



# Province consulting on Sustainable Development Guidelines

The Province of Manitoba is consulting with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and the Manitoba Municipal Administrators' Association to extend Sustainable Procurement and Financial Management guidelines to municipalities.

The guidelines, required to be adopted by regulation by July 2003 under *The Sustainable Development Act*, will apply to municipalities, school divisions, universities, colleges and regional health organizations. Following adoption of the regulation, the guidelines are to be integrated into the manuals and procedures of these organizations. The Province adopted its own *Sustainable Development Procurement Guidelines* in December 2000, followed by *Financial Management Guidelines* in July 2001.

The regulation will not be prescriptive – it will not tell municipalities what to do. Instead, it will provide a framework and guidelines to become part of your municipality's financial management (program evaluation) and procurement policies. This regulation will help local governments to take into account economic, environmental, human health and social well-being considerations when making purchasing and financial management decisions, and, based on this consideration, to make decisions that are environmentally preferable.

Sustainable procurement means selecting products and services to minimize impacts on the environment, human health and social well-being. In practical terms, this might mean looking at the maintenance and disposal costs of products in addition to their purchase price. It might mean developing a list of environmentally preferable products from your usual supplier. Procurement that supports the principles of sustainable development doesn't have to cost more – it is about selecting products that perform well, minimize environmental impacts and are available at acceptable prices.

Sustainable financial management means taking into account the economic, environmental, health, and social impacts of municipal programs and activities. By recognizing the impacts of municipal activities and identifying impacts, municipalities can select ways of delivering services/performing activities that are environmentally

The *Act* creates a framework through which sustainable development can be implemented in the provincial public sector and promoted in the private sector and society in general.

## What is sustainable development?

Sustainable Development is defined in *The Act* as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

preferable and are sustainable. In practical terms, this means looking at the environmental impacts of programs through all phases of their delivery (including disposal of any waste, if applicable), and monitoring activities to ensure they are being performed in a way that minimizes environmental impacts but does not increase costs.

Thinking about the environment and sustainable development is not new. Many municipalities already consider how their programs or purchasing decisions affect the environment, human health and social well-being. The only change that these guidelines will have for municipalities is that these considerations will now have to be clearly articulated and formally integrated into manuals and policies. This process of integration is expected to be a gradual process that will occur over the months that follow the adoption of the regulation.

The consultations that AMM and MMAA are participating in includes how Manitoba Conservation can support municipalities during integration. The goal is to provide local governments with the tools and information they need to be effective at enhancing the sustainability of municipal programs and procurement. The Manitoba government also helps support procurement and financial management studies and demonstration projects through the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund. Information on this fund is available on Manitoba Conservation’s website at [www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/sdif/index](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/sdif/index).

More information about *The Sustainable Development Act* and the guidelines for municipalities will be available at upcoming AMM and MMAA meetings. You can also learn more about sustainable development in Manitoba at [www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/susresmb](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/susresmb) and [www.gov.mb.ca/gs/psb/green](http://www.gov.mb.ca/gs/psb/green).

## Sustainable development in Manitoba

Following extensive consultations during the mid-1990s, the Province of Manitoba proclaimed *The Sustainable Development Act* in July 1998.

## Why is this important today?

Sustainable development is more important today than it ever has been. Demands from ratepayers, other governments and global factors (such as the Kyoto Protocol) mean that municipalities are responsible for ensuring the services they deliver take into account impacts on the environment, human health and social well-being.

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