



MAY 8, 2009

## Minister Meetings Continue

*The AMM met with four Provincial Cabinet Ministers on April 7.*

### **Honourable Theresa Oswald Minister of Health**

The AMM opened the meeting with Minister Oswald by urging the Province to expand its strategy to train, recruit and retain medical professionals to provide access to health care services for all Manitoba communities. The Minister committed to sending AMM a document on everything that has been done on this issue. Her department is also working on a document to help municipalities recruit and retain doctors. The Minister indicated the Province is looking at the issue of the Brandon Medical School.

The AMM also asked the Province to take action on the RHA Review Committee report and move forward with improvements to the RHA system. The Minister indicated a committee is reviewing the recommendations and will be prioritizing these, with communications at the top of the list.

The AMM also urged the Province to eliminate the community contribution for capital health projects, and to dedicate funding to RHAs to support a Regional Palliative Care program.

### **Honourable Dave Chomiak Minister of Justice**

The first item on the agenda during the meeting with Minister Chomiak was the review of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. The AMM urged the Province to ensure any changes stemming from the review recognize the capacity of Manitoba municipalities to take on new programming. The Minister indicated that prevention is key and providing options for youth, such as the Lighthouse Program, is important.

The AMM then raised the issue of parking violations and the need for a process to ensure payment of out-

standing parking fines. This process has been underway for some time and municipalities are anxious for the new system to be implemented. The Minister committed to work with AMM to resolve this issue by next year.

The AMM also discussed municipal policing costs with Minister Chomiak. The AMM asked the Province to commit additional resources to policing in Manitoba and also ensure that municipalities have a voice during the negotiation of the 2012 provincial police contract. On the subject of police boards, the Minister indicated he does not expect the process to be much different from today, just more public, and concerns expressed in the review process will be included when the bill is introduced.

The AMM then urged the Province to look at Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPIC) rates to ensure that compensation to municipalities is adequate. The Minister indicated he would discuss these issues with MPIC and ask them to meet with AMM to discuss these concerns.

### **Honourable Peter Bjornson Minister of Education, Citizenship & Youth**

To kick off their meeting with Minister Bjornson, the AMM reiterated its request for the Province to implement a long-term plan to reduce education tax on property and to achieve an 80:20 funding ratio for operating costs. The Minister indicated that the Province's commitment is to fund 80% of all education expenses, and it will be continuing on its slow and steady approach to deal with this issue. He also noted that two-thirds of school divisions have taken the Tax Incentive Grant this year.

The AMM then urged the Province to provide funding and support for anti-drug programming as part of Manitoba's school curriculum. The Minister

indicated this is a priority and the Province is increasing the resource officer program in schools.

The AMM also urged the Province to amend *The Public Schools Act* to require that school board approval processes include public hearings on matters of long-term borrowing. The Minister indicated that he does not hear that this is a real issue in the province, and the Minister can require a public hearing if need be. He also noted that school board meetings are open to the public and school boards follow the by-law process.

Joint Use of Facilities was also discussed with Minister Bjornson, with the Minister indicating the Province is discussing the Joint Use of Schools and Community Facilities Advisory Committee final report.

### **Honourable Kerri Irvin-Ross Minister of Healthy Living**

The AMM began the meeting with Minister Irvin-Ross by raising the need for increased investment for recreation infrastructure in Manitoba. The Minister indicated that the Province has increased the total grant amount for the Community Places Program, and asked the AMM to let her know of any recreation projects that are having trouble meeting the 1/3 municipal funding threshold.

Seniors issues, including the Province's Age-Friendly initiative, were also discussed with Minister Irvin-Ross. ■

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

*View the complete position papers at [www.amm.mb.ca/pol\\_provincial.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/pol_provincial.html).*

## Coming Events

### June District Meetings

**Register on-line**

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

**Tyler MacAfee, Director of Policy and Communications**

Phone: 204-856-2362 Fax: 204-856-2370

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

## Coming Events

### PSAB Implementation 2009 Training Sessions PSAB Reporting Model

The implementation of PSAB by municipalities in Manitoba is in its final phase. Most municipalities have completed their tangible capital assets and are getting ready to prepare their 2009 financial statements in accordance with PSAB GAAP.

2009 Training Sessions will be announced shortly. On-line registration will be available on the AMM website. AMM members will be notified when registration begins.

For more information, visit:

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



### 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)

### Mark Your Calendar!

**MCDA 2009  
Convention &  
Tradeshow**

**December  
7-9, 2009**



Keystone Centre Brandon, Manitoba

**"Our Environment - The Cost of  
Doing Nothing!"**

## Notices

### Heritage Matters Grant Program Deadline June 1, 2009

The Department of Culture, Heritage, Tourism & Sport will be accepting applications to the Heritage Matters grant program until 1 June 2009, from communities wishing to carry out projects that help identify, protect or conserve their historic places. Matching grants of up to \$5000 will be awarded, and projects must be completed by March 2010.

For more information visit [http://  
www.gov.mb.ca/chc/grants/  
heritage\\_matters\\_grants.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/grants/heritage_matters_grants.html) or call:

**Nicola Spasoff,  
Municipal Liaison Officer  
204-945-2981**

## Job Postings

### Chief Administrative Officer RM of Victoria

The Council of the RM of Victoria is seeking a dynamic leader to fill the position of Chief Administrative Officer. The CAO is responsible for directing the overall administration of the municipality in accordance with the Municipal Act, other legislation by-laws of the Rural Municipality and policies and procedures established by the Council.

The RM of Victoria offers a competitive salary along with an excellent benefits package. Interested candidates are invited to submit, in confidence, a resume outlining their skills, qualifications, experience, education and references no later than June 5th, 2009 to:

**R.M. of Victoria, Staff Committee  
P.O. Box 40  
Holland, Manitoba R0G 0X0  
Fax: (204)526-2028  
email: [asteinke@rmofvictoria.com](mailto:asteinke@rmofvictoria.com)**

**\*\*\***

**The complete posting for this position  
is available at:**

[http://www.amm.mb.ca/  
member\\_job.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/member_job.html)