



Meeting with
The Honourable Kerri Irvin-Ross
Minister of Healthy Living
Minister responsible for Seniors

January 25, 2008

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Executive Summary

Departmental Issues

1. Age-Friendly Initiative

- The recent announcement of the first 10 municipalities to participate in the first round of the Age-Friendly Initiative has stimulated further discussion regarding seniors' issues and many municipalities are eager to be selected to participate in subsequent phases.
- The AMM is looking forward to reviewing the findings gained from the first 10 communities and expanding this process to further engage all Manitoba municipalities.
- The AMM expects that moving toward a more age-friendly Manitoba will mean an increased role for community resource councils, and the Provincial Government must be prepared to allocate funding to ensure their important work continues.
- The Province has provided beneficial funding through the SafetyAid program, and municipalities are looking forward to the fulfillment of the Throne Speech commitment to expand this program.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to allocate resources to address seniors' needs as identified through the Age-Friendly Initiative, with a focus on enhancing community resource councils and other seniors' programming.

2. Joint Use of Community Facilities

- Municipalities are committed to creating partnerships to enhance and expand the recreational opportunities that are available in their communities.
- The AMM has been 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 resultant joint use of facilities and associated programming cannot solely be funded by municipalities.

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

3. Increased Funding for Recreation

- The AMM is seeking the Province's continued support for a tripartite recreational infrastructure program. The program would target the repair, upgrading and building of recreational facilities throughout Manitoba and Canada.
- The Federal Government has recognized the need for an increased focus on physical activity through the 2007 pre-budget submission of the Standing Committee on Finance, *Canada: Competing to Win*. The Federal Government should be encouraged to follow through on the recommendations outlined in this submission.
- The AMM acknowledges the Provincial funding initiatives that will assist in maintaining and renewing recreation infrastructure, such as the Throne Speech commitment to double funding for recreation centres across Manitoba.
- The Provincial Government should 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.
- Communities are working hard to maximize the life span of facilities and there are opportunities to reduce overall costs without lowering the level of service provided, such as measures to reduce operating costs.
- Improved recreational infrastructure must occur in conjunction with enhanced program development to help sustain healthy communities.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to pursue a tripartite recreation infrastructure program, to work with municipalities to reduce operating costs for recreation facilities, and fund Recreation Connections Manitoba and recreation commissions to ensure the sustainability of Manitoba's recreational facilities and programs.

4. Community Contributions to Health Capital Projects

- The AMM has raised the need to change this policy for a number of years, since it is inequitable and inappropriate for local communities to contribute to the provision of health care services. Ministers, including current Health Minister Oswald, have committed to reviewing this issue, however the policy has remained in place for nearly 10 years.
- Furthermore, this policy is problematic since communities are required to commit to a project whose design and costs have been unilaterally decided by the Province. In addition, communities must fund 100 per cent of any change order regarding the health capital project, even if the project does not initially require a community contribution.
- The Province has indicated that this policy ensures that demands for facilities will only come from communities that are genuinely in need, however there is no evidence that communities are competing to open new facilities.

- The AMM is seeking the elimination of this policy in order to reverse this downloading and to make additional municipal resources available for other local initiatives.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial government to eliminate the policy of community contributions to health capital projects and accept full responsibility for health care services.

Departmental Issues

1. Age-Friendly Initiative

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to represent municipalities on Manitoba's Age-Friendly Advisory Committee, since municipalities have repeatedly demonstrated an interest in seniors' issues and an enthusiasm for current efforts to make Manitoba communities more age-friendly. The recent announcement of the first 10 municipalities to participate in the first round of the Age-Friendly Initiative has stimulated further discussion regarding seniors' issues and many municipalities are eager to be selected to participate in subsequent phases.

The AMM has been tracking the Age-Friendly Cities project since it was initiated by the World Health Organization and included the City of Portage la Prairie. The movement to focus on Manitoba's rural communities will provide valuable information regarding the current availability of resources and directions to further improve seniors' programming in all areas of the province. The AMM is looking forward to reviewing the findings gained from the first 10 communities and expanding this process to further engage all Manitoba municipalities.

The trends toward an aging population and an increasing number of seniors have been evident for some time and the AMM has been focused on seniors' issues for a number of years. The AMM anticipates that the first round of the Age-Friendly Initiative will highlight many of these same issues relating to increased demands for seniors' independent living opportunities and resources to ensure a safe home and community environment. For instance, the AMM has long advocated an increase in funding for community resource councils, which offer a wide range of services to support seniors who live independently. Community resource 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 develop initiatives within the senior community. The AMM expects that moving toward a more age-friendly Manitoba will mean an increased role for community resource councils, and the Provincial Government must be prepared to allocate funding to ensure their important work continues.

Seniors' issues are clearly important to the Provincial Government as demonstrated by the Age-Friendly Initiative, as well as the recent Federal/Provincial/Territorial discussion paper entitled *Healthy Aging in Canada: A New Vision, A Vital Investment*. This paper outlines several opportunities for moving forward that are certainly applicable to Manitoba communities. Among the many relevant items, the AMM is particularly interested in the opportunities to fund and evaluate national, provincial/territorial and local initiatives that foster age-friendly supportive environments, mutual aid and self care; and the need to document and share promising practices. These concepts are clearly consistent with the Age-Friendly Manitoba Initiative and the AMM is pleased Manitoba is already progressing in these areas.

The Province has also provided beneficial funding through the SafetyAid program, and municipalities are looking forward to the fulfillment of the Throne Speech commitment to expand this program. Building on this commitment and pursuing the Age-Friendly Initiative will continue to strengthen the resources available for seniors across Manitoba.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to allocate resources to address seniors' needs as identified through the Age-Friendly Initiative, with a focus on enhancing community resource councils and other seniors' programming.

2. Joint Use of Community Facilities

Municipalities are committed to creating partnerships to enhance and expand the recreational opportunities that are available in their communities. The development of joint use facilities presents a significant opportunity for municipalities, recreation centres, community buildings, libraries and schools to work together along with other orders of government and stakeholders to offer greater recreation options to Manitobans. Pursuing such partnerships leads to cost efficiencies since infrastructure is available to meet a variety of community demands for recreation.

The AMM has been supportive of two key initiatives that should assist in furthering these goals, with the associated allocation of resources. First, the AMM appreciated the recommendations in the 2005 *Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Task Force Report* that targeted increasing recreational opportunities for children and youth. The Report identifies extensive opportunities to increase levels of physical activity by using existing school structures to expand programming outside of school usage. Municipalities are interested in pursuing these arrangements and the Province has a role in ensuring recreation opportunities are available on an equitable basis.

Secondly, the AMM has been 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. However, the resultant joint use of facilities and associated programming cannot solely be funded by municipalities. The Province continues to have a role in funding recreation infrastructure in schools as well as other community resources such as libraries and recreation centres. Municipal governments cannot unilaterally sustain the funding that would be required for these new arrangements. It is necessary to ensure that costs are not downloaded and access to recreation can be equitable for all users.

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

3. Increased Funding for Recreation

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.

The Provincial Government has already indicated a commitment to promoting recreation as a part of healthy communities, as evidenced in the report of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Task Force. The findings of this report are not isolated to Manitoba communities. In fact, communities across Canada are facing the same demands for improved recreational opportunities. For this reason, the AMM is seeking the Province's continued support for a tripartite recreational infrastructure program. The program would target the repair, upgrading and building of recreational facilities throughout Manitoba and Canada. It is imperative for the Federal Government to continually be informed of the recreational needs across the country and the Provincial Government has a key role in this regard.

The Federal Government has recognized the need for an increased focus on physical activity through the 2007 pre-budget submission of the Standing Committee on Finance, *Canada: Competing to Win*. The Federal Government should be encouraged to follow through on the recommendations outlined in this submission, particularly regarding the 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. Municipalities across Canada have been working together through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to highlight the national need for recreation funding. In its 2005 federal budget submission, FCM requested 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. Even with this illustration of the 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. For this reason, the Provincial Government should support municipal efforts by continuing to raise the need for a tripartite recreation infrastructure program.

The AMM also acknowledges the Provincial funding initiatives that will assist in maintaining and renewing recreation infrastructure, such as the Throne Speech commitment to double funding for recreation centres across Manitoba. This will complement the 2006 Building Manitoba Fund investment of \$7.4 million over two years for recreation and library facility projects in rural and northern Manitoba. The AMM is also appreciative of the support in place through the Community Places Program. As one of the few existing programs that assist 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 will assist several communities, since so many of Manitoba's recreational facilities are aging and in desperate need of repair.

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. At the same time, municipalities are finding that the maximum Provincial contribution for the Community Places Program of \$50,000 is not sufficient. 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.

Communities are working hard to maximize the life span of facilities and there are opportunities to reduce overall costs without lowering the level of service provided. For example, education and training programs should be developed to encourage municipalities to examine the efficiency of their recreational facilities. The Manitoba Municipal Efficiency Program (MMEP) offers a potential starting point for such initiatives. Other possibilities include reducing the Hydro and MTS rates for publicly owned and operated recreational facilities. The AMM urges the Provincial Government to pursue means of lowering the operating costs of recreation facilities to allow municipalities to provide quality services at a reasonable cost. Decreased operating costs would enable facilities to open for additional time, thereby increasing opportunities for recreation.

Improved recreational infrastructure must occur in conjunction with enhanced program development to help sustain healthy communities. Therefore, the Province must also provide support for recreation practitioners in order to ensure a variety of programming options are available. Recreation Connections Manitoba (RCM) assists recreation practitioners in professional development, training and advocacy, however adequate funding has not been available to completely fulfill this mandate. The recent Provincial funding increase of \$15,000 was certainly appreciated, however this amount still falls short of RCM's funding requirements as identified in their business plan. Similarly, recreation commissions are also in need of additional funding. Recreation commissions are an essential component of the recreation delivery system in Manitoba, yet funding has not increased since the early 1990s. With the widespread demand for additional recreation opportunities it is crucial to fund both the infrastructure and programming that is necessary to meet these demands.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to pursue a tripartite recreation infrastructure program, to work with municipalities to reduce operating costs for recreation facilities, and fund Recreation Connections Manitoba and recreation commissions to ensure the sustainability of Manitoba's recreational facilities and programs.

4. Community Contributions to Health Capital Projects

In 1998, the Provincial Government established a policy requiring local communities to contribute funding to health capital projects. This policy is a disturbing example of downloading a provincial responsibility to municipalities. The AMM has raised the need to change this policy for a number of years, since it is inequitable and inappropriate for local communities to contribute to the provision of health care services. Ministers, including current Health Minister Oswald, have repeatedly committed to reviewing this issue, however the policy has remained in place for nearly 10 years.

Currently, communities are required to fund at least 10 per cent of all local health capital projects. Although the policy does not specify that municipalities must be the only local contributor, municipalities are typically expected to make some portion of the local contribution. Regardless of whether it is the municipal government or the local residents that are required to supply these funds, there is still a financial burden being downloaded from the Provincial Government.

Furthermore, this policy is problematic since communities are required to commit to a project whose design and costs have been unilaterally decided by the Province. Municipalities have no input regarding the associated costs, yet they must be involved due to the Provincial mandate. In addition, communities must fund 100 per cent of any change order regarding the health capital project, even if the project does not initially require a community contribution. This creates obstacles for municipal budgeting since additional costs can arise unexpectedly. These policies do not allow for any local input or consideration of ability to pay, thereby disadvantaging communities with valid needs and insufficient resources to contribute a 10 per cent share.

The Province has indicated that this policy ensures that demands for facilities will only come from communities that are genuinely in need, however there is no evidence that communities are competing to open new facilities. Municipalities recognize the current shortage of health resources, including facilities and medical professionals, and therefore would not request new facilities based on artificial needs. Moreover, Regional Health Authorities (RHA) have a

responsibility to deliver services based on actual needs and therefore have a role in identifying health care needs. The Province provides funding to the RHA for operating and capital projects, and places the RHA in a position to endorse or reject any facility application based on statistical data. Regardless of whether the community is willing to raise 10 per cent of the required costs, the Province must still ensure that the project has merit based on local and regional requirements. To shift blame to municipalities is an abdication of the Provincial responsibility to provide health care to those in need.

The AMM is seeking the elimination of this policy in order to reverse this downloading and to make additional municipal resources available for other local initiatives. Municipalities have many responsibilities that indirectly support the health care system, such as targeting preventative measures including increased recreation and physical activity opportunities. These types of projects contribute to healthy living in communities across Manitoba and ultimately lessen pressures on the health care system by improving the health of citizens. Municipal resources will remain focused on these municipal responsibilities if the Provincial Government maintains its responsibility for health care provision.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial government to eliminate the policy of community contributions to health capital projects and accept full responsibility for health care services.

Appendix A – Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution Number 19 - 2007

Topic: Removal of Community Contributions from Health Care Facilities

Sponsor: RM of Rosedale (Midwestern District)

Department: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living

WHEREAS 10 per cent of community contribution for health care facilities are a financial hardship for the municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to remove the 10 per cent community contribution on any health care facilities.

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 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 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 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, Kenrech 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 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.