

# Meeting of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities



with

The Honourable Kerri Irvin-Ross  
Minister responsible for Healthy Living  
and Seniors

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# Executive Summary

## A) Departmental Issues

### 1. Joint Use Facilities

- Joint-use facilities are a method of developing stable and effective service delivery while increasing cost efficiency.
- The Provincial Government needs to act on the task force recommendation to increase access to recreation facilities through the community use of schools from the *Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Task Force Report*.
- Joint-use facilities require support from the other orders of government as downloading the costs to municipalities would prove unsustainable.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to act on the *Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Task Force Recommendation* to enhance equitable access to community and school facilities in the province with a primary focus on physical activity opportunities for children and youth.**

### 2. Funding for Recreation Centres

- Opportunities to improve the health of Manitoba's communities should include a focus on preventive measures, including investment in recreational infrastructure.
- Grants to recreational associations have been reduced and the level of funding to recreation commissions has remained constant despite rising recreation costs.
- Municipalities do not have the appropriate resources to fund the repair of cultural and recreational facilities, nor the funding to build new facilities.
- The Provincial Government released the final report and recommendations of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Task Force, including recommendations that target improved funding for recreational facilities, which demonstrates the need for increased investment throughout the province.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to act on the recommendations of the *Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Task Force* to improve funding for recreation infrastructure and programs across Manitoba.**

### **3. Seniors Independent Living and Seniors Housing**

- As the senior population grows, there is an increasing need to provide programming and housing that is tailored to the specific needs of an aging population.
- For many aging Manitobans, the choice to live independently is an important one and local programs must be in place to assist seniors with this decision and to allow them to make the choice to live independently.
- The Provincial Government should be increasing the resources available to seniors independent living programs and seniors housing initiatives.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to increase funding to Manitoba community resource councils and other seniors independent living programs across the province to strengthen the support system available to seniors that choose to live independently.**

## **B) 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.

**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. Joint Use Facilities

Municipalities recognize the value of partnerships, particularly where they will encourage the provision of better services for their residents. The development of joint-use facilities is an opportunity for municipalities, recreation centres, community buildings, libraries and schools to work with various orders of government and stakeholders to develop stable and effective service delivery and facilities while increasing cost efficiency. The Provincial Government released the *Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Task Force Report* in June 2005 however have yet to act on the recommendation regarding recreation facilities and access. The Task Force recommended that the government increase access to recreation facilities through the community use of schools.

The AMM is actively involved in the Joint Use of Schools and Community Facilities Advisory Committee in order to promote enrichment, development and accomplishment through recreation and leisure activities. The AMM believes that the joint use of community facilities is a constructive opportunity to ensure that services are delivered effectively and efficiently. This initiative, however, requires support from the other orders of government as downloading the costs to municipalities would prove unsustainable.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to act on the *Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Task Force Recommendation* to enhance equitable access to community and school facilities in the province with a primary focus on physical activity opportunities for children and youth.**

## 2. Funding for Recreation Centres

Frequent physical activity is known to be an effective preventive measure that lowers health risks, thereby reducing pressure on the health care system and alleviating costs associated with health care. As well, providing recreational opportunities has proven to be a successful crime prevention method and can therefore reduce the cost of policing at the local level.

However many of Manitoba's municipalities have neither the funding to invest in new

facilities nor the resources to fund the repair of cultural and recreational facilities. These investments cannot be made unless municipalities obtain additional resources and the Provincial Government is a key stakeholder in this process.

Building on the numerous benefits of physical activity and recreation, a tripartite funding program for recreation centres would be fitting. Nationally, the Federal Government's Standing Committee on Finance recently released the pre-budget submission *Canada: Competing to Win*. The first recommendation indicates that the Federal Government in conjunction with Provincial/Territorial Governments and stakeholders need to ensure adequate funding for all elements of preventative programs focused on measures that will improve the health of Canadians including physical activity choices. With the support of municipalities across Canada, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has continually raised the need for recreation funding at the federal level. In its 2005 federal budget submission, FCM asked that \$30 million in new money be set aside from infrastructure funds to finance community/municipally managed social infrastructure initiatives including parks, play spaces, community facilities and libraries. However, even with this nation-wide concern and the clear connection between improved recreation and lower health care costs, the Federal Government has not increased funding for recreational infrastructure.

Provincially, Manitoba has demonstrated a commitment to promoting recreation as an integral part of healthy communities by the report of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Task Force. This issue is not isolated to Manitoba. The Province has supported the concept of a tripartite recreational infrastructure program and work towards this at the federal level. The program would target the repair, upgrading and building of recreational facilities in municipalities throughout Manitoba and Canada. Greater pressure on the Federal Government is required in order for recreational infrastructure investment to become a priority and the AMM is seeking support from the Province to this end.

The AMM is pleased with the investment the Province has made to the Building Manitoba Fund in 2006. The Building Manitoba Fund provided \$7,900,000 to municipalities in 2006

with \$4,500,000 going to the City of Winnipeg and \$3,400,000 to other municipalities. As well, the AMM is appreciative of the support in place through the Community Places Program. As one of the few existing programs that assists with the renovation, replacement or construction of recreational facilities, it is the main vehicle that provides funds to assist Manitoba communities wanting to upgrade their recreational infrastructure. When adequately funded this program can assist several communities since many of Manitoba's recreational facilities are aging and in desperate need of repair. Recreational infrastructure forms the basis for program development that promotes greater physical activity and helps sustain healthy communities.

The Provincial Government is a key stakeholder in recreation initiatives and therefore has a responsibility to ensure municipalities can make suitable investments in recreational facilities and programming. However, there is consistently far greater demand than can be met by the current funding allocation even with the additional funding provided in the 2005 Provincial Budget. A potential solution is to increase the maximum Provincial contribution beyond \$50,000. Given the high cost of many recreational infrastructure projects, limiting provincial funding in this manner could delay or deter municipal investment. There should also be recognition that due to escalating costs these grants are now worth less overall in real dollars. The Provincial Government should therefore support the wide-ranging benefits of recreation and physical activity by sustaining the increased funding for the Community Places Program provided in 2005 and by eliminating the maximum Provincial contribution of \$50,000.

Communities are doing all they can to maximize the life-span of facilities and there are opportunities to reduce overall costs without lowering the level of service being provided. Encouraging municipalities to examine their efficiency in recreational facilities could be enhanced through education and training programs. The Manitoba Municipal Efficiency Program (MMEP) is a good place to start with this kind of initiative. Other possible options include reduction in hydro or MTS rates for publicly owned and operated recreational facilities. The AMM urges the Province to consider options for reducing recreation facilities operating costs to allow municipalities to provide quality services in their communities at a

reasonable cost. This action would permit facilities to increase the number of hours they are open therefore increasing opportunities for recreation.

Supporting recreation infrastructure is necessary to provide recreation opportunities in communities; however, support is also required for recreation practitioners. Recreation Connections is an organization that assists recreation practitioners in professional development, training, education and advocacy. The AMM believes that the Province should fully fund Recreation Connections to the level identified in their business plan so it can fulfill its mandate and fully support the recreation delivery system. Recreation Commissions are also in need of increased funding, as the funding for this group has not increased since the early 1990s. Recreation Commissions are an essential component of the recreation delivery system in this province and should be funded to the levels needed.

Recently the Saskatchewan Government announced that the *Building Communities Program* will deliver \$100 Million over three years to support regional cultural and recreational infrastructure needs. Up to \$20 million will be provided in 2006/2007 and \$40 million for the following two years. Projects will include rehabilitation, renovation, retrofitting and new construction of cultural and recreational infrastructure. This funding will allow Saskatchewan to ensure the sustainability of regional facilities and the cultural and recreational programs it provides.

This significant investment in recreation recognizes the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to make life better for families and build a better, healthier future for young people. This type of investment in recreation is vital for Manitoba to build the competitiveness of Manitoba's municipalities, have a positive impact on the health of communities and reduce health care expenditures across the province. The Province of Manitoba needs to take a proactive approach to addressing the inadequacy of recreation funding within municipalities.

All recreational opportunities are essential components of the health and well being of communities. Access to a variety of recreational activities helps to attract vibrant individuals and families and encourages them to remain residents over the long-term.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to develop a tripartite recreation-funding program, reduce operating costs for recreation facilities, and fund Recreation Connections and Recreation Commissions to ensure the sustainability of Manitoba's recreational facilities and programs.**

### **3. Seniors Independent Living and Seniors Housing**

Municipalities must ensure that their communities cater to a wide variety of demographic groups, including seniors. As the senior population grows, there is an increasing need to provide programming and housing that is tailored to the specific needs of an aging population. For many aging Manitobans, the choice to live independently is an important one and local programs must be in place to assist seniors with this decision and to allow them to make the choice to live independently. Municipalities want to retain seniors in their communities. Seniors add to the diversity within a community and encourage visitors in their municipality. For this reason, the Provincial Government should be increasing the resources available to seniors independent living programs and seniors housing initiatives.

This issue has become of significant importance to municipalities and the AMM has been working to raise the profile of seniors' issues with Manitobans. Recently, the AMM has helped to promote seniors' issues through workshops at our events and by disseminating information through our quarterly magazine and bi-weekly bulletin. For instance, at the 2005 Municipal Officials Seminar, the AMM invited the Seniors and Healthy Aging Secretariat to make a presentation to discuss the challenges and issues of planning for an older population. As well, at the 2006 AMM Convention a workshop session was held on Age-Friendly Cities. Both sessions were well attended and demonstrated that municipalities are interested in providing resources and attractive communities for seniors. The AMM is interested in receiving an update the Province of Manitoba's Age-Friendly Cities project. The AMM was also supportive of Bill 8: *The Manitoba Council on Aging Act* and provided a letter of

support for this legislation and the mandate of the council. These actions demonstrate the municipal interest regarding seniors' issues and the need to continue to enhance the resources that are available for seniors.

Community resource councils are one of the primary initiatives that have benefited many Manitoba communities in their efforts to assist seniors to remain living independently as long as possible. These councils act as a point of access for information and referral, as well as identifying gaps and developing new services for seniors at the local level. These services include such things as congregate meals, friendly visitors, yard and home maintenance, escorted transportation, safety checks, emergency response information kits and advocacy. The community resource councils provide many valuable services to seniors living in the community and the provision of these services costs substantially less than if seniors were to reside in personal care homes.

Community resource councils provide an important service to seniors, despite this, the Province, through the Regional Health Authorities (RHAs), funds only a portion of community resource councils' expenditures. This forces community resource councils to solicit for additional donations to fund the services and programs they provide. Furthermore, community resource councils rely heavily on volunteers for many of the services provided by the councils, such as transportation programs and congregate meals. Although several councils would like to hire permanent staff to carry out many of the functions of these volunteers, it is cost prohibitive. The community resource councils provide exceptional services to local seniors and they should be recognized and supported for their efforts.

The Provincial Government has formalized its commitment to seniors in the strategy document *Advancing Age – Promoting Older Manitobans*. One of the five guiding principles of *Advancing Age* is independence and the strategy includes commitments to enhance the quality of life of seniors, provide adequate and affordable housing, offer affordable and accessible transportation, encourage healthy lifestyles and enhance community-based services and health programs. The AMM believes that increased funding to community resource councils will help to strengthen the effectiveness of *Advancing Age* and will help the

Province meet its commitment to promoting independence as seniors age. Through their role as a point of information for the communities they serve, the councils are well positioned to respond to the needs of local seniors and can help to promote a collaborative environment to address issues, explore options and stimulate initiatives within the senior community. An increased commitment by the Provincial Government to funding community resource councils will demonstrate to seniors and their families that aging issues are being addressed.

The *Advancing Age* strategy supports the need for improved housing for seniors throughout Manitoba. This issue was also identified at the jointly sponsored conference, *Housing Now! Meeting Manitoba's Needs*. The purpose of the conference was to provide an opportunity for AMM members to identify housing challenges and the needs that exist in their communities and to suggest potential solutions involving the three levels of government. This process raised several key issues for seniors housing including: the need for flexibility of design to accommodate changing abilities as seniors age; the difficulty finding adequate funding to cover maintenance and renovation costs; the difficulty finding clear complete information on available seniors housing programs; the need to make better provisions for health care; and the need to manage housing to suit local needs. Furthermore, the most frequently cited concern in relation to seniors housing was the difficulty of securing adequate funds to meet the costs of operating and maintaining housing for seniors.

The AMM appreciates the commitment of the Provincial Government to fund the Safety Aid program, which will assist seniors in accessing items to make living environments safer. The Provincial Government has displayed a commitment to addressing the unique needs of seniors and to follow through on this commitment, the municipal concerns related to housing and independent living must be addressed. The AMM encourages the Provincial Government to devote greater funds to seniors housing programs, as well as to explore options for the coordination of seniors housing and health care services required to support these residents. Such action, along with assistance for independent living will provide much needed support for seniors throughout Manitoba.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to increase funding to Manitoba community resource councils and other seniors programs across the province to strengthen the support system available to seniors. As well, the AMM requests an update on Manitoba's Age-Friendly Cities project.**

## **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.

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 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

## A) Departmental Resolutions

### **AMM Resolution Number 33 - 2005**

#### **Topic: West Nile Virus Response**

Sponsor: RM of St. Andrews

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living

WHEREAS the threat of West Nile virus is a great concern in the Province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS municipalities, because of the above threat, have made supplemental applications to the Province of Manitoba to larvicide additional areas;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba did not make a timely decision on these applications;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to become more proactive in the West Nile virus program to ensure the safety of the residents of the Province of Manitoba.

### **AMM Resolution Number 34 - 2005**

#### **Topic: Physician Recruitment Strategy**

Sponsor: Town of Churchill

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living

WHEREAS Manitoba is experiencing a chronic shortage of medical professionals and doctors throughout the Province, affecting the ability of all Manitobans to access adequate medical services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to aggressively recruit medical professionals and doctors through marketing, recruiting incentives and all other means available to the Province.

### **AMM Resolution Number 61 - 2004**

#### **Topic: RHA Review**

Sponsor: RM of Pipestone, RM of Winchester

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living

WHEREAS since the beginning of September 2004, some Regional Health Authorities have been attempting to download ambulance costs and services onto municipalities;

AND WHEREAS although Regional Health Authorities have assured municipalities that they will not shut down volunteer ambulance services, they have shown by policy set in mid-September in a particular RHA, that it will be extremely difficult to recruit and retain enough volunteer attendants to keep the service going;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are not being consulted in an open and honest manner of the plans of the Regional Health Authorities that are affecting our citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to do a full review of the Regional Health Authorities functionality, staff morale, and spending accountability.

### **AMM Resolution Number 22 - 2004**

#### **Topic: Physician Recruitment**

Sponsor: RM of Alexander (Eastern District)

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living

WHEREAS municipalities are very concerned that the pre-emptive practice imposed by the College of Physicians & Surgeons resulting from a complaint to the Human Rights Commission of requiring all potential physicians to write an exam prior to practicing medicine here is damaging this Province's ability to attract doctors, especially in rural areas;

AND WHEREAS the municipality certainly recognizes and appreciates the College of Physicians and Surgeons for the critical role they play in protecting and establishing the medical standards for all Manitobans, it remains disappointed that this decision was arbitrarily imposed and not discussed with stakeholders and that consideration of a phasing in of required testing was not considered;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to reconsider this matter in order that Manitoba becomes consistent with other provinces, where the above noted requirement is not yet required until determined by virtue of law.

### **AMM Resolution Number 23 - 2004**

#### **Topic: Full Provincial Funding for West Nile Virus**

Sponsor: City of Dauphin (Parklands District)

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living

WHEREAS West Nile virus (WNV) has been spreading across Canada in the last few years;

AND WHEREAS all viral issues are health concerns and are therefore the jurisdiction of the Province of Manitoba;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to fully fund all prevention and treatment costs associated with West Nile virus.

### **AMM Resolution Number 28 - 2003**

#### **Topic: Doctor Training in Manitoba**

Sponsor: Town of Arborg, RM of Bifrost (Interlake District), RM of Miniota (Midwestern District)

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

WHEREAS the non-availability of doctors in rural Manitoba has reached crisis proportions;

AND WHEREAS spaces at our universities are very limited with no guaranteed accessibility for Manitoba students;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba students consequently need to go to other countries to train in the medical profession;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba students who train in other countries are required to write special tests to return to set up practice in Manitoba even though they are permitted to practice in the United States and some other Canadian provinces without these entry tests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT all necessary steps to ensure and increase spaces at Manitoba universities for doctor training be immediately implemented to adequately address the needs of rural Manitoba;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Provincial Government be aggressively persuaded to help make doctor training more affordable for Manitoba students;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if entry tests are deemed necessary for Manitoba doctors trained out of country, that the appropriate governing body ensure that the tests be set up in such a manner that those new doctors can write the tests and have the results within 10 days to alleviate additional expenses incurred attributable to that delay in obtaining results.

**AMM Resolution Number 38 -2003**

**Topic: Funding for Seniors Independent Living Program**

Sponsor: Town of Virden (Western District), City of Portage la Prairie (Central District)

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living

WHEREAS there is insufficient funding provided to the Regional Health Authorities by the Provincial Government for Seniors Independent Living Programs;

AND WHEREAS this is a service provided to seniors to allow them to remain living in their own homes;

AND WHEREAS this service costs the Department of Health substantially less than seniors residing in personal care homes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government for additional funding for the Seniors Independent Living Programs across the Province.

**AMM Resolution Number 51 - 2003**

**Topic: Community Capital Contributions to Health Projects**

Sponsor: Town of The Pas (Northern District), Town of Virden (Western District)

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living

WHEREAS the provision of health care and health services is the responsibility of the Province;

AND WHEREAS The Regional Health Authorities Act has no provision for local government authorities to be involved in plans for regional health authorities capital projects, yet requires a 10 to 20 per cent community contribution to capital projects, creating a financial commitment from a municipality;

AND WHEREAS municipal ratepayers already contribute to Healthcare through Provincial taxation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to remove the community contribution requirement for capital projects of the Manitoba Health Capital Planning Branch.

**AMM Resolution Number 63 - 2001**

**Topic: First Responders Program**

Sponsor: RM of Rosedale (Midwestern District)

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living

WHEREAS the First Responder Program is an integral part of the emergency medical response;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Health Authority is responsible for the emergency medical response under the Regional Health Authorities Act;

AND WHEREAS the first responders operate under the medical licence, procedures and protocols of the Medical Health Officer of the Regional Health Authority;

AND WHEREAS the first responders are dispatched by the E911 system under the licence of the Medical Health Officer of the Regional Health Authority using only equipment approved by the Regional Health Authority;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Province to instruct the Regional Health Authorities that they are responsible for all costs incurred in association with equipment, training and manpower for the First Responder Program.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Regional Health Authorities to be responsible for all public liabilities incurred as a result of the action and operations of the First Responder Program.

**AMM Resolution Number 50 - 2000**

**Topic: Funding for Regional Palliative Care**

Sponsor: Town of Morden (Central District)

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is constitutionally and legislatively responsible for the provision of health care for all Manitobans;

AND WHEREAS palliative care is the active and compassionate care directed toward improving the quality of life for people who are dying, and toward supporting individuals and families as they incur losses;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has recognized its responsibility through the provision of palliative care beds and the provision of funding to regional health authorities for a regional palliative care coordinator;

AND WHEREAS to date there is an absence of adequate formal funding and inequitable distribution of funds allocated for the provision of palliative care services;

AND WHEREAS the service requirements for palliative care services are totally dependent on the population served by Regional Health Centres and Regional Acute Care Facilities;

AND WHEREAS there is an absence of interdisciplinary teams to administer to the needs of the terminally ill and their families;

AND WHEREAS there is an absence of 24-hour crisis response services in palliative care;

AND WHEREAS there are inadequate resources (both human and equipment/supplies) for someone who chooses to die at home, which can be prohibitive to the individual and their family;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the provincial government to provide additional financial support for the Regional Palliative Care Program.

**AMM Resolution Number 51 - 2000**

**Topic: Equitable Emergency Medical Services**

Sponsor: RM of St. Laurent, RM of Rosser (Interlake District), RM of Park (Midwestern District)

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living

WHEREAS certain municipalities, or parts thereof, are not within close proximity to a hospital or ambulance service;

AND WHEREAS these municipalities or areas provide health-related services of first responders with equipment, such as rescue vehicle equipment with oxygen, trauma kits, backboards, Kenreth Extrication Device (KED,) blankets, etc., certified Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) initial training and ongoing educational expenses as required;

AND WHEREAS these costs bear considerable burden to the ratepayers, compared to those areas that have ambulance services in their community, which is funded through the Regional Health Authority;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the provincial government to seek and provide a

solution to make health services fair and equitable to all areas, to get the same services and funding as are obtained by those being within an ambulance or hospital community area.

**AMM Resolution Number 12 - 2006**

**Topic: Recreation Connections Funding**

Sponsor: Town of The Pas (Northern District)

Department: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

WHEREAS it is recognized that the Municipal Governments of Manitoba, as the closest Government to the people, are responsible for the delivery of recreation services to their residents;

AND WHEREAS Municipal Governments spend considerable financial resources to deliver recreation services to their residents on an annual basis;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has a policy outlining the provincial responsibility to support the recreation delivery system and its practitioners;

AND WHEREAS the most effective and efficient way to support and strengthen the recreation delivery system is to fund Recreation Connections Manitoba to the level outlined in the business plan developed by Recreation Connections and the Province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Government takes a lead role in supporting this organization and developing and nurturing partnerships with the key stakeholders in the recreation delivery system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to support municipalities and practitioners of the recreation delivery system by funding Recreation Connections to the level identified in their business plan in order to fulfill and fully support the recreation delivery system in accordance with their existing policy.

**AMM Resolution Number 19 - 2005**

**Topic: Trust Fund for Maintenance of Trans-Canada Trail**

Sponsor: RM of St. Andrews (Interlake District)

Department: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Finance, Finance Canada

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Federal and Provincial Governments to create a trust fund to provide for the maintenance of the Trans-Canada Trail in the Province of Manitoba.

**AMM Resolution Number 15 - 2004**

**Topic: Increased Funding for Recreational Commissions**

Sponsor: Town of Beausejour (Eastern District)

Department: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

WHEREAS provincial funding for recreation commissions has not increased since 1992;

AND WHEREAS the cost of administering recreational programs in our communities continues to rise;

AND WHEREAS the average cost a municipality spends on recreational facilities is approximately \$69/capita;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase its contributions to recreation commissions.

**AMM Resolution Number 55 - 2001**

**Topic: Funding for Community Places Program**

Sponsor: Town of Neepawa (Midwestern District), Village of Elkhorn, RM of North Cypress, Town of Rivers (Western District)

Department: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

WHEREAS the Manitoba Government has promised that 25 per cent of VLT profits would be distributed to rural Manitoba through direct grants, 10 per cent through economic development programs such as REDI, and 15 per cent through the Community Places Program;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has decreased the amount of funding to the Manitoba Community Places Program since 1987;

AND WHEREAS the maximum allowable grant under this program is \$50,000 and the average grant awarded is \$13,750 per project;

AND WHEREAS this program is one of the few to assist with the renovation, replacement, or construction of recreation facilities within the province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS it is a known fact that recreation facilities are aging and in need of some major capital dollars as demonstrated by the over \$10 million in annual requests for a program of \$2.6 million;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province to:

- a) Increase the amount of available funds in the Manitoba Community Places Program; and,
- b) Increase the maximum funds allowable under the grant guidelines to better reflect the true costs of major capital projects.