



Meeting with
The Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation

February 24, 2009

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Executive Summary

Departmental Issues

1. Recycling

- Municipalities are supportive of changing recycling 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.
- Municipalities will continue to be a primary stakeholder in recycling initiatives and municipal input must be incorporated throughout the new processes.
- The evolving programs also require Provincial support through a consistent funding commitment to ensure they will function effectively and the 80:20 funding ratio must be maintained.
- The AMM looks forward to consulting with the industry group as a program plan is developed for packaging and printed paper, as well as with the Province as it reviews the industry's plan.
- It is critical that the Province now focus on establishing regulations to improve the management of household hazardous waste and electronic waste.
- One of the AMM's top concerns regarding tire recycling continues to be the preservation of the province-wide application of this program.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide sufficient financial resources for newly established recycling programs 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.
- Once the Province's inventory of contaminated sites is complete and the extent of contamination is fully assessed, the Province must consider whether its current funding commitment is sufficient to have substantial immediate and long-term impacts on the remediation of contaminated sites.
- Although the Province is clearly engaged in moving its remediation efforts forward, municipalities have also identified other opportunities to assist in remediation.
- In particular, the addition of a set timeline for companies to conduct required remediation works would accelerate the site renewal process.

- Such brownfields are often located on prime real estate and once the soil is appropriately restored, they would be optimal locations for future development.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that sufficient funding is available for required contaminated site remediation and to legislate a timeline for private companies to complete necessary remediation work.

3. Issues with Permanent Park Residents and Funding for Parks

- Neighbouring municipalities welcome new residents and visitors to Provincial parks since some economic spinoff benefits are generated, however these benefits do not come close to compensating municipalities for the services they provide.
- In order for municipalities to maintain services, the growing number of permanent park residents must generate adequate financial resources to cover the increased demand for services.
- Permanent park residents also avoid contributing to local education costs under the current fee structure.
- 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.
- There is often an expectation that cottage properties will rely on municipalities to provide services, however municipalities must be consulted in order to incorporate these increased service demands into their planning processes.
- The AMM is aware that the final report of the Park District Service Fee review is being prepared and is hopeful that the Minister will examine and implement appropriate recommendations in a timely manner.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that permanent park residents make an appropriate financial contribution to the municipal services used and that Provincial cottage lot development is coordinated with municipal development plans.

4. Water and Wastewater Operator Certification and Municipal Facility Classification

- Gaps in operator training opportunities within Manitoba have persisted since this process was initiated.
- This is a pressing problem since the first round of conditional licenses is set to expire in June 2009 and the Province has still not established the necessary systems to ensure that municipalities can hire certified operators.

- While there are sufficient Level I and II courses and exams available, the ongoing lack of Level III and IV courses in Manitoba remains a major concern.
- Red River College and Manitoba Water Stewardship have both expressed a willingness to design courses that respond to the specific needs of current operators, however no action has been taken to address this concern.
- Municipalities do not want to lose highly-skilled operators due to insufficient technical training and the Province must consider implementing alternative course models in order to advance its commitment to provide necessary training opportunities.
- The AMM has raised these concerns with various Ministers and in discussions with senior staff for several years, however there has been no resolution to this serious matter. The AMM is prepared to help in any way to ensure complete compliance.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide training opportunities within Manitoba for all operator levels to ensure that municipal facilities can employ operators with the necessary training and skill level.

5. Beaver Control Program

- The establishment of the Problem Beaver Management Program has been a critical step in controlling the beaver population and minimizing the associated damages.
- The AMM advocated for increased rates and is pleased with the increase to \$20 for the period of October 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.
- The Province should evaluate the increased effectiveness of the higher rate at the end of this time period and consider making this a permanent program change.
- The Province has not implemented a program with comparable results for Crown lands, which can create major problems for adjacent municipalities.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Province to maintain the increased rates for problem beaver removal and implement a program to control beavers on Crown lands.

General Issues

1. Alternate Revenues for Municipalities and Infrastructure Investment

- Today's municipal council must balance community economic development, land use planning and infrastructure renewal and development with an eroding tax base and an increased reliance on application-based grants.
- The message the AMM is hoping to convey is not that the provincial or federal government has completely forgotten about municipalities, but rather that despite their efforts municipalities still face enormous challenges and more is needed.

- A new approach is needed, and for this reason we are asking the Province of Manitoba to share one percent of the Provincial Sales Tax with municipalities for infrastructure. This will provide municipalities with in excess of \$200 million a year.
- What should not be lost is the positive impact infrastructure investment would have for the provincial and national economy.
- A study by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities found that an increase in municipal infrastructure spending of \$1 billion in 2008 (at nominal process and allocated to a representative mix of infrastructure) would increase the size of the real economy by roughly 0.13 percent, or \$1.3 billion in nominal terms.
- Municipalities are not looking for new revenue sources to store money away for a rainy day. The storm has arrived.
- Providing municipalities with new revenue sources will not only begin to address the growing infrastructure deficit, but will help build and strengthen our economy.
- For municipal government to be sustainable into the future, and for Manitobans to have access to the quality of life they deserve, municipalities need to have access to sustainable growth revenues.

Therefore the AMM is asking the Province to undertake a serious review of the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal government in Manitoba and in the short term provide municipalities with one percent of the current PST to help address the growing municipal infrastructure deficit.

Departmental Issues

1. Recycling

There is widespread demand to increase recycling rates as part of the movement towards extended producer responsibility models for all product categories. Municipalities often hear that reducing waste is a growing priority for their constituents and communities must have access to recycling programs that meet these demands. In order for the new systems to successfully enhance recycling, the Province must commit the financial resources necessary to ensure effective operations are in place, while ensuring new programs are responsive to municipal concerns.

Municipalities are supportive of changing recycling 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 packaging and printed paper 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 for the various categories will not support the goal of increasing recycling in Manitoba.

Municipalities will continue to be a primary stakeholder in recycling initiatives and municipal input must be incorporated throughout the new processes. As new programs are developed, the AMM must maintain an ongoing role in the program implementation and evaluation to ensure that any concerns are dealt with appropriately. The AMM is a long-standing member of the MPSC Board and has found such arrangements to be a valuable avenue to discuss recycling issues that affect municipalities. For this reason, the AMM was pleased with the Minister's recent commitment to involve our organization in Manitoba's extended producer responsibility initiative. It is appropriate for the AMM to continue participating in the ongoing decision-making related to recycling issues given the significant impact on municipalities.

Regarding the specific product categories, the following concerns remain as regulations are developed and implemented:

Packaging and Printed Paper

This category is certainly the most complex based on the wide range of products it encompasses, and the AMM is pleased that the Province has responded by implementing the *Packaging and Printed Paper Regulation*. The AMM appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback as this regulation was developed and believes it will appropriately support program development by the industry funded organization (IFO). The AMM was also pleased to see the disposal of plastic bags in the new regulation and guideline as it is beneficial to address these nuisance items through this regulation. In fact, the guideline of requiring single-use plastic bags to be recyclable or biodegradable is consistent with a resolution recently passed by the AMM membership. One of the key concerns as the industry organization implements its program plan is that the recycling process remains user-friendly in order to promote increased recycling rates across the province. Current programs are well-executed and any interruptions could be detrimental to Manitoba's recycling efforts. The AMM will meet with the IFO as it develops its plan, and will be making it clear that any new system must provide a high level of service to all of Manitoba.

The evolving programs also require Provincial support through a consistent funding commitment to ensure they will function effectively. The AMM was pleased that the Province's guideline on Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship confirmed the 80:20 funding formula for municipal residential diversion programs would be upheld. Such a funding commitment will provide the ongoing support necessary to preserve the integrity of existing municipal recycling operations.

The AMM looks forward to consulting with the industry group as a program plan is developed as well as with the Province as it reviews the industry's plan.

Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste

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 recognition of their detrimental effects on the environment if disposed incorrectly. In recent

years, temporary drop-off programs have demonstrated the tremendous demand for appropriate disposal options for household hazardous waste and electronic waste, as well as the inadequacy of the current process. The regional nature of the temporary drop-off programs makes it very difficult for many communities to transport these materials to the designated locations and a permanent program would certainly ease this process. The AMM looks forward to the creation of permanent programs to ensure that household hazardous waste and electronic waste are safely disposed rather than generating major environmental hazards in municipal landfills. Since the *Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation* is now in place, it is critical that the Province focus on establishing regulations to improve the management of household hazardous waste and electronic waste.

Tire Recycling

With the first year of the industry funded tire recycling program nearly complete, the AMM is pleased with the program's success thus far. The opportunity to participate on the Tire Stewardship Advisory Committee is a valuable avenue to discuss municipal concerns and provide recommendations where improvements are required. One of the AMM's top concerns regarding tire recycling continues to be the preservation of the province-wide application of this program. Rural, remote and northern communities face additional challenges for tire recycling and this program must remain accessible to all Manitoba communities.

Given the effectiveness of the *Tire Stewardship Regulation*, the AMM expects the outstanding regulations to follow a similar direction. Municipalities share the Province's interest in creating the best possible legislation and recycling programs for Manitoba and look forward to the finalization of the new recycling regulations and structures.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide sufficient financial resources for newly established recycling programs 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 recently committed funding to the remediation of selected sites which will result in considerable environmental benefits for the affected communities. At the same time, one of the main problems with contaminated sites is the high cost of remediation, therefore the Province must ensure that the funds allocated will have a significant impact towards improving the broad range of contaminated sites in Manitoba.

Although brownfields are often more efficient sites for development due to their proximity to existing infrastructure, the remediation costs often present an overwhelming obstacle to restoring these sites in a timely manner. Therefore, there is a critical need to ensure sufficient mechanisms are in place to eliminate the environmental and public health concerns associated with all contaminated and impacted mine and fuel storage sites in this province.

The AMM was pleased that the Provincial Government set aside \$39 million for environmental stewardship as part of a larger \$165 million program to address government-owned sites and orphaned or abandoned sites. Projects such as the brownfield redevelopment in Brandon will offer a valuable asset to the community while improving population and environmental health. As well, municipalities are looking forward to the benefits that will accrue as a result of the recent commitment of \$19 million to rehabilitate selected orphaned and abandoned mines over a two year period. The AMM was also pleased to learn that the Province is working to compile an inventory of contaminated sites in Manitoba and to develop a comprehensive plan to address this contamination. If the target completion date of March 2009 is met, there will be significant opportunities to advance the remediation plan in the coming construction season. Once the inventory is complete and the extent of contamination is fully assessed, the Province must consider whether its current funding commitment is sufficient to have substantial immediate and long-term impacts on the remediation of contaminated sites.

Orphaned and abandoned sites are a major problem and although the Province is clearly engaged in moving its remediation efforts forward, municipalities have also identified other opportunities to assist in remediation. Where the responsible company can be identified, municipalities agree with legislated measures that hold these companies accountable for the required remediation.

Furthermore, the addition of a set timeline for conducting this work would accelerate the required works. In some cases, companies only remove the superficial structures while leaving the soil contaminated, since there is a considerable cost associated with its removal. These companies are not concerned that the property cannot be sold and are willing to incur the long-term costs of holding the property rather than undertaking the necessary remediation and soil testing. Such brownfields are often located on prime real estate and once the soil is appropriately restored, they would be optimal locations for future development. Allowing these sites to remain contaminated indefinitely deprives communities of the opportunity to pursue alternative uses for the location in question. For this reason, the AMM membership passed a resolution at the 2008 Convention recommending a legislated timeline for remediation of three years after the closure or abandonment of the facility. This recommendation allows a reasonable timeframe for companies to plan for and implement the required works to restore the site to a usable condition.

Although the Province has made important strides in addressing contaminated sites in Manitoba, this effort would benefit from additional long-term funding and further criteria for remediation by private companies.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that sufficient funding is available for required contaminated site remediation and to legislate a timeline for private companies to complete necessary remediation work.

3. Issues with Permanent Park Residents

To maintain a high quality park experience, it is essential for the appropriate resources to be made available to adjacent municipalities offering services to permanent park residents. Equitable contributions from all local residents—whether they live in parks or municipalities—must be collected and used to fund the local services that these residents all enjoy. This matter must be addressed through the Park District Service Fee review in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of municipalities and the infrastructure they provide to municipal and park residents alike.

Neighbouring municipalities welcome new residents and visitors to Provincial parks since some economic spinoff benefits are generated, however these benefits do not come close to compensating municipalities for the services they provide. An equitable distribution of local service costs among year-round users is necessary to ensure that these services remain financially viable over the long-term. Municipalities are impacted by the growing trend toward secondary residences becoming permanent full-time residences, thereby creating an additional demand for municipal services. Such permanent park residents make use of municipal services including roads, recreation centres, fire protection, first responders, garbage and wastewater disposal, yet are not required to contribute to the municipal tax base that funds these services. In order for municipalities to maintain services, the growing number of permanent park residents must generate adequate financial resources to cover the increased demand for services. The current system is inequitable since municipal ratepayers are now subsidizing the costs of increased service demands stemming from permanent park residents.

Furthermore, permanent park residents avoid contributing to local education costs under the current fee structure. Since the Chief Place of Residence Levy paid by park residents is allocated to the Consolidated Fund, local school divisions do not receive the direct benefit of this contribution to education funding. Rather, all residences situated in Provincial parks should be taxed in a manner that results in a fair contribution to education and municipal costs for all local residents.

The Province must also take a greater responsibility for cottage development within its parks and the associated impacts on neighbouring communities. Development stemming from the Province's cottage lot draw process results in significant consequences for the planning processes of adjacent municipalities. Since the implementation of the new *Planning Act*, municipalities are focusing on designing development plans based on sustainable planning principles. The Provincial allocation of cottage lots seems contrary to the principles outlined in this legislation due to the 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, the services required and expected by cottage owners in parks do not always match the actual services available in the area. For instance, there is often an expectation that cottage properties will rely on municipalities to provide services such as water supply and treatment, sewage collection and treatment, and road maintenance. It is logical and efficient for municipalities to provide these services, however they must be advised of the Province's plans to increase cottage development in the area. Otherwise, municipalities will not plan for the additional service requirements and will not necessarily have the capacity to meet the needs of the park residents. The municipal impacts of increasing residential development in Provincial parks must be recognized through Provincial consultation with local municipalities and consideration of local development plans.

Municipalities support 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 demands a mechanism to equitably increase local resources. The AMM is aware that the final report of the Park District Service Fee review is being prepared and is hopeful that the Minister will examine and implement appropriate recommendations in a timely manner.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to ensure that permanent park residents make an appropriate financial contribution to the municipal services used and that Provincial cottage lot development is coordinated with municipal development plans.

4. Water and Wastewater Operator Certification and Municipal Facility Classification

Municipalities consistently support effective water management since safe water supply and treatment are critical to the well-being of local residents. For this reason, the AMM has supported the need to classify facilities and certify operators in order to regulate water and wastewater treatment services. However, gaps in operator training opportunities within Manitoba have persisted since this process was initiated. As a result, municipalities continue to face obstacles in certifying operators due to the insufficiency of locally-available training. This is a pressing problem since the first round of conditional licenses is set to expire in June 2009 and the Province has still not established the necessary systems to ensure that municipalities can hire certified operators. The AMM has raised these concerns from the time the Province initiated the certification process and it has now reached a critical point where action must be taken to ensure Manitoba's water and wastewater treatment is properly managed.

Water quality is a high priority for municipalities and the AMM agrees that hiring qualified operators is a necessary step in fulfilling this responsibility. However, many municipalities and individuals are finding the high cost of training courses and exams to be a difficult challenge. While there are sufficient Level I and II courses and exams available, the ongoing lack of Level III and IV courses in Manitoba remains a major concern. In order to pursue in-class instruction for higher certification levels, students are required to travel out of province or internationally. This significantly increases the costs associated with Level III and IV certification, thereby exacerbating the challenge of finding certified operators.

Some on-line courses are now available for Level III and IV, however direct interaction with instructors greatly assists in understanding this complex material. The difficulty of challenging the Level III and IV exams has led many municipalities to question the suitability of on-line courses. Since municipalities pay the course and exam fees, it is essential to maximize the opportunity for their employees to succeed. Therefore, the Province must ensure that adequate training opportunities are available within Manitoba to meet the requirements of the Provincial legislation at all certification levels.

In addition, the Province should ensure that there are courses tailored to experienced operators. Often the operators with conditional licenses have been employed in the field for many years and do not require the same instruction as a new operator. Rather, these individuals tend to require a brief update in preparation for challenging the exams. Red River College and Manitoba Water Stewardship have both expressed a willingness to design courses that respond to the specific needs of current operators, however no action has been taken to address this concern. Proposed changes to course design included: expanding the course time from four to seven or nine days to allow for more in-depth exploration of the material; a hybrid course where students engage in some correspondence work prior to in-class instruction; or moving courses outside Winnipeg if there is sufficient demand. The AMM recognizes that this will lead to higher course costs for municipalities, however such options are expected to improve the pass rates. If operators cannot fulfill the course requirements the first time, there are even greater costs associated with waiting to re-take courses and exams. Municipalities do not want to lose highly-skilled operators due to insufficient technical training, therefore the Province must consider implementing such alternative models in order to advance its commitment to provide necessary training opportunities.

To achieve a consistently safe water supply across Manitoba, the Province must work with municipalities to ensure that individuals can obtain the required qualifications in an efficient manner. The AMM has raised these concerns with various Ministers and in discussions with senior staff for several years, however there has been no resolution to this serious matter. Even when the AMM offered to work with affected municipalities to promote alternative solutions, the Province has not encouraged or facilitated these efforts by providing relevant information. The AMM remains prepared to work with the Province and municipalities to ensure certified operators are in place, however municipalities cannot be the only active participant in this effort.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide training opportunities within Manitoba for all operator levels to ensure that municipal facilities can employ operators with the necessary training and skill level.

5. Beaver Control Program

Communities with high wildlife populations often experience detrimental effects on private and municipal property. In the case of high beaver populations, these impacts are heightened by the effect of damming and flooding which can wash out municipal roads, agricultural fields and other important property.

The establishment of the Problem Beaver Management Program has been a critical step in controlling the beaver population and minimizing the associated damages. However, the program must provide sufficient incentive for individuals to participate. When the AMM consulted with the Province in 2005, a recommendation was made to increase the fee level for each problem beaver removed to \$20 per pelt. It was beneficial that some of the other recommendations from this consultation were implemented such as the program timelines, however a permanent rate increase will have a stronger impact on beaver control efforts by stimulating trapping activity. The AMM is pleased that the rate has been increased to \$20 for the period of October 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. The Province should evaluate the increased effectiveness of the higher rate at the end of this time period and consider making this a permanent program change.

While municipalities are working with community members to control beaver population on municipal and private property, there are issues stemming from within Crown lands that must also be addressed. The Province has not implemented a program with comparable results for Crown lands, which can create major problems for adjacent municipalities. Since municipalities have no jurisdiction to enter Crown lands for the purpose of beaver control, the Province must enhance its efforts to manage the beaver population within these areas.

The AMM appreciates that the Province has incorporated municipal input in other aspects of its beaver management program and municipalities hope that these suggestions will be given the same consideration.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Province to maintain the increased rates for problem beaver removal and implement a program to control beavers on Crown lands.

General Issues

1. Alternate Revenue for Municipalities and Infrastructure

Investment

The lack of revenue is not a new problem for municipalities. In fact a strong argument can be made that from its inception municipal government has not had the resources required. You need only look back to the resolutions from the founding meeting of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities in 1905 to see municipal revenues were front and centre.

But now more than ever municipalities need new tools to deal with new responsibilities and new expectations. Municipalities are playing an ever greater role in the lives of Manitobans, as the days of simply collecting garbage and plowing roads are long gone. Today's municipal council must balance community economic development, land use planning and infrastructure renewal and development with an eroding tax base and an increased reliance on application-based grants. This has left many municipalities to question whether the current system is tenable any longer.

Currently, Manitoba municipalities are more reliant on provincial and federal grants than any other province in Canada. While in some cases these types of programs are necessary (for example large-scale infrastructure projects), it leaves municipalities having to compete against one another for limited dollars and restricts a municipality's ability to properly plan for much needed investment. The amount in grant programs like the recent Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is nowhere near the total demand, meaning there is no guarantee much needed projects will ever see funding.

Overreliance on grants and transfers leaves municipalities without the tools required to meet demands. Many issues raised by municipalities are really issues of access to revenue when stripped down to their core. For example, the need to remove education tax from property is really a municipal revenue issue, as municipalities see education tax as eroding the property tax, which is the single greatest source of municipal revenue. Over the last number of years we have seen more and more municipalities speaking out on the need for greater municipal revenue sources.

It is important that the federal and provincial governments' contribution to municipalities are not forgotten. Federally, municipalities have benefited from a GST rebate, the sharing of the federal gas tax and the new Building Canada Fund. The recent Federal Budget has made an unprecedented investment in infrastructure, which will benefit municipalities. Provincially, municipalities have benefited from the sharing of provincial income tax, the Building Manitoba Fund, and supports in several other areas. The message the AMM is hoping to convey is not that either order of government has completely forgotten about municipalities, but rather that despite these efforts municipalities still face enormous challenges and more is needed.

Municipalities must have access to new revenue sources. A greater reliance on property taxes and provincial and federal grants has created an ever-widening chasm between municipal revenues and needs, leaving future generations with what is quickly becoming an insurmountable infrastructure deficit.

A new approach is needed, and for this reason we are asking the Province of Manitoba to share one percent of the Provincial Sales Tax with municipalities for infrastructure. This will provide municipalities with in excess of \$200 million a year. For a community of 1,000 people, this means an investment of roughly \$185,000 in their local infrastructure, or \$370,000 for a community of 2,000 people. A community such as Thompson could see close to \$2.5 million while Winnipeg would expect to see over \$117 million. Although these amounts alone will not erase the infrastructure deficit in Manitoba, it would be a positive first step.

The AMM understands that providing additional revenues to municipalities may become more difficult as the economy continues to fluctuate. While economic projections can never be taken as absolute fact, they are often a prophetic divining rod on economic times. However what should not be lost is the positive impact infrastructure investment would have for the provincial and national economy.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has investigated this principle in depth and has found in their 2008 study "Municipal Infrastructure- Macroeconomic impacts of spending and level-of

government financing” that an increase in municipal infrastructure spending of \$1 billion in 2008 (at nominal process and allocated to a representative mix of infrastructure) would increase the size of the real economy by roughly 0.13 percent, or \$1.3 billion in nominal terms. While this would erode slightly over time with consistent investment, over a four year period it would still result in meaningful gains to the economy, dropping to a 0.6 percent increase in the final year.

The resulting investment would be felt in the employment sector as well, since a great number of industries would benefit. A \$1 billion investment in 2008 would add 11,500 new jobs, in industries from labour and material suppliers through to architects and engineers.

Giving municipalities access to additional revenues, will translate to stronger investment in our communities. The Institute for Research on Public Policy has shown that providing adequate infrastructure has both direct and indirect benefits for private-sector manufacturing.

Infrastructure is an intermediate input into the production process, with businesses locating where they have access to water, hydro and transportation. New roads reduce fuel costs and haul times. Access to high quality (and adequate) water reduces input costs. There is also evidence that increased investments in public infrastructure allow private companies to use labour inputs more intensively, translating into more jobs.

Municipalities are not looking for new revenue sources to store money away for a rainy day. The storm has arrived. The national municipal infrastructure deficit is in excess of \$123 billion for current infrastructure with another \$115 billion needed for new infrastructure to keep pace with other developed nations. Left to deal with this ballooning deficit alone armed only with property taxes and grants, it will continue to grow exponentially. Alternatively, providing municipalities with new revenue sources will not only begin to address this growing deficit, but will help build and strengthen our economy.

The time has come for a new approach to municipal funding. The expectations of today’s municipalities are greater than any time in history. Regrettably so are the financial challenges facing municipalities. For municipal government to be sustainable into the future, and for

Manitobans to have access to the quality of life they deserve, municipalities need to have access to sustainable growth revenues.

Therefore the AMM is asking the Province to undertake a serious review of the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal government in Manitoba and in the short term provide municipalities with one percent of the current PST to help address the growing municipal infrastructure deficit.

Appendix A – Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution Number 14 - 2008

Topic: Biodegradable and Reusable Shopping Bags

Sponsor: RM of Kelsey (Northern District)

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

WHEREAS many businesses, especially retail stores, use plastic bags for customer purchases;

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

AND WHEREAS they become a windblown nuisance for municipalities to clean up;

AND WHEREAS plastic bags take many years to decompose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to legislate that retailers use biodegradable or reusable carry out bags for consumers and eliminate the current use of plastic bags.

AMM Resolution Number 15 - 2008

Topic: Education Program for Recycling

Sponsor: RM of Kelsey (Northern District)

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to restructure and improve an educational program informing the general public of the benefits of recycling.

AMM Resolution Number 16 - 2008

Topic: Recycling Programs

Sponsor: Town of The Pas (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Environment Canada

WHEREAS municipalities have taken a lead role in supporting green communities and addressing waste reduction by actively promoting, participating in and subsidizing recycling programs;

AND WHEREAS the costs for shipping recycling materials have increased significantly over the past few years;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government is moving forward with new industry-led stewardship programs, however some programs are not yet in place;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to fast track the implementation of new industry-led programs.

AMM Resolution Number 17 - 2008

Topic: Increased Funding for Recycling

Sponsor: Town of The Pas (Northern District)

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

WHEREAS funding must be increased to sustain municipal recycling programs as municipalities do not have surplus funds to subsidize local recycling programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase the funding formula to provide operating revenue to sustain recycling programs, thereby relieving the financial burden on municipal ratepayers.

AMM Resolution Number 18 - 2008

Topic: Provincial Park Services

Sponsor: City of Thompson (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS municipalities provide fire protection services, first responder services and garbage disposal services to Provincial parks;

AND WHEREAS municipalities receive no tax revenue for the provision of these services to Provincial parks;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide adequate compensation to municipalities that fairly reflects the costs incurred to provide services to Provincial parks.

AMM Resolution Number 19 - 2008

Topic: Rate Increase for Problem Beaver Renewal

Sponsor: RM of Whitemouth (Eastern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase rates for problem beaver removal.

AMM Resolution Number 20 - 2008

Topic: Timeline to Remediate Properties

Sponsor: Town of Altona (Central District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS there are abandoned gas stations and other brownfields located in numerous communities in Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the companies that own the properties often clear the surface, however do not remediate the contaminated lands;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to pass legislation that would require the owners of such properties to conduct remediation within three years of closure or abandonment of the facility.

AMM Resolution Number 21 - 2008

Topic: Hog Moratorium

Sponsor: RM of Rhineland (Central District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS the Minister of Conservation recently legislated a moratorium regarding the expansion of the hog industry in a large area of eastern and central Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the Province has singled out the hog industry;

AND WHEREAS the Clean Environment Commission (CEC) report on the issue did not recommend a continuation of the hog moratorium;

AND WHEREAS the livestock industry should be subjected to farming policies that are viable, environmentally sustainable and socially responsible; i.e. based on scientific principles and objective criteria;

AND WHEREAS the hog industry is making a significant contribution to the rural economy and the moratorium undermines this contribution and stifles community growth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to rescind the hog moratorium legislation and enforce standards for the livestock industry that are based on sound agronomic and environmental policies and that are socially responsible.

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 have 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 61 - 2005

Topic: Water on Crown Land

Sponsor: RM of Fisher (Interlake District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship

WHEREAS water flowing from Crown land and wildlife management areas is causing flooding problems on adjacent land;

AND WHEREAS costs associated with control of large volumes of water from marginal Crown land and wildlife management areas is causing a financial hardship for those municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to assume responsibility for water flowing from Crown land and wildlife management areas.

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 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 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.