



Meeting with
The Honourable Jim Rondeau
Minister of Science, Technology, Energy & Mines February 24, 2009

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Departmental Issues.....	6
1. Recycling.....	6
2. Biodiesel and Ethanol Initiatives	9
3. Wind Power Initiatives and Standard Offer Contracts.....	11
4. Mining Update	13
General Issue.....	14
1. Alternate Revenues for Municipalities and Infrastructure Investment	14
Appendix A – Active Resolutions	18

Executive Summary

Departmental Issues

1. Recycling

- Municipalities are supportive of changing recycling systems largely due to the potential for increased recycling activity and the accompanying reduction in demand for municipal landfills.
- However, recycling will only increase to the extent that the programs remain easily accessible and convenient for end users.
- Municipalities will continue to be a primary stakeholder in recycling initiatives and municipal input must be incorporated throughout the new processes.
- The evolving programs also require Provincial support through a consistent funding commitment to ensure they will function effectively and the 80:20 funding ratio must be maintained.
- The AMM looks forward to consulting with the industry group as a program plan is developed for packaging and printed paper, as well as with the Province as it reviews the industry's plan.
- It is critical that the Province now focus on establishing regulations to improve the management of household hazardous waste and electronic waste.
- One of the AMM's top concerns regarding tire recycling continues to be the preservation of the province-wide application of this program.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide sufficient financial resources for newly established recycling programs and to provide an opportunity for the AMM's continued participation in the governance structure of Manitoba's key recycling agencies.

2. Biodiesel and Ethanol Initiatives

- Biofuels represent an important opportunity for communities to participate in the growing alternative energy industry, while gaining significant economic development benefits.
- The expansion of the Minnedosa ethanol plant is significant, however it will not supply the ethanol needed to meet the ten per cent requirement the Province has mandated in *The Biofuels Act*.
- The Province must invest in incentives and financial assistance that make it attractive for municipalities to pursue new ethanol production facilities.
- Communities can also assist in promoting the production and usage of biodiesel by leveraging the Province's commitment to expand this industry.

- Since biodiesel production and usage is now underway in Manitoba, it is important for the Provincial mandate to be articulated in a timely manner in order to provide a framework to further stimulate biodiesel production.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to fully support the development of ethanol and biodiesel production facilities in Manitoba communities.

3. Wind Power Initiatives and Standard Offer Contracts

- As the St. Leon project demonstrated, wind energy stimulates regional economies throughout the construction process by creating jobs for local tradespeople as well as additional demand for the purchase and rental of equipment and materials.
- The Province should also consider the growing spinoff industries in providing incentives for increasing the economic impact of Manitoba's wind energy projects.
- A further means of supporting wind power development in Manitoba is to develop a standard offer contract for community wind projects.
- Other provinces are beginning to implement standard offer contracts and useful precedents are available for application to the Manitoba context.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide incentives that will increase Manitoba's wind generation potential and spinoff industries; and to develop a standard offer contract for community wind projects.

4. Mining Update

- The Provincial interest in promoting mining industry investment must also consider the need to assist communities that suddenly lose this critical industry.
- The Mining Community Reserve Fund is a critical program since market forces can quickly halt the growth of local prosperity once associated with productive mines.
- However, as illustrated in a resolution passed at the 2008 AMM Convention, municipalities are concerned that the Fund is increasingly being used to fund exploration activity.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Province to ensure that adequate supports are available for single-industry communities and that existing programs serve their intended purposes.

General Issue

1. Alternate Revenues for Municipalities and Infrastructure Investment

- Today's municipal council must balance community economic development, land use planning and infrastructure renewal and development with an eroding tax base and an increased reliance on application-based grants.
- The message the AMM is hoping to convey is not that the provincial or federal government has completely forgotten about municipalities, but rather that despite their efforts municipalities still face enormous challenges and more is needed.
- A new approach is needed, and for this reason we are asking the Province of Manitoba to share one percent of the Provincial Sales Tax with municipalities for infrastructure. This will provide municipalities with in excess of \$200 million a year.
- What should not be lost is the positive impact infrastructure investment would have for the provincial and national economy.
- A study by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 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.
- Municipalities are not looking for new revenue sources to store money away for a rainy day. The storm has arrived.
- Providing municipalities with new revenue sources will not only begin to address the growing infrastructure deficit, but will help build and strengthen our economy.
- 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.

Therefore the AMM is asking the Province to undertake a serious review of the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal government in Manitoba and in the short term provide municipalities with one percent of the current PST to help address the growing municipal infrastructure deficit.

Departmental Issues

1. Recycling

There is widespread demand to increase recycling rates as part of the movement towards extended producer responsibility models for all product categories. Municipalities often hear that reducing waste is a growing priority for their constituents and communities must have access to recycling programs that meet these demands. In order for the new systems to successfully enhance recycling, the Province must commit the financial resources necessary to ensure effective operations are in place, while ensuring new programs are responsive to municipal concerns.

Municipalities are supportive of changing recycling systems largely due to the potential for increased recycling activity and the accompanying reduction in demand for municipal landfills. However, recycling will only increase to the extent that the programs remain easily accessible and convenient for end users. The division of responsibility among categories including tires, household hazardous waste, electronic waste, and packaging and printed paper must not create an onerous task for individuals seeking to recycle. This is particularly important in rural areas where curbside pickup is not feasible and individuals must haul recyclables to a central location. Creating a system that requires multiple drop sites for the various categories will not support the goal of increasing recycling in Manitoba.

Municipalities will continue to be a primary stakeholder in recycling initiatives and municipal input must be incorporated throughout the new processes. As new programs are developed, the AMM must maintain an ongoing role in the program implementation and evaluation to ensure that any concerns are dealt with appropriately. The AMM is a long-standing member of the MPSC Board and has found such arrangements to be a valuable avenue to discuss recycling issues that affect municipalities. For this reason, the AMM was pleased with the Minister's recent commitment to involve our organization in Manitoba's extended producer responsibility initiative. It is appropriate for the AMM to continue participating in the ongoing decision-making related to recycling issues given the significant impact on municipalities.

Regarding the specific product categories, the following concerns remain as regulations are developed and implemented:

Packaging and Printed Paper

This category is certainly the most complex based on the wide range of products it encompasses, and the AMM is pleased that the Province has responded by implementing the *Packaging and Printed Paper Regulation*. The AMM appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback as this regulation was developed and believes it will appropriately support program development by the industry funded organization (IFO). The AMM was also pleased to see the disposal of plastic bags in the new regulation and guideline as it is beneficial to address these nuisance items through this regulation. In fact, the guideline of requiring single-use plastic bags to be recyclable or biodegradable is consistent with a resolution recently passed by the AMM membership. One of the key concerns as the industry organization implements its program plan is that the recycling process remains user-friendly in order to promote increased recycling rates across the province. Current programs are well-executed and any interruptions could be detrimental to Manitoba's recycling efforts. The AMM will meet with the IFO as it develops its plan, and will be making it clear that any new system must provide a high level of service to all of Manitoba.

The evolving programs also require Provincial support through a consistent funding commitment to ensure they will function effectively. The AMM was pleased that the Province's guideline on Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship confirmed the 80:20 funding formula for municipal residential diversion programs would be upheld. Such a funding commitment will provide the ongoing support necessary to preserve the integrity of existing municipal recycling operations.

The AMM looks forward to consulting with the industry group as a program plan is developed as well as with the Province as it reviews the industry's plan.

Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste

Municipalities have been advocating for permanent household hazardous waste and electronic waste programs for several years based on the increasing usage of these products and the recognition of their detrimental effects on the environment if disposed incorrectly. In recent

years, temporary drop-off programs have demonstrated the tremendous demand for appropriate disposal options for household hazardous waste and electronic waste, as well as the inadequacy of the current process. The regional nature of the temporary drop-off programs makes it very difficult for many communities to transport these materials to the designated locations and a permanent program would certainly ease this process. The AMM looks forward to the creation of permanent programs to ensure that household hazardous waste and electronic waste are safely disposed rather than generating major environmental hazards in municipal landfills. Since the *Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation* is now in place, it is critical that the Province focus on establishing regulations to improve the management of household hazardous waste and electronic waste.

Tire Recycling

With the first year of the industry funded tire recycling program nearly complete, the AMM is pleased with the program's success thus far. The opportunity to participate on the Tire Stewardship Advisory Committee is a valuable avenue to discuss municipal concerns and provide recommendations where improvements are required. One of the AMM's top concerns regarding tire recycling continues to be the preservation of the province-wide application of this program. Rural, remote and northern communities face additional challenges for tire recycling and this program must remain accessible to all Manitoba communities.

Given the effectiveness of the *Tire Stewardship Regulation*, the AMM expects the outstanding regulations to follow a similar direction. Municipalities share the Province's interest in creating the best possible legislation and recycling programs for Manitoba and look forward to the finalization of the new recycling regulations and structures.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide sufficient financial resources for newly established recycling programs and to provide an opportunity for the AMM's continued participation in the governance structure of Manitoba's key recycling agencies.

2. Biodiesel and Ethanol Initiatives

Demand for alternative energy is increasing as a means of reducing the reliance on fossil fuels. Therefore, biofuels represent an important opportunity for communities to participate in the growing alternative energy industry, while gaining significant economic development benefits. The AMM appreciates the Province's commitment to the development of biodiesel and ethanol facilities, however a continued investment in these renewable energy resources is required to ensure that Manitoba is prepared to meet increasing local demand for biofuels.

In particular, the expansion of Husky's ethanol plant in Minnedosa increases Manitoba's ethanol production from 10 million to 130 million litres per year. The investment in this facility has benefitted the area through its contribution to regional economic development and increased employment opportunities. While the expansion of the Minnedosa plant is significant, it will not supply the ethanol needed to meet the ten per cent requirement the Province has mandated in *The Biofuels Act*. As a result, there are further opportunities available for additional ethanol production through the construction of new facilities in other parts of Manitoba.

Therefore, the Province must invest in incentives and financial assistance that make it attractive for municipalities to pursue new ethanol production facilities. A substantial investment is required due to the large scale of ethanol production operations and municipalities do not have the resources to initiate construction. The Province should also develop an education campaign targeted at agricultural producers in order to increase the supply of feed grains, corn, straw and other raw materials needed to produce more ethanol. There are other areas of Manitoba with the potential to supply these raw materials, however a coordinated local effort is required for the expansion of ethanol that includes the support of Provincial investment.

Communities can also assist in promoting the production and usage of biodiesel by leveraging the Province's commitment to expand this industry. Such coordinated action is critical since communities of all sizes can pursue biodiesel production due to the capability of operating effectively on a small scale. The elimination of the Province's fuel tax on biodiesel provides a valuable incentive to purchase this alternative fuel. The AMM was also pleased that the 2008 Provincial Budget included a commitment to invest in biofuels including ethanol, biodiesel and

biomass. The 2009 Federal Budget echoed this sentiment through a five-year commitment of \$1 billion for green infrastructure, including sustainable energy such as biomass. The AMM anticipates that as the details of this funding emerge, the Province will ensure that communities can benefit from this investment to the maximum possible extent. A variety of communities are eager to pursue biodiesel production facilities and additional incentives to heighten the appeal of this economic development endeavour are appreciated.

As well, alternative energy production will benefit from the fulfillment of the Provincial Government's 2007 Throne Speech commitment to expand biodiesel production in Manitoba by developing a new biodiesel mandate in 2008. Although this mandate is not yet complete, the regulation to establish biofuel standards and licensing is an important step forward in this process. At the same time, since biodiesel production and usage is now underway in Manitoba, it is important for the Provincial mandate to be articulated in a timely manner in order to provide a framework to further stimulate biodiesel production. The AMM looks forward to reviewing the Province's biodiesel mandate once it is complete.

Manitoba municipalities are well-positioned to participate in the growing biofuels market. The environmental importance of renewable energies such as ethanol and biodiesel necessitates expansion of these markets at the local level. At the same time, the Province has an important role in stimulating ethanol and biodiesel production through incentives for producers and end-users.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to fully support the development of ethanol and biodiesel production facilities in Manitoba communities.

3. Wind Power Initiatives and Standard Offer Contracts

Municipalities are eager to support the growing clean energy industry by investing in wind energy production. The St. Leon wind farm has already generated substantial local benefits and the development of the new St. Joseph site has further stimulated interest in the generation of wind energy. For this reason, the AMM is pleased with the Provincial Government's commitment to increase wind generation capacity in Manitoba as there will be no shortage of communities willing to participate.

As St. Leon has demonstrated, wind energy stimulates regional economies throughout the construction process by creating jobs for local tradespeople as well as additional demand for the purchase and rental of equipment and materials. In this case, landowners also gained a significant source of annual revenue, as \$9 million will be paid to approximately 50 landowners over a 25 year period. Such projects also cause municipal and provincial tax revenues to rise substantially due to the increased assessment values. Manitobans support the pursuit of such economic benefits, as illustrated in the Province's annual pre-budget survey released in July 2008. This survey found that Manitobans believe promoting renewable energy sources like hydro, wind and geothermal are effective ways to strengthen the economy and the development at St. Leon certainly quantifies this belief.

The operation and maintenance of wind turbines is a further job creation outcome associated with wind energy expansion. The electrical components of wind turbines require ongoing maintenance which creates local employment opportunities. Training to support these positions would therefore augment local involvement in the industry. In addition, as more Manitobans gain knowledge related to turbine components, additional opportunities will develop for local component manufacturing. Turbine components are now shipped to Canada from Europe, whereas investing in a knowledgeable local workforce would support future efforts for Manitobans to enter the component production market. With the current development at St. Joseph and the Province's commitment to add 1000 megawatts of wind generation capacity by 2015 there will soon be even more demand for complementary industries and services. The Province should therefore consider these spinoff industries and provide incentives for increasing the economic impact of Manitoba's wind energy projects.

The AMM was pleased to see commitments to renewable energy from both the Federal and Provincial Governments in recent months. The Federal Budget announcement of the five-year, \$1 billion Green Municipal Infrastructure Fund has the potential to make a considerable contribution to wind energy development in Manitoba. This is particularly beneficial in light of the Province's 2008 Throne Speech commitment to work with Manitoba Hydro and the Federal Government to support the development of emerging renewables, including wind power. Since municipal support has already been established through recent site selection processes, the three orders of government working together will be well-positioned to expand wind generation capacity in Manitoba.

A further means of supporting wind power development in Manitoba is to develop a standard offer contract for community wind projects. The Province had previously committed to developing 50 megawatts of community wind projects to support Manitoba's rural economy and smaller communities are very interested in pursuing such projects. A standard offer contract promotes project development by guaranteeing the purchase of power for a standard price, over a set time frame. This ensures a much safer long-term investment for stakeholders, while supporting the use of renewable energy on a smaller scale. Other provinces are beginning to implement standard offer contracts therefore useful precedents are available for application to the Manitoba context. The AMM appreciates the Province's commitment to release a community wind policy in the near future and looks forward to the inclusion of features such as a standard offer contract.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Provincial Government to provide incentives that will increase Manitoba's wind generation potential and spinoff industries; and to develop a standard offer contract for community wind projects.

4. Mining Update

Many northern communities rely on resource-based industries such as mining or forestry as the main source of employment and primary stimulus for the local economy. These industries attract major investment and provide spinoff benefits throughout the province. However, the mining industry has a very cyclic nature that depends on the market for minerals and booming communities can quickly turn to struggling communities with high unemployment rates. The Provincial interest in promoting mining industry investment must also consider the need to assist communities that suddenly lose this critical industry.

For this reason, mining communities appreciate the Province's commitment to the Mineral Exploration Assistance Program through 2010. If exploration efforts are continually pursued there will be jobs available on an ongoing basis and potential to develop further mining activity that will certainly benefit communities. As well, communities are pleased that the Province maintains the Mining Community Reserve Fund to assist in managing the repercussions of suspension or abandonment of mining activity. This is a critical program since market forces can quickly halt the growth of local prosperity once associated with productive mines. However, as illustrated in a resolution passed at the 2008 AMM Convention, municipalities are concerned that the Fund is increasingly being used to fund exploration activity. While establishing new mines is a beneficial initiative, there are shorter-term consequences of mine closure and suspension that must also be addressed. For instance, in the summer of 2008, the Town of Snow Lake was expecting a three-fold increase in population until the declining price of zinc caused the abrupt suspension of the Chisel North Mine. Dealing with such a turnaround is difficult for communities and requires assistance from the Province in managing unemployment and the impacts on local businesses. Since these events are not necessarily predictable, the Mining Community Reserve Fund must be maintained exclusively to respond to these circumstances in order to support economic stability in the affected community.

Therefore, the AMM urges the Province to ensure that adequate supports are available for single-industry communities and that existing programs serve their intended purposes.

General Issue

1. Alternate Revenues for Municipalities and Infrastructure

Investment

The lack of revenue is not a new problem for municipalities. In fact a strong argument can be made that from its inception municipal government has not had the resources required. You need only look back to the resolutions from the founding meeting of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities in 1905 to see municipal revenues were front and centre.

But now more than ever municipalities need new tools to deal with new responsibilities and new expectations. Municipalities are playing an ever greater role in the lives of Manitobans, as the days of simply collecting garbage and plowing roads are long gone. Today's municipal council must balance community economic development, land use planning and infrastructure renewal and development with an eroding tax base and an increased reliance on application-based grants. This has left many municipalities to question whether the current system is tenable any longer.

Currently, Manitoba municipalities are more reliant on provincial and federal grants than any other province in Canada. While in some cases these types of programs are necessary (for example large-scale infrastructure projects), it leaves municipalities having to compete against one another for limited dollars and restricts a municipality's ability to properly plan for much needed investment. The amount in grant programs like the recent Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is nowhere near the total demand, meaning there is no guarantee much needed projects will ever see funding.

Overreliance on grants and transfers leaves municipalities without the tools required to meet demands. Many issues raised by municipalities are really issues of access to revenue when stripped down to their core. 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, 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 governments' contribution to municipalities are not forgotten. Federally, municipalities have benefited from a GST rebate, the sharing of the federal gas tax and the new Building Canada Fund. The recent Federal Budget has made an unprecedented investment in infrastructure, which will benefit municipalities. Provincially, municipalities have benefited from the sharing of provincial income tax, the Building Manitoba Fund, and supports in several other areas. The message the AMM is hoping to convey is not that either order of 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.

A new approach is needed, and for this reason we are asking the Province of Manitoba to share one percent of the Provincial Sales Tax with municipalities for infrastructure. This will provide municipalities with in excess of \$200 million a year. For a community of 1,000 people, this means an investment of roughly \$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 these amounts alone will not erase the infrastructure deficit in Manitoba, it would be a positive first step.

The AMM understands 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.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has investigated this principle in depth and has found in their 2008 study "Municipal Infrastructure- Macroeconomic impacts of spending and level-of

government financing” 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, in industries from labour and material suppliers through to architects and engineers.

Giving municipalities access to additional revenues, will translate to stronger investment in our communities. The Institute for Research on Public Policy has shown that 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 they have 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.

Municipalities are not looking for new revenue sources to store money away for a rainy day. The storm has arrived. The national municipal infrastructure deficit is in excess of \$123 billion for current infrastructure with another \$115 billion needed for new infrastructure to keep pace with other developed nations. 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.

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.

Therefore the AMM is asking the Province to undertake a serious review of the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal government in Manitoba and in the short term provide municipalities with one percent of the current PST to help address the growing municipal infrastructure deficit.

Appendix A – Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution Number 64 - 2008

Topic: Elton Energy Cooperative Model

Sponsor: RM of Elton (Western District)

Departments: Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy & Mines, Manitoba Hydro

WHEREAS Elton Energy Cooperative (EEC) has developed a model for 100% community owned renewable energy projects;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro to develop the EEC Community Investment Model for the benefit of all Manitobans.

AMM Resolution Number 65 - 2008

Topic: Standard Offer Contract

Sponsor: RM of Odanah, RM of Minto (Midwestern District)

Departments: Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy & Mines, Manitoba Hydro

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has stated that its mandate is to develop 50 mega watts of community wind projects to help boost the rural economies of Manitoba, as well as Manitoba First Nations;

AND WHEREAS other groups have been trying to glean renewable energy from solar and bio-mass projects;

AND WHEREAS in Manitoba hydro-electric power is reasonably cheap to produce compared to these other energy forms;

AND WHEREAS if the Province of Manitoba wishes to engage the population in green alternatives, then it must be viable to do so;

AND WHEREAS a Standard Offer Contract (SOC) can assist in increasing the benefits of these new energy sources around the province and to First Nations;

AND WHEREAS other provincial jurisdictions already have SOC's in place, or are in the process of finalizing them;

AND WHEREAS there is an unprecedented interest in alternative energy resources in this province, especially in the areas of wind, solar and bio-mass;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro to come to an agreement on a Standard Offer Contract for alternative energy projects under 10 mega watts.

AMM Resolution Number 66 - 2008

Topic: Used Shingles

Sponsor: RM of Ste. Anne (Eastern District)

Departments: Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy & Mines, Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS many roofs in Manitoba are built with asphalt shingles, whose life expectancy is only a few decades;

AND WHEREAS when shingles are replaced the discarded ones end up in landfills;

AND WHEREAS used shingles may have value in being converted to road material;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to find a better alternative than landfills for used shingles.

AMM Resolution Number 67 - 2008

Topic: Mining Community Reserve Fund

Sponsor: Town of Lynn Lake (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy & Mines

WHEREAS the original intent for the establishment of the Mining Community Reserve Fund was for the welfare and employment of persons residing in a mining community which may be adversely affected by the total or partial suspension, or the closing down, of mining operations attributable to the depletion of ore deposits;

AND WHEREAS the Mining Community Reserve Fund is being increasingly used to fund mining exploration;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to ensure the Mining Community Reserve Fund is used for its originally intended purpose;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to establish a new fund to provide support for mining exploration.

AMM Resolution Number 32 - 2007

Topic: Recycling of Air Hoses

Sponsor: RM of Glenwood (Western District)

Departments: Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy & Mines, Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives

WHEREAS air hoses for seeder and fertilizer applicators wear out and must be disposed of;

AND WHEREAS currently there is not an environmentally friendly disposal option;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to allow this type of air hose to be accepted at chemical container depots and be recycled accordingly.

AMM Resolution Number 72 - 2005

Topic: Improved Cell Phone Coverage

Sponsor: City of Thompson (Northern District), RM of Mountain (Parkland)

Departments: Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy & Mines, Manitoba Telecom Services

WHEREAS communities in Manitoba do not have adequate cell phone coverage;

AND WHEREAS the distances without such coverage are huge and include long stretches of highway;

AND WHEREAS there is a question of safety and security that must be addressed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government and Manitoba Telecom Services, or other communication providers, to provide for improved cell phone coverage in Manitoba.

AMM Resolution Number 53 - 2002

Topic: Ethanol Program

Sponsor: RM of Brokenhead (Eastern District)

Departments: Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy & Mines, Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives

WHEREAS the burning of fossil fuels is a major pollutant of our atmosphere;

AND WHEREAS our agricultural community is in need of a value-added diversified alternative to grain production;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province to promote, encourage and support a program for the production of ethanol to be blended with fossil fuels.

AMM Resolution Number 14 - 2008

Topic: Biodegradable and Reusable Shopping Bags

Sponsor: RM of Kelsey (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy & Mines

WHEREAS many businesses, especially retail stores, use plastic bags for customer purchases;

AND WHEREAS many of these plastic bags end up in local landfill sites because there is no system to recycle them;

AND WHEREAS they become a windblown nuisance for municipalities to clean up;

AND WHEREAS plastic bags take many years to decompose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to legislate that retailers use biodegradable or reusable carry out bags for consumers and eliminate the current use of plastic bags.

AMM Resolution Number 15 - 2008

Topic: Education Program for Recycling

Sponsor: RM of Kelsey (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy & Mines

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to restructure and improve an educational program informing the general public of the benefits of recycling.

AMM Resolution Number 16 - 2008

Topic: Recycling Programs

Sponsor: Town of The Pas (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Environment Canada

WHEREAS municipalities have taken a lead role in supporting green communities and addressing waste reduction by actively promoting, participating in and subsidizing recycling programs;

AND WHEREAS the costs for shipping recycling materials have increased significantly over the past few years;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government is moving forward with new industry-led stewardship programs, however some programs are not yet in place;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to fast track the implementation of new industry-led programs.

AMM Resolution Number 17 - 2008

Topic: Increased Funding for Recycling

Sponsor: Town of The Pas (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy & Mines

WHEREAS funding must be increased to sustain municipal recycling programs as municipalities do not have surplus funds to subsidize local recycling programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase the funding formula to provide operating revenue to sustain recycling programs, thereby relieving the financial burden on municipal ratepayers.

AMM Resolution Number 13 - 2007

Topic: Material Stewardship Program

Sponsor: City of Thompson (Northern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS the benefits of having a comprehensive recycling program has proven to be valuable in ensuring the amount of waste products being taken to landfill sites is minimized;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for a more comprehensive material stewardship program that maximizes the amount of materials and number of products to be recycled.

AMM Resolution Number 07 - 2006

Topic: Electronic Waste Disposal Program

Sponsor: City of Dauphin (Parkland District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy & Mines, Environment Canada

WHEREAS the AMM lobbied the Provincial Government in 2004 to initiate a program for the disposal of electronic waste;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Conservation responded that the Province is aware of the issues associated with electronic waste; is examining options for management of these types of toxic waste; and will seek partners to support the collection of waste electronics in the future;

AND WHEREAS disposal of electronic waste is increasing at landfill sites;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government for an update on the collection of electronic waste;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program for the disposal of electronic waste be expanded to include costs borne by municipalities to transport the collected electronic waste.

AMM Resolution Number 33 - 2006

Topic: Drink Container Deposit

Sponsor: City of Brandon (Western District)

Department: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS the number of beverage containers being inappropriately discarded in Manitoba is on the increase;

AND WHEREAS in the best interest of the environment it would be beneficial to decrease the number of containers being inappropriately discarded;

AND WHEREAS several provinces already have models in place with respect to the processing of such containers, inclusive of charging environmental levies and payment of deposits to individuals who bring in said containers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to establish a 10 cent deposit on all drink containers in this province and create the infrastructure required to ensure the processing of containers on which deposits are paid and the payment of deposits to individuals who bring in the containers.

AMM Resolution Number 38 - 2006

Topic: Review of Environmental Levy Rates

Sponsor: City of Dauphin (Parkland District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS the cost of recycling has increased significantly since the levies were first introduced;

AND WHEREAS currently there are no levies on glass, newspapers, magazines and commercial cardboard;

AND WHEREAS such levies are used in other Canadian provinces;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to review the Environmental Levies charged to corporations and consumers in order to make recycling viable.

AMM Resolution Number 69 - 2005

Topic: Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Program

Sponsor: RM of Taché (Eastern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to establish an effective program to recycle paint products, glycols as well as electronic waste material so as to remove these products from local landfill sites.

AMM Resolution Number 59 - 2004

Topic: Electronic Waste Collection Program

Sponsor: RM of Taché (Eastern District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS municipalities currently have no practice regarding the disposal of hazardous waste such as electronic equipment, paint, etc. expecting at landfill sites;

AND WHEREAS a stewardship program should be in place for the purpose of disposing of this material;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to initiate a program for the disposal of this material.

AMM Resolution Number 34 - 2000

Topic: Recycling Funding for Corrugated Cardboard

Sponsor: Town of Boissevain, RM of Glenwood (Western District)

Departments: Manitoba Conservation

WHEREAS municipalities contribute substantial amounts of money to run recycling programs;

AND WHEREAS a large portion of the material gathered by recycling depots is corrugated cardboard which requires a large storage space;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to increase its funding of corrugated cardboard from 25 per cent to 100 per cent under the Product Stewardship Program.