



ASSOCIATION OF  
**MANITOBA**  
MUNICIPALITIES

Meeting with Premier Brian Pallister and Members of the  
Provincial Cabinet

November 22, 2016

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## INTRODUCTION

- ❖ The AMM is pleased to host our annual meeting with the Provincial Cabinet to share municipal priorities, and continue a dialogue with the provincial government about the future of Manitoba.
- ❖ We also hope to meet with every Minister again in the near future to discuss new and ongoing issues in greater detail with each department.
- ❖ In this document, the AMM has outlined our main lobbying priorities in three categories: Successes in 2015-2016, Critical Issues requiring immediate action, and Important Issues that have seen some progress, but require more collaboration.

## SUCSESSES IN 2015-2016

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### ✓ **Federal-Provincial-Municipal Partnerships**

- **Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *The AMM is very pleased to participate as a member of the local consultative committee that reviews applications for the Building Canada Small Communities Fund.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to partner with municipalities to repair and replace roads and bridges in local communities by investing no less than \$1 billion annually in strategic infrastructure;*
- ❖ *Support AMM input in the decision-making process for any application-based infrastructure funding; and*
- ❖ *Ensure municipalities receive a fair share of the new Building Canada Fund in consultation with the AMM.*

### ✓ **'Single-Window' Access for Infrastructure Grants**

- **Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the government's commitment to reduce red tape to speed up infrastructure projects.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide municipalities a 'Fair Say' with a new basket funding approach to more effectively respond to local infrastructure priorities; and*
- ❖ *Establish a Red Tape Reduction Task Force to help municipalities more efficiently access infrastructure grant funding.*

## ✓ **The Mental Health Amendment Act**

- **Department of Justice**
- **Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living**
- ❖ *The AMM wishes to thank the government for reintroducing and passing The Mental Health Amendment Act.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Consult with municipalities when establishing the corresponding training program for 'qualified persons' to ensure effective implementation in local communities.*

## ✓ **Municipal By-Law Enforcement**

- **Department of Justice**
- **Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations**
- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the development of a new approach to municipal by-law enforcement.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide support to municipalities in order to implement the new by-law enforcement process; and*
- ❖ *Help cover training costs for municipal officials to ensure the effective administration of municipal by-law enforcement.*

## ✓ Subdivision Approval Technical Advisory Committee

### ○ Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Implement the TAC report recommendations and work towards streamlining other aspects of the subdivision review process identified by the AMM.*

## ✓ Partner 4 Growth Program

### ○ Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations

- ❖ *The AMM was pleased to see an increase to the successful Partner 4 Growth Program in Budget 2016.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Expand the successful Partner 4 Growth program to enhance the ability of local communities to identify and pursue economic development opportunities.*

## CRITICAL ISSUES – IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

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### ✓ **Alternate Revenues**

- **Department of Finance**

- ❖ *Municipalities rely on property taxes to generate revenues while receiving only 8 cents on every tax dollar.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Identify new, additional sources of revenue for municipalities to address Manitoba's growing \$11 billion infrastructure deficit and increasing municipal responsibilities.*

### ✓ **PST Rebate for Municipalities**

- **Department of Finance**

- ❖ *Each year, municipalities pay more than \$25 million in PST.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Eliminate or rebate the more than \$25 million in PST paid on an annual basis by municipalities.*

## ✓ **Modernize Education Funding**

### ○ **Department of Education and Training**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Establish a multi-stakeholder Task Force to comprehensively review and modernize Manitoba's education funding model;*
- ❖ *Provide new, sustainable long-term funding to reduce school division reliance on property taxes; and*
- ❖ *Rescind the 5,000 cap on the Farmland School Tax Rebate;*

## ✓ **Essential Cell Service and Broadband Internet Access**

### ○ **Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Facilitate discussions with cell carriers and other stakeholders to explore options to expand cellular coverage and broadband Internet access; and*
- ❖ *Work with municipalities to develop solutions to ensure the safety of emergency responders and the public in Manitoba through reliable communications technology.*



## ✓ Federal DFAA Changes

### ○ Department of Infrastructure

- ❖ *Due to recent changes, federal funding for smaller disaster events has been eliminated, which jeopardizes the safety of all Manitobans in the event of a disaster or extreme weather event.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support municipalities by urging the federal government to urgently review and ultimately reverse changes to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) cost-sharing formula that took effect in February 2015.*

## ✓ Accessibility Legislation

### ○ Department of Families

- ❖ *The AMM is a member of Manitoba's Accessibility Advisory Council.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Ensure the Accessibility Advisory Council remains the primary forum for developing the corresponding standards in accordance with The Accessibility for Manitobans Act; and*
- ❖ *Recognize the unique needs of municipalities by providing funding to help identify, prevent, and remove barriers to accessibility within local communities.*

## ✓ Northern Manitoba Development Strategy

### ○ Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Develop both a short-term plan and long-term strategy in partnership with municipal officials and other community stakeholders to support economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development throughout Northern Manitoba.*

## ✓ Police Staffing and Funding

### ○ Department of Justice

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Effectively address rapidly increasing, unsustainable policing costs;*
- ❖ *Help ensure Manitoba communities are not negatively impacted by the right of RCMP officers to collective bargaining;*
- ❖ *Consult with the AMM in regard to the Strategic Operational Review of the RCMP; and*
- ❖ *Continue working with municipalities wishing to establish Community Safety Officer (CSO) Programs.*

## ✓ Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention

### ○ Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living

- ❖ *Local communities continue to struggle to attract and retain health practitioners.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Implement the forthcoming recommendations Rural Physician Recruitment Advisory Committee to ensure all Manitobans have access to suitable primary care.*

## ✓ Community Capital Contributions for Health Facilities

### ○ Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reduce required community capital contributions for health facilities while moving toward funding all health facilities provincially.*

## ✓ Funding for Conservation Districts

### ○ Department of Sustainable Development

- ❖ *The AMM believes there is significant value in increased provincial funding for Conservation Districts due to the effectiveness of their water management plans and cost-effective watershed management initiatives.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase operating funding for the Conservation District Program and consider reevaluating the funding formula.*

## ✓ Dutch Elm Disease Management

- Department of Sustainable Development

- ❖ *The current level of provincial financial assistance is insufficient as communities regularly incur costs of up to \$1,000 per diseased elm tree.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Remove all diseased elms or provide 100% cost recovery funding to municipalities to ensure proper management.*

## IMPORTANT ISSUES – MORE COLLABORATION NEEDED

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### ✓ Rural Economic Development Strategy

- **Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade**

- ❖ *With 37% of Manitoba's population and more than 12,000 businesses, rural Manitoba is vital to the provincial economy.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Fully implement all the recommendations of the Rural Economic Development Strategy report, including providing 'single-window' services to rural Manitoba.*

### ✓ Amalgamation Costs

- **Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the department's willingness to cooperate with the AMM and the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association (MMAA) to address challenges faced by newly-amalgamated municipalities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Commit to covering the hard costs resulting from municipal amalgamations, including but not limited to upgrades or conversions to municipal offices, administrative and financial services.*

## ✓ Affordable and Seniors' Housing

### ○ Department of Families

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM and help facilitate partnerships between municipalities, the federal government, and private sector to increase the stock of affordable and seniors' housing across Manitoba.*

## ✓ Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

### ○ Department of Sustainable Development

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the Province of Manitoba's willingness to comprehensively review the Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Implement measures to ensure the safe use of cosmetic pesticides without banning them, such as public education or restricting access to licensed applicators; and*
- ❖ *Recognize and address the financial impacts of the current ban on municipal weed control efforts and municipal budgets.*

## ✓ **Manitoba Tourism Strategy**

### ○ **Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to investment in the tourism sector across Manitoba while creating stronger links with local community museums; and*
- ❖ *Consult with the AMM on the development of a Manitoba Tourism Strategy.*

## ✓ **Flood Mitigation, Drainage and Water Management**

### ○ **Department of Sustainable Development**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to allocate funding for flood prevention and mitigation infrastructure;*
- ❖ *Implement a province-wide program based on the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) model to help reduce flooding and improve water management;*
- ❖ *Consult with municipalities on watershed-based planning and drainage initiatives;*
- ❖ *Continue funding the collection of LiDAR data; and*
- ❖ *Provide sufficient funding to achieve the goals of the Surface Water Management Strategy.*

## ✓ Provincial Planning and Assessment Services Staff

### ○ Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Fill vacancies in regional planning and assessment offices to ensure municipalities are receiving timely and accurate services from each of these branches.*

## ✓ Rural Veterinary Funding

### ○ Department of Agriculture

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reinstate the Technical Enhancement Grant to assist Veterinary Service Districts with increasing equipment costs;*
- ❖ *Increase funding for operating costs to keep rural veterinarian salaries competitive and to enable rural clinics to continue providing veterinary services to their communities.*

## ✓ Rural Airports

### ○ Department of Infrastructure

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reinstate a capital assistance program for airports on a 50-50 basis with municipalities;*
- ❖ *Increase the amount of operating grants for rural paved and unpaved airports, which have remained at \$2,400 and \$1,200 respectively, for at least ten years.*



## ✓ Palliative Care

### ○ Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Ensure sufficient funding is provided for local palliative care services in every RHA to avoid reliance on community fundraising; and*
- ❖ *Require a separate budget item for palliative care funding in RHA budgets, including funding for a Palliative Care Coordinator.*

## ✓ Community Places Program

### ○ Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase the maximum grant amount for all recipients;*
- ❖ *Reinstate funding to the level received prior to the 2012 cuts (\$4.5 million to \$3.5 million) at a minimum.*

## ✓ Handi-Transit Services

### ○ Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support regional and community-sponsored options for local Handi-transit services;*
- ❖ *Support affordable and sustainable transit services for all residents, including those who must travel for medical reasons, and those with mobility issues.*

## ✓ **Hometown Green Teams**

- **Department of Education and Training**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to support this successful program, which gives students valuable experience and benefits local communities.*

## ✓ **Library Funding and Universal Access**

- **Department of Sport, Culture and Heritage**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase provincial funding to the Rural Library Operating Grant Program; and*
- ❖ *Allow all library cards issued in Manitoba to be valid at any library that receives provincial funding.*

## ✓ **Canada-Manitoba Job Grant Funding**

- **Department of Education and Training**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reach an agreement with the federal government to include municipalities as eligible applicants for the Canada-Manitoba Job Grant.*

## ✓ Operating Costs for Recreational Facilities

### ○ Department of Crown Services

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase funding to financial incentive programs that promote and encourage greater efficiency of recreation centres throughout Manitoba.*

## ✓ Waste Management Facilities Regulation

### ○ Department of Sustainable Development

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Significantly reduce the financial and administrative impact of the newly proposed Waste Management Facilities Regulation.*

## ✓ Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Support

### ○ Department of Indigenous and Municipal Relations

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide financial and consultative support to assist municipalities in developing service sharing agreements with First Nations communities as well as throughout the Treaty Land Entitlement process.*

## APPENDIX – SUPPORTING AMM RESOLUTIONS & POLICY FILES

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### Successes in 2015-2016

#### **Federal-Provincial-Municipal Partnerships**

- Policy File F-IC-01: Federal Infrastructure Issues
- Policy File P-MIT-01: Provincial Infrastructure Issues

#### **'Single-Window' Access for Infrastructure Grants**

- Policy File P-MIT-01: Provincial Infrastructure Issues

#### **The Mental Health Amendment Act**

- Resolution #20-2010: Amend The Mental Health Act

#### **Municipal By-law Enforcement**

- Policy File P-JUS-01: By-law Enforcement Issues

#### **Subdivision Approval Technical Advisory Committee**

- Resolution #08-2015: Digital Technology for Subdivision Approval
- Policy File P-MG-25: TAC Subdivision Approval

#### **Partner 4 Growth Program**

- Resolution #34-2009: Increase Funding for Economic Development

### Critical Issues – Immediate Action Required

#### **Alternate Revenues**

- Resolution #03-2015: Flexible and Equitable Debt Ratio Formula
- Resolution #04-2015: Sustainable Taxation and Revenue
- Resolution #05-2015: Service-Based Taxation Models
- Resolution #26-2010: Strategy to Address Municipal Infrastructure Deficit
- Resolution #23-2009: Infrastructure Funding Cost-Sharing
- Resolution #31-2009: Funding for Offloading of Provincial Responsibilities

#### **PST Rebate for Municipalities**

- Resolution #01-2015: PST Rebate
- Resolution #37-2015: PST Exemption
- Resolution #37-2015: Eliminate PST for Municipal Governments

#### **Modernizing Education Funding**

- Resolution #08-2016\*: Education Funding Model Task Force
- Resolution #32-2013: Modernize Education Funding
- Policy File P-EDUC-01: Education Funding

#### **Essential Cell Service and Broadband Internet Access**

- Resolution #38-2015: Improve Cellular Reception Services
- Resolution #21-2014: Cellular Service Considered An Essential Service
- Resolution #00-2012: Improve Emergency and Cellular Service
- Resolution #50-2012: High Speed Internet and Cell Service for Rural Manitoba

#### **DFAA Cost-Sharing Changes**

- Resolution #35-2016\*: Federal DFAA Program Changes

- Resolution #18-2013: Review of Disaster Financial Assistance

#### **Accessibility Legislation and Standards**

- Policy File P-PD-01: Accessibility Legislation & Standards

#### **Northern Manitoba Development Strategy**

- Resolution #31-2013: Second Generation Northern Development Strategy

#### **Police Staffing and Funding**

- Resolution #20-2014: RCMP Detachment Staffing
- Resolution #33-2013: Rural and Northern Manitoba Cadet Program
- Resolution #45-2012: Provincial Per Capita Funding for RCMP
- Resolution #43-2009: Funding For RCMP Support Staff
- Resolution #57-2008: Police Service in Rural Manitoba
- Policy File P-JUS-04: Police Services & Costs

#### **Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention**

- Resolution #20-2015: Physician License Review
- Policy File P-HEA-01: Health Issues

#### **Community Capital Contributions for Health Facilities**

- Resolution #25-2013: Reduce Community Contribution Requirements

#### **Funding for Conservation Districts**

- Resolution #41-2015: Core Funding for Conservation Districts
- Resolution #41-2013: Increase Funding to Conservation Districts

#### **Dutch Elm Disease Management**

- Resolution #43-2015: Dutch Elm Disease Management
- Resolution #11-2014: Dutch Elm Disease Tree Removal
- Policy File P-CWS-08: Sustainable Development Issues

### **Important Issues – More Collaboration Needed**

#### **Rural Economic Development Strategy**

- Resolution #34-2009: Increase Funding for Economic Development
- Policy File P-AFRD-01: Economic Development Strategy

#### **Amalgamation Costs**

- Resolution #01-2014: Additional Funding to Assist with Amalgamation Costs
- Policy File P-MG-15: Amalgamation

#### **Affordable and Seniors' Housing**

- Resolution #22-2010: Housing in Manitoba

#### **Cosmetic Pesticide Ban**

- Resolution #13-2011: Cosmetic Pesticide Use Ban
- Policy File P-CWS-08: Sustainable Development Issues

#### **Manitoba Tourism Strategy**

- Resolution #14-2009: Museum Grants
- Resolution #15-2009: Tourism Funding

#### **Flood Mitigation, Drainage, and Water Management**

- Resolution #18-2014: Drainage Upgrades and Solutions
- Resolution #21-2012: Support for LIDAR Coverage
- Resolution #19-2011: Permanent Flood Solutions

- Resolution #30-2009: Flood Protection Expenses
- Policy File P-EM-31: Flooding Issues
- Policy File P-CWS-10: Surface Water Management Strategy

#### **Palliative Care**

- Resolution #24-2013: Palliative Care Services
- Policy File P-HEA-01: Health Issues

#### **Community Places Program**

- Resolution #55-2001: Funding for Community Places Program

#### **Provincial Planning and Assessment Services Staff**

- Resolution #07-2015: Clarification of Assessor Role
- Resolution #39-2015: Increase Assessment Branch Staffing
- Resolution #07-2013: Land Use Planner Positions
- Resolution #43-2011: Resources for Planning Districts
- Resolution #46-2011: Increase Number of Field Assessment Officers

#### **Rural Veterinary Funding**

- Resolution #39-2013: Infrastructure Grants for Veterinary Clinics
- Resolution #09-2011: Rural Veterinary Board Funding
- Resolution #12-2007: Increase to Operating Grants for Veterinary Services

#### **Rural Airports**

- Resolution #33-2011: Funding for Airports with Paved Runways
- Resolution #37-2008: Increase Operating Grants for Small Rural Airports
- Resolution #11-2002: Funding of Airports

#### **Handi-Transit Services**

- Resolution #03-2014: Review of Rural Transportation and Handi-Van Systems
- Resolution #38-2009: Funding for Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program
- Policy File P-MG-20: Handi-Van Services

#### **Hometown Green Teams**

- Resolution #41-2016\*: Green Team Program

#### **Library Funding and Universal Access**

- Resolution #15-2011: Increase Per Capita Base Rate for Library Funding
- Resolution #22-2008: Library Cards

#### **Canada-Manitoba Job Grant Funding**

- Resolution #30-2015: Canada-Manitoba Job Fund Agreement

#### **Operating Costs for Recreational Facilities**

- Resolution #50-2009: Operating Costs for Recreation Facilities
- Policy File P-MH-04: Manitoba Hydro & Recreational Facilities

#### **Waste Management Facilities Regulation**

- Resolution #10-2015: Waste Management Facilities Regulation

#### **Support for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Process**

- Resolution #35-2015: TLE Consultation & Support
- Policy File P-ANA-02: TLE and First-Nation-Municipal Relations

***NOTE: If required, please contact AMM staff to receive detailed information about AMM resolutions.***