

Modernized Municipal Government Act (MMGA – Bill 21)) **Orientation Training (Elected Official Training)**

This bulletin is intended to make chief administrative officers aware of new requirements to offer orientation training to councillors following this year's general municipal elections, and of available resources to support this requirement.

As of July 1, 2017, it will be a requirement for municipalities to offer training to all new and returning members of council. This training must be held within 90 days after each councillor takes the oath of office as a result of the general election or any subsequent by-election.

The *MMGA* adds new section 201.1 to the *Municipal Government Act* as follows:

Orientation training

201.1(1) A municipality must, in accordance with the regulations, offer orientation training to each councillor, to be held within 90 days after the councillor takes the oath of office.

(2) The following topics must be addressed in orientation training required under subsection (1):

- (a) role of municipalities in Alberta;
- (b) municipal organization and functions;
- (c) key municipal plans, policies and projects;
- (d) roles and responsibilities of council and councillors;
- (d. 1) the municipality's code of conduct;
- (e) roles and responsibilities of the chief administrative officer and staff;
- (f) budgeting and financial administration;
- (g) public participation;
- (h) any other topic prescribed by the regulations.

(3) The Minister may make regulations respecting orientation training, including, without limitation, regulations

- (a) respecting the delivery of orientation training;
- (b) prescribing topics to be addressed in orientation training.

Although the new provision allows the Minister to make regulations respecting orientation training, no regulation is being proposed at this time. Therefore, the topics set out in subsection 201.1(2) will be the basic requirement for training following the 2017 general elections. Each municipality may include additional topics as it considers appropriate.

Each municipality may determine how to fulfill the training requirement. As an option, the Elected Officials Education Program (EOEP) has developed **Munis 101: The Essentials of Municipal Governance**. The EOEP is a joint venture of the AAMDC and AUMA. Further information on the EOEP can be found on: www.eoep.ca/home.

