

AMM meets with Education Minister

The AMM met with the Honourable Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth on March 24th, 2005. The focus of the meeting was the AMM's number one issue, education funding from property tax.

The AMM began the meeting by providing an overview of recent developments since the last time the AMM met with the Minister, and indicated that the AMM was disappointed there was not further reductions in education funding in the recent budget. The AMM also updated the Minister on what was heard at the recent Mayors, Reeves and CAO's meetings on this issue. Municipalities have made it clear that this is a priority issue. The AMM stressed the need to allow municipalities full access to the property tax base to allow them to access the revenue needed to address municipal infrastructure needs.

The AMM also expressed concerns with the format of the agriculture farm tax rebate, and questioned why this money is coming from the Department of Agriculture budget. The Minister responded that there was a large increase to the Agriculture budget for this rebate and it is not taking away from any programs. The Minister also indicated that the Province is taking a balanced approach with the farm tax credit and the reduction to the ESL and that the Province is trying to invest and manage the issue.

The AMM stressed that the Province has greater funding options than municipalities. The Minister noted that the Minister's Working Group explored these options and the one-cent sales tax increase is not a popular option and would have very serious impacts on the Provincial economy. The Minister pointed out that a major issue is the increases to school operating costs. He acknowledged that 85% of costs are for salaries, however this is normal in any resource based industry. He also indicated that there is a need to keep salaries competitive as there will be teacher shortages in other jurisdictions in coming years.

The AMM added that they had hoped to see a five-year plan in place for the complete removal of education funding from property. The AMM believes that such a plan would encourage municipalities and the public that something is being done about this issue. The Minister indicated that the first step is the elimination of the ESL and the Province is committed to the appropriate funding for education that will mean the long-term good of the system. ■

*Municipalities
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clear this is a
priority issue.*

Complete policy papers from all meetings with
Ministers are available on the AMM website:

WWW.AMM.MB.CA/POLICIES.HTM

AMM Members Deliver Clear Message

*Three major issues emerge from
meetings with top municipal officials*

The AMM wrapped up its annual Mayors, Reeves and CAO's meetings recently with record attendance and clear direction from its members.

The meetings, held in each of the seven AMM districts, drew participants from 164 of the 199 municipalities in Manitoba, or 82%. Every municipality in Manitoba is a member of the AMM.

The high turnout did not surprise President Ron Bell, who explained "Our members appreciate having this opportunity to hear updates on the AMM's activities and to voice their individual municipal concerns. There are several issues right now that are having a huge impact on municipalities and it is imperative that their concerns are heard and addressed by the other levels of government."

The top three issues that emerged from the 2005 meetings were:

- 1) *AMM members fully support a per capita division of the Federal New Deal gas tax funding,*
- 2) *AMM members continue to push for the removal of education funding from property taxes, and*
- 3) *Municipalities need adequate resources for the training of water and wastewater operators, as well as for the certification of water treatment plants.*

President Bell noted that "These are issues we are already working on, but it is encouraging to hear that our efforts are consistent with what our members feel are the greatest needs in their municipalities. We assured our members that these concerns will be brought forward strongly in our future discussions with the Province."

A summary of the issues raised at the Mayors, Reeves and CAO's meetings is available on the AMM website at:

www.amm.mb.ca/MRC2005.htm

AMM Coming Events

June District Meetings

June District Meetings are quickly approaching! This year's June District Meetings will be held from June 13 to June 23, 2005. As you know, a key part of the June District Meetings is the resolution process. Please submit all duly passed resolutions for consideration at the June District Meetings to:

Tyler MacAfee
AMM Director of
Policy & Communications
Email: tmacafee@amm.mb.ca
Ph: (204) 856-2362

Please submit by June 9, 2005 to ensure copies are made available at the meetings.

For June District Meeting dates and locations, visit:
www.amm.mb.ca/events.htm



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When Strangling
Isn't an Option**
on

May 6, 2005

Presented by Sue
Hershkowitz-Coore

Clarion Inn & Suites
Winnipeg, Manitoba

For more information, visit:

www.amm.mb.ca/education.htm

Or, call:

Donna Belbin, Events Coordinator

Phone: 204-856-2374 or

Email:

dbelbin@amm.mb.ca

Website Update

Mayors, Reeves and CAOs Meeting Information

Visit the AMM website to view a new page dedicated to the recent Mayors, Reeves and CAO's meetings held in each district. You will find:

- Follow-up questions and answers
- Follow-up issues and action items
- Results from breakout sessions
- Overview of discussion topics

Find it at:

www.amm.mb.ca/MRC2005.htm

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Notices

ATTENTION AMM MEMBERS!

AMM 8th Annual Convention

Confirmed Dates:

Monday, November 27/06

to

Thursday, November 30/06

Winnipeg Convention Centre

*It was believed that our regular dates
conflicted with the 2006 Grey Cup in
Winnipeg. This was proved to be false.*

Mark your calendars accordingly!

Notices

Notice of Spring Road Restrictions Implementation

Please be advised that the 2005 Spring Road Restrictions will be implemented in Zone 1 effective 6:00 am March 29, 2005, and in Zone 2 effective 6:00 am March 31, 2005. The end date for both zones will be May 31, 2005.

Further information on Spring Road Restrictions may be obtained by:

- Fax polling (204) 945-6499
- On the internet at www.gov.mb.ca/tgs/transreg/compreg/spring-restrict.html
- By calling the Highway Information Services at (204) 945-3704 or 1-877-627-6237.

*Please check the above sources
regularly for updates.*

Notice to Owners/Operators of Trucks with a Registered Gross Vehicle Weight of 4,500 KG or more:

The Department of Transportation and Government Services is introducing a new regulation, effective April 1/05, which adopts cargo securement requirements that were recently introduced under Canada's National Safety Code for Motor Carriers as Standard 10—Cargo Securement.

The primary difference between the current regulation on load securement and NSC 10 is the creation of comprehensive performance criteria for all types of cargo securement devices, as well as specific securement requirements for nine types of commonly transported commodities.

There will be a 6 month "soft enforcement" period until midnight September 30, 2005 when full enforcement will commence.

For further information, visit
www.gov.mb.ca/tgs/transreg/compreg

Or call:

1-204-945-3890