



**AMM President Chris Goertzen
Speaking Notes – May 11, 2017**

***Bill 22 – The Regulatory Accountability Act and
Amendments to the Statutes and Regulations Act***

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present municipal concerns related to Bill 22: *The Regulatory Accountability Act and Amendments to the Statutes and Regulations Act*.

I will begin my presentation today by providing a brief overview of the AMM, our ongoing advocacy efforts to ease regulatory burdens on our members, and our recommendations to help address this challenge.

The AMM was formed in 1999 as a result of a merger between the Union of Manitoba Municipalities (UMM) and the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities (MAUM).

Our organization is independent and non-partisan, and our mission is to identify and address the needs and concerns of our members in order to achieve strong and effective municipal government.

Our membership consists of all of Manitoba's 137 incorporated municipalities, including the City of Winnipeg. This number decreased from 197 due to forced amalgamation mandated by the Province of Manitoba.



In regards to our advocacy efforts related to identifying excessive regulations, the AMM recently made a comprehensive written submission to the *Red Tape Reduction Task Force*, which included 20 recommendations to address excess regulation and red tape which often hinders our members while delivering public services.

These recommendations were formulated based on our review of more than 75 written submissions from municipalities across Manitoba that identified inefficiencies in various provincial government processes. Moreover, the AMM Executive also made formal presentations to the Red Tape Reduction Task Force's transportation and land development sub-committees.

In regards to establishing *The Regulatory Accountability Act*, the AMM welcomes the commitment to eliminate regulatory requirements when new ones are implemented to ease tracking and promote streamlined processes. The AMM supports the mandated 'two-for-one rule' until March 31, 2021 and the 'one-for-one' rule thereafter.

The AMM also believes consultation with municipalities is vital, and thus our organization supports the publishing of all provincial forms and policies with regulatory requirements online so that they can be subject to public consultation. In particular, the AMM supports Section 12 that would allow our members to submit comments about policies and forms to the secretariat for review and consideration.



However, when new regulations are being contemplated and implemented, it is essential that they are matched with provincial funding support. Unfortunately, over the years, municipalities have often had to deal with the downloading of provincial responsibilities and regulations with no provincial funding.

For example, since 2011 the AMM has repeatedly voiced concerns over the lack of provincial funding to municipalities to support the effective implementation of accessibility standards. Funding support must be provided to ensure the effective implementation of the standards as there will assuredly be financial costs associated not only with the customer service and employment standards but also with the three subsequent standards yet to be developed.

Many Manitoba communities are currently proactively implementing accessibility plans in order to comply with provincial regulations, yet they shouldn't have to shoulder these priorities alone. In short, the implementation of the mandated accessibility standards will be undermined so long as no provincial funding support is provided.

In addition, the enactment of the *Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation* has negatively affected weed control services in local communities due to significant cost implications and effectiveness concerns. The AMM has consistently voiced these concerns to the previous and current provincial governments.



This regulation not only bans federally-approved products, but has also forced municipalities to spend 10-15 times more on their weed control programs while using alternative products. In effect, local Councils are forced to decide whether to increase their weed control budgets or to cease weed control activities all together in certain areas of their municipality due to the financial constraints caused by this regulation.

These are only two examples of how excessive regulations are negatively affecting our members and causing unnecessary financial and administrative burdens for local communities.

Overall, approximately 90 per cent of Manitoba municipalities have indicated to us that they encounter provincial red tape on a regular basis resulting in added financial or staff resources and delays when dealing with provincial Acts, regulations, license requirements and permit applications.

In closing, the AMM welcomes the identification and elimination of excess regulation and red tape. Municipalities require clear, efficient, and effective processes in order to grow and sustain local communities.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide these comments.

If you have any questions for me, I would be happy to answer them.