

Municipal, Provincial and Federal Roles and Responsibilities

Edmonton

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT



City of Edmonton

Derived from provincial legislation

- + **MUNICIPAL PUBLIC TRANSIT**
Bus and LRT service
- + **MUNICIPAL POLICING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**
Edmonton Police Service
Edmonton Fire Rescue Services
- + **PERMITTING AND LICENCES**
Development and building permits, business licences
- + **MUNICIPAL ROADS**
Construction, maintenance, snow and ice control, street sweeping
- + **MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE (E.G. BRIDGES, FIRE HALLS)**
- + **MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**
Waste management
Water management (delivered by EPCOR)
- + **MUNICIPAL PARKS AND RECREATION**
Recreation and fitness facilities, swimming pools, stadiums, sports fields, river valley
- + **URBAN PLANNING**
Zoning, growth management, urban design, local economic development
- + **MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION**
(includes collecting provincial education tax)
- + **OTHER SERVICES**
within municipal jurisdiction that, in the opinion of City Council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



Government of Alberta

Derived from Section 92 of the Constitution Act, 1867

- + **ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPALITIES**
- + **PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS**
Construction & maintenance
- + **EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE**
K-12, post-secondary, apprenticeship, student loans, childcare and adoptions
- + **HEALTH CARE**
Hospitals, emergency services, mental health and addiction
- + **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**
- + **ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**
Provincial courts, sheriffs and correctional institutions
- + **SOCIAL SERVICES**
Supports and services for seniors, children, people with disabilities, etc.
- + **PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT**
Provincial parks and recreation areas
- + **NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**
- + **BUILDING CODES**
- + **PROVINCIAL LICENSING**
Driver's licences, hunting and fishing, professional bodies
- + **PROVINCIAL INCOME TAX**
- + **PROPERTY TAX**
(setting the education portion)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Government of Canada

Derived from Section 91 of the Constitution Act, 1867

- + **FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY**
- + **NATIONAL DEFENCE**
- + **INTERNATIONAL AND INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE**
- + **POSTAL SERVICE**
- + **BANKING AND MORTGAGES**
- + **INDIGENOUS TREATIES AND RESERVES**
- + **CRIMINAL LAW**
- + **RCMP**
- + **PUBLIC HEALTH**
Epidemics, vaccines, drug approval, product safety
- + **IMMIGRATION**
Visas, passports and admission, border security, newcomer supports (shared with provinces)
- + **SOCIAL BENEFITS**
Employment insurance, pensions, child and family benefits
- + **FEDERAL INCOME TAX**

Note: this list does not include all roles and responsibilities of each order of government

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From a constitutional perspective, Canada has two orders of government: *federal* and *provincial*.

Although municipalities are sometimes also referred to as an order of government, they do not have their authorities established in the Constitution, deriving them from provincial legislation. In Alberta, municipal authorities are granted primarily through the Municipal Government Act.

EVOLVING GOVERNMENT ROLES

As a result of evolving social and economic conditions, the roles and responsibilities of governments in Canada have drastically evolved since the time of the Constitution Act, 1867.

Today, all governments in Canada provide more public services than set out in the 1867 Constitution. Examples include supporting housing development, environmental protection, supporting vulnerable populations, economic development and investment attraction, and promoting arts and culture. In some instances, this has led to overlapping lines of responsibility, as governments increasingly spend in areas that are not explicitly defined as their responsibilities in the Constitution or legislation.

In addition, recent decades have also seen an increase in federal and provincial funding transfers to lower orders of government, primarily to support infrastructure development and social services.

GROWING SIGNIFICANCE OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

Urban centres today are where people and economic activity concentrate, leading municipal governments to significantly expand their service offerings (such as promoting local economic development or supporting preventive social services through the 20% municipal portion of the Family and Community Support Services program).

In some cases, municipal governments are now delivering services that have traditionally been under federal or provincial jurisdiction, either due to increased resident expectations or to fill service gaps. For certain public services, when federal or provincial governments do not keep pace with their spending responsibilities, the impacts are felt most acutely at the municipal level, forcing municipalities to step in.

As the closest order of government to the community, municipalities seek to be responsive to emergent issues within their communities.