

Meeting of the  
**Association of  
Manitoba  
Municipalities**



with

The Honourable Nancy Allan

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Minister of Labour & Immigration

February 15, 2006

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## A) Executive Summary

### Departmental Issues

#### 1. Architects and Engineers Legislation

- The introduction and expedient passing of Bill 7 – *The Architects and Engineers Scope of Practice Dispute Settlement Act* was a valuable demonstration of the Province's ability to respond to municipal concerns.
- The previous legislation required substantial time and financial obligations of municipalities, and the recent amendments will allow for optimization of these resources.

**Therefore, the AMM would like to take this opportunity to thank the Province for working quickly to clarify provisions of the architects and engineers acts.**

#### 2. Traffic Control and Compensation Costs for Motor Vehicle Accidents

- The AMM was pleased to learn that the rates for basic and complex calls will increase to \$600 and \$800 respectively.
- Municipalities also require a minimum level of compensation every time they respond to a 911 call related to a motor vehicle accident and MPIC should meet this requirement.
- The Office of the Fire Commissioner has acknowledged the contribution firefighters make regarding traffic control and responded by providing training tailored to this service.
- MPIC must adjust its policies to accommodate the full responsibility of municipal fire departments and provide compensation for traffic control.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide full compensation when municipal fire departments respond to motor vehicle accidents and to recognize the firefighter role in traffic control.**

#### 3. Increased Fire Inspections

- Funding for municipal fire departments is an ongoing concern and mandating any additional services creates further difficulties in allocating adequate resources at the local level.
- Many municipal fire departments were apprehensive about recent correspondence from the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), which advised that a legislative change would be forthcoming and requested that fire departments count the number of buildings in their jurisdiction categorized as Group A, B, C and F1 occupancies.

- To fulfill an obligation for increased inspections, many fire chiefs would require further training related to these specific occupancy types.
- Municipalities would therefore incur increased costs to ensure appropriate expertise is available. As well, municipalities would be subject to the increased wages required to conduct annual inspections on an exhaustive list of additional buildings.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that inspections of facilities designated as Group A, B, C and F1 occupancies are not downloaded to municipal fire departments.**

#### 4. Increased Funding for Mutual Aid Districts

- Each municipality participating in a mutual aid district must offer a certain standard of service in order to enter a reciprocal agreement, which means possessing appropriate equipment and access to trained firefighters.
- Ongoing training is therefore an important investment for municipal fire departments, yet there are insufficient resources at the municipal level to respond to this demand.
- Extensive training is necessary to ensure that firefighters are skilled in all areas and to avoid liability issues that may arise if their skills are called into question.
- The municipal and Provincial investment in firefighter training grants will promote the retention of volunteer firefighters while investing in the quality of fire departments across Manitoba.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to increase the training grant to each mutual aid district to \$12,000.**

#### 5. Province-Wide 911 Subscriptions

- The Provincial Government must support the expansion of 911 services throughout Manitoba and enable all municipalities to participate in this critical emergency service.
- Municipalities are appreciative of the ambulance enhancements and anticipate faster response time and more efficient dispatch as a result of the centralized services of the Medical Transportation Coordination Centre.
- The new system will only function properly if there is enough staff in place to respond to all incoming calls.
- Since improved technology will be available in all Manitoba's ambulances it is necessary for all municipalities to provide 911 service to their residents.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that all Manitobans have access to 911 services by adequately staffing the Medical Transportation Coordination Centre and by enacting mandatory 911 legislation for all municipalities.**

## General Issues

### 6. The Municipal Agenda

- Manitoba's municipal governments continue to take on increasingly greater responsibilities. As the importance of local community increases, it is necessary that the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal government be examined.
- Unclear legislation, such as the Water Protection Act, concern municipal governments because the financial costs in implementing and enforcing this Act are great. Infrastructure needs in municipalities throughout the province are at the top of municipal agendas however the municipal budgets are stretched thin.
- Some options to support municipal governments to serve their communities effectively are removing education tax from property and exempting municipal governments from the Provincial Sales Tax.

**The AMM urges the Province to work with municipalities to seriously examine the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal governments in Manitoba.**

## B) Departmental Issues

### 1. Architects and Engineers Legislation

At a time when there are high demands on municipal budgets, the AMM appreciates actions taken to ease the administrative and financial responsibilities of municipalities. The introduction and expedient passing of Bill 7 – *The Architects and Engineers Scope of Practice Dispute Settlement Act* was a valuable demonstration of the Province’s ability to respond to municipal concerns.

Municipalities are particularly appreciative of the clarification of the roles of architects and engineers regarding construction projects. Each profession has an essential role in building design and municipalities will continue to make use of both areas of expertise for various projects. At the same time, the new legislation makes provisions that will ensure municipalities employ the professionals most appropriate for the particular project without an unnecessary duplication of services. The previous legislation required substantial time and financial obligations of municipalities, and the recent amendments will allow for optimization of these resources. It is beneficial that the details of the legislation will be addressed through the Building Standards Board since the AMM will continue to represent a municipal perspective on that committee.

**Therefore, the AMM would like to take this opportunity to thank the Province for working quickly to clarify provisions of the architects and engineers acts.**

## 2. Traffic Control and Compensation Costs for Motor Vehicle Accidents

The role of municipal fire departments has evolved to include a variety of services relating to motor vehicle accidents. In many cases, firefighters are well-suited to respond to motor vehicle accidents and are able to provide services beyond fire control, such as extrication, environmental protection and traffic control. Since there are considerable staffing and equipment costs associated with these duties, municipal fire departments should be eligible for compensation through Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPIC). The cost of traffic control is directly related to the motor vehicle accident, therefore all fire department response should be covered through Manitoba's vehicle insurance system.

There have been significant improvements to MPIC's compensation rates for fire departments over the past year. The AMM was pleased to learn that the rates for basic and complex calls will increase to \$600 and \$800 respectively. Municipal fire departments will have a greater ability to provide the necessary services with this access to additional compensation. To ensure that the policy remains effective, it will be valuable to revisit the rates at regular intervals, such as every three years. Consistent reviews will determine whether the rates are continuing to provide compensation for the actual costs of responding to accidents. Overall, the compensation system for municipal fire departments has been substantially enhanced by the increase in rates.

However, there are two areas where municipal fire department response is inadequately compensated. First, municipal fire departments are required to respond to any call that has been dispatched through the local 911 service. Even when these 911 calls are false alarms, the fire departments have provided a necessary service by responding to the call and

attending the scene of a potential motor vehicle accident. There is a cost associated with these calls, due to the fuel that is consumed and the firefighter wages that must be paid. Therefore, municipalities require a minimum level of compensation every time they respond to a 911 call related to a motor vehicle accident and MPIC should meet this requirement.

The second area of concern relates to the fact that firefighters are taking on additional responsibilities at accident scenes. In particular, traffic control is a major issue since the RCMP is officially responsible for providing this service. Resources are limited in all areas of emergency response, including the RCMP, and municipalities recognize that firefighters undertake a valuable role by conducting traffic control at accident scenes. The safety of all passersby and emergency responders must be preserved while an accident is cleared—a process that often takes hours to complete. The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) has acknowledged the contribution firefighters make regarding traffic control and responded by providing training tailored to this service. Ensuring firefighters are trained is essential to avoid the liability issues they could face due to lack of knowledge and experience related to traffic control. However, the widespread need for this training illustrates that the responsibility for traffic control has shifted from the RCMP to municipal fire departments. It no longer matters that the RCMP is officially responsible for traffic control because when accidents occur, it is understood that firefighters will provide this service. Therefore, MPIC must adjust its policies to accommodate the full responsibility of municipal fire departments and provide compensation for traffic control.

Motor vehicle accidents cause considerable damage and municipal emergency response mechanisms are in place to minimize the incremental harm that can result following an

accident. A range of activities is required of municipal firefighters, and the benefits provided by these volunteers must be reflected with compensation from the vehicle insurance provider.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide full compensation when municipal fire departments respond to motor vehicle accidents and to recognize the firefighter role in traffic control.**

AMM Resolution Number 64-2005

**Topic:** Traffic Control Training and Compensation

**Sponsors:** RM of Rossburn (Mid-Western District), RM of Macdonald (Central District)

**Department:** Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, Manitoba Labour & Immigration

WHEREAS rural fire departments are now required to provide traffic control services whenever a vehicle(s) accident or fire occurs on a highway;

AND WHEREAS rural firefighters are primarily volunteers and are not trained nor compensated to provide such services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government and Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation to provide each rural fire department adequate training and compensation if such service is to continue or, failing that, designate other resources to provide traffic control services.

AMM Resolution Number 67 – 2005

**Topic:** Increased Compensation for Accident Response

**Sponsors:** RM of Macdonald (Central District)

**Department:** Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, Manitoba Labour & Immigration

WHEREAS Fire Departments across Manitoba are called upon on a regular basis to attend motor vehicle accidents and fires along Provincial and Municipal roads;

AND WHEREAS because RCMP resources are limited, Fire Departments are being asked to provide traffic control services in addition to regular fire services;

AND WHEREAS responding to motor vehicle accidents requires specialized equipment and training which adds to the financial demands on municipal fire departments;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPIC) will not always compensate Fire Departments for many situations they are asked to respond to by the public which involve vehicles insured by MPIC;

AND WHEREAS the amount of compensation provided by MPIC is set at a maximum amount limited to fire fighting and extrication services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, to increase the present maximum compensation paid for firefighting and extrication services.

## AMM Resolution Number 88-2001

**Topic:** Minimum Payment for Response to Vehicle Accidents

**Sponsors:** RM of Wallace

**Departments:** Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation

WHEREAS at present fire departments are receiving calls to accidents from 911 and in some cases they do not qualify for any compensation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Province to provide a minimum of \$200 compensation for any calls to accidents on numbered highways initiated by 911.

### 3. Increased Fire Inspections

Municipal fire departments are an integral component of community safety programming since they offer a variety of services designed to prevent and respond to emergency situations. The vast majority of Manitoba's municipalities rely on volunteers to ensure that local fire departments are adequately staffed to implement this programming. These volunteers take on vital responsibilities by devoting their time to firefighting duties, as well as to the training required to prepare for these tasks. Funding for municipal fire departments is an ongoing concern and mandating any additional services creates further difficulties in allocating adequate resources at the local level.

For this reason, many municipal fire departments were apprehensive about the September 2005 correspondence from the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC). This correspondence advised that a legislative change would be forthcoming and requested that fire departments count the number of buildings in their jurisdiction that are categorized as Group A, B, C and F1 occupancies. These broad categories are defined by the Manitoba Building Code to encompass a wide variety of buildings since they represent assembly occupancies, care or detention occupancies, residential occupancies and high hazard occupancies. Municipalities consistently contain many of these occupancy types such as schools, community clubs, personal care homes, motels, grain elevators and seed cleaning plants. These examples are only a very small selection from the list provided by the OFC, demonstrating that the proposed legislative change would have a substantial impact on many municipalities.

In particular, fire departments have been advised that amendments to *The Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act* will be proposed, resulting in further inspection responsibilities at the municipal level. To fulfill such an obligation, many fire chiefs would require further training related to the inspection of these specific occupancy types. Municipalities would therefore incur increased costs to ensure appropriate expertise is available. As well, municipalities are subject to the increased wages required to conduct annual inspections on an exhaustive list of additional buildings. If this amendment moves forward, it will download responsibilities and costs to the municipal government while further limiting resources for municipal fire departments.

Municipalities and fire departments support initiatives that promote fire safety and the well-being of residents. Inspections are certainly a vital part of an overall fire prevention mandate, however municipalities do not have the capacity to conduct additional inspections due to a lack of training and financial resources at the local level.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that inspections of facilities designated as Group A, B, C and F1 occupancies are not downloaded to municipal fire departments.**

AMM Resolution Number 74 – 2005

**Topic:** Increased Fire Inspections

**Sponsors:** RM of Ritchot (Eastern District)

**Department:** Manitoba Labour & Immigration

WHEREAS the Office of the Fire Commissioner has requested information from municipal fire departments regarding the number of buildings which fall into inspection jurisdiction categories Groups A, B, C and F1;

AND WHEREAS this information is being gathered prior to the Office of the Fire Commissioner proposing changes to the Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act;

AND WHEREAS these changes would mandate municipalities to be responsible and liable for conducting annual inspections on such buildings as :

- Assembly Occupancies: theatres, churches, clubs and community halls, gymnasias, lecture halls, libraries, licensed beverage establishments, restaurants, museums, schools and colleges, arenas, rinks;
- Care or detention facilities such as jails, psychiatric hospitals, daycares, nursing homes, personal care homes, hospitals, apartments, motels, hotels;
- High hazard occupancies such as body shops, spray coating operations, chemical warehouses, bulk plants for flammable liquids, bulk storage warehouses for hazardous substances, grain elevators, seed cleaning plants, flour mills, rubber processing, cereal mills, feed mills, etc.;

AND WHEREAS this would place an onerous burden on municipalities to be liable for the inspections and to find or train qualified personnel to conduct the annual inspections;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to ensure that inspections of facilities designated Groups A, B, C, and F1 occupancies continue to be inspected by the Province and that this responsibility not be downloaded to the municipalities.

#### 4. Increased Funding for Mutual Aid Districts

Municipalities have established mutual aid districts in an effort to maximize emergency response resources while assisting neighbouring municipalities to protect the safety of their residents. Each participating municipality must offer a certain standard of service in order to enter a reciprocal agreement, which means possessing appropriate equipment and access to trained firefighters. With the growing demands on municipal fire departments, there is also a growing demand for firefighters to be prepared to respond to a variety of emergency situations. Ongoing training is therefore an important investment for municipal fire departments, yet there are insufficient resources at the municipal level to respond to this demand.

Mutual aid districts are formed specifically to respond to large-scale emergencies that a single municipality would not have the resources to address. This could either be an isolated emergency that is beyond the capability of the local fire department, or when there are more fire calls or emergencies than the local fire department can attend. Therefore, the nature of mutual aid districts is such that specialized expertise is required. This raises the importance of ensuring that firefighters are prepared to address a range of emergency situations. In addition to basic firefighting skills, it is valuable to have trained firefighters who can conduct vehicle extrication, traffic control, hazardous materials containment and various rescue operations. Extensive training is necessary to ensure that firefighters are skilled in all areas and to avoid liability issues that may arise if their skills are called into question. Based on these demands, firefighters must be well-prepared for any type of situation when they respond to an emergency call and targeted training is crucial.

Part of the difficulty of recruiting sufficiently trained firefighters is that the majority of municipal fire departments rely on volunteers. As a result, volunteers will likely require training in order to be prepared for emergency response responsibilities. These individuals are already offering to risk their own safety and also end up incurring costs such as taking unpaid time off work and replacing damaged clothing. The Office of the Fire Marshal in Ontario states that volunteer firefighters provide a provincial resource estimated to save residents over \$1 billion annually. While the magnitude of the savings in Manitoba may not be a comparable amount, financial savings certainly accrue as a result of the reliance on volunteers to provide firefighting services. To support this volunteer infrastructure it is essential to provide incentives for individuals to continue volunteering as a firefighter. The municipal and Provincial investment in firefighter training grants will promote the retention of volunteer firefighters while investing in the quality of fire departments across Manitoba.

The existing annual grant of \$6,500 is greatly appreciated by mutual aid districts and has resulted in enhanced training opportunities for many firefighters. At the same time, the cost of training is growing and the complexity of training needs requires increased support for training purposes. Currently, municipalities are absorbing a greater share of these training costs, since the existing grant covers only a small portion of the required training.

Municipalities have limited resources to finance training for their firefighters and, as volunteers, it would be difficult for individuals to bear these costs. Along with municipalities and residents, the Provincial Government benefits from the services provided by volunteer fire departments and mutual aid districts.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to increase the training grant to each mutual aid district to \$12,000.**

## AMM Resolution Number 53 – 2005

**Topic:** Increased Funding to Mutual Aid Districts

**Sponsors:** RM of Coldwell (Interlake District)

**Department:** Manitoba Labour & Immigration

WHEREAS the Province has a limit of up to \$6,500.00 for cost sharing of firefighter training in each Mutual Aid District.

AND WHEREAS firefighter training is getting more expensive;

AND WHEREAS firefighters need more training for liability issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to increase funding to each Mutual Aid district to \$12,000.00.

## 5. Province-Wide 911 Subscriptions

Efficient access to emergency services can only be achieved if local response teams are dispatched in a timely manner. The process for calling for help must be quick and easy in these stressful situations since time delays can cause tragedies. In rural and remote areas emergency response may take longer due to geographic limitations, therefore every effort should be made to take advantages of potential system efficiencies. The Provincial Government has a role alongside municipal governments since ambulances are managed at the provincial level. Therefore, the Provincial Government must support the expansion of 911 services throughout Manitoba and enable all municipalities to participate in this critical emergency service.

The establishment of the new Medical Transportation Coordination Centre (MTCC) will make a significant difference due to the incorporation of advanced technologies, such as global positioning systems (GPS), throughout Manitoba's ambulance fleet. Municipalities are appreciative of the ambulance enhancements and anticipate faster response time and more efficient dispatch as a result of the centralized services.

As the MTCC begins operations, two key issues must be addressed. First, the system will only function properly if there is enough staff in place to respond to all incoming calls.

There are gaps in the current service provision whereby callers have been placed on hold or asked to call back at another time. This is unacceptable for an emergency response centre whose purpose is to assist those in an immediate crisis. Media reports indicate that the MTCC will employ 31 staff members trained to handle emergency 911 calls. The Provincial Government should also commit to an ongoing evaluation of this staffing level to ensure that

all calls are answered in a timely manner. Emergency response is a crucial part of Manitoba's health care system and timely response is necessary in these urgent situations.

Secondly, since improved technology will be available in all Manitoba's ambulances it is necessary for all municipalities to provide 911 service to their residents. Efficient emergency response should be available to all Manitobans regardless of where they reside or where emergencies occur. Furthermore, a consistent system across Manitoba facilitates the process of accessing assistance and minimizes the time required to call for help. The AMM membership has passed a resolution requesting that the Provincial Government legislate mandatory 911 subscription within all municipalities in Manitoba. Such a provision would enhance the MTCC and allow all municipalities to access the economies of scale offered by the new system.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that all Manitobans have access to 911 services by adequately staffing the Medical Transportation Coordination Centre and by enacting mandatory 911 legislation for all municipalities.**

AMM Resolution Number 54 – 2005

**Topic:** Staffing 911 Call Centre

**Sponsors:** Town of Shoal Lake (Mid-Western District)

**Department:** Manitoba Labour & Immigration

WHEREAS 911 is an essential emergency service in all of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the City of Brandon hosts the 911 Call Centre for rural Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS citizens had recent incidents where all 911 operators were so busy that emergency callers were instructed to "hold" or to "call later";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to provide funding to assist with the provision of adequate staffing for the rural 911 Call Centre.

## AMM Resolution Number 32 – 2003

**Topic:** Mandatory 911 Subscription

**Sponsors:** City of Brandon (Western District)

**Department:** Manitoba Labour & Immigration

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AMM urge the Provincial Government to legislate mandatory 911 subscription within all municipalities in the Province;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this legislation include a completion date for system implementation of June 30, 2005.

## C) General Issues

### 6. The Municipal Agenda

Municipal government is playing a more important role in the every day lives of Canadians. No longer is the local council seen as merely the local tax collector and tertiary service provider. Today, municipal governments have greater responsibilities, often playing a leading role in key areas that are not traditionally municipal in nature, such as health care and environmental protection. As the importance of the local community grows, municipal government, as the level of government closest to the people, is becoming more important. As a result, it is critical that a serious examination be undertaken of the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal government in Manitoba.

Nationally, through the work of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, municipal governments have been able to secure a full rebate of the GST as well as the New Deal for Communities or 'Gas Tax Rebate.' Community issues have become front and centre on the nation stage, and the AMM is pleased with the recognition by the federal government of the importance of local government and the need to put resources in the hands of the order of government that delivers key services.

Provincially, municipal government in Manitoba has seen some advances as well. Most recently the Province announced the new Building Manitoba Fund that will link municipal grant money to provincial gas tax revenues. Manitoba is also unique in that the Provincial Government shares a percentage of income tax with municipalities through the Provincial Municipal Tax Sharing agreement.

While these initiatives are certainly positive, more is needed. Many of the resolutions currently being worked on by the AMM deal with issues of funding, or more specifically inadequate funding levels. A serious discussion of the resources available to municipalities needs to be undertaken. However for this discussion to be fruitful, it must be raised within the greater context of what are and what should be the responsibilities of municipal government.

Municipal government in this province has embraced taking on additional responsibilities as these have been seen to be for the betterment of the local community. For instance, many municipalities have gone to great lengths to help provincial RHAs recruit physicians. As well, municipalities have undertaken projects to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the environment. Yet there are limits to how much municipalities can do with their current revenue streams.

We have consistently heard from the Province that Manitoba municipalities fare better than almost every other province in terms of funding transfers from provincial governments. However, this discussion is meaningless without a discussion of the responsibilities of these municipal governments. If Manitoba's municipalities are continually expected to take on additional responsibilities it is imperative that new revenue sources are made available.

For example, a major municipal issue is the financial implications of the recently passed Water Protection Act. While the intent behind this legislation is laudable, the overwhelming lack of detail, especially in the area of responsibilities and finances, has many municipal governments concerned. Municipal governments cannot take on the financial costs

associated with implementing and enforcing this Act. The Municipal budget is already stretched too thin.

The current municipal infrastructure deficit in Manitoba further compounds the need to re-examine the resources available to municipalities. Communities are facing crumbling roads, deteriorating community centres and inadequate water treatment facilities. It is estimated that Manitoba's infrastructure deficit is \$7.4 billion, which includes \$2 billion in rural municipal infrastructure and \$1 billion within the City of Winnipeg. These are staggering numbers when compared to the revenue streams available to these municipalities. When only 7 cents of every tax dollar goes to municipalities, it is evident there is a lack of resources to deal with this deficit.

This is why the AMM has been advocating for a 5-year plan to significantly reduce the reliance on property tax to fund education. Currently the property tax base is the principal source of revenue for municipalities. However, this tax base is diminished when education tax takes up well over 50 per cent. Equally concerning is the continuing increases year after year which force municipalities to seriously re-consider any municipal tax increases, as there are limits to what local residents are able to withstand. The AMM fully supports maintaining and improving the quality of education in Manitoba, however the current system of education taxation is not sustainable and in reality it is hurting local communities by limiting municipal resources.

In addition to the removal of education tax from property, there are other options to provide greater revenue to municipalities. For example, the Provincial Government can follow the

lead of the Federal Government with the GST and exempt municipal governments from the Provincial Sales Tax. Not only would this leave more money in the hands of municipalities, but it would significantly reduce the costs of many major infrastructure projects, thereby freeing up valuable funding for other areas of need. This would represent a significant shift away from the current tax and return system toward a new system that allows municipalities to retain resources for community needs.

Strong communities are the foundation of a strong province and a strong Canada. As the Association that represents all incorporated municipalities in Manitoba, we understand this. The AMM has long been advocating for municipal governments to look at ways of improving how they do business to ensure strong, sustainable communities across Manitoba. We also hear firsthand the challenges communities are facing and we see the implications provincial actions are having on municipalities. It is for this reason that we believe it is time to take a closer look at the resources available to municipalities and take stock of the roles and responsibilities of municipal government in Manitoba.

**The AMM urges the Province to work with municipalities to seriously examine the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal governments in Manitoba.**