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**Sent:** March 28, 2025 2:03 PM

**To:** Ben Berlinguette <[bberlinguette@md.bonnyville.ab.ca](mailto:bberlinguette@md.bonnyville.ab.ca)>

**Subject:** Provincial Priorities Act and Municipal Sector Update

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

I am following up on the February 27, 2025, letter you received regarding the *Provincial Priorities Act (PPA)* to provide further clarity on the newly enacted legislation and the intake process that all municipalities and designated municipal entities will be subject to as of April 1, 2025.

The *PPA* supports the Government of Alberta in pushing back against overreach by the federal government. The Act was passed last spring and will come into force on April 1, 2025, at the same time as the supporting regulation. This legislation aims to strike a careful balance between respecting Alberta's jurisdiction and maintaining access to federal dollars for provincial entities.

Regardless of the monetary value of the agreement, municipalities and designated municipal entities will need to submit information to Municipal Affairs (MA) on all new agreements with the federal government, agreement amendments, and agreement renewals, along with a copy of the agreement. Agreements eligible for an exception to provincial approval under the *PPA* must still be submitted to MA in order for the exception to apply.

Additionally, municipalities and designated municipal entities will need to fill out and submit a short intake form to accompany the agreement. The intake form will collect information such as the value of the agreement, entities involved, agreement start and execution dates, and other relevant information. Chief administrative officers (CAOs) will be advised when the form is available on the municipal [PPA website](#).

Upon receipt of your agreement and the intake form, MA will forward them to the appropriate lead ministry, and that ministry will be responsible for the review and approval of the agreement. Time-sensitivity will be considered if indicated in the intake form.

Agreements will be reviewed and evaluated based on alignment with the priorities of the province and consideration of whether the agreement oversteps into areas of provincial jurisdiction and/or places unacceptable restrictions on the ability of Alberta to implement its own policies and programs.

You are encouraged to review the attached fact sheet or visit the municipal [PPA website](#). Additionally, CAOs have been invited to attend two webinars where more information on this process will be provided. One webinar was completed on March 26, and another webinar is scheduled for April 3, 2025.

I look forward to working together to ensure Alberta municipalities maintain access to federal dollars while protecting areas of provincial jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Ric McIver  
Minister

Attachment: *Provincial Priorities Act* Municipal Sector Fact Sheet



# ***Provincial Priorities Act***

## **Municipal Sector**

### Fact Sheet

#### **Background**

The *Provincial Priorities Act* (PPA) and *Provincial Priorities Regulation* (PPR) come into force on April 1, 2025. As the lead for the municipal sector, Municipal Affairs (MA) will oversee the intake of all agreements between municipalities or municipal entities and federal entities.

The PPR defines municipal entities as:

- Library boards
- Municipally Controlled Corporations
- Municipal Growth Management Boards
- Regional Services Commissions
- Entities created by a municipal bylaw, except a business improvement area within the meaning of the *Municipal Government Act* and the business improvement area's board
- Entities that are a party to an agreement in which the entity has agreed to operate and administer real property assets of the Alberta Social Housing Corporation

Federal entities include the Government of Canada departments, federal Crown corporations, and federal agencies.

#### **Submission Requirements**

Municipalities and municipal entities must submit information on all new agreements with federal entities, including any new agreement amendments, extensions, and renewals. These details must be provided along with a copy of the agreement to MA, regardless of the agreement's monetary value.

- Agreements valued under \$100,000 must be submitted to MA but do not need approval.
- Agreements valued between \$100,000 and \$5 million require ministerial approval. The Minister responsible for approving the agreement (lead ministry) will depend on the nature of the agreement between the federal entity and the municipality or municipal entity. For example, agreements related to public transit will fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, and agreements related to housing will fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services.
- Agreements valued above \$5 million require Cabinet approval.

There are additional exceptions where provincial approval will not be required. These exceptions include, for example, minor administrative amendments, agreements for the purpose of responding to a disaster, and agreements between federal entities and municipally controlled corporations. While approval of agreements designated as exceptions is not required, these agreements must be submitted to MA as soon as possible after their execution for the exception to apply.

Existing agreements made between a municipality or a municipal entity that were signed prior to April 1, 2025, are not subject to the PPA, unless they are being amended, extended or renewed.

#### **Intake Process**

Agreements and intake forms should be submitted to MA to [ma.provincialprioritiesact@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.provincialprioritiesact@gov.ab.ca) when the signatories to the agreement are ready to sign the agreement or are in the final stages of negotiations.

- The intake form will collect high-level agreement information to assist in efficient processing of approval requests.
- Municipalities and municipal entities are encouraged to indicate on the intake form whether the execution of the agreement is time sensitive and the potential consequences of agreement delay.

The intake form will be available on the Federal Agreements and the Municipal Sector website and will also be provided by email to all municipalities prior to April 1, 2025.

While not part of the formal intake process, situations may arise where municipalities or municipal entities would like to understand whether the province is likely to have concerns with an agreement prior to applying to a federal program and/or negotiating a final agreement. In such cases, they may contact MA for additional information on how federal program requirements may conflict with the requirements of the *PPA*, or they may submit a draft copy of the agreement for a preliminary assessment. MA will coordinate these requests with the lead ministry, which will review the information and identify any potential concerns.

## Review Process

Upon receipt of the agreement, MA will forward the agreement to the appropriate lead ministry for approval.

The lead ministry, or Cabinet when required, will review the agreement, and the municipality or municipal entity will be notified of the decision to approve or reject the agreement or approve the agreement subject to specific conditions.

If an agreement is approved subject to specific conditions, the municipality or municipal entity will be given the opportunity to work with the federal entity to incorporate these conditions.

The Government of Alberta is committed to efficiently screening all agreements to minimize delays and ensure timely funding for Alberta's municipalities and municipal entities.

## Contact Information

Additional information regarding the *PPA* and PPR can be found on the Federal Agreements and the Municipal Sector website, and additional questions can be directed to Municipal Affairs.

Hours: 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (open Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays)

Phone: 780-422-7125

Toll free: 310-0000 before the phone number (in Alberta)

Email: [ma.provincialprioritiesact@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.provincialprioritiesact@gov.ab.ca)

Website: <https://www.alberta.ca/federal-agreements-and-the-municipal-sector>