

ADVOCACY BULLETIN



Welcome to the First Edition of the FCSSAA Advocacy Bulletin!

While FCSSAA has been actively advocating for programs, we heard from your comments in the member survey that we need to share those efforts more consistently.

That's why we're launching this bulletin, which will be sent twice a year to keep you informed and connected. Please pass it along to your local boards and councils.

Meeting with Minister Nixon Assisted Living and Social Services

Last month, FCSSAA, AB Munis, and RMA met with Minister Jason Nixon. The meeting was very positive, and the Minister was encouraging in his support. Following the meeting, the partners sent a joint follow-up letter.

[Read the letter](#)

The FCSSAA is now working with our partners to develop a joint advocacy and communications strategy.

Spring Regional Meetings

We were pleased to welcome representatives from both AB Munis and RMA at most of the spring regional meetings. These sessions offered valuable opportunities for:

- FCSS programs to learn more about AB Munis and RMA advocacy work.
- Our partners to hear directly about challenges facing FCSS programs.



Increased Funding for FCSS #StrongerTogether

Although the FCSSAA does not currently have an active resolution specific to increased funding, it remains a central focus of our ongoing advocacy.

To strengthen our voice, we've reached out to Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) – who both currently have resolutions calling for increased FCSS funding – to explore a joint advocacy strategy.

Together, we represent all municipalities, MDs, counties and FCSS programs in Alberta. And we know that we are stronger together!



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[Explore the Community Impact tool](#)

Community IMPACT Tool

Earlier this year, the FCSSAA proudly launched the Community Impact Tool—a dynamic, online platform created to highlight the collective reach and outcomes of FCSS programs across Alberta. We believe this investment is an important step in demonstrating the value and reach of FCSS work province wide.

Update on Open Resolutions

Approved resolutions help guide the Association's advocacy efforts, driving potential changes in policy or legislation to strengthen and streamline FCSS work across the province.

Equitable Access to Funding for Rural and Remote Housing and Homeless Resources Resolution 2021-02

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.

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

[Read the full resolution](#)

In December 2024, Alberta's Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services expanded provincial homelessness funding to include rural and small communities beyond the previously supported seven cities. A new advisory panel was also created to provide long-term recommendations on homelessness, with an emphasis on Indigenous Peoples, rural areas, addiction, recovery, housing, and integrated social and health services.

Additionally, the FCSSAA has engaged the Rural Development Network and the Alberta Seniors and Community Housing Association to better understand the services they offer and the unique challenges facing rural and remote communities.

Most recently, FCSSAA President Kayla Blanchette and Bobby-Jo Stannard (Chair, Directors' Network) delivered a presentation to the Alberta Homelessness Advisory Panel highlighting:

- The critical role FCSS plays in local communities
- The importance of prevention and early intervention within the housing and homelessness continuum

The presentation received strong support and reaffirmed the province-wide impact of FCSS.



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Centralized Call Centre Process to Access Alberta Supports Services Resolution 2022-01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the FCSSAA work with the Provincial Government to reduce barriers for accessing Alberta Supports Services for people who do not have the financial or technological means for reliable telephone or internet service. Utilizing call centres to access services created barriers for people who need Alberta Supports Services the most.

SUBMITTED BY:
*Lac La Biche County Family and
Community Support Services*

The FCSSAA has been diligently working on this resolution, and we're pleased to share that we have been able to make some progress.

Recently, we circulated updated Alberta Supports contact information to all FCSS programs. This update allows offices to more easily connect with Alberta Supports staff in their area.

Additionally, FCSSAA President Kayla Blanchette will meet with Toby Schneider, Assistant Deputy Minister of Employment and Financial Services to receive further updates on this service.

[Read the full resolution](#)

Commitment to Address Food Security in Alberta Resolution 2024-01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The FCSSAA advocates to the Government of Alberta to partner with a food security focused organization to maintain its current commitment of funding to address food security through a range of strategies that ensure access to food while also tackling the root causes of food insecurity.

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

The FCSSAA was pleased to participate in the provincial announcement for increased funding for food security.

[Read the release](#)

[Read the full resolution](#)

To read the full list of resolutions, visit:
fcssaa.org/about-fcssaa/resolutions

Questions?

Please email FCSSAA's Executive Director at director@fcssaa.org.

**Stay tuned for more updates
in future bulletins.**