

Escalating Costs of Policing Discussed

Unique group asks for cost control, more funding

The Large Urban Policing Working Group (LUPWG) met Tuesday, July 20, 2004 with Justice Minister Gord Mackintosh to discuss the rapid increase in police costs over the past number of years. The working group, formed in 2003, consists of seven large urban communities in Manitoba who all have direct policing contracts with the RCMP. These communities are Dauphin, Flin Flon, Portage la Prairie, Selkirk, Steinbach, The Pas, and Thompson.

The primary concern of the group is the rapid increase in police costs over the past number of years. Although these communities do not have any control over the costs of policing, they are required to pay a set amount of 70

per cent. If policing costs rise dramatically from one year to the next, communities must absorb these cost increases even though the overall budget may not have increased.

There is a large difference between the cost of policing in these communities, and the funding for policing that is provided by the Province. There is also a strikingly large gap between per capita funding and per capita cost of policing in these communities.

Other reasons cited for high police costs were the impact of outside residents on policing costs, a higher degree of community involvement needed, and the realities of a post-9/11 world requiring greater security and reporting requirements of police.

Yet these increases have not been met with similar funding increases from other levels of government. Many of the communities represented feel that the Province should provide top-up funding for policing in their areas. Another solution would be to cap the amount of funding required of these municipalities, so that police cost increases would not automatically translate into a greater municipal financial commitment.

The Minister replied that his Department would examine the information presented in detail and work on an answer for the group. He said he is willing to do what he can to better meet the needs of these communities, and that his Department will require AMM's help to achieve an answer to this problem.

The AMM will continue to lobby on the policing concerns of all Manitoba municipalities. ■

Provincial Minister Meetings Continue

Housing issues top agenda with Minister Melnick

The AMM continued its meetings with Provincial Ministers by meeting with the Minister of Family Services and Housing, Christine Melnick, on July 22. The primary issues the AMM raised with the Minister included new federal funding for housing, the Affordable Housing Initiative, and seniors' housing in rural Manitoba.

The AMM began the meeting by noting its appreciation of the recent renewal of federal funding for affordable housing. However, as this federal money has been devoted to topping up existing provincial housing programs, the AMM encouraged the Province to consider spreading any federal funding for affordable housing throughout all of Manitoba. This will ensure that all communities, both urban and rural, benefit from this important investment.

Another issue raised was the limitations of the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI). Despite the need for affordable housing assistance in all Manitoba communities, elements of this program are restricted to designated urban revitalization areas in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson. While there is certainly a demonstrated need in these larger urban communities, the AMM believes the Province should ensure that there is additional funding for the Affordable Housing initiative to reach other communities.

Another important issue for many AMM members is the availability of seniors' housing outside of large urban centres. The AMM explained that while there is clearly a high demand in many Manitoba communities for affordable and supportive seniors' housing, many of these communities are unsure of how to undertake such projects and have inadequate funding to do so. The AMM strongly encouraged the Province to develop a housing program to increase the supply of affordable seniors' housing in both urban and rural Manitoba communities.

On the issue of federal funding, the Minister indicated that she would like to see a long-term commitment from the Federal government to allow for better planning. The Minister also indicated that the Province is looking at rural projects now and projects from outside of Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson will receive funding under the AHI. She also noted that there is a fund designed to provide financial assistance to potential applicants in completing the funding proposals. The Minister committed to providing the AMM with more information, which will be passed along to our membership. ■

The AMM's Position Papers from the Provincial Minister Meetings on this page are available at:

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

Notices

Tools for Change – Responding to New Challenges



The Tools for Change Program is a tool for municipalities to use to help determine the state of their communities. It consists of three steps: *The Municipal Health Checklist*, *An Approach to Managing Change*, and the final step – *Successful Municipal Practices*. This final step highlights exciting municipal innovations from across Manitoba.

The AMM recently posted a number of new examples of Successful Municipal Practices to our website. They include a tax sharing example from the RM of Hanover and the Town of Niverville, and a service sharing agreement amongst a number of municipalities in the midwestern region of the province.

To find out more about Tools of Change, and to view the latest successful municipal examples, visit www.amm.mb.ca/resources.htm.

Deadlines

Local Authorities Election Act
AMM members are reminded to review the discussion document at www.gov.mb.ca/laeareview and submit their comments *directly to the AMM* no later than August 20, 2004.

AMM Convention Resolutions
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

Coming Events

Risk and Hazards Symposium- November 18-20, 2004 Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg

The 1st Annual Symposium of the Canadian Risk and Hazards (Knowledge and Practice) Network will be held in Winnipeg at the Hotel Fort Garry, November 18 - 20, 2004. This year's symposium will highlight risks and hazards in Manitoba and seeks to bring together local municipalities and residents, provincial and federal emergency managers and policy-makers, non-government organizations and community groups to discuss risk reduction efforts and share knowledge on best practices.

For more information please contact:

Canadian Risk and Hazards Network
c/o Natural Resources Institute,
University of Manitoba, 70 Dysart
Road, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2
e-mail: crhnet@cc.umanitoba.ca
Website: www.crhnet.ca
Ph: (204)474-8954
Fax: (204) 261-0038

Notice of Tender

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Churchill will be accepting sealed, separate tenders up to 12:00 noon, Friday, August 11, 2004 for the provision of audit services as defined under Sections 182 to 198 of the Municipal Act. Interested parties meeting the qualifications outlined in Subsection 184(5) of the Act may obtain a tender package at the address below. The lowest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted.

The Town of Churchill
Box 459 Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
Tel: (204) 675-8871
Fax: (204) 675-2934

For Sale

Fire Pumper Truck R.M. of Rosser

1983 Superior Triple Combination Pumper. Ford C-800 tilt cab chassis with extension seating. 429 cu in gasoline engine. Hydraulic brakes, 5 speed automatic transmission. 37,467 kilometres - safety expires March 2005

Manufactured by Superior Emergency Equipment Red Deer, Alberta Ser #SE 569. Totally extruded aluminum construction - 800 imperial gallons fibre glass tank. Hale 840 IGPM pump model 205F100 - ULC listed. Top mount pump panel - folding ladder bracket - emergency lighting meeting ULC standards

Pumper is in excellent shape - Tank was refurbished in 2003. Also includes misc. ladders, hose and poles.

For more information contact:
R. M. of Rosser Municipal Office
Ph: (204) 467-5711 or Fire Chief Mike Palmer at (204) 791-5703

City of Portage la Prairie Miscellaneous Equipment

The City of Portage la Prairie has the following items for sale:

2-Moyno pumps, 2-CANFAB polymer mix units, Bird centrifuge, Sharples centrifuge, Schwitzer air blower, 4-Singer heat pumps, FlexKleen dust collector, Torit dust collector, ozone destruct unit Hankin, Dessicant air dryer, 3-Gardner Denver air compressors, Polar Bear water distiller, Wallace & Tiernan chemical feed pump, vacuum truck, street sweeper, aquatic weed harvester, and an electronic total station.

For more information, please call:

Christine Hutlet, City of Portage la Prairie
(204) 239-8384



Contact the Association of Manitoba Municipalities

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