



# ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POLICY BRIEF – SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

| MINISTER OF SPORT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE |

| ANDREW SMITH |

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Andrew Smith and representatives of Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage. 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 Sport, Culture and Heritage portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.



## TOP POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Given the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become clear that local libraries are critical for fostering community relations and partnerships throughout local communities.
- The AMM thanks the Province for announcing over \$750,000 of new funding to support rural public libraries and library services.
- However, since 2004, the provincial contribution to the Rural Library Operating program has remained flat at a maximum of \$8.50 per capita.
- The 18-year stagnation in program funding causes local libraries to address financial shortfalls through increased municipal contributions to avoid further cuts to critical library programs.
- Moreover, as amounts under the Community Museum Grants Program have remained stagnant for 30 years, the AMM welcomes the new eight-year Community Museum Project Support program to fund museum activities.
- The AMM also welcomes ongoing investments under the Heritage Trust Program in support of small and medium-sized museums.

## MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

1. LIBRARY FUNDING
2. FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY MUSEUMS

*Coupled with COVID-19 and impacts of public health restrictions, municipalities are facing increased fiscal pressures. Therefore, we strongly encourage the Province to immediately increase provincial funding to ensure libraries and community museums can keep their doors open as municipalities look to recover from the pandemic.*

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

- ❖ ***Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities on the provincial plan to sustain local libraries as centers and hubs; and***
- ❖ ***Continue to work with community museums and local heritage foundations to ensure the Heritage Trust Program benefits local communities.***

**ACTIVE AMM SPORT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE RESOLUTIONS**

**AMM Resolution #24-2020: The Heritage Resources Act**

**AMM Resolution #41-2018: Funding for Community Museums – SP**

**AMM Resolution #47-2016: Library Funding - SP**

**AMM Resolution #15-2011: Increase Per Capita Base Rate for Library Funding**