

# GETTING TO KNOW THE AAMDC

## *A Guide for New Councillors*



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# VOLUME IV : GETTING INVOLVED

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The AAMDC prides itself on **working for members**, but we also appreciate the opportunity to **work *with* members**. While the board plays a critical role in ensuring that the AAMDC understands the rural municipal perspective, sometimes **involving other members with passion or expertise** on specific issues provides **great benefit to our advocacy efforts**. The following points are a few of the ways you can get involved.

## READ AND ASK QUESTIONS

The AAMDC distributes our [Contact newsletter](#) weekly. *Contact* is intended for our members first and foremost, but is also read by many other stakeholders with an interest in rural Alberta. The intent of *Contact* is to keep members informed on events, consultations, government decisions, and other news that impacts rural municipalities. To begin to get involved, read *Contact* and follow up with your district director or AAMDC staff if you have questions about any of the information or want to learn more about an issue mentioned. Better yet, let us know if we missed something worthy of inclusion. If you haven't signed up to receive *Contact*, you can do so by [clicking here](#) and inputting your email address in the "Get Contact" section on the right side of the page.

Aside from *Contact*, have a look at [AAMDC.com](#). That's where you can find resolutions, AAMDC reports, and [member bulletins](#) from previous *Contact* issues. If you see something that interests you or you have questions about, let us know. It could be the start of a great working relationship!

## REACH OUT TO YOUR DISTRICT DIRECTOR

The AAMDC's board of directors take the role of being great member representatives very seriously. Sharing information with members is what makes the board effective, so don't be shy to approach them with an idea or question. Your board of directors are *your advocates*; they are elected by you and accountable to you. They will do their best to bring your views forward, and are a great source of knowledge about the AAMDC and municipal issues in general.

For contact information for each board member, [click here](#).

## PROVIDE US WITH INFORMATION

From time to time, the AAMDC will reach out to members to request local information related to an advocacy issue. In some cases, this will take the form of a survey, while in others, it will be a general call for any information that a member may have. We understand how busy members are, so we try to only make such requests when the information is critically needed. Please make every effort to respond, as the information we receive from members enhances the credibility of our positions and strengthens our advocacy efforts.

## APPLY TO JOIN AN AAMDC COMMITTEE

Periodically, the AAMDC will form a member committee to research and develop a position on an issue. For example, earlier in 2017, the AAMDC formed the Climate Change Advisory Committee, which consisted of one member from each district with a board member serving as committee chair (to view the committee's final report, [click here](#)).

The AAMDC typically calls for nominations of committee members through *Contact*. Those applying will be asked to describe their knowledge of the issue being studied and their interest in participating. If multiple participants apply from a district, the board will select the participant they believe is best positioned to contribute to the committee.

Keep an eye on *Contact* for future committee opportunities!