

**From:** Tyler Gandam <[president@abmunis.ca](mailto:president@abmunis.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 28, 2024 3:09 PM  
**To:** Abe Tinney <[Abe@claresholm.ca](mailto:Abe@claresholm.ca)>  
**Subject:** Share the impact of provincial decisions on property taxpayers

**Dear Mayor's and CAOs,**

ABmunis is calling on members to provide the Premier with information on the impact of provincial decisions on municipal property taxpayers.

### **Grants in Place of Taxes**

Between 2019 and 2020 the Government of Alberta reduced funding for Grants in Place of Property Taxes (GIPOT) from \$60 million to \$30 million. While funding has since increased to \$38.1 million in Budget 2024, due to rising assessment values and construction of new government infrastructure, this still falls well below the amount that should be granted to municipalities for the essential services you provide to provincial properties.

At ABmunis 2024 Convention, members passed a resolution calling for the reinstatement of full GIPOT funding. Following the passing of that resolution, the Premier encouraged delegates to share data with the province on how much they are being short changed and the impact that it is having on their municipality. I also encouraged members to share that data.

As work on the 2025 provincial budget is underway, time is of the essence. ABmunis is requesting members write directly to the Premier outlining the impact that the cut to GIPOT is having on your municipality's property taxes. The benefit of this approach is that it enables you to get data to the Premier ahead of final deliberations regarding the provincial budget, while still enabling ABmunis to collect data to amplify in our own advocacy and media campaigns in the lead up to the provincial budget.

For example, the City of Wetaskiwin indicates that it wrote off \$50,582.38 due to GIPOT underfunding in 2023 and \$51,435.28 in 2024.

The Town of Whitecourt calculates that it has had to recoup a total of \$267,882 from other taxpayers over the past several years.

Year	Total Eligible Property Taxes for Provincial Properties	Amount Written Off Due to GIPOT Underfunding	Portion Written Off
2019	95,933	23,983	25%
2020	109,903	54,951	50%
2021	116,610	58,305	50%
2022	124,560	62,280	50%
2023	136,606	68,303	50%
	\$ 583,611	\$ 267,822	46%

The City of Edmonton estimates that since 2019, the Government of Alberta has short-changed it over \$80 million.

### **Election Vote Counting**

Tabulators are another example of where provincial decisions have a significant impact on ratepayers in many municipalities and where action in the upcoming provincial budget is warranted. Members who have traditionally used electronic tabulators to count election votes would also be encouraged to include the estimated cost of switching to a hand count for voting results.

### **Suggested Action**

If the impact of GIPOT funding reductions and removal of vote counting machines is a concern for your municipality, we suggest you:

- Write a letter to the Premier that summarizes the cost to your municipality and what that means in terms of a tax rate increase or projects/services you have had to forego due to the province's decision;
- cc: the Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs; and
- cc: ABmunis' President Tyler Gandam at [president@abmunis.ca](mailto:president@abmunis.ca)

Sincerely,

**Tyler Gandam** | President

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