



2024 Spring Newsletter

The seasons are changing and with that life at the Summer Villages will start to get busy. The ASVA is also busy working on your behalf to ensure that the Alberta Government and our sister organizations, ABmunis and RMA, understand that our members continue to be strong, viable local governments.

The Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) is in its first year of existence. There have been some changes to the program guidelines and the ASVA has been in conversation with Municipal Affairs to understand how these changes might impact Summer Villages. Stay tuned for a note from us on these changes and what to expect.

The ASVA is also working on the following priorities. We see these five topics as important issues for all Summer Villages and ones that have the ability to ensure we remain resilient and viable. The ASVA is working on our approach and what our key messages will be on each topic. We will keep you informed as we proceed.

Education Property Tax - retaining more funding for local priorities

Municipal Affairs has been asked to review the feasibility of amending the Education Property Tax to assist municipalities with retaining more funding for local priorities. During the LGFF discussions, Municipal Affairs believed that since Summer Villages have lower full-time year round populations and provide fewer year round services, they should get less LGFF funding. The ASVA feels that this belief should also be applied to the recovery of the Education Property Tax; i.e. lower population equals lower tax recovery. There are a lot of options that ASVA will suggest to Municipal Affairs that could create tax space for Summer Villages to step into to fund local priorities.

ASVA Position on LGFF starting point \$1.75B

ABmunis is asking Municipal Affairs for LGFF Capital to start at \$1.75 billion (\$824M for non-charter municipalities, a 142% increase). This amount was determined based on a combination of factors including the growth in Alberta's population and the total cost of depreciation of Alberta's existing local infrastructure. Even though this increase has a minor benefit for Summer Villages, it will provide some additional funding therefore a valuable piece of work. If this was to happen, Summer Villages will have to work with other Villages and small Towns to open up the allocation formula as they are in a similar position to us where they too are dependent on Base Funding.

Municipal Census Regulation – Summer Villages and Temporary Residents

In 2024, the new Municipal Census Regulation will allow municipalities to conduct their own census. The regulation identifies a Temporary Resident as one that spends the night on Census Day in

that dwelling which is not their main residence, and who has a main residence elsewhere in Canada. Even though ASVA would like to have the Government of Alberta consider including the Temporary Resident count in the total population count used for LGFF allocations, this information could be of useful for infrastructure and emergency planning.

LGFF Time Limit to Use Allocated Funds

Current LGFF guidelines state, "To provide flexibility in scheduling projects and/or to accommodate larger projects requiring more than one year's grant allocation, capital funding allocated and not expended in the year it was allocated may be carried forward to the next five subsequent years." ASVA will advocate to have this timeframe extended, perhaps out to 10 years for Summer Villages. Our reasoning is that it takes a long time to save up for large capital infrastructure projects. With borrowing costs no longer an eligible LGFF expense this may make sense that we need to save longer to limit the amount of debt and borrowing costs required to complete large scale projects.

Golf Carts

Last fall the Summer Village of Half Moon Bay (Sylvan Lake) put forward a resolution at the ABmunis Convention that would allow Municipalities, if they so desire, to approve the use of golf carts on certain approved roads and public lands within their municipality." The ABmunis members supported this resolution and I am happy to say that work has already begun to make this a reality. The Alberta Government is in the process of creating the road rules necessary to allow this to happen. The ASVA President and Executive Director participated in a government lead meeting to gather feedback and introduce the notion of a pilot project. We will continue to work with them as part of their technical resource team.

Final Thoughts

As we all look forward to a new season, the ASVA wants to thank you for your continued support. It is important that we all stick together as a larger single voice does get more recognition.

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 or info@asva.ca

Warmest Regards.



President, ASVA