



Bill 49: Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act

RMA Member Resource

May 2025

Bill 49

Bill 49: the *Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025* makes significant changes to the *Police Act* and the *Emergency Management Act*, both with impacts on RMA members.

This member resource is intended to serve as a combination summary and analysis of the changes made to both Acts through Bill 49. The document provides an overview of what the changes to each Act mean, how they relate to current RMA advocacy work, and guiding questions that members can ask to ensure that their concerns with these changes are being addressed at the provincial level.

Police Act Changes

Introduction

Legislative amendments to enable the creation of the IAPS. Bill 49 allows for the establishment of a Crown corporation to form the IAPS and deliver police services independent of the government. Municipalities will also now have the option of receiving policing services directly from the IAPS instead of through the RCMP or other means currently outlined in the *Police Act*.

From 2020 to 2022, RMA was involved in engagements with the GOA regarding the creation of the Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS). Throughout these engagements, RMA maintained that the creation of the APPS should not take place unless a detailed feasibility study proves that such an approach will reduce provincial and municipal policing costs and enhance service levels across the province. RMA released [multiple resources](#) for members to utilize in their advocacy on this issue that are at least partially relevant to the potential impacts of Bill 49. There appears to be many parallels between the APPS and the proposed IAPS that RMA intends to unpack in this document and through further analysis.

In Fall 2024, RMA members passed [Resolution 12-24F: Accountability in the Establishment of an Independent Agency Police Service in Alberta](#). This resolution calls for the GOA to be transparent in the costs associated with the creation of an IAPS, as well as a breakdown of costs borne by municipalities through the Police Funding Model. It also clearly states that an IAPS should not be introduced until there is substantive consultation and quantifiable significant majority support from municipalities and Albertans-at-large. RMA is committed to ensuring that members' concerns with the IAPS are heard.

Bill 49 enables the Minister or Cabinet to take significant steps forward in forming the IAPS, especially in relation to its governance structure and resourcing. However, it provides little clarity as to what those steps will be or how the IAPS will be structured, because the majority of the power to next steps are conferred on the Minister and Cabinet in the form of regulation-making authority, rather than concrete legislative requirements to be worked towards. The summary/analysis below is focused on what RMA learned from reviewing Bill 49. While some definitive next steps are visible in Bill 49, much of what we learned is that risks and a lack of clarity remain related to implementation and the extent to which the direction of the IAPS will be based on public input and transparency.

Bill 49: What we Learned

Police Act Change or Amendment	What we Learned	Analysis
<p>(2) Section 4 is amended</p> <p>(a) in subsection (2) by adding the following after clause (d):</p> <p>(e) enter into an agreement for the provision of municipal policing services under section 33.75.</p> <p>...</p> <p>33.75 The council of a municipality referred to in section 4(2) or (5) may enter into an agreement with an independent agency police service for the provision of policing services specifically for the municipality.</p>	<p>This section clarifies that all municipalities in the province will be eligible to enter into a policing agreement with the IAPS.</p>	<p>This is significant because it lays out the direction that the Government of Alberta aims to take with the implementation of the IAPS. It clarifies that regardless of municipal type or size, any municipality will have an opportunity to receive policing services from the IAPS.</p>
<p>33.4(4) An independent agency police service shall be, subject to section 33.94(2), under the general direction of the Minister in matters respecting the provision of policing services to all or any part of Alberta and in matters respecting any additional purposes prescribed for the purpose of subsection (1).</p>	<p>The IAPS may provide services to all or any part of Alberta, not just municipalities that request the service.</p>	<p>This amendment allows for the possibility that the IAPS may take on a greater role than just a locally-contracted policing service for municipalities. This is concerning, especially considering that the details of this section are to be determined by regulations.</p> <p>Based on RMA’s interpretation of changes, this could hypothetically result in the IAPS taking a larger role in specialized provincewide policing responsibilities currently conducted by the RCMP. It could also allow the IAPS to have a police presence in municipalities regardless of whether they have an agreement with the IAPS as a contracted partner.</p> <p>The Minister has described the IAPS as operating arms-length from government. However, this section indicates that the Minister will assume “general direction” over the IAPS in relation to “provision of</p>

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		<p>policing services.” Both terms are very broad and open to interpretation. While other sections of the <i>Police Act</i> are amended to limit the Minister’s power, the language in this section requires significantly more clarity.</p>
<p>33.73(1) An independent agency police service shall prepare budgets and fiscal updates and submit them to the Minister in accordance with the regulations.</p> <p>(2) The Minister shall review a budget submitted under subsection (1) and, subject to an annual appropriation from the Legislature, allocate funds to the independent agency police service that submitted the budget.</p> <p>(3) The independent agency police service that submitted the budget shall disburse the funds allocated by the Minister.</p>	<p>All IAPS are responsible for preparing budgets and fiscal updates to be reviewed by the Minister. The Minister will then allocate funds to the IAPS, pending the allocation of funds in the provincial budget.</p>	<p>Section 33.79(2) (a-c), which was added to the <i>Police Act</i> in 2024, was repealed through Bill 49. These sections conferred responsibility on an IPAB advisory board to review the budget for IAPS.</p> <p>The repealing of ss. 33.79(2)(a-c) combined with the addition of ss. 33.73(1-3) essentially transfer financial oversight of the IAPS from an oversight board to the Minister.</p> <p>There is no information available as to why this change was made, especially considering that the IAPS is not yet in place, so the effectiveness of the oversight board reviewing IAPS budgets has not yet been tested. As explained more below, Bill 49 also reduces the size of the oversight board. In combination, these Bill 49 changes appear to be eroding the arms-length nature of the IAPS before the service has even been developed.</p>
<p>33.76(1) A council that has entered into an agreement for the provision of municipal policing services under section 33.75 shall establish an independent agency police service policing committee in accordance with the regulations.</p> <p>(2) An independent agency police service policing committee shall</p>	<p>Municipalities that choose to enter in an agreement to receive policing service through the IAPS must establish a policing committee. The duties and functions of these policing committees are yet to be determined through the regulations.</p>	<p>The powers, duties, and functions of the IAPS policing committees are to be determined through the regulations, making no further information available at this time. However, there are questions about how the IAPS policing committees will work alongside other policing committees, such as the Provincial Police Advisory Board currently required to represent municipalities</p>

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<p>have the powers and perform the duties and functions set out in the regulations.</p>		<p>that receive policing services through the Provincial Police Services Agreement.</p> <p>RMA was, and continues to be, a strong advocate for enhanced local input into policing, preferably in the form of policing committees. Instead, communities serviced under Provincial Police Service Agreements will be represented by the Provincial Police Advisory Board – a fifteen-person board that will likely lack the ability to reflect the needs of all the communities that it is meant to serve.</p> <p>RMA supports any opportunity for local input into policing, but these initiatives should be a universal expectation for all policing services in the province to be accountable to. It is unclear why they are being implemented as mandatory for IAPS-delivered policing, but have been removed completely from the <i>Police Act</i> for RCMP-delivered policing.</p>
<p>33.8(1) The Independent Agency Police Service Oversight Board is established, consisting of the Deputy Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services and 8 other members appointed by the Minister in accordance with the regulations.</p> <p>AMENDMENT: Section 33.8(1) is amended by striking out “8” and substituting “up to 8”.</p>	<p>The oversight board will consist of the Deputy Minister of Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services and up to eight other members as appointed by the Minister. The oversight board will oversee the policing services provided by IAPS, including additional duties and responsibilities laid out in the regulations.</p>	<p>Bill 49 makes a point of ensuring that the IAPS is an arms-length agency from the government. However, the Minister is in charge of appointing members to the oversight board and the only legislatively-directed role is filled by the Deputy Minister of Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services.</p> <p>Amending s. 33.8(1) to allow the Minister to appoint “up to 8” board members technically allows the Minister to appoint only the Deputy Minister to the oversight board.</p>

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		<p>Given that the IAPS will appear to play a provincewide function, it is unclear of why the Minister would want to decrease the number of people appointed to the oversight board. From RMA’s perspective, allowing such flexibility in the number of oversight board members risks allowing for politicization of the board and could reduce the extent to which the board represents the interests of the communities serviced by the IAPS. While limiting the board to only the DM of Public Safety and Emergency Services is unlikely, it is technically allowable based on this amendment.</p>
<p>33.94(2) The Minister shall not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) perform the powers, duties or functions of the Oversight Board, (b) provide direction to any member of an independent agency police service, including to the chief, (c) provide any direction, policy, priority, strategy or plan respecting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) specific investigations, (ii) the conduct of specific operations, (iii) the discipline of any specific member of an independent agency police service, (iv) the day to day administration of an independent agency police service, or 	<p>This section clarifies the limits on the Minister’s role in directing the operations of the IAPS.</p>	<p>RMA supports the inclusion of s. 33.94(2) as it clarifies that the Minister may not be involved in specific operational or strategic decisions related to police operations.</p> <p>However, RMA would argue that this section is only necessary because other Bill 49 amendments and existing <i>Police Act</i> provisions added in 2024 already blur the line between the Minister’s authority and the role of the oversight board and IAPS chief. For example, s. 33.94(1) now states the following:</p> <p>33.94(1) Subject to subsection (2), the Minister shall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) develop policies and priorities for independent agency police services, (b) provide general directions to the Oversight Board regarding the

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<p>(v) any other matters prescribed in the regulations,</p> <p>or</p> <p>(d) provide any direction, policy, priority, strategy or plan that</p> <p>(i) requires a member of an independent agency police service to do anything or refrain from doing anything that is inconsistent with the member’s duties under this Act, or</p> <p>(ii) prohibits a member of an independent agency police service from collecting information for the purpose of investigating an offence or assisting with the prosecution of an offence.</p>		<p>operations of independent agency police services, and</p> <p>(c) perform additional duties and functions provided for in the regulations for the purposes of this Part.</p> <p>RMA is concerned that empowering the Minister to develop policies and priorities could undermine or erode the intended arm’s-length relationship between the Minister and the IAPS, especially as neither term appears to be defined. A more consistent and transparent approach would be to define high-level priorities in the legislation and place responsibility on the oversight board (which has Minister representation) to translate these into specific policy direction.</p>
<p>Regulation-making authority (s. 33.95)</p>	<p>Bill 49 lays out many areas of IAPS operations and governance that will be determined through regulations. The rows below highlight some of the most significant areas of regulation-making authority.</p>	<p>The list of regulation-making authority is excessive. Regulations do not have to go through the legislative process to be passed, and therefore could be implemented or amended with limited consultation or transparency.</p> <p>It appears that nearly every detail of how the government will direct the IAPS to operate is through regulation, or even less clearly, through policies to be developed by the Minister.</p>
<p>33.95 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations</p> <p>(b) prescribing additional purposes for the purpose of section 33.4(1);</p>	<p>This section allows Cabinet to make a regulation expanding the scope of the IAPS beyond contract policing in specific municipalities.</p>	<p>Expanding the scope of the IAPS could have huge impacts on finances, governance, operations, and capacity. It is concerning that there is not more accountability to Albertans, other policing service providers, municipalities, or the IAPS itself prior to expanding its scope</p>

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<p>33.95 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations</p> <p>(c) respecting any matters that the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary or advisable for the establishment and operation of an independent agency police service as a corporation or for the winding up of the affairs of an independent agency police service, including</p> <p>(iii) respecting the size and composition of the board of directors of an independent agency police service;</p> <p>(iv) respecting the appointment of members of the board of directors of an independent agency police service, eligibility and qualifications for membership, the terms of office of members, the termination and disqualification of members, the filling of vacancies and the remuneration and expenses payable to members,</p> <p>(v) respecting the designation of a chair and vice-chair of the board of directors of an independent agency police service,</p> <p>(vi) respecting the powers of the board of directors of an independent agency police service, including regulations respecting the ability of the board of directors to delegate those powers</p>	<p>This section empowers Cabinet to develop regulations related to the formation, composition, and powers of an IAPS board of directors.</p>	<p>Aside from this reference in the regulation-making section, there is no mention of a board of directors anywhere in the legislation.</p> <p>It is unclear where this idea came from or what the intent of having such a board would be, especially considering the legislative requirement for the formation of an oversight board. Given the openness of the regulation-making authority, it is possible that a board of directors could provide direction that undermines or contradicts the oversight board.</p> <p>RMA’s interpretation is that the inclusion of a board of directors appears to add unnecessary governance complexity to an already-complex entity. The legislation itself should clearly explain the role of the oversight board and board of directors and how they are expected to co-exist. This appears to be absent from Bill 49 and the <i>Police Act</i>.</p>
<p>33.95 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations</p>	<p>These sections allow Cabinet to make regulations providing more details on the formation, scope, powers, and remuneration of</p>	<p>It is unclear why the requirement for policing committees is one of the few details solidified in the legislation, but any details regarding</p>

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<p>(i) respecting the establishment of independent agency police service policing committees;</p> <p>(j) governing the powers, duties and functions of independent agency police service policing committees;</p> <p>(k) respecting the payment of remuneration, gratuities and allowances to members of independent agency police service policing committees under section 33.76(4).</p>	<p>police committees in communities policed by the IAPS.</p>	<p>their powers, etc. will be addressed through regulation. RMA will expect that any further action on developing the role of policing committees, as well as how to best address associated costs, will be undertaken based on engagement with municipal stakeholders.</p>

Unanswered Questions

Below is a list of questions that RMA has posed to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services regarding the implementation of the IAPS. Please use these questions as you see fit during your municipality's own conversations with the Ministry.

- ◆ What is the rationale for the creation of the IAPS?
- ◆ How will oversight of the IAPS work alongside/interact with the newly formed Provincial Police Advisory Board (PPAB)?
- ◆ What training requirements will the officers of the new policing agency be required to obtain? Will this training be standardized across the province? What will be the cost of this training?
- ◆ How will the IAPS ensure that there are increased service levels and enhanced local input from communities?
- ◆ How will the presence of the IPAS in small municipalities impact the Police Funding Model and municipal obligations to contribute to RCMP contract policing under the Provincial Police Services Agreement?
- ◆ Many of the questions RMA has about the IAPS will be worked out in the regulations. How will the creation of these regulations be approached and how will stakeholders be engaged?
- ◆ Will the Government of Alberta meaningfully engagement with municipalities and Albertans at large during the creation of the regulations and other details related to the implementation of the IAPS?
- ◆ How will the IAPS be impacted by recruitment challenges that are currently affecting other policing services?
- ◆ How will the IAPS work alongside other police services in the province?
- ◆ How will the cost of the IAPS be determined given that the size of the IAPS is dependent on the level of municipal uptake and the scope of responsibilities as determined by the Minister?
- ◆ How will service levels of the IAPS be determined and managed?

- ◆ How will the Government of Alberta ensure that the transition to the IAPS in communities does not negatively impact service in that area?
- ◆ How will the RCMP and IAPS work together to support proper governance and local input within the communities that they serve?
- ◆ Why were municipalities not consulted on this issue prior to the introduction of the legislation?
- ◆ What up-front capital and long-term operational costs would be associated with creating and maintaining the IAPS?
- ◆ Will funding of IAPS mean reduced funding for other public safety initiatives?
- ◆ Where will officers of the new policing agency be based? How will need be determined? Will RCMP detachments serve as hubs for this new agency?
- ◆ What training requirements will the officers of the IAPS be required to obtain? Will this training be standardized across the province? What will be the cost of this training?

Next Steps

For IAPS to contribute to enhanced community safety, it is imperative that local input is prioritized and that service levels are increased for a lower cost to municipalities. The following challenges continue to be top of mind for RMA as the Government of Alberta moves forward with the implementation of the IAPS. RMA is committed to holding the Government of Alberta accountable on these issues and will keep members informed of any future developments in these areas.

Resourcing Challenges

The Minister has indicated that staffing shortages and delayed response times in rural areas are key reasons for creating the IAPS. However, recruitment and retention of police officers is a challenge, not only throughout the province, but nationwide. Unfortunately, there has been a lack of transparency regarding the current state of policing in Alberta. Without reputable or consistent data being made available to understand the status of policing in the province, there is no evidence to show that a new policing agency would remedy this issue. The resource challenges being faced right now may even be exacerbated if a new policing agency was introduced in the province, because the creation of the IAPS will open new positions without changing the need for officers to fulfill the duties of the Alberta Sheriffs, RCMP, and Community Peace Officers. No information has been released regarding how these challenges will be addressed by creating an IAPS.

Cost Challenges

Budget 2025-26 included an increase in funding for Alberta Sheriffs, but did not reference the IAPS. Without the allocation of funds for this new policing agency, it is unclear how the GOA will approach its implementation or when this transition may be underway. There are concerns that the future budget allocation for the creation of the IAPS may take away funding for other key public safety initiatives, or that municipalities will be expected to take on a disproportionate cost burden for IAPS service delivery.

The IAPS will not be an inexpensive endeavor to pursue. It is important to consider the costs associated with the implementation of a new policy agency. There must be a costed platform associated with the IAPS that is transparent, data driven, and not at a higher cost to municipalities.

Another pressing concern about how the IAPS will work in practice is the effects it will have on the Police Funding Model (PFM). The PFM redistributes responsibility for a portion of frontline policing costs from the Government of Alberta to municipalities that receive policing services through the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA). The PFM is set to expire on March 31, 2026, following an extension of the regulation. Engagements related to the renewal of the regulation are expected to begin sometime this year, but there is no further information on if, how, or when these engagements may occur. Adding a new policing agency will have several impacts on the current PFM, especially considering that the resources needed to effectively manage all other provincial policing costs will not simply just “go away” should some municipalities choose to adopt the IAPS in their community.

Input Challenges

There was no consultation with communities or community members on whether they support the IAPS, or in relation to funding, governance, service delivery, or other operational considerations. RMA members were clear that engagement is necessary to ensure that the IAPS is the correct path for the safety and security of Albertans. It is essential that engagement is pursued, and that relevant data is shared before moving forward with such a transformative new policing agency. Without this information, it remains unclear how or to what extent the IAPS will be effective or solve any existing challenges.

Emergency Management Act Changes

Introduction

If passed, Bill 49 would amend the *Emergency Management Act* (EMA), the legislation that outlines the powers and processes available to the Government of Alberta and local governments to respond to emergencies like floods, wildfires or pandemics. According to the Minister, the changes are intended to strengthen community preparedness and disaster response and recovery, while ensuring an appropriate balance between emergency powers and individual rights.

If passed, amendments will:

- ◆ Add a new preamble to the Act emphasizing Alberta’s commitment to respecting individual and property rights during emergencies.
- ◆ Update the legislated definition of “emergency” to make it clear emergencies are sudden and temporary events, ensuring emergency powers are only used when necessary.
- ◆ Require the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services to consult with the Premier, Cabinet or a Cabinet committee before exercising provincial emergency powers, unless immediate action is required.
- ◆ Require the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services or the local authority leading the local response to publish details of all relevant orders as soon as practicable using any method necessary to inform those most affected.

Analysis

Bill 49 does not remove the ability of a municipality to declare a state of local emergency for themselves; the local authority still only needs to report to the Minister upon declaring a state of local emergency. Despite this, there are a number of provisions in Bill 49 that will impact RMA members. Below is an analysis of the relevant changes made in Bill 49.

Previous Status	Amended Status	RMA Summary/Analysis
N/A	<p>Preamble</p> <p>WHEREAS emergencies require the prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the safety, health or welfare of people or to limit damage to property or the environment;</p> <p>WHEREAS the Government of Alberta and local authorities must be vested with sufficient powers to meet emergencies; and</p> <p>WHEREAS the Government of Alberta and local authorities</p>	<p>The preamble attempts to balance the need for government to respond to emergencies through special powers, and the ability of individuals to make decisions for themselves.</p> <p>RMA is not opposed to recognizing this balance in the Act, but it is important to acknowledge that unique powers and controls are often required during emergencies to protect private life and property.</p>

Previous Status	Amended Status	RMA Summary/Analysis
	must have regard to individual rights and freedoms in the exercise of powers under this Act to meet emergencies.	
Section 1(1)(f) “emergency” means an event that requires prompt co-ordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the safety, health or welfare of people or to limit damage to property or the environment;	Section 1(1)(f) “emergency” means a sudden and temporary event that requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the safety, health or welfare of people or to limit damage to property or the environment;	This limits the application of the EMA to events that are unpredictable or occur for a limited duration. What constitutes “sudden” is not defined, and it is unclear if the EMA would be activated only during events that are spontaneous, or if there is an acceptable time limit before an event to which the EMA may be activated. The way in which this definition is interpreted could have significant impacts in terms of the ability of a municipality to exercise emergency powers, so further clarity is crucial.
<p>6 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations</p> <p>...</p> <p>(c) governing the assessment of damage or loss caused by a disaster and the payment of compensation for the damage or loss;</p> <p>(c.1) respecting the providing of funding for the reimbursement of costs incurred by local authorities and individuals in connection with measures taken to reduce or mitigate potential flood hazards, including, without limitation, regulations</p> <p>(i) prescribing or describing the measures to be taken to reduce or mitigate potential flood</p>	<p>6(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations</p> <p>...</p> <p>(c) governing the assessment of damage or loss caused by a disaster and the provision of financial or other assistance for the damage or loss;</p> <p>(c.1) respecting the provision of financial or other assistance in connection with measures taken to reduce or mitigate potential hazards, including regulations</p> <p>(i) respecting the measures to be taken to reduce or mitigate potential hazards that are eligible for the provision of</p>	<p>This EMA amendment would allow funding through a broader array of tools, from simple compensation for damages suffered during an “emergency” under the EMA, to compensation for the damage, funding assistance to rebuild lost and damaged structures, and the implementation of prevention measures for eligible hazards.</p> <p>The amendments as they currently exist appear to lay the groundwork for the development and implementation of emergency response plans, hazard mitigation, and compensation for damage resulting from a declared emergency; they do not, however, provide direct funding for these measures.</p>

Previous Status	Amended Status	RMA Summary/Analysis
<p>hazards that are eligible for the reimbursement of costs, and</p> <p>(ii) governing the procedures applicable to and the proof required for the reimbursement of costs;</p> <p>(c.2) respecting the filing and removal of caveats against titles to land in a flood fringe or floodway, as those terms are defined pursuant to a disaster recovery program administered under the regulations;</p>	<p>financial or other assistance, and</p> <p>(ii) respecting the procedures applicable to and the proof required for the provision of financial or other assistance;</p> <p>(c.11) respecting the applicants to whom financial or other assistance may be provided, including establishing classes of applicants and providing differently for those classes;</p> <p>(c.2) respecting the filing and removal of caveats against titles to land in a flood fringe or floodway, as those terms are defined pursuant to a program for financial or other assistance administered under the regulations;</p> <p>(2) A regulation made under subsection (1)(c), (c.1), (c.11) or (d) may be made retroactive to the extent set out in the regulation and to a date not earlier than April 1, 2025.</p>	
<p>N/A – section added after section 18</p>	<p>18.1(1) Subject to subsection (2), before the Minister</p> <p>(a) exercises a power under section 19(1) or (1.1), including the exercise of those powers when the Minister makes an order under section 24(1.011), or</p> <p>(b) makes an order under section 19(7) or 24(1.015) to authorize the Managing Director or another person to exercise some or all of the powers given to the Minister</p>	<p>This section outlines the powers of the Minister in an emergency. This includes the authority to put into operation an emergency plan including the acquisition or entry onto personal property, prohibition of travel, ordering evacuation, coordination of supplies, removal of natural barriers, or conscription.</p> <p>This allows the Minister to assume control of any powers of local authorities in respect of an emergency.</p>

Previous Status	Amended Status	RMA Summary/Analysis
	<p>under section 19(1) or (1.1), the Minister must consult at least one of the Premier, the Executive Council or, if a Cabinet Committee has been appointed prior to the exercise of those powers or the making of those orders, the Cabinet Committee.</p> <p>(2) Subsection (1) does not apply if in the Minister’s opinion immediate action is required to protect the safety, health or welfare of people or to limit damage to property or the environment.</p> <p>(3) Subsection (1) does not apply to the Managing Director or another person authorized by an order of the Minister under section 19(7) or 24(1.015) to exercise some or all of the powers given to the Minister under section 19(1) or (1.1).</p>	<p>This addition prohibits the execution of an order made by the Minister in respect of the above-mentioned powers without consulting either the Premier, Executive Counsel, or a relevant Cabinet Committee.</p> <p>The “duty to consult” as administered under this amendment is not extended to the local authorities. The Minister would not be required to consult the local authorities when putting an emergency plan into operation.</p> <p>This section is not applicable to intervention if that action is required to prevent immediate damage to people or the environment. Unlike the amendment to section 1(1) that was unclear as to what qualifies as “sudden and temporary,” this amendment appears to apply to situations that are actively occurring or are immediately about to occur. It is likely that this power will be construed to be limited to natural disasters.</p> <p>RMA is also unclear as to the meaning of “consult” in s. 18.1(1)(b) and whether it requires any type of written confirmation from the consulted party or other verification that consultation took place.</p>
<p>19(7) On the making of an order under section 18(1), the Minister may, by order, authorize the Managing Director or any other person to exercise some or all of the</p>	<p>19(7) On the making of an order under section 18(1), the Minister may, by order, authorize the Managing Director or any other person to exercise some or all of the</p>	<p>The Minister has many powers during an emergency, including the power to prohibit travel, restore essential facilities and distribute essential supplies, coordinate emergency medical services, order evacuations,</p>

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<p>powers given to the Minister under subsection (1) or (1.1).</p> <p>[sub-section (7.1) did not exist]</p>	<p>powers given to the Minister under subsection (1) or (1.1).</p> <p>(7.1) As soon as practicable after an order is made under subsection (1)(e), (f), (g) or (j), the Minister shall make the details of the order publicly available in any manner that the Minister considers is most likely to make the details of the order known to the majority of the population of the area affected by the contents of the order.</p>	<p>removal of livestock, and procure or fix prices of essential supplies within Alberta.</p> <p>This section requires the Minister to make the details about the above requirements known to the public in affected areas by any means necessary. This is likely a response to the perceived lack of information regarding emergency response and spending during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>

Unanswered Questions

Below is a list of questions that RMA has posed to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services regarding changes to the EMA. Please use these questions as you see fit during your municipality’s own conversations with the Ministry.

- ◆ What will the impacts of greater provincial government involvement in emergency management be on municipalities, both logistically and financially? How will the Government of Alberta work with municipalities to understand and mitigate potential local impacts associated with the changes?
- ◆ How will the definition of “emergency” be applied to slow-moving, long-duration, or evolving events, such as extended wildfire seasons, long-term flooding, or persistent exposure to environmental hazards?
- ◆ How will the terms “sudden and temporary” be interpreted in practice?
- ◆ Who is accountable if an emergency declaration is rejected under the changed “emergency” definition and an event leads to significant injury, property damage, or loss of life?
- ◆ Will the amended definition of “emergency” impact eligibility for provincial support of funding tied to declared emergencies?
- ◆ Under what circumstances would the Minister consider overriding municipal authority during an emergency?
- ◆ How does the Ministry plan to balance centralized authority with the essential role of municipalities in coordinating local emergency response?

Have Questions?

Contact Policy Advisor Kallie Wischoff at kallie@RMAAlberta.com.