



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

Meeting with the Honourable Blaine Pedersen
Minister of Infrastructure

2017

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Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Blaine Pedersen and representatives of the Department of Infrastructure.
- The AMM encourages the Province of Manitoba to consider municipal concerns as well as the effects of funding decisions on local communities throughout the budget process.
- This document outlines the AMM's position and recommendations on a number of important municipal issues relevant to the Infrastructure portfolio.

Priority Issues

1) Strategic Infrastructure Investments

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Invest no less than \$1 billion annually in strategic infrastructure;*
 - ❖ *Maximize roadside maintenance budgets to ensure control of weed growth along provincial infrastructure; and*
 - ❖ *Assist municipalities to offset compliance costs resulting from the new federal Grade Crossing Regulations.*
- According to the latest Canadian Infrastructure Report Card, one-third of core municipal infrastructure is in fair, poor, or very poor condition.
 - Local Councils are responsible for building, repairing, and maintaining 60 per cent of infrastructure despite being allowed to collect just eight cents of every tax dollar to get the job done.
 - Adding to this pressure is how little to no say local Councils have in determining how the other 92 cents gets spent.
 - The AMM welcomes the provincial government's commitment to invest no less than \$1 billion annually in strategic infrastructure and ensure all infrastructure dollars budgeted are fully allocated and spent to benefit all municipalities.
 - In addition, the AMM also continues to urge the Province of Manitoba to recognize its responsibility to adequately control weed growth along provincial infrastructure in order to minimize the spread of noxious weeds.
 - It is essential that roadside maintenance budgets are maximized to ensure control of weed growth along provincial highways, roads and ditches.
 - Lastly, municipalities require assistance to offset compliance costs resulting from the new federal Grade Crossing Regulations.
 - Consistent grade crossing standards are vital for ensuring the safety of all Manitobans.

2) Disaster Financial Assistance & Flood Mitigation

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult the AMM when reviewing the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program; and*
 - ❖ *Support municipalities by urging the federal government to reverse changes to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) cost-sharing formula.*
- The AMM welcomes Manitoba Infrastructure's commitment to comprehensively review the DFA program with the goal to streamline existing processes while maximizing cost-sharing mechanisms.
 - Meanwhile, increased investment in flood protection and mitigation infrastructure could prevent millions, if not billions, of dollars in damages since every dollar invested in adaptation and climate-resilient infrastructure will yield anywhere from \$9 to \$38 in avoided damages in the future.
 - In addition, the previous federal government enacted changes to the DFAA cost-sharing formula, which eliminated federal funding for small disaster or extreme weather events.
 - Prairie Provinces account for more than 80 per cent of all DFAA weather event costs, almost all of which are a result of flooding.
 - As many Manitoba communities are situated in flood prone areas, the change to cost-sharing formula could significantly and negatively affect municipalities.
 - The AMM believes these changes must be reversed immediately, and we call upon the Province of Manitoba and all provincial parties to urge their federal counterparts to restore the previous disaster assistance cost-sharing formula.
 - In December 2016, the AMM formally submitted a resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) on this issue.

3) Funding for Rural, Remote and Northern Airports

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reinstate a capital assistance program for airports on a 50-50 basis with municipalities; and*
 - ❖ *Increase the amount of operating grants for airports, which have remained at \$2,400 and \$1,200, respectively, for at least 10 years.*
- As Manitoba's diversified economy relies on trade, it is essential that modern infrastructure links all Manitobans to inter-provincial and international markets.
 - Thus, rural, remote and northern airports are vital to many communities given their link to fostering economic development and growing local network capacity.
 - Since these airports provide important services to surrounding communities, the AMM encourages the Province of Manitoba to provide additional resources to support capital and operating costs for these facilities.
 - Without increased provincial assistance to repair and rebuild runways, many of these airports will be forced to reduce their services or close.
 - Community airports not only support enterprise and trade, they also help stimulate job creation and economic growth in local communities.
 - In comparison, since 2007 the Province of Saskatchewan has invested \$5.7 million through its Community Airport Partnership (CAP) Program to provide capital contributions to rehabilitate and upgrade the network of strategic regional community airports.

Appendix A – Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution #07-2016

Topic: Highway Traffic Board

Sponsor(s): RM of Taché (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the Manitoba Highway Traffic Board was established to ensure the safety of the travelling public and protection of highway infrastructure through the administration of *The Highways Protection Act* and portions of *The Highway Traffic Act*; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Highway Traffic Board is responsible for the approval and issuance of permits for access onto provincial highways, the development and structures adjacent to provincial highways, establishing speed limits throughout the province including municipal roadways, approval of municipal weight by-laws, bridge closures and restrictions as well as highway classification and by-laws for parking in alleyways, all of which affect municipal operations; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Highway Traffic Board is comprised of no less than three members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council; and

WHEREAS special circumstances, settlement patterns, population trends, and other interests within local jurisdictions may exist whereby the current manner of appointing members to the Highway Traffic Board does not reflect the needs of Manitoba municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to establish a position on the Manitoba Highway Traffic Board for the appointment of a member from the AMM to represent municipal interests.

AMM Resolution #32-2016

Topic: Consultation on Waterway Projects

Sponsor(s): RM of Yellowhead (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure, Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS municipalities must obtain a license from Manitoba Sustainable Development for culvert replacement, runway cleaning or drainage projects; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure is not required to go through this process for waterway projects on provincial highways and provincial trunk roads; and

WHEREAS on occasion Manitoba Infrastructure projects have resulted in damage to downstream municipal infrastructure as a result of increased water flows;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to make it mandatory for Manitoba Infrastructure to consult with Manitoba Sustainable Development when working on waterway projects.

AMM Resolution #35-2016

Topic: Federal DFAA Program Changes

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Laurent (Interlake District), RM of Woodlands (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure, Public Safety Canada

WHEREAS in January 2015 the federal government changed the funding structure of the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA), which will result in a reduction of the amount of federal money available to those affected by disasters; and

WHEREAS these changes came into effect on February 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has consistently been the second largest user of the DFAA program due to natural disasters and flooding events in its region; and

WHEREAS the said changes to the DFAA program will cause major and significant financial implications and downloading to the Province of Manitoba and ultimately Manitoba municipalities; and

WHEREAS a new federal government was elected in October 2015 since the changes were implemented;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and the new federal government to repeal the DFAA program changes made by the previous federal government.

AMM Resolution #46-2016 *Standing Policy

Topic: Noxious Weeds

Sponsor(s): Mossey River Municipality (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure, Transport Canada

WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for appointing a weed inspector for the control of noxious weeds within the municipality; and

WHEREAS provincial ditches contain noxious weeds but little is done for the control of these weeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled in provincial drains and highway ditches as well as around railways.

AMM Resolution #23-2015

Topic: Signage for Municipal Fire Bans

Sponsor(s): RM of Stuartburn (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS at various times and within various regions of the province, each municipality has had at one time or another had to implement a burn/fire ban;

AND WHEREAS there are no recognized standard highway signs notifying the public of these bans;

AND WHEREAS each municipality has erected their own customized signs which vary from municipality to municipality;

AND WHEREAS it would be most beneficial if the Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation implemented a standardized regulatory sign to be used in each municipality when a ban is implemented by that respective municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to adopt under The Highway Traffic Act a recognizable regulatory sign to be used by each Town or RM during burn/fire bans all across the province.

AMM Resolution #31-2015

Topic: Emergency Response Communication Equipment

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Emerson-Franklin (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure, Infrastructure Canada

WHEREAS provincial, federal and municipal governments play a prominent role in emergencies;

AND WHEREAS the primary responsibility to deal with emergencies lies with local authorities;

AND WHEREAS municipalities utilize the MTS FleetNet network as the emergency communication system;

AND WHEREAS MTS is planning to upgrade its FleetNet system to digital in the near future;

AND WHEREAS there will be a significant cost to municipalities for the upgrade of digital FleetNet equipment (\$3,000 per radio);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the federal government and Province of Manitoba to provide funding opportunities similar to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program to assist with the purchase of emergency response communication equipment to reduce the cost and to increase the ability of municipalities to respond effectively.

AMM Resolution #19-2014

Topic: Provincial Waterway Bridge Maintenance

Sponsor(s): RM of Morris (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS there are numerous waterways within the Province of Manitoba that are under the jurisdiction of the Province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS these waterways have various bridges in order to provide crossings at appropriate places;

AND WHEREAS some of these bridges have been 'given' over to municipalities for them to maintain, upgrade and replace from time to time;

AND WHEREAS these bridges should be a provincial responsibility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to take responsibility for all bridges that provide crossings over provincial waterways.

AMM Resolution #18-2013

Topic: Review of Disaster Financial Assistance

Sponsor(s): City of Brandon (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure, Public Safety Canada

WHEREAS municipalities continue to face a significant threat from massive storm damage to municipal infrastructure, and commercial and residential properties within municipal jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS already financially burdened municipalities and their citizens do not have the resources to respond quickly to the damage caused by these storms, or the funds to undertake preventative actions;

AND WHEREAS governments are unable to respond quickly enough or allow a consistent level of access to disaster financial assistance for municipalities and their citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for a review of the current policies for disaster financial assistance programs and to increase funding to and the eligibility criteria for these programs, in order to allow municipalities more rapid and consistent access to funding.

AMM Resolution #22-2013

Topic: Maintenance of Railway Crossings

Sponsor(s): RM of Morris (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS municipalities in Manitoba have, or have had in the past, railway companies that have established rail lines within those municipalities;

AND WHEREAS rail lines have numerous road crossings;

AND WHEREAS these road crossings need to be maintained so that they do not fall into a state of disrepair;

AND WHEREAS railway companies have neglected to maintain railway road crossings, thereby resulting in dangerous driving conditions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to pass appropriate legislation to ensure railway companies maintain road crossings for safe travel.

AMM Resolution #23-2013

Topic: Driveway Access on Provincial Trunk Highways and Roads

Sponsor(s): RM of Gimli (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS in rural Manitoba there are many properties that are suitable for development of rural residential housing;

AND WHEREAS many of these properties are located along provincial trunk highways and provincial roads;

AND WHEREAS the current policies of the Province of Manitoba limit the number of driveway

accesses allowed along the provincial trunk highways and provincial roads which, in turn, restricts the development of much needed rural residential development in Manitoba;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to review and revise the current policies for driveway access along provincial trunk highways and provincial roads to allow for ongoing development of rural residential housing in Manitoba.

AMM Resolution #18-2012

Topic: Water Level Information

Sponsor(s): Town of Gretna (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has made improvements to the flood information available on their website;

AND WHEREAS the Souris River, Red River and Assiniboine River have created expensive water and flooding issues within Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS there is room for more improvements on the water level portion of the Province of Manitoba website;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide water level information in a more timely manner in times of high water and potential flooding years.

AMM Resolution #30-2012

Topic: Merging Lanes

Sponsor(s): RM of Morris (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is responsible for the provincial trunk highways and provincial highways;

AND WHEREAS municipalities must apply to the Province if and when they want to install an access driveway to their property, or create a new adjoining roadway;

AND WHEREAS the Province will often take such an opportunity to force municipalities to create merging lanes, thereby forcing municipalities to incur major additional costs;

AND WHEREAS the Province has numerous present roadway intersections that are much busier that do not have merging lanes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend the practice of forcing municipalities to pay for merging lanes when they are required and that those costs be borne by the Province.

AMM Resolution #51-2012 *Standing Policy

Topic: Maintenance of Right-of-Way on Provincial Drains

Sponsor(s): RM of Rosser (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS provincial drains are composed of a right-of-way, which includes a constructed drain with riparian area;

AND WHEREAS activities destructive to the right-of-way of the constructed drain, create impediments to proper drainage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to enforce the maintenance of the undeveloped right-of-way as a riparian area in conjunction with ongoing maintenance of provincial drains.

AMM Resolution #19-2011

Topic: Permanent Flood Solutions

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Andrews (Interlake District), RM of Westbourne (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure, Public Safety Canada

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has suffered considerable flood damage;

AND WHEREAS several communities throughout the Province have experienced frequent high water events;

AND WHEREAS the intervals of the flooding events are accelerated and becoming the new norm;

AND WHEREAS municipalities and residents of Manitoba are experiencing large financial burdens, using large amounts of resources and putting lives at risk;

AND WHEREAS there is precedent for such a program including the Canada-Manitoba Flood Protection Agreement of 1997 which upgraded flood protection infrastructure in the Red River Valley;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to implement a flood protection program across Manitoba to minimize potential damages from future flood events and to implement permanent flood solutions which would include such measures as dyking, removal of affected homes, raising of property levels and shoreline protection.

AMM Resolution #30-2011

Topic: Bridge Funding

Sponsor(s): RM of Rosser (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS due to the deterioration of bridges over provincial waterways, the Province of Manitoba is required to proceed with bridge closures until repairs or replacements can be completed, often taking several years;

AND WHEREAS the closure is disruptive to community life, local traffic, businesses and farming operations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to allocate funding to repair or replace bridges prior to the permanent or temporary closure.

AMM Resolution #33-2011

Topic: Funding for Airports with Paved Runways

Sponsor(s): Town of Morden (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the amount of funding provided by the Province of Manitoba to airports with paved runways is \$2,400 and has been this amount for many, many years;

AND WHEREAS many of the paved runways in Manitoba provide critical services such as a landing place for air ambulance aircraft;

AND WHEREAS the cost to operate and maintain paved runways has increased substantially over these same years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to significantly increase funding to airports with paved runways.

AMM Resolution #35-2011

Topic: Rural and Northern Greyhound Canada Service

Sponsor(s): Town of Leaf Rapids (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS in September 2009, Greyhound Canada announced it would cease passenger service in Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS since January 2010, Manitoba has been investing in maintaining the service while a long-term solution is developed;

AND WHEREAS on March 31, 2011, the Province of Manitoba announced Greyhound Canada would get \$3.9 million to continue their service until March 31, 2012;

AND WHEREAS this affordable service is important to all Manitobans by providing an essential delivery service to government, business, and the public, particularly in rural and northern Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS in some rural and northern Manitoba communities Greyhound Canada is the only mode of public transportation for travel to urban centres for medical, recreational and personal appointments;

AND WHEREAS in some communities Greyhound Canada is the only affordable freighting service available;

AND WHEREAS Greyhound Canada is the only delivery service for medical supplies and prescriptions into some rural and northern Manitoba communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to secure intercity bus service to rural and northern Manitoba without interruption.

AMM Resolution #26-2010

Topic: Strategy to Address Municipal Infrastructure Deficit

Sponsor(s): RM of Rhineland (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure, Manitoba Finance, Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the national municipal infrastructure deficit totals more than \$123 billion;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba municipal infrastructure deficit totals more than \$11 billion;

AND WHEREAS this deficit only includes the upgrades and retrofitting of existing municipal infrastructure with no new construction;

AND WHEREAS the Province has been increasing the regulatory requirements on municipal infrastructure such as water, wastewater and solid waste disposal to a point where many projects are unaffordable without provincial funding;

AND WHEREAS the Province does not have a strategy to address this growing infrastructure deficit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Province of Manitoba to work with municipalities to start developing a strategy which will address the current municipal infrastructure deficit;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide stable long term funding commitments which will allow municipalities to better plan for future infrastructure projects.

AMM Resolution #30-2009

Topic: Flood Protection Expenses

Sponsor(s): City of Portage la Prairie (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS members of Parliament and members of the Manitoba Legislature have immunity from the process of liability as a result of any debate or discussion which occurs while they are in session;

AND WHEREAS municipally elected members do not have this same level of immunity and as such are on occasion subject to the legal process for resolution;

AND WHEREAS this process of litigious defense against trivial claims can be lengthy involving a great deal of time for staff and members of council, as well as extensive cost for municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to amend The Municipal Act to grant the same immunity as currently accorded to members of Parliament and the Manitoba Legislature.

AMM Resolution #32-2008

Topic: Rail Lines

Sponsor(s): RM of Roblin (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure, Transport Canada

WHEREAS rail line abandonment impacts Manitoba's road network by moving traffic from rail lines to roads;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to become more actively involved in maintaining rail line transport of goods and services throughout Canada and Manitoba, in an attempt to reduce the impact of transfer traffic on Manitoba's road network.

AMM Resolution #37-2008

Topic: Increase Operating Grants for Small Rural Airports

Sponsor(s): RM of Bifrost (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba provides annual operating grants to small rural airports in the amount of \$1,200 for airports with unpaved runways and \$2,400 for airports with paved runways;

AND WHEREAS costs to operate these airports continue to rise;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial grants have not increased in many years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase operating grants for small rural airports.

AMM Resolution #23-2007

Topic: Assistance for Damages Caused by Provincial Weight Restrictions

Sponsor(s): RM of Taché (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

WHEREAS weight restrictions placed on Provincial roads redirect traffic onto municipal roads causing substantial damages;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for assistance with rebuilding municipal roads damaged as a result of traffic diverted from provincial roads because of Provincial weight restrictions.

AMM Resolution #11-2002

Topic: Funding of Airports

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Andrews (Interlake District)

Department: Transport Canada, Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the federal government has transferred ownership of 11 regional airports to municipalities;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada has established new regulations to enhance the safety and integrity of regional airports;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada no longer provides either ongoing training for existing regional airport employees, or training for new employees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Government of Canada to provide funding for airport facility equipment and maintenance, which is necessary to maintain existing and implement new federal standards and regulations.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Governments of Canada and Manitoba to provide funding and training programs for airport maintenance and staff, so that airports may comply with federal standards and regulations.