

Meeting of the  
**Association of  
Manitoba  
Municipalities**



with

The Honourable Stan Struthers  
Minister of Conservation

February 19, 2007

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# Executive Summary

## 1. Recycling

- Green Manitoba Eco-Solutions (GMES) needs adequate funding and resources so that it can create sustainable solutions for some of the critical recycling needs in the province.
- Recycling programs in Manitoba require the continuation of the 80:20 funding formula to be successful.
- Development of recycling programs for waste streams including household hazardous waste, electronic waste and plastic bags should involve consultation with municipalities to develop long term and financially viable solutions.
- The AMM should play a role with GMES that is similar to the current role that exists with the Manitoba Product Stewardship Council.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Province to ensure that new environmental strategies are carried out efficiently and effectively through the provision of adequate support for Green Manitoba Eco-Solutions and to continue to recognize the positive outcome that collaboration between Green Manitoba Eco-Solutions and the AMM will provide.**

## 2. Park Issues

- Municipalities surrounding provincial parks benefit economically from increased tourism.
- Increased funding for provincial parks is required for capital and operation to ensure that park users continue to have positive experiences that will ensure their ongoing use. Failure to adequately fund provincial parks results in decreased benefits to surrounding municipalities' economy and tourism
- It is necessary to ensure that all residences situated in provincial parks be taxed in a manner which fairly represents the distribution of education and municipal costs.
- Municipal ratepayers should not be required to subsidize the cost of services for permanent park residents.

**The AMM is urges the Provincial Government to continue to support the provincial park system through investment in capital and operating budgets. As well the AMM urges the Provincial Government to impose a form of taxation and establish a collection system for permanent provincial park residents, to ensure that local municipalities and school divisions receive the appropriate share of costs for the services they provide.**

### **3. Water and Wastewater Operator Training Opportunities Needed In-Province**

- The Provincial Government must provide adequate and accessible training opportunities within the province to ensure there are enough qualified operators to meet the Provincial requirements.
- Current statistics indicate that water and wastewater treatment facilities and operators have not met the classification and certification deadlines set by the Province. This signifies that the current process for classifying facilities and certifying operators is not optimal given the resources available within the province.
- Municipalities need to be kept informed on these issues and have their concerns and queries responded to in a timely manner. The AMM urges the Government to provide training opportunities within the province for all operator levels, clarify the rules, and provide an update on the certification process to date.

**Therefore the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide training opportunities within Manitoba and maintain open communication with municipalities to ensure clarity of the classification and certification process.**

### **4. Hog Industry Pause**

- Development plans, including Livestock Operations Policy, and zoning bylaws must be completed/amended by municipalities and planning districts by January 1, 2008 to account for the changes in The Planning Act.
- Municipalities understand that the impact that the hog industry has on the environment is critically important to future economic development within Manitoba, however the impact that this pause will have on land use planning will be significant.
- The Province of Manitoba needs to be accountable for environmental decisions and technical information should not be left to be defended by municipal councils during the public hearings as required by The Planning Act. This is why the AMM believes that the Technical Review Committee (TRC) should be required to attend all municipal public hearings for which they have provided information. Currently this is not required in The Planning Act.

**Therefore the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure the review of the hog industry moves forward quickly, as it has major implications for municipalities.**

# General Issues

## 1. Creating Fiscal Balance

- 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.
- Provincial/territorial municipal associations are developing a cross Canada perspective of municipal responsibilities and finances to inform municipalities of the similarities and inequalities that are currently being experienced nation-wide.

**The AMM urges the Province to work collaboratively with municipalities to create a fiscal balance for all orders of government in Manitoba.**

# Departmental Issues

## 1. Recycling

Reducing waste is a growing priority for Manitobans, as demonstrated in the successes of the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC) and the ongoing interest from AMM members in establishing permanent recycling programs for all products. At our recent Convention, recycling needs were clearly an important issue that stimulated much debate on what municipalities require to be effective environmental stewards. Green Manitoba Eco-Solutions (GMES) was created, in 2003, as a one-stop agency for all recycling solutions across the province. The AMM encourages the Province to commit the resources necessary to enable GMES to operate effectively, so that it can create sustainable solutions for some of the critical recycling needs in the province. These needs include building on the successes of the MPSC and the continuation of its successful 80:20 funding formula as the Province moves towards an industry-led model.

Manitobans rely on accessing efficient local programs in order to recycle a wide range of materials. The overall benefits of recycling are vast and municipalities directly benefit from programs through the diversion of materials from local landfill sites. The coordination of recycling and energy efficiency initiatives under Green Manitoba Eco-Solutions is a positive step toward additional recycling opportunities such as household hazardous waste and electronic waste. With the movement toward a legislative framework for extended producer responsibility models, the Province must ensure that a municipal perspective is included during the development stages. The new structure and procedures for recycling initiatives will have an impact on municipalities, therefore municipal input must be considered.

Green Manitoba Eco-Solutions ensured that open lines of communication were maintained with the AMM throughout the development of the Tire Recycling program. This effort is very much appreciated and the AMM is confident that this partnership will continue to flourish through the development of other initiatives including the recently proposed paper and packaging regulation. The AMM is committed to seeking the best possible legislation for municipalities, and a continued dedication to an appropriate consultation process will benefit both municipalities and the Province.

## **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)**

The need for a permanent household hazardous waste program remains a province-wide necessity. The budget of \$740,000 in 2005/2006 is commendable, but does not fulfill the demand for HHW programming in the province. Increased funding is required to develop a long-term and province-wide solution. The AMM is interested in collaborating with GMES to ensure that programming will be appropriate for municipalities and we are excited, as work appears to be underway on this initiative.

## **Electronic Waste Disposal**

Mirroring the concerns with household hazardous waste, Municipalities in Manitoba recently passed another resolution at the 2006 AMM Convention to lobby the Province to create a program for the disposal of electronic waste. The AMM encourages the Province to continue working to create an Electronic Waste Disposal Program that will satisfy the needs on Manitobans. The AMM would be willing to work with the Province to develop an effective and efficient province-wide strategy, and there are certainly opportunities for coordinate this approach with the other recycling initiatives being undertaken.

## **Tire Recycling**

Tire recycling is an important issue in Manitoba and the AMM would like to recognize the positive steps that have been taken by GMES in the development of the Industry Funded Operation (IFO). The AMM is pleased to learn that all tires will be included within the program and that the plan submitted to the Minister includes a component to return a \$0.50 refund to municipalities for used tires. Another positive aspect of the program is the proposed freight levy, which will increase the incentive to pick up tires in remote areas. This initiative demonstrates the Province's commitment to move towards an environmentally responsible solution to dealing with waste streams.

## **Plastic Bag Recycling**

Recycling plastic bags is another important issue that the AMM is addressing. Plastic bag waste is an ongoing concern for municipalities as they deal with increasing trash quantity. A strategy

and program, to deal with this waste stream, are necessary to ensure that municipalities are acting as environmental stewards. The AMM urges the Province to plan for increasing plastic waste.

## **Recycling - General**

In addition, the AMM appreciates the opportunity to participate on the Manitoba Product Stewardship Board. This Board functions well and provides valuable services to Manitoba communities. To maintain municipal involvement in recycling programming, the AMM should play a role in the governance structure of Green Manitoba Eco Solutions once it takes full control of all waste streams. Municipalities should have ongoing participation in the decision-making surrounding recycling initiatives and the AMM's involvement is an effective way to accomplish this objective.

A specific concern with the division of recycling responsibilities among several industry-led groups is that individuals will have to take each category of recyclable material to a different location. To ensure that recycling rates do not decline, it is imperative that the recycling collection system remains convenient and user-friendly. This is particularly important in rural areas where curbside pickup is not feasible and residents are required to transport recyclables to a designated area. Recycling rates should improve as a result of the changes and this will only occur to the extent that access remains convenient.

In general, municipalities are supportive of recycling programs since waste reduction continues to be a priority for Manitobans. The establishment of Green Manitoba Eco Solutions has the potential to create positive impacts through enhanced recycling and energy efficiency mechanisms. Since municipalities play a key role in facilitating recycling programs, the Province must carefully consider the impacts on municipalities.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Province to ensure that new environmental strategies are carried out efficiently and effectively through the provision of adequate support for Green Manitoba Eco-Solutions and to continue to recognize the positive outcome that collaboration between Green Manitoba Eco-Solutions and the AMM will provide.**

## **2. Park Issues**

### **Funding for Provincial Parks**

Manitoba's provincial parks provide immeasurable benefits to Manitoban residents and visitors. Municipalities surrounding provincial parks benefit economically from increased tourism. Increased funding for provincial parks is required for capital and operation to ensure that park users continue to have positive experiences that will ensure their ongoing use. Failure to adequately fund provincial parks results in decreased benefits to surrounding municipalities' economy and tourism.

Recently the Province announced the Rural Economic Development Strategy, which included the enhancement of Manitoba's provincial parks through financial investment in park infrastructure. The AMM acknowledges this commitment to enhancement and are interested in working with the Province on this vital initiative. However, further support is required for ongoing operations and maintenance.

**The AMM is urges the Provincial Government to continue to support the provincial park system through investment in capital and operating budgets.**

### **Taxation on Park Residents**

Municipalities are organized to provide services to their residents. Residents, in turn, pay for those services through their taxes. This is to ensure that all costs are shared equitably between all people living in a community. Individuals who choose to make their permanent residences within a provincial park and who continue to utilize municipal services should be required to pay their fair share for these expenses.

It is necessary to ensure that all residences situated in provincial parks be taxed in a manner which fairly represents the distribution of education and municipal costs. Currently, those who maintain a chief place of residence within provincial parks are required to pay the Chief Place of Residence Levy, which contributes to the Consolidated Fund and supports education costs, and a Park District Service Fee which supports park infrastructure and services. These amounts are not equitable in terms of the education services that are being used, and do not support any of the

municipal services that are provided. This leaves municipal governments and ratepayers shouldering the excess costs.

It is not fair for a resident in a provincial park to pay substantially less than a resident in a municipality for the same services. Municipal ratepayers should not be required to subsidize the cost of services for park residents. The method of charging fee-for-service needs an immediate review. Although the Chief Place of Residence Levy was increased in 2006, the additional funding is not directed to local school boards or municipal services.

**Therefore the AMM requests that the Provincial Government impose a form of taxation and establish a collection system for permanent provincial park residents, to ensure that local municipalities and school divisions receive the appropriate share of costs for the services they provide.**

### **3. Water and Wastewater Operator Training Opportunities Needed In-Province**

The protection of Manitoba's water supplies is a necessity that cannot be downplayed. The AMM recognizes the importance of proper operator certification and plant classification, however it is also necessary that these strategies be enacted properly. To do this, municipalities need to be involved in the process and be aware of and understand the regulations. The Province has been working with Manitoba's municipalities to do this, through the AMM's representation on the Certification of Waste Water Operators Review Committee and by making presentations to municipalities at the 2005 AMM Convention and at some of the 2005 June District Meetings.

The September 2006 deadline for certified operators has come and gone and there remains a dire need for operators certified for levels III and IV facilities. Courses available in Manitoba continue to be limited to levels I and II, leaving municipalities with the undesirable and expensive options of sending operators out of province or country to take courses, or taking courses online. These challenging and costly exams necessitate in-class instruction to adequately prepare however the Province continues to impose unrealistic expectations and deadlines on operators. For the certification process to be reasonable, it is necessary that plant operators have opportunities in the province to meet the standards. It is unreasonable to demand certification levels beyond the training capabilities of our own province. The Provincial Government must

provide adequate and accessible training opportunities within the province to ensure there are enough qualified operators to meet the Provincial requirements.

Current statistics indicate that 71 per cent of water and wastewater treatment facilities have been issued classifications regardless of the January 2006 deadline. As well, only 26 per cent of operators who have applied for certifications have been certified to date despite the September 2006 deadline. These numbers signify that the current process for classifying facilities and certifying operators is not optimal given the resources available within the province.

Municipalities want to work with the Province to get the system working efficiently. To do this, they need to be kept informed on these issues and have their concerns and queries responded to in a timely manner. The AMM urges the Government to provide training opportunities within the province for all operator levels, clarify the rules, and provide an update on the certification process to date.

#### **4. Hog Industry Pause**

The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) is preparing to review the issue to ensure the sustainability of the hog industry in Manitoba. Municipalities understand that the impact that the hog industry has on the environment is critically important to future economic development within Manitoba, however the impact that this pause will have on land use planning will be significant.

The recent review and modification of The Planning Act has had a tremendous impact on municipalities province-wide. New regulations have required municipalities and/or Planning Districts to create development plans and zoning bylaws to encourage sustainable planning and development within the province. A Livestock Operation Policy must be included as part of the development plan with section 42(2) in The Planning Act laying out the requirements.

Municipalities are required to have this work completed by January 1, 2008 and while many have already been completed, there are still some forthcoming.

The work of the CEC will have an impact on municipal planning therefore the AMM has requested that the CEC complete the review promptly to ensure that municipalities are able to

complete the planning process. The review of The Planning Act resulted in municipalities spending the last year adapting to a new planning system. The CEC's recommendations will have the potential to have major implications for The Planning Act, however these should ensure that the Act's general principles are not altered.

Municipalities and key stakeholders have previously participated in a protracted consultation process to renew this important legislation and it would be unfair for municipal councils to have to work with a constantly changing set of planning rules. The current Act, while not exactly what any single stakeholder advocated for, is the best available solution and as such, its general principles should remain unchanged.

One of the key attributes of the current process is that the Province is responsible for environmental issues while municipalities are accountable for land use. The Province of Manitoba needs to be accountable for environmental decisions and technical information should not be left to be defended by municipal councils during the public hearings as required by The Planning Act. This is why the AMM believes that the Technical Review Committee (TRC) should be required to attend all municipal public hearings for which they have provided information. Currently this is not required in The Planning Act.

It is important to the transparency of the planning process to verify all technical information received from the TRC, and allowing a public inquiry of the science-based information would assist the public in accepting this as being true. The AMM also believes that there should be public involvement on the TRC. This would allow local knowledge to be incorporated and cross checked with technical information. The TRC process needs to be examined to ensure that the information presented is precise. Municipalities will defend their own political decisions, however should not be required to defend the technical decisions made by the Province. There is adequate opportunity for this public process to occur at municipal public hearings.

The environmental licencing and approval process also needs to be examined. Currently the process allows for public hearings to be held at the discretion of the Minister of Conservation. These public hearings should be mandatory, not simply based on how politically controversial an issue is. This would increase the transparency of the licencing and approval process while

allowing for public acceptance and understanding of the technical and environmental information being reviewed. The AMM believes that increasing the opportunity for public involvement would increase support for the science-based research and evaluation completed by the Province.

The development of future regulations has the potential to increase the responsibility of municipalities in the planning process. Municipal budgets are already over-extended and municipal governments are not in the position to take on additional costs and responsibilities. Considerable capacity is required to make the current regulations a reality. The capacity of municipalities to increase their responsibilities to meet proposed recommendations should be kept in mind throughout the Hog Production Industry Review.

The CEC recommendations will not be available until late-2007. Following this, the Minister of Conservation will make a decision on the recommendations that could affect the planning process for municipalities. If this is the case, financial and technical support will be required to ensure that municipalities have the capacity to change their development plans to meet the new regulations.

**Therefore the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure the review of the hog industry moves forward quickly, as it has major implications for municipalities.**

# General Issues

## 1. Creating Fiscal Balance

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 order of government closest to the people, is becoming more important. Yet, municipal governments do not have the tools they need to meet these new expectations. Many communities are starting to see the decay of key infrastructure and the unfortunate reduction in program delivery as a result of limited resources and increasing responsibilities. Municipal councils are left with the impossible task of delivering all the services expected by both the citizens and other orders of government, while only having access to limited resource streams. This is not sustainable and consequently it is necessary to undertake a major review of municipal government in Manitoba to create a fiscal balance between all orders of government.

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 national 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 previous 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.

Provincial and territorial municipal associations are in the process of developing a cross Canada perspective of municipal responsibilities and finances. Manitoba municipalities have heard many times that they receive more resources from other orders of governments than any other province or territory. This report, which is due to be released in May 2007, will inform all municipalities on the similarities and inequalities that are currently being experienced nation-wide and will assist in understanding the issues that need to be addressed within Manitoba.

In Manitoba, 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 to 8 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 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. It is only through this type of examination that we can truly create fiscal balance in Manitoba.

**The AMM urges the Province to work collaboratively with municipalities to create a fiscal balance for all orders of government in Manitoba.**

## Appendix A – Active Resolutions

### **AMM Resolution Number 07 - 2006**

#### **Topic: Electronic Waste Disposal Program**

Sponsor: City of Dauphin (Parklands District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines, Environment Canada,

WHEREAS the AMM lobbied the Provincial Government in 2004 to initiate a program for the disposal of electronic waste;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Conservation responded that the Province is aware of the issues associated with electronic waste; is examining options for management of these types of toxic waste; and will seek partners to support the collection of waste electronics in the future;

AND WHEREAS disposal of electronic waste is increasing at landfill sites;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government for an update on the collection of electronic waste;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program for the disposal of electronic waste be expanded to include costs borne by municipalities to transport the collected electronic waste.

### **AMM Resolution Number 10 - 2006**

#### **Topic: Beaver Control/Management Program**

Sponsor: RM of Rosburn (Mid-western District)

Department: Manitoba Conservation, Environment Canada

WHEREAS municipalities, particularly those on the peripheries of Federal and Provincial Parks, are constantly and continuously burdened by problem beavers, both in terms of finances and work time of their maintenance personnel;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Conservation does not have a beaver management program in effect within the provincially owned Crown lands;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments to implement a long term and effective beaver control/management program within all Federal and Provincial Crown lands.

### **AMM Resolution Number 33 - 2006**

#### **Topic: Drink Container Deposit**

Sponsor: City of Brandon (Western District)

Department: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS the number of beverage containers being inappropriately discarded in Manitoba is on the increase;

AND WHEREAS in the best interest of the environment it would be beneficial to decrease the number of containers being inappropriately discarded;

AND WHEREAS several provinces already have models in place with respect to the processing of such containers, inclusive of charging environmental levies and payment of deposits to individuals who bring in said containers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to establish a 10 cent deposit on all drink containers in this province and create the infrastructure required to ensure the processing of containers on which deposits are paid and the payment of deposits to individuals who bring in the containers.

**AMM Resolution Number 08 - 2006**

**Topic: Class 3 & 4 Water Plant Operator Training**

Sponsor: Town of Russell (Mid-western District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship

WHEREAS a number of small urban communities currently operate lime soda ash filtering water plants;

AND WHEREAS the complexity of the chemical process involved in the operation of lime soda ash plants has resulted in many of the facilities being designated as Class 3 or Class 4 water treatment facilities as per provincial legislation;

AND WHEREAS municipal employees have expertise and ability in operating lime soda ash plants sufficient to create consistent potable water for communities but may not have the educational and theoretical background to pass certification exams;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to ensure that training beyond courses designed to pass certification exams be offered so that Class 3 or Class 4 water plant operators can obtain sufficient background and knowledge to effectively and efficiently operate the facilities.

**AMM Resolution Number 09 - 2006**

**Topic: Certification of Municipal Supervisor for Sewer and Water Repairs**

Sponsor: Town of Russell (Mid-western District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship

WHEREAS provincial legislation mandates that municipalities are required to ensure that all staff dealing with water distribution and sewage collection systems are certified in order to be able to work on water line and sewer line repairs;

AND WHEREAS employees working as public works labourers involved with sewer and water repairs tend to be entry level employees and thus more transient than supervisory positions;

AND WHEREAS training costs are significant especially in rural Manitoba where travel, accommodations and tuition can result in total costs of over \$1,000 per person per course;

AND WHEREAS private contractors hired by the municipality to complete sewer line or water line repairs are not required to be certified nor are they required to employ certified labourers to work on the job site;

AND WHEREAS supervision by the municipality of a job site is sufficient to meet provincial legislative requirements with regards to private contractors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to change the requirement that all municipal employees involved in sewer line and water line repairs be certified and that the need for certification be limited to a municipal supervisor on the job site.

**AMM Resolution Number 38 - 2006**

**Topic: Review of Environmental Levy Rates**

Sponsor: City of Dauphin (Parklands District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS the cost of recycling has increased significantly since the levies were first introduced;

AND WHEREAS currently there are no levies on glass, newspapers, magazines and commercial cardboard;

AND WHEREAS such levies are used in other Canadian provinces;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to review the Environmental Levies charged to corporations and consumers in order to make recycling viable.

**AMM Resolution Number 17 - 2005**

**Topic: Weed Control for Ditches**

Sponsor: RM Springfield, RM of Tache (Eastern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

WHEREAS weed growth along Provincial roads and highways has been proven to contribute to the widespread dispersal of noxious weeds, which leads to increased weed control costs for municipalities and farmers, and to reduced crop returns for the agricultural industry;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Transportation and Government Services has demonstrated in some areas in 2005 that weed growth can be properly controlled;

AND WHEREAS The Noxious Weeds Act of Manitoba requires the Provincial Government to control weeds on Provincial lands;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to recognize its responsibility to adequately control weed growth along Provincial highways and roads in order to minimize the spread of noxious weeds.

**AMM Resolution Number 18 - 2005**

**Topic: Weed Control Along Rights-of-Way**

Sponsor: RM Springfield (Eastern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

WHEREAS weed growth along rights-of-way has been proven to contribute to the widespread dispersal of noxious weeds, which leads to increased weed control costs for municipalities and farmers, and to reduced crop returns for the agricultural industry;

AND WHEREAS The Noxious Weeds Act of Manitoba requires all property owners to control weeds on lands under their control;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to require all owners and occupants of all rights-of-way to recognize their responsibility to adequately control weeds along their rights-of-way in order to minimize the spread of noxious weeds.

**AMM Resolution Number 69 - 2005**

**Topic: Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Program**

Sponsor: RM of Tache (Eastern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to establish an effective program to recycle paint products, glycols as well as electronic waste material so as to remove these products from local landfill sites.

**AMM Resolution Number 08 - 2005**

**Topic: Additional Inspectors**

Sponsor: RM of Shoal Lake (Mid-western District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Agriculture and Rural Initiatives, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs

WHEREAS under the new Planning Act, the Province will assume responsibility for all matters relating to pollution with livestock operations;

AND WHEREAS at present there is a lack of inspection and enforcement of regulations by Provincial inspectors due in large part to the shortage of inspectors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to immediately hire additional inspectors to monitor and inspect all livestock operations in order to lessen infractions or alleged infractions of the provincial regulations.

**AMM Resolution Number 07 - 2005**

**Topic: Costs of Water Plant Operator Training**

Sponsor: Town of Erickson (Mid-western District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has passed new legislation requiring water plant operators to attain a level of training corresponding to the classification of the plant;

AND WHEREAS this new legislation will pose new costs to be absorbed by the municipal governments' already strained budgets;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to assume responsibility for at least 80 per cent of the training costs of new operators in order to meet the new legislated criteria.

**AMM Resolution Number 15 - 2005**

**Topic: Crown Land Subsidies**

Sponsor: RM of Sifton (Western District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

WHEREAS municipalities have a substantial amount of crown lands within their jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS municipal roads are utilized to access these crown lands by timber operations, mining industries, hunters, fishers and tourists;

AND WHEREAS the increased use by these outside sources requires extensive maintenance of municipal roads thereby causing a financial burden to the municipalities' ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is collecting various fees from the timber operators, the mining industry, hunters and fishers;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities do not receive any financial benefits from these unleased crown lands;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to subsidize municipalities having crown lands within their jurisdiction with an annual Grant-in-Lieu of taxes in the amount of fifty cents per acre.

**AMM Resolution Number 59 - 2004**

**Topic: Electronic Waste Collection Program**

Sponsor: RM of Tache (Eastern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS municipalities currently have no practice regarding the disposal of hazardous waste such as electronic equipment, paint, etc. expecting at landfill sites;

AND WHEREAS a stewardship program should be in place for the purpose of disposing of this material;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to initiate a program for the disposal of this material.

**AMM Resolution Number 12 - 2004**

**Topic: Clean up of Contaminated Sites**

Sponsor: Town of Lynn Lake (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines

WHEREAS numerous mining communities within the Province of Manitoba are left with environmental hazards from mine tailings and abandoned mine sites when mines are closed;

AND WHEREAS the environmental concerns for these areas are a high priority for the health and well-being of the communities and the Province as a whole;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has committed to cleaning up the environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to take a pro-active stance with the environmental remediation of these contaminated sites by provision of funding and the development of a strategy to deal with site remediation in a timely fashion.

**AMM Resolution Number 14 - 2004**

**Topic: Increase Funding for Provincial Parks**

Sponsor: Town of Winnipeg Beach (Interlake District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS Manitoba's Provincial Parks provide immeasurable recreational benefits to Manitobans and visitors alike;

AND WHEREAS communities that benefit from having a Provincial Park within their vicinity receive additional economic benefits due to the increased visitation to the area;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba continually rations the Capital and Operating and Maintenance budgets at Manitoba's Provincial Parks, which reduces the budgets of these Parks and may create a negative effect on the overall Provincial Park experience;

AND WHEREAS any negative effect on these Provincial Parks will have a profound and negative economic effect on communities that rely upon the benefits that Provincial Parks bring about;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to increase the level of funding to Manitoba's Provincial Parks in both their Capital and Operating and Maintenance budgets.

**AMM Resolution Number 26 - 2003**

**Topic: Recycling for Plastic Bags**

Sponsor: Town of Altona (Central District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS there are many businesses, especially grocery stores, that use plastic bags for customer purchases;

AND WHEREAS many of these plastic bags end up in the local landfill sites because there is no system to recycle them;

AND WHEREAS these plastic bags create a nuisance at the landfill sites because they tend to be blown around by the wind;

AND WHEREAS these plastic bags take many years to decompose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to insist that retailers use biodegradable bags or re-usable bags instead of the current plastic bags;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Manitoba Municipalities work with the Provincial Government to begin an educational campaign to inform the general public about the benefits of recycling/re-using these types of nuisance items.

**AMM Resolution Number 41 - 2001**

**Topic: Taxation on Permanent Park Residents**

Sponsor: RM of Kelsey (Northern District), RM of Park (Mid-western District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Natural Resources Canada

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities continue their efforts in lobbying the provincial government to impose a form of taxation, through actual assessment, on residences situated in provincial parks, resort areas and unorganized territories in order to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of education and municipal costs and in so doing, establish a collection system to ensure that the monies raised are distributed to the responsible school division and municipalities/towns providing other services which these residents use and currently do not pay for.

**AMM Resolution Number 42 - 2001**

**Topic: Recreation Services for Permanent Park Residents**

Sponsor: RM of Kelsey (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS there are an increased number of permanent year-round residences established in provincial parks, resort areas, and unorganized territory throughout the province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS these residents tend to use the services and facilities provided by the neighbouring municipality;

AND WHEREAS all other residents of the province of Manitoba, excluding those residing in provincial parks, resort areas, and unorganized territory, are required to contribute to the municipal costs of these services and facilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the provincial government to impose a form of taxation on permanent year-round residences established in provincial parks, resort areas and unorganized territory throughout Manitoba to contribute to the services and facilities provided by the neighbouring municipalities.

**AMM Resolution Number 44 - 2001**

**Topic: Contaminated Sites**

Sponsor: Town of The Pas (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS certain properties which were once operated as service stations or businesses which marketed petroleum products using underground tanks are now abandoned;

AND WHEREAS the properties are left without owners who can be held responsible for maintenance, cleanup and remediation costs;

AND WHEREAS these contaminated sites then fall into arrears of taxes, are subsequently offered for sale at a tax sale, are not purchased because of the perceived risk of contamination and the potential cost of initial site cleanup and testing, and thus remain on the tax rolls, revolving through the tax sale process indefinitely, accruing arrears of taxes and costs annually, all the while becoming more unsightly;

AND WHEREAS the Contaminated Sites Remediation Act does not address remediation of sites where the owners/contaminators are deceased;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Province of Manitoba to ensure that The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act be amended to define remediation to include all

actions required to restore the site to its original state, which includes removal of all foreign materials and equipment and final site testing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the responsibility for the amended remediation of such sites be the responsibility of Manitoba Conservation.

**AMM Resolution Number 34 - 2000**

**Topic: Recycling Funding for Corrugated Cardboard**

Sponsor: Town of Boissevain, RM of Glenwood (Western District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS municipalities contribute substantial amounts of money to run recycling programs;

AND WHEREAS a large portion of the material gathered by recycling depots is corrugated cardboard which requires a large storage space;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the provincial government to increase its funding of corrugated cardboard from 25 per cent to 100 per cent under the Product Stewardship Program.