



# Councillor Reports Board and Committee Updates

**Date: April 1, 2024**

**Council Member: Councillor Gillett**

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**1. Inter-City Forum on Social Policy  
March 1, 2024**

Update

- I was elected Vice-President for another 2-year term.
- Points of focus – Affordable Housing, Mental Health/Addictions, Homelessness, and Public Safety.
- With the increase of users and the current strain on FCSS programs, we continue to advocate for increased provincial funding from \$105M to \$130M to account for inflation since the last significant increase in 2015.
- Advocacy for funds to create more affordable housing and making the Rapid Housing Initiative permanent with provincial engagement to create wrap around support services for new housing units.
- Mental Health/Addictions - Edmonton & Calgary implemented an integrated task force on public safety and addiction response.

Emerging Issues

Alberta removed the \$40/day user fee for publicly funded addiction treatment. Albertans can now access detox, treatment, and recovery for free, regardless of personal finances.

**2. Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta  
(FCSSAA) Board Meeting  
March 22, 2024**

Update – Elected as the Edmonton-Evergreen Representatives:

Bette Gray represents Edmonton and Councillor Jan Gillett represents Evergreen (includes Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and Parkland County along with 15 other FCSS Programs across the province.

Strategies - Strategies: Develop an intentional revenue strategy that embraces a path to financial sustainability. Identify alternative methods to fund emerging programs and services to members. Generate an annual operating budget and reporting mechanism that articulates member benefits and the corresponding revenues and expenditures.

### Emerging Issues

Reflecting on the outcome of the 2024 Alberta Budget, we find ourselves with a notable sense of disappointment. A flat-lined FCSS budget means that for another year, our almost 200 member programs, which provide important preventive work in our communities, will face financial challenges. These challenges mean that many municipalities will need to have difficult conversations about the sustainability of local FCSS programs, as the inflationary pressures have been growing since 2015. The FCSSAA spent every possible moment in the last 12 months telling our story. We underscored the importance of our programs as they aimed to reduce the strain on our healthcare and justice systems that are facing considerable challenges. Our Association certainly was not alone in telling this story. Our partners at Alberta Municipalities and Rural Municipalities of Alberta also advocated on our behalf, urging the Provincial Government to increase core funding to FCSS programs. Countless conversations from local councils, to MLAs, all the way to the Premier stressed that prevention needs a bigger stage to create the prosperous Alberta we all dream of. The reality is that this budget represents a download to municipal councils, and they will need to be innovative in keeping their local FCSS programs sustainable into the future.

### **3. Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL)**

**March 4, 2024**

#### Update

- Reviewed the audited financial statements and several HR Employee Benefit policies.
- YRL annual report to Alberta Municipal Affairs Public Library Services documenting the library services offered in Indigenous communities in the region as well as library programming and staff training related to Indigenous knowledge and culture.

#### Emerging Issues

Save-the-Date: Stronger Together Conference, Oct. 3 & 4, 2024, West Edmonton