



MARCH 17, 2008

MINISTER MEETINGS CONTINUE

The AMM met with the Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation, on February 26th, 2008.

The AMM opened the meeting with Minister Struthers by highlighting recycling and its growing importance to municipalities. The Minister is hopeful that they will be able to make further announcements of progress in the near future, as the paper and packaging regulation is currently being discussed at Cabinet. The Minister indicated that he does not support a bottle depot system for returns as this is an expensive system.

Position papers from all minister meetings are available at the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca

The Minister noted that public consultation on the electronic waste regulation is complete and the goal is to have a more reliable system in place for late 2008 or 2009. There will be another collection event this summer. The Minister also reiterated that his department is supporting the 80:20 funding formula.

The AMM also raised the issue of contaminated sites and the need to work with municipalities in implementing the recommendations from the Auditor-General's report. The Minister indicated that he sees value in working together.

The AMM then raised issues with permanent park residents and funding for parks as well as concerns with the cottage lot draws being held by the province and their impact on municipal development. The Minister indicated that the Province is only drawing for lots in areas with access. The department committed to provide a greater update on this issue at a future meeting with the AMM.

The AMM also raised the issue of taxes not being paid on crown lands and committed to forward Minister Struthers correspondence on this issue.

As with all Ministers, the AMM raised its concerns with the CD Framework document. The Minister indicated that funding is always an issue and the province is looking at this through the budgetary process. ■

AMM BOARD MEETS

The AMM Board of Directors met on February 28, 2008.

The meeting opened with a presentation from Art Elias of HED Insurance and Risk Services. The Board then received an update on the 2008 Municipal Officials Seminar, approved the 2008 Convention theme, and reviewed the recent municipal visits.

The Board reviewed a number of Social and Fiscal issues. These included the Manitoba Library Trustee Association, Building Canada Fund, education taxation, the Workplace Safety and Health Act, the CEC report on the hog industry, the RHA Review report, licensing of ambulance personnel, taxes not being paid on crown lands, Bill C-25 – Amendments to the Youth Criminal Justice Act, and joint use of school/community facilities.

Other policy issues discussed included water issues and the Aggregate Mining Final Fee Report. The board also reviewed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities analysis on the Federal Budget. ■

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA DELIVERS FOR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The following is an excerpt from a statement released by Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) President Gord Steeves on February 26, 2008, responding to the tabling of the federal budget in the House of Commons.

“Budget 2008 delivers good news for cities and communities. The decision to make the gas tax transfer permanent represents a critical move toward addressing the municipal fiscal imbalance and building vibrant cities and communities.

Combined with the suite of infrastructure programs announced in last year's budget, which will deliver more than \$18 billion over the next six years, these measures clear the way for development of a national plan to eliminate the \$123-billion municipal infrastructure deficit.

The \$500 million for public transit, which will help meet critical community needs, underlines the importance of the federal government funding safe and reliable public transportation and leading a national transit strategy.

FCM looks forward to working with the government to build on these announcements and to develop long-term plans to provide our cities and communities with the infrastructure, public transit and housing they need.” ■

Coming Events

2008 Mayors, Reeves and CAO's Meetings

Meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. Please visit the AMM website to register for the District Meeting you plan to attend.

[amm.mb.ca/
events_meetings_form.html](http://amm.mb.ca/events_meetings_form.html)

Parkland District – March 17

Host: Town of Swan River
War Veterans Community Hall,
119-6th Avenue North, Swan River

Midwestern District - March 18

Host: RM and Town of Russell
The Russell Inn, Hwy 16 and 83,
Russell

Western District - March 19

Host: RM of Glenwood and
Town of Souris
Souris-Glenwood Community Hall, 30
– 3rd Avenue West, Souris

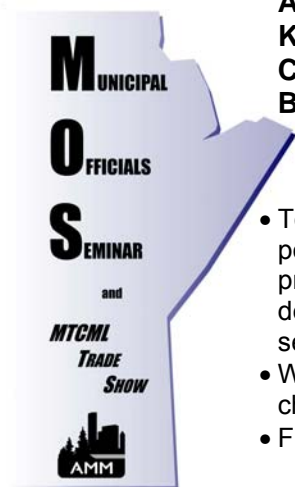
Central District - March 20

Host: City of Winkler
Activity Centre 55 Plus,
394 6th Street, Winkler

Northern District – March 26

Conference Call

Municipal Officials Seminar & MTCML Trade Show



April 16 –17
Keystone
Centre
Brandon

- More displays
- Top-notch policy & professional development sessions
- Wine & cheese
- Fireworks!

Preliminary agenda and more information available online at

amm.mb.ca/events_seminar.html

Coming Events

4th Annual Municipal Excellence Award

The deadline for submitting your local best practice is fast approaching. Guidelines and submission

form are on the AMM website at:

amm.mb.ca/res_tools.html

The deadline for submitting your best practice is NOON on March 27th, 2008.

We look forward to receiving your best practice!!



Congratulations to our February contest winner of the AMM Website Hunt:

**Shelley Glenn, CAO
RM of Strathclair**

For details about our next contest, visit our website at [amm.mb.ca/
events_10thanniversary.html](http://amm.mb.ca/events_10thanniversary.html)

Your whole council can win fabulous prizes!

2008 CAPTURING OPPORTUNITIES A FORUM FOR ENTREPRENEURS

**April 24—25, 2008
Brandon, Manitoba**

Capturing Opportunities builds on the great tradition of Rural Forum, but provides even more value with increased opportunities for networking, learning about new business ideas and skills and meeting with an outstanding lineup of speakers.

For more info call 204-761-6317 or visit capturingopportunities.ca

Notices

Survey Outline Monument Restoration Program

The Survey Outline Monument Restoration Program was reviewed Dec. 3, 2007 and the following changes have been made to the program guidelines:

- All submissions are to be in digital format.
- Municipalities will be reimbursed for monument restoration conducted by the Municipality.
- The fees have been revised. The Maximum per monument has been removed and the hourly rates have been increased to reflect inflation.
- Appendixes C and E City of Winnipeg requirements have been revised.

The parties have agreed to continue the program for this fiscal year of 2008/2009.

These revised guidelines will take effect April 1, 2008. Any field work started prior to April 1st will be processed using the 2007/2008 guidelines. Complete guidelines are available at

[gov.mb.ca/tp/asssets/docs/
monument_restoration_guideline.pdf](http://gov.mb.ca/tp/asssets/docs/monument_restoration_guideline.pdf)

Agreement to protect fish habitat signed

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada signed an agreement on fish-habitat management March 7 in Brandon, Manitoba.

FCM was represented by its President, Councillor Gord Steeves of Winnipeg, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada was represented by the Hon. Vic Toews, Member of Parliament for Provencher and President of the Treasury Board of Canada.

The agreement establishes a collaborative relationship between Fisheries and Oceans Canada and FCM that will promote increased efficiency and effectiveness in the conservation, protection and enhancement of fish and fish habitat in municipalities across Canada.