



May 13, 2024

Honourable Danielle Smith, ECA
Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Relations
307 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Smith:

Thank you for attending and speaking at Alberta Municipalities' Spring 2024 Municipal Leaders' Caucus in Edmonton on March 15, 2024. We sincerely appreciated you were willing to take questions from audience members and even extend your time to converse on matters that are important to municipal leaders.


During your address to the audience, you stated that the Government of Alberta will provide \$3.6 billion in capital funding support to municipal governments in 2024 consisting of:

- \$2.23 billion in municipal infrastructure support,
- \$577 million in capital maintenance and support,
- \$708 million in roads and bridges, and
- \$95 million in additional projects.

During that same speech you promoted that this funding support represents \$900 million more in funding than what the Government of Alberta will requisition from municipalities in 2024 through provincial property taxes.

Following the event, several of our members contacted our association seeking clarity on the figures. Based on our findings, we wanted to bring to your attention that only 48 per cent of that \$3.6 billion expenditure represents provincial funding for municipal governments. In the enclosure to this letter, we breakdown the numbers which involves:

Provincial Funding for Municipalities	(\$ millions)
Provincial funding programs for municipalities (\$722 million in Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital funding and \$188 million through competitive application programs).	910
Provincial funding for one-off municipal projects (not part of a formal funding program).	819
	\$1,729
Federal Funding for Municipalities & Provincial Expense on Provincial Infrastructure	
Funding from the Government of Canada that flows through the Government of Alberta to municipalities.	764
Provincial expenditures on provincially-owned highways and bridges, which are unrelated to the scope of municipal government operations.	1,116
	\$1,880
Total Quoted Expenditure	\$3,609



With \$1.88 billion of the \$3.61 billion consisting of a combination of federal funding for municipalities and provincial spending on provincial infrastructure, this means that only \$1.73 billion is the total provincial capital funding contribution to municipal governments in 2024. This highlights how total capital funding from the province is actually \$1 billion less than the \$2.7 billion that the Government of Alberta will requisition from municipalities this year. This demonstrates another reason that the starting amount of the Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital funding should have been set at \$1.7 billion instead of \$722 million.

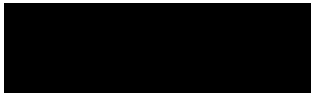
Review of the Provincial Property Tax System

We share this information to bring clarity to the clear inequity between funding to municipalities and provincial property taxes that are requisitioned from municipalities. This is why we applaud that your mandate letter to the Honourable Ric Mclver, Minister of Municipal Affairs, includes the initiative to review how the provincial property tax system can be changed to enable municipalities to retain more funding.

We optimistically wait for the result of that review to be shared and look forward to receiving an update on the expected timing.

If you wish to set up a meeting to discuss this or any other matter related to municipalities, I invite you to contact me by email at president@abmunis.ca or on my cell phone at (780) 312-0660.

Sincerely,



Tyler Gandam
President, Alberta Municipalities

CC: Honourable Nate Horner, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Honourable Ric Mclver, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta

Enclosure

ABmunis' Breakdown of Premier Smith's Quoted \$3.6 Billion in Funding for Municipalities

(\$ millions)	2024 Budget	% of Total
Provincial Programs for Municipal Infrastructure		
Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital	\$722	20.0%
Municipal Water and Wastewater Partnership	66	1.8%
Water for Life	50	1.4%
Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program	44	1.2%
Local Growth and Sustainability Grant	20	0.6%
First Nations Water Tie-In	8	0.2%
	\$910	25.2%
One-Off Provincial Funding for Municipal Infrastructure (Not part of a formal funding program)		
Provincial portion of Edmonton and Calgary LRT ¹	425	11.8%
Calgary Deerfoot Trail upgrades	156	4.3%
Calgary River District and Event Centre	88	2.4%
Edmonton Terwilligar expansion	50	1.4%
Edmonton Yellowhead Trail	50	1.4%
Edmonton 50 th Street	8	0.2%
YYC Rail Connection	2	0.1%
<i>Projects Outside Calgary and Edmonton</i>		
Red Deer Regional Airport Expansion	20	0.6%
Capital Region Wastewater Treatment	10	0.3%
Fox Lake Access Improvement	6	0.2%
Designated Industrial Zone Pilot Project	4	0.1%
	\$819	22.7%
Federal Funding for Municipal Infrastructure that Flows Through the Government of Alberta		
Federal portion of Edmonton and Calgary LRT ¹	425	11.8%
Canada Community Building Fund	265	7.4%
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program	73	2.0%
Clean Water and Wastewater Fund	1	0.0%
	\$764	21.2%
Provincial Investments in Provincial Highways and Bridges		
Highway rehabilitation projects	352	9.7%
Highway twinning, widening, expansion	151	4.2%
Bridge construction projects	121	3.4%
Edmonton/Calgary Ring Roads	73	2.0%
Highway 3 twinning (Taber to Burdett)	65	1.8%
Major maintenance	45	1.2%
P3 Ring Road Maintenance	39	1.1%
Multiple engineering projects	29	0.8%
Highway twinning south of Grande Prairie	24	0.7%
Slide repairs	21	0.6%
Highway 16A and RR20 intersection	20	0.6%
Highway 11 twinning (Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House)	17	0.5%
Highway 40 grade widening (Grande Cache to Hinton)	15	0.4%
Highway 201 Bow River Bridge on SE Stony Trail	14	0.4%
Other projects	131	3.6%
	\$1,116	30.9%
Total	\$3,609	100.0%

¹ \$425 million is an estimate based on news releases indicating that funding from the Government of Canada and Government of Alberta were about evenly split for each Calgary and Edmonton LRT project.