

UPDATE *from Broadway*



On June 13, the 4th session of the 38th Legislature ended with 45 bills passed, including the 2005-2006 Budget. There were four bills of particular interest to municipalities that were passed this session.

BILL 13: The Conservation Districts Amendment Act

This bill provides for greater public representation on the Conservation Districts Commission. The AMM, as one of the legislated members of the Commission, believes adding greater public representation will strengthen the process. The AMM also highlighted the need to review the antiquated Act and the need to respond to the growing responsibilities of municipalities and conservation districts in environmental requirements.

BILL 14: The Water Rights Amendment Act

This bill creates greater enforcement measures for illegal drainage work. The AMM supported this bill, since all the work being done to plan and manage water in the province will be lost without enforcement to ensure compliance. The AMM did stress the need to ensure that adequate resources are available in issuing licenses, since in some cases the illegal work being done is a result of delays in the permitting process.

BILL 15: The Emergency Measures Amendment Act

This bill amends the Emergency Measures Act to allow municipalities to issue emergency prevention orders in advance of disasters. Bill 15 also makes improvement to the communications process and will require provincial departments to develop emergency plans. The AMM also took this opportunity to highlight the major problems that remain with the emergency recovery system, namely the need for compensation beyond the 16% currently covered when municipalities use their own labour and equipment. The AMM

supports municipalities with additional tools in emergency preparedness, however there must be corresponding financial assistance.

BILL 30: The Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act

This bill mandates increased responsibilities for local authorities in carrying out fire inspections on public buildings. The AMM supported this bill due to the importance of ensuring public safety and because of the assurances from the Province to work with municipalities to determine the timelines for inspections and the prioritization of buildings. The Province also committed to providing training if municipalities want to have the inspections done by in-house staff. There is also an option to contract inspections out to an approved third party. ☺

Other bills of interest that were passed this session include the *Official Time Amendment Act*, *The Architects and Engineers Scope of Practice Dispute Settlement Act*, the *Public Health Act* and the *Elections Reform Act*.

To view any of the AMM's presentations on these or any bills, check out the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca/pol_leg.

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