

## Minister Meetings Continue

### *AMM Meets with Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs*

The AMM met with Oscar Lathlin, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, on August 24, 2004. The AMM has now met with every Provincial Minister this year. A number of issues were discussed:

#### **Legal Costs of Negotiating Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Agreements**

The AMM began the meeting by highlighting the costs municipalities face in negotiating TLE agreements. TLE agreements tend to require additional time due to their infrequent occurrence and the associated difficulty in finding lawyers with sufficient experience. A better system would be to have a pool of lawyers available to select from to reduce training costs or a fund municipalities could access to help with the legal costs of negotiating TLE agreements.

The Minister committed to talk to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade on this issue.

#### **Turning Back TLE Lands**

The AMM indicated municipalities have expressed concern with this process delaying potential development in municipalities. Municipalities are unable to fully define long-term plans that are crucial to development when there are sections of land tied up in the TLE process. For the betterment of all parties involved, the AMM would like to see this process sped up.

The Minister indicated that staff is looking at this issue already and has been instructed to examine how much land is available and involved in the TLE process. Staff will also explore how long this process is taking and the federal government's role in the process. The Minister agreed that all sides could speed up the process and committed to examining how extensive

this issue is in the province, and sharing his findings with the AMM.

#### **Food Prices in Northern Manitoba**

The AMM was pleased to see the Province's report on high food prices in Northern communities, released last week. The AMM stressed that this is an important issue for northern Manitobans as costs for essential foods is much higher than in the rest of Manitoba. The AMM encouraged the Minister to examine the report and implement any recommendations that would assist Northern communities.

#### **VIA Rail Service in Northern Manitoba**

The AMM stressed the importance of this service for not only tourism but also as the main link for these northern communities to Southern Manitoba. The AMM highlighted past commitments from the federal government to VIA rail service in Ontario and Quebec and encouraged the Minister to push to see funding in Manitoba.

The Minister indicated that this is a major issue for the local people who use this train as transportation. At certain times of the year they are unable to return home from trips to Thompson for necessities. The quality of service is also a major issue and they have been pushing the federal government on this. The Province understands the importance of this issue from all angles and will continue to urge the federal government to commit greater funds to the line.

#### **Education Funding and the New Deal**

The AMM highlighted the importance of these two issues to the Minister and stressed the need to address the education funding issue. ■

## Contact the AMM Staff

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**Notices**

**Provincial Police and Peace Officer Memorial Service**

The Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) will hold a ceremony to honour the memory and sacrifice of Police and Peace Officers who have died while on duty in the service of Manitoba's citizens. This ceremony will coincide with the Police and Peace Officer's National Memorial Day held on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

AMM President Stuart Briese has been invited to address the participants and spectators during this ceremony. AMM members are also invited to attend the ceremony. It will be held at the front area of the Manitoba Legislature on:

**Sunday, September 26, 2004  
11:00 a.m.**

For further information, please contact Inspector Gary Walker at 986-6251.

**Thank You**

The AMM has sent our members a number of surveys in recent months. Your opinion is very valuable and we appreciate those municipalities who take the time to share your opinions with us. The information you provided is currently being reviewed and will be of great help in our lobbying activities.



**Notice of Tender**

**435 Scrapper  
R.M. of Franklin**

435 Scrapper

Converted to Hydraulic

Tenders to be received by 4:00 p.m.,  
Friday, September 10, 2004

Lowest or any tender not necessarily  
accepted.

For questions or to submit tender  
contact:

R.M. of Franklin  
Box 66 Dominion City, MB R0H 0H0  
Phone: 204-427-2557

Fax: 204-427-2224

**Reminder**

**Prairie Grain Roads Program  
Manitoba (PGRP)**

The application form for applying for federal funding of Municipal Grain Road projects under the Prairie Grain Roads Program (PGRP) is available at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada PFRA website at:

[www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/program\\_e.htm](http://www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/program_e.htm)

Please be reminded that applications are to be received at PFRA Winnipeg no later than **4:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 15, 2004.**

If you have any questions, please contact **Tony Kettler, PGRP Manitoba Program Manager, PFRA Winnipeg, at 204-983-2243.**

**AMM Coming Events**

**Education Seminar for  
Elected Officials**

**What's on First Base: Priority  
Setting in Local Government**

Presented by Gord McIntosh

Canad Inn Portage October 1, 2004

**9am – 4pm**

*Registration Deadline: Sept. 27, 2004*

**6th Annual Convention**

November 22 –25, 2004

Winnipeg Convention Centre

*Watch for the bi-weekly "Convention  
Bulletin" beginning in October!*

**Municipal Officials Seminar &  
Trade Show**

February 28 and March 1, 2005

Keystone Centre

Brandon, Manitoba

**Don't Forget...**

The deadline to submit resolutions for consideration at the AMM Annual Convention is **September 15, 2004.**

For more information, please call:

**Tyler MacAfee, AMM Director of  
Policy and Communications  
(204) 856-2362**

*The AMM is coordinating a terrific education program for 2005. Watch your mailbox in September for a brochure outlining the four high quality education sessions that we are offering our members next year.*

*Here is a tip from one of our 2005 presenters,  
Sue Hershkowitz-Coore, CSP:*



**Quick Tip: Will This E-mail Help?**

Over a third of all internal business email, according the Gartner Group's April 2001 survey, is unnecessary. This probably doesn't come as a shock! Their advice: "Count to 10 before hitting 'Reply All' - then count to 20." Sue's advice: Ask yourself - How will this help me to get the result I want? Don't send it if it won't help!