



# NEWS BULLETIN



JANUARY 3, 2006

## AMM Board Update

The AMM Board of Directors met on December 20 for the final meeting of 2006. The Board gave their feedback on the recent Convention, and reviewed the initial agenda for the Municipal Officials Seminar upcoming at the end of February.

Elections took place for AMM internal committees. Alice Bourgooin was elected Chair of the Social and Fiscal Issues Committee, while Robert Misko was elected Chair of the Resource Management Committee.

Executive Director Masi gave a verbal update on Community Hostings for stranded travelers due to blizzards. The Province has set up a fund for claims that the AMM will administer. The AMM will distribute guidelines for the program to municipalities once they are finalized.

The Board agreed that the AMM will submit comments on the new water regulations by the January 22nd deadline. The Board also agreed to discuss this position with other stakeholders, such as KAP.

President Bell and Executive Director Masi will take part in an El Salvador Exchange from January 15-24th, 2007. An election was held for one Board representative from AMM to be part of the El Salvador exchange. Rural Vice-President Doug Dobrowolski was elected to accompany President Bell and Executive Director Masi on the exchange. ■

### \*\*\*REMINDER\*\*\*

**The AMM Municipal  
Innovation Awards Program  
Deadline is February 7, 2007.**

*For more information visit:*  
[http://www.amm.mb.ca/res\\_tools.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/res_tools.html)

## AMM Board meets with Premier Doer

**T**he AMM Board of Directors met with Premier Gary Doer and members of the Provincial Cabinet at the Manitoba Legislature on December 19. "Our annual presentation to the Premier and Cabinet is the major lobbying event for the AMM," explained President Bell, who also noted the timing couldn't be better. "With this meeting taking place right after Convention, we are able to bring forward the most pressing issues facing our membership."

Bell began the meeting by thanking the Premier for moving ahead on a number of important issues, including tire recycling, the Building Manitoba Fund, library technology, and the recent decision to fund inter-facility patient transfers. "I'd like to commend you for these and other programs," he said, before quickly moving onto a municipal top priority—fiscal balance. "We see this as the issue that drives virtually every other issue," said Bell. "Over the last 40 years all governments have worked hard at reducing debt, and this has come at a cost to municipal infrastructure."

The AMM also raised education tax with the Premier by reiterating the need for a five-year plan. The Premier reviewed the progress the Province has made to date and indicated they will continue to work on this issue.

Water issues were also discussed with the Premier, who noted that "your organization did have a lot of influence on (the revised water recommendations)."

A number of other issues were raised with the Premier and Cabinet members in attendance, including recreation funding, recycling, affordable housing, and the need for a provincial flood proofing program.

Overall, President Bell was pleased with the meeting. "First and foremost, we needed to know that the Province is willing to partner with communities, because stronger communities make a stronger Manitoba," said Bell. "I do feel, after meeting with the Premier, that there are many opportunities to work together for the benefit of our members." ■



Premier Gary Doer and President Bell

**The Cabinet Brief  
is available on the  
AMM website at  
[www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca)**

## Notices

### Vacancy on the AMM Board of Directors

As you may be aware, at the 2006 Annual AMM Convention, there were no candidates nominated to fill the Urban Director position for the Mid-Western district of the AMM.

At the AMM Board meeting of December 20, 2006, the AMM Board of Directors considered the manner in which this position would be filled.

The Board of Directors decided to leave this position vacant until the June 2007 District meeting for the Mid-Western District. The June District meetings in 2007 will be where all of the Director positions will be elected throughout Manitoba for a two year term.

If you have any questions about this issue, please call Executive Director, Joe Masi at 204-856-2360 or email [jmasi@amm.mb.ca](mailto:jmasi@amm.mb.ca).

### Animal Care Line

If you suspect a farm or companion animal may be abused or neglected please call the confidential Animal Care Line at **(204) 945-8000**.

This line is maintained in cooperation with the Manitoba Farm Animal Council by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives. When phoning, please leave a message including your name, phone number and time of call. Messages are checked daily, we attempt to return all calls within one business day.

### Congratulations

...to AMM Senior Policy Analyst Rachel Philippe and her husband Roger, who welcomed their baby daughter Kyra on November 29, 2006!



## Notices

### DFO Stewardship-in-Action

Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) is seeking project proposals for the 2007-2008 funding year for the Stewardship-in-Action (SIA) initiative. The Program is intended to provide matched financial support, up to \$7,500, to help regional, watershed, and local community groups grow their capacity to be effective advocates of fish habitat. **Deadline for receipt of proposals is January 26, 2007.** For more information, contact:

#### Gabrielle Kosmider

Fish Habitat Biologist,  
Central and Arctic Region,  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Telephone: (780) 495-8494  
Email: [KosmiderG@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:KosmiderG@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

### Planning Grant Program Update

Manitoba's Community Planning Assistance Program is being enhanced and more funding is being made available to planning districts and municipalities to help prepare livestock operation policies under The Planning Act.

Improvements to the program include access to up to \$5,000 in new, cost-shared funding to support public involvement in developing a livestock operation policy. Up to \$10,000 is available to support detailed land use information and digital mapping in each rural municipality. This is in addition to the \$3,000 per by-law the program currently provides to municipalities and planning districts to prepare their development plans and zoning by-laws.

For more information, contact:

**David Neufeld**, Director of Community Planning Services (945-2192) or  
**Paul Raths**, Community Planning Coordinator (945-4988).

## Notices



### Out on the Weekend

magazine is a glossy full colour celebration of leisure, culture, heritage and travel in Manitoba. They are looking for editorial contributions from Manitoba's Mayors and Reeves to be featured on the last page of the magazine. The magazine is published quarterly and distributed in Winnipeg and surrounding areas. All submissions should be approx. 500 words and recount a Manitoba experience. For more information email [editor@outontheweekend.ca](mailto:editor@outontheweekend.ca) or visit [www.outontheweekend.ca](http://www.outontheweekend.ca).

### Multicultural Reference Guide

Manitoba health care sector has relied on professionals born and trained in other parts of the world to meet a portion of its health human resource needs. As a result, Manitoba's Office of Rural and Northern Health (ORNH), in cooperation with Super Six Community Futures, has developed a Multicultural Reference Guide to assist communities in understanding the background, customs and practices of individuals who are new to their communities. The guide may be downloaded at:

[http://www.ornh.mb.ca/docs/multicultural\\_guide\\_web.pdf](http://www.ornh.mb.ca/docs/multicultural_guide_web.pdf)

## Condolences

*Our deepest sympathy goes to Art Elias of HED Insurance on the passing of his wife, Irene, on December 20, 2006.*

*HED has been the AMM's insurance broker for many years and Art is well-known by many of our members.*

*Donations in Irene's memory may be made to: The Rainbow Society, 303-1 Wesley Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3C 4C6.*