

Lobby Days becomes an annual event

On April 11 & 12, 2006, the AMM took part in the 2nd annual Lobby Days at the Manitoba Legislature. Over the course of the two days, the AMM met with the NDP caucus as a group, and with individually with 21 Conservative and Liberal MLAs.

Three priority topics were raised at each meeting: The Municipal Agenda, Education Tax, and Water Issues.

Municipal Agenda

The AMM introduced this topic by explaining that as Manitoba's municipal governments continue to take on increasingly greater responsibilities, it is necessary that their roles, responsibilities and resources be examined.

The AMM expressed concerns with unclear legislation, such as the Water Protection Act, as well as the difficulty in meeting the infrastructure needs in municipalities with municipal budgets that are stretched thin.

On this issue, there was recognition of the challenges all municipal governments face. The need for funding to flow to municipalities to meet the huge infrastructure challenges was also well understood by all parties.

Education Tax

As AMM members know, the inequity of this system and its effect on all municipalities has led the AMM to identify education funding as a top priority for several consecutive years.

The AMM explained that education taxation will remain a priority until the reliance on local property taxation to fund education is reduced.

The AMM did express appreciation for the valuable first steps that the Provincial Government has taken to address this issue by reducing education taxes on certain classes of property. However, reductions in education tax should be available to all property owners.

The AMM also stressed that municipalities are committed to supporting high quality education and do not advocate an overall reduction in education spending.

The AMM continues to urge the Provincial Government to create a comprehensive five-year strategy to increase its share of funding for education, thereby reducing the current reliance on property taxes.

Overall, it was agreed that education tax is still a major issue.

Water Issues

Water protection has become one of the most important issues for all Manitobans and it is important that all levels of government work together to ensure Manitoba's water is protected.

Municipalities are supportive of water protection efforts, however there are a number of outstanding issues that need to be addressed. These issues were presented during Lobby Days and are also contained within a recent **Water Issues Paper**. The Water Issues Paper may be viewed at www.amm.mb.ca

Municipalities are prepared to do their part to protect Manitoba's water quality, however the issues need to be resolved in order to make the water protection efforts successful. The AMM urged the Province to address the issues raised to make Manitoba's water protection initiatives a success. ■

Meeting with the Minister of Justice

The AMM met with **Vic Toews**, Federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, on April 18. The AMM raised five infrastructure related issues with the Minister: Municipal Fiscal Imbalance, MRIF, Recreation Centres, Rural Water, and Highways.

The AMM stressed the need for the gas tax funding to continue, the need to make sure the program is not overly restrictive, and the need for a simple reporting process. The Minister indicated that the main concern of his government is that it is used for legitimate infrastructure.

The Minister agreed that MRIF is a good program. On recreation centres, he indicated that his focus is on roads and water infrastructure and these need to be addressed first. He was also interested to hear about the rural water issue and agreed with the need to improve the highways across Canada.

On Disaster Financial Assistance, the AMM raised the issue of 16% compensation, the need to cover preventative measures and the need for a municipal perspective to be included in the review of the system. The Minister agreed that the 16% issue should be reviewed, and he indicated that he has discussed the preventative issue with the Premier and with the Federal Finance and Emergency Preparedness Ministers.

The AMM also raised municipal concerns with DFO. The Minister indicated that he has had discussions with the Federal Minister responsible and will discuss this with him again. ■

Meeting with the Federal Liberals The AMM also had the opportunity to meet with members of the Manitoba Federal Liberal Caucus on April 20, including MPs **Ray Simard**, **Anita Neville**, and **Tina Keeper**. Five infrastructure related issues, Disaster Financial Assistance, and municipal concerns with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans were all raised with the MPs.

From the AMM Office...

Coming Events

SWANA / CPWA 2006 Conference
Learn to Build a Better Tomorrow
May 15—18, 2006

Canad Inns Polo Park-Winnipeg

The Prairie Chapter of the **Solid Waste Association of North America** and the Manitoba Chapter of the **Canadian Public Works Association** invites you to attend a joint SWANA / CPWA Conference. Extensive information is available at www.swanacpwa.ca, or by contacting:

Verden Jeancart, C.E.T./Co-Chair
SWANA / CPWA Conference
(204) 986-4779
vjeancart@winnipeg.ca

Correction

The toll-free telephone number for Resource Conservation Manitoba's Municipal Composting Information from last bulletin should have been:

1-866-394-8880

Notices

Need Spring or Summer Youth Volunteers?

Volunteer Manitoba introduces



Manitoba Youth Volunteer Opportunities

Post all your youth volunteer positions on the new MYVOP website at www.myvop.ca. Your listing is FREE. Youth will be using the new site right up until summer and now is the time to let them know what volunteer opportunities you have to offer.

Don't miss out! www.myvop.ca

Classified Ads

Just added to the FREE Classified Ads page of the AMM website—a 1993 Ford Handivan and a used HT Sweeper.

For more info, visit:

www.amm.mb.ca/member_ads.html

Job Postings

Chief Administrative Officer Rural Municipality of Victoria

The Council of the RM of Victoria is seeking a dynamic leader to fill the position of Chief Administrative Officer. The CAO is responsible for directing the overall administration of the municipality in accordance with the Municipal Act, other legislation by-laws of the Rural Municipality and policies and procedures established by the Council.

The RM of Victoria offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Please submit a resume no later than April 28, 2006 to:

Staff Committee, R.M. of Victoria
Box 40 Holland, Manitoba R0G 0X0
Fax: (204)526-2028 or
email: ibruneau@rmofvictoria.com

Chief Administrative Officer Rural Municipality of St. Clements

The Council of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements requires an energetic and capable Chief Administrative Officer to help take the Municipality into the future. The new CAO must have drive, a will to succeed, able to deal with rapid change, and be a strong communicator and leader. The CAO will work directly for Council and manage the finance, administration, operations departments and three fire departments.

The Municipality offers a competitive salary based on experience and qualifications. Interested applicants may mail/fax/email their resume, not later than May 12, 2006, to:

CAO Applications
The RM of St. Clements
1043 Kittson Road East Selkirk, MB
R0E 0M0
Fax: 204-482-3098
Email: info@rmofstclements.com

NOTE: These job postings have been edited for length.

COMPLETE postings are available at www.amm.mb.ca/member_jobs.html.

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www.amm.mb.ca

CHANGES AT AMM...

Farewell to Kim Spiers, AMM Policy Analyst. Kim has accepted a position as Research Assistant with



the Addictions Research Centre, Correctional Service of Canada.

Kim's last day with the AMM will be April 21. *We will miss you, Kim!*

Rachel Philippe has accepted the newly created position of Senior Policy Analyst. Rachel may be contacted at: 204-856-2371 or rphilippe@amm.mb.ca

Erika Rempel has accepted the newly created position of Administrative Assistant (Policy & Communications). Erika may be contacted at: 204-856-2369 or erempel@amm.mb.ca

These changes take effect on Monday, April 24. Congratulations to