


Implementation Fact Sheet

Amendments to the Municipal Government Act, 2015-017

Hierarchy and Relationship of Plans

Legislation	Municipal Government Act (MGA) 
Regulation	None
Category	Planning and Development
Section Numbers	s.632, s. 633, s. 634, s. 638, s. 654, s. 680(2) s. 687(3)

Previous MGA requirement:

The MGA identifies the following statutory plans: intermunicipal development plan (IDP), a municipal development plan (MDP), an area structure plan (ASP) and an area redevelopment plan (ARP).

The MGA provides that statutory plans adopted by a municipality must be consistent with one another. Statutory Plans must also be consistent with regional plans adopted under the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act (ALSA)* and a Growth Management Plan adopted by a Growth Management Board provided they are within the area defined by those plans. While the MGA states that ALSA and Growth Management plans prevail if there is an inconsistency, it gives no direction regarding which municipal level statutory plan prevails when provisions in one statutory plan are inconsistent with provisions in another statutory plan.

What's changed?

Municipalities will continue to have the same types of statutory plans and continue to align their statutory plans with ALSA and/or growth management plans that apply to them. The MGA identifies the hierarchy and relationship of statutory plans, so that each plan will be consistent with the plans above it and, in the event of an inconsistency, which provisions in what plan will prevail.

What do municipalities need to know?

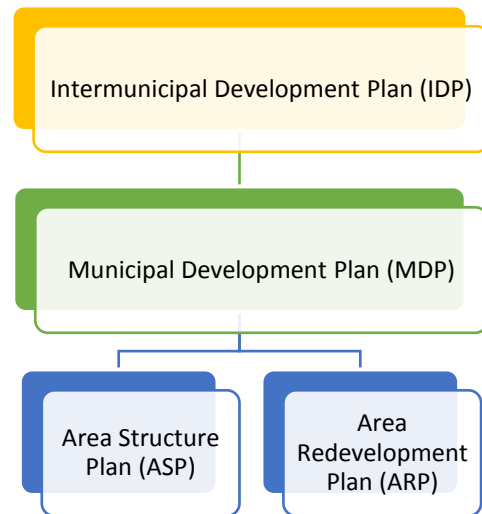
Hierarchy of Plans

- Municipalities, except those that are members of a growth management board, must have an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) and each ICF must include an IDP.
- Municipalities that are members of a growth management board are required to create an ICF with other growth management board members only in respect of those matters that are not addressed in a the growth management plan and must create an ICF with those municipalities with which they have a common boundaries that are not members of that growth management board.
- IDPs are at the top of the hierarchy, where all other statutory plans relating to the area that an IDP covers must be consistent with the IDP. If there is a conflict or inconsistency with another statutory plan, the IDP prevails to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency. **s.638(1)**

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- An MDP must be consistent with any IDP that may be in effect for lands identified in both plans.
[s.632\(4\)](#)
- An ASP must be consistent with any IDP and MDP that is in effect for the lands identified in the plans.
[s.633\(3\)](#)
- An ARP must be consistent with any IDP and MDP that is in effect for the lands identified in the plans.
[s.634\(2\)](#)



Subdivision Authority

- A subdivision authority is bound by the hierarchy of statutory plans when reviewing an application for a subdivision. If a subdivision authority is of the opinion that there may be a conflict or inconsistency between statutory plans, then it is bound by the hierarchy and relationship of plans in making its decision. [s.654\(1\)\(b\)](#)

Appeals

- The Municipal Government Board or the subdivision and development appeal board (SDAB) is bound by the hierarchy of statutory plans when hearing a subdivision appeal and rendering a decision. S. 680(2),
- The SDAB is bound by the hierarchy of statutory plans when hearing a development permit appeal and rendering a decision. [s.687\(3\)](#)

When does this change take place?

- These sections come into force October 26, 2017.

What resources are/will there be available to assist?

- [Municipal Affairs Regional Training Session](#).
- [Municipal Planning Hub](#) (AUMA)
- [Elected Officials Education Program \(EOEP\) – www.eoep.ca \(AAMDC/AUMA\)](#).
- [Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2015](#)



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