



Laurie Hodge, Executive Director
Alberta Assessor's Association
10555 172 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5S 1P1

Re: Alberta Assessors Association re-application for registration under the *Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act*

Dear Ms. Hodge,

On behalf of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, please accept this letter as indication of our support for the Alberta Assessors' Association's (AAA's) continued membership and registration under the amended *Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act* (POARA).

As the association representing Alberta's rural municipalities, RMA has a strong appreciation for the important and complex work undertaken by professional assessors. Through both RMA's direct collaboration with the AAA, as well as the crucial role that AAA members play in ensuring municipal properties are assessed accurately for property tax purposes within RMA's member municipalities, we are confident that AAA fits within the criteria for registration in the amended POARA.

Respecting the Registrar's consideration of the extent to which an organization safeguards "life, health and the environment" and "the property and economic interests of the public" referenced in section 7(1.1) of the amended Act, there is no question that the AAA and its members do both. Fairly, consistently, and transparently assessing properties for the purposes of municipal property taxation is crucial to ensuring that all Albertans receive quality municipal services and infrastructure, and without a strong assessment system staffed by qualified, regulate professionals, this quality may be at risk.

Respecting specific concerns of "public interest and public safety" referenced in section 9.1 of the amended Act, assessors are privy to confidential and otherwise sensitive information and data. As professionals, they adhere to the highest standard of care owed to ratepayers who trust their assessors not just as municipal agents, but rather professionals regulated under strict legislation superintended by a professional regulator organization.

We hope that the AAA's continued registration under the *Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act* (POARA) will be considered favourably by the Government of Alberta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Rhodes", is written over a white background.

Gerald Rhodes, CLGM, MBA, CAE
Executive Director

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