

Recreation and leisure funding

By AMM Staff

Manitoba Hydro Programs

There are a number of programs offered by Manitoba Hydro to reduce energy consumption while reducing operating and maintenance costs in residential, commercial and industrial buildings. A selection of these programs are listed below that could assist in recreation and leisure facility upgrades:

Recreation Facilities – evaluation of facilities and comparison to similar facilities within Manitoba; provide potential energy saving measures

Commercial Building Envelope Program – reduction in heating and cooling loads; improve air quality; focus on air barriers, insulation and windows

Commercial Building Optimization Program – improve whole building system performance and operating efficiency; decrease building operation and maintenance costs; extend equipment life

Commercial HVAC – reduce greenhouse gas emissions; reduce maintenance and operating costs; focus on heating equipment, ventilation and air conditioning

Power Smart Design Standards – whole building approach to energy efficient new construction; environmental leadership

Commercial Custom Measures – customized evaluation focused on your needs

A complete list of Manitoba Hydro programs is available at <http://www.hydro.mb.ca/>.



THERE ARE A NUMBER of programs that municipalities access recreation and leisure funding assistance. A brief summary is given below:

Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF)

The MRIF is a program that is sponsored by the Federal Government in order to work in partnership with provinces, territories, municipalities, First Nation communities and the private sector. The MRIF invests in local infrastructure projects that are vital to sustaining economic growth and supporting an enhanced quality of life. Project areas include water, wastewater, solid waste, municipal energy improvements, public transit, cultural, tourism and recreational infrastructure, local roads and broadband connectivity. Priority is given to projects that foster the principles of sustainable development.

In order to achieve a balance between urban and rural infrastructure needs a mini-

mum of 80% of available funding under the MRIF is dedicated to municipalities with a population of less than 250,000. Funding is cost-shared on a one-third basis, although flexibility is granted in areas with unique circumstances or where communities have no tax base. In Manitoba, the program is delivered through Western Economic Diversification for municipal projects and through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for First Nation communities. Currently projects are selected through the use of a joint federal-provincial/territorial Management Committee. The AMM participates in this committee in an advisory capacity within the Manitoba negotiations.

Between 2005 and 2007 the MRIF supplied \$120M for municipal infrastructure projects in Manitoban communities. Unfortunately this funding was supposed to be allocated over five years and therefore a gap in funding has been created. Currently Manitoba's portion of the MRIF has been depleted indicating the high need

for this type of project funding. There are a few projects that were not completed following approval by the Management Committee and those funds will likely be redistributed to alternative applicants. It is expected that the Federal Government will direct new funding to the MRIF following the release of the 2007 budget.

Building Manitoba Fund

The Building Manitoba Fund was established in 2005 in order to invest approximately \$600M in Manitoba municipalities over five years. This fund has taken the place of Manitoba's Provincial Municipal Tax Sharing (PMTS) agreement and expanded the funds available by the equivalent share of fuel taxes therefore providing two sources of growth revenue for municipalities. The income tax sharing will be 4.5% of corporate and personal income taxes. The fuel tax share is the equivalent of three cents per litre (two cents per litre from the gas tax plus one cent per litre from the diesel fuel tax).

The Building Manitoba Fund is providing \$83.1M to Winnipeg in 2006/2007 and \$45.7M to other municipalities in the same time period. These are increases of \$4.5M and \$3.4M respectively for this year. In 2006 a portion of the fund was dedicated to municipal recreation and library facilities and by 2008 this dedicated allotment should provide \$7.0M for this purpose.

Neighbourhoods Alive!

The Neighbourhoods Alive! program is a Provincial Government initiative that was designed to provide community organizations in designated neighbourhoods with needed support for long-term, community-based, social and economic development strategies. Neighbourhoods Alive supports community projects in the following areas: housing, physical improvements, employment, training, education, recreation, safety and crime prevention.

Another vital portion of the Neighbourhoods Alive! program are Lighthouses. Lighthouses enhance public safety through the provision of recreation, education and social programs for young Manitobans. Lighthouses use schools, recreation centres and community facilities outside school hours for sports, arts, music and other activities organized by and for local youth. This program funds a wide variety of recreation and other programs that promote anti-vandalism, safety and crime prevention and community relationship-building. Funding for Lighthouse sites is

available up to \$1,000 per month with the Provincial Government covering as much as 50% of the operating costs.

Neighbourhoods Alive! was recently expanded to include five more communities - Dauphin, Flin Flon, The Pas, Portage la Prairie and Selkirk. Currently the Provincial Government is creating criteria that will be used to service the maximum number of communities within the current mandate.

Community Places

The Community Places program is a Provincial Government initiative that provides grants and technical assistance to not-for-profit community organizations for projects that provide recreation and wellness facility infrastructure to communities. Since the program's inception in 1986 a majority of projects have focused on the repair of existing facilities with increasing emphasis on environmental sustainability and those that increase use of the facility. Projects however can include facility construction, facility upgrades, capital acquisitions and expansions. In 2006/2007 funding was allocated to 22 community groups with a total of \$167,800.

Applications for the Community Places Program are available in November of each year and are due in February. Successful applicants are notified in the spring. The Community Places Program provides funding to successful applicants for up to 50% of the first \$15,000 of project costs and up to one-third of project costs over that amount. The maximum grant is \$50,000.

Millennium Trail Development

Millennium Trail Development grants are designed to assist local trail associations in the creation of trails that promote outdoor recreation and healthy physical activity. The Province of Manitoba initiated the Manitoba Millennium Trail Development Project in 2000. The initiative provides funding for the development and construction of the Trans Canada Trail and other independent local and regional trails.

The Manitoba Recreation Trails Association administers up to 50% of eligible project costs. Eligible costs include technical/professional services, wages and benefits, materials, equipment rentals and directional and regulatory signage. Ineligible costs include expenditures for the purchase of land, tools and equipment, legal fees, consultant's fees, finance charges, meals and travel costs. ☺

Recent funding announcement from the Building Manitoba Fund:

Village of Benito

- \$100,000 for library upgrades

City of Flin Flon

- \$400,000 for community recreation facilities

City of Thompson

- \$500,000 for regional recreation centre

RM of Alexander

- \$400,000 for new library construction

Selkirk, St. Andrews, St. Clements

- \$600,000 for new regional library

Dauphin

- \$200,00 for recreation complex parking lot

Town of Grandview

- \$500,000 for new community hall

Websites

MRIF

- www.infrastructure.gc.ca/ip-pi/mrif-fimr/info_e.shtml

Building Manitoba Fund

- www.gov.mb.ca/finance

Neighborhoods Alive!

- www.gov.mb.ca/ia/programs/neighborhoods

Community Places

- www.gov.mb.ca/chc/grants

Millennium Trail Development

- www.mrta.mb.ca/documents/ManitobaMillenniumFundCriteria2002.pdf

