

# ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POSITION PAPER

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SENIORS CARE | HEATHER STEFANSON |

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ASSOCIATION OF  
MANITOBA  
MUNICIPALITIES

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Heather Stefanson and representatives of Manitoba Health and Seniors Care.

The AMM encourages the Province 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 and Seniors Care portfolio.

## PRIORITY ITEMS:

**SHARED HEALTH  
PLAN FOR  
HEALTHCARE  
TRANSFORMATION**

**PARAMEDIC SELF  
REGULATION AND  
MEDICAL FIRST  
RESPONDER FEES**

**SENIORS HOUSING**

## **PARTNERS IN GROWTH**

**The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.**

## Priority Item #1

### Shared Health Plan for Healthcare Transformation

The AMM recommends the government:

- ✓ ***Consult with the AMM on the overall provincial plan for the transformation of the healthcare system; and***
- ✓ ***Implement a provincial strategy to recruit and retain physicians across Manitoba.***

- While the AMM understands the significant challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on the healthcare system, it is imperative that the Province consult with municipalities before any additional service disruptions are contemplated.
- As the Province continues to move forward with implementing changes to the healthcare system, including local insights and feedback will be vital to ensure the new system is reflective of municipal needs.
- Over the past couple years, the AMM has also repeatedly urged the Province to unveil its overall plan for the healthcare system, particularly the plan for rural healthcare facilities.
- Thus, the AMM would appreciate an update regarding the provincial plan for healthcare facilities under Manitoba's Clinical and Preventive Services Plan.
- Moreover, the pandemic has heightened the inherent need for greater access to physicians across the province.
- 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.
- When compared to other provinces and territories, Manitoba consistently has one of the lowest physician-to-population ratios. This is concerning given that municipalities spend over \$1-million annually on recruitment and retention efforts even though a high amount of doctors are graduating in Canada than ever before.
- The AMM urges the department to develop a comprehensive provincial strategy to recruit and retain physicians in Manitoba, especially as we look to recover from the pandemic.

## Priority Item #2

### Paramedic Self-Regulation and MFR Fees

The AMM recommends the government:

✓ ***Facilitate a webinar involving AMM members, Shared Health and College of Paramedics of Manitoba (CPMB) to clearly explain the fee structure to all stakeholders.***

- Several municipalities have raised concerns regarding the current fee structure and insurance requirements established by the College of Paramedics of Manitoba (CPMB), which came into force in December 2020.
- As Manitoba's paramedic fees are among the highest in Canada, it is essential that the department and CPMB provide timely resource materials to impacted municipalities to ensure understanding of the regulatory changes and a smooth transition process.
- In addition, the AMM appreciated receiving clarification from the Province of Manitoba confirming Medical First Responders (MFRs) are not scoped into the regulation.
- However, the AMM strongly encourages the Province of Manitoba to facilitate a webinar involving AMM members, Shared Health and CPMB to ensure all stakeholders involved have consistent and accurate information regarding the new fee structure as well as scope of regulation.
- It is vital that all stakeholders work together so that municipalities can continue to deliver essential services and protect local communities during and after this pandemic.

## Priority Item #3

### Seniors Housing

The AMM recommends the government:

- ✓ ***Work with municipalities and provide necessary long-term funding to enhance seniors housing options across Manitoba.***

- In 2016, the Progressive Conservative government promised to fast-track the construction of 1,200 personal care home beds over eight years during the campaign period.
- While we can understand the significant economic and healthcare challenges due to the pandemic, it is vital that the Province follow through with the commitment to increase care home beds, especially since COVID-19 has had a notable impact on the older population.
- Currently, there is a significant gap between housing options available and housing needs in Manitoba.
- There is an inherent need for assisted and supportive living opportunities as the number of seniors in Canada is expected to double over the next 25 years.
- As municipalities look to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be critical to explore supportive and affordable options to promote aging in place.
- The provision of assisted and supportive living opportunities, particularly in rural communities, is a vital component of healthcare for seniors since access to safe, affordable, and appropriate seniors housing helps build sustainable and vibrant communities.
- Therefore, we urge the provincial government to work with municipalities and provide long-term funding to enhance seniors housing options across Manitoba.

## Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

### AMM Resolution #18-2020

#### Topic: Seniors Housing

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

Department(s): Manitoba Health and Seniors Care

WHEREAS access and provision of health care services throughout the Province of Manitoba are a primary responsibility of the provincial government; 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 assisted and supportive living opportunities, particularly in rural communities, is a vital component of health care provision for seniors; and

WHEREAS assisted and supportive living opportunities in rural communities are also key components of sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS demand for assisted and support living opportunities is increasing and require 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 assisted and supportive living opportunities are given greater priority and greater resources through regional health authorities.

### AMM Resolution #19-2020

#### Topic: E-Health

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Russell-Binscarth (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Health and Seniors Care

WHEREAS people are assuming more responsibility in being their own advocate ensuring their personal health history as well as vaccinations are kept up to date; and

WHEREAS other provinces have moved towards individuals being able to access their own E-Health Records – Medicare info is available to them online at all times;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to expedite the implementation of a similar program available to Manitoba Residents allowing them equal opportunity there by potentially reducing the strain on out physicians and healthcare facilities.

### AMM Resolution #18-2019

#### Topic: The Mental Health Act

Sponsor(s): City of Winkler (Central District), Town of Altona (Central District), Municipality of Pembina (Central District), Municipality of Lorne (Central District), Municipality of Louise (Central District), RM of East St. Paul (Eastern District)

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

WHEREAS under Section 15(1) of The Mental Health Act a peace officer who takes a person into custody for an involuntary medical examination under Section 11 or 12 or an involuntary psychiatric assessment under Section 9 shall remain with the person and retain custody of them, or arrange for another peace officer to do so, until the examination or assessment is completed or the person is admitted to the facility; and

WHEREAS The Mental Health Act is amended under The Mental Health Amendment Act in: Sub-Section 15(1) by adding "or a qualified person" after "for another peace officer"; after Sub-Section 15(3) by adding: Sub-Section 15(4) in this section, "qualified person" means a person who holds a position specified in the regulations or who has received training specified in the regulations; and

WHEREAS peace officers are taken away from regular duty for extended periods of time, leaving their municipalities exposed to greater risk and public safety issues when they are not available; and

WHEREAS in addition to public safety issues, significant overtime costs are incurred by municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to expedite the implementation of "qualified persons" at healthcare facilities and provide a safe and secure area at a healthcare facility for persons in custody while awaiting examination and/or assessment.

#### **AMM Resolution #19-2019**

##### **Topic: Methamphetamine Issues**

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

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

WHEREAS methamphetamine (meth) is an illicit drug that is highly addictive, becoming more widely available, and is inexpensive to purchase; and

WHEREAS the effects of the use of meth are destructive to individuals and families, can result in violence, and are life altering; and

WHEREAS there are insufficient resources for education regarding meth, insufficient supports for those addicted and their families, and insufficient resources to enforce laws regarding the crimes related to meth; and

WHEREAS many of the effects of meth use present indirect and direct costs to municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide sufficient funding to educate the population regarding the hazards of the use of methamphetamines in hopes to prevent its use, provide sufficient funding for readily available and comprehensive rehabilitation programs for those addicted, and sufficient funding for law enforcement associated with the crimes related to the distribution of meth.

#### **AMM Resolution #33-2019**

##### **Topic: Priority Infrastructure Upgrades**

Sponsor(s): Town of Carberry (Western District), Municipality of North Cypress-Langford (Western District), RM of Whitehead (Western District)

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

WHEREAS there have been a streamlining of ER and hospital services that have resulted in communities sharing on-call services between them; and

WHEREAS this may result in a delay of ambulance services being offered to local residents on a timely basis due to the distance between communities that share these services; and

WHEREAS the infrastructure between these communities may pose an undue risk of further injury or delay to First Responders and patients during transport if not kept up to date;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba so that communities that share Emergency Room services be placed in a priority position to receive infrastructure upgrades to the main roadways between them to further enhance the safety and effectiveness of First Responders so they can safely and effectively do their jobs on route to the appropriate facility.

**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; Manitoba Municipal Relations

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.



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