

# CAO Report

May 14, 2024



---

## Provincial Oversight of Federal Agreements

As of April 1, 2025, the *Provincial Priorities Act* comes into force. The *Act* requires that all municipalities and municipal entities (regional services commission and libraries) submit information to the provincial government on all agreements with the federal government.

For agreements under \$100,000 in value (cash or in-kind), the process will be informational only. However, any agreements with values above \$100,000 are subject to approval by the Government of Alberta. Agreements between \$100,000 and \$5 million are to be approved by the respective Ministry responsible for the issues addressed in the agreement, and any agreements in excess of \$5 million are to be approved by Cabinet. Municipal Affairs will receive all agreements and distribute them for approval as required under the *Act*.

This process eliminates municipal autonomy in working collaboratively with the federal government to address local issues. It also significantly increases the time and effort required to approve all agreements with the federal government, including operational agreements such as the RCMP.

## 2025 Assessment Growth & Taxation Implications

Administration is pleased to report that actual 2025 assessment growth has outpaced budget estimates. While the 2025 budget was based on a 4.5% projected growth, actual figures indicate 6.7% growth. This surplus will positively impact the tax rate required to meet the 2025 budget, and full details will be shared with Council as part of the 2025 Tax Rate Bylaw at the April 22, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council.

## Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) Program Update

On March 12, 2025, the Government of Alberta released its finalized 2025 Automated Traffic Enforcement Guidelines. Key changes include the following:

- Removal of ATE from provincial highways
- Restriction of ATE speed enforcement to school and playground zones only
- Elimination of Speed on Green at intersections

Morinville's ATE program has been paused since December 1, 2024, to allow for analysis and adjustment, which is still in progress.

## Water Conservation Rebate Program Launch

Morinville's Water Conservation Rebate Program, a value-added initiative approved by Council during the 2025-2027 Budget deliberations, is launching this week. The program offers financial incentives to residential utility account holders for purchasing and installing drought-tolerant plants, trees, rain barrels, and groundcover materials.

This initiative aligns directly with Council's Environmental Responsibility strategic goal, supporting Morinville's role as an environmental steward through collaboration, innovation, education, and implementation. In addition to promoting sustainable landscaping practices, the

program supports local businesses and aims to reduce residential water consumption. Rebates are issued on a first-come, first-served basis and are credited to the applicant's utility account upon approval. Full program details and the approved product list are available at [www.morinville.ca/water-rebate](http://www.morinville.ca/water-rebate).

### **Business Support: Dream Business Program Expansion**

Due to overwhelming demand, two cohorts of the Mashup Labs Dream Business Program are launching this week. Over 40 participants registered, highlighting the strong entrepreneurial interest in the community. The Planning & Economic Development team will engage directly with both cohorts to introduce them to relevant regulations and local supports. Post-program, we will work with Mashup Labs to compile outcomes and provide follow-up support to participants.

### **Volunteer Recognition Grant Program**

The FCSS Volunteer Grant Program closed on March 31, with 32 applications received and approved. Each organization will receive \$200 to support their 2024 volunteer recognition efforts.

### **Fire Training Grant Awarded**

Morinville has been awarded \$10,720 through the 2025 Fire Services Training Program (FSTP). This funding will support enhanced firefighter training and safety thanks to increased provincial allocations for 2024/2025.

### **Emergency Preparedness Exercise**

This week, the Sturgeon Regional Emergency Management Partnership (SREMP) is conducting a toxic train exercise as a real-time coordination scenario for the Regional Incident Management and Emergency Social Services teams. These exercises reinforce concepts learned in courses and workshops while ensuring the effectiveness of plans, communications, facilities, and equipment. Outcomes include hands-on experience, reinforced response strategies, and enhanced coordination across teams.