



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR118722

April 15, 2025

His Worship Brad Schlossberger  
Mayor  
Town of Claresholm  
PO Box 1000, 111 - 55 Avenue West  
Claresholm AB T0L 0T0

Dear Mayor Schlossberger:

Thank you for your letters of March 27, 2025, to the Honourable Nicolaides Demetrios, Minister of Education; the Honourable Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction; and me, expressing your concerns with the implementation of the *Provincial Priorities Act (PPA)* and requesting information on education property tax (EPT) spending.

All EPT collected by the Town of Claresholm is sent to the Alberta School Foundation Fund. These funds are not part of the Government of Alberta's general revenue but rather are pooled from across the province to ensure consistent education support, regardless of where a child attends school in Alberta. The EPT provides a stable and reliable source of funding for Alberta's education system, ensuring every child has access to quality education from kindergarten to Grade 12. The revenues generated from the EPT directly support education operating costs, including teacher salaries, textbooks, and classroom resources.

Through *Budget 2025*, we are increasing education property taxes to provide a stable revenue source for Alberta's public education system. EPT revenue will increase 14 per cent from last year and fund 31.6 per cent of Education's operating costs, moving it closer to the historical level of approximately 33 per cent. Revenue collected from EPT will be higher this year due to increased property assessments and uniform rates, supporting strong enrolment growth and other rising cost pressures.

The Provincial Priorities Regulation, which implements the *PPA*, came into force on April 1, 2025. As you pointed out, the goal of this legislation is to push back against federal government overreach and ensure provincial jurisdiction is not undermined when making decisions about what is best for Alberta and Albertans.

Alberta is not alone in having concerns about funding arrangements directly with municipalities. At the Council of the Federation meeting last November, Premiers from across Canada agreed to explore legislative frameworks like that of Quebec, and similar to Alberta's *PPA*, requiring provincial authorization before the federal government can enter into agreements with municipalities or public agencies.

.../2

Last summer, we conducted stakeholder engagement with municipalities and municipal associations to inform the Provincial Priorities Regulation. This engagement guided the development of the regulation, which sets out the approvals process for proposed intergovernmental agreements and identifies exemptions for sectors not requiring provincial approvals.

I strongly believe Albertans are not only entitled to their fair share of federal funding, but also deserve to have that money spent on the priorities that matter to them. This legislation will help prevent federal overreach into provincial jurisdiction, ensuring federal funding aligns with Alberta's priorities rather than countering our interests.

Unfortunately, I am unable to meet with the Town of Claresholm Council at this time. However, my ministry has prepared a fact sheet (attached) and is offering informational webinars for municipal officials to support *PPA* implementation. Webinars were held on March 26 and April 7, and more can be scheduled if there is sufficient interest. I encourage you to access these resources and contact Municipal Affairs staff as needed, either by telephone at 780-422-7125, or by email at [ma.provincialprioritiesact@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.provincialprioritiesact@gov.ab.ca).

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver  
Minister

Attachment: *Provincial Priorities Act* Municipal Sector Fact Sheet

cc: Honourable Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Education  
Honourable Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction  
Chelsae Petrovic, MLA, Livingstone-Macleod