

## **Disaster Financial Assistance**

- The biggest change in the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program over the past couple of years was the Province's decision to increase the rate of compensation for municipal labour and equipment from 16 to 65 percent.
- This step encouraged the Federal Government to increase its contribution to 40 percent, which considerably improves the assistance available for municipal disaster response.
- There are still outstanding issues with DFA that AMM will continue to raise with the Federal and Provincial Governments.
- For example, municipalities should be allowed to use DFA funding to improve structures where it is more cost-effective and would reduce the impact of future disasters.
- This has been an issue for the AMM for a number of years and its importance was confirmed at our last Convention with a new resolution to change DFA.
- The Federal Government responded to this issue in 2008 when it revised the Disaster Financial Assistance Agreement guidelines with significant improvements for disaster recovery and prevention.
- The guidelines now specify that permanent repairs or replacement to better than pre-disaster conditions are eligible, if it is less costly than the restoration, repair or replacement to the immediate pre-disaster condition.

- It states: Generally, if it is less costly to implement a solution that would prevent the reoccurrence of similar damages, such a solution is eligible.
- Now that a Federal precedent is established, the AMM will continue to lobby the Provincial Government to revise Manitoba's guidelines to reflect the same principles.
- We have also asked the Province to review the process for resolving DFA claims since we continually receive complaints with the way the program is administered.