



# ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POLICY BRIEF – MARCH 10, 2022

| Minister of Mental Health and Community Wellness |  
| Sarah Guillemard |

*The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Sarah Guillemard and representatives of Manitoba Mental Health and Community Wellness. 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 Mental Health and Community Wellness portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.*

## TOP POLICY IMPLICATIONS



- Given the increasing prevalence of methamphetamines, illicit drug use presents an urgent and growing threat to local communities and public health throughout Manitoba.
- The pandemic has significantly impacted individuals living with mental illness and addictions, which has increased the need for addiction supports and resources overall.
- Moreover, the effects of COVID-19 restrictions and isolation requirements has increased mental health calls to local police and fire departments, redirecting resources that would otherwise be used to respond to criminal calls.
- Currently, there are insufficient resources to educate Manitobans about methamphetamines as well as unsatisfactory support for those addicted and their families.
- *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, which helps reduce policing costs and ensure police service coverage in local communities.
- While the AMM welcomes the Manitoba government investing more than \$450,000 to expand the HealthIM risk assessment tool to RCMP detachments across Manitoba, we continue to urge the Province to expedite the development of the training program and guidelines for 'qualified persons.'

## MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

1. **COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES**
2. **PATIENT TRANSFERS UNDER MHA**

*As community safety and crime prevention are among the top priorities of Manitoba municipalities, it is vital that the Province provide sufficient funding for readily available and comprehensive rehabilitation programs and resources for those addicted.*

## **The AMM recommends the government:**

- ❖ *Ensure municipalities receive all necessary tools, resources and sufficient funding to help mitigate illicit drug use within local communities; and*
- ❖ *Expand the newly-created MHA transfer hub system to other parts of Manitoba.*

**ACTIVE AMM MENTAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS RESOLUTIONS**

**AMM Resolution #18 – 2019: The Mental Health Act**

**AMM Resolution #19 – 2019: Methamphetamine Issues**