

COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT REPORTING

Appointment:

Alberta Municipalities

[Those with Council member appointments.]

Classification:

External Agency - Intergovernmental

[[List of Agencies, Boards, Committees and Commissions](#) - [2023 Civic Agencies by Classification](#).]

Councillor(s):

Councillor Andrew Knack Keren Tang

Reporting Period:

November 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023

Mandate

Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) support the municipalities that encompass where 85% of Albertans live: summer villages, villages, cities, towns, and specialized municipalities.

ABmunis work with elected and administrative leaders of Alberta's municipalities to advocate for solutions to municipal issues, which are categorized as economic, environment, governance, infrastructure, or social.

ABmunis offers regular training for elected officials in partnership with RMA (Rural Municipalities of Alberta). The Elected Officials Education Program is available to all elected officials in Alberta.

<https://eoep.ca/>

They also support communities by identifying and providing services that help them build resilient and thriving communities. They use their members' combined purchasing power to negotiate the best possible value and competitive pricing.

Background

The City of Edmonton appoints two council members to serve as representatives on the Alberta Municipalities Board. Councillor Tang was appointed at the beginning of the 2021 term and Councillor Knack was appointed in 2019. Councillor Tang serves as Vice Chair of the Safe & Healthy Communities Committee and Councillor Knack has served as Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, Economic Strategy Committee, and is currently Chair of the Municipal Governance Committee.

Other Council members on the ABmunis Committees are Councillor Cartmell (Infrastructure) and Councillor Salvador (Sustainability and Environment).

Shared priorities and advocacy areas

ABmunis and the City of Edmonton have close coordination on policy advocacy efforts. Some of the key priorities include, but are not limited to:

- Housing, mental health, and addiction
- Extended producer responsibility
- Policy and implementation for the Clean Energy Improvement Program
- Provincial budget specifically the Local Government Fiscal Framework

- Reconciliation
- Childcare

On policing, while the ABmunis advocacy related to the Police Act review does not directly impact the City of Edmonton, we monitor this work closely and participate in any other relevant discussion including the Alberta Provincial Police Service.

We actively participate in the resolutions process at the annual convention. In 2022, the City of Edmonton sponsored resolution “Advancing Action on Alberta’s Drug Poisoning Crisis” garnered 90% of support from the membership, and drives the organization’s current strategy focus on mental health and addiction. For the 2023 convention, the City of Edmonton has prepared three resolutions related to affordable housing, climate, and downtown revitalization. These resolutions were approved by Council on May 10 and are now pending approval by the seconding municipalities’ councils.

Report on activities, projects, and outcomes

Future of Municipal Government. Municipalities face a wide array of financial, political, social, cultural, and environmental pressures. In response, ABmunis initiated the Future of Municipal Government (FOMG) project to explore and assess options for government structures that will enable municipalities to build thriving communities into the future.

ABmunis has partnered with the School of Public Policy (SPP) at the University of Calgary on this project. The SPP is engaging municipal experts from Alberta and across Canada to conduct research on a wide variety of topics, including local governance structures and climate risk assessment and adaptation. The policy papers are available at the ABmunis [website](#).

The President’s Summit on the Future of Municipal Government and Spring Municipal Leaders’ Caucus took place in Edmonton from March 29-31, 2023. Two requests for decision, focused on improving safety in day homes and strengthening collaboration on health care issues with the provincial government, were debated and passed. The Summit provided advocacy and relationship building opportunities for the City.

Alberta Municipalities is launching its provincial communication campaign “Vote Alberta Think Local” once the writ drops. There are general alignments with the City’s own “Ask About Edmonton” communications approach.

Upcoming events and milestones

Summer Municipal Leaders Caucus will take place in various municipalities on June 14, 15, 20, 21, and 22.

The Annual Convention is back in Edmonton September 27-29.

The board will be in strategic planning in May, while various board members will be traveling and visiting member municipalities (e.g., Councillor Knack is planning to visit Kitscoty, Lloydminster, and Vermillion in May). Board members are also part of other organizations like Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, and frequently present on the work of Alberta Municipalities.

In accordance with the Protocol Agreement between ABmunis and City Council Executives, the ABmunis Executive Committee will be meeting with Council in fall to discuss g advocacy efforts on shared priorities.

Evaluation

We recommend that the City of Edmonton continue to work with ABmunis to advance municipal priorities and areas of shared interest, and we encourage our council colleagues to continue their involvement in annual conventions, leadership caucuses, committees, and resolution-building.