

June 4, 2009

Dear Municipal Council:

We all know municipalities are doing more and more. Either through direct offloading of responsibilities from other orders of government or through stricter or new rules, municipalities are shouldering more of the load. With the revenue stream remaining stagnant, this reality is putting a greater strain on municipalities.

As the lobby group for all municipalities in the province, the AMM conveys this message to the government every chance we get. While we have had some success in certain areas, overall the issue remains. Therefore, we are asking for your help.

We would like to know from your municipality:

1. What areas is your municipality involved today that are really provincial responsibilities? Examples would be if your municipality is paying for the recruitment of a physician or fixing a provincial road. Wherever possible please associate costs with these.
2. What additional responsibilities has your municipality been mandated to take on that did not exist previously? An example would be the new requirement for engineering assessments of municipal water plants. Wherever possible please associate any financial costs with these new requirements.

We believe that by providing a comprehensive list of municipal downloads and unfunded government mandates we will be able to provide a stronger argument for the need to either stop these or provide funding to support them.

We ask that your council give this some serious thought and provide your list to AMM by July 31st. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact AMM Director of Policy and Communications Tyler MacAfee – tmacafee@amm.mb.ca or 204-856-2362.

Sincerely,



Doug Dobrowolski
President