



April 28, 2014

Clerk of Committees
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
251 - 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), I would like to provide comments about Bill 31: *The Police Services Amendment Act (Community Safety Officers)*.

At the annual AMM Convention in November 2013, AMM members passed a resolution requesting the AMM to lobby the Province of Manitoba to expedite the establishment of a police cadet program for rural and northern Manitoba in order to fulfill a 2011 election commitment. We also discussed it at a recent meeting between Minister Swan and the AMM Cities Caucus.

The AMM supports additional tools for communities to improve public safety and build positive relationships. As a result, we are pleased that the Province of Manitoba is already working with the RCMP and the City of Thompson to launch a local community safety officer program.

The AMM is pleased this legislation will allow municipalities to take measures to support the work that police officers do. The AMM believes community safety officers could make an important difference by providing assistance in the areas identified: implementing crime prevention strategies and initiatives; providing a link between social service providers and people in need; and maintaining a visible presence in the community. They will also be able to assist police by enforcing selected provincial laws.

Nevertheless, the AMM is concerned about the potential costs of a community safety officer program. The AMM recommends that the Province of Manitoba establish a consistent approach to contribute long-term, cost-shared funding in order to assist communities with program set-up and delivery.

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Dobrowolski
President

cc: Honourable Andrew Swan, Minister of Justice