



THE FOUNDATION FOR
DEMOCRATIC ADVANCEMENT

MEDIA ADVISORY

March 17, 2014

Government of Alberta's Levy Process Hurts Alberta Taxpayers

In its 44-page report on Alberta's development levy process, the Foundation for Democratic Advancement (FDA) identifies sections of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* which favour development interests at the expense of Alberta taxpayers and municipalities. In small and medium sized municipalities, Alberta taxpayers are having to pay for soft infrastructure such as fire and police services, community halls, and parks in new off-site developments, while they face potentially decreased municipal service and reduction in quality of life. Additionally, small and medium sized municipalities are facing increased debt and financial instability, and an inability to provide all services necessary to maintain and/or develop safe communities.

Some of the [Report](#) Findings

- Section 648(2) of the *MGA* only allows municipalities to charge for hard infrastructure on new off-site developments.
- Large municipalities such as the Cities of Calgary and Edmonton have been bypassing Section 648(2) by signing privately negotiated development agreements with the development industry.
- Alberta's large municipalities all have debt issues.
- Although Alberta's large municipalities have almost caught up to development levy rates from other parts of Canada, Alberta's small and medium sized municipalities are far behind and at a distinct competitive disadvantage compared to Alberta's large municipalities.

On March 16, 2014, the FDA Levy Report was submitted officially to the *MGA* Review.

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The Foundation for Democratic Advancement (FDA) is a registered Canadian not-for-profit organization. The FDA's mission is

to measure, study, and communicate the impact of government processes on a free and democratic society, and thereby hold government accountable. (For more information on the FDA visit: www.democracychange.org)