



REQUEST FOR DECISION

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2024

TITLE: Alberta Municipalities Resolution - Funding for Accessible School Playgrounds

DIVISION: City Manager's Office

SUMMARY:

The City of Spruce Grove is considering putting forward a resolution to Alberta Municipalities to advocate that the Government of Alberta provide additional funding for accessible playgrounds to be included as part of the provincial capital grant funding for any new, replacement, or renovated publicly funded schools with K - 9 programming.

PROPOSED MOTION:

THAT the City of Spruce Grove put forward the resolution attached to this Request for Decision to be considered by Alberta Municipalities at the 2024 annual convention advocating to the Government of to increase capital funding for all new, replacement or renovated public schools with K - 9 programming to enable the construction of accessible playgrounds to ensure that students with disabilities have equal development opportunities.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:

Each year, Alberta Municipalities requests resolutions from municipalities which are debated at their annual fall convention. If the resolution is supported by the majority of members in attendance, resolutions are then advocated for to the Government of Alberta by Alberta Municipalities. Resolutions must be adopted by the municipal council and then seconded by an additional municipality whose council also approved the resolution.

The City of Spruce Grove has prepared a resolution calling for additional Government of Alberta capital funding for accessible school playgrounds (see attachment). The City of Spruce Grove and municipalities across the province recognize the importance of creating welcoming,

inclusive, and accessible communities. Several municipalities in Alberta have accessibility policies in place or under development. However, since school playgrounds are provincially mandated, they are excluded from any municipal accessibility policies.

While up to \$250,000 in provincial capital grant funding is provided for school playgrounds for new or replacement schools, costs for building an accessible playground exceeds the grant amount, requiring fundraising to supplement accessible playground project costs.

Putting forward this resolution strengthens the ongoing accessibility advocacy efforts and emphasizes that equitable access to playgrounds is vital to childhood development for youth with disabilities.

OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:

Council may choose to not approve or amend the resolution for consideration by Alberta Municipalities.

CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT:

At the 2024 ABMunis Spring Leaders Caucus, another municipality, Amisk, offered to second the proposed resolution. Their Council has passed this motion and ratified minutes will be shared to submit with the resolution to Alberta Municipalities.

City staff consulted with ABMunis staff on the development of the resolution and have taken their suggestions into consideration and incorporated where suitable.

IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATION:

If approved, this resolution will be submitted to the seconder municipality for approval. Once approved by the seconder municipality, the resolution will be submitted to Alberta Municipalities by May 31, 2024, for consideration at the Alberta Municipalities 2024 Convention and Trade Show.

IMPACTS:

School play time and playgrounds are vital to childhood development, which includes the development of gross motor skills, social interactions, and creativity. Accessible playgrounds enable youth with or without disabilities, their parents, and caregivers to fully participate in all aspects of the playground. Providing accessible playgrounds ensures students with disabilities have equal development opportunities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

n/a