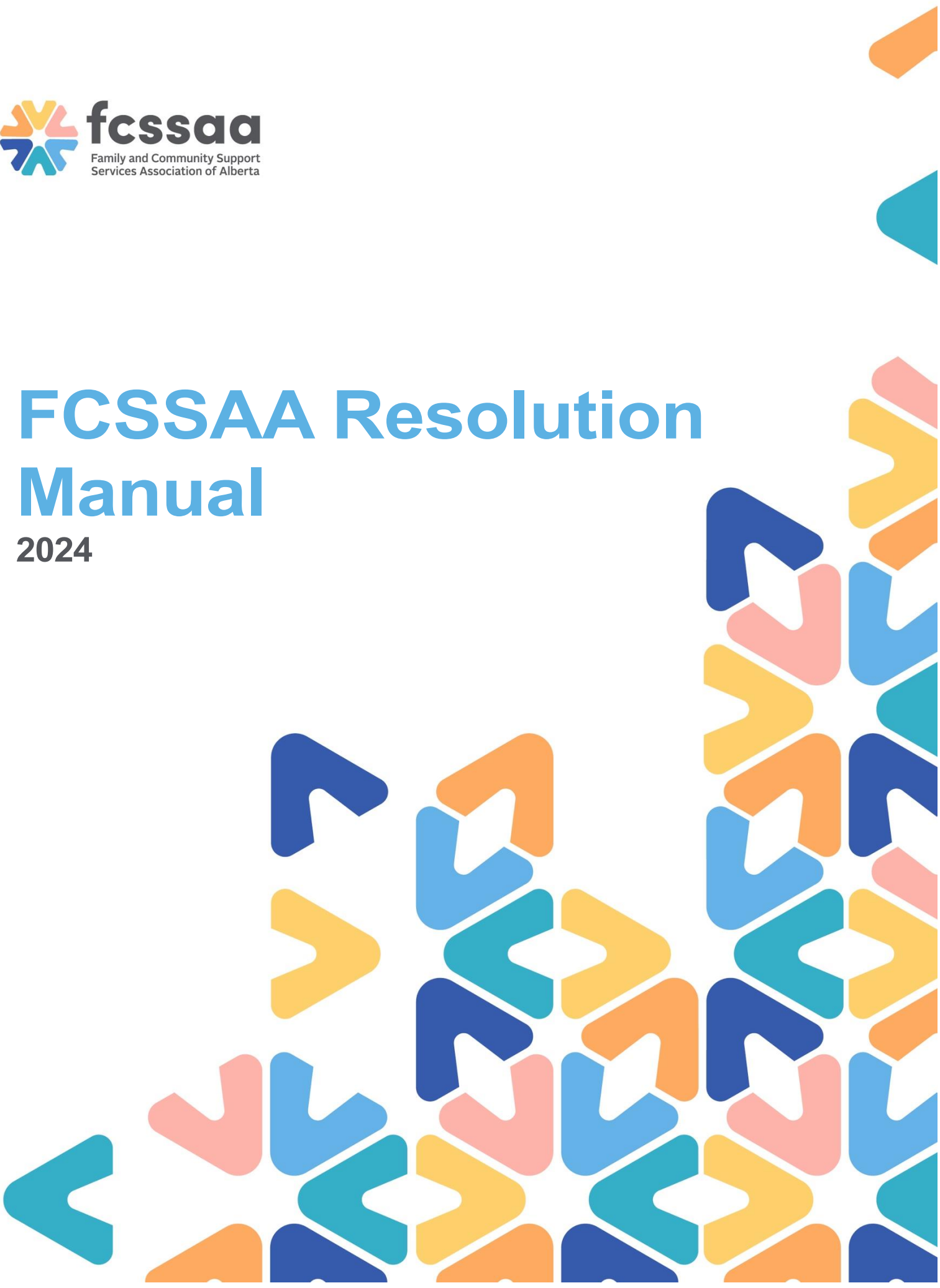




# FCSSAA Resolution Manual

2024



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## DEFINITIONS

**AGM** - the Annual General Meeting of the FCSS Association held once a year in conjunction with the Association's provincial conference.

**Assembly** - FCSS Association members in attendance to transact the business of the Association at the AGM.

**Association, Association Board, FCSS Association, FCSSAA** - the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta.

**Carried** - a resolution is carried when 2/3 of votes are in favour.

**Defeated** - a resolution is defeated when the majority of votes are opposed.

**Emergent** - a resolution that meets the criteria of "Emergent Resolutions" on page 11.

**FCSS Board** - any board or authority appointed by a municipality to advise, manage or operate an FCSS Program, as described in the Association's bylaws.

**Legislative Amendment** - a change to a law (or Act) that has been enacted by the provincial government.

**Member** - any Municipal or Métis Settlement board member, councillor, administrator, or staff person of an FCSS Program that is a member of the FCSS Association.

**Member Program** - any FCSS program having paid the annual membership fee to the FCSS Association, as described in the Association's bylaws.

**Parliamentarian** - a person skilled in parliamentary procedure or debate, appointed by the Association Board to advise the Resolutions Session Chairperson on procedure whenever necessary.

**Quorum** - the number of members required to be present to transact business. Quorum for the Association's annual meetings is 50% plus one (1) of the voting delegates in attendance at the commencement of the meeting, as described in the Association's bylaws.

**Secretary** - the Secretary of the FCSS Association Board.

**Special Resolution** - Special resolutions are required only for amending or rescinding bylaws, altering objects, borrowing money, amalgamating societies, or dissolving societies. The requirements of the Societies Act and the Association's bylaws must be followed to submit a Special Resolution.

**Voting Delegate** - either of the two (2) members authorized by a member FCSS Board to represent the best interests of their board and to vote accordingly during the business meeting of the Association.

## FCSSAA RESOLUTION COMMITTEE/BOARD OVERSIGHT

1. Call for resolutions will be sent out by the FCSSAA administration on behalf of the FCSSAA Secretary. The resolution manual will be attached.
2. The board shall establish a Resolutions Committee that is comprised of at least three members of the board. The FCSSAA President shall be offered first right of refusal to chair the Resolutions Committee.
3. The FCSSAA and/or Resolutions Committee may, in consultation with the sponsoring community or communities:
  - a. amend the grammar, wording or format of the resolution provided it does not change the intent;
  - b. provide comments on each resolution with regards to its background; consolidate resolutions of similar intent or subject matter and notify sponsoring communities of the consolidation;
  - c. inform the sponsoring community(ies) where the resolution will materially change or contradict a current FCSSAA position;
  - d. notify the sponsoring community(ies) of any deficiencies in meeting the guidelines of resolutions as outlined in this policy; and
  - e. refer resolutions that duplicate the requests made in an active resolution(s) either directly or indirectly back to the resolution sponsor.
4. The Resolutions Committee shall have power to accept or reject submitted resolutions based on the criteria. The reason for rejection will be submitted in writing to the submitting party.
5. A parliamentarian shall be engaged to support the chair during the Resolutions Session. The FCSSAA Board of Directors shall appoint the parliamentarian on an annual basis.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

1. The FCSSAA Resolutions Committee, through the Executive Director, may return any submitted resolution to the sponsoring community to have deficiencies corrected or to clarify details of the resolution.

Deficiencies may include but are not limited to:

- a. absence of any indication of the resolution being endorsed by the Council of the sponsoring municipality;
- b. the preamble includes statements contradictory to the operative clause or lacks necessary details;
- c. lack of a clear supporting narrative where the rationale of the resolution is unclear;
- d. unclear background and preamble; and
- e. incorrect or misleading statements within the resolution or within the supporting background information and/or documentation.

2. Each resolution and accompanying background information may undergo fact-checking to ensure details relating to the resolution are accurate.
3. The return by the FCSSAA Executive Director of any proposed resolution for the correction of any deficiencies will not affect its categorization nor will it disqualify a resolution submitted on time.
4. The FCSSAA Resolutions Committee shall review each proposed resolution for format and content and may recommend that the FCSSAA Board of Directors refuse to submit to the Resolutions Session any resolution deemed inappropriate for consideration by the FCSSAA.

The FCSSAA Resolutions Committee may:

- a. amend the grammar or format of the resolution;
  - b. consolidate resolutions of similar intent or subject matter;
  - c. provide comments on each resolution regarding its background;
  - d. inform the sponsoring municipality where the resolution will materially change or contradict current FCSSAA policy;
  - e. recommend to the FCSSAA Board of Directors that resolutions already adopted and/or forming FCSSAA policy not be considered at the AGM, and be returned to the sponsor(s) of the resolution(s) with an explanation of the reason for return; and
  - f. refer resolutions back to the sponsor community for deficiencies including but not limited to those outlined.
5. When the FCSSAA Resolution Committee determines that a proposed resolution is appropriate for submission to the Resolutions Session, it shall categorize the resolution as one fitting the criteria outlined in the FCSSAA Resolution Manual.
  6. The FCSSAA Resolutions Committee will prepare a Resolutions Report, which will include all proposed resolutions determined appropriate for submission to the Resolutions Session, including the following information on each resolution:
    - a. number and title of resolution;
    - b. name of sponsoring member(s);
    - c. proposed resolution;
    - d. resolutions category; and
    - e. resolutions will appear in the Resolutions Report and the Resolutions Session Agenda in the submitted and accepted.
  7. The Resolutions Report will be forwarded to the FCSSAA Board of Directors, and upon the FCSSAA Board of Directors approving the Resolutions Report, the sponsoring community will be notified.

8. The FCSSAA will electronically publish and distribute the list to the members at least 30 days prior to the AGM session.

## PROCEDURE FOR AUTHORIZING VOTING DELEGATES

1. At a regular meeting, **a member Board or member municipality may authorize two (2) of its members to be voting delegates for the AGM.** Delegates so authorized should represent the best interests of their boards at the AGM.
2. Voting delegates must register as the authorized member(s) from their respective board or member municipality, prior to entering the AGM.
3. Voting information will be issued to the authorized delegate when they register. Only authorized delegates will be issued information on how to vote. Delegates who do not receive voting information may not vote.

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

1. A Resolutions Committee will be appointed by the Association Board in accordance with the Constitution, at the beginning of each term. The Committee shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members. The Committee shall appoint a Chairperson from its membership.
2. Duties of the Committee are as follows:
  - a. To review all proposed resolutions submitted. In the event of duplication, the committee will draft a combined resolution and discuss it with those members involved. If those members involved are in agreement, the revised resolution will be included with other resolutions submitted. If the members involved do not agree to combine their resolutions, the resolutions will be submitted separately, as originally prepared.
  - b. To categorize, arrange and group resolutions according to topic.
  - c. To be responsible for e-mailing all proposed resolutions and amendments to all member boards.
  - d. To maintain an up-to-date file of resolutions duly presented at Annual or Special Meetings to provide valuable resource material and continuity, and to record the disposition of said resolutions.
  - e. To review the rules and procedures of the Resolutions Sessions and make recommendations to the Association Board regarding amendments.
  - f. To hold a committee meeting at the conference prior to the Association Board meeting, to finalize details to ensure the Resolutions Session is conducted in a thorough and timely manner.
  - g. To ensure that voting delegates register and receive voting information prior to the AGM.
  - h. To provide a registration count of voting delegates for establishing a quorum.

## RESOLUTION SESSION CHAIRPERSON

1. The Resolution Session Chairperson is:
  - a. to be appointed by the Resolutions Committee;
  - b. to preside over the Resolutions Session of the AGM;
  - c. to be familiar with the business to be presented and all procedures necessary to expedite the business; and
  - d. to act as Chairperson of the delegates' briefing at the AGM and review the Resolutions Session Rules of Order with delegates.

## RESOLUTION PROCEDURAL ADVISORS

1. The Procedural Advisors will have a good working knowledge of the Association's Constitution, Rules of Order, and any other rules governing this Association.
2. The duty of the Procedural Advisors is to advise the Session Chairperson on procedure whenever necessary.
3. One will be a member of the Resolutions Committee.
4. One will be a Parliamentarian selected and approved by the Association Board.

## DELEGATES

1. Delegates are expected to:
  - a. be familiar with the Resolutions Procedures Manual and express any concerns to the Resolutions Committee before the AGM;
  - b. identify themselves as voting delegates, if applicable, and receive voting information prior to entering the AGM;
  - c. attend the AGM;
  - d. be familiar with the resolutions package and express any concerns to the Resolution Committee before the AGM;
  - e. represent the best interests of their FCSS Board or member municipality and to vote accordingly during the AGM; and
  - f. report to their Board or member municipality on the decisions and outcomes of the conference and the AGM.

## AGM RESOLUTION SESSION RULES OF ORDER

All voting delegates must be registered by a board member or designate of the FCSS Association prior to the Annual General Meeting.

1. If an FCSS Member Board wishes or consents to withdraw its resolution, the Session Chairperson will notify the delegates prior to introducing the resolutions.
2. Resolutions will be debated in the order they appear in the Resolutions Section of the Annual Report, unless it is agreed by a 2/3 majority vote of the AGM assembly to discuss a resolution out of order.
3. The Session Chairperson will introduce each resolution by number and the name of the sponsoring FCSS Board and ask a member of the Resolutions Committee to read the resolution to the assembly. They will then ask the sponsoring FCSS Board to move and second the resolution.
4. The Session Chairperson will identify the mover and seconder and invite the mover to be the first speaker. The Session Chairperson will then ask the seconder if they wish to speak to the motion.
5. The mover and seconder may speak to the resolution for a combined total of five (5) minutes. All other speakers addressing the resolution may speak for a maximum of two (2) minutes.
6. Only authorized delegates may present motions, amendments, and vote, but any Association member in attendance may speak to a question.
7. Persons in attendance at the AGM who are not members of the Association may speak to a motion by requesting a "special privilege to speak" of the Session Chairperson, which must be agreed to by a 2/3 majority vote of the delegates.
8. A speaker should approach the microphone and wait for recognition from the Session Chairperson, announce his/her name, the name of his/her Board, and then proceed. Voting delegates must identify themselves when presenting a motion or an amendment to a motion.
9. Once no other delegates indicate a desire to speak to the resolution, the mover will be offered a maximum of two (2) minutes to speak, and in doing so will close the debate.
10. The AGM assembly will accept one amendment at a time, and one amendment to the amendment at a time, during a debate. All amendments must be submitted in writing to the Session Chairperson.
11. Friendly amendments will be accepted if consent is granted by the mover. Friendly amendments must not change or refocus the intent of the resolution.
12. Any other amendment requires a mover and a seconder and must be debated and either passed or defeated by the AGM assembly.
13. The Session Chairperson, in consultation with the Parliamentarian, will rule as to whether amendments comply with the intent of the original motion.
14. Special resolutions require a three-quarter (3/4) majority vote.



15. All other resolutions require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
16. Voting will be by show of voting cards or completed electronically, or as designated by the Session Chairperson.
17. If voting occurs in person, where the results of a vote are too close for the Session Chairperson to determine, or where requested by delegates, the Session Chairperson will ask for a standing vote. All voting delegates will be asked to stand at the appropriate time to signify their support or opposition to the question under consideration. Resolutions Committee members will circulate through the assembly to count the results of the vote, and will advise delegates to be seated as their votes are counted.  
  
The results of a vote as tabulated by the electronic voting system will be considered by the Session Chairperson to be accurate and final.
18. Resolutions that receive the endorsement of the AGM assembly are effective for five (5) years after their passage, unless later amended or rescinded.
19. "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised", will govern this Association in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Rules of Order of the Constitution of this Association.

## CARRIED RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

1. Resolutions carried by the membership:
  - a. Shall not be amended or modified by the FCSSAA Resolutions Committee or the FCSSAA Board of Directors except as provided for in this Section.
  - b. Will be referred to the relevant FCSSAA Standing Committee which will:
    - develop policy statements and make a recommendation to the FCSSAA Board of Directors; or
    - in the event that the FCSSAA Standing Committee determines that the background information or Preamble are materially incorrect or misleading, may recommend to the Board amendments to background information or Preamble.
2. The policy statements developed by the relevant FCSSAA Standing Committee(s) shall be reviewed and approved by the FCSSAA Board of Directors, following which each statement will be sent to the Ministries.
3. The FCSSAA Executive Director will collect all advocacy responses and prepare an action on resolutions inventory on the FCSSAA website. The status of resolutions inventory will include the responses and an indication of what (if any) follow up action FCSSAA will take with regards to any resolution for which the advocacy was not successful.
4. The FCSSAA Board of Directors will be the final determinant as to the status and disposition of outstanding resolutions.
5. A resolution that has been deemed to be closed or inactive may not be submitted again for a period of three years from the time that determination was made.

## RESOLUTION PREPARATION

1. Resolutions **must address only one clearly defined concern.**
2. Resolutions **must meet at least one of the following criteria:**
  - a. The resolution must address a topic that is of significance to FCSS programs in municipalities and Métis settlements throughout the province. In other words, does the topic potentially affect the majority of FCSS Programs? *NOTE: Concerns specific to one municipality or region should be dealt with locally, or forwarded to the FCSSAA Regional Board Representative*
  - b. The issue must have a direct financial impact on FCSS programs.
  - c. This issue must have a direct impact on FCSS service/program delivery.
  - d. This issue must fall within the FCSS mandate; for example, education, justice, health, and services that are not preventive in nature are outside of FCSS legislation. If the issue is not within the FCSS mandate, why is it important for FCSS to address it?
3. Resolutions will be evaluated against the criteria by the Resolutions Committee to determine if the topic falls within the scope of the FCSSAA to address. If committee members are not in unanimous agreement about whether to accept or reject a resolution it will be forwarded to the FCSSAA Board to make the final decision.
4. The **format for the wording of a resolution must be:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT [your motion, worded concisely], followed by a concise RATIONALE or BACKGROUND.
5. BE IT RESOLVED is the operative clause of the resolution. This clause **must clearly set out what the resolution means to achieve**, and must be brief and straightforward so that the intent of the resolution is clearly understood. Do not generalize.
6. The **RATIONALE or BACKGROUND following the BE IT RESOLVED clause should be as concise as possible and must relate to at least one of the criteria listed above.** Examples of three resolutions following the proper format are attached in Appendix A.
7. Resolutions may be submitted by any FCSS Board or Municipal Council that is a member of the FCSS Association and is in good standing. Associate members may not submit resolutions.

## FCSSAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS INFORMATION

*The Secretary of the Association (via email to the Executive Director) must receive resolutions at least 60 days prior to the AGM.*

1. Should there be a request to **amend a proposed resolution prior to the AGM, it must be done in writing**. The format should be as follows:

WE WISH TO AMEND THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION NUMBER [X]

BY [choose one of the following: adding; striking out; striking out and inserting; inserting; substituting ...]; followed by your RATIONALE.

Do not include the original proposed resolution in the amendment. Clearly state the resolution that is being requested to be revised on the submission.

2. Should there be a request to **amend a proposed resolution from the floor at the AGM**, the proposer must move to the microphone, and after being recognized by the Session Chairman, state how they wish to amend the resolution. (Example: "I move to amend the proposed resolution by ..."). **The written amendment must then be passed to the Session Chairman.**
3. Should there be a request to amend the Association's Constitution, a Special Resolution is required. Constitutional amendments cannot be made from the floor.
4. If there are any questions regarding resolutions or procedures to be followed during the AGM, a member of the Resolutions Committee or the Secretary of the Board can be contacted.
5. **The AGM assembly will not consider a late resolution.** A late resolution is a resolution received after the deadline of 60 days prior to the AGM, and not fitting the definition of an emergent resolution.

## EMERGENT RESOLUTIONS

1. To be considered emergent, a resolution must meet the following criteria:
  - a. it must deal with an issue of significant importance to FCSS Programs, arises after the deadline for submission of resolutions and before the date of the next AGM; and
  - b. members of the Resolutions Committee must agree that the issue requires debate prior to the next AGM due to a deadline for action or response.
2. The Resolutions Committee must receive emergent resolutions **at least 3 days prior to the AGM.**
3. The Resolutions Committee may provide comment on each proposed emergent resolution; however, the decision as to whether the emergent resolution will be accepted for debate rests with the AGM assembly.
4. Emergent resolutions will be dealt with after resolutions contained in the Resolutions Section of the Annual Report, unless an emergent resolution is accepted out of order by a 2/3 majority vote of the delegates.
5. Each proposed emergent resolution must be moved and seconded by eligible voting delegates for acceptance by the AGM assembly. Each emergent resolution will be considered separately.

6. A 2/3 majority vote of delegates is required to accept an emergent resolution for debate.
7. Emergent resolutions that are accepted for debate must then be moved and seconded by eligible voting delegates for consideration of the AGM assembly. Each emergent resolution will be considered separately and will be subject to the same rules of majority as regular resolutions.
8. A member wishing to submit an emergent resolution must provide sufficient copies for distribution to all delegates (approximately 300 copies). It is strongly encouraged that the copies of the emergent resolution be available at the registration desk for delegates to receive as they register for the conference.

# Appendix A

## SAMPLE RESOLUTION A

SUBMITTED BY: Flagstaff Family and Community Services and Tofield/Beaver County West Family and Community Support Services

TOPIC: Digital Divide

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**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the FCSSAA work with the Provincial Government to advocate to the Federal Government for equitable internet and cellular service in Alberta. The digital divide is becoming wider, and the inequity of service is becoming a hindrance for our citizens.

### RATIONALE

More and more Government services are transitioning to on-line models. This has proven to be a barrier for many Albertans who cannot afford, have sporadic, or do not have access to Wi-Fi, internet, or cellular service. We also have to acknowledge that access to technology is not the same as having the ability to run that technology. The use of these technologies, while improving service in the opinion of Government to the citizens, is actually building barriers for our most vulnerable to access these services, because their reality is they do not have the skills to be digitized, or the available means to access these services. Local FCSS's have witnessed an increase in people coming to offices who need to fill in Government forms, who do not have the ability, knowledge, or the technology to access these forms. We are moving forward so quickly because of the pandemic that the average citizen and especially vulnerable citizens are not prepared or have the ability to pivot. This will become a massive issue for people who cannot meet their needs electronically.

The barriers are two-fold. The people live in areas not served by either reliable internet or cellular service or they cannot afford internet or cellular service. Many Municipalities are investing in upgrading their services, sometimes with Federal Government assistance, but barriers exist for municipalities due to requirements for broadband funding such as a need for three years of experience deploying and operating broadband infrastructure or a partnership with an internet service provider. These programs, however, are not always designed to be equitable to serve those who are the most vulnerable.

The **\*Alberta Rural Connectivity Coalition** has determined that although 87.4% of Canadians have access to an internet connection at the Federal government's basic service objective of 50/10 Mbps, only 37% of rural Albertan's have internet connection at this speed.

Canada does not have the highest cost worldwide for internet/cellular data, but we do rank 4<sup>th</sup> highest for pricing related to 1GB of cellular data as presented by **\*Forbes** and 5<sup>th</sup> highest for costs for 100 Mbps internet speed as reported by **\*Mobile Syrup**. We are not likely to see a downtrend in this pricing. When comparing pricing for cellular service, it can range from \$37 to \$107 per month for basic service up to 5GB. It not unusual to see a bill up to \$300 monthly for adequate service for families. These costs can be out of reach for individuals and families who are already struggling. Internet service costs can range from \$79 to \$179 per month, depending on area and need. As indicated in a **\*Cybera** report, regulatory uncertainty regarding prices and framework along with only a few service providers in the Canadian market drives costs up to unaffordable levels for consumers. The monopoly that could be created if the Competition Bureau approves the acquisition of Shaw by Rogers could potentially cause further disruption to research in respect of framework and price uncertainty

for Canadians. Families are already suffering with the issues that have been brought on by the pandemic and the move to streaming such things as work and school. Not all areas have the availability of strong service, and this must be upgraded province-wide, so all people have the advantages of the few.

The Federal budget of April 19, 2021 has promised a \$2.75 billion universal broadband fund. The Prime Minister has stated the government is now on track to connect 98 per cent of Canadians to high-speed by 2026 — an increase over the previously promised 95 per cent benchmark — and to link up the rest by 2030.

These benchmarks are far behind the need of Albertans and must be reached sooner. The pandemic has proven to be a milestone in the lives of many Albertans, and with the growing equity of affordable and accessible internet and cellular coverage for all, those who have been left behind will have a chance to catch up as the service becomes more widely available.

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**\* Sources:**

[Alberta Rural Connectivity Coalition – Cybera](#)

[Cybera’s response to CRTC consultation on barriers to deploying broadband – Cybera](#)

[Competition-Bureau-Consultation-.pdf \(cybera.ca\)](#)

[Cybera-covid-internet-impact-white-paper v2.pdf](#)

[20190305\\_Data\\_Cost.jpg \(960×684\) \(forbes.com\)](#)

[Canada among top five highest costs for 100Mbps internet speed \(mobilesyrup.com\)](#)

[Price Comparisons of Wireline, Wireless and Internet Services in Canada and with Foreign Jurisdictions \(crtc.gc.ca\)](#)

## SAMPLE RESOLUTION B

SUBMITTED BY: County of Grande Prairie Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board

TOPIC: Equitable Access to Funding for Rural and Remote Housing and Homeless Resources

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**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the FCSSAA advocate to all levels of Government to commit funding and support that all Municipalities can access for the provision of safe and affordable housing options; and remove the systemic barriers which have favored designating resources to the seven cities and instead create funding opportunities to address homelessness and affordable housing supports for all Municipalities in Alberta.

### RATIONALE

Appreciative of Government's investments thus far in a range of program and services to address affordable housing and homelessness in the province, there remain barriers to municipalities to equitably access funding to address the range of needs across the province.

When it comes to homelessness and understanding its causes, the urban experience dominates the conversation due to the higher visibility of individuals experiencing homelessness, however homelessness still exists outside the cities. Homelessness in rural and remote areas is far less understood or even acknowledged by the wider public because housing-insecure individuals are less likely to be completely unsheltered, and the problem is hidden from view. 24 rural communities in Alberta participated in the 2020 Rural Housing and Service Needs Estimation Project in partnership with the Rural Development Network (RDN) and found that those at risk of becoming homeless are more likely to own or rent housing that may need major repairs, couch surf, live in overcrowded housing, or live in other provisional accommodations provided by their support systems. The RDN report highlights that of 1893 individuals surveyed 48% had housing conditions which were insecure and/or absent. This is a small sampling of the residents that could have been surveyed throughout the province.<sup>1</sup>

There are significant differences in demographics and community needs in the various regions of Alberta, and thus a diversity of approaches is required to address housing in our province, including various operating models, capital contributions and local engagement and supports.<sup>2</sup> A continuum of housing options and supports within rural communities is as important as it is within the seven cities, or we run the risk of residents searching for supports and accommodations in the already overburdened urban systems and having a migration of residents leaving their local and natural familial supports.

In addition, the most recent changes to Alberta's rent supplement program meant to improve system supports, does not promote equity outside of the seven cities. The Temporary Rent Assistance Benefit, which opened on May 1, 2021, provides a modest subsidy to help eligible tenants in Alberta's seven major centers afford their rent, while they stabilize or improve their situation.<sup>3</sup> Although this is a valuable initiative it limits the ability of residents in other urban centers or rural municipalities to receive this level of rental support. This compounds the risk of residents losing their housing and affecting the

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<sup>1</sup> [2020 Rural Housing and Service Needs Estimation Project \(ruraldevelopment.ca\)](https://www.ruraldevelopment.ca/2020-rural-housing-and-service-needs-estimation-project)

<sup>2</sup> [Final report of the Alberta Affordable Housing Review Panel - Open Government](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Affordable housing programs | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/affordable-housing-programs)



## SAMPLE RESOLUTION C

SUBMITTED BY: Jasper Community and Family Services Board

TOPIC: Community Support Services for Seniors

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**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the FCSSAA advocate to the Government of Alberta to commit to funding the provision of community support services for seniors outside of FCSS dollars.

### RATIONALE

The Aging Population Policy Framework released by the Government of Alberta in November 2010, identifies the impending seniors population boom in Alberta, and the impact this will have on the province and communities. The policy framework recommends a number of initiatives, but does not identify additional resources required for implementation; it may in fact imply a reliance on Municipalities to provide the community support services.

Community support services for seniors will be increasingly crucial to the maintenance of healthy Alberta communities due to the exponential growth of the aging population. Currently, there is no provincial funding available for community support services for seniors, despite the vulnerability inherent in the aging population.

The Government of Alberta currently funds community support services for vulnerable populations, such as children, families, people with developmental and/or physical disabilities, people with brain injuries, people with mental and/or physical illness, people with addictions, etc. which decreases crime and victimization and dependence on healthcare systems.

Embedding relevant and accessible services for seniors in their own communities is economically responsible as it prolongs independence, increases socialization, and decreases the potential for victimization and dependence on home-care and healthcare systems - the same long-term outcomes and cost saving rationale the Government of Alberta applies to funding and supporting services for other vulnerable populations.

Alberta communities want to develop and provide relevant, accessible and preventive services that are customized to the needs of the aging populations in their communities. It is well known that municipalities country-wide are already stretched thin in meeting the needs of residents. The Government of Alberta cannot not depend on municipalities to provide the significant resources that will be required to support seniors in their own communities. A partnership between the province and municipalities is critical to ensuring that seniors will be able to age in place.