



ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES

**MEETING WITH**

Honourable Flor Marcelino  
Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism

January 18, 2011

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# Executive Summary

## Departmental Issues

### 1. Funding for Libraries

- Libraries are an equally important part of a community's infrastructure and require increased funding just as do roads, bridges and water treatment plants. Yet despite their importance libraries remain underfunded in Manitoba.
- When compared nationally Manitoba municipalities contribute the second highest municipal percentage of funding to libraries in Canada yet in provincial support Manitoba ranks close to the bottom.
- The 2009-10 Saskatchewan budget allocated in excess of \$10 million for transfers for public libraries, a stark contrast to the \$5 million allocated in Manitoba.
- The AMM certainly recognizes that some investment has been made in libraries by the Province however more is needed as we remain behind the rest of Canada.
- The AMM understands the competitive market for infrastructure investment and was pleased to help develop the blueprint for library improvements in Manitoba through our participation in the 2006 Public Libraries Review Committee. It is critical that the Province move forward with implementation of all recommendations.
- Increasing the overall funding allocation is only one step, as the distribution of this funding must be reviewed as well since the existing per capita funding formula continually penalizes public libraries located in communities affected by rural depopulation.
- Libraries are essential building blocks of vibrant and sustainable communities and it is imperative that greater funding be allocated to ensure they are able to deliver services to communities across the province.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to make a greater financial investment in public libraries across Manitoba and review how funding is allocated to ensure all libraries benefit.**

### 2. A Province-wide Universal Library Card for Manitoba

- The move to a province-wide universal library card would eliminate the need for municipalities to choose a particular library to support while potentially increasing overall library use.
- There are certainly some issues to be resolved prior to implementing such a system; however there are precedents in Saskatchewan and Alberta that could offer useful models for Manitoba to replicate.
- In 2008 the Province of Saskatchewan announced \$5.2 million in funding for a new Single Integrated Library System to connect all of the province's public

libraries and give citizens the same access to information and services, regardless of location.

- Saskatchewan libraries already online with the new system are seeing increased material borrowing and greater interest in library services.

**Therefore the AMM requests the Province fund the implementation of a single library card system in Manitoba to grant all Manitobans equal access to this important resource.**

### **3. Increased Funding for Tourism**

- There is no doubt Manitoba has much to offer and many communities recognize the potential that exists in marketing local attractions to the world.
- Tourism is an excellent economic development option for many communities and it is critical that this potential is development.
- Attractions pull people into a community, allowing a community to showcase what they have to offer the world.
- Communities take great pride in these local attractions and would like support in showcasing them to the world.
- As Premier Selinger indicated at our recent convention, there are new tourism opportunities for Manitoba such as eco-tourism. However to be successful communities need to know they have Provincial support.

**Therefore the AMM would like to see greater investment in local tourism to allow all communities across the province the opportunity to highlight their local attractions.**

### **4. Increased Funding for Community Museums**

- One example of a potential tourist attraction is local community museums.
- Many communities in Manitoba have a local museum, which help build a sense of community and keep the history of the local area alive for future generations.
- Unfortunately funding for Manitoba museums has remained stagnant over the last number of years, threatening the sustainability of these important local institutions.
- Core operating costs such as power, heat and insurance increase every year yet funding has not increased.

**Therefore the AMM would like to see funding for community museums increased to reflect their importance to local communities.**

# General Issue

## The Core Challenges for Municipalities

- Municipal government plays a greater role in the lives of Canadians than any other time in history and the new realities facing municipalities have serious repercussions as they diligently try to balance growing responsibilities with stagnant revenues.
- The core challenges facing municipalities have become overwhelming, and the lead up to this year's provincial election provides an opportunity for all political parties, candidates and citizens to engage in a thoughtful discussion about how these challenges should be addressed.
- Municipal infrastructure is the very foundation of a community, yet its current state leaves communities with little hope for prosperity. Nationally the municipal infrastructure deficit is in excess of \$123 billion and provincially it is estimated at over \$11 billion, or a staggering \$10,000 per Manitoban.
- As well, municipal responsibilities continue to grow, either through the intentional or unintentional offloading of responsibilities or new unfunded mandates being forced on municipalities.
- Because of these challenges municipalities must have access to new sources of revenues. Options include the Province collecting a one cent municipal tax to be allocated to municipalities for infrastructure, a rebate of the Provincial Sales Tax paid by municipalities, or an increase to existing revenue sources such as VLTs.
- Manitoba municipalities are more reliant on provincial and federal grants than any other province in Canada and while in some cases these types of programs are necessary it leaves municipalities having to compete against each other for limited dollars and restricts a municipality's ability to properly plan for much needed investment.
- For municipal government to be sustainable into the future, and for Manitobans to have access to the quality of life they deserve, municipalities need to have access to sustainable growth revenues. This is the only way municipalities will be able to even begin to address the core challenges they face.
- The AMM is therefore asking every political party to make municipal funding a top priority for this year's provincial election. Now is the time for each party to lay out its vision for the future of municipal government in Manitoba and how these core challenges can be addressed. The health of our communities is at stake.

**Therefore the AMM would like to see a commitment from each political party to:**

- 1. Make a greater investment in municipal infrastructure**
- 2. End the downloading of responsibilities to municipalities and require that any new mandates come with new funding**
- 3. Provide new growth revenues to municipalities**

## Departmental Issues

### 1. Funding for Libraries

Throughout Manitoba, public libraries act as a centre of information to provide valuable educational resources to local communities. Municipalities rely on public libraries to promote literacy and support educational opportunities for their residents. Therefore, the AMM was pleased to participate in the 2006 Public Libraries Review Committee to raise key municipal issues and to learn from other library stakeholders. This process highlighted many concerns regarding the long-term needs of public libraries and confirmed that issues raised by municipalities were shared by various interested organizations. Although the Province has adopted many of the Review Committee's recommendations, two key municipal issues have not been resolved: the need to review the public libraries funding formula and to allow a portion of a municipality to join an established regional library.

While we have seen some progress on this issue, including the \$1 million commitment in the 2008 Budget and the \$1.1 million for library technology infrastructure in the 2006 budget, more work needs to be done. The changing pressures on public libraries require ongoing investment through an enhanced provincial contribution. The 2009 Budget was disappointing in this regard since there was no mention of the need for ongoing investment in libraries. Further progress can be achieved towards ensuring that all Manitoba libraries are equipped to respond to the changing demands from their communities and the Province must act on this critical need.

When compared nationally Manitoba libraries are grossly underfunded by the Province. Currently Manitoba municipalities contribute the second highest municipal percentage of funding to libraries in Canada yet in provincial support Manitoba ranks close to the bottom. The 2009-10 Saskatchewan budget allocated in excess of \$10 million for transfers for public libraries, a stark contrast to the \$5 million allocated in Manitoba. It is critical that the Province increase its investment to match municipal commitments.

While increasing the overall funding allocation is definitely an important step, the distribution of this funding must be reviewed as well. The existing per capita funding formula continually penalizes public libraries located in communities affected by rural

depopulation. The nature of libraries is such that operating costs related to facilities management remain constant regardless of municipal population. Therefore, maintaining a high standard of programming and service becomes challenging as library grants decline along with population figures. As funding diminishes, a greater percentage of a library's total funding must be allocated to cover these operating costs, leaving fewer resources for other essential investments such as technology upgrades, program development and collection improvements. The continued reliance on a per capita formula will cause the quality of rural libraries to deteriorate. All Manitobans should have access to high quality educational opportunities and well-equipped libraries are necessary if this goal is to be accomplished. Therefore, funding mechanisms must effectively maximize the distribution of resources without penalizing municipalities for declining population.

Another challenge for public libraries is achieving increased usage and the AMM supports the development of new mechanisms that would promote both greater municipal and individual engagement. Since 2000, the AMM has advocated for portions of a municipality to join a neighbouring regional library to allow residents to access the most convenient services. Some municipalities cover a very large geographic area and the nearest library may not be the same for all residents. Such municipalities would prefer the option of dividing their support across more than one neighbouring public library; however this is not possible under the current legislation. As a result, many municipalities in this situation choose not to provide any funding to library services which can deter library usage among residents and impede the viability of neighbouring libraries. In general, there is widespread municipal support for public libraries and this policy should be changed to encourage greater municipal participation.

Since the AMM participated in the Public Libraries Review, we have continued to discuss these issues with other stakeholders, such as the Manitoba Library Trustees Association. There is still support among library stakeholders to move forward on these recommendations, and the Province must respond to these important issues. Libraries contribute vital services that contribute to the educational development of

Manitoba communities and require Provincial support to effectively respond to community needs over the long-term.

**Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to review the public libraries funding formula and increase provincial funding for libraries.**

## **2. A Province-wide Universal Library Card for Manitoba**

At the recent 2008 Convention, the AMM membership discussed another mechanism to facilitate library usage – a province-wide universal library card. Such a system would eliminate the need for municipalities to choose a particular library to support while potentially increasing overall usage due to the ease of access for Manitobans. There are certainly some issues to be resolved prior to implementing such a system; however there are precedents in Saskatchewan and Alberta that could offer useful models for Manitoba to replicate.

In 2008 the Province of Saskatchewan announced \$5.2 million in funding for a new Single Integrated Library System to connect all of the province's public libraries and give citizens the same access to information and services, regardless of where the library is located.

Saskatchewan libraries already online with the new system are seeing increased material borrowing and greater interest in library services. We firmly believe that the implementation of a one card system in Manitoba could have the same positive impact.

**Therefore the AMM requests the Province fund the implementation of a single library card system in Manitoba to grant all Manitobans equal access to this important resource.**

## **3. Increased Funding for Tourism**

There is no doubt Manitoba has much to offer and many communities recognize the potential that exists in marketing local attractions to the world. Tourism is an excellent economic development option for many communities and it is critical that this potential is development.

While for some communities the attraction might be a ski hill or a destination park, for others it is simply a local museum or place of historical significance. These types of

attractions pull people into a community, allowing a community to showcase what they have to offer the world. Communities take great pride in these local attractions and would like support in showcasing them to the world. Unfortunately many attractions have not been recognized through the Manitoba Star Attraction program leaving many of these valuable attractions without the support they require to remain sustainable.

**Therefore the AMM would like to see greater investment in local tourism to allow all communities across the province the opportunity to highlight their local attractions.**

#### **4. Increased Funding for Community Museums**

One example of a potential tourist attraction is local community museums. Many communities in Manitoba have a local museum which quickly becomes the guardian of local history. These museums help build a sense of community and keep the history of the local area alive for future generations. Unfortunately funding for Manitoba museums has remained stagnant over the last number of years, threatening the sustainability of these important local institutions. Core operating costs such as power, heat and insurance increase every year yet funding has not increased.

**Therefore the AMM would like to see funding for community museums increased in this budget to reflect their importance to local communities.**

## General Issue

### The Core Challenges for Municipalities

Today's municipal government plays a greater role in the lives of Canadians than any other time in history. Municipalities no longer simply plow the streets and pick up the garbage. Certainly today's municipal corporation still cleans the streets and collects garbage (and recyclables), but it also is sustainably managing growth through everything from state of the art transit systems to environmentally conscious land use and water planning. The pioneers of municipal government would be astonished to see today's council agenda where elected officials are doing everything from recruiting doctors from around the world to providing funding for daycares.

These new realities are having serious repercussions for municipalities as they diligently try to balance growing responsibilities with stagnant revenues. Every day municipalities are facing new demands from both citizens and other orders of government and must try to balance these with existing priorities and scarce revenues that remain overly reliant on the ebb and flow of grant programs. The current challenges facing municipalities are overwhelming and there must be a greater effort to address these if we want to see strong vibrant communities throughout our province.

While municipal concerns cut across every provincial department, there are two core issues that are most pressing for municipalities today - the ballooning municipal infrastructure deficit and the growing mandate of municipal government, either through intentional and unintentional offloading of responsibilities from other orders of government and unfunded mandates. These two challenges are crippling municipal government and keeping Manitoba communities behind.

The lead up to this year's provincial election provides an opportunity for all political parties, candidates and citizens to engage in a thoughtful discussion about how these core challenges should be addressed.

## Municipal Infrastructure Deficit

It is no secret that municipalities are facing nearly insurmountable infrastructure challenges. We only need to take a look around our communities to see the deteriorating state of our infrastructure. Roads that are nearly impassable due to potholes and heaving, drafty libraries with crippling heating bills, recreation complexes with leaking roofs and water and sewer treatment plants that are running beyond capacity. These are the very foundation of a community, yet their current state leaves communities with little hope for prosperity. For Manitoba communities to thrive in the future these swelling infrastructure challenges must be addressed.

In Canada the municipal infrastructure deficit was estimated in 2007 to be in excess of \$123 billion for current needs. Most alarming is how quickly the deficit has been compounding, as it has doubled over the previous 5 years. Equally alarming, the \$123 billion is only for the upgrade and repair of current municipal infrastructure, with another \$115 billion required for new infrastructure.<sup>1</sup>

These national trends hold true for Manitoba as well. The City of Winnipeg has recently calculated its infrastructure deficit at \$3.8 billion for existing infrastructure and \$3.6 billion for new strategic infrastructure.<sup>2</sup> Historically the municipal infrastructure deficit outside of Winnipeg has been double that within Winnipeg so it is fair to extrapolate that the deficit outside Winnipeg for existing infrastructure is over \$7.5 billion, putting the total municipal deficit for existing infrastructure in Manitoba in excess of \$11 billion, or a staggering \$10,000 per Manitoban. It is certainly an insurmountable amount for municipalities to tackle on their own since the total municipal taxes levied in 2008 were just over \$760,000,000.<sup>3</sup>

There is no doubt the current infrastructure deficit is crippling Manitoba's economy. Adequate infrastructure is an obvious prerequisite for economic development and unfortunately it is greatly lacking in many communities. FCM has investigated this

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<sup>1</sup> Mirza, Saeed, "Danger Ahead: The Coming Collapse of Canada's Municipal Infrastructure", November 2007 (available at [www.fcm.ca](http://www.fcm.ca))

<sup>2</sup> City of Winnipeg Administrative Report, "Infrastructure and Possible Funding Options" Tabled at July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 Council Meeting (available at [www.winnipeg.ca](http://www.winnipeg.ca))

<sup>3</sup> Province of Manitoba, "Statistical Information 2008 – Municipalities of the Province of Manitoba", P.17

principle in depth and found that an increase in municipal infrastructure spending of \$1 billion in 2008 (at nominal process and allocated to a representative mix of infrastructure) would increase the size of the real economy by roughly 0.13 percent or \$1.3 billion in nominal terms. While this would erode slightly over time with consistent investment, over a four-year period it would still result in meaningful gains to the economy, dropping to a 0.6 percent increase in the final year. The resulting investment would be felt in the employment sector as well, since a great number of industries would benefit. A \$1 billion investment in 2008 would add 11,500 new jobs, which would be felt in industries from labour and material suppliers through to architects and engineers.<sup>4</sup>

Providing adequate infrastructure has both direct and indirect benefits for private-sector manufacturing. Infrastructure is an intermediate input into the production process, with businesses locating where there is access to water, hydro and transportation. New roads reduce fuel costs and haul times. Access to high quality (and adequate) water reduces input costs. There is also evidence that increased investments in public infrastructure allow private companies to use labour inputs more intensively, translating into more jobs.<sup>5</sup>

While the numbers are staggering, of far greater concern is the very real impact this infrastructure deficit is having on the people who live in Manitoba. Manitobans are experiencing longer commutes to work either because of impassable roads or slower speeds. We are also spending more time traveling to neighbouring communities to access recreation opportunities. Many have seen the outmigration of neighbours and friends who tire of dealing with these daily challenges.

Municipal councils want to create vibrant, welcoming communities, but this is nearly impossible with the state of infrastructure today. For example, there remain 167 boil water advisories in Manitoba, many in Manitoba municipalities.<sup>6</sup> This means today, thousands of Manitobans do not have access to safe drinking water when they turn on

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<sup>4</sup> Sonnen, Carl, "Municipal Infrastructure- Macroeconomic impacts of spending and level-of-government financing" May 31, 2008 (available at [www.fcm.ca](http://www.fcm.ca))

<sup>5</sup> Brox, James A. "Infrastructure Investment: The Foundation of Canadian Competitiveness - IRPP Policy Matters 2008" August, 2008 (available at [www.irpp.org](http://www.irpp.org))

<sup>6</sup> Province of Manitoba "Provincial Boil Water Advisories" – October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

the tap. It is unreasonable to think these communities can realistically compete with the rest of Manitoba and Canada if they do not have this essential infrastructure.

### Ever Increasing Responsibilities

A second core challenge for municipalities is ever increasing responsibilities. Municipalities are continually being asked to do more and more, either through the intentional or unintentional offloading of responsibilities from other orders of government or through new unfunded mandates being forced on municipalities by the provincial and federal government. These new responsibilities do not come with new revenue sources and result in municipal budgets being stretched thinner and thinner. The sad reality is that as municipalities are being forced to take on more the core municipal responsibilities suffer.

Municipal officials believe in their community. This is where they live, where they raise their families, where they work and for many where they were born. They care greatly about their community and when they see a need they will do everything they can to address it. Many times municipal officials are their own worst enemy, as they step in and act where other orders of government have abdicated their responsibilities. Municipalities step up and do repairs on provincial roads, they recruit physicians from all corners of the world, and they help fund community health facilities. In some cases municipalities are just filling gaps in service unintentionally left by other orders of government and other times municipalities are stepping in because the provincial and federal governments have made it clear their community will not get the service or investment unless they do.

Compounding this is the growing trend of unfunded mandates being heaped on municipalities by the provincial and federal governments. Too often new rules are implemented without adequate thought to how they can possibly be implemented. These unilateral decisions leave municipalities in the untenable position of either scarifying core programs and services or being in non-compliance of provincial rules. Unfortunately we are hearing more and more from municipalities that they are being forced to opt for the latter.

Municipalities cannot keep pace with the rapid increase in the offloading of responsibilities and unfunded mandates. These challenges are pushing municipalities further and further behind.

## Alternate Revenues

Now more than ever municipalities need new tools to deal with new responsibilities and new expectations. Currently Manitoba municipalities are more reliant on provincial and federal grants than any other province in Canada<sup>7</sup>. While in some cases these types of programs are necessary (for example large-scale infrastructure projects), it leaves municipalities having to compete against each other for limited dollars and restricts a municipality's ability to properly plan for much needed investment. The amount allocated to grant programs like the recent Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund or community infrastructure funding under the Building Canada Fund is nowhere near the total demand, meaning there is no guarantee much-needed projects will ever receive funding.

Over-reliance on grants and transfers leave municipalities without the tools required to meet demands. Many municipal issues, when stripped down to their core, are really issues of access to revenue. For example, the need to remove education tax from property is really a municipal revenue issue, as municipalities see education tax as eroding the property tax base, which is the single greatest source of municipal revenue. Over the last number of years we have seen more and more municipalities speaking out on the need for greater municipal revenue sources.

It is important that the federal and provincial government contributions to municipalities are not forgotten. Federally, municipalities have benefited from a GST rebate, the sharing of the federal gas tax and the Building Canada Fund as well as Stimulus Funding. Provincially, municipalities have benefited from the sharing of provincial income tax, the Building Manitoba Fund, and supports in several other areas. We also appreciate the Province stepping up with their one-third share of recent federal programs. The message the AMM is hoping to convey is not that either order of

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<sup>7</sup> Slack, Kitchen, McMillan, Vaillancourt, "Roles, Responsibilities, Resources and Relationships – Report to the Provincial and Territorial Municipal Associations" June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

government has completely forgotten about municipalities, but rather that despite these efforts municipalities still face enormous challenges and more is needed.

Municipalities must have access to new revenue sources. A greater reliance on property taxes and provincial and federal grants has created an ever-widening chasm between municipal revenues and needs, leaving future generations with what is quickly becoming an insurmountable infrastructure deficit. Municipalities are struggling to deliver core services as their budgets begin to crack under increased demands.

The reality is the property taxation system cannot meet the new demands facing municipalities. Municipalities have been increasing taxes to try to meet these demands however they are falling further and further behind. Over the last 10 years municipalities outside the City of Winnipeg have increased their own taxes levied by over 4 percent a year on average. In 2009 only 13 municipalities outside Winnipeg decreased taxes, while 183 increased taxes, 22 municipalities by over 10 percent. Every year municipalities are going to citizens in their communities and asking them for more and more, yet the infrastructure deficit and budgetary demands continue to rise.

A new approach is needed, and for this reason we are advocating for a one-cent municipal tax to be allocated to municipalities for infrastructure and split equally among municipalities on a per capita basis. This will provide municipalities with in excess of \$200 million a year. For a community of 1,000 people, this means roughly an investment of \$185,000 in their local infrastructure, or \$370,000 for a community of 2,000 people. A community such as Thompson could see close to \$2.5 million, while Winnipeg would expect to see over \$117 million. Although this funding alone will not erase the infrastructure deficit in Manitoba, it is a positive first step.

While the AMM is not necessarily asking for a new tax, there is support among Manitobans for a new tax dedicated to municipal infrastructure. Polling done by AMM in 2008 found that 94 percent of Manitobans see infrastructure as a high priority, including a 94 percent positive response rate in Winnipeg. The poll also found that 55 percent of Manitobans think that municipalities do not have the revenue sources

needed to cover infrastructure costs alone, including 50 percent in Winnipeg. Most interestingly, the poll found that 54 percent of Manitobans, including 51 percent of Winnipeggers, support an additional one percent municipal tax dedicated to infrastructure renewal projects<sup>8</sup>. As the infrastructure deficit continues to grow, support for this will only increase.

The AMM is also asking for other revenue sources for municipalities, such as a rebate of the Provincial Sales Tax as well as increases to existing sources such as VLT revenues. We would also ask that any new mandates for municipalities be accompanied by corresponding financial support.

The sad reality is that while the Province of Manitoba has been a leader in some municipal areas, it has not been enough. We have the opportunity to visit every municipality in Manitoba within the four year election cycle and it is clear our communities are struggling and we are falling behind.

We understand that providing additional revenues to municipalities may become more difficult as the economy continues to fluctuate. While economic projections can never be taken as absolute fact, they are often a prophetic divining rod on economic times. However what should not be lost is the positive impact infrastructure investment would have for the provincial and national economy. Furthermore, delaying investment in these critical infrastructure projects will have serious long-term consequences for Manitoba's economy.

Municipalities are not looking for new revenue sources to store money away for a rainy day. The storm has arrived. With a national municipal infrastructure deficit in excess of \$123 billion, and Manitoba's share in excess of \$11 billion, there is no shortage of work to be done. If municipalities are left to deal with this ballooning deficit alone armed only with property taxes and grants, it will continue to grow exponentially. Alternatively, providing municipalities with new revenue sources will not only begin to address this growing deficit, but will help build and strengthen our economy.

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<sup>8</sup> Probe Research "Public Attitudes on Infrastructure Renewal Funding in Manitoba" September, 2008.

The time has come for a new approach to municipal funding. The expectations of today's municipalities are greater than any time in history. Regrettably so are the financial challenges facing municipalities. For municipal government to be sustainable into the future, and for Manitobans to have access to the quality of life they deserve, municipalities need to have access to sustainable growth revenues. This is the only way municipalities will be able to even begin to address the core challenges they face.

The AMM is therefore asking every political party to make municipal funding a top priority for this year's provincial election. Now is the time for each party to lay out its vision for the future of municipal government in Manitoba and how these core challenges can be addressed. The health of our communities is at stake.

**Therefore the AMM would like to see a commitment from each political party to:**

- 1. Make a greater investment in municipal infrastructure**
- 2. End the downloading of responsibilities to municipalities and require that any new mandates come with new funding**
- 3. Provide new growth revenues to municipalities**

## Appendix A – Active Resolutions

### **AMM Resolution Number 16 - 2009**

#### **Topic: Increase Operating Grants for Library Districts**

Sponsor: Village of Binscarth (Midwestern District)

Department: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

WHEREAS library districts in Manitoba receive matched operating grants of up to \$8.50 per capita from the Province of Manitoba on a yearly basis;

AND WHEREAS the cost of maintaining a library district is ever increasing with municipal levies surpassing the provincial contributions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for an increase in operating grants to library districts to reflect the actual cost of operating.

### **AMM Resolution Number 15- 2009**

#### **Topic: Tourism Funding**

Sponsor: Village of Elkhorn (Western District)

Department: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has implemented a Star Attraction Program to promote tourist attractions within the province;

AND WHEREAS there are many attractions that have not been funded through the program;

AND WHEREAS promotion of these attractions will enhance tourism traffic throughout the province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to pursue additional funding for the Star Attraction Manitoba Program.

### **AMM Resolution Number 14- 2009**

#### **Topic: Museum Grant**

Sponsor: Village of Elkhorn (Western District); Town of Grandview (Parkland District)

Department: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

WHEREAS museums are a vital component of restoring and maintaining the history of a municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba supports museums under the Community Museums Grant Program;

AND WHEREAS the maximum grant available to a community museum has not increased in many years;

AND WHEREAS the number of museums in Manitoba have increased;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase funding

for the Manitoba Museums Grant Program;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that new museums be allowed to qualify for the grant offered by the Province.

**AMM Resolution Number 13 - 2009**

**Topic: Tax Incentives for Heritage Property Rehabilitation**

Sponsor: City of Brandon (Western District)

Department: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism; Canadian Heritage

WHEREAS according to the Heritage Canada Foundation, Canada has lost more than 20% of its 1920 heritage buildings to demolition over the past 30 years;

AND WHEREAS the Heritage Canada Foundation has stated that urgent action is needed to stop the demolition of Canadian landmarks, to restore and re-use them, and to acknowledge their value as a reminder of our origins and cultures;

AND WHEREAS heritage buildings are also a valuable economic development resource, supporting re-urbanization initiatives and tourism, stimulating adjacent development, increasing property values, as well as providing environmental benefits by way of reducing landfill, preserving natural resources and promoting sustainability;

AND WHEREAS there are currently no federal financial incentives to encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of heritage properties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to support the work of the Heritage Canada Foundation and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to establish tax incentives which would endorse private sector investment in the rehabilitation of heritage properties.

**AMM Resolution Number 22 - 2008**

**Topic: Library Cards**

Sponsor: RM of Morris (Central District)

Department: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

WHEREAS each library system in Manitoba has its own identification cards for members;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba provides major funding to all libraries;

AND WHEREAS some residents may live closer to a library in a neighbouring district;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to mandate that all library cards issued in Manitoba be valid at any library that receives Provincial funding.

**AMM Resolution Number 16 - 2004**

**Topic: Review of Library Funding**

Sponsor: Village of McCreary (Midwestern District), RM of Blanchard (Midwestern District), RM of Shell River (Parklands District)

Department: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

WHEREAS provincial library grants are calculated based upon population;

AND WHEREAS population in many rural areas has been declining and has resulted in decreased provincial funding for many rural public libraries;

AND WHEREAS decreased provincial funding has resulted in increased municipal funding and difficult operational challenges for rural public libraries;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to undertake a review of rural public library funding formulas in an effort to ensure the future of Manitoba's rural public libraries.

**AMM Resolution Number 42 - 2000**

**Topic: Joining Established Regional Libraries**

Sponsor: City of Steinbach (Eastern District)

Department: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

WHEREAS Section 29(4) of The Public Libraries Act states in part: the Council of a municipality "may by by-law, require the proper officers of the municipality to negotiate and execute on behalf of, and in the name of, the municipality, an agreement";

AND WHEREAS this wording implies that such an agreement is certainly to be entered into in the name of the whole municipality;

AND WHEREAS residents within certain wards of a municipality have indicated that they desire to form a regional library together with their neighbouring library member municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby to have The Public Libraries Act amended to allow Council of a municipality "to pass a by-law permitting its proper officers to negotiate and execute on behalf of, and in the name of, part or all of a municipality, and agreement."