Analysis.pdf>)

Bill 28 Member Webinar

To further support members, RMA will host a Bill 28 Member Webinar on:

April 29, 2026, from 12:00pm – 1:30pm.

The session will feature RMA President Kara Westerlund and senior RMA staff, who will walk through RMA's analysis, highlight key considerations for members, and provide an opportunity for questions. **This webinar is open to RMA members only. Please register using this link (<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/35444eb4-9026-41b5-9764-bbc9318612c5@82b40ccb-1811-431a-969b-6fbde1867d74>)** and ensure you register using the email address associated with your municipality so RMA can verify membership.

RMA will continue to monitor Bill 28 as it progresses through the legislative process and will provide updates as new information becomes available. Members with questions or feedback are encouraged to contact RMA's Policy and Advocacy team.

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Cemetery Risk Management: Best Practices

Posted on: April 17, 2026



To most people, cemeteries appear as quiet, low-activity spaces, leading to assumptions that they present minimal risk. However, even with less foot traffic than other municipal areas, cemeteries still contain significant hazards. Municipal cemeteries are dynamic workplaces where maintaining grounds, managing burials, operating heavy equipment, and preventing unauthorized access require careful planning and deliberate procedures.

For municipalities, effective risk management is essential to protecting people, property, and organizational reputation. By recognizing the unique risks associated with cemetery operations, municipalities can implement measures that support safe, well-managed cemeteries.

Duty of Care and Site Safety

Municipalities are responsible for ensuring cemetery grounds remain safe, well-maintained, and free of hazards. This includes routine inspections, ongoing maintenance, and prompt correction of any known issues. Under the **Occupiers' Liability Act**, municipalities owe a **duty of care** to all entrants, including trespassers, meaning hazards **must** be mitigated regardless of visitor status. Ensuring adequate lighting at night, maintaining clear pathways, and monitoring conditions such as uneven ground, loose gravel, or seasonal hazards, like snow and ice, are essential to managing risk.

Cemetery operations should also include **periodic nighttime patrols**, such as a guard or peace officer drive-by, to deter trespassing and to keep watch for issues that may occur or arise after hours. **Winter maintenance** and a documented snow-removal schedule further support accessibility and reduce slip-and-fall exposures.

Liability and Property Protection

While municipalities are responsible for maintaining cemetery grounds, they may also become **liable for damage to headstones or monuments** caused during municipal operations such as mowing, excavation, or equipment use. However, not all damage in a cemetery is a result of municipal operations. Therefore, it should be standard practice to encourage families to insure their loved one's plots or monuments under personal insurance policies, certifying coverage if damage occurs that is *not* the responsibility of the municipality.

Municipalities must **maintain detailed records** of cemetery sites, plot registers, access hours, and fees.

Governance and Compliance

All municipal cemetery operations must comply with the requirements of the **Provincial Cemeteries Act**, making compliance an important part of managing risk. To support this, municipalities should implement:

- **A cemetery bylaw** which addresses care, custody, and control of cemetery lands.
- **An administrative plan** outlining inspection schedules, documentation requirements, and roles and responsibilities.
- **An operational plan** including yearly improvement initiatives, grants, and long-term site planning.
- **Formal agreements (MOUs)** with non-profit groups, operators, or community groups involved in cemetery oversight.

Operations and Controls

Effective operations rely on clear documentation, coordination, and proactive oversight. Municipalities should maintain a **written maintenance schedule** covering routine tasks such as lawn care, while ensuring summer maintenance staff actively identify and report any hazards.

Coordination with local funeral homes is very important, including scheduled check-ins before and after site excavations to clearly identify and address any hazards. Larger funeral services should be planned in advance, as they may create traffic slowdowns or access issues that require traffic control or assistance from local enforcement to ensure safe passage for attendees.

Effective implementation of these risk controls will ensure the safety of all visitors and promote a well-managed cemetery with minimal risk and hazards.

Please reach out to the Risk Team at **risk@rmainsurance.com**
(mailto:risk@rmainsurance.com) for any questions or concerns relating to Cemetery management, and for links to the **Occupiers' Liability Act** and **Cemeteries Act**.