



Smoky Lake County
Meeting Agenda
Special County Council Meeting
May 6th, 2026 - 11:00 AM
In Person - Council Chambers
4612 - McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, Alberta
Please join using this link:
<https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/118037033>

1. CALLED TO ORDER
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
3. REQUESTS FOR DECISION
 - 3.1. Disposal of Surplus Public Works Equipment & Replacement Purchases
 - 3.2. Bill 28 – Municipal Concerns
4. IN CAMERA
5. ADJOURNMENT



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: May 6, 2026

Agenda Item: # 3.1

Topic: Disposal of Surplus Public Works Equipment & Replacement Purchases

Presented By: Interim Public Works Manager

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County Council approve the disposal of the following County-owned Public Works assets through the Ritchie Bros. auction scheduled for May 11–14, 2026:

1. **Unit #194 – 2011 Decap Belly Dump with Unit #197**
2. **Unit #170 – 1997 Kenworth T800 Truck**
3. **Unit #616 – 1986 Caterpillar 627B Buggy**

And further, that Council authorize Administration to purchase replacement compaction equipment through the same auction, including a double steel packer and padfoot packer, within the approved Public Works capital budget.

Background:

Public Works has reviewed the condition and operational needs of several County-owned units and has identified three pieces of equipment for disposal.

- Unit #194 – 2011 Decap Belly Dump with Unit #197 is no longer able to obtain CVIP certification and is therefore no longer suitable for continued County operations.
- Unit #170 – 1997 Kenworth T800 Truck has limited remaining service life, with only one CVIP remaining.
- Unit #616 – 1986 Caterpillar 627B Buggy is completely worn out and no longer meeting operational requirements.

The Ritchie Bros. auction scheduled for May 11–14, 2026 provides an opportunity to dispose of these assets in a transparent and competitive manner. Public Works is also seeking to purchase replacement equipment through the same sale, specifically a double steel packer and a padfoot packer, which are required for oiling and road base projects.

Benefits:

Disposing of these units removes aging, worn-out, and non-compliant equipment from the County fleet. It also reduces ongoing repair and maintenance costs and allows Public Works to better align equipment with current road construction and maintenance needs.

Disadvantages:

Auction proceeds and replacement equipment availability are dependent on market conditions. There is also no guarantee that suitable replacement equipment will be available at the same sale.

Alternatives

- **Option 1 – Recommended:** Approve the disposal of the identified assets and authorize



Request for Decision (RFD)

replacement purchases through the Ritchie Bros. auction.

- **Option 2:** Defer disposal and continue to operate or store the existing units, which may result in increased maintenance costs and operational risk.
- **Option 3:** Dispose of the units but purchase replacement equipment through a separate procurement process.

Financial Implications:

Revenue from the sale of the assets will depend on auction results. Replacement equipment purchases would be funded through the approved Public Works capital budget. The final net financial impact will depend on sale proceeds and purchase prices.

Legislation:

Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c. M-26.

Intergovernmental: N/A

Strategic Alignment: N/A

Enclosure(s):

1. Unit List – Public Works Equipment.

Signature of the CAO: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. H. ...", written over a horizontal line.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: May 06, 2026

Agenda Item: # 3.2

Topic: Bill 28 – Municipal Concerns

Presented By: Chief Administrative Officer – Chyenne Shaw

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County Council direct Administration to draft and send a letter to the Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs, outlining Smoky Lake County's concerns with Bill 28 and its proposed amendments to the Municipal Government Act.

Background:

Bill 28 proposes amendments to the Municipal Government Act (MGA), including provisions that would grant the Province authority to direct the organization, management, and potential transfer of municipally owned public utilities.

Of particular concern is Section 44.1, which would allow the Lieutenant Governor in Council to require a municipality to transfer ownership or control of a municipal public utility to a prescribed public utility entity.

This provision applies broadly to all municipally owned utilities, including water, wastewater, natural gas, and other essential services as defined under the MGA.

The proposed changes appear to stem, in part, from governance concerns identified in the City of Calgary's Bearspaw South Feeder Main failure; however, those recommendations focused on governance improvements within municipal control, not the forced transfer of ownership or authority to external entities.

Administration has identified concerns that these amendments may significantly impact municipal autonomy, financial sustainability, and local decision-making authority.

Benefits:

- Provides Council with an opportunity to formally advocate for municipal autonomy and local governance.
- Ensures Smoky Lake County's concerns are communicated directly to the Province.
- Supports alignment with other municipalities and organizations (e.g., RMA) raising similar concerns.
- Demonstrates proactive leadership on legislative matters impacting municipal operations.

Disadvantages:

- May not result in changes to the proposed legislation.
- Requires administrative time to prepare and coordinate the correspondence.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Alternatives

- **Option 1 (Recommended):**
Direct Administration to draft and send a letter to the Minister outlining concerns with Bill 28.
- **Option 2:**
Take no action at this time and monitor developments.
- **Option 3:**
Engage through municipal associations (e.g., RMA) only, without direct correspondence from Council.

Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications associated with drafting and sending the letter. However, the potential long-term financial implications of Bill 28 could be significant if municipal utilities are subject to transfer, including impacts on revenue, assets, and operational control.

Legislation:

- Municipal Government Act (MGA)
- Bill 28 – Proposed Amendments to the MGA
- Section 44.1 – Transfer of Municipal Public Utility

Intergovernmental:

This matter has intergovernmental implications, as it affects the relationship between municipalities and the Province of Alberta, particularly regarding governance of authority and control of municipal assets.

Strategic Alignment: N/A

Enclosure(s):

- Summary of Bill 28 concerns
- Relevant excerpts from Bill 28

Signature of the CAO: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Howard", written over a horizontal line.

From: Tom Kee <tkee@fedgas.com>
Sent: April 28, 2026 3:04 PM
To: Daniel Moric <dmoric@smokylakecounty.ab.ca>
Subject: Concerns on Bill 28

Hi Daniel,

Thank you for taking my call and listening to my review on Bill 28 and the proposed addition of new powers for the government to direct the organization, management and/or transfer of municipally-owned utilities. The section of concern within Bill 028 is Section 44, proposing to allow the government to transfer ownership and control of a municipal public utility, as cited following:

Transfer of municipal public utility

44.1(1) In this section, “public utility entity” means

- (a) a controlled corporation established under Division 9 of Part 3,
- (b) a regional services commission established under Part 15.1, or
- (c) any other entity prescribed by regulation.

(2) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations

- (a) prescribing entities that are public utility entities for the purposes of subsection (1)(c);
- (b) requiring a municipality to transfer ownership or control of a municipal public utility to a public utility entity.

(3) A regulation made under subsection (2)(b) may

- (a) provide for the
 - (i) ownership, control and governance of the public utility entity,
 - (ii) operation of the transferred municipal public utility by the public utility entity, or

- (iii) transfer of assets, employees and ongoing operations from the municipality to the public utility entity,
- (b) specify or describe by reference the provisions of this Act that do not apply, or that apply with modifications, to a public utility entity,
- (c) apply either generally or specifically,
- (d) provide that the regulations prevail to the extent of any inconsistency between the regulations and this Act, or
- (e) provide for any other matter or thing the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary or advisable to carry out the purposes of this section.^[1]

The unlimited power and focus of this proposed change to the MGA. It affects all municipal utility systems, including natural gas. Section 1(1) y of the MGA defines a public utility.

(y) “public utility” means a system or works used to provide one or more of the following for public consumption, benefit, convenience or use:

- (i) water or steam;
- (ii) sewage disposal;
- (iii) public transportation operated by or on behalf of the municipality;
- (iv) irrigation;
- (v) drainage;
- (vi) fuel;
- (vii) electric power;
- (viii) heat;
- (ix) waste management;
- (x) residential and commercial street lighting,

and includes the thing that is provided for public consumption, benefit, convenience or use;^[2]

^[1] Alberta Bill 028,, pages 12 and 13

^[2] Municipal Government Act, Chapter M-26, RSA, s.1(1)(y)

I have concerns with the government giving itself sweeping powers to meddle in utility affairs, of which it has neither expertise nor abilities. The government first expressed concern with the failure of the City of Calgary (Calgary) to address the failure of its main water supply line, the Bearspaw South Feeder Main. City of Calgary had already proposed a path for review of that matter prior to the government raising their concern.

The Final Report on the failure of the City of Calgary's Bearspaw South Feeder main. The initiative for the proposed revision to the Municipal Government Act (MGA) appears to be the recommendation from that report which suggests the Calgary water department be assigned to a specific entity other than City Council for direction and oversight.

The Panel believes that these risk and asset integrity changes must be reinforced by management accountability and governance oversight. Ultimately, the Panel recommends a model wherein the Water Utility would become a separate legal entity wholly owned by The City, governed by an independent expert Board of Directors, and maintaining public accountability through City ownership. However, the Panel also recognizes that the Water Utility is currently advancing several major initiatives, including implementation of several critical reliability and capacity projects. To maintain momentum on these priorities, the Panel acknowledges the need to minimize organizational disruption in the near-term. As a result, the Panel does not recommend immediately shifting the Water Utility to a corporation. Instead, as a pragmatic first step, the Panel recommends The City consolidate core utility functions into one department under a single accountable executive and introduce independent, expert advisory oversight through a Water Utility Oversight Board (WUOB).^[3] (*emphasis added*)

Calgary authorized the review and report on the failure of its primary water supply pipeline and assigned the review and report to a panel of selected business executives. That panel included only one person with any experience in utility development and operations, Dr. Steven Stanley, a former CEO of EPCOR Water Services.^[4] Not one person on the panel appears to have any knowledge or expertise in municipal governance, or an awareness of the current management or reporting requirements for municipalities or their finances. That appears evident in their "Recommendation 2: Establish a Dedicated Utility Department with Segmented Financial Statements", cited following:

^[3] Bearspaw South Feedermain: Final Report, January 6, 2026, Recommendation 1, page 9

^[4] IDEM, page 49 of 86

The Panel recommends that the City establish a dedicated Water Utility department, led by a Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Water Services reporting to the CAO and accountable for end-to-end performance across service, cost, and reliability. This structure should consolidate all core functions including Operations & Maintenance, Technical Services, Quality Assurance, Planning and Regulatory, Risk and Health, Safety and Environment. This reform reflects the reality that critical infrastructure management requires complex trade-offs that cannot be made effectively in a fragmented organizational structure with unclear decision ownership. This shift should be complemented by the creation of segmented Water Utility

financial statements, allowing the City to more clearly link spending to performance and make well-informed, long-term investment decisions that strengthen the reliability and resilience of the water system.

Most if not all of that recommendation is in fact now recommended or required for major utility systems under existing legislation and regulation affecting municipalities. All utility systems are supposed to have segregated accounts within the municipal reporting structure and maintain asset management programs. The fact that Calgary utility management were not able or failed in preventing political meddling with the water utility is now obvious, but should not be considered as a rational excuse for requiring a transfer of the utility to a more costly segregated utility.

Daniel, a significant concern with allowing the proposed transfer of a municipal public utility is allowing such decisions to be made by government, under undefined reasons, and through use of regulation. That, in and of itself speaks poorly of the government and its proposed new power that could easily be used as a coercive tool to stifle any municipal action that does not follow the government's chosen agenda. This may be a discussion with your Council on actions to be taken.

Please call me should you like to discuss.

Thanks Tom



Tom Kee

Executive Director

Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops Ltd.

Desk: (780) 400-3003

Cell: (780) 446-2755

Reception: (780) 416-6543

www.fedgas.com



8429 24 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T6P 1L3

Cooperative Resilience for Rural Alberta's Natural Gas Systems

Source URL: rmalberta.com/news/government-of-alberta-introduces-bill-28-municipal-affairs-and-housing-statutes-amendment-act-2026/

Government of Alberta Introduces Bill 28: Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026

Posted on: April 2, 2026

The Government of Alberta has **introduced Bill 28** (https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill_028.pdf): *Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act*, which proposes a wide range of amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) across several major municipal policy areas. RMA is currently reviewing the Bill and will provide members with a detailed initial analysis in the near future.

Proposed Changes in Bill 28

Bill 28 includes amendments related to the following themes:

- Growth and Housing
- Assessment and Property Tax
- Governance and Accountability
- Municipal Transparency
- Public Institutions and Utilities
- Aggregate Pits
- Seniors Lodges

Initial Reaction

Based on a preliminary review, several early considerations have emerged:

- Rural municipalities remain committed partners in delivering services, maintaining critical infrastructure, and supporting economic growth. When challenges in these areas

emerge, collaborative partnerships between municipalities and the Government of Alberta are more effective than unilateral legislative changes in supporting positive outcomes.

- Several provisions in Bill 28 appear to reflect industry-driven priorities for standardization in municipal operations and decision-making, or reductions in municipal planning and development authority. These changes may not fully reflect the realities or needs of rural communities, where local conditions vary significantly.
- The Bill introduces several provisions that standardize municipal processes or allow for shifting of decision-making to the provincial level in areas such as land use planning, utility management, and administrative processes. These structural changes may have unintended consequences for local governance and community-specific needs.
- Many of the details associated with Bill 28 will be established through regulation, making it difficult to fully understand how these provisions will affect municipalities. As regulations are developed, it will be important to ensure that the intent behind the changes is clearly defined, that municipalities have the tools needed to implement them effectively, and that local autonomy remains respected.

RMA is undertaking an initial analysis of Bill 28 and will provide members with a more comprehensive overview of the proposed changes and their potential impacts once the legislative review is complete.

Jared Shaigec

Policy Advisor

825.319.2312

jared@RMAAlberta.com (mailto:jared@RMAAlberta.com)

Wyatt Skovron

General Manager of Policy & Advocacy

780.955.4096

wyatt@RMAAlberta.com (mailto:wyatt@RMAAlberta.com)

Source URL: rmalberta.com/news/rmas-legislative-update-week-of-april-20-24/

RMA's Legislative Update: Week of April 20-24

Posted on: April 24, 2026

These bulletins summarize and explain the important and relevant details of potential and upcoming legislation in Alberta, including notable Orders in Council.

Members' Issues and Related Bills or Activities

Bill 15 – Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2026

Honourable Mike Ellis, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Bill 15

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill_015.pdf) represents a major step toward establishing a provincial police force by amending the ***Police Act*** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-p-17/latest/rsa-2000-c-p-17.html>) to allow the Minister to transfer Alberta employees, including the roughly 600 sheriffs currently performing policelike duties, into the new Alberta Sheriffs Police Services (ASPS).

The Government of Alberta (GOA) argues this authority will support a smooth transition as the existing sheriff structure is wound down and ASPS is built out. While the GOA maintains that training and qualification requirements will be addressed, the legislation itself focuses primarily on transferring staff into comparable roles, leaving open questions about how training will be funded and whether communities may experience policing capacity gaps during and after the transition.

Parties acknowledged the significant challenges facing rural policing, including recruitment shortages, difficult to access areas, slower response times, and the growing financial burden on municipalities to sustain existing police services.

Government MLAs argued that the ASPS – once fully implemented – would be better positioned than current RCMP detachments to address these pressures, and that there would be a noticeable increase in “boots on the ground” in rural communities as a result.

Opposition MLAs countered that creating the ASPS is an unnecessary and costly workaround when comparable resources already exist within the RCMP; they suggested strengthening existing services would be more efficient and more expeditious in delivering officers to rural areas.

Bill 15 received Royal Assent on April 16 and is now law.

Bill 21 – Interprovincial Trade Mutual Recognition Act, 2026 **Honourable Joseph Schow, Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration**

Bill 21

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill_021.pdf) would legislate the application of several trade-related mutual recognition agreements, including the **Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods** (<https://www.cfta-alec.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/CMRA-Final-v.-March-24-2026.pdf>) (CMRA), Part B of Chapter 4 of the **Canadian Free Trade Agreement** (<https://www.cfta-alec.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/CFTA-Text-Consolidated-March-29-2026.pdf>) (CFTA), and Article 5(1) of the **New West Partnership Trade Agreement** (https://www.cfta-alec.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NWPTA_May_26_2022.pdf) (NWPTA).

The CMRA – signed by all federal, provincial, and territorial governments in November 2025 – enables a good that meets the regulatory requirements of one province or territory to be sold in others that have ratified the CMRA. In effect, it removes many interprovincial trade barriers by ensuring that compliance in one jurisdiction is sufficient for sale in others. It also places a shared obligation on provinces and territories to reconcile their internal regulations to support cross-border trade.

The referenced provisions of the CFTA and NWPTA serve a similar purpose: they commit signatories to reducing regulatory differences that impede the movement of goods between provinces. The CFTA was signed by all provinces and territories; the NWPT was signed by British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

Together, these measures would expand economic opportunities for Alberta consumers and businesses by reducing duplicative regulatory requirements. Products that meet Alberta's standards could be sold in other provinces without additional compliance costs, and goods produced elsewhere in Canada could enter the Alberta market under the same principle.

However, most of the operational details of Bill 21 are left to be regulated. While the Bill guarantees interprovincial trade compatibility in principle, the practical rules governing how this compatibility will function are left to Cabinet to determine. This may replace existing interprovincial barriers with a new form of uncertainty for businesses as they must wait to understand how the regulatory framework will be applied in practice.

Bill 21 passed its third reading on April 14, receiving Royal Assent on April 16. Bill 21 is now law.

Bill 23 – Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2026 **Honourable Mickey Amery, Minister of Justice**

Bill 23

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill_023.pdf) is an omnibus bill that amends multiple statutes related to elections. The Bill introduces a 12-month blackout period on citizen initiatives before and after a general election and removes the deadlines requiring the Alberta government to act on successful citizen petitions.

Under the proposed blackout period, an individual would be prohibited from submitting a notice of intent to petition for signatures during the 12 months immediately preceding a fixed general election date and the 12 months following the most recent general election. Any petitions already underway during this period – regardless of their progress – would be terminated. As a result, individuals wishing to advance a petition would need to secure the required number of signatures before the blackout period begins.

The amendments would also allow either the Minister or petitioner to appoint lawyers as scrutineers of the verification process. Scrutineers would have the authority to audit the verification of collected signatures by the Chief Electoral Officer's office. The Minister would retain this power even if they were a subject of the petition.

This will be the third substantial amendment to the ***Citizen Initiative Act*** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/sa-2021-c-c-13.2/latest/sa-2021-c-c-13.2.html>) in just over a year. Signature thresholds were lowered and the collection period extended in April 2025. Additional procedural and definitional changes – including new notice of intent requirements – were introduced in December 2025. Bill 23 represents the third set of amendments.

Additionally, Bill 23 would increase the salary disclosure threshold for public employees to \$130,000. Any public employee earning above this amount will be required to publicly report their compensation. Previously, the threshold was \$104,754 for Government of Alberta employees and \$125,000 for employees of public sector bodies, education bodies, and municipal authorities. This will likely create increased administrative requirements for municipalities, as well as introduce potential financial and experiential barriers into the hiring process.

Bill 23 sped through the Legislature this past week, passing through its second reading, the Committee of the Whole, and third reading between April 14 and 16. Bill 23 quickly received Royal Assent on April 16 and is now law.

Bill 24 – Alberta Whiskey Act, 2026 **Honourable Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction**

Bill 24

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill_024.pdf) creates standards for an official designation of “Alberta Whisky.”

The Bill creates made-in-Alberta standards for whisky production. The official designation may support growth in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and hospitality by creating an impetus for exploration into the Alberta whisky market. Alberta’s whisky sector which has grown steadily and is gaining national recognition for quality and craftsmanship. The provincial definition would help producers distinguish their products within the broader Canadian whisky category, which operates under more flexible federal standards.

“Alberta Whisky” – under the conditions set in the Bill – would be made entirely in Alberta, having 2/3 of the total weight of cereal grain coming from Alberta farms, use water that is sole sourced from Alberta, and not blended or modified after distillation except through flavouring or the addition of water from Alberta.

Bill 24 passed its third reading on April 22 and now goes to the Lieutenant Governor for Royal Assent.

Bill 28 – Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Act, 2026 **Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs**

Bill 28

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill_028.pdf) is an omnibus bill modifying large sections of the ***Municipal Government Act*** (**<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-m-26/latest/rsa-2000-c-m-26.html>**) (MGA), ***Libraries Act*** (**<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-l-11/latest/rsa-2000-c-l-11.html>**) (LA), and the ***Alberta Housing Act*** (**<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-a-25/latest/rsa-2000-c-a-25.html>**) (AHA). The Bill has significant implications for municipal and local governance, including housing, property assessment, aggregate pits, seniors’ housing, governance and accountability, and the operation of public institutions.

Bill 28 reflects a clear shift toward increased provincial oversight in areas that have traditionally fallen within municipal authority. While some amendments clarify existing processes or introduce new administrative tools, many establish new oversight mechanisms

or standardize municipal practices in ways that will influence how municipalities plan, regulate development, manage assessment and taxation matters, and deliver services.

Taken together, Bill 28 represents a substantial expansion of provincial regulatory reach and oversight, accompanied by a corresponding reduction in municipal and board-level autonomy. RMA has completed an analysis of Bill 28 and the changes comprised within, found here: **Bill 28: RMA Analysis (<https://rmalberta.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/04-17-26-Bill-28-RMA-Analysis.pdf>)**.

Bill 28 passed its first reading on April 2. It has undergone extensive debate since.

Bill 30 – Expedited 120-Day Approvals Act, 2026 ***Honourable Brian Jean, Minister of Energy and Minerals***

Bill 30

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill_030.pdf) introduces a new legislative framework that would allow the Minister to expedite approval timelines for designated major projects in Alberta. Under this framework, qualifying projects would be subject to a hard 120-business-day approval window (roughly five to six months) representing a substantial reduction from the timelines typically associated with large-scale industrial or infrastructure developments.

Proposals must meet several broad criteria. These include a minimum capital investment of \$250 million, alignment with GOA strategic priorities, a determination that project benefits outweigh residual impacts, and an assessment of whether the project advances national and provincial security by recognizing provincial autonomy. These criteria are expansive, undefined in key areas, and potentially open to political interpretation rather than grounded in objective or evidence-based thresholds. As a result, the designation process may be highly discretionary, with significant latitude for ministerial judgment.

Proponents seeking designation must provide a detailed application that includes an anticipated project completion timeline, a list of all known approvals required, and proof – that is acceptable to the Minister – of the status of any environmental impact assessments under the ***Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act***

(<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-e-12/latest/rsa-2000-c-e-12.html>).

They must also provide proof – again, that is acceptable to the Minister – of the status of Indigenous consultation obligations. The Bill does not define what constitutes “acceptable” proof, leaving considerable uncertainty about evidentiary standards, procedural expectations, and the degree of ministerial discretion in determining whether a project is sufficiently advanced to enter the expedited stream. Proponents will likely need to seek clarity on these measures before application.

Bill 30 emerges in the context of ongoing intergovernmental discussions between Alberta and the federal government, particularly following the recent ***Co-operation Agreement on Environment and Impact Assessment*** (<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment->

agency/corporate/acts-regulations/legislation-regulations/canada-alberta-cooperation-agreement.html). The federal government committed to rely more heavily on Alberta's environmental assessment and regulatory processes when evaluating potential adverse environmental impacts under this agreement. Bill 30 appears to position Alberta to capitalize on this shift by creating a faster, provincially-controlled pathway for major project approvals.

Although public discussion has largely focused on the implications for the oil & gas sector, the Bill's structure is broad enough to apply to a wide range of industries. Mining, utilities, forestry, nuclear development, large-scale manufacturing, and data centres could all qualify for expedited approval if they meet the investment threshold and align with provincial priorities. As such, Bill 30 has the potential to reshape Alberta's major project landscape well beyond the energy sector.

Overall, Bill 30 introduces a highly discretionary, accelerated approval regime that could significantly alter how major projects are evaluated and approved in Alberta. While intended to streamline processes and attract investment, the Bill raises important questions about transparency, regulatory consistency, environmental oversight, and the adequacy of consultation processes – particularly given the undefined nature of key criteria and the substantial authority vested in the Minister.

Bill 30 Passed its first reading on April 14.

Bill 31 – Red Tape Reduction Statues Amendment Act, 2026 **Honourable Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction**

Bill 31

(https://docs.assembly.ab.ca/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_31/session_2/20251023_bill_031.pdf) is an omnibus bill that amends a wide range of provincial statutes, addressing topics that span from land-use planning, management of liquor and gaming information, electronic land-title registration, and the elimination of daylight savings time. Many of the amendments are technical or administrative, but collectively they represent a substantial legislative update intended to align older statutes with recent policy directions and modernize government processes.

The Bill significantly amends the **Alberta Land Stewardship Act** (**<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/stat/sa-2009-c-a-26.8/latest/sa-2009-c-a-26.8.html>**) (ALSA), expanding potential filing obligations for municipalities. Under the revised framework, municipalities may now be required to file compliance declarations not only when a regional plan is amended, but also when Cabinet creates, amends, or incorporates a subregional or issue-specific plan under the new provisions.

This marks a meaningful shift from the previous structure. Previously, filing obligations were triggered solely by changes to regional plans. Because these new standalone plans can be created for specific geographic areas, particular issues, or Crown land management topics,

municipalities could face filing requirements more frequently and in a wider range of circumstances. Importantly, the obligation to file is not automatic; it depends on whether the subregional or issue-specific plan itself directs municipalities to submit a compliance declaration. Municipalities will therefore need to closely review each plan to understand its specific requirements and ensure timely compliance.

Bill 31 also formally ends daylight savings time in Alberta. The province would remain on what was previously standard time year-round, now designated as “official time” in Alberta. This change eliminates the biannual time shift and aligns Alberta with other jurisdictions that have moved to permanent standard time.

Beyond these headline items, Bill 31 introduces numerous targeted amendments across several other Acts. Amendments clarify ministerial authority, update administrative processes, and align statutory language with other recent legislative reforms. The Bill also modernizes terminology, corrects outdated cross-references, and refines the powers of ministers and public bodies to ensure consistency across the legislative framework. This includes technical amendments designed to improve regulatory functioning, such as clearer authority for ministers to delegate responsibilities, expanded regulation-making powers in select Acts, and adjustments to statutory timelines and procedural requirements.

Several amendments address gaps or ambiguities identified through recent implementation experience, ideally ensuring that existing statutes operate coherently. While many of these changes are administrative in nature, they may collectively strengthen the government’s ability to coordinate across departments, streamline statutory processes, and maintain alignment between older legislation and Alberta’s increasingly rapidly changing policy landscape.

Bill 31 passed its first reading on April 23.

Orders in Council

Order in Council 116/2026

Honourable Mike Ellis, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

OIC 116/2026 (https://kings-printer.alberta.ca/Documents/Orders/Orders_in_Council/2026/2026_116.pdf) amends the ***Independent Agency Police Service Regulation*** (<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/laws/regu/alta-reg-163-2025/latest/alta-reg-163-2025.html>) to allow members of the Independent Agency Police Services (IAPS) Oversight Board to also serve as members of the IAPS Board of Directors.

Previously, s. 3(3)(a) of the Regulation explicitly prohibited this overlap, keeping the two bodies institutionally separate. Under the existing structure, the Oversight Board is composed of the Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services and eight additional appointees, excluding MLAs and members of IAPS.

By permitting Oversight Board members to sit concurrently on the Board of Directors, the Order introduces a new degree of integration between the two governance bodies. This change centralizes decision-making authority and creates a more interdependent relationship between operational oversight and organizational governance, altering the separation that previously existed between the two roles.

Ian Profiri

Policy & Research Analyst

825.319.2352

ian@RMAAlberta.com (mailto:ian@RMAAlberta.com)

Wyatt Skovron

General Manager of Policy & Advocacy

780.955.4096

wyatt@RMAAlberta.com (mailto:wyatt@RMAAlberta.com)