



ASSOCIATION OF  
**MANITOBA**  
MUNICIPALITIES

**Meeting with the Honourable Cameron Friesen  
Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living**

**2019**

**Introduction** ..... 1

**Priority Issues** ..... 2

    1) EMS Restructuring and Support for Rural Healthcare ..... 2

    2) Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention ..... 3

    3) Patient Transfers under The Mental Health Amendment Act ..... 5

    4) Community Capital Contributions for Health Facilities ..... 6

**Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions**..... 7

## Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Cameron Friesen and representatives of Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living.
- 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 Health, Seniors and Active Living portfolio.

## Priority Issues

### 1) EMS Restructuring and Support for Rural Healthcare

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to assist municipalities with addressing concerns related to EMS restructuring; and*
  - ❖ *Proactively consult with the AMM on changes to the provincial healthcare system that affect local communities.*
- As the provincial government moves forward with implementing changes to the healthcare system province-wide, it is essential that Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living proactively consult with municipalities regarding new initiatives.
  - Making significant changes to the system warrants clear communication and improved transparency for better coordinated healthcare.
  - In regards to EMS restructuring specifically, the AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to continue to assist municipalities with outstanding concerns to ensure a smooth transition process.
  - While the AMM appreciates Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living providing factsheets tailored to municipalities regarding some of the changes following requests from the AMM, it would be more beneficial if these resources were developed and distributed to municipal offices to coincide with official announcements.
  - The AMM also urges the department to immediately review any cases of increased emergency response times, particularly in rural areas, that may result from regional consolidation or other changes to the provincial healthcare system.

## 2) Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Implement a comprehensive provincial strategy to recruit and retain physicians throughout Manitoba;*
- ❖ *Provide an update on the physician recruitment pilot projects in Melita and Shoal Lake; and*
- ❖ *Review and harmonize Manitoba's physician licensing requirements with other provincial jurisdictions to increase the number of physicians in rural Manitoba.*

- A comprehensive provincial strategy to recruit and retain physicians throughout Manitoba is urgently needed.
- Currently, more than 90 per cent of Manitoba municipalities are reporting doctor shortages while nearly 95 per cent are allocating financial resources to recruit and retain health practitioners in local communities.
- On annual basis, local communities are spending more than \$1 million on recruitment and retention efforts even though more doctors are graduating in Canada than ever before.
- Meanwhile, Manitoba consistently has one of the lowest physician-to-population ratios when compared to other provinces and territories.
- The AMM welcomes the provincial government's commitment to establish a Physician Recruitment and Retention program for local communities throughout Manitoba.
- In addition, the AMM appreciates serving on the Rural Physician Recruitment Advisory Committee and expects concrete recommendations to be expeditiously acted upon by the provincial government.
- Two physician recruitment pilot projects in Melita and Shoal Lake were announced over two years ago, yet they have not been formally launched.

- Lastly, the AMM believes the Province of Manitoba should take immediate steps to review and harmonize Manitoba's physician licensing requirements with other jurisdictions across Canada to improve Manitoba's competitiveness.

### 3) Patient Transfers under The Mental Health Amendment Act

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Expedite the development of the training program and guidelines for ‘qualified persons’ in consultation with the AMM.***

- According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, 20 per cent of Canadians will personally experience a mental illness in their lifetime.
- Given the complex links between mental health and the criminal justice system, police responses to mental health issues continue to be a topic of significant discussion both within Manitoba and across Canada.
- As *The Mental Health Amendment Act* enables a ‘qualified person’ other than a police officer to assume custody of and supervise an individual who's awaiting a mental health assessment, these changes should significantly reduce policing costs and help ensure police service coverage in local communities.
- The AMM urges Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living to expedite the development of the training program and guidelines for ‘qualified persons’ in consultation with our organization.
- The AMM also appreciates ongoing updates from Manitoba Justice to the Provincial-Municipal Justice Advisory Committee (PMJAC) on this issue.

#### 4) Community Capital Contributions for Health Facilities

The AMM recommends the government:

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

- Municipalities continue to struggle to provide funding to health capital projects whose design and costs are determined by the Province of Manitoba.
- This policy requires communities to fund at least 10 per cent of all local health capital projects while municipalities are typically expected to contribute funding even though health care is a provincial responsibility.
- The AMM appreciates provincial flexibility towards communities who must fulfill this requirement and encourages the Province of Manitoba to reduce the required contribution to a fixed five per cent of the project's cost, regardless of the payment schedule.
- In addition, the AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to look at alternative ways to build new health facilities by working with not-for-profit community groups and providing support through leasing agreements.
- This type of approach would not require a large upfront investment from the Province of Manitoba while at the same time create flexibility for the future.



## Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

### **AMM Resolution #31-2018**

#### **Topic: Priority Snow Clearance**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

WHEREAS Manitoba is a rich and diverse province of people representing all segments of society; and

WHEREAS some of these people require the services and support of friends, family, and home care to maintain their independence, health, and well-being; and

WHEREAS adverse winter weather, driving conditions, and impassable roads may impede the provision of services and support to these individuals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) to provide municipalities, upon request, the legal addresses of high-priority clients so municipalities may provide priority snow clearance for these residents.

### **AMM Resolution #35-2018 \*Standing Policy**

#### **Topic: Rural Health Care**

Sponsor(s): Village of St-Pierre-Jolys (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

WHEREAS Manitoba municipalities have been advised that Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living is proposing to make changes to rural health care in our province; and

WHEREAS 41% of Manitoba's population resides outside of Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS hospital closures will force rural residents to seek health services farther away which could not only compromise chances of survival, but would take services further away from where people live and have support; and

WHEREAS larger facilities who already experience emergency wait times of up to 5 hours would see an increase in wait times due to the increased volume of patients; and

WHEREAS closures of most rural hospitals could be detrimental to the growth or survival of many communities, taking away a valuable quality of life service and removing quality jobs for our youth; and

WHEREAS rural communities are not all the same, resulting in the need for different models of care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to work with municipalities and local communities towards innovative solutions for the delivery of sustainable rural health care.

**AMM Resolution #17-2017**

**Topic: Emergency Services Assistance in Municipalities**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living; Manitoba Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the RM of St. Andrews Emergency Services staff regularly perform duties to assist other Emergency Responders such as Manitoba Hydro Safe Watch and the transportation of residents for ambulance services; and

WHEREAS these services utilize municipal fire fighters resulting in long periods of time of non-availability and financial burdens; and

WHEREAS other programs such as MPI have a funding model to compensate for such services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to establish a cost-recovery model to allow these services to be identified, adequately staffed and funded.

**AMM Resolution #26-2017**

**Topic: Healthcare Services**

Sponsor(s): Prairie View Municipality (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

WHEREAS Prairie Mountain Health Authority has notified the Prairie View Municipality that ambulance stations will be staffed on a regional basis and operated on a rotational basis within the communities of Hamiota, Shoal Lake and Birtle, partly as a result of emergency staff shortages in the region; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has announced financial cutbacks which will result in the Health Authorities removing primary care services from various rural communities, which will negatively impact healthcare provided in rural communities, and will cause many residents of rural communities to relocate or travel to larger centers or out of Manitoba for more timely medical services; and

WHEREAS the distance and wait time for emergency ambulance services has drastically increased, putting residents' lives in jeopardy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to review the impacts of financial cutbacks to health services, the drastic impact of a regional ambulance service on the rural population, and the effects of continually losing healthcare services in rural communities.

**AMM Resolution #27-2017**

**Topic: Paramedic Association of Manitoba (PAM) Self-Regulation**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

WHEREAS the Paramedic Association of Manitoba (PAM) applied to the government for self-regulation in 2012; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is reopening discussions on the possible information of a College of Paramedics; and

WHEREAS PAM has not sufficiently consulted with practitioners from rural municipalities or urban communities and other parties with a vested interest who may be affected by self-regulation; and

WHEREAS PAM has not sufficiently informed practitioners from rural municipalities or urban communities about the potential impact self-regulation may have on rural municipalities or urban communities who currently have or who are considering Medical First Response (MFR) service models; and

WHEREAS PAM has not sufficiently proved that self-regulation is in the public's best interest; and

WHEREAS licensed personnel of any department currently providing emergency medical care at the Emergency Medical Responder or Paramedic Level will be required to become members of the proposed College; and

WHEREAS the annual license fee payable to each member may be at least \$500 and would be borne by the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS these costs and new regulatory standards may be prohibitive for many rural municipalities and urban communities, rendering them unable to provide MFR services for their communities and greatly lengthening the time their citizens will wait for responders to arrive at medical emergencies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to include representatives from rural municipalities, urban communities and other parties with a vested interest in consultations with PAM regarding its application for self-regulation.

**AMM Resolution #42-2016**

**Topic: Health Cards**

Sponsor(s): City of Dauphin (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

WHEREAS for years the Province of Manitoba has directed new residents to the local municipal office to obtain information and apply for a Manitoba Health Card; and

WHEREAS the provision of health care services falls within the provincial mandate; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living recently revamped its website to include a new electronic Manitoba Health Card Registration Form;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to revise its policies and/or practices by removing all references to local municipal offices providing assistance or being involved in the Manitoba Health Card registration process.

**AMM Resolution #13-2015**

**Topic: Trans Canada Trail Funding**

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Harrison Park (Midwestern District), Municipality of Roblin (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living; Environment and Climate Change Canada

WHEREAS the Trans Canada Trail Network runs through the province of Manitoba providing recreational benefits to all citizens;

AND WHEREAS Trails Manitoba is the parent body for the 22 Trail Groups in the province who are the keepers of Trans Canada Trail;

AND WHEREAS these individual Trail Groups in Manitoba must receive their financial assistance for trail maintenance through grants from Trails Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no annual funding from the Province of Manitoba for the maintenance requirements in the annual Trails Manitoba budget leaving a crippling shortfall;

AND WHEREAS municipalities that house the Trans Canada Trail Groups are often called upon to bear the financial burden of ongoing trail maintenance and projects;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to allocate funding to Trails Manitoba in order to meet the demands of maintenance on the Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba.

**AMM Resolution #19-2015**

**Topic: Medical Inter-Facility Transportation**

Sponsor(s): LGD of Pinawa (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

WHEREAS approximately 90% of ambulance transports are for non-emergency inter-facility transports;

AND WHEREAS this significantly impacts the availability of ambulances for emergencies;

AND WHEREAS there are other jurisdictions where a significant number of non-emergency inter-facility transports are managed by private organizations;

AND WHEREAS an alternative method of inter-facility transportation would free up ambulances and EMS staff for emergencies plus increase capacity for proactive in-home visits (Community Paramedics) by EMS personnel with higher risk patients, and in particular, the elderly, which has been proven to be highly effective in other jurisdictions in Canada;

AND WHEREAS EMS staff could also have capacity for assisting in rural Emergency Room care;

AND WHEREAS this scenario would improve the quality of health care in rural areas, reduce the number of 911 calls, and likely reduce the cost of providing rural health care;

AND WHEREAS the member municipalities of the Eastern Region Community Health Committee are prepared to participate in a pilot project;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to facilitate a pilot project to establish the feasibility of privately managed medical inter-facility transportation.

**AMM Resolution #20-2015**

**Topic: Physician License Review**

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Roblin (Midwestern District), RM of Yellowhead (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

WHEREAS the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba's mandate is to protect the public as consumers of medical care and to promote the safe and ethical delivery of medical care by physicians in Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the College made changes to the International Medical Graduate (IMG) licensing procedure that has had a huge, negative impact on communities in Manitoba because regulations aren't as stringent in other provinces;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to review the licensure requirements for physicians;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to ensure Manitoba IMG license requirements are harmonized with other provinces.

**AMM Resolution #24-2013**

**Topic: Palliative Care Services**

Sponsor(s): Town of Russell (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

WHEREAS access and provision of health care services throughout the Province of Manitoba are important to all residents of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS all services from beginning of life to end of life are critical to a health care system that is compassionate and respectful;

AND WHEREAS the provision of palliative care is not always funded through Manitoba's Department of Health and is left to be organized and funded by local communities;

AND WHEREAS 'end of life' care should receive a greater level of support and recognition by Manitoba Health;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to change the current funding arrangements so that palliative care services are given greater priority and greater resources through regional health authorities.

**AMM Resolution #25-2013**

**Topic: Reduce Community Contribution Requirements**

Sponsor(s): LGD of Pinawa (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba (the Province) has a policy on community contributions to health capital (the Policy) projects whereby health capital projects will be cost shared between the Province and a community, the community paying at least 10 per cent and the Province paying the remainder of the costs associated with the health capital project;

AND WHEREAS the Policy states that the community contribution may be spread out in equivalent annual payments for a ten year period, resulting in a contribution of 20 per cent of the health capital projects;

AND WHEREAS the AMM presented Resolution 19/07 to Manitoba Health resolving that the Province of Manitoba remove the 10 per cent community contribution requirement;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba Health has not yet acted upon this Resolution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to reduce the community contribution requirement on any health care facilities to a fixed 5 per cent;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the community contributions be in the form of progress payments over the project construction period at the said fixed 5 per cent rate.

**AMM Resolution #20-2010**

**Topic: Amend *The Mental Health Act***

Sponsor(s): LGD of Pinawa (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living; Manitoba Justice

WHEREAS The Mental Health Act currently requires a peace officer to escort a patient and remain with the patient until seen by a qualified mental health worker;

AND WHEREAS this may take as long as 14 hours or longer before a qualified mental health worker is available to see the patient;

AND WHEREAS during that time, the RCMP members are not available to perform policing services in their region;

AND WHEREAS this is an inefficient use of RCMP members' time who are trained to provide policing services in their region;

AND WHEREAS this adds cost to policing services in the region;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend The Mental Health Act to facilitate the orderly and timely transfer of custody at the mental health facility to free up peace officer time, while at all times maintaining the patient's care as the highest priority.