



**NEWS RELEASE
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**Independent Office of Municipal Auditor General would help local governments
deliver higher value to citizens**

(Calgary, AB) – The Calgary Chamber of Commerce offered strong support for Bill 202, the *Municipal Government (Municipal Auditor General) Amendment Act*, in a letter and submission sent to members of the Standing Committee on Community Services, currently reviewing the legislation.

“The Chamber has long advocated for the creation of a provincial Office of the Municipal Auditor General to improve expenditure and accountability standards,” said Heather Douglas, President & CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. “Strengthening the municipal audit function for Alberta municipal governments will provide assurances to businesses and prospective investors that tax dollars are being spent in compliance with local decisions, stated priorities and business plans, best practices, and due regard to issues of economy and efficiency.”

A provincial Office of Municipal Auditor General would also add external legitimacy and credibility to the municipal audit function, and enable comparisons across municipalities to identify inefficient, duplicative and under-resourced programs; facilitate the sharing of best practices; and assist municipalities in delivering higher value to citizens, commented Douglas.

“Currently, the City Auditor is appointed by Council, directed by Council and reports to Council,” said Douglas. “These types of ‘book-keeping’ audits are primarily to ensure that standard accounting practices are followed and that the books are balanced. An independent Office of Municipal Auditor General is different altogether, and will help municipalities and government departments deliver higher value to their citizens.”

This is increasingly important as City Council is directing a major corporation with operating expenditures over \$2 billion per year and capital spending of \$4 billion over the next three years, remarked Douglas.

The letter and other municipal policy initiatives are available at the Chamber’s website:
www.calgarychamber.com

About the Chamber

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven, sustainable organization whose mission is to connect, serve and champion the Calgary business community in its quest to excel.

The Public & Government Affairs Department measurably contributes to the Chamber’s profile and effectiveness as the leading edge business advocate and forum for debate, and a credible source for policy analysis and issue commentary that advocates new and innovative solutions to improve the business climate on behalf of our members.

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