THE SUMMER VILLAGE OF Poplar Bay

Summer Village of Poplar Bay
P.O. Box 100 (605 - 2nd Avenue)
Ma-Me-O Beach, Alberta T0C 1X0
Phone: (780) 586-2494 Fax: (780) 586-3567
Email: information@svofficepl.com
Website: www.poplarbay.ca

May 20, 2022

Alberta Municipalities
Cathy Heron, President
Email: mayorheron@stalbert.ca

Re: Allocation of the Local Government Fiscal Framework

President Heron,

On behalf of the Summer Village of Poplar Bay, I would like to thank Alberta Municipalities for all of its advocacy work on the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) allocation formula. As you can appreciate this capital grant program is vital to the sustainability of Summer Villages. Without this program it would be difficult or nearly impossible to provide the core infrastructure required to support the needs of our residents.

Our Summer Village understands and supports Alberta Municipalities principles and goals for the LGFF allocation formula. We too want it to be predictable and stable. We support that it needs to be based on infrastructure needs and that it should consider the fiscal capacity of a municipality. Our concern with the current Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) allocation formula and potentially with the future LGFF allocation formula, is that the base funding for Summer Villages is significantly less than it is for all other municipalities.

The Association of Summer Villages of Alberta (ASVA) has been advocating on our behalf for a number of years now to get changes to the base funding available under MSI Capital. Their position is that base funding should be fair and equitable. ASVA feels that Summer Villages should be treated the same as all other municipalities and receive the same level of base funding that others do. We agree and support that position.

Summer Villages are no longer just seasonal recreational communities operating for only a portion of the year, as they were many decades ago. Since 2001, Summer Villages have seen a 60% increase in permanent dwellings. Today, Summer Villages are vibrant communities that have many permanent residents living there year-round and with many other residents utilizing their lake home throughout the entire year. The result is that Summer Villages, like all other municipalities, require year-round infrastructure such as all-weather roads, water and wastewater systems, municipal buildings, trail systems, and recreational facilities. A big part of being able to provide that type of capital infrastructure, to meet the needs of its residents and to remain viable, comes from the base funding allocation under MSI and the future LGFF.

Our request to you is that Alberta Municipalities support your Summer Village members by advocating for increases to the LGFF base funding for Summer Villages. We believe that the last increase in grant funding for Summer Villages came in 1957 when a Summer Village successfully advocated for an increase to the Municipal Assistance Grant. That success meant the Summer Village portion of that grant increased from 25% of what other municipalities got to 50% of what other municipalities got. A lot has changed since that time and Summer Villages would like to see base funding under LGFF increase for all of the reasons mentioned above.

Summer Villages currently receive $55,000 in MSI Capital base fund plus $8,000 in BMTG capital base fund; a combined $63,000 per Summer Village. Summer Villages do not think it unreasonable to request a 50 percent increase in capital base funding. That amount of increase represents $1.2 million (0.35%) of the total LGFF fund of $340 million.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Fraser Hubbard, Mayor, Summer Village of Poplar Bay

CC: Angela Duncan, Vice President Villages and Summer Villages, Alberta Municipalities
email: angeladuncan@albertabeach.com

CC: Dan Rude, Chief Executive Officer, Alberta Municipalities
Email: dan@abmunis.ca

CC: Mike Pashak, President, Association of Summer Villages of Alberta
Email: mike.pashak@shaw.ca

CC: Christine Holmes, Mayor, Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach
Email: svmholmes@gmail.com

CC: Ian Rawlinson, Mayor, Summer Village of Crystal Springs
Email: ian.rawlinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca

CC: Brian Keeler, Mayor, Summer Village of Norris Beach
Email: briankeeler@shaw.ca

CC: Richard Tooke, Mayor, Summer Village of Golden Days
Email: rytooke@shaw.ca

CC: Don Davidson, Mayor, Summer Village of Grandview
Email: donald_d@telus.net