

Appendices

for the Municipal Government Act, a key piece of legislation that sets out the roles, responsibilities and powers of Alberta's municipalities.

The branch develops, implements, and interprets strategic directions for the division through the assessment of emerging issues and subsequent management of divisional responses.

The Special Areas Board

The Special Areas Board provides municipal services and long-term land management for the three special areas located in southeast Alberta. The board is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Municipal Services and Legislation provides support and advice to assist municipalities in providing Albertans with strong and effective local government. The division provides advisory support, training and internship programs, and other tools in support of enhanced municipal capacity and sustainability.

Municipal co-operation is fostered through land-use planning assistance, mediation programming, and financial support for regional collaboration. The division also administers grant programs, including the Municipal Sustainability Initiative, which reflects the government's funding commitments to municipalities.

Assistance and advice is also provided to municipalities on assessment and tax-related issues. It also oversees the policies and procedures for the assessment of property in Alberta; determines each municipality's share of the education tax; review and audits municipal assessments; and assesses linear property such as oil and gas wells, pipelines, electric power systems (generation, transmission, distribution) and telecommunication systems for Alberta municipalities. Equalized assessments are generated for requisitioning taxes for intermunicipal cost-sharing programs, and in formulas for calculating various grants to municipalities.

We encourage you to visit the Alberta Municipal Affairs Home Page at www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/. Under the Municipalities and Communities tab you will find valuable information to help you in serving your municipality. This includes the Municipal Resource Handbook which contains documents pertaining to pecuniary interest, petitions, and municipal elections. Information and contacts for the Municipal Government Board and the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, the department's Business Plan, and department News Releases are also available.