



Meeting with  
The Honourable Stan Struthers  
Minister of Conservation

February 26, 2008

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## Executive Summary

### Departmental Issues

#### 1. Recycling

- Since municipalities will certainly remain involved in facilitating recycling programs, it is essential for municipal concerns to be addressed as regulations are developed.
- In defining a governance structure for Green Manitoba, it is appropriate for the AMM to participate in the ongoing decision-making related to recycling issues given the significant impact on municipalities.
- Recycling will only increase to the extent that the programs remain easily accessible and convenient for end users.
- The current commitment to fund MPSC programming at a ratio of 80:20 must be maintained through Green Manitoba.
- Clarification is required to ensure that municipalities are aware which political figure and department staff they should address with comments, questions and concerns.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide sufficient financial resources for Green Manitoba and to provide an opportunity for the AMM's continued participation in the governance structure of Manitoba's key recycling agencies.**

#### 2. Contaminated Sites

- There is a critical need to ensure sufficient funding is available to eliminate the environmental and public health concerns associated with all contaminated and impacted mine and fuel storage sites in this province.
- The AMM is pleased that the Provincial Government has set aside \$39 million for environmental stewardship as part of a larger \$142 million program to address government-owned sites and orphaned or abandoned sites.
- The AMM is prepared to work with the Provincial Government to identify methods of addressing the concerns identified in the Auditor General's report on contaminated sites and landfills.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that sufficient funding is available for all contaminated site remediation required in Manitoba, and to work with the AMM to address the recommendations of the Auditor General's report on contaminated sites and landfills.**

### 3. Issues with Permanent Park Residents and Funding for Parks

- To maintain a high quality park experience, it is essential for the appropriate resources to be available to Provincial parks as well as to the adjacent municipalities that offer services to park residents and visitors.
- Municipalities are concerned that Provincial parks throughout Manitoba require increased capital and operating budgets, due to the link between low investment in Provincial parks and low tourism levels.
- The growing number of permanent park residents must correspond with additional financial resources since municipal residents are currently subsidizing the costs of increased service demands.
- In addition, the current fee system does not require permanent park residents to contribute to local education costs.
- In developing cottage areas, the Province should be required to employ the same sustainable planning principles as municipalities in order to ensure that effective, coordinated planning is conducted throughout Manitoba.
- The impact of increased development in Provincial parks on municipalities must be recognized and Provincial consultation with local municipalities and consideration of local development plans is needed.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that the appropriate resources are made available to Provincial parks, that permanent park residents make a sufficient financial contribution to the municipal services used, and ensure an interconnectivity between Provincial cottage lot development and municipal development plans.**

## General Issues

### 1. Water Issues

- Water management is one of the most important issues facing Manitoba today and we believe it is important that all Ministers understand the significance of the current direction to municipalities.
- Municipalities certainly agree with the Province on the high level goals and visions laid out so far. However it is how the Province is looking to move forward in arriving at these goals that has raised concerns for municipalities.

- Conservation districts (CDs) have become the delivery mechanism of choice for water initiatives in Manitoba, however the funding for CDs has never been equal to the expectations that have been placed upon them. The *Framework for the Future* document advocates for a scenario where the Province will provide little additional funding, while increasing the expectations for CDs.
- There is real concern that the proposed changes to the funding mechanisms will seriously erode the importance of local priorities, ultimately leading to the erosion of local authority.
- By being forced to use the vast majority of the CD budget on provincially directed initiatives, there will be nothing left to deal with local priorities.
- We are also very concerned with the approach taken by the department in trying to gain feedback on the document. The questionnaire is misleading in that it does not deal with these fundamental issues, and instead focuses on support for the very general goal statements.
- We are hopeful that although the Province has moved forward unilaterally on this initiative, there is still opportunity to find a workable solution that benefits everyone.

## Departmental Issues

### 1. Recycling

The extensive changes surrounding recycling in Manitoba will have consequences for key stakeholders, including municipalities. The movement towards industry funded models for all product categories is creating new opportunities and the AMM looks forward to increased recycling rates as a result. Reducing waste is a growing priority for Manitobans as demonstrated by the successes of the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC) and the widespread municipal interest in the activities of Green Manitoba. In order for the new system to successfully enhance recycling, the Province must commit the financial resources necessary for Green Manitoba to operate effectively and ensure that a municipal voice continues to be represented throughout the process.

The AMM appreciated the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations for each category of recyclables. Although several categories of recyclables have been identified, there are common concerns regarding each regulation and associated industry program plan. Since municipalities will certainly remain involved in facilitating recycling programs, it is essential for municipal concerns to be addressed as regulations are developed. To date, the AMM has been pleased with the outcomes of the tire recycling process and is hopeful that the other product categories will also effectively address the municipal concerns raised throughout the consultations. The AMM looks forward to the April 1, 2008 implementation date for the new system.

Among these concerns is the need for the AMM to maintain an ongoing role once regulations are in place. Due to the continuing municipal involvement in recycling initiatives, it is necessary to establish a mechanism to incorporate municipal input throughout the new systems. The AMM has been a long-standing member of the MPSC Board and found this to be a valuable arrangement. Therefore, in defining a governance structure for Green Manitoba, it is appropriate for the AMM to participate in the ongoing decision-making related to recycling issues given the significant impact on municipalities.

Municipalities support the changing systems largely due to the potential for increased recycling activity and the accompanying reduction in demand for municipal landfills. However, recycling will only increase to the extent that the programs remain easily accessible and convenient for end users. The division of responsibility among categories including tires, household hazardous waste, electronic waste, and printed paper and packaging must not create an onerous task for individuals seeking to recycle. This is particularly important in rural areas where curbside pickup is not feasible and individuals must haul recyclables to a central location. Creating a system that requires multiple drop sites will not support the goal of increasing recycling in Manitoba.

The evolving programs also require sufficient Provincial support to ensure they will function effectively. Specifically, a consistent commitment of Provincial funding is required for the successful operation of Green Manitoba. The current commitment to fund MPSC programming at a ratio of 80:20 must be maintained through Green Manitoba. Such a funding commitment will provide the ongoing support necessary to preserve the integrity of existing municipal recycling operations.

As well, the Province must provide further clarification regarding the new recycling program structures. In particular, there are now two departments involved since Green Manitoba reports to Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines, yet Manitoba Conservation maintains legislative responsibility for the regulations governing recycling. Municipalities and other stakeholders require a clear understanding of how the Province will deal with any concerns that arise in order to provide the most effective and efficient resolution mechanisms. Therefore, clarification is required to ensure that municipalities are aware which political figure and department staff they should address with comments, questions and concerns.

Regarding the specific product categories, the AMM is generally pleased with the progress to date. The following concerns remain as each regulation is developed and implemented:

### **Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste**

The AMM believes that each of these processes is moving forward effectively. Municipalities have been advocating for permanent household hazardous waste and electronic waste programs

for several years based on the increasing usage of these products and the awareness of their detrimental effects on the environment if disposed incorrectly. Recent temporary drop-off programs have demonstrated the tremendous demand for appropriate disposal options of household hazardous waste and electronic waste. The AMM looks forward to the creation of permanent programs to ensure that these products are safely disposed rather than generating major environmental hazards in municipal landfills.

### **Printed Paper and Packaging**

This category is certainly the most complex, based on the wide range of products it encompasses. The AMM understands that this complexity is contributing to the additional time that has been required to finalize the regulation, however there is a pressing need to complete this process. Ongoing delays will increase costs associated with the transition from MPSC to the industry funded organization. These costs can be avoided with timely implementation, thereby leaving more resources available to support recycling programming. As well, it is particularly important that this category of recyclables remain user-friendly to ensure that recycling rates increase across the province. The AMM looks forward to the release of the printed paper and packaging regulation in the near future.

### **Tire Recycling**

The AMM is appreciative of the progress to date regarding tire recycling in Manitoba. Municipal input was considered both in the consultations on the regulation and through the AMM's participation on the Tire Stewardship Interim Board. The AMM looks forward to maintaining this participation and would welcome the opportunity to be involved in the multi-stakeholder advisory committee as identified in the Scrap Tire Program Plan. One of the AMM's top concerns regarding tire recycling is the need to preserve the province-wide application of the program. Rural, remote and northern communities face additional challenges for tire recycling and this program must remain accessible to all Manitoba communities.

The AMM expects the outstanding regulations will follow a similar direction as demonstrated by the *Tire Stewardship Regulation* given the effectiveness of this regulation. Municipalities share the Province's interest in creating the best possible legislation and recycling programs for

Manitoba and are looking forward to the finalization of the new recycling regulations and structure.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide sufficient financial resources for Green Manitoba and to provide an opportunity for the AMM's continued participation in the governance structure of Manitoba's key recycling agencies.**

## 2. Contaminated Sites

Across Manitoba, municipalities are facing environmental and health hazards as a result of the contaminated sites in their communities. The Province has recently made an important commitment to the remediation of selected sites which will result in considerable environmental benefits for these communities. At the same time, one of the main problems with contaminated sites is the high cost of remediation. Although brownfields are often more efficient sites for development due to their proximity to existing infrastructure, the remediation costs are far greater than the potential efficiency gains. Therefore, there is a critical need to ensure sufficient funding is available to eliminate the environmental and public health concerns associated with all contaminated and impacted mine and fuel storage sites in this province.

The AMM is pleased that the Provincial Government has set aside \$39 million for environmental stewardship as part of a larger \$142 million program to address government-owned sites and orphaned or abandoned sites. As well, the recent commitment of \$4 million for rehabilitation work at Lynn Lake, Sherridon, Ruttan and Snow Lake will also provide substantial environmental benefits for these mining communities. These programs will address many ongoing contamination issues, however evaluation of the program will be required to ensure that this funding is sufficient to address the needs of all contaminated sites in Manitoba.

A further concern for municipalities was the October 2007 Auditor General's report on the Province's management of contaminated sites and landfills. The report outlines many ways to enhance contaminated site and landfill management and many of these recommendations require a coordinated effort between the Provincial Government and municipal governments. For instance, the report recommends improving the identification of contaminated sites and the assessment of their associated environmental liabilities. Municipalities have a vested interest in contaminated site rehabilitation based on the potential for future development of these brownfield sites. For this reason, the AMM is prepared to work with the Provincial Government to identify methods of addressing these and other concerns as identified in the Auditor General's report.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that sufficient funding is available for all contaminated site remediation required in Manitoba, and to work with the AMM to address the recommendations of the Auditor General's report on contaminated sites and landfills.**

### **3. Issues with Permanent Park Residents and Funding for Parks**

Provincial parks offer countless benefits to their users and Manitobans should be encouraged to experience this valuable provincial resource. To maintain a high quality park experience, it is essential for the appropriate resources to be available to Provincial parks as well as to the adjacent municipalities that offer services to park residents and visitors. Equitable contributions from all local residents—whether they live in parks or municipalities—must be collected and used to fund shared local services. As the Province continues its review of the Park District Service Fee system, these concerns must be considered to ensure the long-term sustainability of municipalities and their infrastructure, as well as to promote increased park usage.

Municipalities are concerned that Provincial parks throughout Manitoba require increased capital and operating budgets, due to the link between low investment in Provincial parks and low tourism levels. This is problematic for municipalities since communities located in the vicinity of Provincial parks are able to generate economic development opportunities based on increased tourism potential. Developing more attractive communities for long- and short-term visitors will in turn promote greater park usage. Therefore, due to the important economic spinoff benefits, there is a need to address the level of funding available for the capital and operating budgets of Provincial parks.

Although adjacent municipalities welcome new residents and visitors to Provincial parks, there must be an equitable distribution of local service costs among year-round users. There is a growing trend towards secondary residences evolving into permanent, full-time residences, which results in additional demand for municipal services. These permanent park residents use municipal services such as roads and recreation centres, yet are not required to contribute to the municipal taxes that fund these services. The growing number of permanent park residents must correspond with additional financial resources from these municipal service users since municipal residents are currently subsidizing the costs of increased service demands.

In addition, the current fee system does not require permanent park residents to contribute to local education costs. Since the Chief Place of Residence Levy is allocated to the Consolidated Fund, local school divisions do not receive the direct benefit of this contribution to education

funding. It is necessary to ensure that all residences situated in Provincial parks be taxed in a manner which fairly represents the distribution of education and municipal costs accumulated therein.

The Province must also take a greater responsibility for cottage development within its parks and the impacts on neighbouring communities. The recent cottage development stemming from the Province's cottage lot draw process has resulted in significant consequences for planning processes in adjacent municipalities. Since the implementation of the new *Planning Act*, municipalities have focused on creating development plans that incorporate sustainable planning principles. However, the Provincial allocation of cottage lots seems contrary to the principles outlined in this legislation because there is insufficient consideration of adjacent land uses and infrastructure capabilities. In developing cottage areas, the Province should be required to employ the same sustainable planning principles as municipalities in order to ensure that effective, coordinated planning is conducted throughout Manitoba.

Furthermore, there is a disconnect between the services required by cottage owners in parks and the actual services available in the area. For instance, there is often an expectation that cottage properties can rely on municipalities to provide services such as water supply and treatment, sewage collection and treatment, and road maintenance. It is logical for municipalities to provide these services, however if they were not advised of the Province's plans to increase cottage development in the area, they would not have the opportunity to plan for these increased service requirements. The impact of increased development in Provincial parks on municipalities must be recognized and Provincial consultation with local municipalities and consideration of local development plans is needed.

Municipalities are supportive of park development due to the benefits that accrue to their communities. At the same time, this development places demands on municipal infrastructure and services that must be matched with increased local resources. The AMM appreciates that the Province is currently reviewing the Park District Service Fee system and looks forward to the implementation of a new system that distributes service costs in an equitable manner.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that the appropriate resources are made available to Provincial parks, that permanent park residents make a sufficient financial contribution to the municipal services used, and ensure an interconnectivity between Provincial cottage lot development and municipal development plans.**

## General Issues

### 1. Water Issues

Each year the AMM includes a top issue as a general agenda item for its meetings with all individual Cabinet Ministers. This year the AMM Board is taking municipal concerns with the current Provincial direction on water-related issues. The reason we are taking this issue to all Ministers is to let each Cabinet Minister know the importance of this issue to municipalities and our primary concerns. We believe this is one of the most important issues facing Manitoba today and we believe it is important that all Ministers understand the significance of the current direction to municipalities.

The AMM has always been a willing partner on water initiatives whenever asked. The AMM was one of the most vocal advocates for the creation of a single department to deal with water initiatives. The AMM has also participated on a number of provincial direction-setting initiatives, including the Manitoba Water Strategy. Municipalities know firsthand the importance of properly managing water and have always been willing to do what is needed. Clean drinking water, safely managed wastewater, and proper drainage and water management are all priorities for municipalities, just as they are for the Province.

Municipalities certainly agree with the Province on the high level goals and visions laid out so far. However it is how the Province is looking to move forward in arriving at these goals that has raised concerns for municipalities.

Throughout the last number of years municipalities have been raising concerns with how all of the new directions announced by the Province will be funded. Most recently the Province released *Framework for the Future*, a discussion document on the future of conservation districts in the province, which is most alarming. Conservation districts (CDs) have become the delivery mechanism of choice for water initiatives in Manitoba, however the funding for CDs has never been equal to the expectations that have been placed upon them. This document advocates for a scenario where the Province will provide little additional funding, while increasing the expectations for CDs.

One of the greatest strengths of CDs is that they are locally driven, with boards comprised of local residents making decisions based on local priorities. However there is real concern that the proposed changes to the funding mechanisms will seriously erode the importance of local priorities, ultimately leading to the erosion of local authority. This new proposal is to link limited provincial funding with provincial priorities, taking away a local CD's ability to use provincial funding for locally decided priorities. By being forced to use the vast majority of their budget on provincially directed initiatives, there will be nothing left to deal with local priorities. While we certainly expect there to be similarities between provincial and CD priorities, any flexibility in addressing local priorities will be lost.

These are very fundamental issues that need to be discussed and dealt with in order for the CD program to work in Manitoba. However we are very concerned with the approach taken by the department in trying to gain feedback on the document. The questionnaire is misleading in that it does not deal with these fundamental issues, and instead focuses on support for the very general goal statements. We feel the information gained from the questionnaires will only provide part of the picture, while many of the more fundamental issues are not addressed.

The AMM has a long history of working together with the Province, and over the last few years we have worked closely on numerous issues. While often we have differing opinions about what is best, we have been able to work together to find solutions to challenges and with the end result being what is best for all Manitobans. We are hopeful that although the Province has moved forward unilaterally on this initiative, there is still opportunity to find a workable solution that benefits everyone.

## Appendix A – Active Resolutions

### **AMM Resolution Number 13 - 2007**

#### **Topic: Material Stewardship Program**

Sponsor: City of Thompson (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS the benefits of having a comprehensive recycling program has proven to be valuable in ensuring the amount of waste products being taken to landfill sites is minimized;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for a more comprehensive material stewardship program that maximizes the amount of materials and number of products to be recycled.

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

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

Sponsor: City of Dauphin (Parkland 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 08 - 2006**

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

Sponsor: Town of Russell (Midwestern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship

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

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

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

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

**AMM Resolution Number 10 - 2006**

**Topic: Beaver Control/Management Program**

Sponsor: RM of Rosburn (Midwestern District)

Department: Manitoba Conservation, Environment Canada

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

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

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

**AMM Resolution Number 33 - 2006**

**Topic: Drink Container Deposit**

Sponsor: City of Brandon (Western District)

Department: Manitoba Conservation

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

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

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

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

**AMM Resolution Number 38 - 2006**

**Topic: Review of Environmental Levy Rates**

Sponsor: City of Dauphin (Parkland 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 08 - 2005**

**Topic: Additional Inspectors**

Sponsor: RM of Shoal Lake (Midwestern District)

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

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

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

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

**AMM Resolution Number 15 - 2005**

**Topic: Crown Land Subsidies**

Sponsor: RM of Sifton (Western District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

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

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

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

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

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

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

**AMM Resolution Number 17 - 2005**

**Topic: Weed Control for Ditches**

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

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

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

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

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

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

**AMM Resolution Number 18 - 2005**

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

Sponsor: RM Springfield (Eastern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

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

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

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

**AMM Resolution Number 69 - 2005**

**Topic: Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Program**

Sponsor: RM of Taché (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 12 - 2004**

**Topic: Clean up of Contaminated Sites**

Sponsor: Town of Lynn Lake (Northern District)

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

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

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

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

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

**AMM Resolution Number 14 - 2004**

**Topic: Increase Funding for Provincial Parks**

Sponsor: Town of Winnipeg Beach (Interlake District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

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

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

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

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

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

**AMM Resolution Number 59 - 2004**

**Topic: Electronic Waste Collection Program**

Sponsor: RM of Taché (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 AMM 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 AMM 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 AMM work with the Provincial Government to begin an educational campaign to inform the general public about the benefits of recycling/re-using these types of nuisance items.

**AMM Resolution Number 41 - 2001**

**Topic: Taxation on Permanent Park Residents**

Sponsor: RM of Kelsey (Northern District), RM of Park (Midwestern District)

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

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

**AMM Resolution Number 42 - 2001**

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

Sponsor: RM of Kelsey (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

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

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

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

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

#### **AMM Resolution Number 44 - 2001**

##### **Topic: Contaminated Sites**

Sponsor: Town of The Pas (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to ensure that *The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act* be amended to define remediation to include all actions required to restore the site to its original state, which includes removal of all foreign materials and equipment and final site testing;

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

#### **AMM Resolution Number 34 - 2000**

##### **Topic: Recycling Funding for Corrugated Cardboard**

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

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to increase its funding of corrugated cardboard from 25 per cent to 100 per cent under the Product Stewardship Program.