

Intergovernmental Consultations Updates

Recommendation

That the October 21, 2020, Communications and Engagement report CE00029, be received for information.

Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of provincial and federal consultations for which the City of Edmonton provided input, or is exploring providing input, since the last intergovernmental consultations update shared with Council on January 22, 2020. This report also provides an update on the status of various City Charter collaboration table discussions between the Province and the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, as a result of opportunities created by the City Charter Collaboration Agreement Framework.

Report

Intergovernmental Consultations

Every year various opportunities emerge for the City of Edmonton to provide input through formal consultations to inform changes to provincial and federal policies and legislation. This report is not intended to capture every advocacy channel that is leveraged to advance the City's priorities with other orders of government, and focuses specifically on the public consultation opportunities that were open to a diversity of stakeholders. While a large number of federal and provincial public consultation processes continue to be launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, in a number of instances government decisions following these consultations appear to be delayed.

Highlights of government engagements since the last Council update include:

- Proposed changes to Codes Canada Publications (closed): On January 13, 2020, the Government of Canada launched a national online survey (which closed on March 13, 2020) to collect public comments on proposed changes to the 2015 editions of the National Building, Fire, and Plumbing codes, and the 2017 National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings. Administration shared comments on proposed technical changes of interest to the municipality. The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes will finalize their decisions on the technical changes that will be included and published in the 2020 editions of Codes Canada publications, which are expected to be released in December 2021.

- Local Authorities Election Act (closed): On February 4, 2020, the Government of Alberta launched an online survey (which closed on March 4, 2020) seeking feedback regarding potential changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act*. The City of Edmonton and other municipal stakeholders provided feedback. Following completion of the consultation process, on June 24, 2020 the Government introduced *Bill 29: The Local Authorities Election Amendment Act* introducing a number of changes to the *Election Act* which received Royal Assent on July 23, 2020.
- Automobile Insurance Reform (closed): On February 14, 2020, the Government of Alberta launched an online survey (which closed on March 11, 2020) to gather public feedback on options and recommendations to reform Alberta's automobile insurance system. Administration shared feedback outlining potential impacts the proposed changes could have on the City. The Government appointed committee is currently reviewing all feedback, and is expected to deliver their final report and recommendations to the Minister of Finance sometime this year.
- Transportation Regulations Review (closed): On February 18, 2020, the Government of Alberta launched a review (which closed on March 18, 2020) and sought public feedback on rules and regulations governing commercial transportation such as large trucks and buses to reduce red tape and remove redundant regulations. Administration shared commentary on ways to streamline the rules to transport people, goods and services efficiently, while improving safety. The Ministry of Transportation is still reviewing the results and options to improve transportation regulation efficiency and safety.
- Prompt Payment Survey (closed): In January 2020, the Government of Alberta launched formal stakeholder consultations and an online survey (which closed on May 1, 2020) inviting interested stakeholders to comment on possible amendments to the *Builders Lien Act* to address issues with delayed payment in the construction industry. The City of Edmonton participated in the engagement sessions and submitted comments through the online survey. Service Alberta has continued to engage key stakeholders in the construction industry and, to date, no changes have been made to the *Builders Lien Act*. While the timeline for proposed changes (and eventual implementation) is uncertain, Alberta is likely to adopt a 'Prompt Payment' mandate (similar to Ontario) in the near future.
- Energy Distribution System Inquiry (closed): On June 1, 2020, the Alberta Utilities Commission invited any closing comments to the consultation (which closed on July 15, 2020) to complete their Distribution System Inquiry review of emerging trends and opportunities that could impact the future of the energy distribution grid. Administration and other stakeholders and utility providers

across Alberta participated in this multi-staged information gathering inquiry. The Alberta Utilities Commission is expected to issue their final report before the end of 2020, which may outline the next steps in their regulatory review process.

- Alberta Infrastructure Act (closed): On June 22, 2020, the Government of Alberta launched an online survey inviting the public to provide input to help develop the proposed Alberta Infrastructure Act, as well as the Government's 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan. The City of Edmonton shared commentary on potential principles that could help guide the development of the future Act and the long-term capital plan. The Alberta Infrastructure Act is expected to be introduced during the fall 2020 session, and the 20-Year Strategic Capital Plan is expected to be released in early 2021.
- Immigration Levels and the Municipal Nominee Pilot (closed): On July 9, 2020, the Government of Canada launched an online survey (which closed on July 20, 2020) seeking public input on Canada's immigration levels plan and requested feedback on the Municipal Nominee Pilot (a new economic immigration program). Administration shared comments on how to implement the pilot.
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Legislative Reform (closed): On July 9, 2020, the Government of Alberta launched an online survey (which closed on August 12, 2020) to gather public feedback on what changes may be needed in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to improve processes for employers and workers. Administration shared comments on proposed opportunities to improve health and safety outcomes while reducing administrative burden. The Ministry of Labour and Immigration is currently reviewing the results of the survey and has yet to make any changes to the Act.
- Workers' Compensation Review (closed): On July 9, 2020, the Government of Alberta launched an online survey (which closed on August 10, 2020) to gather public feedback to help inform potential changes to workers' compensation legislation. Launched concurrently along with the Occupational Health and Safety Legislative Reform consultation, this review included topics such as benefits for workers, support for return to work after an injury or illness, sustainability of the workers' compensation system, and enhancements of workers' compensation processes and governance requirements. Administration shared comments through a written submission. The Ministry of Labour and Immigration is currently reviewing the results of the survey, and has yet to make any changes to the Act.
- Affordable Housing Review Panel (closed): On July 9, 2020, the Government of Alberta, through their provincially appointed Affordable Housing Review Panel, invited interested stakeholders to share submissions (which closed on August

31, 2020) on ways to make affordable housing more efficient and effective, including examining legislation and how housing assets are funded and operated. Administration prepared a submission to share perspectives on the future of affordable housing in Alberta and how to address the gap in affordable housing supply. The Affordable Housing Review Panel has considered all feedback and has submitted its recommendations to the government, which is now reviewing the Panel's report.

- *Municipal Government Act (MGA) Part 17 Review (closed)*: In August 2020, the Government of Alberta initiated a consultative review of the MGA (as part of the province's Red Tape Reduction initiative), starting with various sections of Part 17 on Planning and Development. The City of Edmonton and other municipal stakeholders and representatives from BILD Alberta, attended a series of virtual sessions and shared written feedback (which closed September 11, 2020) regarding various proposed options being contemplated to streamline legislation. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs has identified plans to bring forward any potential Part 17 amendments in Fall 2020, and signalled plans to continue to review the remaining sections of the MGA according to the following schedule: Governance, 2021; Assessment and Taxation, 2022 with subsequent engagement phases expected to follow.
- *Supervised Consumption Sites (closed)*: On August 15, 2020, the Government of Canada invited comments (which closed on October 14, 2020) from interested parties including site operators, health care organizations, law enforcement, and other orders of government to understand the impacts of supervised consumption services and hear what federal regulatory barriers may be faced by those operating or planning to operate a supervised consumption site in Canada. Administration shared some high-level commentary echoing some of the previous framing our City shared with our Province through their supervised consumption sites review process.
- *Accessibility Survey (closed)*: On September 2, 2020, the Government of Canada launched an Accessibility Standards survey (which closed on September 30, 2020) to gather public feedback on the creation of standards to remove barriers to accessibility and inform future engagement and research priorities for 2021 to 2022. Administration shared some commentary.
- *Alberta Police Act Review (open)*: On September 1, 2020, the Government of Alberta reinitiated an engagement process for the *Police Act*. This process will build on what was learned during the 2018-2019 *Police Act* Review and intends to determine critical areas of the *Police Act*, Police Service Regulations and the Alberta Provincial Policing Standards that require amendment and to assess models for implementing change in policing. Government officials have been meeting with stakeholders since September including representatives from the

City of Edmonton, Edmonton Police Service, and other police associations, First Nations, and community leaders and municipalities across Alberta. The Government of Alberta is expected to complete their stakeholder consultations this fall to inform potential future changes.

City Charter Collaboration Tables

On August 10, 2017, the Government of Alberta, the City of Edmonton and the City of Calgary signed the City Charter Collaboration Agreement to support ongoing, long-term coordination between the two cities and the Government of Alberta. This is intended to help advance all parties' shared interests across the social, transportation, energy efficiency and environment policy and planning areas. The goal is to facilitate greater horizontal policy and program integration and provide an avenue for joint problem solving on complex big-city issues and pursuing new opportunities that could benefit all Albertans.

Following the signing of the Collaboration Agreement, a number of administrative collaborative tables were established including Affordable Housing, Education, Transportation and Clean Energy. At the time of preparing this update, only the Affordable Housing table has been reactivated and has continued meeting.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): Condition of Success			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
The City of Edmonton participates in intergovernmental consultations.	Number of consultation responses submitted to other orders of government.	17 corporate submissions advanced to other orders of government in 2019.	No target

Others Reviewing this Report

- M. Persson, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Corporate Services
- G. Cebryk, Deputy City Manager, City Operations
- J. Meliefste, Acting Deputy City Manager, Integrated Infrastructure Services
- K. Armstrong, Deputy City Manager, Employee Services
- R. Smyth, Deputy City Manager, Citizen Services
- S. McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor