

DRAINAGE

GENERAL

- The need for adequate drain construction and maintenance is a major concern for municipalities, however the Province has not committed sufficient resources to fulfill this need and establish coordinated drainage systems for Manitoba.
- The AMM has urged the Provincial Government to develop a province-wide water management plan and to allocate sufficient resources to the construction and maintenance of drainage infrastructure throughout Manitoba.
- We have met with the Minister recently and they are well aware of municipal drainage concerns.
- The AMM has also expressed the need for improved and consistent communication between municipalities and the Department of Water Stewardship.
- In addition, municipalities have raised concerns regarding the drainage licensing process and the Province has committed to taking action on the Ombudsman's recommendations in order to improve the overall operation of drainage works in Manitoba. For instance, the Department has hired additional staff which has increased its capacity to process license applications.

MINOR WORKS

- An issue that has been of biggest irritation for municipalities has been the minor works policy.

- This is a result of the Ombudsman report and the Province has tried to make this as easy as possible.
- Unfortunately this policy has helped contribute to the current backlog of applications.
- We are pleased with the cooperative approach being adopted by the department and willingness to listen to suggestions.
- They have tried a few things with varying levels of success and know more changes are needed.