



March 13, 2014

Court Challenge

The AMM's legal proceeding challenging the Province's implementation of the Municipal Amalgamations Act was heard in Court of Queen's Bench this week.

The challenge is directed at two aspects of the amalgamation process:

1. We asked the Court to ensure the procedure the Province must follow to consider amalgamating municipalities under the Amalgamations Act is fair and transparent for municipalities and their residents;
2. We challenged the Province of Manitoba's decision, before the December 1, 2013 deadline, that certain groupings of municipalities will be amalgamated.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice Robert Dewar heard our case and has reserved judgment, meaning he wants to take some time to think about the case. He did not indicate how long he will take to make a decision.

The AMM will advise members as soon as we are notified of the decision.

MPI Increase

Each year, municipalities receive a rate increase for basic and complex fire fighting payments made by Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI). This increase is based on the prior year's C.P.I. plus 1% and is effective as of March 1.

This year, the basic call rate will increase from \$726 to \$749, and the complex call rate will increase from \$968 to \$999 based on the 2013 Manitoba C.P.I. rate of 2.2% (resulting in a 3.2% increase).

2014 Provincial Budget Highlights

In the March 6 provincial budget, the Province of Manitoba made progress on some important files for municipalities.

BUDGET 2014 POSITIVES

1. The \$7 million Municipal Road Improvement Program (MRIP) will be topped up by \$3 million, for a total investment of \$10 million per year for 5 years (application-based and cost-shared 50/50 with municipalities).
2. The Municipal Bridge Program was renewed and will get \$1 million per year for 5 years.
3. The Manitoba Water Services Board received a top-up of another \$2 million per year for 5 years.

Other highlights:

- Support for handi-transit services is expected to increase by almost \$200,000.
- The investment in the Partner 4 Growth Program has doubled.
- Main market roads will receive \$2.75 million per year over 5 years.
- More Green Team jobs for students have been added.

BUDGET 2014 NEGATIVES

1. Despite doubling funding for the Partners for Growth Program, the elimination of this funding two years ago means it is still only half of what it was in 2012.
2. Municipalities must still pay P.S.T. on municipal infrastructure projects.
3. Municipalities are still without a dedicated form of alternate revenue.

The AMM will continue to track this year's budget and will update our members as new information is discovered.

JUST ADDED TO THE AMM WEBSITE:

2014 Election Supplies Order Form:
www.amm.mb.ca/election_2014.html

2014 MTCML Catalogue:
www.amm.mb.ca/trade_mtcml_cat.html

Reduced Speed School Zone By-law Template:
www.amm.mb.ca/documents/Reduced-speedschoolzoneby-lawFinal.pdf

Guide for Reduced-Speed School Zones:
www.amm.mb.ca/documents/GuideforReduced-SpeedSchoolZones.pdf



Coming Events

2014 Municipal Officials Seminar (MOS) and MTCML Trade Show

April 16 and 17, 2014
Keystone Centre, Brandon

Join us for two days of policy and professional development sessions, along with the MTCML trade show – Manitoba's largest municipal tradeshow!

Register Online at
www.amm.mb.ca/events_mos_registration_form.cfm

Save \$50 with Early Bird registration available until March 21!

We look forward to seeing you in Brandon.

Reminder:

The Assiniboine River Basin Planning Committee Prairie Improvement Network

Assiniboine River Basin
Workshop
Includes Qu'Appelle, Souris, and
Assiniboine River Basins

Wednesday March 26, 2014 from
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM CDT

Tundra Oil and Gas Place
900 Fifth Avenue South
Virden, MB R0M 2C0

Register by **March 14**, 2014 for a discounted fee of \$75. After March 14, rate increases to \$99, so don't delay.

Registration closes March 21/14

Please contact the Prairie Improvement Network if you require more information or have any questions.

info@prairienetwork.ca
204-982-4790

Register at: <http://tiny.cc/rcadcx>

Coming Events

Public Information Sessions Building Seniors' Housing

Manitoba Housing is currently seeking proposals from community groups and private developers interested in developing new, affordable rental and co-operative housing for seniors with low to moderate incomes.

Interested organizations are invited to attend one of six upcoming public information sessions on how to submit a Request for Proposal (RFP).

Please call 204-945-7710 or email CommRelOff@gov.mb.ca to register your attendance. Indicate the names of those attending as well as your preferred session date and location.

Information sessions will be held in:

The Pas – Tuesday, March 18, 2014
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Provincial Building, 79 Third Street,
Basement Boardroom (#108)

Flin Flon – Wednesday, March 19, 2014
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Flin Flon Public Library, 58 Main Street,
Rotary Room

Thompson – Thursday, March 20, 2014
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
City Hall, 226 Mystery Lake Road, Sec-
ond Floor, Committee Room

Steinbach – Monday, March 24, 2014
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Days Inn, 75 PTH 12, Heritage Room

Brandon – Tuesday, March 25, 2014
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Riverbank Discovery Centre, 1-545
Conservation Drive, Multipurpose Room

Winnipeg – Wednesday, March 26, 2014
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
352 Donald Street, Third Floor

For more information and a copy of the Request for Proposal please visit our website at:

www.manitoba.ca/housing/sr_housing_rfp.html

Coming Events

The Manitoba Heavy Construction
Association presents:

**EXPO South: Building
WORKFORCE Excellence**
April 7 – 9, 2014, Victoria Inn Hotel
and Convention Centre

**MHCA Members can save \$110.00 if
you register by March 14, 2014 for
all three days of the conference!**

Register early - courses will fill quickly!
To register please visit:

www.plannersplus.ca/mhca

Job Postings

Town of Virden Manager of Utilities

The Manager of Utilities undertakes full management authority for planning, directing and supervising all activities relative to the water and sewer department including water treatment and distribution and wastewater collection and treatment.

The incumbent requires a working knowledge of Level II Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Highly developed verbal and written communication skills and an ability to get along with the public, Council and staff is critical. Knowledge of municipal infrastructure and project management is required. An ability to work in a computerized environment and direct and supervise staff is essential.

Candidates who hold Level II Certification in Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment or have the ability to obtain it in a timely manner, and who have proven progressive management experience in the infrastructure field for a minimum of five years, will be ideal candidates for this position. A combination of experience and related education will be considered.

Please submit resumes by 4:30 PM, Friday, April 4, 2014, stating experience, education, salary expected, references and all other pertinent data to:

Ms. Rhonda Stewart, CAO
Town of Virden
236 Wellington Street West, Box 310
Virden, Manitoba R0M 2C0
Ph: 204-748-2440 / Fax: 204-748-2501
Email: virden_cao@mymts.net