

Branch — Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Introduction

Intergovernmental and External Affairs advances the City's vision and priorities in four key areas.

Advocacy and Coordination

- Provide corporate support, leadership and focus for intergovernmental and external relations issues and opportunities.
- Support the City's advocacy efforts aimed at governments (federal, provincial and municipal), other municipal and regional partners and key external stakeholders.
- Participate on committees, working groups, and other related forums mandated to address intergovernmental, regional, inter-municipal and key community/institutional stakeholder priorities and issues.
- Undertake initiatives that support the advancement of the broader municipal agenda, including: long-term sustainable funding and infrastructure deficit, and multi-jurisdictional priorities such as affordable housing, urban Aboriginal, immigration, events attraction and the environment.

Relationship Support and Development

- Coordinate and facilitate relationships and partnerships with other orders of government, municipalities and municipal organizations, and key external stakeholders.
- Support efforts to address intergovernmental, regional, inter-municipal and other external stakeholder priorities and issues.



Research and Analysis

- Monitor and analyze trends and issues that are intergovernmental or inter-municipal in nature and are of interest to the City, the Capital Region, municipalities and municipal organizations, or the City's key external stakeholders such as post-secondary institutions, school boards and the health sector.
- Review federal and provincial policy, and legislative and program changes as they relate to the City, region, municipalities in general or other key external stakeholders.
- Communicate and foster an understanding of intergovernmental and inter-municipal issues and trends (including major policy changes and milestones) across the corporation.

Event Attraction

- Work with civic agencies and local, provincial, national and international stakeholders to facilitate the attraction and hosting of world-class events such as trade shows, conventions, sports, arts and entertainment to raise Edmonton's international profile, support economic development, achieve Edmonton's long term strategic goals and build residents' pride in their community.

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Branch Opportunities and Challenges

The following are significant opportunities and challenges facing Intergovernmental and External Affairs in the immediate and medium term. Opportunities and challenges are identified through internal and external environmental scans, often have impacts beyond one year, and may or may not have budget implications for 2012.

Managing the City's reputation and intergovernmental and external relationships are very high profile activities that require constant care.

Intergovernmental and External Affairs works to foster understanding and alignment of priorities and positions while ensuring the interests of Edmontonians are protected during decision-making by other orders of government and major external organizations. This requires sustained relationship-building, effective negotiation and communication, and a strong awareness of local, provincial, national and international issues, events and trends.

The Branch communicates regularly, proactively and positively with decision-makers and policy-makers in other orders of government so that the objectives, responsibilities and positions on issues, policy and service delivery among all orders of government are clearly understood and can be effectively coordinated.

Strategic engagement with external and municipal organizations (i.e. Capital Region Board, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Big City Mayors Caucus and Canadian Capital Cities Organization) requires ongoing coordination and issues management.

Intergovernmental priorities—particularly those related to advancing and—building momentum on the broad municipal agenda take time and are subject to multiple variables outside of municipal control.

A number of external factors may impact the City's ability to achieve its objectives, including:

- The shifting and sometimes conflicting priorities of other orders of government, including changes in leadership (i.e. October's PC Alberta election of Premier Alison Redford); the status of governing parties (i.e. the 2011 federal election that resulted in the federal Conservative minority government becoming a majority government); and future elections (the expected 2012 provincial election).
- Governance issues are complex given that they are

often multi-jurisdictional; roles and responsibilities are often blurred among different orders of government with respect to program and service delivery to meet the needs of citizens.

- The Municipal Government Act places constraints on the authority of municipalities and limits municipal access to new sources of revenue needed to address big city issues.
- The lack of constitutional authority for municipalities creates challenges for effective municipal partnership with other orders of government.

Corporate reorganization brought together a number of City functions that were formerly housed in other areas of the corporation.

The 2011 corporate reorganization brought responsibility for intergovernmental affairs, regional initiatives, major external relationships and events attraction into a single branch.

The reorganization represents an opportunity to better coordinate work with a wider-range of major external organizations and decision-makers; however, the alignment of functions, roles and resources will be ongoing in 2012.

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Approved 2012 Budget - Branch Summary (\$000)

	2010 Actual	2011 Budget	\$ Change '11-'12	2012 Budget	% Change '11-'12
Revenue & Transfers					
User Fees, Fines, Permits, etc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer from Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue & Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure & Transfers					
Personnel	877	1,208	25	1,233	2.1
Materials, Goods & Supplies	24	40	(1)	39	(2.5)
External Services	4	86	2	88	2.3
Fleet Services	-	-	-	-	-
Intra-municipal Services	32	15	-	15	-
Utilities & Other Charges	35	120	3	123	2.5
Transfer to Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	972	1,469	29	1,498	2.0
Intra-municipal Recoveries	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure & Transfers	972	1,469	29	1,498	2.0
Net Operating Requirement	\$ 972	\$ 1,469	\$ 29	\$ 1,498	2.0
Full-time Equivalents	7.0	8.0		8.0	

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Budget Changes for 2012 (\$000)

Expenditures & Transfers - Changes

Personnel \$25

Movement within the salary ranges, changes in benefits and the last year of a 3 year 1% increase to LAPP contribution account for \$25.

Material, Goods & Supplies (\$1)

The increase relates to inflation at \$1. The Service and Budget Review reductions account for \$2.

External Services \$2

Inflationary costs account for \$2.

Intra-municipal Services \$0

No change to Intra-municipal Services.

Utilities & Other Charges \$3

The increase relates to inflation.

Full-time Equivalents - Changes

There is no change on the Full-time Equivalents.