



ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES



NEWS BULLETIN



DECEMBER 21, 2007

AMM meets with Cabinet

The AMM met with Premier Gary Doer and members of the Provincial Cabinet on November 29th, 2007. This annual meeting gives the AMM the opportunity to address the Premier directly on the most critical issues facing municipalities.

**COMPLETE POSITION
PAPERS FROM THESE
MEETINGS ARE
AVAILABLE ON THE
AMM WEBSITE AT
WWW.AMM.MB.CA**

The most pressing issue discussed with the Premier this year was fiscal balance. On this issue, the Premier indicated that he agrees with the AMM that municipalities are least able to handle the current infrastructure deficit on their own. The Province would support 1% of the GST to municipalities. The Premier also indicated that the funding for the floodway expansion should not come from the municipal share of the Building Canada Fund.

Other items discussed include water issues, treaty land entitlements, recycling, and the need for a permanent flood proofing program.

President Bell also thanked the Premier for the Province's decision to increase payments for municipal equipment used in emergencies to 65%. The Premier indicated this will be implemented unilaterally and the Province will work it out with the Federal Government later. ■



L to R: Ministers Ashton and Robinson, President Bell, Premier Doer, and Ministers Wowchuk, Struthers, and Melnick on November 29, 2007.

Meeting with Minister of Justice

The AMM met with the Honourable David Chomiak, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, on December 18, 2007.

The AMM opened the meeting by expressing concerns with youth crime and the inability of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) to deal with the issue. The AMM also raised the need to deal with the gang issue, which is a major issue in the North. The Minister indicated this is clearly one of the government's top issues. The Healthy Child initiative is looking at this issue, as a healthy family is a key piece of deterring crime. The AMM also raised the need to expand programs like the DARE or Lions Quest program in schools.

The AMM also raised issues with municipal policing costs, including the need for more funding for support staff. The Minister provided an update on the officer placement and indicated that the province is now at a full compliment of officers. Nationally, there is a shortage, which will have implications for Manitoba as vacancies develop. The Minister indicated he has raised the issue of greater funding for support staff. The RCMP is also looking at the levels of policing required, particularly the community police officer option.

Other issues discussed with the Minister included policing of outside residents, RCMP responding to motor vehicle accidents, concerns with MPIC, and parking violations. On the last issue, the Minister committed to assist municipalities to access Provincial tools that are available. ■

Coming Events

AMM Education 2008

Communicating for Results: From Conflict to Cooperation

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Priti Shah is an articulate and enthusiastic presenter who has been doing public speaking for more than a decade. Don't delay—register now at:

<http://www.amm.mb.ca>

Community Investment Support Program (CISP) Deadline

The Community Investment Support Program (CISP) was launched in 1998 to help Canadian communities attract, retain and expand foreign direct investment. CISP supports non-profit and public-private partnerships at the local community level through cost sharing of eligible expenses. **The deadline for 2008-2009 Community Investment Support Program (CISP) applications is January 15, 2008.**

CISP priorities, criteria and application form are under consultative review for the 2008-2009 fiscal year program cycle. All information will be available on the website (www.cisp.gc.ca) within the next few weeks.

For more info contact Genevieve Jones at 204-983-2594 or:

genevieve.jones@international.gc.ca

AMM Staff update:

- Farewell to **Kimberly Ballance**, AMM term Senior Policy Analyst, who has accepted a CAO position in Ontario. Thank you for all of your hard work and best of luck, Kimberly!
- Welcome back to **Rachel Philippe**, AMM Senior Policy Analyst, who has returned from maternity leave. It's great to have you back, Rachel!
- Welcome also to **Elicia Funk**, AMM Administrative Assistant, Board & Administration. Elicia will be filling in for **Julia Green**, who will begin maternity leave in early January. Good luck Julia!

Announcements

Congratulations to...

Jesseica Kozminski-Kirby
Town of Arborg

Jesseica has been awarded a \$1,000 Rural Matters! Attendance Bursary Award. Jesseica will attend Rural Matters! Forging Healthy Canadian Communities, a national symposium, from July 5 – 8, 2008 at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton, Alberta.

Jesseica is the youth representative to the Town of Arborg Council. Congratulations, Jesseica!

Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent

Deadline for comments: Jan. 31/08

A consultation session was held on December 6th, 2007 to garner feedback during the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's development of a Canada-wide strategy for the management of municipal wastewater effluent. Comments are welcome on the proposed regulatory framework for wastewater by January 31st, 2008. AMM members are asked to make comments on the framework, specifically on the need to guarantee funding goes with the new regulations.

The framework is available at:

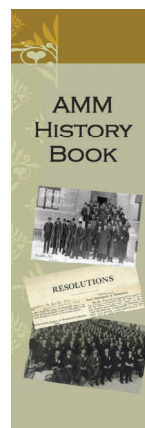
http://www.ccme.ca/assets/pdf/mwwe_cda_wide_strategy_consultation_e.pdf

Notices

Deadline extended

For submissions to the
AMM History Book

- Not sure what to contribute for the AMM History Book?
- Unsure what, if any, items you have may be suitable?
- Not clear on what exactly we are looking for?

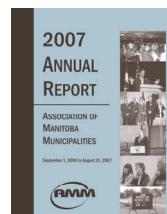


Don't worry! We are currently preparing a list of needed items and will distribute it to members in early January, 2008. You will then have a better idea of what you may want to contribute.

For more information on the AMM History Book, please visit:

http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_historybook.html

Now available online:



2007 AMM Annual Report

http://www.amm.mb.ca/about_reports_2007.html



AMM Annual Convention

****Recap****

Photos, resolutions, daily bulletins, and more! Visit

http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_convention07wrap.html