

## Spring Update on the Municipal Government Act Review

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As indicated in previous posts on this blog, the Alberta government has been actively reviewing the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*. In their recent [News Release](#), the Government has indicated that it will be introducing legislative amendments in May. In addition, there will be several open houses throughout Alberta to obtain feedback on these proposed amendments. Proposed dates and location so far are:

- June 1: Two Hills
- June 2: Lac La Biche
- June 3: Athabasca
  
- June 6: Rocky Mountain House
- June 7: Calgary area
- June 9: Cochrane
- June 10: Canmore
  
- June 13: Edmonton area
- June 14: Hardisty
- June 15: Hanna
- June 16: Red Deer
  
- June 21: High Prairie
- June 22: Peace River
- June 23: Grande Prairie
  
- June 27: Hinton
- June 28: Whitecourt
  
- July 13: Brooks
- July 14: Medicine Hat
- July 15: Lethbridge

Given the key role that municipalities play in the management and protection of Alberta's environment, we have already participated in this review by making [written submissions](#). Ultimately, we would like to see the *MGA* amended to require and empower municipalities to manage and protect the local environment. Our key recommendations for strengthening the *MGA* are:

1. Protection and management of the environment is a valid municipal planning purpose and, as such, should be expressly recognized in the *MGA*.
2. The *MGA* should incorporate by-law purposes specific to protection and management of the environment.
3. The *MGA* should expand the enforcement tools available to municipalities for the purposes of environmental protection and management.
4. The *MGA* should expand the revenue generation options available to municipalities to enable environmental stewardship and, particularly, land conservation.
5. The *MGA* should enhance opportunities for public participation in municipal planning processes.

We believe that these amendments will empower municipalities to play a pivotal role in the protection and management of Alberta's environment.

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