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Discontinuation of Equalized Assessments For Health Regions and Ambulance Authorities

As a result of the restructuring of health services in Alberta, there is no longer a need to report assessment information and prepare equalized assessments for health regions and ambulance authorities.

On May 15, 2008, one provincial governance board, the Alberta Health Services Board, replaced Alberta's nine regional health authority boards, the Alberta Mental Health Board, Alberta Cancer Board and Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC). The Alberta Health Services Board will be responsible for health services delivery for the entire province and will report directly to the Minister of Health and Wellness.

As part of the restructuring, effective April 1, 2009, the governance and funding of ground ambulance services will be shifted from municipalities to Alberta Health Services. Local municipalities will no longer contribute to the cost of ground ambulance services. This new emergency health services framework provides for a new coordinated governance model to deliver "borderless" provision of ambulance services throughout the province. This framework was supported and enabled by the *Emergency Health Services Act*, which obtained Royal Assent and replaced the *Ambulance Services Act* on December 2, 2008. As a result, municipalities no longer need the equalized assessments as a basis to allocate ambulance service costs.

In light of these changes, it is not necessary to prepare equalized assessments for health regions and ambulance authorities from 2010. Municipalities and assessors are no longer required to report the relating requisitioning body type codes.

If you have any questions, please contact the Assessment Services Branch of Alberta Municipal Affairs at 422-7125, toll free from anywhere in Alberta by first dialing 310-0000.

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