

**E**ach year, the AMM monitors proposed legislation introduced in the Manitoba Legislature. During this year's session, the AMM presented or submitted comments to legislative committees or ministers responsible for the following bills:

### Provincial Land Use Policy Review

**Submission to the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade—November 7, 2005**

The Province updated the Provincial Land Use Policy (PLUP) prior to *The Planning Act* coming into force on January 1, 2006. Policy two guides agricultural development and the amendment focused on enhancing clarity in planning processes. The AMM raised two key concerns regarding this legislation.

First, the animal unit calculation should reflect differences based on species type and confinement period since year-round confinement and pasturing operations each have distinct manure management practices. If the PLUP does not account for these differences, municipalities should be authorized to make suitable adjustments.

Secondly, the amendments make producers responsible for soil surveys for new or expanded livestock operations where such information is not available. This will increase costs for many producers due to the widespread lack of detailed mapping in Manitoba. The Province is responsible for environmental concerns and the costs of assessing soil suitability should not be shifted to individual producers.

AMM continues to raise municipal concerns through the overall review of the Provincial Land Use Policies.



### Bill 14: The Water Rights Amendment Act June 5, 2006

The AMM made a presentation to the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs regarding Bill 14: The Water Rights Amendment Act.

Water protection is a central issue for municipal governments. Developing the legislative framework for the protection of Manitoba's water has involved enacting a number of bills and regulations designed to protect this valuable resource. A key

issue for the AMM has been the need to have adequate enforcement measures in place to ensure compliance with the new rules. The AMM expressed support for Bill 14 as it strengthens the enforcement process.

The AMM also noted that while municipalities, through local conservation districts, have begun developing water plans to manage their water, illegal drainage work does occur which affects even the best laid plans. The AMM suggested that while stronger enforcement measures are appreciated, additional resources should also be considered for the licensing process, as improving the process may reduce the amount of illegal work being done.

**Bill 14 received Royal Assent on June 13, 2006.**

### **Bill 15: The Emergency Measures Amendment Act** *May 24, 2006*

Last May, the AMM made a presentation to the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs around Bill 15: The Emergency Measures Amendment Act.

Overall, the AMM was pleased to see the Provincial Government introduce Bill 15, as it will allow municipalities to issue emergency prevention orders in advance of a disaster's onset. This means that municipalities will be able to take action ahead of time and prevent damages.

The AMM did express concern that there is no guarantee that necessary preventative work will be covered under the current Disaster Financial Assistance program. While the AMM is pleased that Bill 15 gives communities new tools to deal with disasters, without accompanying financial assistance many municipalities will still be unable to take any meaningful action.

Municipalities will benefit from Bill 15 and the ability to enact emergency preparedness orders. This will allow communities to take action to prevent damages when disasters are looming and to work to protect their communities.

***Bill 15 received Royal Assent on June 13, 2006.***

### **Bill 30: The Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act** *June 5, 2006*

The AMM presented to the Standing Committee on Bill 30: The Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act.

This is an important piece of legislation for municipalities as it mandates increased responsibilities for local authorities, primarily increased inspections on public buildings. Municipalities understand the need to ensure

public buildings are safe, and they also understand the benefits to standardizing codes across the province.

Overall, Bill 30 clarifies the roles of both the Province and municipalities in these important areas. While this bill does mandate additional responsibilities for municipalities, the AMM is confident that by working closely with the department, Manitobans will benefit.

***Bill 30 received Royal Assent on June 13, 2006.***

**Other bills passed during this session of interest to the AMM included:**

- **Bill 7: The Architects and Engineers Scope of Practice Dispute Settlement Act** *Received Royal Assent November 30th, 2005*
- **Bill 13: The Conservation Districts Amendment Act** *Received Royal Assent June 13, 2006*
- **Bill 22: The Elections Reform Act** *Received Royal Assent June 13, 2006*

**Copies of all of the AMM's presentations to the Legislative Standing Committees are available on the AMM website at [www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca)**