

Wetaskiwin Joins Mid-Sized Cities in Call for Equitable Funding

February 6, 2019

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – The City of Wetaskiwin was one of 22 Alberta municipalities calling on the provincial government to develop an equitable funding framework during the Alberta Mid-Sized Cities Mayors' and CAOs' Caucus.

Mayor Tyler Gandam and Acting City Manager Sue Howard attended the gathering—held from January 29 to 31 in Cochrane, Alberta—to work with other mid-sized cities in lobbying for provincial and federal funding. The City of Wetaskiwin, as with many smaller communities, has important and costly projects planned as part of its 10-year capital and asset management strategy. These projects require sustainable and predictable funding separate from the local tax base—who already support the day to day operations of the city.

“Coping with growing service requests and infrastructure demands is nearly impossible when municipalities receive only 10 cents of every tax dollar,” said Mayor Tyler Gandam. “Many mid-sized municipalities are feeling the strain of the current funding framework, including Wetaskiwin. My goal is to continue knocking on the province’s door with these concerns to ensure they don’t forget about us.”

While the needs of all mid-sized municipalities are being voiced, the City of Wetaskiwin is already benefiting from increased advocacy through Mayor Gandam’s election last fall to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) board, where he serves as Director for Cities under 500,000. AUMA is another organization that advocates for the needs of municipal governments.

“Sustainable and predictable funding from the federal and provincial levels of government is necessary to ensure the City of Wetaskiwin can meet all new regulations mandated by those levels of government,” said Acting City Manager Sue Howard. “Without a long-term funding strategy, our community cannot complete these projects and meet the ever-changing compliance regulations required.”

The caucus is advocating the Provincial and Federal government on several priorities, including a commitment to predictable funding, opportunities for provincial revenue sharing, and the collaborative development of equitable solutions to the policing system. Discussions were held with all four of the attending provincial party leaders—Premier Rachel Notley (NDP Leader), United Conservative Party Leader Jason Kenney, Alberta Party Leader Stephen Mandel, and Liberal Leader David Khan.

The next Alberta Mid-Sized Cities Mayors' and CAOs' Caucus meeting will be held in September.

For more information please contact:

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Backgrounder

- The Alberta Mid-Sized Cities Mayors' and CAOs' Caucus is comprised of 22 urban centers, 35 provincial constituencies, and a population of approximately one million Albertans. Collectively, the caucus develops strategies to respond to matters of mutual concern and advocates for the needs of Alberta's mid-sized municipalities.
- The Alberta Mid-Sized Cities Mayors' and CAOs' Caucus meets twice a year. The most recent meeting took place in Cochrane, Alberta from January 29 to 31, 2019.
- Mayor Gandam was elected to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Board of Directors in September 2018 for a two-year term of office representing *Alberta's Cities up to 500,000*.
- Mayor Gandam serves as Vice Chair of AUMA's Safe and Healthy Communities Committee.