



NEWS BULLETIN



APRIL 7, 2011

MINISTER MEETINGS CONTINUE

The AMM met with two ministers on March 25, 2011—The Honourable Gord Mackintosh (Family Services and Consumer Affairs) and the Honourable Dave Chomiak (Innovation, Energy and Mines).

The AMM opened the meeting with Minister Mackintosh with the issue of funding for childcare across Manitoba. Municipalities are primarily concerned with the availability of childcare since these services make important contributions to the local economy, however in order for spinoffs to occur they must create attractive, well-paying jobs. The AMM stressed operating grants for childcare centres must be sufficient to enable competitive wages for childcare workers.

The Minister indicated they are well on their way to the commitment of 6,500 new spaces by 2013, and funding has either flowed or been set aside for 29 new or expanded centres. He noted there is a labour shortage for many sectors and childcare is no different. The Province has implemented a pension plan and increased wages by 40-50% since 1999, with the starting wage for an early childhood educator now at \$32,000. The Province is also looking at more opportunities to put centres in schools and is working on an online registry.

The Minister indicated he is well aware of the unique challenges for small rural centres where often it is hard to fill spots. The Province is looking at models that would allow funding based on spaces that would help these centres.

The AMM also discussed the cost of survey monument restoration, communication issues with the Public Utilities Board and the new home warranty legislation with Minister Mackintosh.

The AMM also raises its priority issue, the Core Challenges of Municipalities, during each Minister meeting.

Position papers are available at www.amm.mb.ca/pol_provincial.html

The AMM opened the meeting with Minister Chomiak by raising biodiesel and ethanol initiatives in Manitoba and urging the Province to fully support the development of production facilities for these alternative energy sources. On biodiesel, the Minister indicated the three plants in Manitoba (Arborg, Beausejour and Winnipeg) are finding some markets. The Province is also looking at the next generation of ethanol – cellulosic ethanol.

Wind power was discussed next with the AMM asking the Province to provide incentives in this area and also to develop a standard offer contract for community wind projects. The Minister indicated there will be more but the process was slowed by the recession. However, they were able to get St. Joseph up and running which was the largest wind farm built in 2009/10, producing 250 Mw when fully operating.

Mining issues in Northern Manitoba were also raised, with the Minister noting there is good activity in the north with four or five projects set to come soon. The development right now is much like it was in the 1970s in the north.

Minister Chomiak also noted the situation in Thompson with Vale is ongoing and the Province will continue working on this. ■

AMM meets with KAP

The AMM met with Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) on March 28, 2011. The purpose of this annual meeting is to discuss topics of shared concern.

One important issue discussed was a water strategy for Manitoba. KAP and the AMM agreed to request a joint meeting with the Water Stewardship Minister following the flood. Also discussed was how a water strategy would need to tie in with the ecological goods and services work.

Alternative land use policies were also raised. KAP indicated that municipal taxation is an issue and would like to see municipalities offer zero taxation on this land. KAP believes it would take \$20M to implement the program Manitoba wide. The importance for farmers is not only what they get paid for the land but the reduction in input costs and crop insurance as often this land is the first to trigger a claim.

Additional items raised during the meeting included tax assessments, the upcoming provincial election, BiPole III and beaver damage to croplands.

It's not to late...join the 600+ AMM members who have pre-registered for the:

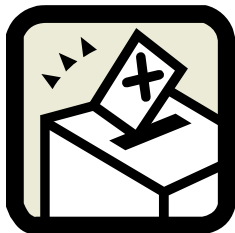
2011 Municipal Officials Seminar and MTCML Trade Show

April 13 and 14, 2011 * Brandon Keystone Centre

Register online at www.amm.mb.ca



Coming Events



June District Meetings - AMM Board of Directors Elections

This year at the June District meetings we will be electing all Director positions on the AMM Board of Directors.

Please remember the following if you are considering letting your name stand for Director on the AMM Board of Directors:

- You must be an elected official from a member municipality to be eligible to run for the AMM Board of Directors.
- Each of the 7 Districts shall have 2 representatives on the board, one from an urban municipality and one from a rural municipality, except the Northern District.
- For the Northern District, representation on the Board shall be comprised of one representative from one of the following municipalities: The Pas, Flin Flon, Snow Lake or Grand Rapids.
- The other representative shall be from one of the following municipalities: Thompson, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Churchill, Gillam or Mystery Lake.
- The term of office for the Directors shall be 2 years until June of 2013.
- In order to be elected, a candidate must receive 50% plus one of the total votes cast.
- All elected officials and Chief Administrative Officers of a member municipality for a particular district may vote at the June District meeting.

If you have any questions about the election for the AMM Board of Directors, please feel free to contact:

Joe Masi,
Executive Director
204-856-2360
jmasi@amm.mb.ca

Coming Events

Process for June District Meeting Resolutions

****Note new deadline****

1. All resolutions must be submitted to the AMM office **prior to June 1st** for consideration at that year's June District Meeting. Resolutions received after this date will be considered post-June District Meeting resolutions and will be dealt with through that process.
2. Resolutions are categorized by the District Resolutions Committee which is chosen at the meeting. The chair of the District Resolutions Committee sits on the AMM Convention Resolutions Committee.
3. Resolutions categorized as 1 or 2 are presented for debate by delegates.
4. Resolutions categorized as a 3 resolution are not put forward for debate, but the AMM Board of Directors later reviews the decision on the category.
5. The City of Winnipeg will send resolutions directly to the AMM prior to June 30th. These resolutions will be forwarded to the AMM Convention Resolutions Committee for categorization.

Please direct Resolutions to:

Erika Rempel, Administrative Assistant, Policy & Communications
1910 Saskatchewan Avenue West
Portage la Prairie MB R1N 0P1
Email: erempel@amm.mb.ca
Fax: 1-204-856-2370



The Lung Association is launching Manitoba's first ever quit smoking contest, Manitoba Quits, on March 31. Over \$10,000 in prizes!

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who has been thinking about quitting. Participants enter on-line at www.manitobaquits.ca and pledge to remain smoke-free for the contest period, from May 4 to 31. Rules are explained at www.manitobaquits.ca, which will be open for registration on March 31 at noon. **The registration period is from March 31 at noon until 11:59 pm on May 3, 2011.**

Coming Events



SWANA Northern Lights Chapter Conference 'Climate for Change'

**May 30—June 1, 2011
Saskatoon, SK**

Visit www.swananorthernlights.org for registration and conference details. Registrations received prior to March 18 will be entered in a draw for a copy of 'The Handbook of Landfill Operations: A Practical Guide for Landfill Engineers, Owners, and Operators', written by Neal Bolton, P.E. Following the conference two training courses will be offered: Landfill Operator Basics and Managing Construction and Demolition Waste.

If you work in solid waste management, you won't want to miss this conference!

Join the Commuter Challenge to get active, save money, reduce pollution and win great prizes!



The Commuter Challenge is a national competition that encourages individuals and workplaces to walk, cycle, take transit, carpool or telecommute instead of driving alone to their workplace. The event takes place during Environment Week, which falls this year from June 5th to 11th.

By choosing sustainable transportation options and registering their commutes online, Manitobans are entered to win great prizes! Prizes are awarded both to individuals and to workplaces with the highest participation rates in their population category. Register yourself or your workplace online at:

www.greenactioncentre.ca

For more information, please contact Francine at 204-925-3779 or challenge@greenactioncentre.ca.