



ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POLICY BRIEF – June 7, 2022

MINISTER OF HEALTH | AUDREY GORDON |

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Audrey Gordon and representatives of Manitoba Health. 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 portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.

TOP POLICY IMPLICATIONS



- For more than two years, municipalities have been ringing the alarm on the risks to public safety and impacts on emergency response created by the framework established by the College of Paramedics of Manitoba, which went into effect on Dec. 1, 2020.
- CPMB's framework negatively impacts volunteerism in municipalities by charging the highest college registration fees in Canada and nearly tripling training from 120 to 310 hours.
- The AMM has repeatedly urged the Province to unveil its overall plan for the healthcare system, particularly for rural healthcare facilities.
- The pandemic has heightened the need for greater access to physicians across the province, especially in rural areas that often suffer from slower emergency response times and staff shortages.

MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

1. PARAMEDIC SELF REGULATION
2. SHARED HEALTH PLAN FOR HEALTHCARE TRANSFORMATION

AMM continues to disagree that full-time professionals and volunteer responders should be treated in the same manner. Staffing and emergency response times are being jeopardized in the midst of a global pandemic, especially in rural areas.

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Work collaboratively with CPMB and AMM to help mitigate financial & administrative burdens so that municipalities can continue to deliver essential services and protect local communities;*
- ❖ *Unveil Shared Health's plan for transforming rural healthcare under Manitoba's Clinical Preventive Services Plan in consultation with the AMM and municipalities; and*
- ❖ *Expedite a comprehensive strategy to recruit and retain physicians throughout Manitoba.*

ACTIVE AMM HEALTH RESOLUTIONS

AMM Resolution #15-2021: CPMB Fees

WHEREAS the College of Paramedics of Manitoba (CPMB) has been newly established as a means of self regulation to serve and protect the public interest, having received approval by the Lieutenant Governor in Council in 2020; and

WHEREAS the CPMB requires of its members to have professional liability insurance in the amount of 5 million dollars to protect the public interest, regardless of whether paramedic care is received as part of services provided for by a regional health authority, contracted agency, service license holder, private company or volunteer role; and

WHEREAS the CPMB also requires of all paramedic professionals including all licensed technicians practicing in Manitoba, to pay a significant annual registration fee in addition to holding a certificate of professional liability insurance in the amount of 5 million dollars; and

WHEREAS CPMB will not recognize municipal liability insurance extended to employees as the requirements for professional liability insurance and requires that registration fees and other payments be submitted directly from licensed individuals rather than from municipalities; and

WHEREAS the CPMB requirement that all Medical First Responders (MFR) be registered with the College has significant cost implications for municipalities, who augment their emergency response services with volunteer MFR services through their volunteer fire departments; and

WHEREAS the requirement for licensed individuals to submit membership fees rather than from their respective municipality will create additional administrative cost and complexity to reimburse each individual volunteer MFR;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and the College of Paramedics of Manitoba to establish a secondary membership classification system for voluntary Medical First Responders with a corresponding membership fee that recognizes that this category of paramedic as a voluntary or 'part-time' group; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and the CPMB to accept the AMM Municipal Insurance program and its liability coverages as sufficient coverages for the voluntary Medical First Responders; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the CPMB to amend their invoicing practice to allow municipalities to pay memberships on behalf of their Medical First Responders; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and the CPMB to maintain training requirements for MFRs at 120 hours.

AMM Resolution #16-2021: Dedicated Stretcher Service

WHEREAS since 2017 the Manitoba government has moved ahead with a large-scale transformation of the province's emergency medical services (EMS) system; and

WHEREAS the changes were intended to improve ambulance response times in rural Manitoba; and

WHEREAS municipalities have reported no improvement in ambulance response times; and

WHEREAS a common practice in rural health care facilities involved the use of ambulances for non-urgent inter-facility transfers, taking away essential resources from its intended purpose, negatively impacting ambulance response times;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to implement a dedicated stretcher service for non-urgent inter-facility transfers in rural Manitoba in an effort to improve ambulance response times.

AMM Resolution #17-2021: Medical Staff Retention

WHEREAS rural areas are affected by medical staffing shortages in order to keep their hospitals and Emergency Rooms open; and

WHEREAS the pandemic has put an even bigger strain on medical professionals requiring them to work longer hours in high-risk conditions due to staffing shortages; and

WHEREAS not all medical professionals qualified for any COVID-19 financial incentives; and

WHEREAS many of the rural areas are seeing more and more medical professionals leave for bigger cities citing salary brackets and taxes being a major factor causing rural areas to temporarily and sometimes permanently close their facilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the provincial and federal governments to enhance retention by offering better incentives to medical professionals to work and stay in rural areas (e.g., tax incentives such as tax free with condition medical professional to stay in rural areas for X number of years).

AMM Resolution #18-2020: Seniors Housing

AMM Resolution #19-2020: E-Health

AMM Resolution #18-2019: The Mental Health Act

AMM Resolution #19-2019: Methamphetamine Issues

AMM Resolution #33-2019: Priority Infrastructure Upgrades

AMM Resolution #35-2018: Rural Health Care - SP

AMM Resolution #17-2017: Emergency Services Assistance in Municipalities

AMM Resolution #26-2017: Healthcare Services

AMM Resolution #25-2013: Reduce Community Contribution Requirements