

AMM, MAST discuss education funding with Ministers

On October 21, 2004, the AMM and MAST (Manitoba Association of School Trustees) met with the Provincial Government to discuss Education Funding and Property Taxation. Vice-Presidents Ron Bell and Garry Wasylowski, Director Rick Martel, Executive Director Joe Masi and Director of Policy and Communications Tyler MacAfee attended the meeting on behalf of the AMM. Three Provincial Ministers attended the meeting - Minister of Education Peter Bjornson, Minister of Finance Greg Selinger, and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade Scott Smith.

Following opening remarks from all parties, MAST and the AMM inquired as to what discussions the Government has had on the report of the Minister's Working Group on Education Finance, released last July. They also inquired as to when an official response would be forthcoming, why the report had not been widely disseminated and if the Province was not in favour of the report, what actions it was prepared to take.

Minister Bjornson assured the group that both the Cabinet and staff have been looking at this issue and they are sensitive to the concerns represented at this meeting. Minister

Selinger indicated that the Provincial Government is still committed to the actions described in its election platform, which includes the phasing out of the ESL (Education Support Levy) and reducing education taxation from farmland by 20% over the next 4 years, starting January 1st, 2005. When questioned on this last point, the Minister indicated that the Province has no timeline for this, in part because they have no guarantee of revenues and expenses over the coming years.

On the issue of the report, Minister Bjornson indicated that the report does not provide all the answers that work. Minister Selinger indicated that the Province is looking at sustainable solutions to this issue and solutions that will not simply create new problems now or in the future. He indicated that health care funding is still front and centre and even though there is additional money coming to Manitoba, overall, there will be a net loss, based on current health care costs.

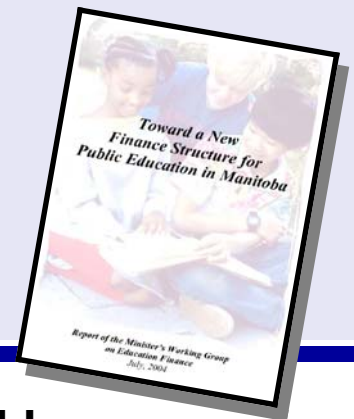
All three Ministers indicated that they understand the pressure municipalities face with regard to this issue and are committed to working with the AMM and MAST to find a solution. ■

Note: Since this meeting, Minister Bjornson has agreed to take part in the education funding plenary scheduled for Thursday morning at the upcoming AMM Convention. We look forward to a stimulating and frank discussion on the issue.

The Report of the Minister's Working Group on Education Finance, "Toward a New Finance Structure for Public Education in Manitoba", is available by contacting the

AMM office. Call us at 204-856-2366 or email:

amm@amm.mb.ca



Deadstock, offal and butcher waste meetings held

Meetings took place on October 20 and 25, 2004, to discuss the disposal of dead stock and offal. Some of the stakeholders who attended the meetings included the AMM, the Province, Manitoba Cattle Producers Association, and meat processors. The meetings, held in Dauphin and Eriksdale, included a presentation by Diane Roberts of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

The presentations consisted of an overview of the disposal methods available in the Interlake and Parklands regions of Manitoba, followed by a recommendation that regional disposal sites first compost the deadstock and offal, then bury the composted material in a landfill. This recommendation was followed by advantages and challenges of this method. Diane also pointed out the best sites available in the regions and some of the equipment and monitoring instruments that would be required, along with CFIA and BSE testing. ■

To obtain a copy of the presentations, please contact the AMM office at 204-856-2366 or email amm@amm.mb.ca.

Notices

Survey Monument Program

The survey monument restoration program fund has been exhausted for this year. \$55,321 has already been paid to municipalities, with another \$40,520 worth of files in process. Only \$82,500 is available from the fund for municipalities (excluding the City of Winnipeg).

The AMM will raise the increased demand on the survey monument restoration fund, and the inadequacy of the current fund limit, at their next opportunity with the Province.

Province Sees Input from Manitobans on 2005 Budget

Manitobans will be asked for their input into the preparation of the 2005 provincial budget at a series of province wide, pre-budget consultation meetings hosted by Finance Minister Greg Selinger.

The first meetings have taken place. Upcoming meetings include:

- Nov. 8 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Campus Manitoba Carman and Region Facility in Carman;
- Nov. 9 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Good Neighbours Senior Centre in Winnipeg;
- Nov. 17 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Travelodge Canadian Inn in Brandon;
- Nov. 18 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Hadashville Recreation Centre in Hadashville.

Manitobans can also share their views by writing the Minister c/o:

Budget Consultations,
Room 103, Legislative Building,
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
or by e-mailing the minister at
minfin@leg.gov.mb.ca.

Notices

Community Places Program

Tourism Minister Eric Robinson has announced that applications for the 2005 Community Places Program will be available in January, allowing municipalities to finalize construction plans before the busy building season begins. Eligible projects can receive up to 50% of the first \$15,000 of total project costs and up to 1/3 of costs over that amount. The maximum grant is \$50,000.

The deadline for submitting applications is February and approvals will be announced by early spring.

For more information, contact the Community Places Program office:

Telephone: (204) 945-0502
Toll free 1-800-894-3777
email mcpp@gov.mb.ca
website at www.gov.mb.ca/chc/grants

Job Postings

Village of Dunnottar Administrative Assistant

Under the direction of the CAO, the Administrative Assistant is responsible for payroll, general accounting, accounts payable/receivable and general office duties. Applications to be forwarded to the undersigned by 4:00 p.m. November 30, 2004.

J.M. Thevenot, Administrator
Village of Dunnottar, P.O. Box 321
Matlock, Manitoba R0C 2B0
Phone: 389-4962 Fax: 389-4966
E-mail: dunnottar@mts.net

Rural Municipality of Grey Public Works Foreman

Duties include supervision of Public Works Staff, work scheduling, surveying, project planning, supply purchasing and operation of heavy construction equipment as needed.

Job Postings

Duties to commence January 4, 2005. Closing date for applications is 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16, 2004. Mail applications with resume to:

Rural Municipality of Grey
P.O. Box 99, 34 Main St. N.
Elm Creek, Manitoba ROG 0N0
email: rmofgrey@mts.net

Town of Rossburn Assistant Administrator

Successful applicant must be prepared to reside within the Town of Rossburn. Please submit your application to the undersigned, no later than 4:00 p.m. Friday, November 26, 2004 to:

L. A. Mackedenski
P.O. Box 70, Rossburn, MB R0J 1V0
Ph: 204-859-2762 Fax: 204-859-2959
Email: town.rsb@mts.net

Town of Lynn Lake Municipal Accountant

Position responsibilities include computerized/manual bookkeeping, maintenance of the general ledger, accounts payable/receivable, payroll, financial statements preparation, funding agreements and capital projects, collections and any financial reporting as required. Written applications containing resume and 3 references must be received by the undersigned by November 15, 2004.

Helen I. Gibson, CAO,
Town of Lynn Lake
Box 100 Lynn Lake, MB R0B 0W0
Fax: 204-356-8297
E-mail: gibsonh@lynnlake.ca

Note: To view the complete descriptions for the above positions, please visit the AMM website at:

**[www.amm.mb.ca/
jobposting/htm](http://www.amm.mb.ca/jobposting/htm)**

Contact the AMM

1910 Saskatchewan Avenue West, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1
Tel: 204-856-2366 Fax: 204-856-2370 Email: amm@amm.mb.ca

Visit our website at
WWW.AMM.MB.CA

