



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

**Meeting with the Honourable Reg Helwer
Minister of Central Services**

2020

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Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Reg Helwer and representatives of Manitoba Central Services.
- 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.
- The *Speech from the Throne* (November 2019) highlighted the provincial government's commitment to work closely with municipal partners to provide efficient, cost-effective local government, in response to the AMM calling for a 'Partners in Growth' Memorandum of Understanding during the provincial election campaign. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities through a balanced discussion of both revenues and expenditures.
- This document outlines the AMM's position and recommendations on a number of important municipal issues relevant to the Central Services portfolio.

Priority Issues

1) Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Ensure a 'fair share' of funding under the Green Infrastructure stream to municipalities in consultation with the AMM; and***
 - ❖ ***Continue to provide municipalities a 'fair say' to more effectively respond to local infrastructure priorities and support AMM input in the decision-making process for any application-based infrastructure funding.***
- While municipalities manage 60 per cent of Canada's public infrastructure yet collect less than 10 cents of every tax dollar, the Canadian municipal infrastructure deficit has been estimated at more than \$123 billion for required upgrades and maintenance of existing infrastructure and more than \$115 billion needed for new infrastructure.
 - Industries and people living and working in municipalities depend on access to reliable and well-designed infrastructure. The responsibility for local infrastructure that supports larger investments in the provincial and federal economy is falling primarily on municipalities and their ratepayers.
 - For instance, water and wastewater systems and landfills are reaching capacity in some areas and these, in their traditional form, have huge price tags attached to expand or build new infrastructure. The growing road and bridge infrastructure deficit are also a concern for all municipalities which translates into a heightened need for continued infrastructure investments from all orders of government.
 - The AMM is very pleased to be a member of the Manitoba Local Consultative Committee (MBLCC) which reviews ICIP project submissions and recommends local priorities to the Province of Manitoba for funding under the program.
 - It is essential that applications are approved quickly so municipalities can take full advantage of our short construction season while federal and provincial funding support is maximized at the local level to ensure growth continues across Manitoba.

Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution #07-2019

Topic: No Unilateral Downloading

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

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Municipal Relations; Manitoba Central Services

WHEREAS in 2018 AMM passed Resolution #25-2018 which resolved that Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) remove a clause from The Highways Act that permitted the unilateral offloading of provincial roads and highways to rural municipalities; and

WHEREAS the response to a similar resolution in 2018 resulted in an answer that suggested the present Act clause allowing unilateral downloading/closure was appropriate; and

WHEREAS in many cases the ongoing operation/repair by a RM of such a PR or PTH would not be possible without severe financial hardship for RM residents, or even bankrupting the affected municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba so that any/all downloading of responsibilities to municipal governments be accompanied by commensurate funding from present provincial revenue streams, that this funding never decrease, and that incremental contributions to this funding as directed by established asset management practices be tied to the annual Manitoba Construction Cost increase.

AMM Resolution #28-2015

Topic: Water and Wastewater Fund

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

Department(s): Infrastructure Canada; Manitoba Municipal Relations; Manitoba Central Services

WHEREAS the continuing legislative changes to waste water and water infrastructure have continued to place high burdens onto the rate payers of the municipality; and

WHEREAS there is no dedicated mechanism apart from burdening both the current and future rate payers by borrowing funds to undertake required infrastructure to meet ever changing legislative regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the provincial and federal governments to establish a water and wastewater fund that provides for an as-of-right 66% of the infrastructure costs for projects that are necessary because of legislative and regulatory requirements of the provincial and federal governments.

AMM Resolution #25-2011

Topic: Implement Infrastructure Funding Council Report

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

Department(s): Finance Canada; Manitoba Finance; Manitoba Municipal Relations; Manitoba Central Services

WHEREAS Manitoba has configured its funding formula for municipalities by combining a number of municipal support programs to create a municipal funding initiative equal to 1 percentage point of the existing provincial sales tax;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba municipal infrastructure deficit is a significant challenge faced by every municipal corporation in the Province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the Infrastructure Funding Council has released its final report regarding the development of an overall funding strategy to address the municipal infrastructure deficit;

AND WHEREAS the report makes a number of specific recommendations including the allocation of 1 percentage point of the existing provincial sales tax dedicated to municipal infrastructure improvements; a provincial sales tax rebate program for municipalities; and permanent and indexed transfers to municipalities of the Federal Gas Tax Fund;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to implement the recommendations of the Infrastructure Funding Council report.

AMM Resolution #26-2010

Topic: Strategy to Address Municipal Infrastructure Deficit

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

Department(s): Manitoba Finance; Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Municipal Relations; Manitoba Central Services

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 AMM 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.