

AMM Begins Annual Minister Meetings

As part of its annual lobbying activities, the AMM meets with individual Cabinet Ministers to discuss issues specific to each Provincial department. This year, the AMM is also raising a general issue with each Minister—The Municipal Agenda (see sidebar). The AMM kicked off its Minister meetings on January 25, 2006, meeting first with The Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation, followed by The Honourable Eric Robinson, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism.

Minister Struthers Meeting:

The AMM began the meeting with Minister Struthers by discussing the need to maintain recycling in Manitoba and stressing the importance of the 80:20 formula. The Minister indicated that tire and MPSC programs were immediate priorities and he is comfortable with the direction both are taking. He noted the Province has no intention of moving away from the 80:20 model, having maintained this formula even with the loss of the cardboard market.

The AMM also raised the issue of water and wastewater plant classification and operator certification with the Minister. The Department indicated that they are not sure what the impact of the new regulations will be on the plants, but the fall 2006 deadline is solid and this is the final goal.

The AMM also highlighted the need for improvements in the area of weed control. The Province indicated that this is an area of focus and much of it depends on the weather conditions. The wet conditions over the last couple of years have been ideal growing conditions that have raised the profile of this issue.

The AMM also raised the issue of taxation on permanent park residents

with Minister Struthers. The Minister indicated that there was a \$100.00 increase to the Chief Place of Residency fee two years ago, however this issue is larger in scope than just this fee.

On the Municipal Agenda general issue, the Minister acknowledged that it is perhaps time to take a close look at this issue, as the Gas Tax agreement negotiations showed some of the weaknesses in the current system.

Minister Robinson Meeting:

The AMM began the meeting with Minister Robinson by highlighting the need to increase funding for recreation centres, the Community Places Program, and recreation commissions. The Minister indicated he will be seeking a meeting with the new Federal Minister, once announced, to discuss these issues.

The AMM also highlighted the issue of funding for libraries and joining established regional libraries. The Minister was pleased that both of these issues were to be included in the top five recommendations of the library review committee. He expects this report in the spring and will review it then.

The AMM also raised the issue of a trust fund for the Maintenance of the Trans-Canada Trail. The Province indicated that funding has been allocated for the maintenance of trails in the province. Minister Robinson will review this and follow up with the AMM in a letter.

Finally, the AMM raised the Municipal Agenda general issue with Minister Robinson. The Minister acknowledged that there is only one taxpayer, and as citizens we all fund this. ■

The Municipal Agenda

Manitoba's municipal governments continue to take on increasingly greater responsibilities. The AMM feels it is necessary that the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal government be examined.

Unclear legislation, such as the Water Protection Act, concern municipal governments because the financial costs in implementing and enforcing this Act are great. Infrastructure needs in all municipalities are at the top of municipal agendas, yet budgets are stretched thin.

Some options to support municipal governments to serve their communities effectively are removing education tax from property and exempting municipal governments from the Provincial Sales Tax.

The AMM urges the Province to work with municipalities to seriously examine the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal governments in Manitoba.



2006 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. *Submit your*

municipality today by simply logging onto www.amm.mb.ca/res_tools.html.

This award will be presented at the upcoming MOS Seminar in Brandon at the end of February. Deadline for submissions is **February 6, 2006.**

Congratulations to last year's winners, the City and RM of Portage la Prairie!

**SEE YOU AT THE
2006 MOS &
M.T.C.M.L.
TRADE SHOW!**

For the latest MOS agenda, visit:

www.amm.mb.ca/events_seminar.html

Coming Events

Mayors, Reeves & CAOs Meetings

The dates and locations have been set for the 2006 Mayors, Reeves & CAO Meetings. They will be held March 13, 14, and 20-24. For more details, visit:

www.amm.mb.ca/events_meetings.html

Canada-U.S. Water Relations Public Forum

Manitoba Eco-Network is hosting a Valentine's Day Public Forum to discuss the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Guest speakers are:

- Susan Howatt, Council of Canadians
 - Beatrice Olivastri, Friends of the Earth Canada
 - Don Norquay, Assistant Deputy Minister, Manitoba Water Stewardship
 - North Dakota speaker—TBA
- 6:45 pm—9:30 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 14/06

Carol Shields Auditorium
Winnipeg Millenium Library

For more information, call (204) 943-0318

Notices

New Energy Projects Funding

The Green Municipal Fund (GMF) is offering a new energy sector funding opportunity to municipal governments and municipal energy utilities. Loans and grants are available to municipal governments to support environmental projects in six categories: *Energy, Waste, Water, Sustainable Transportation, Brownfield Remediation, and Integrated Community Planning*. GMF will use a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to determine which implementation projects qualify.

The Energy RFP will open on **February 8, 2006**. All information is available online at www.fcm.ca, or by contacting:

Simona Birea, Application Co-ordinator
Green Municipal Fund
Ph: (613) 241-5221, ext. 238
Email: energy.rfp@fcm.ca

Notices

Power Smart Municipal LED Holiday Lighting Program

As your declared holiday lighting period ended sometime in January, please ensure that your holiday lighting is disconnected accordingly. Your incandescent strings and bulbs should be delivered to your nearest Manitoba Hydro Office as soon as possible. Before returning, please remember to:

- Package incandescent strings and bulbs in boxes, and
- Attach completed string return label to each box.

Please complete and return your Defective Strings form (even if there are no faulty strings to report) to Kelly Epp by January 31, 2006:

Phone: (204) 474-4051
Fax: (204) 474-3017
Email: kepp@hydro.mb.ca

Welcome to Rob Cox, Municipal Services Officer for Manitoba Hydro. Rob is replacing Jack Dent who has retired.

Rob looks forward to meeting many AMM members at MOS at the end of February and during the Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings in March. Rob can be reached at:

 (204) 480-5658
rcox@hydro.mb.ca

Job Postings

Job postings are edited due to space limitations. Complete job postings may be viewed on the AMM website: www.amm.mb.ca/member_job.html

R.M. of Rhineland Chief Administrative Officer

Under direction of Council, the CAO is responsible for the overall operation of the Municipality. Salary range dependent upon qualifications and experience. An attractive benefits package is provided. Forward applications marked "Chief Administrative Officer" with resume and three references no later than 5:00 pm January 31/06 to:

R.M. of Rhineland
Box 270 Altona, MB R0G 0B0
Phone (204)324-5357

Town of Grand Rapids CAO/Manager of Recreation

The Town of Grand Rapids is seeking one individual to serve as both the Chief Administrative Officer and the Manager of Recreation Services. The ideal candidate will have experience in facility management, program planning and at least five years management experience.

Salary is between \$50,000 and \$70,000 per year, depending on qualifications. An attractive benefits package is also provided.

Please submit inquires and resumes to dpr@mts.net by February 20/06.

MTCML Official Supplier

Office Supplies

Welcome to Lyreco, our newest MTCML Official Supplier. Lyreco offers discounts on all regular catalogue items. Orders may be placed by phone, fax, email or through Lyreco's Online Ordering system at www.lyreco.ca.

To activate your account and receive a Welcome Package including catalogue and ordering details, please contact your MTCML account manager, Kathy

Douglas at kdouglas@mts.net or by telephone at:

(204) 333-5828 or Toll Free: 1-800-661-4738 ext 741



Contact the AMM

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WWW.AMM.MB.CA

