

Contact the AMM Staff

Joe Masi,
Executive Director
856-2360
jmasi@amm.mb.ca

Linda Hargest,
Director of Administration & Marketing
856-2361
lhargest@amm.mb.ca

Tyler MacAfee,
Director of Policy & Communications
856-2362
tmacafee@amm.mb.ca

Julia Green,
Administrative Assistant
856-2365
jgreen@amm.mb.ca

Cindy Miller,
Communications Coordinator
856-2366
cmiller@amm.mb.ca

Stacy Roteliuk,
Events Coordinator
204-856-2374
sroteliuk@amm.mb.ca

Erin Boutang,
Community Services Policy Analyst
856-2371
eboutang@amm.mb.ca

Janna Switzer,
Property Services Policy Analyst
856-2369
jswitzer@amm.mb.ca

Patti De Baets,
AMM Finance & Promotions
856-2368
pdebaets@amm.mb.ca

Doris Klippenstein,
MTCML Finances & Sales
856-2367
dklippenstein@amm.mb.ca

The AMM fax number is 204-856-2370

Workers Compensation Act

The Province announced that public hearings on the *Workers Compensation Act* are to be conducted by a four-person review committee between April and June. The review committee includes representatives from business, labour and the public interest. Public meetings will be held across Manitoba and written submissions are also being encouraged. Meeting dates, venues and written submissions will be posted on the website at <http://www.wcbactreview.com>. For further information on hearings and how to register to make a presentation, call 1-866-868-4214.

Planning Act introduced

The Province has introduced proposed changes to the *Planning Act* that will change the process by which municipalities evaluate proposed livestock operations. Municipalities will be required to adopt development plans with accompanying maps that clearly set out 'no go' zones for livestock operations and also indicate where they may be considered. Public input would be required for the adoption of development plans and zoning bylaws. The Province would provide direction on minimum siting and setback standards as a guide to municipalities. Through zoning bylaws, RMs would be able to substitute the provincial regulation with stricter location standards. The AMM will send a letter to all members outlining the proposed

changes to Intensive Livestock Operations legislation in the near future.

Water Protection Act

The Province has introduced the *Water Protection Act*, legislation that would enshrine water quality standards, objectives and guidelines into legislation and allow decisions made under the *Environment Act* to be consistent with these standards. The first standard to be introduced under the Act would relate to the treatment of municipal waste. Another important part of the legislation would allow water quality management zones to be established.

The Act would also establish watershed-planning authorities that would develop watershed management plans. Municipal councils would be required to consider water management plans and zones in making planning decisions.

Other components of the legislation include: promoting water conservation; limiting activities that deteriorate water quality; permitting the declaration of a serious water shortage; establishing whistle-blower protection; establishing a new Water Stewardship Fund for projects and research; and creating a new Water Council to advise government.

Income Assistance Act

The Employment and Income Assistance Amendment Act, received royal assent on March 11, 2004. This act transfers the administration of social assistance from municipalities to the Province. The

MB Heavy Construction

1/4 H

bw

#44

AMM is pleased that a one-tier income assistance system will soon be in place as this has been an ongoing lobbying issue since 1999. Provincial administration of social assistance is expected to take effect on June 1, 2004.

Gas Tax Accountability Act

The Province has introduced legislation that would dedicate all provincial road use gas and diesel taxes to Manitoba roads, highways and transportation systems and any new share of federal fuel taxes to municipal roads, highways and infrastructure. This act would also ensure the provincial government is accountable

annually to Manitobans for all road use fuel taxes collected and invested. Also, municipalities will have more revenue to undertake pressing infrastructure repairs and improve the condition of roads within their jurisdiction, an exciting prospect for AMM members.

PM appoints committee

Prime Minister **Paul Martin** announced members of the External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities, including **Jack Hayden**, a former president of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. The Committee's mandate is to develop a

long-term vision on the role communities play in sustaining Canada's quality of life; provide advice as policies are developed related to communities; enrich the discussion of policy options by bringing regional and issue-specific expertise to the table; advise the Parliamentary Secretary on how best to engage provincial and Aboriginal governments in moving forward on the new deal; and complement communications efforts and public activities carried out by Ottawa. Committee members were chosen because of their diverse background, range of interests, and ability to speak on public policy issues linked to municipalities.

New chair for P.U.B.

Graham Lane, former VP of finance and administration at the University of Winnipeg, has been appointed the new chair of the Public Utilities Board. He replaces **Gerry Forrest** who retired as chair on February 6. Forrest will stay on for four months to aid the new chair during a transition period. In addition, Forrest will act as a special advisor as required for a one-year period.

Planning Excellence Award

The Manitoba Planning Excellence Awards recognize individuals, organizations, companies and Manitoba planning authorities in their efforts to enhance communities through innovative and high quality land use planning initiatives. This year's winners included **Garry Haggerty** for the RM of Hanover and **Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram Landscape Architecture & Planning** for its Wolseley Neighbourhood Strategic Plan. Honourable mentions went to the **Wawanesa-Oakland Community Development Corporation** and the **City of Selkirk**.

New tourism agency

Culture, Heritage and Tourism Minister **Eric Robinson** has introduced the *Travel Manitoba Act*, proposed new legislation that would create a Crown agency with the flexibility to seize new tourism opportunities through a public and private partnership. The Travel Manitoba agency would oversee marketing, visitor information services, product development, research and public awareness. A secretariat within the Department would oversee policy and planning functions, as well as liaise with other levels of government.

MB Conservation

1/21

bw

#54