

AMM Continues Meetings with Ministers

The AMM met with two Provincial Cabinet Ministers on February 24, 2005 - the Honourable Tim Sale, Minister of Health, and the Honourable Eric Robinson, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism.

The AMM began the meeting with Minister Sale by raising the need for the Province to undertake a comprehensive review of the **RHA system** in Manitoba. The AMM also stressed the need for RHA Boards to be elected to make sure they are accountable to Manitobans. The Minister agreed that part of the frustration with RHAs in Manitoba could be solved with better communication. The Province tries to ensure that RHA Boards are representative of the areas they serve. The Minister also stressed that RHAs are 100% funded by the Province.

The AMM also raised concerns with **physician recruitment, training and retention** in Manitoba. While the Office of Rural and Northern Health is doing a good job and should have the funding needed, there are concerns with the bidding process that happens for physicians in rural Manitoba and concerns with the CAPE process.

The Minister indicated that they are reviewing this process and will be looking for improvements. The College of Physicians has been very helpful with improving training. The problem is that some of the potential physicians, of which there are currently 20, are not trained to meet the needs of the Canadian medical system. The Province is looking at doing some of the testing in home countries through Canadian embassies. Minister Sale added that increases to on-site training

must be gradual as much of it is done by senior students and staff so it is important that there are enough senior staff in place. The Province is also doing return of service agreements and there are 343 of these in place.

On the issue of **West Nile virus**, the AMM stressed that this is a provincial health issue and all costs for the control of West Nile virus should be borne by the Province. The Minister indicated that other jurisdictions cost share this service at a 50:50 ratio instead of the 75:25 ratio in Manitoba.

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

WWW.AMM.MB.CA/POLICIES.HTM

The AMM also raised the topic of **Inter-facility Patient Transfers** with Minister Sale. The AMM stressed that being required to pay ambulance costs further penalizes residents for having services cut in local communities. The Minister responded that the Province has increased the number and quality of ambulances in Manitoba, with better trained operators, but acknowledged that there are discrepancies in the fee policy across Manitoba. He noted that he is hopeful that something will be in place before next year.

On the issue of **capital contributions**, the AMM expressed concerns with having communities forced to make up to 10% contributions to the projects, as health is a provincial issue. The Minister indicated that the theory behind this is that it means the local community has a stake in the project and the facility.

Recreation centres were the top issue when the AMM met with Minister Robinson. The AMM stressed the importance of recreation centres to communities, and the need for a tri-partite program to fund these centres. The Minister indicated that he is supportive of a tri-partite program and has raised this issue with the Federal Minister. He also noted they have made some changes to the **Community Places Program** including improvements to the cycle to allow construction in the immediate season.

On the issue of **increased funding for libraries**, the AMM expressed appreciation for previous increases to the libraries budget and urged the Province to make a further increase for libraries in the upcoming budget. The Minister indicated that his department was doing a review of library funding.

The AMM also expressed the need to allow portions of a municipality to join different libraries. The Minister noted they are looking at the possibility of increasing the flexibility in the Act to allow for this, however the Minister's staff indicated that they felt the reciprocity agreements that are in place would address many of the concerns.

The AMM also raised the general issues of education funding and water and land use planning with Minister Robinson. ■

AMM Coming Events

June District Meetings

June 13—23, 2005

Municipal Visits

Mid-Western—April 4-6
Parklands—April 6-8
Eastern—May 2-4
Northern—August 8-9
Western—October 12-14
Central—October 17-19

For more information, visit:

www.amm.mb.ca/events.htm



Communicating When Strangling Isn't an Option May 6, 2005

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

Notices

Manitoba Society of Seniors Fifty and Beyond Journal

Fifty and Beyond is the official publication of the Manitoba Society of Seniors. It is an informative monthly newspaper, focusing on issues concerning Manitobans 50 and over.

Fifty and Beyond wants to give more coverage to areas outside the Perimeter Highway. We wish to start writing about the histories of various towns, villages and rural municipalities in the province.

Should you wish to contribute, please send 800 to 1000 words to:

glenmackenzie@mts.net

Photos also welcome. Thank you!

Job Postings

RM of St. Laurent Chief Administrative Officer

Under the direction of Council the CAO is responsible for the overall management of the operations of the municipality and as set out under the Municipal Act. Salary to commensurate with experience and qualifications. Resume and three references are required.

Closing date: April 7, 2005

Applications to be forwarded to:

RM of St. Laurent
Box 220, St. Laurent, MB R0C 2S0
Fax: 204-646-2705

RM of Edward Equipment/Grader Operator

Regular full-time position. Salary negotiable upon experience. Send resumes including salary expectancy, and references to the undersigned.

Closing date: April 6, 2005

Applications to be forwarded to:

Audrey Bird, Administrator
RM of Edward
PO Box 100, Pierson, MB R0M 1S0
PH: 204-634-2231
Fax: 204-634-2479

RM of Ethelbert Chief Administrative Officer

Under the direction of Council, the CAO is responsible for the overall management of the operations of the Rural Municipality of Ethelbert. Salary range is dependent upon qualifications and experience.

Applications are to be clearly marked "Application for Chief Administrative Officer" and "Confidential" and should contain a full resume with three references.

Closing date: April 11, 2005

Applications to be forwarded to:

ATTN: Reeve and Council
RM of Ethelbert
Box 115, Ethelbert, MB
R0L 0T0

Job Postings

Town of Slave Lake, AB Town Manager (CAO)

Reporting to Mayor and Town Council, the Town Manager is responsible for the overall administration of municipal operations in accordance with plans and directions approved by the council.

Applications to be forwarded to:
Gerry Davies or Pam Sprague
Davies Park

904 Oxford Tower, 10235-101 St.
Edmonton, AB T5J 3G1
Fax: 780-426-2936

Note: Complete job postings are available on the AMM website at:

www.amm.mb.ca/jobposting.htm

Reminder

Power Smart· Municipal LED Holiday Lighting Program



Don't forget to send in your application form for this program (mail or fax) by

March 31. This is a one-time opportunity for municipalities to switch their incandescent holiday lighting, previously on the "free energy" period, to energy efficient LED lighting provided by Manitoba Hydro.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Pilek, Power Smart Lighting Program Specialist at 204-474-3615 or e-mail cdpilek@hydro.mb.ca.

MTCML

Just a friendly reminder that the insurance premiums are due MARCH 31st! If we don't receive payment by that date, you will be charged interest at a rate of 1% monthly. Make cheques payable to the Municipalities Trading Company. If payment has already been remitted, please accept our thank you.

Questions? Please contact:

Patti De Baets, Finance Coordinator
Phone: 204-856-2367 or
Email: pdebaets@amm.mb.ca