

## Pat Vincent

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**From:** Tasha Blumenthal [Tasha@aamdc.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 13, 2012 2:28 PM  
**To:** Pat Vincent  
**Subject:** Government Responses to Resolutions from Spring 2012

Hi Pat,

We received the government responses to resolutions carried at the Spring 2012 Convention so I wanted to update you as the sponsoring municipality for 17-11F: FCSS Program.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAMDC membership recommend to the Executive of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties to enter into discussion with Alberta Human Services urging the provincial government to consider greater flexibility and local autonomy in the utilization of Family and Community Support Services funding to identify and meet emerging local social needs.**

### Government Response

Human Services:

Resolution 17-11F calls on the Government of Alberta to consider greater flexibility and local autonomy in the utilization of Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding to identify and meet emerging local social needs.

The FCSS program was designed to fund a variety of preventive community social programs to support families before they reach a crisis. These include youth outreach services, parenting programs, life skill programs and pre-school programs. Community development is an integral component of FCSS. Activities such as environmental scans, service reviews and needs assessments are eligible services.

A key principle of FCSS is local responsibility for priority setting and resource allocation. Within the parameters of the *FCSS Act* and Regulation, each municipality or Métis settlement determines how the FCSS funding they receive should be allocated to best meet the needs of their community. Under the current regulation, services provided under FCSS must not provide primarily for recreational needs or leisure time pursuits, offer direct assistance to sustain an individual (including money, food, clothing or shelter), be primarily rehabilitative in nature, or duplicate services that are ordinarily provided by a government or a government agency.

The FCSS Regulation will expire in June 2013, and is currently being reviewed to ensure that it continues to be current and relevant. An FCSS Regulation Review Working Group has been established to oversee the review, identify any changes or clarifications needed and make recommendations for amendments. The government will be requesting input from local communities and vested organizations, such as the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, to ensure the regulation is meeting local needs as well as the intent of the legislation.

Municipalities and Métis settlements know the priorities of their communities and are in the best position to determine which programs and services receive funding through FCSS. The government will continue to work with its municipal and Métis settlement partners to ensure positive results for each community.

### Next Steps

We will be presenting the government responses to our board next week to determine the Spring 2012 resolution statuses and provide our analysis of the responses. I will put together a member bulletin after the board meeting announcing that the Fall 2012 Report Card will be available on our website and will include all government responses and AAMDC reactions and follow-up for the spring 2012 resolutions. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank-you,