

Meeting of the

# **Association of Manitoba Municipalities**



with

The Honourable Jim Rondeau

---

Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines

---

February 8, 2007

## Table of Contents

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES</b>	<b>6</b>
1. Biodiesel and Ethanol Initiatives	6
2. Wind Power Initiatives	7
3. Increases to the Mining Aggregate Fees	9
4. Recycling	10
<b>GENERAL ISSUES</b>	<b>14</b>
1. Creating Fiscal Balance	14
<b>APPENDIX A – ACTIVE RESOLUTIONS</b>	<b>18</b>

# Executive Summary

## A.) Departmental Issues

### 1. Biodiesel and Ethanol Initiatives

- Municipalities are appreciative of recent developments in biodiesel and ethanol production, due to the significant economic benefits for communities and the promotion of clean environment objectives.
- The Province is pursuing a 10 per cent ethanol blend mandate and there must be sufficient opportunity to meet this target through local production facilities.
- The AMM is also supportive of developing a national strategy for ethanol production and consumption.
- The Province should also make further investments in pursuing biodiesel since large and small communities alike can establish production facilities.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to build on Manitoba's ethanol development and promote opportunities for Manitoba communities to establish biofuel facilities.**

### 2. Wind Power Initiatives

- Wind power provides excellent economic and environmental benefits for Manitoba therefore incentives to increase potential for wind generation must be pursued by the Provincial Government.
- Complementing existing hydroelectric generation with wind power is a suitable way to harness Manitoba's energy resources while enhancing a commitment to reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- Along with environmental benefits, wind energy also provides opportunities for economic benefits for Provincial and municipal governments.
- Efforts to enhance wind energy production in Manitoba should consider the broad range of industry demands, from production, construction and maintenance through ongoing usage in order to fully capture the economic benefits of wind power.

**The AMM requests an update on the next steps planned for the Expression of Interest results and urges the Provincial Government to expand efforts to stimulate growth in Manitoba's wind energy sector.**

### **3. Mining Aggregate Fees**

- A mining aggregate fee of 4.4 cents per tonne has been in effect since 1992 in lieu of property taxes on quarry operations.
- Municipalities want to prepare for the eventuality when they will need to remediate the quarry sites for alternate uses. This will require a significant investment beyond the 10 cents per tonne levy the Province collects to level the land following closure of a quarry.
- Municipalities must have proper recourse to deal with the impact of increased use of municipal infrastructure particularly where there significant movement of material via truck.
- The AMM has been working closely with the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association and the Departments of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade on a committee looking at Community Enhancement funding.

**The AMM urges the Provincial Government to increase the mining aggregate rate to better reflect the actual costs for site remediation.**

### **4. 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.**

# 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. Biodiesel and Ethanol Initiatives**

Municipalities are supportive of the need to increase consumption of biofuels in Manitoba because renewable energy sources make a vital contribution to environmental protection initiatives and increase economic opportunities. In the past year, the Province has significantly enhanced incentives to promote the production of biodiesel in Manitoba. As well, the recent investment in Husky's ethanol plant in Minnedosa represents an important economic advantage for the surrounding area. Municipalities are appreciative of these developments since biodiesel and ethanol production can provide significant economic benefits to communities, while promoting clean environment objectives.

#### **Ethanol**

The AMM recognizes that it is difficult to provide widespread support for ethanol expansion in Manitoba, as the requirement for large-scale production facilities is necessary to preserve economies of scale. At the same time, the Province is pursuing a 10 per cent ethanol blend mandate and therefore there should be sufficient opportunity to meet this target through local production facilities. There are various areas in Manitoba that can meet the requirements for biomaterials as well as offer demand for the distillers dried grains that can then be used for livestock feed. These opportunities should be pursued through support from the Provincial Government.

The AMM is also supportive of developing a national strategy for ethanol production and consumption. A coordinated national effort would augment Canada's total environmental gains and Manitoba could benefit with multiple ethanol production sites. In anticipation of increasing demand for ethanol, the Province should continue to explore the potential for greater production capacity in Manitoba.

#### **Biodiesel**

Another important segment of the biofuel industry is the use of plant and animal oils to create biodiesel. Recent Provincial commitments to a biodiesel tax incentive and funding for new production facilities will provide key supports for this developing industry. Unlike ethanol a

large-scale operation is not required, and the Province should make further investments in pursuing biodiesel since large and small communities alike can establish production facilities. As indicated by the recommendations of the Biodiesel Advisory Council, this market will thrive with incentives to stimulate both supply and demand for biodiesel. The Province has created effective supports through the current incentive mechanisms, and this movement must continue, as biodiesel becomes a more widely used alternative to non-renewable energy sources.

The AMM is pleased to hear that there is noteworthy movement with the pilot communities selected through the Biodiesel Advisory Committee. Tangible results are important for pilot projects to maintain the momentum and excitement for these ventures.

Communities across Manitoba are seeking practical economic development initiatives and renewable energy investments offer potential opportunities. Local investments should be made in conjunction with Provincial Government support both for the production and consumption of biodiesel and ethanol.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to build on Manitoba's ethanol development and promote opportunities for Manitoba communities to establish biofuel facilities.**

## **2. Wind Power Initiatives**

Energy resources are increasingly important to Manitoba's economy with Manitoba Hydro's 2005 – 2006 extraprovincial revenues increasing by 59% over the previous fiscal year. Expanding energy production includes diversifying this province's generation capabilities and extending the focus beyond hydroelectricity. Wind power provides excellent economic and environmental benefits for Manitoba therefore incentives must be pursued by the Provincial Government to increase potential for wind generation.

At a time when governments are committing to clean environment initiatives, an investment in wind energy can greatly assist in meeting these objectives. Wind energy is both a renewable resource and one of the cleanest energy sources presently available. Manitoba consistently invests in renewable energy sources, such as hydroelectricity, thereby accruing the added

benefits of minimized greenhouse gas emissions. Complementing existing hydroelectric generation with wind power is a suitable way to harness Manitoba's energy resources while enhancing a commitment to reduced greenhouse gas emissions. As well, increasing the supply of clean energy sources will decrease the reliance on other greenhouse gas producing energies, such as fossil fuels.

Along with environmental benefits, wind energy also provides opportunities for economic benefits for Provincial and municipal governments. The construction required to set up turbines provides jobs for local trades people while stimulating the local economy through the purchase and rental of equipment and materials. Ongoing employment is also created due to the need for monitoring of the turbines. Many communities experience increased tourism as a result of establishing wind farms, indicating that tertiary effects are also available. Landowners gain a lucrative source of annual revenue, as evidenced by Manitoba's St. Leon wind farm that will provide \$9 million to approximately 50 landowners over a 25-year period. Wind farms are also compatible with existing land uses and producers can continue to raise crops and livestock in adjacent fields. Municipal and provincial tax revenue also increases substantially due to the increased assessment value. Rural areas are seeking access to such economic development and the Province should continue to support the expansion of wind power across Manitoba.

There are numerous options available to the Provincial government to strengthen the wind power industry and several Canadian provinces are setting precedents in this regard. The Province of Manitoba has made considerable progress by articulating a goal of 1,000 megawatts by 2009-2014. As well, the Province has initiated a valuable method of identifying potential wind power projects through the Expression of Interest process. Based on the number of responses received, the Province should continue to explore the full potential for wind power generation beyond its initial goal of 1,000 megawatts over the next decade. Appropriate wind conditions are available throughout Manitoba and the potential for wind farms should be examined in various parts of the province.

Furthermore, turbines are now shipped to Canada from Europe, which indicates that there are opportunities to explore component production in the local market. Education and training opportunities exist for individuals to repair the electrical components of wind turbines. A

program of this nature could be introduced in Manitoba to train local residents to advance economic involvement in the industry. Efforts to enhance wind energy production in Manitoba should consider the broad range of industry demands, from production and construction through ongoing usage in order to fully capture the economic benefits of wind power.

**The AMM requests an update on the next steps planned for the Expression of Interest results and urges the Provincial Government to expand efforts to stimulate growth in Manitoba's wind energy sector.**

### **3. Increases to the Mining Aggregate Fees**

Quarry operations are an example of a finite resource extraction industry in Manitoba. This means that at some point, municipalities will be required to complete site remediation projects in order to promote alternative uses on the old quarry sites. Although the Provincial Government collects 10 cents per tonne towards remediation purposes, these funds are simply used to level the land, not to invest in physical enhancement or increase future usability of the area.

Municipalities need to look for long-term solutions and establish funds to ensure former quarry sites can be reused so they are not left as isolated land parcels. Quarry operations should contribute to this long-term goal, rather than forcing municipalities to bear the full costs.

Quarry operations utilize municipal infrastructure, particularly where there is significant material movement via truck. This impact can be seen through degradation of local roads and bridges.

Increases to the mining aggregate fees would assist municipalities in maintaining this infrastructure to a standard that is safe and comfortable for users. Quarry operations should be accountable for the infrastructure damage that is caused by their persistent use.

The AMM has been working closely with the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association and the Departments of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade on a committee looking at an increased rate of compensation including a possible Community Enhancement Fund. Currently the Provincial Government departments are exploring what is needed to make this viable. This is quickly becoming an important issue, particularly in the capital region, as municipalities are feeling pressure from the residential construction sector

to transform quarry sites into subdivisions, which bring greater financial returns for a given land area and an increased tax base.

**The AMM urges the Provincial Government to increase the mining aggregate rate to better reflect the actual costs for site remediation.**

#### **4. 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.**

## **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 32 - 2005**

#### **Topic: Promoting the Use of Biodiesel**

Sponsor: Town of Grandview (Parklands District)

Department: Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines

WHEREAS the economy, the environment, human health and social well being need to be managed for present and future generations;

AND WHEREAS biodiesel is a safe, biodegradable, non-toxic renewable fuel made from a variety of sources such as vegetable oil, animal fats, tallow and used restaurant grease;

AND WHEREAS biodiesel can be used in its pure form or blended with conventional diesel fuel at various levels with little or no engine modification required;

AND WHEREAS based on the current understanding of biodiesel fuels and blending with petroleum based diesel fuel with the members of the Engine Manufacturers Association, it is expected that blends up to a maximum of B5 (5% methyl ester additive) should not cause engine or fuel system problems;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has passed the Sustainable Development Act in 1999 recognizing that the public sector, through its internal operations and procurement practices, has an integral role in promoting environmental awareness and sustainable development;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Biodiesel Advisory Council report of February 2005 recommends that the Provincial Government take the leadership to coordinate the future development of alternative fuel initiatives; therefore encourage the development of a biodiesel industry in Manitoba that will use Manitoba-grown and produced feedstocks;

AND WHEREAS the production of biodiesel is an important economic initiative for rural development and would provide additional income and employment opportunities for agricultural producers and rural communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to provide incentives to support the use of biodiesel that would be available to all municipalities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the AMM move to adopt a green procurement plan by developing principles and guidelines to select environmentally preferred products and services that perform satisfactorily and are available at a reasonable price.

### **AMM Resolution Number 72 - 2005**

#### **Topic: Improved Cell Phone Coverage**

Sponsor: City of Thompson (Northern District), RM of Mountain (Parklands District)

Department: Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines

WHEREAS communities in Manitoba do not have adequate cell phone coverage;

AND WHEREAS the distances without such coverage are huge and include long stretches of highway;

AND WHEREAS there is a question of safety and security that must be addressed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government and Manitoba Telecom Services, or other communication providers, to provide for improved cell phone coverage in Manitoba.

**AMM Resolution Number 53 - 2002**

**Topic: Ethanol Program**

Sponsor: RM of Brokenhead (Eastern District)

Department: Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines

WHEREAS the burning of fossil fuels is a major pollutant of our atmosphere;

AND WHEREAS our agricultural community is in need of a value-added diversified alternative to grain production;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province to promote, encourage and support a program for the production of ethanol to be blended with fossil fuels.

**AMM Resolution Number 44 - 1999**

**Topic: Expansion of Natural Gas**

Sponsor: RM of Westborne (Midwestern District), Town of Morris (Eastern District)

Department: Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines

WHEREAS it is evident that business operations such as manufacturing and hog operations planning to locate in rural Manitoba generally require access to natural gas;

AND WHEREAS the cost of installation of natural gas in smaller rural communities is cost prohibitive even when several municipalities combine resources;

AND WHEREAS Alberta and Saskatchewan have virtually gasified their entire provinces, putting Manitoba at an economic disadvantage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide a funding formula for gasification projects

**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 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 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 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 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 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 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.

**AMM Resolution Number 18 - 2006**

**Topic: Aggregate Mining Fees**

Sponsor: RM of Springfield (Eastern District)

Departments: Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade, Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines

WHEREAS The Municipal Act allows municipalities to levy a fee for mining of aggregate;

AND WHEREAS Regulation 48/97 fixes this amount at \$0.044 per tonne;

AND WHEREAS Regulation 48/97 as amended by Regulation 216/2004 limits the additional amount that can be levied for municipal road repairs and shortening of the lifespan of municipal roads to \$0.026 in 2006;

AND WHEREAS this is insufficient for municipal purposes in dealing with aggregate related costs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to set the maximum allowed fee for mining aggregate at \$0.20 per tonne effective April 1, 2007.