



Provincial Priorities Act

Municipal Sector

Fact Sheet

Background

The *Provincial Priorities Act (PPA)* and *Provincial Priorities Regulation (PPR)* came into force on April 1, 2025. As the lead for the municipal sector, Municipal Affairs (MA) will oversee the intake of all agreements between municipalities or municipal entities and federal entities.

The PPR defines provincial entities under municipal authority (i.e., municipal entities) as:

- Municipal and intermunicipal library boards as defined in the *Libraries Act*.
- Municipally Controlled Corporations as defined in the *Municipal Government Act*
- Growth Management Boards as defined in the *Municipal Government Act*.
- Regional Services Commissions as defined in the *Municipal Government Act*.
- Entities created by a municipal bylaw, except a business improvement area within the meaning of the *Municipal Government Act* and the business improvement area's board.
- Entities that are a party to an agreement in which the entity has agreed to operate and administer real property assets of the Alberta Social Housing Corporation.

Federal entities include Government of Canada departments, federal Crown corporations, and federal agencies.

Submission Requirements

Municipalities and municipal entities must submit information on all new agreements with federal entities, including any new agreement amendments, extensions, and renewals. These details must be provided via the intake form, as well as the requirement to provide a copy of the agreement to MA, regardless of the agreement's monetary value.

- Agreements valued under \$100,000 must be submitted to MA but do not need approval.
- Agreements valued between \$100,000 and under \$5 million require ministerial approval. The lead ministry responsible to carry out the review process for each federal-municipal agreement will be dependent on the subject matter within the content of the agreement submitted. For example, agreements related to public transit will fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, and agreements related to housing will fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services.
- Agreements valued at \$5 million or more require Cabinet approval. The lead ministry responsible will develop recommendations for Cabinet consideration.

There are additional exceptions where provincial approval is not required. While the approval of agreements designated as exceptions is not required, the agreements and intake form must be submitted to MA for the exception to apply.

These exceptions include:

- Minor administrative amendments to agreements previously approved under the PPA. This includes adjustments to start and end dates by no more than one year, extensions of project length by one year or less, federal funding increase is less than \$100,000 and less than 10% of the original funding; and minor project scope changes;
- Agreements with no funding attached or only in-kind contributions;
- For agreements related to housing accommodations, if the federal entity provides \$250,000 or less in funding (exception does not apply to the Calgary Homeless Foundation or Homeward Trust Edmonton);
- Agreements for the purpose of responding to a disaster or emergency;
- Agreements between federal entities and controlled corporations;
- Agreements with the Canadian Armed Forces;
- Agreements involving the municipalities of Banff, Jasper, and Lloydminster;

- Mortgage agreements with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Existing agreements made between a municipality or a municipal entity that were signed prior to April 1, 2025, are not subject to the *PPA*, unless they are being amended, extended or renewed.

Intake Process

Agreements and intake forms should be submitted to MA to ma.provincialprioritiesact@gov.ab.ca when the signatories to the agreement are ready to sign the agreement or are in the final stages of negotiations.

- The intake form collects high-level agreement information to assist in efficient processing of approval requests.
- Municipalities and municipal entities are encouraged to indicate on the intake form whether the execution of the agreement is time sensitive and the potential consequences of agreement delay.

The intake form is available on the [Federal Agreements and the Municipal Sector website](#) and was also provided by email to all municipalities.

While not part of the formal intake process, situations may arise where municipalities or municipal entities would like to understand whether the province is likely to have concerns with an agreement prior to applying to a federal program and/or negotiating a final agreement. In such cases, they may contact MA for additional information on how federal program requirements may conflict with the requirements of the *PPA*, or they may submit a draft copy of the agreement for a preliminary assessment. MA will coordinate these requests with the lead ministry, which will review the information and identify any potential concerns.

The Government of Alberta [budgetary documents](#), [strategic plans](#), and [mandate letters](#) are available to provide an overview of government priorities. If you have any additional questions about the intake process or exemptions, please contact the PPA team via email: ma.provincialprioritiesact@gov.ab.ca.

Review Process

Upon receipt of the agreement, MA will forward the agreement to the appropriate lead ministry for approval.

The lead ministry, or Cabinet when required, will review the agreement, and the municipality or municipal entity will be notified in writing of the decision to approve or reject the agreement or approve the agreement subject to specific conditions.

If an agreement is approved subject to specific conditions, the municipality or municipal entity will be given the opportunity to work with the federal entity to incorporate these conditions.

The Government of Alberta is committed to efficiently screening all agreements to minimize delays and ensure timely funding for Alberta's municipalities and municipal entities.

Agreement Eligibility

Since the launch of the PPA and PPR we have received several questions regarding specific grants. While this list is non-exhaustive, grant agreements under the following programs and organizations do not need to be submitted as they are not subject to the PPA. In addition, agreements where the province is a signatory do not need to be submitted.

- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program
- Canada Community-Building Fund
- Canadian Council of Archives Funding
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Fire Smart Agreements
- Payment in Lieu of Taxes program
- Environmental assessments without funding components
- First Nation and Metis Settlement agreements

Contact Information

Additional information regarding the *PPA* and PPR can be found on the [Federal Agreements and the Municipal Sector](#) website, and additional questions can be directed to Municipal Affairs using the contact information below.

Hours: 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (open Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays)

Phone: 780-422-7125

Toll free: 310-0000 before the phone number (in Alberta)

Email: ma.provincialprioritiesact@gov.ab.ca

Website: [Federal agreements and the municipal sector | Alberta.ca](#)