



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MEETING AGENDA**  
**Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.**  
Council Chambers, Town Hall  
Teams Link

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Agenda Approval**
3. **Scheduled Delegations**
  - 3.1 BTG Energy – Paul Connolly
  - 3.2 Rose Society – Jan Frith
4. **Committee Reports**
5. **Administration**
6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
  - 6.1 Politics in Municipal Government (Page 2)
7. **Policy**
8. **New Business**
  - 8.1 Auditors
  - 8.2 Agricultural Society Letter of Support (Page 10)
9. **Closed Session Discussion**
10. **Adjournment**



# Town of Pincher Creek

## REQUEST FOR DECISION

*Council or Committee of the Whole*

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Politics in Municipal Government	
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b> Doug Henderson, Chief Administrative Officer	<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b> 4/3/2024

**PURPOSE:**

Councillor Green asked that the Politics in Municipal Government report from ABMunis be added to the next Committee of the Whole Meeting

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council for the Town of Pincher Creek direct administration to draft a letter to the local MLA opposing political parties in local elections and further, to use ABmunis key messages in social media/newsletter postings.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

A public survey, an ABmunis resolution, and results of the province’s own consultation processes indicate that Albertans do not want to see the encroachment of political parties at the local level. Despite this, the Government of Alberta has not committed to abandoning plans to enable parties to be included on local election ballots.

Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) would like municipalities to amplify their position so that all political parties know Albertans’ local leaders want local elections to be independent.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

That Town of Pincher Creek Council agrees to receive for information the AB munis request to promotion of keeping political parties out of local elections.

**IMPLICATIONS/SUPPORT OF PAST STUDIES OR PLANS:**

No Town plans address this topic.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None

**PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:**

Any action would include public notifications to encourage citizens to connect with their MLA.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Join the Call to Keep Political Parties Out of Local Elections - 3359

**CONCLUSION/SUMMARY:**

Administration supports a small PR campaign about keeping political parties out of local elections.

**Signatures:**

**Department Head:**

*Doug Henderson*

**CAO:**

*Doug Henderson*

## FW: Join the Call to Keep Political Parties Out of Local Elections

Doug Henderson <cao@pinchercreek.ca>

Thu 2/22/2024 5:31 PM

To: Kristie Green <payroll@pinchercreek.ca>

📎 3 attachments (223 KB)

2023-02-22 Key Messages on Political Parties for MLAs citizens etc.docx; Political Parties - Media Event - Social Post Examples.docx; Government of Alberta Survey Results.png;

Distribution List please.



**Doug Henderson, CLGM**

**CAO**

email: [cao@pinchercreek.ca](mailto:cao@pinchercreek.ca)

phone: (403) 627-3156

Town of Pincher Creek, 962 St. John Ave (Box 159) Pincher Creek, AB T0K1W0

[www.pinchercreek.ca](http://www.pinchercreek.ca)

---

**From:** Tyler Gandam <president@abmunis.ca>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:24 PM

**To:** Doug Henderson <cao@pinchercreek.ca>

**Subject:** Join the Call to Keep Political Parties Out of Local Elections

Dear Mayors, Councillors, and CAOs,

A public survey, an ABmunis resolution, and results of the province's own consultation processes indicate that Albertans do not want to see the encroachment of political parties at the local level. Despite this, the Government of Alberta has not committed to abandoning plans to enable parties to be included on local election ballots.

Today, ABmunis hosted a media availability calling for a commitment from the Government of Alberta to listen to Albertans. We need your help to amplify our call so that all political parties know Albertans' local leaders want local elections to be independent.

Attached for you to adapt and use are:

- Messages you can select from and adapt for local media; for email, letters or conversations with your local MLA; or for conversations with interested Albertans. (There are more messages than you would likely use in one communication so you can select and adapt the ones that will resonate best with your audience)
- Social media post examples and images.

We also encourage you to follow and share ABmunis' social media posts on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or ideas related to ABmunis' campaign to keep local elections independent.

Thank you,  
Page 4

E: [president@abmunis.ca](mailto:president@abmunis.ca)

300-8616 51 Ave Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6

Toll Free: 310-MUNI | 877-421-

6644 | [www.abmunis.ca](http://www.abmunis.ca)



---

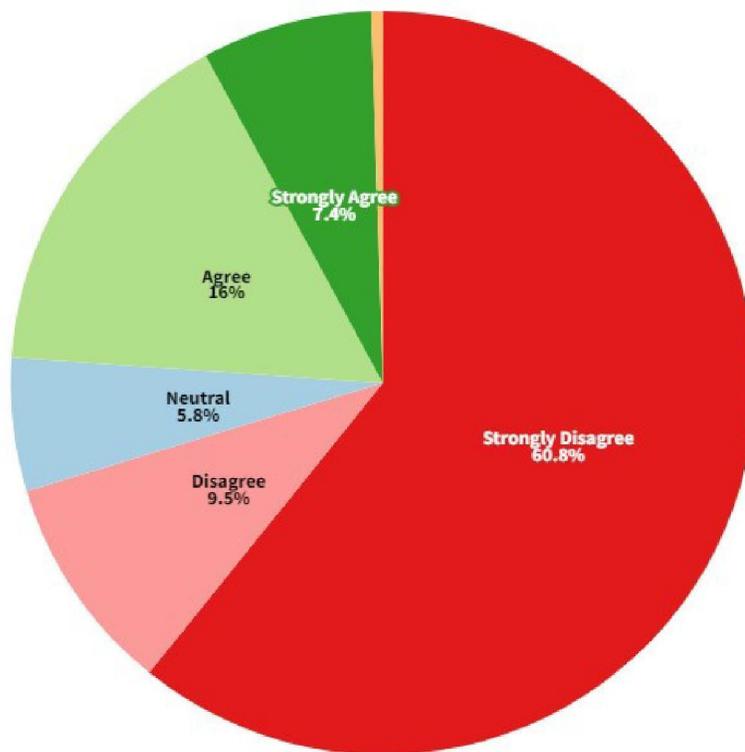
This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this email.

*We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and play on the traditional and ancestral territories of many Indigenous, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. We acknowledge that what we call Alberta is the traditional and ancestral territory of many peoples, presently subject to Treaties 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 and Six Regions of the Métis Nation of Alberta.*

## Survey Shows Little Appetite for Adding Parties to Municipal Election Ballots

Responses to Alberta government's online survey

"The electoral ballot should be amended to allow political parties to be listed by municipal candidates"



Source: Government of Alberta survey - 7,680 responses from Nov. 7, 2023 to Dec. 6, 2023 • [Graphic: Matthew Black/Postmedia](#)

Messages on keeping local elections independent.

The following messages are provided for you to adapt and use in letters, emails or conversations with your MLA or communication with other interested Albertans. The messages are grouped into themes, and you are encouraged to select a couple that are most relevant to your audience.

- We all represent Albertans.
- Given the size of Alberta and Canada, political parties are necessary at the provincial and federal levels.
- However, at the local level, Albertans don't see political parties as adding value.

### **Survey Results**

- Since 2020, Albertans have indicated through three surveys, two of which were conducted by the provincial government, that they do not want to see political parties introduced in local elections.
- Through a 2020 provincial government survey on the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA), Albertans commented that they do not want to see increased partisanship or increased influence of campaign donations at the local level.
- The results of a public survey, conducted by Janet Brown Opinion Research on behalf of ABmunis in early September 2023, indicate that most Albertans do not support the introduction of political parties at the local level. Specifically:
  - Sixty-eight per cent (68%) of respondents indicated that they would prefer to see municipal candidates run as individuals. Only 24 per cent of respondents would prefer to see municipal candidates run as members of a political party.
  - More than 80 per cent (81%) agree that municipal officials who are part of a political party would vote along party lines and not necessarily in the best interest of the community.
  - Sixty-nine per cent (69%) of respondents think that political parties would make municipal governments more divisive and less effective.
- Results from the Government of Alberta's November 2023 survey on proposed changes to the LAEA show that 70 per cent of Albertans are opposed to the introduction of political parties at the local level.

### **Good Governance**

- While political parties are an important part of the parliamentary system at the provincial and federal level, they are not a good fit with local government legislation and processes in Alberta.
- Political parties could contravene the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) where it requires a councillor to consider the interests of the municipality as a whole and not the interests of the success of the party in decision making.

- Political parties would create an environment where all issues are discussed in private by party members resulting in a whipped vote versus the current system which encourages debate and openness to changing your mind based on public hearings and council discussion.
- In the United Kingdom, local elections are seen as referendums for higher levels of government, and we don't want to create that environment here.
- Parties could also lead to money being raised in one part of the province being used to influence the election in another region. This would again take the focus away from keeping local elections local.
- The Government of Alberta has spent years encouraging municipal governments to collaborate at a regional level to save money for Albertans. Introducing political parties at the local level could make regional collaboration an even more difficult task.
- Some councils have struggled with good governance, but political parties could make problems like split councils worse, not better.

### **Voter Turnout**

- Vancouver and Montreal have political parties but have similar or sometimes lower voter turnout than comparable Canadian cities where political parties are not featured in local elections.

### **Trust and Integrity**

- We recognize there is currently nothing preventing candidates from running on slates or for political parties, other than an historic lack of success.
- However, changes to legislation could be made that might make it easier for political parties or slates of candidates to raise funds. We know from previous reviews of the election rules that Albertans want to see less money involved in local elections, not more.
- The [mandate letter](#) from Premier Danielle Smith to Minister of Municipal Affairs Ric McIver instructed him to collaborate with Minister of Justice Mickey Amery to review the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA) and make recommendations for any necessary amendments to “strengthen public trust in and the integrity of our municipal election laws”.
- We believe the best way to strengthen trust and integrity is to listen to Albertans when they say they do not want political parties at the local level.

## Social Media Post Examples

---

### Example 1

The province's survey shows that over 70% of Albertans don't want political parties in municipal elections. To date, no one from the provincial government has explained what real or perceived problems the introduction of political parties to municipal elections would fix.

That is why I encourage you to write to our MLA <<NAME>> and tell <<her or him>> to listen to the majority of voters.

#ABmunis #ABpoli #ABleg

### Example 2

70% of Albertans have said they do not want the divisiveness of political parties disrupting their communities. Municipal elected officials need to continue to work on local challenges and not focus on the interests of their parties.

I encourage you to write to our MLA <<NAME>> and tell <<her or him>> to listen to the majority of voters.

#ABmunis #ABpoli #ABleg

### Example 3

Albertans don't want political parties in their municipal elections. Elected officials should stay focused on their community's challenges and not on political agendas.

That is why I encourage you to share this information with your network and write to our MLA <<NAME>> and tell <<her or him>> to listen to Albertans.

#ABmunis #ABpoli #ABleg

### Example 4

Albertans don't want political parties in their municipal elections. Elected officials should stay focused on their community's challenges and not on political agendas.

Learn more about this topic in this Edmonton Journal article: [Opinion: Albertans don't want party politics in local elections | Edmonton Journal](#)

#ABmunis #ABpoli #ABleg



# Town of Pincher Creek

## REQUEST FOR DECISION

*Council or Committee of the Whole*

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Agricultural Society Letter of Support	
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b> Adam Grose, Recreation Manager	<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b> 4/3/2024

**PURPOSE:**

To review a request from the Pincher Creek and District Agricultural Society to provide them with a letter of support in applying for grants for a new tractor.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council for the Town of Pincher Creek direct administration to provide a letter of support to the Pincher Creek and District Agricultural Society to apply for grants to replace their tractor.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

On March 21, 2024 administration received a request from the Pincher Creek Grant Specialist requesting both the Town and MD of Pincher Creek send a letter of support to the Pincher Creek and District Agricultural Society to support their efforts in applying for grants to purchase a new tractor.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

That Town of Pincher Creek Council accept the Agricultural Society letter of support request as information.

**IMPLICATIONS/SUPPORT OF PAST STUDIES OR PLANS:**

None

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

At this time the Pincher Creek and District Agricultural are looking for letters of support to apply for grants, so therefore no financial implications.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:**

The Pincher Creek Ag Society draws thousands of people to the community every year supporting the economic viability of the region as a whole, their events draw people from all over Southern Alberta, these people stay in hotels, use the campgrounds, eat in local restaurants and patronize the stores.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Pincher Creek Ag Society - 3369

**CONCLUSION/SUMMARY:**

Administration supports providing a letter of support to the Pincher Creek and District Agricultural Society to enhance their efforts in quiring grants for a new tractor.

**Signatures:**

**Department Head:**

*Doug Henderson*

**CAO:**

*Doug Henderson*

## Kristie Green

---

**From:**   
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 11:26 AM  
**To:** 'Jessica McClelland'; Adam Grose  
**Cc:** 'Shelley Stokke'  
**Subject:** Pincher Creek Ag Society

Hi Folks

The Pincher Creek Ag Society are in fairly desperate need of replacing their tractor.

We are looking at multiple funding sources and a letter of support from the Town and the MD would be very helpful.

Just to give you some ideas of the kind of letter we are looking for –

***The Pincher Creek Ag Society draws thousands of people to the community every year supporting the economic viability of the region as a whole, their events draw people from all over Southern Alberta, these people stay in hotels, use the campgrounds, eat in local restaurants and patronize the stores.***

***The tractor is used year-round for a variety of purposes some of these being: working the ground, moving panels and pieces of equipment, snow clearance, and packing and softening the ground as necessary for animal safety.***

Your support of these applications could prove invaluable to their success.

Please reach out either to me or Shelley who is copied on this email for clarification or further information.

Best regards.

Liza Dawber  
Grant Specialist Pincher Creek