



# NEWS BULLETIN



APRIL 27, 2009

## 5TH ANNUAL LOBBY DAYS

*The AMM blitzed the Manitoba Legislature once again in an effort to inform MLAs about top issues facing municipalities. During the fifth annual "Lobby Days", held on April 21-22, the AMM met with the NDP caucus as a group and with Conservative and Liberal MLAs one-on-one.*

*This year, the need for alternate revenue for infrastructure investment—the AMM's most critical issue—was the focus of Lobby Days. The message the AMM took to the MLAs was not that the provincial government has completely forgotten about municipalities, but rather despite their efforts municipalities still face enormous challenges and more is needed. To that end, the AMM board of directors asked the Province to provide municipalities with one per cent of the current PST to help address the growing municipal infrastructure deficit.*

*A total of 30 MLAs took part in the 2009 Lobby Days. The AMM thanks those that took the time to hear first-hand the needs of municipalities in Manitoba. These meetings not only helped the AMM to deliver their message, but will assist the MLAs in defining the needs of their constituents. ■*

## Minister Meetings Continue

**T**he AMM met with Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy, Diane McGifford on April 1. The AMM opened the meeting by raising the need to continue to increase training and licensing of health professionals, particularly in rural areas.

The AMM then raised concerns around water and wastewater operator training and the fact that a number of grandfathered licenses are going to expire. The Minister indicated that the province is working on this problem.

Finally, the AMM raised the need to have training programs available for new technologies such as wind and biodiesel.

*The need for alternate revenue was also raised with each minister.*

*Position papers are available at [http://www.amm.mb.ca/pol\\_provincial.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/pol_provincial.html).*

**T**he AMM met with Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Rosann Wowchuk on April 6, opening the meeting by raising the need for a review of *The Noxious Weeds Act*. The Minister indicated that a full review would take over a year, and there is a need to be careful as the review could result in less power for municipalities and weed supervisors.

The AMM also raised the need for the Province to promote greater coordination as new land and water planning legislation and policies are implemented. While Minister Wowchuk indicated that her responsibility is to agriculture, she agreed that a cooperative approach is preferred.

On the issue of emergency livestock burial, the AMM raised the need for the Province to identify burial sites and fund an incinerator for emergency use. The Minister indicated that the incinerator system is expensive and not mobile. She noted the Province has one disposal site fully permitted and have identified a couple of other sites as well.

Other items discussed with Minister Wowchuk were the status of the Province's economic development consultation, and the format of the education tax rebate system.

**F**inally, the AMM met with the Minister of Culture, Heritage Tourism and Sport and Acting Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Eric Robinson on April 6.

The AMM opened the meeting by highlighting the need to increase funding for recreational practitioners. The Minister indicated that he is committed to greater funding in this area. The AMM then raised the need for the Province to maximize new federal recreation funding and to support measures to reduce operating costs for recreation facilities. The Minister indicated there is agreement across Canada that more funding is needed, and the Federal Minister of Sport is also aware of the issues in this area.

Regarding funding for libraries, the Minister indicated that his department is working on a universal library card. He also committed to having his department follow up with AMM on the library committee report completed a few years ago.

The Joint Use of Schools and Community Facilities Advisory Committee final report was also discussed. Minister Robinson stated his department is working on the recommendations and will provide an update to AMM on where the report stands.

With regard to treaty land entitlement (TLE), the AMM again raised the need for timely settlements as well as the need for a review of the current compensation structure.

The AMM also discussed the Port of Churchill with Minister Robinson. ■



## Coming Events

**June District Meetings**  
On-line registration begins  
**May 1, 2009**

at [http://www.amm.mb.ca/  
events\\_june\\_form.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_june_form.html)

### Eastern District

**Monday, June 15, 2009**

Hosted by the RM of East St. Paul

### Central District

**Tuesday, June 16, 2009**

Hosted by the Town of Altona & the RM of Rhineland

### Western District

**Wednesday, June 17, 2009**

Hosted by the Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain

### Midwestern District

**Thursday, June 18, 2009**

Hosted by the Village of Binscarth, the RM of Russell & the Town of Russell

### Parkland District

**Friday, June 19, 2009**

Hosted by the Town of Roblin & the RM of Shell River

### Northern District

**Monday, June 22, 2009**

Hosted by the Town of Lynn Lake

### Interlake District

**Tuesday, June 23, 2009**

Hosted by the City of Selkirk

## June District Resolutions

When submitting resolutions, please indicate if they are for your District Meeting or for information only. Also remember:

- We have moved to a Category system (Category 1, 2 or 3)
- Only **emerging** issues may be raised *after* the June District Meetings
- Resolutions the same as the current AMM lobbying position will not be permitted when the existing resolution is less than four years old. Resolutions calling for a change in the current AMM position will be permitted.

Questions? Please contact

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Email: [tmacafee@amm.mb.ca](mailto:tmacafee@amm.mb.ca)

## Coming Events



### Traffic Safety Education & Consulting of Manitoba Traffic Control Practices on Rural Roads Workshops

We will be holding Workshops during the months of March, April and May at various locations across Manitoba. The Workshops are based on the new "Manitoba Rural Traffic Control Handbook". Topics include when to install traffic signs & liability issues, responding to traffic safety concerns, proper sign installation procedures, cost effective sign maintenance programs, and benefits of Traffic Safety Audits.

To register, go to [www.tsecmb.com](http://www.tsecmb.com) or call Drew Gunson at 204-961-0188 or [dgunson@tsecmb.com](mailto:dgunson@tsecmb.com)

### ICLEI World Congress 2009 Connecting Leaders Advancing Local Action for Sustainability

14-18 June 2009 Edmonton, Alberta

Join municipal leaders from around the world to share and exchange ideas on strategies for advancing urban sustainability through presentations, reports, debates, workshops, networking site visits and an exhibition. For more information, email:

[world.congress@iclei.org](mailto:world.congress@iclei.org)

Or visit our website at:

[www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009](http://www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009)

## Notices

### CMHC Municipal Infrastructure Lending Program is Open for Business

Municipalities with "ready-to-go" housing related infrastructure projects can now apply through CMHC for direct, low-cost loans. Eligible loans will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis and may be used by municipalities to cover their contribution for cost-shared federal housing-related infrastructure programming.

Information, Q&As and the applications forms for municipalities wishing to apply for loans are available on-line at

[www.cmhc.ca/housingactionplan](http://www.cmhc.ca/housingactionplan).

## Notices

### Manitoba in Motion Community Physical Activity Grants

Community Physical Activity Grants are available to help community partnerships plan and implement ways to increase regular physical activity among citizens of all ages.

Eligible applicants include local partnerships that may consist of municipalities, non-profit community organizations, coalitions, business and industry, and other social and community services. Funds can be used for a wide range of activities that provide opportunities to increase regular physical activity.

Applicants may apply for up to 50 per cent of total project costs to a maximum of \$3,000. Priority will be given to communities that are registered as Communities *in motion*. To find out if your community has registered and who the contacts are, visit the Manitoba *in motion* website at:

[www.manitobainmotion.ca/  
communities/](http://www.manitobainmotion.ca/communities/)

**Deadline is Monday, June 1, 2009 for projects starting between September 2009 and March 2010.**

## Job Postings

### Roblin Planning District Board Development Officer/Building Inspector

The Town of Roblin, RM of Shell River and the RM of Hillsburg has a Development Officer/Building Inspector position available for a highly motivated and dynamic individual to provide services to the residents and clients of the Roblin Planning District. Please submit a detailed resume, complete with expected salary and three references no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 15, 2009 to:

**Roblin Planning District Board  
c/o Betty Nykyforak, Chair**  
Box 741, Roblin, MB, R0L 1P0  
Fax: (204) 937-4382

E-mail: [toroblin@mts.net](mailto:toroblin@mts.net)

\*\*\*Visit [http://www.amm.mb.ca/  
member\\_job.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/member_job.html) for complete job posting.\*\*\*

