

Resolutions: Your Path to Provincial Change



Why develop resolutions?

Resolutions act as marching orders for the AAMDC. They provide formal guidance for AAMDC advocacy efforts by highlighting issues of local importance that have province-wide impacts. Resolutions typically seek to change legislation, address funding challenges, or encourage alternative policy approaches by other levels of government.

What is the process for submitting resolutions?

Resolutions can either be endorsed by a district or submitted as an individual resolution for debate by the entire AAMDC membership. Resolutions can only be submitted by one of AAMDC's 69 full member municipalities. The AAMDC recommends that all resolutions be vetted at the district level prior to being debated by all members on the convention floor. This will allow for resolution wording to be clarified and endorsed at the district level. The AAMDC membership meets twice annually and debates resolutions that have been endorsed at the district level or submitted individually.

The AAMDC has a Resolutions Committee in place. The committee includes an elected official from each of the five districts and is chaired by a member of the AAMDC Board of Directors. The committee meets prior to each convention to review resolutions that have been endorsed at the district level or submitted individually and determine the order in which resolutions will be presented at convention.

If an issue has arisen since the resolution deadline, members do have the option of bringing forward an emergent resolution for convention. The Resolution Committee will meet at convention to review any resolutions brought forward and determine if they meet the definition of emergent as outlined in AAMDC's Resolution Process policy. If so, the resolution will be added to the resolution session and presented to the membership as a whole who will vote on if the resolution is, in fact, emergent in nature. Those deemed emergent will follow the regular process for presenting and debating resolutions.

What makes a good resolution?

As an association that represents all municipal districts and counties in Alberta, having resolutions that are provincial in scope supports the advocacy process. A good resolution is detailed and factual and includes clear, concise wording. Understanding the issue as presented in the operative clause is imperative to ensure that the AAMDC's advocacy efforts are focused on the intent of the resolution.

A good resolution must have a clear title, preamble (background), operative clause and background. The operative clause is the "ask" and should provide a clear understanding of the issue. The operative clause should include clear direction in which the AAMDC will pursue advocacy efforts. The AAMDC has developed a "resolutions tips" document which outlines the structure of a resolution. This document is distributed prior to each convention via member bulletin and is available on the AAMDC website.

The AAMDC Resolution Process Policy frames the resolution process and includes information on the structure of the Resolution Committee. The policy is available on the [AAMDC website](#).

What happens to resolutions that are passed?

Once a resolution is passed by the membership, it officially belongs to the membership and is formally advocated on by the AAMDC. Resolutions have a three-year life cycle and are top of mind when the AAMDC develops positions or key messaging.

After each convention, all resolutions that are passed are sent to appropriate government ministries (provincial and federal) and additional applicable organizations for their response. Active resolutions are also the focus of meetings with various government ministers. AAMDC board and staff refer to active resolutions when developing positions on key issues. They are a vital component of advocacy efforts within the organization.

Are resolutions easily accessible?

The AAMDC maintains an online, searchable [database](#) of all resolutions; active and inactive. The online database is updated after each convention with resolutions that have been endorsed by the entire membership. The AAMDC also distributes a member bulletin after each convention with the endorsed resolutions package attached.

How are resolutions reported on?

Once responses to new resolutions are received from government, each resolution is reviewed and assigned one of the following statuses:

- **Accepted** – The intent of the resolution has been met fully and the AAMDC does not need to formally advocate further on this issue.
- **Accepted in Principle** – Either the response or actions from government or appropriate organizations have made steps towards meeting the intent of the resolution but there is still work to be done. Resolutions with this status are continually monitored and advocated on to work towards meeting that intent fully.
- **Unsatisfactory** – Either the government response or actions do not address the request in the resolution. The AAMDC will continue to advocate on this issue.
- **Incomplete Information** – The AAMDC requires further information from the provincial or federal government, or targeted organization to determine a status for the resolution.

Active resolutions are reported on twice annually through the *Advocacy Report Card* which is available on the AAMDC website and distributed via member bulletin. During the development of the *Advocacy Report Card*, all active resolutions are reviewed and assessed if their current status still applies. An updated development is written for each resolution to ensure the most accurate information is tied to each specific resolution. This information is also updated on the online database.

It is important to note that just because a resolution has been assigned a status of Accepted, that status is still reviewed for every *Advocacy Report Card*. That status can be downgraded, depending on developments that have taken place.

What factors influence a resolution status?

The resolutions' operative clause provides direction for the AAMDC to work with appropriate government ministries and stakeholders to meet the intent outlined. Not all resolutions will achieve the status of Accepted or Accepted in Principle during their active lifespan due to a number of factors. Changes in provincial leadership, cabinet shuffles, provincial budget priorities and legislative consultation timelines can all impact the progress of a resolution during its active lifespan. That being said, even if a resolution has expired and has not yet reached the status of Accepted or Accepted in Principle, the AAMDC will continue to bring that issue forward.

What happens to resolutions when they expire?

As an advocacy organization, the AAMDC values thorough review and understanding of issues that have been raised through resolutions. Even after resolutions expire, regardless of their status, the AAMDC continues to refer to them when related issues arise. Resolutions form the basis for advocacy efforts and examining the trends historically is an important part of that.

Who can I contact about resolutions?

The AAMDC website is great resource for resolutions. It includes a searchable database which includes the most current developments, resolution writing tips and the AAMDC's Resolution Process Policy. Please contact the AAMDC Board of Directors or Advocacy Staff for information.