



NEWS BULLETIN



JUNE 16, 2006

AMM Presents on Bills 14 and 30

On Monday, June 5, 2006, the AMM made a presentation to the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs regarding **Bill 14: The Water Rights Amendment Act**.

Water protection is a central issue for municipal governments. Developing the legislative framework for the protection of Manitoba's water has involved enacting a number of bills and regulations designed to protect this valuable resource. A key issue for the AMM has been the need to have adequate enforcement measures in place to ensure compliance with the new rules. The AMM expressed support for Bill 14 as it strengthens the enforcement process.

The AMM also noted that while municipalities, through local conservation districts, have begun developing water plans to manage their water, illegal drainage work does occur which affects even the best laid plans. The AMM suggested that while stronger enforcement measures are appreciated, additional resources should also be considered for the licensing process, as improving the process may reduce the amount of illegal work being done.

The AMM also presented to the Standing Committee on **Bill 30: The Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act**.

This is an important piece of legislation for municipalities as it mandates increased responsibilities for local authorities, primarily increased inspections on public buildings. Municipalities understand the need to ensure public buildings are safe, and they also understand the benefits to standardizing codes across the province.

Although this bill increases municipal responsibilities, the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) has committed to work with municipalities to make this process as easy as possible. The OFC has indicated that there will be training opportunities provided for municipal fire inspectors. Municipalities also have the option to contract the inspections out to a provincially approved third party, and to charge for inspections to recover costs if needed. The Province has also assured it will inspect provincial buildings, addressing the concern for municipalities regarding the number of buildings requiring inspection.

Overall, Bill 30 clarifies the roles of both the Province and municipalities in these important areas. While this bill does mandate additional responsibilities for municipalities, the AMM is confident that by working closely with the department, Manitobans will benefit. ■

AMM meets with Minister Chomiak

The AMM met with the Honourable David Chomiak, Minister of Energy, Science and Technology on June 8/06.

The meeting began with a discussion around the status of **Green Manitoba Eco Solutions**. The AMM urged the Province to consult with municipalities early in the process of drafting regulations, and indicated that AMM should continue to play a role in the governance structure of Green Manitoba Eco Solutions.

The AMM also expressed appreciation in recent developments in **biodiesel and ethanol production**, as they result in significant economic benefits for communities while promoting clean environment objectives. The AMM urged the Province to build on Manitoba's ethanol development and promote opportunities for Manitoba communities to establish biofuel facilities.

On the topic of **cellular service**, the AMM pointed out that communities where cellular service is limited are disadvantaged by an inability to access improved safety and economic opportunities. These challenges should be addressed by governments, both by adopting a larger role in the expansion of cellular service and by working with private industry to meet the needs of Manitobans.

The AMM also requested an update on the status of **wind power** in Manitoba, and urged the Provincial Government to expand efforts to stimulate growth in Manitoba's wind energy sector, as this provides excellent economic and environmental benefits for the Province.

In closing, the AMM reviewed the **municipal agenda** general issue. We urged the Province to work with municipalities to seriously examine the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal governments in Manitoba. ■

Welcome

To Alan Ransom, Western District Director—Rural



Councillor Alan Ransom, RM of Morton was elected AMM Western District Director—Rural at the June District Meeting in Melita on June 13, 2006. The election took place due to the

resignation of Reeve Karen Caldwell from the AMM Board of Directors.

The AMM also extends sincere thanks to Joyce Marsh, RM of Pipestone, Keith Wadham, RM of Wallace, and Marvin Elder, RM of Woodworth, for allowing their names to stand as well. Their participation and interest is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations, Alan and good luck during your tenure on the AMM board!

Notices

National Aboriginal Day

On June 21st join thousands of Canadians across the country as we celebrate National Aboriginal Day, a special day to highlight the unique heritage, cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people in Canada. It is part of the Celebrate Canada! Celebrations, which also include Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, Canadian Multiculturalism Day, and Canada Day. This year is the 10th anniversary of National Aboriginal Day.

Notices

InfraGuide E-learning from InfraGuide

Innovations and Best Practices
Innovations et règles de l'art

Two new E-learning products produced by InfraGuide are now available—*Developing a Water Distribution System Renewal Plan* and *An Integrated Approach to Assessment and Evaluation of Municipal Roads, Sewer and Water Networks*.

These products can be previewed and purchased through the InfraGuide website at:

www.infraguide.ca/education



Free Water Efficiency Plan Development

Is your municipality interested in developing a Water Efficiency Plan? Kimberly Ballance, a graduate student from the University of Manitoba, is interested in helping you accomplish this goal. This project includes an analysis of your community's water use from the municipal perspective and the development of a framework to promote water efficiency and conservation.

If you are interested in participating in this project please email Kimberly Ballance for more information:

kimberlyballance@yahoo.ca

Job Postings

City of Winkler Economic Development Officer

The City of Winkler is seeking a dynamic, positive individual to take over duties of Economic Development Officer effective January 2, 2007. At present this is a contract position with the City of Winkler.

Reporting to the CAO, the Economic Development Officer is responsible for Economic Development; Advertising, Promotions and Tourism; and the Winkler & District Economic Development Corporation.

The ideal candidate will have related education and experience in economic development, the ability to manage and write reports, and possess good public relations and communications skills.

Closing date for applications is June 30/06 at 5:00 PM. For more information, or to apply, contact:

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WHAT'S NEW ON [WWW.AMM.MB.CA](http://www.amm.mb.ca)?

Roles, Responsibilities and Resources of Municipal Government: Final Breakout Report—To view, click [here](#) or visit http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_followup2006.htm

AMM's Legislative Presentations on Bills 14, 15 and 30—To view, click [here](#) or visit http://www.amm.mb.ca/pol_leg.html

Keynote address from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 69th Annual Conference: Allan R. Gregg's "The Changing Mindset of Canadians: Implications for Municipalities"—To view the presentation, click [here](#) or visit <http://www.fcm.ca/english/events/ag.ppt>

