

GETTING TO KNOW THE AAMDC

A Guide for New Councillors



VOLUME III : RESOLUTIONS – THE AAMDC’S MARCHING ORDERS

As a councillor, you know that rural municipalities deal with a variety of challenging issues. For example, they deliver services, manage huge infrastructure networks, support economic development, act as environmental stewards, and provide safe communities, just to name a few. It’s no surprise that the advocacy issues that the AAMDC addresses on behalf of members are similarly diverse. The AAMDC interacts with nearly every provincial ministry, from Transportation to Environment and Parks to Seniors and Housing. To manage this diversity, the AAMDC prioritizes issues in a way that best meets the needs of their members.

The primary means by which the AAMDC ensures that their advocacy efforts go toward issues important to members is through resolutions. At the AAMDC, we call resolutions our “marching orders”: they tell us what to advocate on and what position to take, and because they are member-endorsed, we are confident that we are acting in the best interests of rural municipalities.

WHAT ARE RESOLUTIONS?

Resolutions are requests from AAMDC members to another organization (usually the Government of Alberta) to address a certain issue. Resolutions can be very broad (increase funding for highways) to very specific (change a specific word in a piece of legislation). Resolutions can call for a change to legislation, programming, or policy; they can call for more funding, a return of funding, or a redistribution of funding. Basically, resolutions direct the AAMDC to advocate to another organization about whatever the resolution calls for.

In some cases, resolutions can also be directed to the AAMDC to change one of their own policies, to form a committee on a specific issue, or to undertake other actions on behalf of members.

HOW DOES A RESOLUTION BECOME ENDORSED?

Resolutions typically begin with an individual municipality. The council will develop the resolution and submit it to their district chair for inclusion on the agenda of the next district meeting. At the district meeting, the resolution will be introduced by someone from the municipality, discussed among all members, and voted on. If the resolution is endorsed at the district level, it will be placed on the order paper for discussion and voting at the next AAMDC convention. If the resolution is endorsed by delegates at the convention, it becomes part of the AAMDC advocacy “marching orders” for three years, after which it is evaluated and archived but still informs the AAMDC’s advocacy efforts.

HOW ARE RESOLUTIONS WRITTEN?

Resolutions must follow a specific format. To see resolution-writing tips, [click here](#). For a resolution template, [click here](#).

HOW DOES THE AAMDC REPORT TO MEMBERS ON RESOLUTION ADVOCACY?

The AAMDC publishes the *Advocacy Report Card*, a status update on all active resolutions, twice each year. Keep an eye out for *Advocacy Report Card* in the AAMDC’s [Contact newsletter](#).

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON RESOLUTIONS AND SEE CURRENT AAMDC RESOLUTIONS?

The AAMDC has an extensive collection of resolution resources, including a resolution-writing guide and a resolution database with every active resolution, as well as many archived resolutions. To view these resources, [click here](#).

Check out the
[Fall 2017 Advocacy Report Card](#)
on our website!