



October 11, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair and Members of the Commission
FROM: Bonnie Bokenfohr, Executive Director
SUBJECT: **City Charters**

On October 3, 2016 the Government of Alberta held a stakeholder engagement session in order that stakeholders may learn more about City Charters, provide feedback on the proposals and what City Charters might mean for their organizations.

Chair Palmer, Vice-Chair Lilley and I attended the engagement session. The overview package is attached for your information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bonnie Bokenfohr
Executive Director
Edmonton Police Commission


Enclosure

City Charters

This new regulation will support Calgary and Edmonton's unique needs as Alberta's largest urban centres.

The Government of Alberta, the City of Edmonton and the City of Calgary are working to create city charter policies to build strong, vibrant cities that attract trade and investment.

The need for City Charters

Calgary and Edmonton are currently governed by the *Municipal Government Act*  (1.1 MB), a one-size-fits-all approach to governing Alberta's 344 municipalities. Alberta's two biggest cities follow the same rules as Gadsby, a town of 25 people, have the same powers as summer villages such as Ghost Lake, and are guided by the same governance principles as Alberta's Improvement Districts or Special Areas.

As Alberta's main centres, Calgary and Edmonton face a unique set and scale of population pressures and demands for services:


- they are home to approximately two-thirds of the province's population
- 9 out of 10 international immigrants who move to Alberta head to its two urban centres
- urban indigenous populations also continue to grow
- Calgary and Edmonton must provide top-notch services to local residents, but also to Albertans who converge in the major hubs for work and pleasure, and to access goods and specialized services
- city growth puts pressure on roads, playgrounds, bridges, sidewalks, recreation centres, sewage and water systems
- more people put high demand on public services, including hospitals and schools
- citizens everywhere expect high quality services

The development of city charters is proceeding in 2 main directions:

- creating tools that enable Calgary and Edmonton councils to make local decisions with

greater flexibility and autonomy

- developing a new fiscal framework for the two cities so they and the province can provide programs and services to citizens to optimize efficiencies and build strong, economically vibrant cities


[City Charters: Overview Package](#) 

Engagement

The public and stakeholders are invited to participate in the fall of 2016. The three government partners are eager to hear your feedback.

[Get involved \(/city-charters-input.aspx\)](/city-charters-input.aspx)

Timeline

- Oct 2014: The Government of Alberta, the City of Edmonton and the City of Calgary signed an [agreement to develop City Charters](#)  (0.5 MB) to support the cities' unique needs.
- Nov 2015, Jan 2016: Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson met with the Premier and members of Cabinet to present their vision for a strengthened relationship between the province and the two cities.
- Summer 2016: [Alberta Municipal Affairs representatives travelled to 20 Alberta cities and towns](#) to collect feedback about the *Modernized Municipal Government Act*, which guides how all municipalities in Alberta shape their communities.
- Fall 2016: During City Charters information sessions to be held in Edmonton and Calgary, stakeholders and members of the public will review proposed changes and provide feedback.
- Fall/Winter 2016: The three government parties will review public and stakeholder feedback to inform the development of the city charters.
- Winter 2017: City charters will be drafted for Calgary and Edmonton and will become a regulation under the Municipal Government Act.
- Spring 2017: Draft city charters regulation will be posted online for 60 days for public comment.
- Summer 2017: City Charters will be enacted.

Contact

If you have any questions or comments, please email ma.citycharters@gov.ab.ca .

City Charters

Overview Package



Introduction to City Charters:

Ensuring Alberta's prosperity and resiliency is a goal shared by both the Government of Alberta (GOA) and the Cities of Calgary and Edmonton.

Having two diverse, economically vibrant cities in our province is vital to ensuring Alberta can compete in the global market, and continue to attract investment, business, jobs and people.

City Charters will be drafted for Calgary and Edmonton to address the evolving needs, responsibilities and capabilities of the two big cities in a manner that best meets the needs of their communities.

City Charters will be developed through regulation under the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*. The Charter regulation for Calgary and Edmonton will be unique in that it can provide for any of the following:

- A provision of the *Municipal Government Act*, or any other provincial Act or regulation, does not apply to these cities or is modified for the cities.
- Provisions in the charter apply to the cities instead of, or in addition to, provisions in the *Municipal Government Act* or any other provincial Act or regulation.
- City Council may pass a bylaw, following a public hearing, modifying or replacing provisions of the *Municipal Government Act* or any other provincial Act or regulation where the province specifically grants authority to do so.

City Charters proposals include regulatory changes as well as on-going collaboration:

Regulatory Proposals: City Charters will include regulatory changes to support City of Calgary, City of Edmonton, and Government of Alberta priorities. The proposals will impact roles, responsibilities and program design and delivery for both the province and cities. Financial implications may arise from these shifts in roles and responsibilities and will be thoroughly considered.

Collaboration Agreements: City Charters will also be used to formalize long-term collaboration in areas of mutual interest to the cities and the province.

Administrative efficiency

City Charters will modernize processes, remove obstacles to innovation and efficiency, provide greater autonomy for administrative decision-making, and ensure appropriate accountability mechanisms are in place.

1. Modernization of assessment processes

The province, City of Calgary, and City of Edmonton recognize the importance of a fair and equitable assessment and property tax system in Alberta. However, further efficiencies could be achieved if the cities were to have greater flexibility in administering their assessment and property tax systems. City charters will streamline processes and maximize efficiencies to maintain a fair and equitable approach.

Currently, Assessment Review Board (ARB) rules defined by the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* apply to all municipalities equally, and do not take into account the complexity and high number of applications managed by the two big cities.

The intent of these proposals is to enhance assessment administration, streamline processes, and allow for innovations where applicable.

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Online school support declarations	The cities of Calgary and Edmonton must mail school support declaration forms to property owners.	The cities will make school support declaration forms available online. Cities will provide paper copies when requested.
Supplementary assessments on land	The <i>MGA</i> only allows supplementary assessments in relation to improvements, and not when the property changes from one assessment class to another.	Cities may prepare supplementary assessments on property that has changed from farm land to another use due to its increase in value.
ARB information disclosure timelines	The complainant has more time to prepare evidence when the ARB hearing date extends beyond the minimum amount of time to prepare materials for a hearing.	If more than the minimum legislated amount of time to prepare materials for a hearing is available, the mailing date of the hearing notice and the date of the hearing set in the notice are divided into equal time periods for the complainant and assessor to be able to prepare their evidence.

Assessment Review Board Governance	The <i>MGA</i> currently prescribes how Composite ARBs are established, how members are appointed, member eligibility, training requirements, board procedures, jurisdiction, and rules for costs.	Provide councils with municipal input into the recruitment, training, scheduling, evaluation, and standardization of costs associated with the provincial members on the Composite Assessment Review Boards.
Evidence and property inspections	Currently, the <i>MGA</i> allows assessors to inspect property at any time during the year. However, the ARBs have been reluctant to allow evidence from inspections that occur as a result of a complaint being filed.	Clarify that a city assessor may inspect properties following a complaint or inquiry, and present evidence at ARB hearings that arise from the inspection completed for assessment purposes.
Electronic notices	Electronic notices are permitted, but there is uncertainty around the ability to disclose and receive information on a web portal.	Clarify that the cities may send documents, disclose evidence and receive evidence and information including assessment and tax notices electronically on a web portal.
Allow continuous bylaws for supplementary assessment and tax, sub-class, and business assessment and tax	Council must create supplementary assessment and tax, sub-class, and business assessment and tax bylaws annually.	Allow particular city bylaws to be continuous, such as bylaws for supplementary assessment and tax, sub-class, and business assessment and tax.
Improvements used for manufacturing and processing operations	Improvements are non-assessable when any portion of the improvement is used in connection with a manufacturing or processing operation.	Clarify that a property is only non-assessable if improvements are <u>primarily</u> used for manufacturing or processing operations.
Community Organizations Property Tax Exemption Regulation (COPTER) timelines and exemption requirements	The process for annual exemption applications takes a significant amount of staff time and resources.	Allow city councils to vary the dates, timelines, and application process listed in COPTER for efficient use of staff time and resources.
Tax cancellation	City council may not delegate its authority to cancel or defer taxes.	City council can delegate its authority to cancel or defer taxes. Within the bylaw delegating this authority, council will be required to prescribe specific parameters and limits.
Technology and assessments	The <i>MGA</i> does not explicitly include the use of new technologies, nor does it explicitly exclude them.	Assessors may use electronic means to gather information and photographs when collecting or recording property data.
Define derelict and contaminated property	Currently, a council can only create further sub-classes for residential properties.	Allow the cities to define assessment subclasses for derelict and contaminated property.

2. Streamlining decision-making

City charters aim to reduce redundancy and use resources most efficiently and effectively to optimize the cities' capacity for decision-making. These proposals aim to enable an enhanced governance system that removes obstacles to innovation, provides greater autonomy to the cities, and respects the roles of and relationships between city councils and administration, while ensuring that appropriate accountability mechanisms are in place.

Improved accessibility and transparency is sought through clear and understandable processes and policies, and improved notice and information on council decisions, city operations, and council meetings and hearings.

City charters will enable flexibility for governance processes and structures, allowing for adaptation to unique city contexts. Council and administrative decisions will work towards the best interest of the communities, regions, and province. Processes will be fair and municipal bylaws will be applied equitably.

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Roles in council	The roles of council members is one-size fits all for Alberta municipalities, as established in the <i>MGA</i> .	Councils may establish the roles and relationships within council, including setting out duties and powers that are assigned or delegated to the mayor or other members of council.
Delegation of powers	How and to whom council can delegate is restricted under the <i>MGA</i> . Delegation must be made by bylaw, and council can only delegate to a council committee, the CAO or a designated officer.	Provide councils greater flexibility to delegate powers, duties, or functions unless an enactment or bylaw provides otherwise. The purpose of delegation could be to provide advice, collect information, provide oversight to a specific issue, make decisions, or carry out a statutory obligation.
Election processes	Calgary and Edmonton have specific election regulations to address the large scale of their elections. Election regulations provide limited flexibility as they can only include matters that are insufficiently provided for by the <i>Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)</i> .	Provide councils with authority to modify several <i>LAEA</i> provisions above a minimum standard set out by the province including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -changes to definitions to suit the urban context -clarification and assignment of certain election responsibilities to the returning officer -determining methods of providing notice -setting timing of nomination day -deferring vote on a question to the general election within 6 months

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -establishing voter identification requirements and process -determining ballot box requirements -establishing restrictions on campaign advertising within proximity to voting stations -determining the form and content of election forms <p>The cities would continue to be subject to the general election process and rules set out in the <i>LAEA</i>. The proposal would not allow the cities to change the date of the general election. Existing election regulations will be repealed.</p>
Alternate voting	The <i>LAEA</i> does not allow alternate voting methods.	Enable the cities to use non-traditional voting methods, such as internet, telephone, or touch screen voting.
Municipal campaign financing	The <i>LAEA</i> sets the minimum campaign finance standards for all municipal elections.	<p>Councils will be able to establish their own election campaign contribution, finance, and reporting requirements above a minimum standard set by the province. Cities would have the authority to establish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -requirements and processes for registration of candidates -reporting, use, and holding of surplus campaign funds -elimination of campaign deficits -audit or review processes for campaign finance reporting -enforcement of campaign finance requirements
Investments	The <i>Major Cities Investment Regulation (MGA)</i> restricts the types of investments that Calgary and Edmonton can make.	City councils will have authority to determine how the city invests. To ensure transparency, city council will be required to establish an investment policy and a debt management policy and make these public. Councils will be required to follow prudent person principles; a legal maxim restricting the discretion in a client's account to investments that a prudent person seeking reasonable income and preservation of capital might buy for their own portfolio.

<p>Financial administration</p>	<p>The <i>MGA</i> sets requirements for budgets, municipal accounts, financial statements, and setting the financial year.</p>	<p>Councils can create their own financial administration practices for budgets, municipal accounts, financial statements, validity of borrowing, and setting the financial year. Cities are able to set their own budget process and requirements, including the contents of the budget and how it is adopted. Cities will still be required to submit annual financial information returns to the province.</p>
<p>Bylaw fines</p>	<p>The maximum fine for bylaw offenses is set at \$10,000 in the <i>MGA</i>, and \$2,000 in the <i>Provincial Offences Procedures Act</i>.</p>	<p>Councils have the authority to determine the maximum potential fine for bylaw violations. Cities require additional flexibility in setting fines for serious bylaw offenses such as development or drainage infractions.</p>
<p>Council processes</p>	<p>The <i>MGA</i> imposes specific processes for passing resolutions and bylaws, and specifies a number of decisions that can only be made by bylaw.</p>	<p>Councils have authority to establish the processes of council, including the authority to determine what matters may be decided by resolution or bylaw. Matters of significant impact that necessitate public engagement via multiple readings, such as budget setting and land use, will continue to be addressed via bylaw.</p> <p><i>MGA</i> requirements will be maintained for public notice and public attendance at council and committee of council meetings. Any bylaw passed by the cities must not derogate the minimum public engagement requirements set in the <i>MGA</i>, but may impose additional requirements if desired.</p>
<p>Bylaws and municipal purpose</p>	<p>The <i>MGA</i> sets the general jurisdiction and specific powers by which a council may pass bylaws, as well as a guide to interpreting these powers in the context of granting broad authority.</p>	<p>Councils may determine the matters for which they may create bylaws within the scope of municipal purpose. The proposal would broaden the potential scope of bylaw-making authority for the cities.</p>

Public engagement and communication	The <i>MGA</i> currently imposes specific process requirements for advertising, notifications, public hearings and petitions.	Provide councils with the authority to establish their own processes for public communication and engagement, including the authority to establish timing, methods and process for advertising, notifications, and public hearings. As well, give cities authority over their petition process, including documentation requirements, eligibility requirements and the setting of sufficiency requirements or thresholds.
Subdivision process	The cities cannot explicitly add to a Subdivision and Development Regulation provision.	City Councils will have the explicit power to determine their own process and process requirements for subdivision, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements for applications • Application referees, and where applicable, circulate to the appropriate Provincial bodies • Relevant considerations in making a decision
Municipal tribunal	Municipal bylaw offenses are managed by the provincial court system.	Enable the cities to create an administrative tribunal system to manage bylaw offenses, starting with transit and parking bylaw tickets. An administrative tribunal can be an innovative and efficient forum to streamline ticket processes and reduce provincial justice system costs.
Affidavit evidence	Police, bylaw, and peace officers must present themselves in person in court to present sworn statements. This removes him/her from active duties.	Permit affidavit evidence for bylaw offenses. Affidavit evidence is a written, sworn statement of fact voluntarily made under oath.
Regulating licensed premises	There is legislative uncertainty whether the cities have the authority to vary liquor service opening and closing hours. Some requirements are set by the Alberta Liquor and Gaming Commission.	City councils are enabled to pass bylaws regulating licensed premises including varying opening and closing hours, regulating patios, and regulating 'happy hour' times.

Weed control authority	City councils may not make bylaws under section 26(3) of the <i>Weed Control Act</i> without ministerial approval.	City councils would not require ministerial approval to create weed control bylaws that require property owners to be responsible for the area between the edge of their property line and the midpoint of the adjacent highway.
Weed designation authority	The cities require ministerial approval for cities to elevate the status of a weed, or add a weed to the prohibited or noxious weeds list.	Allow municipalities to elevate weeds from prohibited to noxious status, or add weeds as either prohibited or noxious without ministerial approval. All existing appeal mechanisms under the <i>Weed Control Act</i> would be applicable.
Assessment complaint period for non-residential and residential properties with more than 3 dwelling units	The complaint period for residential and non-residential property tax assessments is 60 days.	The cities will be allowed to choose from the following two options. 1. 60 calendar day complaint period that begins immediately after the mailing of the annual assessment notices. No pre-consultation period required, OR 2. 30 calendar day complaint period that begins immediately after the mailing of the annual assessment notices, with a mandatory pre-consultation period. Timing of the pre-consultation is at the discretion of the City but must take place between the valuation date and the mailing of annual assessment notices and be no less than 30 calendar days long. Details, including rules on the type of information the City may use during pre-consultation, will be subject to approval from the Minister of Municipal Affairs.
Rezoning notification	Notice of the bylaw must be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper, and written notice must be provided to the assessed owners of the subject and adjacent lands. The written notice must contain all the same information as the newspaper notice.	The public advertising requirements will be satisfied by publishing a notice on the city's website or other electronic means. However, notification to those directly impacted by the rezoning will still need to occur through a letter that, at minimum, directs the recipient to a website for more information.

3. Enhanced clarity for assessments

City Charters aim to enhance clarity around aspects of assessment by making areas of uncertainty more explicit, providing consistency and certainty.

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
"Restricted" definition	The tax exempt status for private entities in non-profit office space is not clear.	The definition of 'restricted' under COPTER is clarified to allow non-profit office space to be exempt, but not private group space.
For-profit in exempt spaces	It is unclear whether for-profit uses in universities, hospitals, and airports are required to pay municipal taxes.	For-profit uses in exempt spaces, including commercial spaces in universities, hospitals, and airports is made taxable.
Catch-all assessment class	The non-residential assessment class is already the catch-all assessment class.	The non-residential assessment class becomes the catch-all assessment class.

Supporting community well-being

City Charters will work to improve the wellbeing of citizens in Edmonton and Calgary by supporting and enabling the provision of services, and building community through the development of public spaces.

1. Affordable housing

Affordable housing is a fundamental requirement in large cities and an essential component of municipal infrastructure.

Many households in Edmonton and Calgary experience significant challenges related to housing affordability, and are excluded from accessing suitable, adequate and affordable housing. City charter proposals will work to enable the creation and delivery of a diversity of housing forms and options that meet the needs of low and medium income households across the housing spectrum. Provision of affordable housing can result in positive outcomes for individual health and well-being and helps to support education, social inclusion, and financial security.

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Housing agreements to follow title	The cities do not have a mechanism to ensure housing remains affordable.	Enable the implementation of housing agreements that authorize a municipality or non-profit organization to enter into an agreement on land that it does not own. The agreement would run with the land, bind future owners of the land, and allow the municipality or non-profit organization to outline the terms and conditions.
Affordable housing loans	The cities cannot offer loans to individuals for affordable housing, or offer take-back mortgages to developers and/or non-profit organizations for affordable housing projects.	Allow the cities to advance loans and take-back mortgages to private individuals and organizations exclusively for the development of affordable housing.
Protection of existing affordable housing stock	The cities have no ability to mitigate loss of affordable housing by imposing approval conditions to contribute to the replacement of affordable rental accommodations.	Enable the cities to create approval conditions requiring a contribution by the developer where council reasonably anticipates that a redevelopment will result in the loss of affordable housing units. This contribution would fund a portion of new affordable housing development.

Definition of affordable housing	A shared definition of affordable housing is lacking. Current legislation is silent on affordable housing (no definition) and the scheme it adopts to provide it.	Enable the cities to develop municipally derived definitions for affordable housing related to authorities of municipalities under the <i>Municipal Government Act (MGA)</i> . The definitions cannot override other legislation such as the <i>Alberta Housing Act</i> .
Affordable housing tax exemptions	Affordable housing providers are currently not exempt from property taxes.	City of Calgary would like the ability to exempt affordable housing providers, and the ability to define and set out in writing the basis for exemption. City of Edmonton would like the province to determine who is exempt, and provide a grant directly to the proponents if they meet provincial criteria. The ability to exempt non-market and affordable housing would be subject to the limitations of authorities under the <i>MGA</i> and would not override any other legislation.

2. Non-profit support

This proposal would enable municipalities to optimize municipal and provincial capital funding for partnered arts, culture, recreation, and sports facility projects.

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Non-profit tax relief	Under the <i>MGA</i> , facilities are not currently eligible for property tax exemption during construction or renovation. The provincial property tax portion must still be remitted by the municipality despite the non-profit organization’s tax levy being cancelled.	Provide “tax agreement” authority, expanding on <i>MGA</i> section 333 (1.1). The city council may make a tax agreement with a non-profit organization with property under capital funding agreements with both the municipality and the Government of Alberta. The agreement will facilitate the construction of a municipal infrastructure facility to be operated by the non-profit organization for the benefit of the community. Tax agreement authority under the Charter must be predicated upon (a) the provincial property tax portion being cancelled to the taxpayer and (b) the provincial property tax portion being waived by the province through the agreement.

Smarter community planning

City Charters will enable smarter community planning within the cities by supporting diversified transportation networks, enabling thoughtful revitalization of existing neighbourhoods, and encouraging growth that meets local needs.

1. Transportation

Transportation systems contribute to cities’ quality of life and global competitiveness. These proposals will enable the cities to optimize mobility through operating rules and regulations that meet their unique needs and challenges. Enabling the tailoring of some local operating rules and regulations can reduce the need and effort to formally amend legislation, encourage more innovative pilot-based solutions, create a mechanism to address future needs as they arise, and facilitate responsiveness to emerging trends and technologies.

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
<p>Variations to the <i>Traffic Safety Act (TSA)</i>: Within municipal boundaries</p>	<p>The <i>Traffic Safety Act</i> currently applies to all municipalities and does not enable tailored operating rules.</p>	<p>Enable authority for components of the <i>TSA</i> that apply exclusively within city boundaries (below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the ‘default’ speed limit on residential streets • Back-in angled parking • Variable speed limit signage • Parking next to painted curbs • Provide cities with greater flexibility to address cyclist infrastructure and operational issues • Allowing for parking fines to be increased. • Allow cities to change the default maximum speed limits. • Allow cities to distinguish between commercial trucking vehicles and municipal fleet vehicles. <p>Further, use the Transportation Policy and Planning Table as an avenue to raise necessary changes to the <i>TSA</i> with Alberta Transportation in a more streamlined way, and provide a mechanism for the Minister of Transportation to ensure implementation.</p>

2. Neighbourhood revitalization

City charters will enable the two cities to plan for neighbourhood development that revitalizes existing communities. Proposals will enable land to be used efficiently and thoughtfully to develop complete and healthy communities with a range of integrated and sustainable amenities.

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Freehold school sites	The municipalities are generally offered first right of refusal to purchase the sites at market value.	Allow the cities to maintain a part of the freehold school site for open, public use purposes, while allowing the landowner (school board) to sell or develop the remainder of the land as it sees fit.
Tools for brownfields redevelopment	The cities are currently unable to develop tools such as conditions on land use to facilitate remediation, redevelopment, and management of brownfield sites.	Enable the cities to develop tools to enforce compliance and notification related to brownfield redevelopment.
Conditions for facility setbacks	Currently, the cities are unable to apply conditions on applications to address issues associated with redevelopment of restricted uses within applicable setbacks.	Create enabling conditions on land use, subdivisions, and development permits related to restricted uses within applicable setbacks. Allow the cities to develop tools to enforce notification and compliance related to the development of restricted uses within applicable setbacks.

3. Enabling smarter growth

City Charters recognize the importance of sound land-use planning and orderly development, and will enable an enhanced planning and development system that allows Calgary and Edmonton to address growth matters in a manner that best meets the needs of their communities.

These proposals will support cities in making decisions regarding new development that respond to their local context, and will promote flexibility to address the complex planning needs of big cities.

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Statutory plans	Currently, the <i>MGA</i> only allows four types of statutory plans – Municipal Development Plans (MDP), Inter-Municipal Development Plans (IDP), Area Structure Plans (ASP), and Area Redevelopment Plans (ARP) – and outlines the content of each.	City councils will have the authority to define additional types of statutory plans and how they fit into the hierarchy of plans.

	ASPs and ARPs are particular to “an area”. The Government of Alberta defines which plans may be statutory and what these plans must contain.	
Land use bylaws	The current basis for regulations relies upon defined "types" of development in certain geographic areas (i.e. "residential"), and it assumes single-use types of development (i.e. "a house") as well as the separation of land uses.	Enable city councils to regulate the content of their land use bylaw, including land allowable under districts, and the method of decision making and issuance of development permits.
Safety Codes Council membership	Currently, the cities are not members of the Safety Codes Council (SCC).	Allow Calgary and Edmonton to become members of the SCC, supporting the governance and administration of the safety codes system. The province will work with the SCC to secure Calgary and Edmonton participation as members of their Board of Directors.
Definitions for schools, hospitals, and food establishments	The current definitions of uses that require a variance from setbacks lead to challenges with determining whether a use could be granted a variance.	Review Subdivision Regulations, specifically sections related to uses prohibited within legislated landfill and waste water treatment plant setback distances. Develop more concise and precise definitions for schools, hospitals and food establishments.

Empowering local environmental stewardship

City Charters will encourage Calgary and Edmonton to respond to environmental pressures with local solutions, including measures that provide greater community energy security, climate change mitigation and adaptation planning, and protection of the local physical environment.

1. Energy efficiency and energy security

Fossil fuel consumption exposes cities and their citizens to risks of high energy prices, energy price fluctuations and lost economic opportunities in the event of an energy- and/or carbon-constrained world. Fossil fuel combustion is also a source of reduced air quality, posing potential health and economic risks.

City charters will enable Calgary and Edmonton to undertake efforts related to energy generation and district energy, as well as improving energy efficiency. Alternative energy generation and distribution are contributing factors to sustainable economic development. These proposals will support the reduction of Calgary’s and Edmonton’s exposure to energy and climate risks, and assist in furthering the Province’s long-term greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Building Code Energy Excellence	Cities do not have the authority to amend the building code.	Ensure Cities have the flexibility to raise the bar on environmental sustainability and, in turn, contribute to the evolution of best practices that other municipalities could learn from and adopt. Cities would be limited to applying new requirements within municipal boundaries on a go-forward basis.
Energy micro-generation	Cities can currently own/operate micro-generation systems. Alberta’s Micro-generation Regulation enables electricity customers to offset their use by generating electricity with systems that use renewable or alternative sources, up to 1 megawatt. As these systems are intended to meet all or some of a customer’s electricity needs, they often do not export significant amounts of electricity to the grid.	Remove barriers limiting the ability of municipalities to own/operate power generation assets. Enable municipalities to own micro-generation systems larger than 1 megawatt. Enable the cities to expedite the approval and implementation of power generation by private households and/or energy cooperatives to export to the grid within city limits.

Clean energy loans	The cities do not have authority to provide loans to homeowners for energy efficiency or renewable energy upgrades.	Enable Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loans to property owners in the cities. Under this program, the cities would be allowed to provide loans to homeowners to fund energy efficiency or renewable energy upgrades in their homes.
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2. Climate adaptation and mitigation

Climate change resilience and adaptation planning can help the two cities reduce their risk to a changing climate by incorporating climate change as a key consideration in both short- and long-term planning.

While Alberta on a whole has been proactive in responding to extreme weather events, such as wildfire and flooding, more can be done to understand the high risk weather events and climatic changes Calgary and Edmonton may face. In addition to extreme weather events, a changing climate presents risks and opportunities with long-term changes to moisture and temperature.

Understanding these expected changes and incorporating them into long-term plans, strategies and policies will help ensure the desired economic, environmental and social outcomes can be maintained.

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation plans	Adaptation and mitigation plans are not currently required.	<p>Require the cities to develop adaptation management plans that include an assessment of key vulnerabilities, risks, and proposed actions to build resilience to a changing climate within their municipality. These plans should be reviewed every five years.</p> <p>The cities will be required to include in these plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas emissions reporting on city-owned and operated facilities • Greening government plans for building efficiency, green fleets, and green electricity

3. Environmental protection

The cities plan at a large scale, and transform entire landscapes within municipal boundaries. City charters will provide the cities with tools to protect environmentally significant areas, and protect the local natural environment through land-use planning and waste reduction.

More specifically, these proposals will recognize the environment as a general purpose for the two cities, elevating their role as environmental stewards and supporting healthy, sustainable communities in which citizens can interact with the natural and built environments.

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Environment as a general purpose	Municipal purposes as defined in the <i>MGA</i> are: good government, providing services that are necessary or desirable, and developing and maintaining safe and viable communities.	Add consideration for the environment as a general purpose for the cities, allowing for greater environmental stewardship in urban development.
Environment as it relates to land use	The cities do not have authority to pass bylaws related specifically to the environment.	Add 'the environment as it relates to land use' as a matter for which the cities may pass bylaws. Council can pass bylaws for other specific environmental matters such as contaminated sites, brownfield redevelopment, climate change, mature trees and biodiversity.
Include environment in planning and development part of the <i>MGA</i>	The environment is not currently part of the planning and development section.	Include environment as part of the planning and development section of the <i>MGA</i> , providing cities with appropriate authority to be better partners for the province in environmental stewardship.
Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) Directive 071 revision	There is an opportunity to improve the process to ensure compatibility of existing or planned urban uses and development of oil and gas, including consideration of the capacity of cities to respond in the event of an emergency.	Revise AER Directive 071, 'Emergency Preparedness and Response Requirements for the Petroleum Industry' to ensure that public health and safety risks related to oil and gas development in proximity to residential development are addressed.
Oil and gas operator emergency response plans	Cities have limited or no jurisdiction to regulate oil and gas developments or activities, and they do not have any enforcement mechanisms if the activity or development is causing off-site harm or nuisances. The AER currently has full responsibility and accountability for oil and gas development in Alberta.	Enable the cities with authority in dealing with oil and gas operator emergency response plans (e.g. enforce compliance on municipal-related issues and register notifications on land titles).

Alberta Energy Regulator standing	Currently, potential participants in hearings must demonstrate to the AER that they would be directly or adversely impacted by a proposed oil and gas development.	Legislatively clarify that the cities have standing in Alberta Energy Regulator hearings.
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Collaboration

City Charters will support ongoing cooperation on matters of mutual interest between the Government of Alberta, the City of Calgary, and the City of Edmonton. An enhanced long-term relationship between the three parties will support more efficient and strategic program and service delivery.

- Collaboration proposals recognize the interdependencies of the provincial and local governments.
- Collaboration among the parties will support the efficient use of public funds and delivery of public services.
- Through collaboration, the parties will also identify opportunities to coordinate advocacy with the federal government.

Collaboration will initially take the form of three policy and planning tables- Environment and Climate Change, Social Policy, and Transportation. At these tables, the province and cities will work to address a range of issues identified through city charters. Once established, these tables will then themselves identify further items for ongoing discussion. Additional policy and planning tables may also be formed as new issues emerge that require coordinated efforts.

Each policy and planning table will develop regular workplans and priorities, and will report progress to elected officials and the public.

1. Environment and Climate Change policy and planning table

Calgary and Edmonton have the internal capacity and experience to support development and implementation of energy and climate strategies, policies, and pilot projects. Developing provincial policies in partnership with the two cities will help to identify potential synergies, efficiencies, and innovative solutions. Cooperation between the province and the cities will leverage respective expertise and resources, and provide opportunities to test innovative approaches. The proposed collaboration process should result in more effective policies, save taxpayer dollars and support more timely actions.

City charters propose a number of initial topics for collaboration under the framework of the Environment and Climate Change policy and planning table:

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Building energy labelling	There is no formalized collaboration on energy labelling for buildings.	Cities and the GOA work together to encourage building labelling for the private sector.
Alternative energy	There are no formalized joint efforts to promote alternative energy.	The cities and the GOA collaborate on the development of alternative energy industries and district energy systems, which would contribute to diversification of our energy sector and enhance economic development in Alberta.
Coordination of waste reduction efforts	No waste reduction coordination has been formalized between the three parties.	Improved coordination of efforts (including programs and funding) between Calgary, Edmonton and the GOA on shared waste reduction goals, including wasteflow reporting.

2. Social policy and planning table

City and provincial governments deliver services and provide public spaces designed to enhance community well-being and quality of life. Currently there is little coordination between the cities and the province in such areas of overlapping interest. This can create inefficiencies and result in lost opportunities for collaboration that would enhance outcomes for all. Collaboration can improve the quality of life of all Albertans by ensuring facilities and venues offer a variety of opportunities for lifelong learning, are accessible and affordable, and offer opportunities to reduce social isolation.

City charters propose a number of initial topics for collaboration under the framework of the Social policy and planning table:

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Community hubs	In many cases there are existing public spaces and facilities that could be used as multi-purpose, shared spaces to build strong and vibrant communities but are not being utilized for this purpose.	Develop community hubs to optimize multiple uses of infrastructure and services. Identify uses, gaps and strengths and coordinate information with potential user groups. Create shared spaces for community organizations. Coordinate between organizations with complementary missions and mandates, but who serve different client groups.
Provincial Emergency Social Services Framework database	Opportunities exist to share information in a more timely manner.	Create a province-wide electronic registration database for emergency social services, further expanding on the program and city support for evacuations across the province.
Event attraction	Currently, support for major events requires accessing programs from several ministries and will vary depending on the type of event and ad hoc funding available.	Develop a program for major sport and cultural event attraction in Calgary and Edmonton, including planning, designing, and implementing major sport and cultural attractions.
Accountability for social planning	The cities currently play a significant role in managing complex and emerging social issues.	Confirm the cities' accountability for social planning, which may include research, analysis and coordination related to identification of social needs, to address social well-being, and social development in the city.
Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA)	The DFAA is a federally run program administered by all provinces.	Collaborate across levels of government to address potential changes to the DFAA.

	This cost-share program has recently been expanded and provincial governments are now required to cover a greater percentage of the total cost.	
Urban indigenous issues	Collaboration on urban indigenous issues is not currently addressed through a formalized collaboration agreement in both cities.	The province and cities will work together on addressing social issues that impact urban indigenous populations.

3. Transportation policy and planning table

Transportation systems can contribute to cities' quality of life and global competitiveness through regional transit systems incorporating light rail, and fully developed walking and cycling transportation networks. Planning and infrastructure projects should consider national, provincial and municipal walking and cycling policy and design guidelines. Pedestrian and cycle networks should be well defined and seamlessly integrated, and options to overcome major road infrastructure barriers for pedestrians and cyclists should be considered.

City charters propose a number of initial topics for collaboration under the framework of the Transportation policy and planning table:

Topic	Current	Enabling proposal
Investment plan alignment	The province and the cities do not collaborate in a formal manner to align infrastructure investment plans.	The province and the cities work together to align infrastructure investment plans, including transportation capital plans in order to facilitate smart growth and develop a sustainable, efficient transportation network.
Sharing of infrastructure plans and priorities	The province and the cities do not share infrastructure plans and priorities on a regular basis.	The province and the cities agree to share their transportation infrastructure plans and priorities on a regular basis. The cities agree to participate on the Edmonton and Calgary highway network planning studies being completed by the GOA.
Integrated transportation and land use strategy	The province and the cities do not have an integrated transportation and land use strategy.	The province and the cities work together to develop an integrated transportation and land use strategy that includes coordination of project priorities and regional input. Parties complete joint planning studies to address long term transportation issues.
Highway Penetrator Agreements	Penetrator Agreements need to be updated to ensure the connector highways are built to appropriate standards.	The GOA, Edmonton and Calgary work together to update the Penetrator Agreements.
Rail strategy	The GOA is in the process of pursuing an improved relationship with CN and CP.	The GOA, Edmonton and Calgary work together with CN and CP to develop a Rail Strategy for Edmonton and Calgary. One of the core objectives of the strategy would be to reduce at-grade separations.

<p>Pedestrian and cycling design guidelines and infrastructure</p>	<p>Currently, most roadways and connections to city networks are not well designed to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists</p>	<p>Infrastructure projects address the needs of pedestrians and cyclists through continued collaboration on planning and design to develop seamless networks.</p> <p>Establish common, up-to-date policy and design guidelines that support walking and cycling.</p>
<p>Review funding eligibility of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure projects</p>	<p>Current agreements do not always provide for funding of small scale pedestrian and cycling capital improvements.</p>	<p>Funding agreements are reviewed to allow for increased eligibility of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure projects.</p>