



ALBERTA  
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister*

February 13, 2012

Ms. Linda Sloan  
President  
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association  
# 300, 8616 – 51 Avenue  
Edmonton AB T6E 6E6  
Email: linda.sloan@edmonton.ca

Dear Ms. Sloan:

In the spirit of achieving stronger communities together, I have met with, and had telephone conversations with you and your association representatives many times since becoming Minister of Municipal Affairs last October. I have been very clear during every meeting that I am only a telephone call or meeting request away, and that I want our relationship to be open and personal, as we work to build stronger communities.

I am writing today to express my extreme disappointment regarding your recent public statements about municipal funding from the Government of Alberta. You have asserted that there was no consultation and that there was no opportunity for input into this budget, which is patently untrue.

Even more disturbing is your assertion that municipalities receive provincial funding based on their voting choices. That is a completely inaccurate portrayal of reality.

As you know, the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funding is allocated 48 per cent by population, 48 per cent by education tax requisitions, and 4 per cent by kilometres of local roads. Funding amounts for each municipality are published and posted on the Municipal Affairs' website after every budget for all to see, and are not subject to political discretion.

Alberta

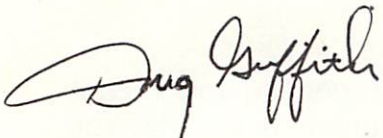
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To suggest otherwise tarnishes the reputation of a good program that AUMA and AAMD&C helped to create, as well as the reputation of honest individuals who are determined to work with municipalities to build strong communities. Your comments are deliberately inflammatory and erroneous, and are not a sound way to build a strong relationship between governments whose ultimate purpose and focus is to build stronger communities.

Please be advised that as a result of your comments in the media, neither I, nor any of my Cabinet and Caucus colleagues, will be attending the AUMA breakfast on February 16, 2012. I have done everything to work on building a relationship that will help us address our mutual long term concerns. You have chosen to make false accusations in the newspaper while claiming you want to work together. This situation can be remedied if you publically apologize and retract your erroneous statement.

I am committed to building strong, vibrant communities, and will do so by dealing directly with municipal representatives from across the province, with whom my ministry has a strong working relationship, built on mutual respect, trust and a spirit of collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Griffiths". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doug" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Griffiths".

Doug Griffiths  
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC  
Premier

All Government Members

AUMA Board Members

AUMA Member Municipalities