

# MUNICIPAL MATTERS



## Business Priorities for Alberta's Local Governments

### Safe & Vibrant Communities

#### Ensuring Safety and Well-Being

Establish a standing safety table to regularly connect businesses, community partners, and residents to identify issues.

Collaborate with businesses to identify barriers to reporting crime.

Develop and implement local mental wellness and addictions strategies.

Partner with provincial and federal governments to help deliver non-market housing and wraparound services.

Improve public safety by increasing police and uniform presence and enforcement.

#### Strengthening Community Vibrancy

Improve maintenance of downtown and public spaces by increasing cleaning frequency and responsiveness.

Rural communities should encourage greater regional collaboration on shared infrastructure that supports wellness and enhances residents' quality of life.

### Efficient Growth & Development

#### Streamlining Permitting and Approvals

Collaborate with businesses to create a local red tape reduction plan.

Conduct a comprehensive review of existing regulations.

Develop an online business feedback portal.

Benchmark timelines for permitting and approvals against comparable jurisdictions.

Adopt technology to streamline planning and permitting.

Align building code and permitting requirements with neighbouring and regional communities.

#### Building for the Future

Reduce both direct and indirect government-imposed costs on new housing developments.

Strengthen business engagement in long-term land use and infrastructure planning.

### Economic Strength & Financial Stewardship

#### Enhancing Fiscal Sustainability and Growing the Tax Base

Report annually on budget performance and broader success metrics.

Conduct regular spending reviews to identify inefficiencies.

Refocus local government funding on core priorities, including community safety.

Benchmark local business and property taxes, along with other key fees, against comparable jurisdictions.

Ensure a balanced tax system to support growth.

Collaborate with municipalities to improve budget forecasting and planning.

#### Fostering Economic Growth

Support new and returning mayors and councillors in deepening their understanding of governance and economic development.

Enhance economic development capacity and make it a priority in municipal planning and budgeting.