

ANNUAL REPORT

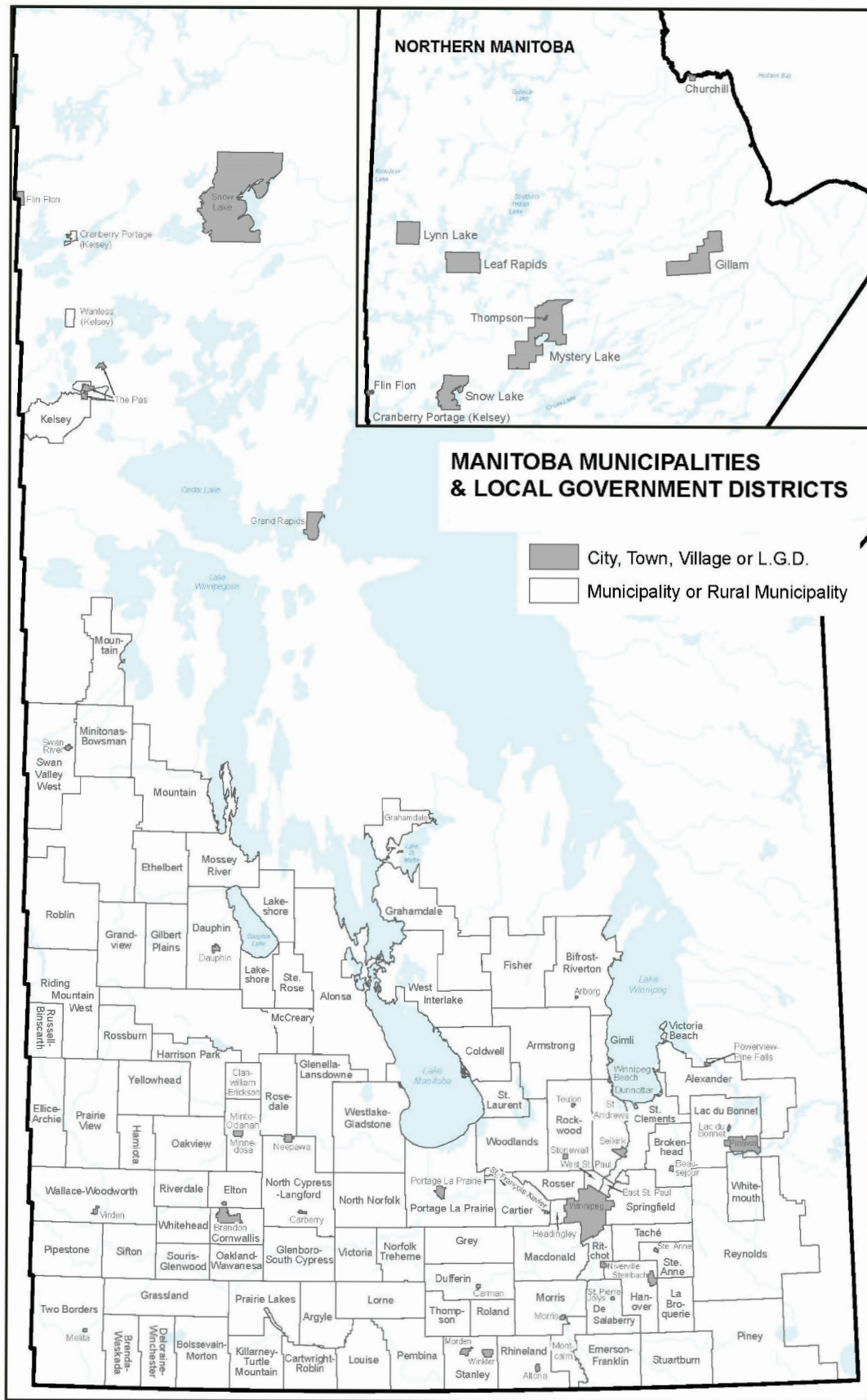
ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES



*Let's Grow Manitoba
Together!*

20
23

WORKING TO ACHIEVE STRONG
AND EFFECTIVE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT



*Let's Grow Manitoba
Together!*

20
23

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



“WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT THAT OUR COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY EFFORTS HAVE LED TO POSITIVE OUTCOMES THAT BENEFIT ALL AMM MEMBERS.”

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), it is my pleasure to present the 2023 Annual Report. It's worth highlighting that this year marks a record number of policy successes in the history of AMM – with 21 municipal policy commitments! We are proud to report that our collective advocacy efforts have led to positive outcomes that benefit all AMM members. I trust that as you read the contents of this Annual Report, you will experience a sense of satisfaction in the achievements we have showcased.

In my message, I am delighted to address some of the most remarkable policy successes we have witnessed in the history of AMM. Some of the advocacy wins that I am proud of and that you will see throughout the Annual Report are related to having all municipal funding baskets increased. Back in August, the Honourable Andrew Smith, Minister of Municipal Relations, announced that the Manitoba government is investing **\$84 million** to deliver funding to support infrastructure projects in municipalities outside Winnipeg, **\$47 million** municipal operating basket increase and **\$23.4 million** for the strategic infrastructure basket, and **\$44.5 million** for the new Municipal Economic Development Infrastructure program, to name a few.

These announcements represent a noteworthy continuation of the positive provincial-municipal commitments we have seen over the past year. We wish to commend the Manitoba government for partnering with municipalities to support local communities and fostering economic growth across Manitoba. We appreciate the Province of Manitoba listening to concerns raised by our organization and municipalities about the importance of investing in critical infrastructure, public safety, and

municipal priorities overall to help advance economic growth and build stronger communities.

Most of the 2022-23 year focused on preparing for the October 3rd provincial election. Back in the Spring, the AMM launched the *Let's Grow Manitoba Together* campaign, which pressed all provincial parties for funding fairness, investments in core infrastructure, better harnessing of skilled workers, particularly in health care, and action to address rising crime rates. Throughout the summer, we kept this momentum by conducting surveys, initiating mini social media campaigns, and broadcasting advertisements on radio and in newspapers. We made sure our message reached every corner of Manitoba.

We take immense pride in the success of our *Let's Grow Manitoba Together* campaign. We saw a resounding response from all major parties, each pledging to address the four pillars of our campaign. This accomplishment underscores the power of our collective voice and advocacy efforts. It demonstrates that by uniting and articulating our concerns, we can effect positive change and influence decision-makers to work towards a better Manitoba for everyone.

Finally, having just finished the 2023 provincial election, I would like to take a moment to extend our warmest congratulations to the Manitoba NDP on their electoral victory. We eagerly anticipate working collaboratively with the new provincial government to foster growth and build stronger communities across Manitoba. We also want to recognize and express our appreciation for the hard work of the PC government over the last seven years for their contributions to our great province.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“OUR DEDICATED STAFF PUT IN TREMENDOUS EFFORT TO REVITALIZE OUR MEMBERSHIP EVENTS, MAKING THEM MORE ENGAGING AND EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR FEEDBACK TO BOLSTER OUR UNIFIED VOICE.”

Our membership events continued to enjoy excellent attendance this year. Our Annual Fall Convention, Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings, June District Meetings, and Annual Spring Convention brought us together, offering opportunities for growth, networking, and, of course, advocating.

Among the many memorable moments of this year, our meetings have consistently stood out. However, this year was particularly exceptional. Our dedicated staff put in tremendous effort to revitalize our membership events, making them more engaging and emphasizing the importance of your feedback to bolster our unified voice. Moving forward, we are committed to implementing strategies that will continue to enhance the overall quality of our events.

Both our events and our group insurance play a crucial role in the overall functioning of the AMM, as this program provides municipalities with complete insurance protection and premiums significantly lower in comparison to if individual municipalities were to purchase their own coverage.

Since 2009, the Program has returned over **\$19.75 million** in premium returns to municipalities

directly in the form of returns of premium! These extra funds empower you to meet local needs by giving your councils the authority to allocate funding toward various projects that impact your communities in a positive and meaningful way.

The strength of the program is in large part due to its flexibility and the choices available to municipalities. We can, once again, confidently say our members are receiving the best coverage and value for their money, making our insurance program the best-in-class.

The AMM not only provides an extensive insurance program but also offers comprehensive employee benefits packages and HR services. Furthermore, in light of the escalating frequency and complexity of cyber-attacks, cybersecurity has gained paramount importance.

Ensuring the confidentiality of your data is of utmost significance. I'm delighted to inform you that the AMM has collaborated with Bloom Software Company to secure discounted pricing for optional cybersecurity service reviews on behalf of municipalities. I encourage you to explore our website for detailed information about the array of programs that the AMM has available.

“I'M DELIGHTED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE AMM HAS COLLABORATED WITH BLOOM SOFTWARE COMPANY TO SECURE DISCOUNTED PRICING FOR OPTIONAL CYBERSECURITY SERVICE REVIEWS ON BEHALF OF MUNICIPALITIES.”



President
Reeve Kam Blight
RM of Portage la Prairie



Vice-President
Reeve Brad Saluk
RM of Brokenhead



Vice-President
Councillor Kathy Valentino
City of Thompson



Central Director
Councillor Nancy Penner
City of Morden



Central Director
Reeve Christa Vann Mitchell
RM of Cartier



Eastern Director
Reeve Loren Schinkel
RM of Lac du Bonnet



Eastern Director
Mayor Ray Schirle
Town of Beausejour



Interlake Director
Councillor Kelly Cook
City of Selkirk



Interlake Director
Mayor Sandra Smith
Town of Stonewall



Midwestern Director
Mayor Mervin Starzyk
RM of Yellowhead



Midwestern Director
Reeve Ian Drul
Municipality
of Harrison Park



Northern Director
Mayor Andre Murphy
Town of The Pas



Northern Director
Councillor Louis Fitzpatrick
City of Thompson



Parkland Director
Reeve James Manchur
Gilbert Plains Municipality



Parkland Director
Mayor Lance Jacobson
Town of Swan River



Western Director
Councillor Rhonda Coupland
Municipality of Boissevain-Morton



Western Director
Councillor Scott Phillips
RM of Sifton



Winnipeg Director
Councillor Jeff Browaty
City of Winnipeg



President Duane Nicol
Manitoba Municipal
Administrators



Denys Volkov
Executive Director



Linda Hargest
Director of Administration &
Marketing



Nick Krawetz
Director of Policy &
Communications



Patti De Baets
Finance Coordinator



Stefanie Vieira
Senior Policy Analyst



Donna Belbin
Events Coordinator



Nanette Eserio
Administrative Assistant



Ainsley Murdock
Client Relations Manager
Canoe Procurement
Group of Canada

Alexander, RM	Headingley, RM	Rockwood, RM
Alonsa, RM	Kelsey, RM	Roland, RM
Altona, Town	Killarney-Turtle Mountain, Municipality	Rosedale, RM
Arborg, Town	La Broquerie, RM	Rosburn Municipality
Argyle, RM	Lac du Bonnet, RM	Rosser, RM
Armstrong, RM	Lac du Bonnet, Town	Russell-Binscarth, Municipality
Beausejour, Town	Lakeshore, RM	Selkirk, City
Bifrost-Riverton, Municipality	Leaf Rapids, Town	Sifton, RM
Boissevain-Morton, Municipality	Lorne, Municipality	Snow Lake, Town
Brandon, City	Louise, Municipality	Souris-Glenwood, Municipality
Brenda-Waskada, Municipality	Lynn Lake, Town	Springfield, RM
Brokenhead, RM	Macdonald, RM	St. Andrews, RM
Carberry, Town	McCreary, Municipality	St. Clements, RM
Carman, Town	Melita, Town	St. François Xavier, RM
Cartier, RM	Minitonas-Bowsman, Municipality	St. Laurent, RM
Cartwright-Roblin Municipality	Minnedosa, Town	Stanley, RM
Churchill, Town	Minto-Odanah, RM	Ste. Anne, RM
Clanwilliam-Erickson, Municipality	Montcalm, RM	Ste. Anne, Town
Coldwell, RM	Morden, City	Ste. Rose, Municipality
Cornwallis, RM	Morris, RM	Steinbach, City
Dauphin, City	Morris, Town	Stonewall, Town
Dauphin, RM	Mossey River Municipality	St-Pierre-Jolys, Village
De Salaberry, RM	Mountain, RM	Stuartburn, RM
Deloraine-Winchester, Municipality	Mystery Lake, LGD	Swan River, Town
Dufferin, RM	Neepawa, Town	Swan Valley West, Municipality
Dunnottar, Village	Niverville, Town	Taché, RM
East St. Paul, RM	Norfolk Treherne, Municipality	Teulon, Town
Ellice-Archie, RM	North Cypress-Langford, Municipality	The Pas, Town
Elton, RM	North Norfolk, Municipality	Thompson, City
Emerson-Franklin, Municipality	Oakland-Wawanesa, Municipality	Thompson, RM
Ethelbert, Municipality	Oakview, RM	Two Borders, Municipality
Fisher, RM	Pembina, Municipality	Victoria Beach, RM
Flin Flon, City	Pinawa, LGD	Victoria, RM
Gilbert Plains Municipality	Piney, RM	Virden, Town
Gillam, Town	Pipestone, RM	Wallace-Woodworth, RM
Gimli, RM	Portage la Prairie, City	West Interlake, RM
Glenboro-South Cypress, Municipality	Portage la Prairie, RM	West St. Paul, RM
Glenella-Lansdowne, Municipality	Powerview-Pine Falls, Town	WestLake-Gladstone, Municipality
Grahamdale, RM	Prairie Lakes, RM	Whitehead, RM
Grand Rapids, Town	Prairie View Municipality	Whitemouth, RM
Grandview Municipality	Reynolds, RM	Winkler, City
Grassland, Municipality	Rhineland, Municipality	Winnipeg Beach, Town
Grey, RM	Riding Mountain West, RM	Woodlands, RM
Hamiota Municipality	Ritchot, RM	Yellowhead, RM
Hanover, RM	Riverdale Municipality	
Harrison Park, Municipality	Roblin, Municipality	

MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL MINISTERS

2023



January 24: Infrastructure and Transportation Meeting with Minister Doyle Piwniuk



February 21: Finance Meeting with Minister Cliff Cullen (Pre-Budget Consultation)



January 24: Health Meeting with Minister Audrey Gordon



March 1: Justice Meeting with Minister Kelvin Goertzen



February 2: Municipal Relations Meeting with Minister Andrew Smith



March 23: Public Safety Meeting with Federal Minister Marco Mendicino



February 15: Public Safety Meeting with Federal Minister Marco Mendicino



April 11: Environment and Climate Meeting with Minister Kevin Klein



February 21: Municipal Relations Meeting with Minister Andrew Smith



May 18: Prairies Economic Development Canada Meeting with Federal Minister Dan Vandal

*The AMM meets regularly throughout the year with the Minister of Municipal Relations.



POLICY SUCCESSES

Let's Grow Manitoba Together

As highlighted in President Blight's message, most of our efforts throughout the 2022-23 year were dedicated to preparations for the October 3rd provincial election. The AMM officially launched the **Let's Grow Manitoba Together** campaign on May 5, 2023.

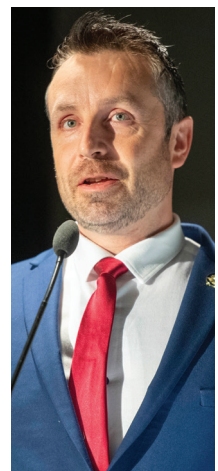
Under AMM's *Let's Grow Manitoba Together* campaign, Manitoba's elected municipal officials and administrators pressed all provincial parties for funding fairness, investments in core infrastructure, better harnessing of skilled workers, particularly in healthcare, and action to address rising crime rates. To learn more, please visit www.amm.mb.ca/election-2023.

In advance of the campaign period, the AMM was proud to secure the first Provincial Leaders' Forum ahead of the 2023 election. **Progressive Conservative Leader Premier Heather Stefanson, NDP Leader Wab Kinew, and Liberal Leader Dougald Lamont** gathered on April 4, 2023, to debate municipal Manitoba's most pressing issues. All three leaders promised during the forum to increase funding to municipalities, and all three promised to work with municipalities to come up with a formula for annual increases that would take into account inflationary pressures.

Throughout the summer, the AMM engaged in a comprehensive outreach effort in Manitoba. This included conducting surveys, initiating mini social media campaigns, and broadcasting advertisements on radio and in newspapers across the province. We made sure our message reached every corner of Manitoba and introduced a series of YouTube videos featuring various municipal elected officials. These videos were shared on our social media platforms and can be found on our YouTube channel.

Further, on July 17, 2023, we issued a press release announcing the results of a recent survey conducted by Probe Research on behalf of the AMM. The survey revealed a growing concern regarding public safety and the reliability of mobile connectivity outside of urban areas. Full results from the poll can be found at www.amm.mb.ca/download/other_documents/amm-june-2023-omni-report.pdf.

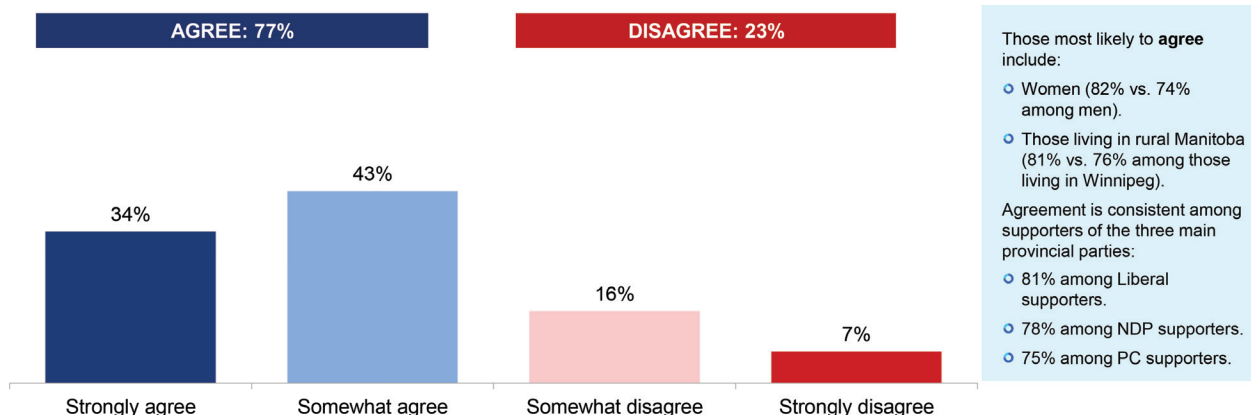
Finally, on September 20, 2023, the AMM provided a status update on how Manitoba's provincial parties fared in response to the policy priorities outlined by Manitoba's municipalities for the 2023 provincial election. This update was delivered during a media event held in the City of Brandon. Present at the event were **AMM President Kam Blight, Brandon Mayor Jeff Fawcett, Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham, and Portage la Prairie Mayor Sharilyn Knox**. They provided an overview of the



PROBE RESEARCH INC.

Support for Province Providing PST Rebate to Municipalities

Nearly eight in ten believe the province should provide PST collected back to municipalities



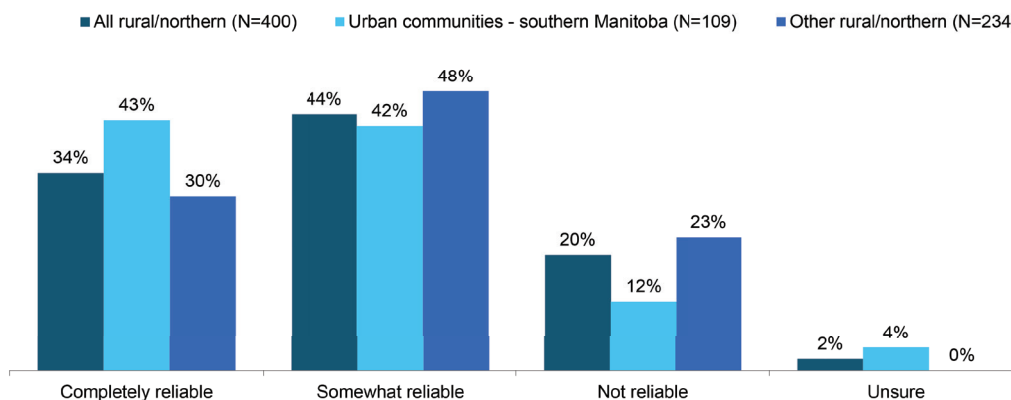
AMM1. The federal government provides a rebate to municipal governments on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) they pay for different items. Do you agree or disagree that the Manitoba government should provide a similar rebate to municipalities for the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) they pay?

Base: All respondents (N=1,000)

PROBE RESEARCH INC.

Reliability of Rural Cellphone Emergency Service

Only one-third of rural and northern Manitobans feel their cell service is completely reliable



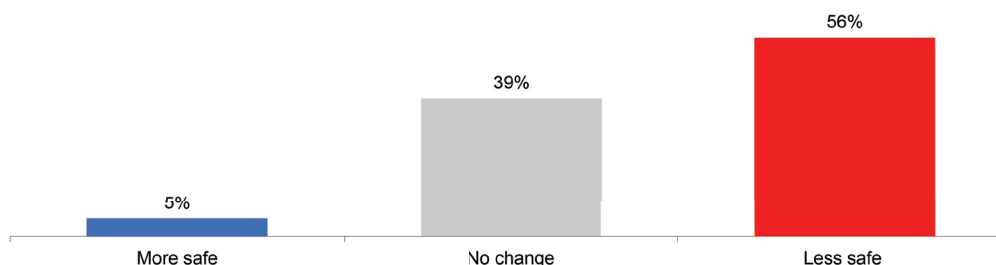
AMM3. How reliable do you feel your cellphone service would be in an emergency situation where you live?

Base: All respondents living outside of Winnipeg

PROBE RESEARCH INC.

Perceptions of Community Safety

More than one-half of Manitobans feel their community is less safe today



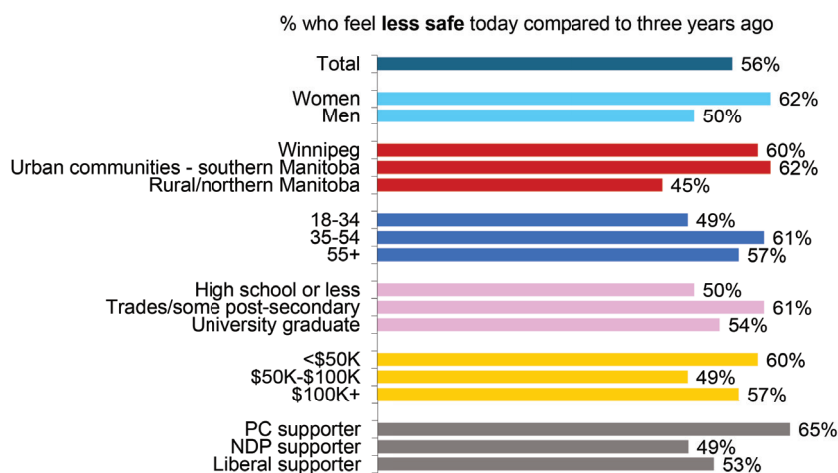
AMM2. Do you feel more safe or less safe in your community today than you did three years ago – or has there been no change?

Base: All respondents (N=1,000)

PROBE RESEARCH INC.

Perceptions of Community Safety: By Sub-Group

Women, Winnipeg residents feel less safe today compared to three years ago



AMM2. Do you feel more safe or less safe in your community today than you did three years ago – or has there been no change?

Base: All respondents (N=1,000)

Let's Grow Manitoba Together campaign and our four key policy focus areas. For a more comprehensive breakdown of these four priority areas, please refer to the information below.

The AMM takes great pride in the success achieved through our Let's Grow Manitoba Together campaign.

It's crucial to emphasize that our work doesn't conclude with the election results on October 3; in fact, it marks the beginning of a new phase. The AMM remains unwavering in its commitment to advocate for the interests and well-being of all Manitoba municipalities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continuous support, and together, we will

persist in our efforts to enhance the quality of life, work, and prosperity in Manitoba.

Manitoba Municipalities' Four Priorities for 2023

1. Fair and Predictable Municipal Funding

- Work with municipalities to establish a simplified, predictable funding model with an annual escalator;
- Rebate the PST paid by municipalities, similarly to the federal GST rebate; and
- Streamline existing tax tools and grant greater flexibility and financial autonomy to municipalities.

2. Invest in Core Infrastructure

- Increase Manitoba Water Services Board funding for water and wastewater infrastructure and commit to a permanent federal and provincial infrastructure fund;
- Amend Bill 37 to enshrine the primacy of elected municipal councils over the unelected Municipal Board;
- Improve coordination between economic development offices and agencies for efficiencies, synergies and responsiveness to municipal economic development needs; and
- Comprehensive rural broadband and cell service as essential infrastructure for economic growth, public safety, education, and health care.

3. Invest in People

- Accelerate a comprehensive provincial strategy to recruit healthcare professionals and paramedics throughout Manitoba;
- Implement recommendations from the Immigration Advisor Council to increase regional settlement incentives for foreign-trained doctors and other professionals;
- Implement training opportunities for licensed professionals closer to home and keep government services locally in our communities; and
- Care closer to home – a plan to keep paramedics, doctors, and other health professionals working in all our regions.

4. Public Safety

- Press the federal government for bail and conditional release reform to be tougher on repeat offenders while also prioritizing social spending on crime-reducing programs;
- Refuse downloading of policing reform costs (RCMP collective bargaining, body cameras, etc.);
- Expedite the provincial policing review to provide predictability on local police resourcing and flexibility to move some enforcement and social service functions from RCMP to other funded authorities (transit, mental health, etc.);
- Increase funding for policing to combat rising rates of crime and drug trafficking; and
- Expand municipal Community Safety and Well-Being plans.

ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES

AMM HELPS MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE.

AMM represents all of Manitoba's 137 incorporated municipalities, including the City of Winnipeg. We are independent and non-partisan, and our mission is to identify and address the needs and concerns of our members to achieve strong and effective municipal government – the order of government closest to the people and most responsive to their everyday lives.

AMM supports member municipalities by advocating on issues that affect local governance, promote strong and functional councils, and help municipalities serve Manitobans better.

AMM allows Manitoba's municipalities to speak with one strong and united voice.

MANITOBA'S MUNICIPALITIES HAVE 4 CRITICAL ASKS:



All Municipal Funding Baskets are Increasing: A Year of Advocacy Successes

Due to our advocacy efforts, Manitoba Premier Heather Stefanson and Municipal Relations Minister Andrew Smith announced that the Manitoba government is increasing the Municipal Operating basket from **\$170 million to \$217 million** (an increase of **\$47 million**) and a **\$23.4 million** increase to the Strategic Infrastructure Basket (from **\$137 million to \$160.4 million**) in 2023. As

inflation has significantly impacted municipal budgets and municipalities are not permitted to run deficits, we welcomed the Province of Manitoba for recognizing these challenges by ending the seven-year freeze on municipal operating funding – which was announced in late February.

The AMM has long called on the Province to work as *'Partners in Growth'* to ensure long-term stable and predictable funding, and thus, we applaud the Province for listening to the concerns raised by our organization and municipalities about the importance of investing in communities to help build a stronger Manitoba. We also thank the provincial government for providing certainty to municipalities by announcing the permanency of this additional funding in future years. Now that the funding freeze has been lifted, it is crucial to establish a funding model that adequately addresses the various needs and demands of *all* municipalities.

Moreover, we also commended the Manitoba government in July for announcing an additional **\$13.7 million in unconditional funding**, for a total of **\$55.8 million – representing a 28% increase** – to support increasing municipal policing costs due to both rising rates of crime and inflationary pressures. We know that policing and public safety is the fastest-growing cost for municipalities and now exceeds 20% of spending. We commend the Province for recognizing these challenges and for allocating additional funds that empower municipalities to adapt to the specific public safety challenges they face within their respective communities.

Further, on August 1, 2023, the Honourable Andrew Smith, Minister of Municipal Relations, announced that the Manitoba government is investing **\$84 million** to deliver funding to support infrastructure projects in municipalities outside of Winnipeg.

This investment includes one-time funding of up to **\$39.9 million** that will be distributed to all municipalities outside of Winnipeg on a per capita basis, as well as up to **\$44.5 million** of incremental funding to the Strategic Infrastructure basket which will be available to municipalities through the new Municipal Economic Development Infrastructure program in 2023-24.

All of these announcements demonstrate the Manitoba government's commitment to partnering with municipalities to support local communities and foster economic growth across Manitoba. This additional funding will not only have a significant impact but also help advance infrastructure projects that connect all of us as Manitobans.

\$24 Million for the Manitoba Water Services Board

We understand that critical water infrastructure is aging or at capacity and in urgent need of renewal. In fact, some municipalities have indicated their inability to meet the demands of their residents or expand water systems to accommodate community growth. Manitoba municipalities have identified **300+ projects** totalling **\$976 million** to upgrade or construct water and wastewater treatment facilities as well as sewer infrastructure across Manitoba.

Moreover, municipal construction costs have risen **20-47%** in the last three years, squeezing already stretched budgets. We know that demand far outpaces provincial and federal dollars available, which is why the AMM continues to call for increased funding for the Manitoba Water Services Board as well as a commitment to advocate for a permanent federal and provincial water and wastewater infrastructure fund. While we are pleased to see the Province of Manitoba increase funding to the Manitoba Water Services Board, it is vital that municipalities are financially supported to respond to residential growth and seize other economic growth opportunities. Investments in water and wastewater infrastructure are crucial to ensuring all Manitobans have access to modern, reliable systems.

Finally, we wish to thank the Province for investing up to **\$100 million** to support critical municipal water and wastewater projects in the new year. Further, we commended the Province for investing **\$15.3 million** to support critical municipal water and wastewater projects in three communities earlier this year. As municipalities look for solutions to mitigate future flooding and increase drought resilience, it is imperative that the Province continue to partner with municipalities and invest in infrastructure that connects all of us as Manitobans.

\$25 Million for the Building Sustainable Communities Program

As part of *Budget 2023: Historic Help for Manitobans*, the Manitoba government invested **\$25 million** in the Building Sustainable Communities (BSC) program to fund over

428 community development local projects that will support economic growth and recovery throughout the province.

In 2019, the BSC program introduced a single access point for community grants, and in 2021-22, it expanded to support larger capital projects, contributing up to 50% of eligible costs, with a cap of \$300,000. The AMM greatly appreciates the collaborative partnership between our organization and the Manitoba government in assessing municipal project applications under the BSC program. Municipalities have identified numerous projects and initiatives that benefit local communities and contribute towards building a stronger Manitoba. Thus, the AMM commends the Province **for maintaining** the Building Sustainable Communities program **for the last two years**.

Public Safety, Local Crime, and RCMP Unionization and Body-Worn Cameras

As part of our *Let's Grow Manitoba Together Campaign*, the AMM commissioned a poll by Probe Research this summer to better understand public safety challenges throughout local communities. The poll was conducted in the first two weeks of June as part of an omnibus, with a sample size of 1,000 Manitobans and a distribution of 60% in Winnipeg and 40% outside Winnipeg.

Based on the poll, only **5%** of Manitobans feel safer in their community than they did three years ago, while **56%** of Manitobans feel decidedly 'less safe' in their community. And that cuts across demographics – women as well as men, across education and income levels, and across political affiliations. Outside of Winnipeg, **only one-third (34%)** of rural and Northern Manitobans feel their cell service is completely reliable, with **nearly two-thirds (64%)** saying it is not reliable or only somewhat reliable. So, public safety and safe streets were unequivocally a top concern for Manitoba municipalities in our election campaign.

The AMM has long called on the Province to increase support to local community police forces to tackle escalating crime rates. The AMM continues to encourage Manitoba Justice to increase support to local community police forces to address increasing rates of rural crime as well as the violence and social implications related to the distribution and use of illicit drugs.

Finally, we also continue to refuse to download policing reform costs such as RCMP unionization and body-worn cameras. Municipalities need to be included in decision-making processes that directly affect our communities. Thus, we commend the Province of Manitoba for continuing to echo our call for action to absorb these costs at the national level. We applaud the Province for listening to the concerns raised by our organization and municipalities about the

importance of investing in public safety initiatives to help protect our communities and build a stronger Manitoba.

Legacy Drainage Licensing Project

As municipal frustrations with the provincial drainage licensing process are well-documented, reducing red tape for low-risk, low-impact drainage projects is long overdue. The AMM has long called on the Department of Environment and Climate to continue consulting with the AMM to streamline processes by reducing application fees for lower-risk licensable projects and routine cleanouts while expediting drainage approvals overall.

Thus, we are pleased to announce that the Manitoba government and AMM have worked together to help municipalities take a coordinated approach to bringing older, unlicensed drainage works into compliance and achieve the best value from the licensing system. On June 14, 2023, the Department of Environment and Climate sent out a cover letter along with explanatory materials to all municipalities regarding the new **Legacy Drainage Licensing Project**.

Due to our advocacy efforts, highlights of the program include a **singular \$500 application fee** for all drainage projects on one license. Municipalities will now be able to bundle contiguous and non-contiguous projects with supporting documentation. Once a license is issued, routine maintenance can be done in perpetuity without further authorization. The Department has committed to a six-week approval turnaround time for applications.

MTI Gravel Road Agreements

As a result of our advocacy efforts, Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure has increased funding for municipalities with Gravel Road Agreements by an additional 2% (from 1% to 3%) for the 2023-24 year. This increase builds upon a previous 3% increase from the prior year and considers the costs related to fuel and inflationary pressures.

If your municipality does not participate in these voluntary agreements but would like to learn more about the Gravel Road Agreements (GRA), please reach out to your assigned MTI Maintenance Superintendent for more information. Please note that participation in these agreements with Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure is completely voluntary and entirely at the individual municipality's discretion.

Enforcement of Weight Restrictions

As municipal roads connect local communities and support economic growth, the AMM understands the importance of the need to properly maintain and protect municipal infrastructure. In 2012, By-law Enforcement Officer Special Constable appointments were revoked

by Manitoba Justice due to the provincial review of *The Police Services Act*.

Since this time, the AMM has long called on the Province of Manitoba to work collaboratively with municipalities to allow local Councils the ability to enforce sections of *The Highway Traffic Act* to protect municipal roads from heavy trucks if they so choose. Through our collective efforts, the AMM, along with Manitoba Justice and Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure, established a working group focused on weight restriction enforcement. This group brainstormed strategies to assist municipalities in enforcing weight restriction by-laws on municipal roads to alleviate the burden of infrastructure costs at the municipal level. These endeavours led to the Province of Manitoba launching a pilot project with a select group of municipalities, providing them with the necessary training and resources to effectively enforce weight restrictions.

Further, on March 14, 2023, the Manitoba government introduced amendments to *Bill 34: The Police Services Act*, which will expand the authority of Community Safety Officers (CSOs) to better support municipalities. The amendments will now enable municipalities and provide an option to enforce road weight restrictions. Thus, the AMM wishes to thank the Manitoba government for listening to the concerns raised by our organization and municipalities. The AMM will continue to work closely with Manitoba Justice and Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure to ensure this program is reflective of municipal needs. We will also continue to lobby for additional enabling tools in the municipal enforcement toolbox that meet the needs of all 137 municipalities. Additionally, ensuring proper maintenance of roads remains a priority for the AMM, and we will continue to push for sufficient financial resources to sustain road infrastructure.

\$50 Million for Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund (ACSC) and \$750,000 for Rural Public Libraries and Library Services

On July 31, 2023, the Manitoba government announced an additional **\$50 million** in funding from the Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund to 545 community projects to increase access to high-quality arts, culture, and sports programming and facilities across Manitoba. For more information on the Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund and to see the full list of projects receiving support, visit www.manitoba.ca/acsc.

Moreover, local libraries are critical for fostering community relations and partnerships throughout local communities. The AMM has long called on the Province of Manitoba to increase provincial funding to libraries to ensure these facilities can keep their doors open in local communities. Therefore, we are pleased to see the Province of Manitoba announce over **\$750,000** of new funding to support rural public libraries and library services for the **third year in a row**.

AMM CITIES CAUCUS



Cities Caucus delegates inside the Keystone Centre in the City of Brandon.

The AMM Cities Caucus is made up of Manitoba's ten cities. Modelled after the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Big City Mayors' Caucus, the AMM Cities Caucus provides opportunities for representatives from each city in Manitoba to share ideas about tackling common concerns and key priorities to benefit all municipalities.

The Cities Caucus meets at least three times annually. During the 2022-23 meetings, discussions focused on helping to advance AMM's *Let's Grow Manitoba Together* campaign in advance of the October 3rd provincial election.

Discussions focused on fair and predictable municipal funding, infrastructure investment, and tackling local crime and healthcare issues. Additionally, discussions focused on funding shortfalls related to the growing water and wastewater infrastructure deficit, the need for expedited foreign credential recognition, municipal board costs due to the implications of *Bill 37: The Planning Amendment Act and the City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act*, and how stringent regulations regarding ice plant operators impacts communities.

The traditional fall meeting was hosted by the City of Brandon on September 20, 2023.

AMM Cities Caucus:

City of Brandon
City of Dauphin
City of Flin Flon

City of Morden
City of Portage la Prairie
City of Selkirk
City of Steinbach

City of Thompson
City of Winkler
City of Winnipeg

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

AMM WELCOMES 45% FIRST-TIME OFFICIALS, INCLUDING RECORD NUMBER OF WOMEN HEADS OF COUNCIL

October 27, 2022 – Municipal election results have been declared across Manitoba after more than 730,000 votes were cast. In total, 45% of officials are newly elected (down from 48% in 2018), while 22 female Heads of Council (up from 21 in 2018) were elected – a new Manitoba record.

1,380 candidates ran for municipal office (down from 1,535 in 2018), and 864 individuals were elected. The same proportion of women elected overall (20%) remained the same compared to 2018 as well as a larger proportion of candidates were also women (21% in 2022 versus 19% in 2018).

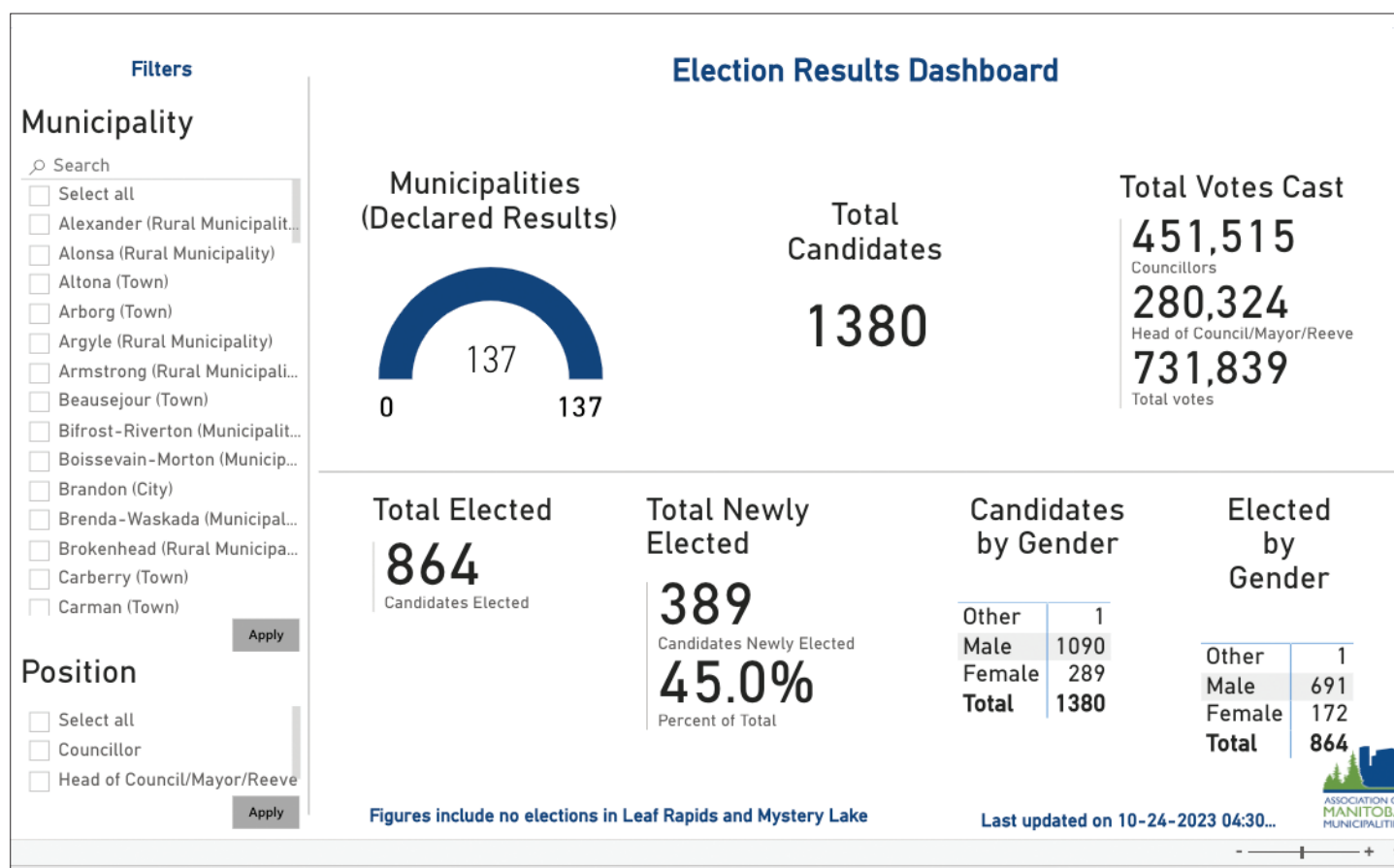
"The AMM commends all candidates and congratulates all newly-elected municipal officials and councils across the province," stated Kam Blight, AMM President. "Putting one's name forward and running a campaign is no easy task and a public service in itself. Our association thanks

all election officials, administrators, and volunteers who have supported the conduct of these elections."

Full unofficial voting results are available on the AMM's dedicated municipal elections website at www.mbvotes.ca. This interactive website includes several enhanced data reporting features while aggregated information is bilingual for the first time in Manitoba's history, thanks to French translation provided by the Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (AMBM).

"We look forward to welcoming all municipal elected officials to our Annual Fall Convention next month, which will be held in Winnipeg on November 21-23, 2022," added AMM Executive Director Denys Volkov.

For more information, please visit the Elections Results Dashboard at <https://mbvotes.ca/dashboard>.



2022 MEETING WITH THE PROVINCIAL CABINET

On November 22, 2022, the AMM Executive and Board of Directors met with the Provincial Cabinet during the 24th Annual Fall Convention.

President Kam Blight began the meeting by thanking all ministers for participating in the Ministerial Forum co-chaired by the **Honourable Eileen Clarke**, Manitoba's Minister of Municipal Relations. President Blight highlighted the highest number of policy successes in the history of AMM and thanked the provincial government for working with our organization and making several positive investments that benefit municipalities throughout 2021-2022.

President Blight commended the provincial government for several positive funding announcements that have impacted municipalities over the course of the ongoing pandemic and unprecedented inflation. These successes include **\$15 million** to support municipal infrastructure repairs. President Blight highlighted the substantial municipal infrastructure deficit, noting that this one-time grant will positively impact *all* municipalities across Manitoba. Additionally, President Blight thanked Minister Clarke and the **Honourable Jeff Wharton**, Minister of Environment, Climate and Parks, for additional funding for the Manitoba Water Services Board and **\$3 million** for the Watershed Districts program. As there is a huge demand for water and wastewater projects in Manitoba, these investments are certainly timely. Moreover, President Blight thanked Minister Wharton for passing amendments under *The Environment Act* to grant municipalities greater flexibility to use federally approved weed control products.

While we recognize the positive funding announcements over the past year, **Vice-President Chris Ewen** raised concerns with the seven-year operating funding freeze, particularly in that inflationary pressures and pandemic-related losses are severely and negatively impacting municipal budgets. Moreover, Vice-President Ewen stressed the funding freeze restricts the delivery of municipal services and hinders much-needed investments and economic development in local communities.

In response, Minister Clarke acknowledged that municipal operating funding discussions are underway and recognized the current marketplace pressures. Additionally, Minister Clarke discussed the provincial government's commitment to provide operating funding to municipalities 75% upfront in the summer with 25% in the fall for the third year in a row, as well as increased funding under Building Sustainable Communities (BSC), Green Teams program and the one-time **\$15 million** road repairs funding distributed earlier this year.

Next, as the Speech from the Throne highlighted public safety as a top priority, President Blight reiterated long-standing municipal concerns. We know that policing and public safety is the fastest-growing cost for municipalities and now exceeds 20% of spending. President Blight asked Minister Goertzen how the AMM and Province could work in partnership to address increasing rates of rural crime and mitigate the revolving door of criminals being released back into communities. In response, the **Honourable Kelvin Goertzen**, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, highlighted identical concerns and the government's commitment to help create safer communities. Minister Goertzen noted that discussions need to be had at the federal level to help make changes to the *Criminal Code*. In response, President Blight encouraged the department to work with the AMM to jointly advocate the federal government about public safety changes and initiatives to help create a safer Manitoba.

Next, as healthcare is top of mind for all, **Director Coupland** raised concerns regarding current physician shortages, slow response times, as well as hospital closures. As local communities are struggling to attract and retain health practitioners, Director Coupland asked for an update regarding the provincial plan to recruit and retain physicians throughout Manitoba. In response, the **Honourable Audrey Gordon**, Minister of Health, highlighted the recent **\$200 million** plan to add 2,000 staff to the province's healthcare system. Minister Gordon noted that the plan will focus on retaining, training, and recruiting healthcare staff across the province. Lastly, Minister Gordon encouraged the municipal-provincial relationship and the importance of sharing ideas and including local insights to ensure all jurisdictional needs are being met.

Moreover, **Vice-President Brad Saluk** raised concerns regarding federal funding programs as well as cost increases due to delays in announcing Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) projects. Vice-President Saluk noted that AMM members find it challenging to leverage federal dollars while also highlighting the significant demand for water and wastewater treatment facilities in Manitoba. Vice-President Saluk also urged the government to work in collaboration with our organization to ensure next-generation funding programs are responsive to the needs of municipal Manitoba. In response, the **Honourable Reg Helwer**, Minister of Labour, Consumer Protection and Government

Services, acknowledged the concerns and indicated discussions regarding federal funding programs are underway. Regarding water infrastructure funding, **Deputy Minister Bruce Gray** highlighted the increased funding to the Manitoba Water Services Board (**\$20 million** up from **\$15.8 million**) as well as the **\$50 million** investment under the Safe Restart Agreement (SRA).

In closing, President Blight and Minister Clarke expressed their joint desire to continue the open and productive relationship between the AMM and the Province of Manitoba. Both parties also reaffirmed their willingness to continue to partner to strengthen and grow local communities across the province.



Municipal visit to RM of West St. Paul.

Education Program

February 17 & 24, March 2 & 3, 2023

Elected Municipal Officials Education Sessions facilitated by Municipal Service Officers from Manitoba Municipal Relations.

April 4, 2023

Under the Umbrella: How to Weather a PR Storm facilitated by Nicole Harris, President and CEO, Solv Communications.

Setting the Direction – 2022 Annual Fall Convention

November 21-23, 2022

AMM welcomed new and returning elected officials to the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg for the 24th Annual Fall Convention.

- Doug Dobrowolski was presented with the Honourary Life Member Award.
- 784 Delegates registered.

Municipal Visits

The year following a municipal election, the AMM Executive and District Directors focus their visits to the municipalities with 50% to 80% newly elected officials on council. These visits allow councils to learn more about the AMM and the role members play in AMM's advocacy work, along with the AMM being able to learn firsthand about the issues these

communities are challenged with and succeeding at. All municipalities are visited once during a municipal election term, and in 2023, the AMM met with 33 municipalities.

Mayors Reeves & CAOs Meeting

April 4, 2023

Over 200 elected officials and senior administrators, representing 108 municipalities, participated in interactive roundtable sessions in addition to a Q&A with the Minister of Municipal Relations.

2023 Spring Convention

April 5 & 6, 2023

A mix of professional development and policy-based presentations made up the program, with the highlight being the first Provincial Leaders' Forum leading up to the 2023 provincial election.

- 527 registered delegates.
- *Getting to Know the Department of Municipal Relations:* Bruce Gray, Deputy Minister; Ryan Schenk, Fire Commissioner, Office of the Fire Commissioner; David Neufeld, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Planning; Don Hallett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Assessment and Advisory Services; and Nick Kulyk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Outcomes and Strategic Policy

- *Leadership Principles That Work*: Devon Clunis.
- *Manitoba's Health-Care Transformation Update*: Scott Sinclair, Deputy Health Minister, Province of Manitoba; Michele Lane, Provincial Transformation Leader, Health Transformation Management Office; Vikas Sethi, Provincial Lead Clinical Integration, Community and Continuing Care, and Lee Heinrichs, Provincial Lead Health Services Integration, Shared Health; Jane Curtis, CEO, Southern Health-Santé Sud; Marion Ellis, CEO, Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority; and Brian Schoonbaert, CEO, Prairie Mountain Health.
- *Access to Information and Citizen Engagement*: Jill Perron, Manitoba Ombudsman, and Robyn Osmond, Investigator/Intake.
- *Enhancing Communication Skills for Municipal Leaders and Staff*: Jennifer Gregorash, Director, Foundational HR Consulting, People First HR Services.
- *Introduction to The Public Utilities Board (PUB) and the Top Three Questions Municipal Councillors Should Ask*: Angela Wilde, Manager of Stakeholder Relations, and Jennifer Dubois, Assistant Associate Secretary, Manitoba Public Utilities Board.
- *Council's Role in Property Taxation*: Lloyd Funk, Director of Assessment, and Patty Freeman, Assessment Division, Assessment Services, Manitoba Municipal Relations.
- *Service Agreements, Capital Planning, and Programming*: Jeremy Harrison, Director of Preservation and Support Services, and Danielle Richey, Director of Capital Planning, Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI).
- *Conflict of Interest*: Mike McCandless, Principle, McCandless Tramley.
- *Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program and Immigration Advisory Council's Recommendations*: Vijay Sharma, Strategic Initiatives Officer, Immigration Pathways Division, and Natalia Hnydyuk, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Immigration Pathways Division, Department of Labour and Immigration.
- *Manitoba Justice: Community Safety and Well Being Plans, and Layered Public Safety*: Owen Fergusson, Executive Director, Policing Services and Public Safety, Karen Lambert, Director of Contract Policing-Policing Services and Public Safety, and Cassandra Dokken, Senior Program and Policy Analyst, Crime Prevention, Manitoba Justice.
- *Finding and Keeping a Good CAO*: Duane Nicol, MPA, BA (Hons), President, Manitoba Municipal Administrators (MMA).
- *A Place for Everyone: An Overview of the New Provincial Homelessness Strategy*: Carolyn Ryan, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Manitoba Housing.
- *Western Financial Group Insurance – Risk Management and Employee Benefits*: Rudy Penner, Director, Risk Management, and Jordan Lontajo, Employee Benefits Insurance Advisor, Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions.

Women in Municipal Government Lunch Event

April 5, 2023

This was AMM's second event for Women in Municipal Government, and this year's luncheon continued the discussion of personal experience, motivation, strategies to overcome barriers, and recognizing actionable ways to implement change.

2023 District Meetings

The AMM toured each of the seven districts to experience the hospitality of the hosting municipalities. In total, over 510 municipal officials, representing 120 municipalities, attended the meetings.

- June 14 – Midwestern District: Municipality of WestLake-Gladstone
- June 15 – Central District: City of Portage la Prairie and RM of Portage la Prairie
- June 16 – Eastern District: RM of Ste. Anne and Town of Ste. Anne
- June 19 – Interlake District: Town of Stonewall
- June 22 – Parkland District: Municipality of Roblin
- June 23 – Western District: RM of Sifton
- June 26 – Northern District: Town of The Pas



AMM Vice-President Kathy Valentino speaking at the Central June District Meeting.

CANOE – YOUR TRADING COMPANY



Your Trading Company works hard behind the scenes, providing procurement options to save our members both time and money for effective operations and due diligence. Our own home-grown Official Suppliers, Fort Distributors being our largest, have made this year another great success despite challenges. We have partnered with CANOE Procurement Group of Canada, which operates in all provinces (but one)

and territories. These suppliers offer thousands of products and services that municipalities use.

CANOE performs the tender process (RFP) on behalf of municipalities; this saves the municipalities valuable time and allows cost savings by participating in a national contract that provides pricing discounts that individual municipalities would not normally receive. In return, suppliers have direct contact with Manitoba's municipal market and can be a part of regular marketing opportunities through AMM events and communications. Our increase in sales numbers has offered us a significant increase in member

purchasing power, which gives our members increased savings in a variety of ways.

Another strength of the AMM is our dedicated programs to serve you in critical aspects of municipal life. Links for information on each program are on our website at www.amm.mb.ca/partner-programs.

Due to the great participation of our members, not to mention discount pricing, which offers significant savings to municipalities, through CANOE, we were able to rebate another **\$3 million** for 2022/2023 to our members based on their sales. This brings the cumulative rebate over the past 21 years to **\$17.85 million**.

WESTERN FINANCIAL GROUP



INSURANCE – Property/Casualty – 40+ Years of EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

AMM member municipalities outside Winnipeg participate in the AMM's property/casualty 'protected self-insurance' program, administered by Western Financial Group. This industry-leading program allows members to gain partial ownership of their program through a **\$9.625 million** annual self-insurance loss pool, used to pay out a portion of **property and equipment breakdown** claims, with a further **\$4 million Self-Insured**

Retention fund for Public Entity General Liability Losses. Insurance is then purchased from excess insurance providers for coverage in excess of the loss pool amount to provide municipalities with complete insurance protection. This keeps member premiums much lower than if individual municipalities purchased their own individual coverage and provides the opportunity for significant refunds in low-claiming years. With over **\$23.2 million** in returns-of-premium to municipalities since 2009, this form of protected self-insurance structure provides municipalities with funds that otherwise would be insurer profit and is only made possible through the participation of municipalities as a whole, in partnership with the AMM & WFG.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS INSURANCE

For over 40 years, the AMM Employee Benefits Program has focused on pooling all cities, towns, and municipalities together across Manitoba to provide a unique program of unmatched control, flexibility, and ownership for program participants. Currently, over **114 municipalities** participate in addition to watershed districts, recreation districts, planning districts, weed districts, and retirees. Since 2005, the AMM Employee Benefits Program has been self-insured, with claims payment being provided by Manitoba Blue Cross. Under the Program, a large portion of premiums are allocated to a member-owned 'self-insurance' fund. This fund allows for the unique opportunity to circumvent traditional insurance costs

and provide for returns-of-premium when surpluses are built as a result of low-claiming years. This creates a greater level of program stability. In addition, there is substantially more premium to offset larger claims than a group might experience under the traditional open market. Looking back over a ten-year period, **2014** pool premiums sat at **\$4.5 million**, whereas **2023** pool premiums are now over

\$9 million. This is a growth of **\$4.5 million** or **100% over ten years**, with plan participation now over 80%, whereas participation in 2013 was only 50%. Participating members have received over **\$4 million** in returns-of-premium since 2015.

In partnership with Western Financial Group, the AMM has invested in a mental wellness platform, premium free for all its members.

TogetherAll is a confidential, online mental wellness support peer-community, available 24/7.

The AMM Employee Benefits Program provides Municipalities with a program that not only provides superior coverage but also rate stability not seen on the open market. For further information, please contact jordan.lontajo@westernfgis.ca or visit <https://westernfgis.ca/amminsurance/employee-benefits>.

FUEL PROGRAM



RMA Fuel is responsible for offering and managing the Association of Manitoba Municipalities fuel program for our members. Members have been purchasing from this program for over 15 years.

RMA Fuel is one of the leading fuel and lubricant suppliers for municipalities, school divisions, and other public sector entities across Canada. The fuel program provides fuel and lubricants from coast to coast through local supplier networks that have been approved through an open RFP process.

Currently, the approved suppliers are Esso and Petro-Canada, with bulk fuel, cardlock, retail, and lubricants being offered.

RMA Fuel was founded on the idea of group buying power and has partnered with government associations to increase volumes, thereby decreasing costs for members. Members are able to purchase at will, with no minimum purchasing requirements, and receive membership benefits. Request a free fuel analysis today to see if the fuel program through AMM can save you money! For more information, please visit <http://pfacanada.com/contact.aspx>.

ENTERPRISE FLEET



New vehicles tailored to your budget! Ask your local Enterprise Fleet Team for a free fleet analysis! For more information, please visit <https://files.constantcontact.com/3ddc3f03301/b0bb0645-bd54-4077-85ae-1d1e7259c32b.pdf> or contact Aaron Boucher at 403-444-3415 or aaron.s.boucher@efleets.com.

HUMAN RESOURCE PROGRAM



The Association of Manitoba Municipalities has partnered with People First HR Services, one of

the largest full-service human resource consulting firms in Western Canada, to provide access for all AMM member municipalities to the **HR OnCall** program.

HR OnCall received 79 unique inquiries, which may have included (outside of this number) multiple communication exchanges from AMM members between September 1, 2022,

and August 31, 2023. The top three categories are Employee and Labour Relations, Employment Standards, and HR Best Practices. Some common themes are performance management, termination guidance, time away from work, and overtime pay. There have been 47 towns/RMs that have directly accessed the HR OnCall service. In terms of Projects

(outside of HR OnCall), the **HR@YourService** team assisted six municipalities with projects such as respectful workplace policies, HR policy manuals, development of employment contracts, conducting exit interviews, performance management, disability management, and termination support. Additionally, People First HR delivered 'Enhancing Communication Skills' for municipal leaders and staff at the AMM Annual Spring Conference in April of 2023. Outside of these stats,

Linda Chammartin, Client Lead for AMM, would have received calls directly from municipalities with inquiries.

This program provides on-demand, unlimited professional HR advice to members by telephone/email in order to support people management and decision-making at the municipal level. All members are entitled to utilize the HR OnCall services at NO ADDITIONAL COST.

Municipalities are encouraged to take advantage of this service

as needed by calling (toll-free) 1-866-899-1340 or emailing at hroncall@peoplefirsthr.com.

Access to HR OnCall telephone and email support is available Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (CST) and Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (CST).

Want more information about the HR OnCall services? Please visit www.amm.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/hr-oncall-faqs2022.07.pdf.

SAFETYCARE PROGRAM – ADDRESSES ALL YOUR MUNICIPAL SAFETY NEEDS



Our safety video content is concise and engaging to help you achieve all your training goals.

NEW from SafetyCare

As part of our commitment to delivering value to all our subscribers,

we are pleased to announce a new micro-learning video series!

- New **Safety Shorts** series. These are available now in SafetyHub as a separate category of 'micro-learning' videos, five minutes or less.
- There are a total of 17 titles in this series, covering such topics as Hand Washing Basics, Fire Extinguishers Basic Operation, Lifting Technique Basics,

How to Use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and more.

- If you have employees working from home or returning to work, these Safety Short videos are perfect for a quick refresher on proper practices.

To learn more, contact Ed Aasman at ed_aasman@safetycare.com.

AMM CAPITAL PURCHASING PROGRAM

AMM began a partnership with **Sourcewell** to help municipalities, schools, health, electrical and gas associations, irrigation districts, and non-profits work more efficiently. Our Capital Purchasing Program offers members hundreds of equipment choices – including graders, trucks, and supplies – spread over a wide range of established and trusted brands, all available at preferred pricing!

For more details on the program, please visit www.amm.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/capitalpurchasing-one-pager-2.3-amm-1.pdf. To view the list of companies in the program, please visit www.amm.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/capital-purchasing-program_supplier-list-amm-2020-may.pdf. For more information, please contact Ainsley at amurdock@amm.mb.ca or Linda at lhargest@amm.mb.ca.

ANNUAL REPORT



*CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE AMM FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023*

*CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE AMM TRADING
COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR
ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023*

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23