



NEWS BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 18, 2011

MINISTER MEETING UPDATE

The AMM met with the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism, *Flor Marcelino*, on January 18th, 2011.

Libraries were the first item on the agenda, specifically a need for increased funding as Manitoba provides less per capita funding than other provinces. The AMM also stressed the need to adopt a universal library card system.

Discussion turned to tourism next, with the AMM stressing the need to provide better promotion of community events on a regional basis. The Minister indicated the Province has received federal support for international marketing of tourist attractions.

The Minister raised the issue of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Regulation, since the AMM's resolution to amend this act is being handled by her department. The AMM indicated there is confusion in the interpretation of the legislation. The Minister indicated the Province should have online resources available shortly.

Increased funding for museums was also raised with Minister Marcelino. ■

The AMM met with three ministers on February 16th, 2011, beginning with Minister of Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade *Peter Bjornson*.

The AMM opened the meeting with Minister Bjornson by raising the need to ensure the new apprenticeship program for Water and Wastewater Operators, which begins in the fall, meets the Conservation regulation that governs municipalities. The Minister indicated he has discussed this with the Minister of Conservation.

Regarding business development in rural Manitoba, the Province indicated there are currently 4,000 apprenticeship spaces and rural areas have shown greater interest over the past 5 years.

On the issue of entrepreneurship development, there are currently 50 sites for video conferencing in the province and last year saw 18,000 rural participants. Biz Pal will also be expanded. The Minister encouraged municipalities to take a look at what is available in their communities to maximize opportunities that exist.

Other items discussed with Minister Bjornson were the need for more training opportunities in emerging technologies, and the need for municipalities to be kept informed about trade agreements with other jurisdictions.

The AMM's top issue for 2011, the Core Challenges for Municipalities, is raised at all minister meetings.

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

The AMM then met with Minister of Conservation, *Bill Blaikie*, opening with the recycling of household hazardous and electronic waste. The AMM noted the success of the drop off sites and collection days show the tremendous need for a permanent program. The Province indicated that more sites would be coming and the permanent program should roll out next year.

The AMM then raised the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) Levy that continues to be an irritant for many municipalities. The Province indicated that it is prepared to talk to any municipality about the levy.

An issue that has been percolating for some time is the need for Manitoba Crown Lands to work more cooperatively with municipalities to ensure development on crown lands is done in accordance with municipal development standards and improve the timelines for transferring property to municipalities. The Minister indicated he understands the issues and, while not a requirement, the Province tries hard to mirror the obligations under The Planning Act.

The need for additional resources for beaver management was also discussed with Minister Blaikie. The AMM will be meeting with senior departmental staff on this issue in the coming weeks. ■

The final meeting of the day, with Minister of Water Stewardship, *Christine Melnick*, began with a general discussion about water issues. The Minister indicated the Province is creating a water management plan for Manitoba.

The AMM raised drainage issues next. The Province indicated that illegal drainage is being magnified right now with high water levels. The AMM also raised the drainage licensing process. The Province is making progress partially due to seasonal reasons as this is a slow period for applications.

On the need for increased funding for CD programs, the Province indicated that there are 18 CDs and \$5.8M in the program. The Province pledged continued support but stressed additional funding options should be explored.

On the issue of 2011 flooding, while the January forecast was unprecedented, with nearly all rivers in the province at record levels, the Province feels well prepared due to improvements in recent years and \$23M in new equipment. The forecast has improved but March is a typically wet month and the thaw will have a major impact.

Rural water pipelines were also raised with Minister Melnick. ■

Coming Events

2011 Mayors, Reeves and CAOs Meetings

All meetings begin at 10:00 am

Register online at:

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

Parkland District Monday, March 14

Hosted by the Village of Bowsman
Bowsman Legion Hall, 206 2nd Street,
Bowsman

Midwestern District Tuesday, March 15

Hosted by the Municipality of
Shoal Lake
Shoal Lake Community Hall, 315 The
Drive, Shoal Lake

Western District Wednesday, March 16

Hosted by the Town of Deloraine and
the RM of Winchester
Deloraine Winchester Community Hall,
111 Cavers St. N., Deloraine

Central District Thursday, March 17

Hosted by the RM of Headingley
Headingley Community Centre, 5353
Portage Avenue, Headingley

Eastern District Friday, March 18

Hosted by the RM of Taché
Landmark Kinsmen Community Centre,
191B Arena Road, Landmark

Interlake District Monday, March 21

Hosted by the RM of Gimli
Gimli Recreation Centre, 45
Centennial Road, Gimli

Northern District Tuesday, March 22

Hosted by the Town of Snow Lake
Elk's Hall, 7 Wekusko Drive, Snow Lake

*(A conference call will be arranged for
Municipalities unable to attend the
Northern District meeting.)*

Staff Updates

Farewell...

to *Rachel Philippe*, whose last day as the AMM's Senior Policy Analyst was December 16, 2010.

Rachel will be working full-time with her husband Roger in the family business – All Natural Meats in Carman, Manitoba. It is an exciting venture and as sorry as we are to see Rachel leave the AMM, we are excited for her to begin the next chapter.

Welcome...

To *Lindsay Thomson*, who joined the AMM as Senior Policy Analyst effective February 7, 2011. Lindsay hails from Regina, but has had plenty of time to get acquainted with Manitoba as her boyfriend Trevor Samson has been working as an RCMP officer in Portage la Prairie for the past two years.

Lindsay has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from McGill University in Montreal and recently obtained a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Regina.

Lindsay is excited to start work in her field of interest, public policy, and we are looking forward to working with her.

Notices

Local Government Perspective on Canada's Industrial Lands

Eco-Industrial Solutions Ltd. is surveying local governments across Canada as part of its efforts to prepare the upcoming report "First Annual State of Sustainability Report: A Local Government Perspective on Canada's Industrial Lands".

The report will be made publicly available in March 2011 with electronic copies available free of charge.

The survey can be accessed at:
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/
IndustrialLandSustainability](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IndustrialLandSustainability)

Notices



The 2011 Census and the new National Household Survey (NHS) will take place starting in May 2011.

Census information is important for all communities and is vital for planning services such as schools, daycares, police services and fire protection. The NHS is needed to plan essential Canadian services and infrastructure such as housing, roads and public transportation, family services and skills training for employment.

Since these surveys are an essential source of information about Canada and the people who live here, they must be complete and accurate. **It is therefore imperative that everyone complete and return their questionnaires.**

In order to ensure the successful collection of Census and NHS data, **the 2011 Census is staffing 35,000 jobs across Canada.** If you are **over 18 years old** and can commit to **at least 20 hours per week including evenings, weekends and holidays**, apply **online** now. Rates of pay (\$14.72 to \$18.04 an hour) vary by assignment. The work period is early March to the end of July 2011, depending on assignment.

Please tell friends and family about opportunities to work on the census. Visit the 2011 Census website for more information. To download and submit an online application, visit the website at www.census2011.gc.ca.

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