

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

Agriculture funding

In November 2003, Federal Agriculture Minister **Lyle Vanclief** announced \$120 million in funding for cattle producers to remove mature breeding stock, or cull cows, from their herds. The funding is available at a rate of \$159 per animal slaughtered between September 1, 2003, and December 31, 2004, with an additional \$1 per day per animal for feeding costs.

2004 Rural Forum

Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives **Rosann Wowchuk** has announced that the **2004 Rural Forum** will take place April 22 to 24 at the Keystone Centre in Brandon. This year's Forum will include skills development seminars, workshops for rural leaders, and a Youth Forum, including a Youth Town Hall Meeting with government ministers.

Rural and northern income assistance

Family Services and Housing Minister **Christine Melnick** recently introduced legislation that will make the Province responsible for administration of all

income assistance in rural and northern Manitoba. This move follows the AMM's request to have a one-tier system of income assistance that would provide all Manitobans with consistent benefits, policies, and programs.

Lecuyer appointed

Gerard Lecuyer has been appointed to replace **Terry Duguid** as the chair of the Clean Environment Commission panel reviewing the proposed Wuskwatim Hydro Generating Station and Transmission Project. Mr. Lecuyer, a former Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for Workplace Safety and Health, assumed his role as chair of the panel on December 5, 2003.

Kudos for crime prevention program

The Lighthouses crime prevention program, part of the Province's Neighbourhoods Alive! Program, has received a glowing review in an independent study. Lighthouses provides funding to keep friendship centres, schools, and other facilities open evenings and weekends to support youth and find positive ways for them to spend

their time. The study, which recommended expansion of the program, said that between 88 and 93% of youth felt that the programs provided a safe environment that increased their sense of self-worth and self-confidence.



Changes on Broadway

The Manitoba Legislature has seen some changes recently. With the addition of new Cabinet members **Nancy Allan,**

Jim Rondeau, Stan Struthers, Peter Bjornson, and **Christine Melnick,** and the addition of two new departments (Water Stewardship and Healthy Living), the departments of the Government of Manitoba and their Ministers are as follows:

- Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
- The Hon. Oscar Lathlin
- Advanced Education and Training
- The Hon. Diane McGifford
- Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
- The Hon. Rosann Wowchuk
- Conservation - The Hon. Stan Struthers
- Culture, Heritage and Tourism - The Hon. Eric Robinson
- Education, Citizenship and Youth
- The Hon. Peter Bjornson
- Energy, Science and Technology
- The Hon. Tim Sale
- Family Services and Housing
- The Hon. Christine Melnick
- Finance - The Hon. Greg Selinger
- Health - The Hon. David Chomiak
- Healthy Living - The Hon. Jim Rondeau
- Industry, Economic Development and Mines
- The Hon. Scott Smith

- Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade
- The Hon. MaryAnn Mihychuk
- Justice - The Hon. Gord Mackintosh
- Labour and Immigration
- The Hon. Nancy Allan
- Transportation and Government Services
- The Hon. Ron Lemieux
- Water Stewardship
- The Hon. Steve Ashton

Hometown Manitoba

Rural and northern communities in Manitoba will be assisted in developing their main streets and public spaces by the Province's new **Hometown Manitoba program**. The program will offer up to \$1,000 to enhance or create downtown green spaces, and develop and upgrade outdoor public and non-profit facilities such as parks, youth/senior centres, and libraries. The deadline for projects beginning in the fall of 2004 is April 15. For eligibility criteria and application forms, call toll-free 1-800-567-7334, email ruralinits@gov.mb.ca or check out the website at www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/news/hometown_mb_broch.pdf

Employment for international students

International students at Manitoba's post-secondary institutions will soon be able to work off-campus. The two-year pilot project will permit full-time students to apply for an open work permit after completing one year of study. The goal is to create closer ties between the students and the communities in which they study, and to make Manitoba's post-secondary institutions more attractive to prospective students.

FCM to fund MMEP

The AMM was pleased to learn that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Council has approved funding for the **Manitoba Municipal Efficiency Program**. This program, based on a pilot project, is intended to enable municipalities to reduce operating and maintenance costs by assisting them to identify and implement energy and water efficiency measures. Sixteen municipalities have signed on for the one-year program set to begin in 2004. The AMM would like to thank all of the partner organizations involved with the application and looks forward to the audits beginning soon. ●