

Moved By:

Deputy Mayor Middleton-Hope

OFFICIAL BUSINESS MOTION

Proposed Alberta Municipalities Resolution: Infrastructure Servicing and Construction Costs of School Sites

6.1

WHEREAS Section 670(1) of the Municipal Government Act requires municipalities to enter into binding agreements with school boards for the allocation of reserve land and servicing for future school sites;

WHEREAS the Alberta government's current school site readiness checklist requires school boards to obtain letters of commitment from municipalities to provide and fund the infrastructure servicing of future school sites (water, sewer, storm water, electric and telecom connections to property lines) if the landowner or land developer is unable, in advance of provincial allocations of capital funding for school construction;

WHEREAS school boards and municipalities have no authority to compel landowners or land developers to fund such costs in advance of the neighbourhood being developed;

WHEREAS the cost of servicing school sites in advance of neighbourhood development creates an additional financial burden for landowners as well as private-and public-sector land developers;

WHEREAS the costs of school-site servicing are added to future lot prices, and this ultimately affects home affordability in a community.

WHEREAS the current requirements and constraints force municipalities to encumber municipal financial reserves or municipal borrowing capacity, or to raise municipal taxes to provide and fund the servicing of future school sites;

WHEREAS encumbering municipal reserves and borrowing capacity to facilitate school-site servicing is not sustainable and renders these financial resources unavailable for municipalities to make other much-needed community investments;

WHEREAS the Province currently collects the education property tax requisition, and all education property taxes are pooled through the Alberta School Foundation Fund;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to ensure provincial allocations of capital funding for school construction cover all costs of construction, including the servicing of school sites with the required infrastructure.