



ASSOCIATION OF  
**MANITOBA**  
MUNICIPALITIES

**Meeting with the Honourable Blaine Pedersen  
Minister of Growth, Enterprise and Trade**

**2019**

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## Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Blaine Pedersen and representatives of Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade.
- 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 Growth, Enterprise and Trade portfolio.

## Priority Issues

### 1) Manitoba's Look North Initiative

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide timely support to the Arctic Gateway Group; and*
  - ❖ *Continue to consult with northern communities and the AMM on the implementation of the Look North initiative.*
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- The AMM welcomes the historic public-private partnership and transfer of ownership of the Hudson Bay Rail Company, Hudson Bay Port Company and Churchill Marine Tank Farm to the Arctic Gateway Group.
  - The AMM recommends the government provide timely support to the Arctic Gateway Group to ensure resources and logistical arrangements support the residents of the Town of Churchill and communities situated along the Hudson Bay rail line.
  - In addition, the AMM welcomes the launch of the Look North initiative and reiterates its call for the Province of Manitoba to implement a northern economic development strategy in consultation with local communities and northern stakeholders.
  - The potential of Manitoba's north is limitless, but it also requires sustained and innovative solutions to ensure communities are ready for investment and to capitalize on new opportunities.

## 2) Provincial Economic Development Strategy

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Consult with the AMM on the development of a provincial economic development strategy; and***
  - ❖ ***Fully implement all the recommendations of the Rural Economic Development Strategy report, including providing 'single-window' services to rural Manitoba.***
- The AMM has repeatedly urged the provincial government to proactively develop and implement a comprehensive, province-wide economic development strategy.
  - In January 2016, the Rural Economic Development Strategy's Steering Committee released a *Discussion Paper* reflecting wide-ranging consultations with individuals and organizations from across Manitoba with expertise in economic development, regional partnerships, rural policy and business.
  - The Steering Committee's final report has also been formally endorsed by the AMM, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, Community Futures Manitoba and the Economic Developers Association of Manitoba (EDAM).
  - The AMM strongly urges the Province of Manitoba to implement all the recommendations of the Rural Economic Development Strategy report, including providing 'single-window' services to rural Manitoba.
  - The cross-departmental web of programs and services is not only confusing to municipal officials and entrepreneurs, but also undermines economic growth and solutions to business problems.
  - Moreover, high-quality and accessible training with provincial accreditation for economic development practitioners is also high in demand and essential for fostering business growth and stimulating economic activity in rural Manitoba.
  - The AMM welcomes the launch of Manitoba's Economic Growth Action Plan and appreciates the opportunity to be one of four partner organizations in implementing this important initiative.

### 3) Cannabis Legalization and Regulation

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Ensure municipalities receive all tools and resources necessary to address increased municipal administration and policing costs; and***
  - ❖ ***Co-develop a fair revenue-sharing model that respects municipal authority.***
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) estimates municipal administration and local policing costs will total \$3-4.75 million per 500,000 residents as a result of legalization, which represents a range of approximately \$210-335 million per year in costs incurred by municipalities across Canada.
  - Meanwhile, a Probe Research poll suggests 59 per cent of Manitobans believe municipalities should get between one-half and all of the revenue from the sale of marijuana to offset services such as policing.
  - As costs must not be downloaded onto municipalities, the AMM supports the FCM's call for one-third (33%) of total annual excise tax revenue collected on cannabis sales be allocated to municipal governments to address municipal administration and policing costs.
  - The AMM also encourages the provincial and federal governments to explore additional funding mechanisms to support costs incurred by municipalities should excise tax revenues be insufficient.
  - It is imperative that municipalities be included as meaningful participants in revenue-sharing conversations while a revenue-sharing model must be co-developed that respects municipal authority.

#### 4) Essential Cell Service and Broadband Internet Connectivity

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Facilitate partnerships with cell carriers and Internet providers to explore options to expand cellular coverage and broadband Internet connectivity; and***
  - ❖ ***Work with municipalities to develop solutions to ensure public safety and protect local communities through reliable communications technology.***
- As Manitobans currently experience the second-slowest Internet speeds in Canada, the AMM welcomes the provincial government’s commitment to invest up to \$20 million to increase broadband Internet access in northern Manitoba.
  - The AMM also encourages the provincial government to appeal to the federal government to ensure local communities benefit from the new \$500 million broadband infrastructure investment since the digital divide between many Manitoba communities remains a major challenge.
  - Meanwhile, cellular network coverage remains sparse in many areas throughout Manitoba, which may harm public safety in times of emergency.
  - The AMM welcomes Bell MTS’s timely investments – for example, in southwestern Manitoba – since sustained network infrastructure upgrades are essential for improving public safety, increasing competitiveness of businesses, and maximizing job opportunities in local communities.
  - The AMM urges the Province to continue to pursue partnerships with municipalities and the private sector while considering ways to provide additional financial assistance for rural telecommunications infrastructure projects.
  - Partnerships with the private sector and increased provincial and federal investments in Manitoba’s digital economy that support network infrastructure will be key to future productivity growth and economic development.

## Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

### **AMM Resolution #30-2018**

#### **Topic: Fire Truck Replacement**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS current National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) standards recommend replacing a fire truck/tanker every 20 years; and

WHEREAS many fire trucks/tankers in smaller municipalities are being well maintained and have lower mileage due to a lesser volume of calls than those in larger municipalities; and

WHEREAS the age of a fire truck/tanker should not be a determining factor if it is being properly maintained and complying with safety and certification requirements; and

WHEREAS replacing or purchasing firefighting equipment in a smaller municipality can result in very significant costs, especially in times of increasing municipal responsibilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Government of Canada and Province of Manitoba and other appropriate agencies and authorities to make changes to the NFPA standards for fire trucker/tanker requirements in rural and small communities in Manitoba.

### **AMM Resolution #34-2018 \*Standing Policy**

#### **Topic: Mining Community Reserve Fund (MCRF)**

Sponsor(s): City of Thompson (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade; Manitoba Finance

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has established a Mining Community Reserve Fund (MCRF) under The Mining Tax Act (c. M195) in 1970; and

WHEREAS the mandate of the MCRF is to assist mining communities that are affected by partial or complete mine closures; and

WHEREAS The Mining Tax Act identifies that up to 6% of the mining tax revenues, paid exclusively by mining companies, is collected annually and transferred into the fund is not adequate or sustainable; and

WHEREAS provisions in The Mining Tax Act only addresses monies in excess of \$10,000,000 and does not identify how the balance of funds can be accessed by mining communities; and

WHEREAS mining communities are being negatively impacted by prolonged periods of low commodity prices and global market pressures and need meaningful access to the MCRF to mitigate the negative impacts on their communities which will benefit Manitoba as a whole; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba needs to amend The Mining Tax Act to adequately and proactively facilitate the access of necessary funding by mining communities in their time of need pursuant to the mandate of the MCRF;



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend The Mining Tax Act to:

- increase the percentage of mining tax that they allocate to the MCRF to ensure the fund remains sustainable and viable to support mining communities; and
- clarify the process for mining communities to access the MCRF below the \$10,000,000 value.

**AMM Resolution #35-2017**

**Topic: Strategy to Increase Physical and Electronic Connectivity**

Sponsor(s): City of Thompson (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade; Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is currently reviewing and establishing strategies to increase economic opportunities throughout the province; and

WHEREAS the AMM has passed resolutions in recent years regarding the need to increase electronic connectivity in all areas of the province; and

WHEREAS the provision of all-weather road access in all areas of the province is a basic need and the Province of Manitoba needs to live up to its socio-economic responsibility for all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS the provision of physical and electronic access are paramount to creating and enhancing economic development opportunities in the province; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba needs to develop a long-term strategy that will address these issues so that all Manitobans have the opportunity to grow the economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop a long-term strategy that increases physical and electronic connectivity to enable economic development opportunities in all areas of the province.

**AMM Resolution #50-2017**

**Topic: Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF)**

Sponsor(s): Town of Churchill (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS the Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF) has been in existence since 1972; and

WHEREAS the legislated mandate of CEDF is to encourage the economic development of northern Manitoba, indigenous people of Manitoba outside the City of Winnipeg and the fishing industry in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS over the 45 years that CEDF has been in existence it has helped entrepreneurs and small businesses create 7,277 jobs and substantial economic value to the Northern Economy; and

WHEREAS northern Manitoba has been facing unprecedented economic decline due to large resource-based industries scaling back operations; and

WHEREAS the provincial government has recently introduced the Look North Strategy in part to address economic decline; and

WHEREAS the recently released Look North Action Plan's approach states there is a clear need to develop enterprise culture and to help business start-ups and small and medium enterprises to succeed in local communities; and

WHEREAS the provincial government imposed a loan moratorium on CEDF in March 2017 pending an economic development alignment study; and

WHEREAS this loan moratorium is having a negative effect on the creation of businesses within communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to immediately remove the loan moratorium on CEDF and allow small to medium size enterprises to establish and grow.

**AMM Resolution #37-2016**

**Topic: Mines and Minerals Applications**

Sponsor(s): RM of Woodlands (Interlake District), RM of Lac du Bonnet (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba issues quarry permits and quarry leases for mines and minerals; and

WHEREAS their process involves a circulation procedure for referral from other provincial departments but doesn't include Community Regional Planning or the affected municipality; and

WHEREAS per section 13 of *The Planning Act* states municipalities are "responsible for the adoption, administration and enforcement of the development plan by-law, zoning by-law and all other by-laws respecting land use and development for the municipality"; and

WHEREAS under *The Mines and Minerals Act* the current procedure for obtaining approval for mining and quarry operations on Crown Land does not allow for consultations with encompassing municipalities prior to authorization and permitting; and

WHEREAS a municipality has no method of opportunity to address potential conflicting land use until after the provincial licensing; and

WHEREAS mitigating issues prior to provincial licensing would benefit all stakeholders and reduce potential land use conflicts by enabling a municipal consultation process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop a circulation policy that ensures mining and quarry applications are sent out for review and comments to the appropriate municipalities including adjacent municipalities prior to issuing approval; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to include municipalities in the circulation process when considering mines and minerals applications; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to attach municipal conditions to mines and minerals 'conditionally approved' applications.

**AMM Resolution #21-2015**

**Topic: Rural Fire Department Funding**

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Oakland-Wawanesa (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS small rural fire departments are faced with ever increasing costs in maintaining and operating firefighting equipment;

AND WHEREAS rules for fire equipment replacement fall under the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards as well as Work Place Health and Safety, often making the costs of equipment replacement prohibitive in small fire departments;

AND WHEREAS bunker gear according to the NFPA standard should be replaced every 10 years, major equipment is to be replaced or refurbished every 20 years, and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are to be replaced every 15 years;

AND WHEREAS the daily operating costs such as fuel, insurance, apparatus, hose, nozzles, clothes, and paying volunteers continue to increase;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for financial assistance for rural fire departments in the acquisition of major firefighting equipment to keep up to the standards that are set by NFPA and Workplace Health and Safety.

**AMM Resolution #22-2015**

**Topic: Reimbursement for Fire Services**

Sponsor(s): Town of Powerview-Pine Falls (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade; Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations; Manitoba Municipal Relations; Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

WHEREAS fire protection services to reduce the loss of life and property for ALL Manitobans is considered high priority;

AND WHEREAS for many Manitoba municipalities this includes their First Nation neighbours for which there is no legal agreement to provide firefighting services and compensation for same;

AND WHEREAS the onus currently falls to individual municipalities to acquire agreements with First Nation Communities for fire protection services provided and the process to obtain such agreements is cumbersome and difficult to ensure continuity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM and the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs, which can also include the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, lobby the Province of Manitoba and the federal government to implement a claim system matrix based on fixed rates, similar to the MPI claim matrix, wherein municipalities are able to receive reimbursement for fire services rendered to First Nation Communities.

**AMM Resolution #38-2015**

**Topic: Improve Cellular Reception Services \*Standing Policy**

Sponsor(s): RM of Taché (Eastern District), Rossburn Municipality (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade; Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

WHEREAS cellular phone service has become an essential service to the general population and is extremely important in emergency situations;

AND WHEREAS cellular reception in rural areas has often been reported to be erratic and inadequate;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have communicated this concern to major service providers on numerous opportunities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to improve cellular service across Manitoba.

**AMM Resolution #21-2014**

**Topic: Cellular Service Considered an Essential Service**

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

Department(s): \*CRTC; Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has deemed various telecommunications means as essential services;

AND WHEREAS more and more people are relying on alternative communication methods as basic communication means and often cell phones replace conventional land lines for voice communication;

AND WHEREAS society has determined that cell service is essential for emergencies, economic development and overall public benefit;

AND WHEREAS the CRTC has the ability to deem which telecommunication services are essential and mandate that service providers establish a network system that benefits all Canadians;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby CRTC to deem cellular service as an essential service for all Canadians and begin the implementation process of providing cellular coverage for all Canadians.

**AMM Resolution #25-2014**

**Topic: Use of the Mining Community Reserve Fund (MCRF)**

Sponsor(s): Town of Snow Lake (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS as of December 31, 2012, the Province has spent over \$100 million on the Orphaned/Abandoned Mine Site Rehabilitation Program (OAM) administered by Manitoba Mineral Resources and those monies came from the Mining Community Reserve Fund (MCRF);

AND WHEREAS people are exposed to higher metals content in the environment in mining communities that used mine waste for municipal fill;

AND WHEREAS municipal officials and the media have raised concerns suggesting that mine waste and tailings were used as base and fill in the development of community infrastructure like waste and water pipes, roads,

hospitals and schools and housing and that they may be a human health risk and cause accelerated deterioration of infrastructure;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to:

- Immediately mandate and increase to the transfer of mining taxes to the Mining Community Reserve Fund (MCRF) from 6% to 10%;
- Ensure all monies over the \$10 million reserve are directed to affected municipalities;
- Implement the 2003 Manitoba Mining Task Force recommendation that the MCRF be more proactively used to stimulate economic and community development, and that the MCRF allow the fund to be used for infrastructure investments in mineral resource communities;
- Ensure that all funds placed in the MCRF remain in that fund and are not transferred to cover other general expenditures.

**AMM Resolution #31-2013**

**Topic: Second Generation Northern Development Strategy**

Sponsor(s): City of Thompson (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade; Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations; Manitoba Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is in the process of creating a second generation Northern Development Strategy;

AND WHEREAS municipalities were not involved in the creation of the initial Northern Development Strategy;

AND WHEREAS a consensus was reached that northern Manitoba communities should be involved in the creation of the second generation Northern Development Strategy;

AND WHEREAS decisions concerning economic development made in one region of the province have financial, environmental and economic impacts on the entire province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to ensure that northern Manitoba communities are included in the creation of the second generation Northern Development Strategy.

**AMM Resolution #00-2012**

**Topic: Improve Emergency and Cellular Service**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade; Manitoba Telecom Services

WHEREAS cellular phone service has become an essential service to the general population and is extremely important in emergency situations;

AND WHEREAS the Southeastern part of Manitoba contains vast areas that completely lack service, or receive such weak, intermittent service that one cannot make a phone call;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba uses and promotes the MTS FleetNet network as the emergency communication system for fire, police, etc;

AND WHEREAS the R.M. of Stuartburn suffered a devastating wildfire on October 2 and the FleetNet system was not working for any emergency personnel;

AND WHEREAS cellular service was adequate right in the Village of Vita during the emergency, it was time consuming to use, and not available in all locations that emergency crews attended;

AND WHEREAS a snow storm occurred on October 4 that cause most the Southeastern corner of Manitoba to lose electricity as well as land line phone service, thereby effectively leaving most homes with no way to communicate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Telecom Services to take immediate steps to provide Manitoba with reliable emergency (FleetNet) service and new improved cellular service.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide alternate incentives to Manitobans to convert existing coal systems to alternate energy sources.

**AMM Resolution #48-2012**

**Topic: Funding Formula for Oil Related Revenue for Municipalities**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade; Manitoba Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba acquires a great deal of revenue from oil activity in some municipalities;

AND WHEREAS some communities suffer infrastructure damage as a result of the volume of traffic associated with the oil industry;

AND WHEREAS substantial provincial revenue is derived from the oil industry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for a funding formula whereby a percentage of oil-related revenue be returned to the municipalities whose infrastructure is unduly taxed by traffic generated by the oil industry.

**AMM Resolution #50-2012 \*Standing Policy**

**Topic: High Speed Internet and Cell Service for Rural Manitoba**

Sponsor(s): RM of Lawrence (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade; Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

WHEREAS all major urban centres in the Province of Manitoba have had affordable high speed internet and cell service for the past decade;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada recently spoke on the importance of having the proper technology and having options available to rural residents and businesses for affordable technology such as high speed internet and cell service;

AND WHEREAS many rural areas have no access to affordable high speed internet and in many cases do not even have basic cell service;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada for affordable technology options for high speed internet and cell service in rural Manitoba.

**AMM Resolution #42-2010**

**Topic: Support for Resource Based Communities**

Sponsor(s): City of Thompson (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade; Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

WHEREAS Vale Canada announced on November 17, 2010 the decommissioning of the Thompson smelting and refining operations in 2015, with an anticipated job loss of 650 people;

AND WHEREAS resource based industry and employment contribute to the economic strength of the Province of Manitoba and Canada, and generate significant revenue on an annual basis;

AND WHEREAS the reduction of resource based industry and employment in rural and northern Manitoba will have a negative ripple effect and consequence for all communities in Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS multiple stakeholders have come together to seek solutions and meet with senior levels of government to address the situation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the provincial and federal governments to support and protect resource based industries and jobs in rural and northern Manitoba.

**AMM Resolution #34-2009**

**Topic: Increase Funding for Economic Development**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade; Manitoba Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the economic base is the determining factor in the viability of most municipalities;

AND WHEREAS promoting economic development and diversification in communities will lessen the strain of a boom and bust local economy;

AND WHEREAS municipalities need support from the Province of Manitoba to diversify local economies;

AND WHEREAS given current levels of funding to local regional economic development organizations are inadequate and barely cover annual operating costs for these organizations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to substantially increase funding levels to regional and municipal economic development organizations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT funds for economic development efforts should be directed to areas of greatest need as demonstrated by factors such as unemployment levels, social and other assistance program recipients, average income levels, age demographics of local workforces and population and other measures identified by AMM.