

Municipal Government Act (MGA) Consultation Update**Report Purpose**

To provide an overview of the current MGA consultation that is underway by Alberta Municipal Affairs entitled "Continuing the Conversation".

Recommendation

THAT on or before January 17, 2017, Administration provide a confidential written brief to members of Council to assist with preparing individual responses to the latest Alberta Municipal Affairs questionnaire, "Continuing the Conversation", such responses being due on January 31, 2017; and

THAT the Administrative brief remain confidential pursuant to section 24 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: Additional input on off-site levies and the tax rate ratio.

Governance: Propose to put processes in place that hold Councils accountable for their actions and promote a high standard of local governance.

Social: n/a

Culture: n/a

Environment: Currently municipalities lack explicit authority to incorporate environmental stewardship considerations in their operational and land-use decision making processes.

Other Impacts

Policy: various

Legislative/Legal: MGA and related regulations

Interdepartmental: All departments

Summary

The *MGA* is the guide to how municipalities operate, and is one of the most significant and far-reaching statutes in Alberta. The *MGA* affects every Albertan, the private sector, and every ministry in the Government of Alberta in one form or another. This latest consultation is an opportunity for Albertans to continue the conversation about building an even stronger framework for municipalities, and to raise some technical or clarifying changes that may be necessary to improve the act's effectiveness.

Enclosures

- 1 Continuing the Conversation Presentation
- 2 Continuing the Conversation