

AMM Begins Annual Meetings with Ministers

As part of its annual lobbying activities, the AMM meets with individual Cabinet Ministers to discuss issues specific to each Provincial department. On January 13, 2005, the AMM met with the Honourable Scott Smith, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade, and on January 18, 2005 with the Honourable Jim Rondeau, Minister of Industry, Economic Development and Mines.

Minister Smith Meeting:

The AMM began the meeting with Minister Smith by noting the importance of New Deal funding for municipalities and the need for the Province and municipalities to work together on this issue. The AMM expressed concern that an announcement has yet to come from the Federal Government. Minister Smith indicated that he had the opportunity to meet with John Godfrey, the Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities, and this issue is before the Federal Cabinet.

Regarding the Planning Act review, the AMM expressed concern with the proposed March timeline for the first major changes to be enacted. Municipalities need to be consulted on this Act due to its importance to municipal governments and they need to be given adequate time to do this.

Minister Smith responded that the Province wants to move forward with this quickly and so are doing the review in three stages rather than just one. Much of what was intended in Bill 40 will be included in the first section. He noted the Province is very cognizant of how the Water

Protection Act will work with all of this. The Minister also indicated that consultations were held on much of this prior to Bill 40 and that input is being used now.

On the education funding from property tax issue, the AMM expressed appreciation for the start in reducing education tax from property announced in the recent Throne Speech, but stressed that this is just a start. The AMM also sought clarification on the mechanics of how this will be dealt with on tax bills, and stressed that they would like to see a five-year plan for how to reduce education tax from property entirely.

The AMM also raised several other items with Minister Smith, including the Neighbourhoods Alive! Program and the Study of Provincial Transfer Payments to Municipalities.

Minister Rondeau Meeting:

The AMM opened the meeting by noting the importance of mining in many areas of the Province and the need to create incentives for mining exploration in Manitoba. The AMM also stressed the need to continue to fund those programs that are set to expire in 2005. The Minister indicated that the Province has added \$4M toward exploration and they are also

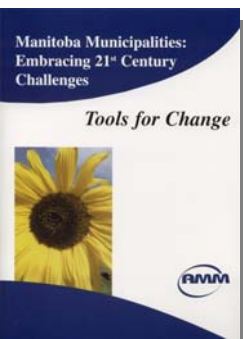
changing regulations to make the industry more competitive.

The AMM raised the importance of developing the Ethanol Program in Manitoba and the need for it to be located across the province. The Minister noted that the Department of Energy, Science and Technology is driving this initiative.

The AMM stressed the need to increase slaughter capacity in Manitoba as has been done in both Alberta and Quebec. The Minister indicated the Province's support but noted they have had difficulty finding other partners to move forward with initiatives to make this economically feasible.

On the issue of contaminated sites, the AMM highlighted the need for the Province to provide assistance in the clean up of these sites as they pose a real problem in many municipalities. The Minister indicated that abandoned mine sites are an issue for his department and they are working on a 'go-forward' basis where every new site has to have a plan in place for the decommissioning of the site. ■

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MUNICIPAL INNOVATION AWARDS PROGRAM

The Municipal Innovation Awards Program is an annual AMM-sponsored awards program that recognizes excellence in municipal practices that improve governance, administration, service delivery or intermunicipal cooperation.

This award will be presented at the upcoming MOS Seminar in Brandon at the end of February. Deadline for submissions is **February 18, 2005**.

To view the submission guidelines and obtain a copy of the submission form, visit the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.

Coming Events

AMM 2005 MOS & Trade Show **February 28—March 1, 2005**

This two-day event promises to be both motivating and educational. Day one is dedicated to professional development; day two is devoted to policy issues. For updated agendas and information, please visit our website at www.amm.mb.ca/events

We look forward to seeing you at MOS!

Mayors, Reeves & CAO Meetings

The dates and locations have been set for the 2005 Mayors, Reeves & CAO Meetings. They are:

March 14—Parklands—*RM of Alonsa*

March 15—Central—*Town of Treherne*

March 16—Western—*Town of Virden*

March 17—Midwestern—*Village of St. Lazare*

March 21—Northern—*Town of Grand Rapids*

March 22—Interlake—*Town of Teulon*

March 23—Eastern—*RM of La Broquerie*



Decision-Making for Councils and Boards

presented by McCandless Tramley
on

March 18, 2005

**Knights of Columbus Hall
Portage la Prairie, Manitoba**

For more information, please call:

Donna Belbin, Events Coordinator
Phone: 204-856-2374
Email: dbelbin@amm.mb.ca

Job Postings

Chief Administrative Officer Town of Ste. Anne

The Town of Ste. Anne, 20 minutes from Winnipeg, Manitoba is seeking a Chief Administrative Officer.

Requirements:

- Bilingual, that is, fluent in English and French – Oral and written
- Five years experience in municipal administration and have successfully passed or registered with MMAA designated course
- Salary \$ 50,000 to \$60,000 annually
- Starting date: March 1st, 2005

Forward resume no later than Monday, January 31st, 2005 to:

The Town of Ste. Anne/La Ville de Ste-Anne
181 Central Avenue
Ste. Anne, Manitoba R5H-1G3
Fax: 1-204-422-5459

Email: Guy_Levesque@steannemb.ca

Relief Water and Sewer Operator R.M. of Strathclair

Permanent casual position including regular water plant hours every second weekend, plus full time hours when Town Foreman is away. Responsibilities include maintenance of water treatment plant, repair and maintenance of water and sewer system including the lift station and lagoon, water testing, and meter reading.

Successful applicant must have completed or be willing to obtain certification by completing the MWWA Certification courses. Previous utility experience is an asset.

Please submit resume to the Municipal Office by February 8, 2004 at 5:00 p.m.

R.M. of Strathclair
Shelley Glenn, C.A.O.
Box 160 Strathclair, Mb. R0J 2C0

Notices

Support for Tsunami Disaster

Many Manitoba municipalities have made or are considering making a donation to one of the many charitable organizations assisting those regions devastated by the December 26 tsunami in South East Asia.

The AMM supports these initiatives and encourages municipalities to consider contributing funds to the relief effort. Donations may be sent to the Canadian Red Cross or an organization of your choice. Donations to the Canadian Red Cross can be mailed to:

Canadian Red Cross
Manitoba/Nunavut Office
P.O. Box 2441 STN Main
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4A7

Donations can be made by phone at 1-800-418-1111, or online at:

**[www.strategicprofitsinc.com/
hosted/redcross/index.php](http://www.strategicprofitsinc.com/hosted/redcross/index.php)**

In Sympathy

Ken Carels, past UMM board member and recipient of the AMM 2004 Honourary Life Membership Award, passed away on January 25, 2005. Funeral service will be held on:

Saturday, January 29, 2005
11:00 am

Catholic Church, Main Street
(across from Town Hall and the Royal Bank)

Melita, Manitoba

The Board of Directors and staff of the AMM extend our sincere condolences to the Carels family at this difficult time.

Contact the AMM

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Visit our website at
WWW.AMM.MB.CA

