



August 5, 2019

File: 12/120

Municipalities of Alberta

Re: Town of Peace River GST Audit Concern

Colleague,

In May 2019, following a routine GST audit, the Town of Peace River was advised by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) that our intermunicipal cost sharing agreements were assessed as being subject to Federal Goods and Services Tax (GST). The Town's third-party auditing firm, MNP, appealed the ruling, but CRA maintained that the agreements are taxable and subsequently issued a demand letter for over \$600,000.

The Town is extremely concerned by the implications of this ruling and the effect it will have on *all* Alberta municipalities, particularly on Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks. Municipal Affairs has contacted Town administration and shares our concerns on this issue.

On direction from Council, the Town has contacted FCM, AUMA, RMA, and NADC. FCM concurs that this finding has serious implications for all municipalities nationwide and has submitted our case to an independent tax lawyer for legal review. In addition, the Town is working with AUMA on an Emergency Resolution to be presented in September. Finally, we are engaging in a concerted advocacy campaign with Provincial and Federal elected officials, along with prospective Federal candidates. We believe it is critical that this re-interpretation be reviewed, and the tax status of cost-sharing agreements be clarified.

The Town requests that your Council join us in our advocacy effort. We invite you to contact AUMA, FCM or any other advocacy body who may be able to assist in having this ruling reconsidered. We further ask you to consider contacting your respective MLAs and MPs, along with any other official or candidate who can press for a reconsideration of this ruling.

Thank you for your attention to this very serious matter.

Sincerely,

SEVERED

Christopher J. Parker, CLGM, CAO
THE TOWN OF PEACE RIVER

