



Association of  
**SUMMER VILLAGES**  
OF ALBERTA

## **2023 Winter Newsletter**

Although I would like to say that Spring is just around the corner, it certainly looks like it is a long way off. No matter when it finally arrives, it does not stop all of us Summer Villagers from preparing for the next busy open water season. The last Statistics Canada census shows that Summer Villages are growing at a pace similar to Alberta's large metropolitan centers. That growth is driving new needs for all Summer Villages and the ASVA will always be here to help.

### **ASVA Executive Director**

The ASVA is very pleased to welcome Kathy Krawchuk as our new Executive Director. Kathy brings a wealth of knowledge to the role having been in local municipal government her entire career and with 12 years as a CAO.

As we welcome Kathy to her new role, I also want to take this time to thank Deb Hamilton, ASVA Executive Director 2019-2021, for coming back for the last three months to help the ASVA during this transition period.

### **ASVA Membership Fee**

In 2023, the membership fee is  $\$.0262 \times \text{equalized assessment} / 1000$  and the maximum membership fee is \$975. The ASVA Board of Directors was very pleased that they were able to keep the mil rate and maximum membership fee the same for the last two years.

### **ASVA Anniversary & Annual Conference**

This year the ASVA will be celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> year of existence and we plan to make this year's conference one to remember. The conference will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, put it in your calendars now and a save the date reminder will be out in the next couple of months.

It was back in 1958, that the Summer Villages got together and formed the ASVA. The association came to life based on the successful advocacy work done by a few summer villages to increase infrastructure grant funding. It is interesting that 65 years later we are still working together and advocating for changes to infrastructure funding on the soon to be new LGFF program.

### **ASVA Strategic Planning and Member Engagement**

With feedback from members, the ASVA Board of Directors recently completed its update to the strategic plan. This new plan focuses on these four goals:

1. ASVA is recognized as the primary advocate for and on behalf of Summer Villages.
2. ASVA plays a key role ensuring SVs are informed on critical issues and that SVs have the knowledge and skills that enhance their capacity to deliver municipal services.
3. ASVA will deliver projects to enhance the autonomous nature of SVs and strengthen the SVs' capacity to deliver municipal services within their communities.
4. ASVA will model to ASVA members effective governance by actively improving its Board governance practices.

### **LGFF – Local Government Fiscal Framework (MSI replacement)**

Last October, the ASVA submitted to Municipal Affairs a proposal for how the funds in the new LGFF program should be allocated between municipalities. At the ASVA annual conference, there was a presentation on our proposal. Since that time the ASVA President has met twice with Minister Rebecca Schulz to discuss the proposal. Although there are more meetings scheduled, we have not received a commitment from the Alberta government as to when the allocation factors will be finalized.

While we are still waiting to hear from the Minister regarding how LGFF funding will be allocated, we were very pleased that the province has removed the 50% growth restriction for LGFF. This means that funding will rise and fall at the same rate as provincial revenues, making us partners in encouraging economic growth and opportunity. We are, however, disappointed that the province has not increased the starting point of the LGFF fund and we will continue to advocate for an increase to that base amount.

### **Alberta Government – 2023 Budget**

This budget focused on growing the economy, creating good-paying jobs, strengthening health care and education, and keeping Alberta communities safe. One of the highlights for Summer Villages was the doubling of the MSI operating grant. While there was no increase to the MSI capital fund, there were increases in other capital grant funds that may be beneficial for Summer Villages such as increases to the Alberta Municipal Water and Wastewater Program and the Water/Wastewater Projects - Water for Life program.

### **MSI – Municipal Sustainability Initiative**

As this program comes to a close at the end of 2023, the ASVA does want to remind its members that the time limits to spend MSI capital funding will be strictly enforced when MSI ends. Municipalities who have not expended their 2007 to 2018 allocations, including credit items on or before December 31, 2023 will be required to return those funds to the

Government of Alberta and/or if applicable, the municipality will forfeit any 2007 to 2018 unpaid allocations. MSI funding from 2019 to 2023 will be transferred to the LGFF and Municipalities will still be able to access those allocations under LGFF.

ASVA has contacted Municipal Affairs to see if there is a list of Summer Villages that might be in this predicament. If the information is available, we will reach out individually to the Summer Villages. There are options available to help spend your MSI funds such as contributing funds for use towards eligible MSI projects in other municipalities, regional services commissions, or non-profit organizations.

### **Broadband**

As part of the Alberta Broadband Strategy, the government committed \$36 million to the Alberta Broadband Fund (ABF) to help ensure every rural, remote, and Indigenous household in the province can access high-speed internet. This funding is part of Alberta's overall \$390-million commitment to improve access to high-speed internet. It will be used to implement solutions to connect rural, remote, and Indigenous communities that do not currently have access to federal target speeds of 50 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloads, and 10 Mbps for uploads.

Applications for the first intake have now closed but the good news is that this program is scheduled to run until March 2027. Check here for eligibility and program rules:

[Alberta Broadband Fund | Alberta.ca](#)

### **Final Thoughts**

As the ASVA President, I am the Summer Village representative on the Alberta Municipalities Board of Directors. I am also happy to advise that I have been appointed to the Alberta Municipalities Small Communities Committee. Mayor Ren Giesbrecht from the SV of West Cove was also appointed to that committee and together we are committed to ensure the interests of Summer Villages are brought to the table and will strongly advocate on your behalf.

The ASVA is very proud to tell provincial decision-makers and all other stakeholders that our association is supported by 100% of the Summer Villages. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please never hesitate to call or email our Executive Director, Kathy Krawchuk at 780-236-5456 or [execdirector@asva.ca](mailto:execdirector@asva.ca) or [info@asva.ca](mailto:info@asva.ca)

Warmest Regards.

Mike Pashak

President, ASVA