

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_Mar08\_2016**

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**REPORT FOR INFORMATION****Provincial Budget for Grants (2016)****Report Purpose**

To provide information to the Priorities Committee on how the 2016 Provincial Budget impacts grants received by Strathcona County from the Alberta government.

**Council History**

November 30, 2015 – Council requested that administration provide an update to Priorities Committee, by the end of the first quarter of 2016, on the impact of the Alberta provincial government budget for 2015-2016 on grants to Strathcona County.

**Strategic Plan Priority Areas**

**Economy:** Allows for the organization to adapt to the current economic environment.

**Governance:** Provides for good governance by supporting strong fiscal management of programs and organizational capacity.

**Social:** n/a

**Culture:** n/a

**Environment:** n/a

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Interdepartmental:** All departments

**Summary**

The NDP government reviewed the 2015 Budget approved in April 2015 and re-approved the revised Budget in November 2015 with no changes to any grant programs. For the 2016 Budget, the following outlines the main forecasted operating grant changes:

- Family and Community Support Service (FCSS) grant increased to \$25 million province-wide
- Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) grant program for students has been reintroduced to \$10 million
- Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grant increased from \$498 million to \$896 million
- New transit initiative grant has been introduced

The provincial government announcement did not identify any decreases to any grant programs. It is assumed that Strathcona County's allocation will remain at the current levels or possibly increase. On April 1, 2016, the provincial government will release their approved 2016 Budget.

**Enclosure**

1 2015 – 2016 Alberta Provincial Budget (Document: 8412630)