

## Recycling

- An issue we have been updating you on for a while now is the shift in recycling programs in Manitoba.
- The move is away from government run programs to industry led programs – the idea is that the producer and seller should be responsible for the product throughout its life cycle.
- This is similar to how the used oil program has worked for a number of years.
- Last year Tire Stewardship Manitoba was established for tire recycling in Manitoba.
- The big issue that has taken the longest has been the printed paper and packaging industry.
- The AMM was pleased to see the regulation established in late 2008, and has been working with the industry on ensuring municipal needs are met in the industry plan.

- We have met with Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) a couple of times and had them attend MOS so you would have input into the plan directly.
- The industry will be submitting their plan to the Minister in a couple of weeks and AMM will be consulted again by the Province to provide a review of the plan.
- We are hopeful the plan will be in place by early 2010.
- We should note that the 80:20 funding formula will remain intact.
- As well, plastic bags will have to be included in the plan, so this is another positive for municipalities.
- The next area to tackle is electronic waste and household hazardous waste.
- We were very pleased to see permanent depots established in the province for electronic waste, and

with the collection system ramping up again this summer.

- As Doug mentioned, a portion of the municipal waste levy will be going to establish permanent programs for electronic waste and household hazardous waste which is positive.
- We do not want this kind of material being dumped in landfills. Proper disposal is crucial and these programs need to be established.
- As always we will continue to keep you up to date on these issues.

### **Bio-Diesel, Ethanol and Wind**

- As concerns about the climate continue to grow, the interest in alternate fuels will grow as well.
- Manitoba has one major ethanol plant in Minnedosa which is now fully up and running.

- A bigger problem will be establishing a bio-diesel industry in Manitoba.
- The Province has taken the right approach that a Manitoba biodiesel industry should benefit everyone, meaning it should be an economic driver for the community.
- Manitoba would like to use local products for this industry but is having trouble building the business case since one of the major challenges is the availability of cheap palm oil that can be easily converted to bio-diesel.
- Another obstacle is the lack of a Federal plan. Canada is lagging behind other countries in providing industry subsidies and the process is too confusing.
- Expanding wind energy is a closely related issue since it is another source of green energy.
- Manitoba's Minister responsible for this file is pushing the concept of a wind energy grid across Western

Canada to provide the consistent power needed for long-term use and export.

- Without such a grid there are limits to how far wind power expansion will go since Manitoba's grid can only accept a limited number of kilowatts.
- Wind power is not reliable enough for export or for long-term use, but can provide a supplement to hydro power.
- Manitoba will continue to pursue options for wind power and we will continue to raise the need for more wind farms as there are certainly economic benefits for communities.

## Health Issues

### Physician Recruitment, Training and Retention

- Municipalities are becoming more and more involved in the recruitment of physicians since we all know the importance of having physicians in our communities.
- Even though health care is not a municipal responsibility, when there is a problem, people come to us to deal with it.
- This includes local RHAs asking municipalities to provide incentives to attract physicians to the area.
- The Province is well aware of this issue and we will continue lobbying until changes are made.
- For instance, the AMM participates on an advisory committee to the Physician Resource Coordination Office to provide municipal input into the Province's recruitment policies.

- The AMM also raised this issue with the Minister at our annual meeting and lobbied to enhance the foreign licensing process by expanding the list of accredited universities.
- While recruitment of physicians is important, training for local students is also an issue the AMM has been pushing.
- There is evidence that rural students entering medical training programs are more likely to return to rural areas to start their careers.
- We have asked to have more spaces at the U of M dedicated to rural students and have also been advocating for a more understanding admittance policy that better suits rural students. Most rural students do not have access to the same experiences as urban students and should not be penalized because of this.
- We have also worked with the Province on how municipalities can do more to retain doctors once they are in the community.

- Things like working with the community to make the physician feel comfortable, accepting them into the community and not overburdening them are all aspects of helping to retain a physician.
- It is also important to note that these problems are not just with physicians. It really affects all health care professionals, since communities are also struggling to attract and retain nurses and other specialists.
- The AMM will continue to work on this issue and push the Province to improve the process so municipalities do not have to become overly involved.

### **Community Contribution to Health Capital Projects**

- The AMM has been focused on this issue for several years.
- The Province is adamant that communities need to make some sort of financial contribution to health capital projects.

- This policy was implemented over 10 years ago, as a way to make sure communities do not ask for unnecessary projects.
- We have assured the Province that this would not be a problem today, since there is an understanding that not every community can support a facility.
- We have raised this issue with the Minister of Health, the Finance Minister and the Premier as well.
- We will continue to push on this issue as it is important to halt the downloading of health services to municipalities.

### **RHA Review**

- Even though the Province just completed its review of the RHA system, there are ongoing problems with the administration of RHAs throughout Manitoba.

- The AMM supported the recommendations from the RHA Review committee, but there hasn't been enough progress towards implementing change.
- One of the biggest concerns is the lack of accountability and transparency since RHAs are not adequately representing the needs of their residents.
- The AMM raised this with the Minister and asked her to move quickly to implement the report's recommendations.
- This will continue to be an important issue for AMM since the health care system cannot function without effective administration.

### **Economic Development Report**

- As we heard this morning, the Province has recently completed a report on economic development programming and service delivery for Manitoba.

- We appreciate Maurice Bouvier taking the time to make presentations at all our June District Meetings to discuss the report, since economic development is such an important issue for municipalities.
- In fact, back in 2003, the AMM released a report on economic development that made a lot of similar recommendations about the need for coordination and communication among economic development agencies.
- We also identified the need for more and better funding mechanisms to support community economic development initiatives.
- The AMM is certainly supportive of this Provincial effort and looking forward to working with the Province to strengthen economic development in Manitoba.

## **Provincial Police Services Agreement 2012**

- As you know, the current contract for RCMP services in Manitoba will be replaced with a new contract starting in 2012.
- It is up to the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments to negotiate this contract and we know that it will ultimately be very similar for all provinces and territories across Canada.
- Here in Manitoba, our Provincial Government has already started to work with the AMM to try to highlight municipal issues as the new contract negotiations begin.
- For this reason, we recently sent out a letter to all the municipal offices requesting your feedback on the current contract and your suggestions for making the 2012 contract more effective.

- This contract will have a direct impact on urban municipalities that pay the Province for RCMP services, so we need to hear your concerns.
- We're asking you to submit feedback by June 30 so that we can compile everything for the Province as soon as possible.
- The current contract has been in place since 1992 and we expect this new contract to cover a similar time span.
- This means that we now have a very important opportunity to make an impact on police services in our province.
- I urge you to give this some serious consideration around your council tables and provide us with any feedback you have by June 30.