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News Release

AMM members seek more authority to make local decisions

November 23, 2017 - The AMM 19th Annual Convention takes place November 27-29 at the Keystone Centre in Brandon. A highlight each year is the resolutions sessions.

With 49 resolutions up for debate, there is no shortage of issues to be discussed by the 900 municipal officials expected to attend next week's event. Many of the issues have been highlighted in the media throughout the year.

One such issue is around safe and respectful work environments for municipal elected officials. "This is something that all councils are looking at very closely," noted Mayor Chris Goertzen, President of the AMM. Two resolutions call for changes to the Municipal Act to strengthen protections available to elected officials; Resolution #4, "Respectful and Safe Work Environment", sponsored by the Town of Morris; and Resolution #5, "Workplace Anti-Harassment", sponsored by the RM of Springfield, the RM of West St. Paul, Swan Valley West Municipality and Oakland-Wawanesa Municipality.

Other resolutions call on increased powers for municipalities. "We are an order of government elected to make decisions on behalf of our residents and in many cases, our members are frustrated with rules that don't allow them to do just that in their own communities," explained Goertzen.

For example, electric vehicles are becoming more mainstream and while many municipalities are interested in having charging stations located within their communities, only Manitoba Hydro can sell power. Resolution #40, "Electric Vehicle Charging Stations", sponsored by the City of Morden, calls for an amendment to the Manitoba Hydro Act allowing other organizations, including municipalities, to sell power.

Another example calls for an amendment to the Highway Traffic Board. "Municipalities not only understand the need for safety, they understand the circumstances, traffic patterns and trends in their own communities better than anyone," said Goertzen. Resolution #31 calls for the Province of Manitoba to allow municipalities to amend speed limits in their local jurisdictions without oversight by the Highway Traffic Board.

A complete list of resolutions is available on the [AMM website](#).

Resolutions sessions are scheduled for 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on Wednesday November 29, in the UCT Pavilion of the Keystone Centre.

Media are invited to attend.