



## FEATURED:

### Government of Alberta Introduces Bill 28: Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026

The Government of Alberta has introduced Bill 28, which proposes a wide range of amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) across several major municipal policy areas. RMA is currently reviewing the Bill and will provide members with a detailed initial analysis in the near future.

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

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## MEMBER BULLETINS

Member bulletins are posted to [RMAAlberta.com](http://RMAAlberta.com) regularly each week. Below is a list of all the member bulletins compiled from the past week.

### Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission Submits Final Report to Cabinet

The Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission has submitted its final report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The final report also includes a minority report from two dissenting commissioners, which includes alternative electoral boundary maps.



[Learn more...](#)

## Emergency Use Registration for Strychnine Approved

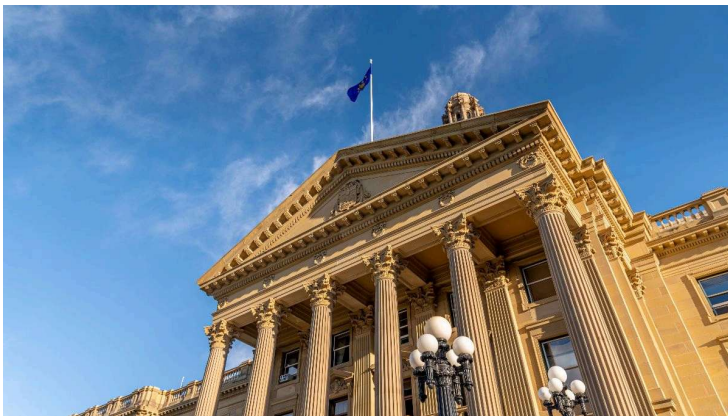
Health Canada announced that it has authorized Alberta and Saskatchewan's re-submission for emergency use registration for two per cent liquid strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrel control until November 2027.

[Learn more...](#)

## Canadian Infrastructure Council Calls for Evidence for Second National Infrastructure Assessment

The Canadian Infrastructure Council (CIC) has announced a national Call for Evidence to support the development of Canada's second National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA) report.

[Learn more...](#)



RMA provides legislative updates while the Government of Alberta is in session: **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF MAR 30, 2026**

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## REMINDERS

### RMA Spring 2026 Endorsed Resolutions

Resolutions form an important part in identifying direction for the RMA's advocacy efforts. The RMA membership endorsed thirteen (13) resolutions in Spring 2026.

**Moisture Situation Update**  
**March 27, 2026**

### JOB POSTINGS

RMA Insurance

**Claims Adjuster (Northern AB)**

Canoe Procurement Group of Canada

**Member Outreach Representative**

Canoe Benefits

**Group Benefits Account Manager**

Strathcona County

**Legal Counsel II**

Yellowhead County

**Community Peace Officer (Level One)**

Clearwater County

**Chief Administrative Officer**

Sturgeon County

**Assessment Services Summer Student**

Parkland County

**Manager, Technology Operations & Cybersecurity**

Special Areas Board

**Facilities Manager (Foreman V)**

[VIEW OUR JOB BOARD](#)

**LOOKING FOR INFORMATION FROM A PREVIOUS ISSUE?**

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

[Learn more...](#)

## Monthly Resolution Update – March 2026

The RMA releases a monthly bulletin highlighting recent updates and actions undertaken on select active resolutions. This includes resolutions on waste and wastewater system funding, opposition to Water Act amendments, and increasing funding for Alberta's libraries.

[Learn more...](#)

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

[Forward to friend](#)

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## Expiring Resolution Update – March 2026

To improve reporting on resolution advocacy, the RMA shares a bi-annual bulletin highlighting recent actions undertaken on expiring resolutions.

[Learn more...](#)

## Driver Hiring: Best Practices

Hiring qualified drivers to operate company vehicles, trucks, and equipment is a crucial component of any organization's risk management strategy. This RMA Insurance bulletin outlines practical steps to assess driver suitability and strengthen hiring decisions.

[Learn more...](#)

## Mitigating Roadside Clean Up Risks

Alberta's annual highway cleanup event is approaching. Roadside cleanup activities, whether undertaken through this program or as part of routine county road upkeep, help maintain safe and clean roadways. To mitigate these hazards, RMA Insurance has developed a comprehensive list of best practices to ensure a safe and effective cleanup process.

[Learn more...](#)

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Rural Health Policy: Mobilizing Strengths, Building Capacity – May 22nd, 2026, 9:00 to 4:00 pm**

- You're invited to an Institute of Health Economics Policy hybrid event in partnership with Athabasca University.

This hybrid event will be a mix of plenary presentations and interactive panels focusing on community capacity building, innovative delivery options and health workforce. This event is being conducted by the Institute of Health Economics (IHE) in partnership with Athabasca University and is supported through grant funding and assistance to the IHE from Alberta Primary and Preventative Health Services, Acute Care Alberta, and Health Quality Alberta.

**[Click here to register.](#)**

## **MCCAC Updates: Save Energy, Save Money - Financial Rebates Available**

- You have until April 30th to apply for the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) Community Energy Conservation and Municipal Electricity Generation programs, so send your expression of interest forms today!

### **Community Energy Conservation program | Municipal Electricity Generation program**

- Plus, now open: the Alberta Climate Resilience Cohort! The Alberta Climate Resilience Cohort will enable communities to advance climate resilient infrastructure projects through expert guidance, peer learning, and tailored technical support. **Learn more and apply today!**

## **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.**
- **Strengthen Regional Collaboration**  
Learn practical strategies to build trust, strengthen relationships and lead effective collaboration across municipal boundaries across municipal boundaries
  - Date: April 16 | April 23 | April 30, 2026 (must attend all three sessions)
  - Time: 1:00 – 3:30 pm
  - Location: Online
  - Cost: \$295
- **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

### **2026 RMA Fall Convention: Accommodation Details Now Available!**

- The hotel room rates and booking details for the upcoming 2026 RMA Fall Convention (November 2-5, 2026) are now available. We invite members to plan early to secure these rates. Updated cancellation policies also apply for fall bookings. **Click here for all details.**

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## **IN THE NEWS**

- **Final agreement signed for major project reviews**

- **Strychnine Emergency Use Registration:  
Minister Sigurdson**
- **Government of Canada investing in tariff-  
affected Alberta businesses to drive trade  
expansion and market growth**
- **Agriculture sector suffers under high costs and  
shortages**
- **Alberta data centre doesn't need environmental  
impact assessment**
- **Lacombe County advocating on behalf of  
Bashaw and District Regional Health and  
Wellness Foundation**
- **VEP pilot program eliminates 98 per cent of ED  
service disruptions**



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# Government of Alberta Introduces Bill 28: Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026

Posted on: April 2, 2026



The Government of Alberta has **introduced Bill 28**

([https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR\\_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature\\_31/session\\_2/20251023\\_bill\\_028.pdf](https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill_028.pdf)): *Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act*, which proposes a wide range of amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) across several major municipal policy areas. RMA is currently reviewing the Bill and will provide members with a detailed initial analysis in the near future.

## Proposed Changes in Bill 28

Bill 28 includes amendments related to the following themes:

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

## Initial Reaction

Based on a preliminary review, several early considerations have emerged:

- Rural municipalities remain committed partners in delivering services, maintaining critical infrastructure, and supporting economic growth. When challenges in these areas

emerge, collaborative partnerships between municipalities and the Government of Alberta are more effective than unilateral legislative changes in supporting positive outcomes.

- Several provisions in Bill 28 appear to reflect industry-driven priorities for standardization in municipal operations and decision-making, or reductions in municipal planning and development authority. These changes may not fully reflect the realities or needs of rural communities, where local conditions vary significantly.
- The Bill introduces several provisions that standardize municipal processes or allow for shifting of decision-making to the provincial level in areas such as land use planning, utility management, and administrative processes. These structural changes may have unintended consequences for local governance and community-specific needs.
- Many of the details associated with Bill 28 will be established through regulation, making it difficult to fully understand how these provisions will affect municipalities. As regulations are developed, it will be important to ensure that the intent behind the changes is clearly defined, that municipalities have the tools needed to implement them effectively, and that local autonomy remains respected.

RMA is undertaking an initial analysis of Bill 28 and will provide members with a more comprehensive overview of the proposed changes and their potential impacts once the legislative review is complete.

**Jared Shaigec**

Policy Advisor

825.319.2312

**[jared@RMAAlberta.com](mailto:jared@RMAAlberta.com) (mailto:jared@RMAAlberta.com)**

**Wyatt Skovron**

General Manager of Policy & Advocacy

780.955.4096

**[wyatt@RMAAlberta.com](mailto:wyatt@RMAAlberta.com) (mailto:wyatt@RMAAlberta.com)**

Source URL: [rmalberta.com/news/alberta-electoral-boundaries-commission-submits-final-report-to-cabinet/](https://rmalberta.com/news/alberta-electoral-boundaries-commission-submits-final-report-to-cabinet/)

# Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission Submits Final Report to Cabinet

Posted on: April 2, 2026



*The report recommends boundaries and names to be used for 89 provincial electoral districts for the next eight to 10 years.*

On March 26, 2026, the **Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission** (<https://abebc.ca/>) submitted its **final report** (<https://abebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Final-Report.pdf>) to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, as per its requirements in the **Electoral Boundaries Commission Act** ([https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=E03.cfm&leg\\_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779850341](https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=E03.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779850341)). The final report also includes a minority report from two dissenting commissioners, which includes alternative electoral boundary maps.

The Legislative Assembly will now review the Commission's recommendations, propose possible amendments, and introduce legislation for debate and vote intended to finalize and implement electoral boundaries based on the Commission's recommendations as presented or amended.

The Legislative Assembly has no mandated timeline for reviewing the report and recommendations or for when legislation is introduced, debated, and voted on. For this reason, next steps are unclear.

# Key Recommendations

The *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* places constraints on the scope of the Commission's recommendations, including a requirement that the Commission develop 89 electoral districts and, with specific exceptions, that all electoral divisions have a population no more than 25% above or below the provincial average.

Some of the most notable recommendations for change from the existing electoral districts include the following:

- Add two electoral districts to the City of Calgary.
- Add one electoral district to the City of Edmonton (in the form of two new urban/rural "hybrid ridings" on the south end of the city, combined with the removal of one riding within the city core).
- Restructure four existing Calgary ridings as hybrid ridings in combination with surrounding rural areas.
- Eliminate the Lac St. Anne-Parkland and Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre electoral divisions by combining them with neighbouring electoral divisions.
- Increase the overall number of hybrid ridings from 18 to 27.
- Apply "s. 15(2)" powers to develop three electoral districts with a population greater than 25% below the provincial average (Lesser Slave Lake, Central Peace-Notley, Canmore-Banff).

## RMA Analysis

RMA has not yet conducted a detailed analysis of the Commission's final report. RMA's previous **written feedback** (<https://rmaalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/RMA-Input-to-AEBC.pdf>) in response to the Commission's **interim report** (<https://abebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025-Interim-Report-Original-Signed-for-Web-Posting.pdf>) in December 2025 included the following key themes:

- Population variance: the interim report did not adequately utilize the full 25% +/- population variance range available to preserve rural electoral districts.
  - Based on initial analysis, this approach appears to have been maintained in the final report, as no riding is more than 14.3% above the provincial average despite the 25% threshold.

- Consistent consideration of geographic and community factors across urban and rural electoral districts: the interim report did not appear to consider factors such as community connections, transportation links, etc. consistently across urban and rural ridings.
  - RMA has not yet examined specific electoral district justification used in the final report to determine if and how consideration of such factors changed from the interim report.
- Use of s. 15(2) population variance threshold exemption: the interim report proposed only one electoral district below the 25% population variance threshold despite the Act allowing for up to four.
  - The final report expands use of s. 15(2) to apply to three electoral districts, including Lesser Slave Lake, which was eliminated in the interim report.
- Hybrid ridings: the interim report expanded the use of hybrid ridings, including to Edmonton and Calgary, which could have significant impacts on effective representation for both urban and rural residents in the hybrid ridings.
  - The final report further increases the use of hybrid ridings.

## Next Steps

RMA will undertake further analysis of the recommendations, as well as provide members with information on next steps related to amendment or implementation of the recommendations when it becomes available.

### **Wyatt Skovron**

*General Manager of Policy & Advocacy*

780.955.4096

**[wyatt@RMAAlberta.com](mailto:wyatt@RMAAlberta.com) (mailto:wyatt@RMAAlberta.com)**

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# Emergency Use Registration for Strychnine Approved

Posted on: April 2, 2026



On March 30, Health Canada, which oversees the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), **announced (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2026/03/statement-from-the-minister-of-health-and-the-minister-of-agriculture-and-agri-food-on-strychnine-in-alberta-and-saskatchewan.html>)** that it has authorized Alberta and Saskatchewan's re-submission for emergency use registration for two per cent liquid strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrel control until November 2027.

Alberta's producers have faced significant challenges managing Richardson's ground squirrels following the **PMRA's 2020 decision (<https://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/rvd2020-06-strychnine-eng.pdf>)** to prohibit possession and use of strychnine after March 4, 2023. The temporary use of strychnine will help Alberta and Saskatchewan address multi-million dollars' worth of damage from the recent spike in Richardson's ground squirrel population, which have become a serious pest threatening a variety of crops. The prairies have been experiencing abnormally dry conditions, which affects the sustainability and quality of farmlands and allowed the population of these gophers to increase significantly.

The use of strychnine can contribute to an effective pest management program. Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation is working with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to procure supply and fully implement the agreement as soon as possible.

This decision aligns with RMA advocacy position as reflected in resolution **ER1-20S** (<https://rmaalberta.com/resolutions/er1-20s-loss-of-2-strychnine/>). Although RMA will continue to seek permanent reinstatement of strychnine authorization, as requested in the resolution, the emergency use registration is helpful in the short-term.

**Briana Yee**

*Policy Advisor*

825.319.2417

**Briana@RMAAlberta.com (mailto:Briana@rmaalberta.com)**

**Wyatt Skovron**

*General Manager of Policy & Advocacy*

780.292.1104

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

Source URL: [rmalberta.com/news/canadian-infrastructure-council-calls-for-evidence-for-second-national-infrastructure-assessment/](https://rmalberta.com/news/canadian-infrastructure-council-calls-for-evidence-for-second-national-infrastructure-assessment/)

# Canadian Infrastructure Council Calls for Evidence for Second National Infrastructure Assessment

Posted on: April 2, 2026



The Canadian Infrastructure Council (CIC) has **announced** ([https://canadianinfrastructurecouncil.ca/call\\_for\\_evidence](https://canadianinfrastructurecouncil.ca/call_for_evidence)) a national Call for Evidence to support the development of Canada's second National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA) report. This follows the release of the **first NIA report** (<https://canadianinfrastructurecouncil.ca/national-infrastructure-assessment>) in November 2025, which established a national baseline and shared understanding of the pressures facing housing-enabling infrastructure across the country.

For the second NIA Report, the CIC is shifting from identifying issues and gaps to identifying actionable approaches that communities and practitioners can adopt. The second NIA Report will provide more practical guidance on:

- Long-term housing-enabling infrastructure needs at the community level, including data gaps;
- Approaches to unlock private-sector investment and advance innovative delivery models; and
- Tools and best practices to optimize and strengthen the resilience of existing infrastructure.

To inform this work, the Council is seeking submissions that:

- Identify “Quick Starts”—pilots, tools, or approaches that can demonstrate improvements in housing-enabling infrastructure within 6 to 18 months; and
- Share best practices and solutions to support the development of NIA Report 2.

Submissions are welcome from experts, practitioners, investors, leaders, businesses, and communities (including RMA member municipalities) across Canada. A select number of “Quick Starts” may be featured on the Council’s website or reflected in the final assessment.

The Call for Evidence is open until **May 31, 2026**. For more information on this initiative and to preview the questions for submission, visit the **CIC’s webpage** ([https://canadianinfrastructurecouncil.ca/call\\_for\\_evidence](https://canadianinfrastructurecouncil.ca/call_for_evidence)).

RMA staff are currently reviewing the Call for Evidence to determine how RMA might contribute or participate and will provide further updates in the coming weeks.

**Joseph Kay**

*Policy Advisor*

587.689.5484

**[joseph@rmalberta.com](mailto:joseph@rmalberta.com) (mailto:joseph@rmalberta.com)**

**Warren Noga**

*Manager of Policy & Research*

825.319.2285

**[warren@rmalberta.com](mailto:warren@rmalberta.com) (mailto:warren@rmalberta.com)**