



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

Meeting with the Honourable Cameron Friesen
Minister of Finance

AMM Submission for Budget 2018

November 15, 2017

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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ The AMM is pleased to present its pre-budget submission document for Budget 2018, and continue a dialogue with the provincial government about the future of Manitoba.
- ❖ The AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to consider new and existing challenges facing municipalities in its upcoming budget.
- ❖ In this document, the AMM has outlined our main lobbying priorities in three categories: Successes in 2016-2017, Critical Issues requiring immediate action, and Important Issues that have seen some progress, but require more collaboration.

SUCSESSES IN 2016-2017

✓ Provincial-Municipal Partnership

○ Department of Municipal Relations

- ❖ *The AMM acknowledges the significant steps taken by the provincial government to fulfill the 'fair say' commitment; and*
- ❖ *The AMM is very pleased to participate as a member of the local consultative committee that reviews applications for the Building Canada Small Communities Fund.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Commit to provide a full-and-fair cost share by matching the federal government's contribution (40%) for Phase 11 infrastructure investments under the Investing in Canada plan;*
- ❖ *Ensure municipalities receive a fair share of available cost-shared infrastructure funding, particularly under the Green Infrastructure stream, in consultation with the AMM;*
- ❖ *Continue to partner with municipalities to repair and replace roads and bridges in local communities by investing no less than \$1 billion annually in strategic infrastructure; and*
- ❖ *Support AMM input in the decision-making process for any application-based infrastructure funding.*

✓ Basket Funding and ‘Single-Window’ Access for Infrastructure Grants

○ Department of Municipal Relations

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the government’s rollout of the basket funding model and single-window intake for infrastructure grants in close consultation with our organization and municipalities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide municipalities a ‘fair say’ to more effectively respond to local infrastructure priorities.*

✓ Red Tape Reduction

○ Department of Municipal Relations

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the government’s commitment to streamline internal processes and reduce red tape to help municipalities more efficiently access infrastructure grant funding and deliver public services; and*
- ❖ *The AMM was pleased to submit a comprehensive report to the Red Tape Reduction Task Force with 20 targeted recommendations in March 2017.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Implement the AMM’s red tape reduction recommendations; and*
- ❖ *Continue to identify unnecessary red tape and streamline provincial government processes to benefit Manitoba municipalities.*

✓ **The Mental Health Amendment Act**

- **Department of Justice**
- **Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities when establishing the corresponding training program for 'qualified persons' to ensure effective implementation in local communities.*

✓ **Municipal By-Law Enforcement**

- **Department of Justice**
- **Department of Municipal Relations**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide support to municipalities in order to implement the new by-law enforcement process; and*
- ❖ *Help cover training costs for municipal officials to ensure the effective administration of municipal by-law enforcement.*

✓ **Subdivision Approval Technical Advisory Committee**

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to implement the TAC report's recommendations and work towards streamlining other aspects of the subdivision review process identified by the AMM.*

CRITICAL ISSUES – IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

✓ Fair Share, Alternate Revenues, and Timing of Provincial Initiatives

○ Department of Finance

- ❖ *Municipalities rely on property taxes to generate revenues while receiving less than 10 cents on every tax dollar; and*
- ❖ *The freezing of municipal operating funding at 2016 levels does not recognize inflationary increases, while provincial initiatives and program funding decisions affecting municipalities are often announced following the municipal budgetary process.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase funding support to municipalities through long-term, stable and predictable revenue sources that grow with the economy;*
- ❖ *Identify new, additional sources of revenue for municipalities to address Manitoba's growing \$11 billion infrastructure deficit and increasing municipal responsibilities; and*
- ❖ *Inform municipalities of provincial initiatives and program funding changes prior to the development and submission of municipal budgets.*

✓ PST Rebate for Municipalities

○ Department of Finance

- ❖ *Each year, municipalities pay more than \$25 million in PST to the provincial government.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Eliminate or rebate the more than \$25 million in PST paid on an annual basis by municipalities.*

✓ **Modernize Education Funding**

○ **Department of Education and Training**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Establish a multi-stakeholder Task Force to comprehensively review and modernize Manitoba's education funding model;*
- ❖ *Provide new, sustainable long-term funding to reduce school division reliance on property taxes; and*
- ❖ *Rescind the \$5,000 cap on the Farmland School Tax Rebate.*

✓ **Essential Cell Service and Broadband Internet Access**

○ **Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Facilitate discussions with cell carriers and other stakeholders to explore options to expand cellular coverage and broadband Internet access; and*
- ❖ *Work with municipalities to develop solutions to ensure the safety of emergency responders and the public in Manitoba through reliable communications technology.*

✓ **Federal DFAA Changes and Provincial DFA Review**

○ **Department of Infrastructure**

- ❖ *Due to recent changes, federal funding thresholds for small and medium disasters or extreme weather events have been significantly increased, which jeopardizes the safety of all Manitobans. These changes represent a download of federal responsibilities to provincial governments, resulting in additional pressures on municipalities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support municipalities by urging the federal government to immediately reverse changes to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) cost-sharing formula that took effect in February 2015; and*
- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM on the provincial review of the disaster financial assistance program.*

✓ **Accessibility Legislation and Standards**

○ **Department of Families**

- ❖ *The AMM is a member of Manitoba's Accessibility Advisory Council.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Ensure the Accessibility Advisory Council remains the primary forum for developing the corresponding standards in accordance with The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA);*
- ❖ *Recognize the unique needs of municipalities by providing funding to help identify, prevent, and remove barriers to accessibility within local communities; and*
- ❖ *Significantly reduce the administrative and financial burdens on municipalities due to AMA compliance.*

✓ Port of Churchill and Northern Manitoba Economic Development

○ Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide assistance to the Town of Churchill and surrounding communities in light of the reduction of the Port of Churchill's operations and subsequent rail disruption; and*
- ❖ *Expedite the development of both a short-term plan and long-term strategy to support economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development throughout Northern Manitoba in partnership with municipal officials and other community stakeholders.*

✓ Police Staffing and Funding

○ Department of Justice

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Effectively address rapidly increasing, unsustainable policing costs;*
- ❖ *Help ensure Manitoba communities are not negatively impacted by the right of RCMP officers to collective bargaining;*
- ❖ *Consult with the AMM in regard to the Strategic Operational Review of the RCMP; and*
- ❖ *Continue working with municipalities wishing to establish Community Safety Officer (CSO) Programs.*

✓ Drainage Licensing and Approvals

- **Department of Sustainable Development**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reduce provincial red tape to expedite drainage licensing approvals; and*
- ❖ *Ensure consistent enforcement by local Water Resource Officers.*

✓ Provincial Planning and Assessment Services Staff

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Immediately fill any vacancies in regional planning and assessment offices to ensure municipalities are receiving timely and accurate services from each of these branches.*

✓ Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

- **Department of Sustainable Development**

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the Province of Manitoba's willingness to comprehensively review the Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Recognize and address the financial impacts of the current ban on municipal weed control efforts and municipal budgets; and*
- ❖ *Considering implementing measures to ensure the safe use of cosmetic pesticides without banning them, such as public education or restricting access to licensed applicators.*

✓ **Community Capital Contributions for Health Facilities**

- **Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reduce required community capital contributions for health facilities while moving toward funding all health facilities provincially.*

✓ **Cannabis Legalization and Regulation**

- **Department of Crown Services**
- **Department of Municipal Relations**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Ensure municipalities are closely consulted and engaged throughout the development and implementation of a cannabis legalization framework;*
- ❖ *Provide tools and resources to municipalities in order to proactively prepare communities prior to and following the transition to legalization; and*
- ❖ *Co-develop a fair revenue sharing model that respects municipal authority and recognizes rising policing costs.*

✓ **Municipal Police Boards**

- **Department of Justice**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Review the mandate of police boards to allow local Councils more oversight over municipal police forces, including the establishment of police boards on a voluntary basis.*

✓ Manitoba Hydro Rate Increases and Support for Recreation Facilities

- Department of Crown Services

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Recognize the negative effects on municipalities caused by significant Manitoba Hydro rate increases; and*
- ❖ *Support and increase funding to financial incentive programs that promote and encourage greater efficiency of recreation centres throughout Manitoba.*

IMPORTANT ISSUES – MORE COLLABORATION NEEDED

✓ Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention

- Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living

- ❖ *Local communities continue to struggle to attract and retain health practitioners.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Fully implement the forthcoming recommendations Rural Physician Recruitment Advisory Committee to ensure all Manitobans have access to suitable primary care.*

✓ Rural Economic Development Strategy

- Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade

- ❖ *With 37% of Manitoba's population and more than 12,000 businesses, rural Manitoba is vital to the provincial economy.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Fully implement all the recommendations of the Rural Economic Development Strategy report, including providing 'single-window' services to rural Manitoba.*

✓ Amalgamation Costs

○ Department of Municipal Relations

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the department's willingness to cooperate with the AMM and the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association (MMAA) to address challenges faced by amalgamated municipalities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to support local communities by covering the costs resulting from municipal amalgamations, including but not limited to upgrades or conversions to municipal offices as well as administrative and financial services.*

✓ Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan

○ Department of Sustainable Development

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Closely consult with the AMM and municipalities on the implementation of the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan;*
- ❖ *Ensure municipal representation on the Expert Advisory Commission and other municipally-relevant committees; and*
- ❖ *Partner with municipalities to invest carbon pricing revenues in municipal climate-resilient infrastructure.*

✓ Flood Mitigation, Water Management and Conservation Districts

○ Department of Sustainable Development

- ❖ *The AMM believes there is significant value in increased provincial funding for Conservation Districts due to the effectiveness of their water management plans and cost-effective watershed management initiatives.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to allocate funding for flood prevention and mitigation infrastructure;*
- ❖ *Implement a province-wide program based on the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) model to help reduce flooding and improve water management;*
- ❖ *Consult with municipalities on watershed-based planning and drainage initiatives;*
- ❖ *Continue funding the collection of LiDAR data; and*
- ❖ *Increase operating funding for the Conservation District Program and consider reevaluating the funding formula.*

✓ Affordable and Seniors' Housing

○ Department of Families

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM and help facilitate partnerships between municipalities, the federal government, and private sector to increase the stock of affordable and seniors' housing across Manitoba.*

✓ **Community Development Programs and AMM Involvement**

○ **Department of Municipal Relations**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reinstate and increase funding to the Community Places Program; and*
- ❖ *Involve the AMM in the decision-making process that approves project through the new single portal for community development programs.*

✓ **Manitoba Tourism Strategy**

○ **Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to investment in the tourism sector across Manitoba while creating stronger links with local community museums; and*
- ❖ *Consult with the AMM on the development of a Manitoba Tourism Strategy.*

✓ **Handi-Transit Services**

○ **Department of Municipal Relations**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support regional and community-sponsored options for local Handi-transit services; and*
- ❖ *Support affordable and sustainable transit services for all residents, including those who must travel for medical reasons, and those with mobility issues.*

✓ Dutch Elm Disease Management

- **Department of Sustainable Development**

- ❖ *The current level of provincial financial assistance is insufficient as communities regularly incur costs of up to \$1,000 per diseased elm tree.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to implement program changes in consultation with the AMM.*

✓ Hometown Green Teams

- **Department of Education and Training**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to support this successful program, which gives students valuable experience and benefits local communities.*

✓ Rural Veterinary Funding

- **Department of Agriculture**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reinstate the Technical Enhancement Grant to assist Veterinary Service Districts with increasing equipment costs; and*
- ❖ *Increase funding for operating costs to keep rural veterinarian salaries competitive and to enable rural clinics to continue providing veterinary services to their communities.*

✓ Rural, Remote and Northern Airports

○ Department of Infrastructure

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reinstate a capital assistance program for airports on a 50-50 basis with municipalities; and*
- ❖ *Increase the amount of operating grants for rural paved and unpaved airports, which have remained at \$2,400 and \$1,200 respectively, for at least ten years.*

✓ Library Funding and Universal Access

○ Department of Sport, Culture and Heritage

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase provincial funding to the Rural Library Operating Grant Program; and*
- ❖ *Allow all library cards issued in Manitoba to be valid at any library that receives provincial funding.*

✓ Canada-Manitoba Job Grant Funding

○ Department of Education and Training

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reach an agreement with the federal government to include municipalities as eligible applicants for the Canada-Manitoba Job Grant.*

✓ Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Support

- Department of Municipal Relations
- Department of Indigenous and Northern Relations

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide financial and consultative support to assist municipalities in developing service sharing agreements with First Nations communities as well as throughout the Treaty Land Entitlement process.*

APPENDIX – SUPPORTING AMM RESOLUTIONS & POLICY FILES

Successes in 2016-2017

Provincial-Municipal Partnership

- Resolution #06-2017*: Infrastructure Cost-Sharing Formula
- Policy File F-IC-01: Federal Infrastructure Issues
- Policy File P-MIT-01: Provincial Infrastructure Issues

Basket Funding & ‘Single-Window’ Access for Infrastructure Grants

- Policy File P-MIT-01: Provincial Infrastructure Issues

Red Tape Reduction

- Policy File P-MF-01: Budgets and Municipal Finance

The Mental Health Amendment Act

- Resolution #20-2010: Amend The Mental Health Act

Municipal By-law Enforcement

- Resolution #38-2017*: By-Law Enforcement
- Policy File P-JUS-01: By-Law Enforcement Issues

Subdivision Approval Technical Advisory Committee

- Resolution #08-2015: Digital Technology for Subdivision Approval
- Policy File P-MG-25: TAC Subdivision Approval

Critical Issues – Immediate Action Required

Fair Share, Alternate Revenues, and Timing of Provincial Initiatives

- Resolution #03-2015: Flexible and Equitable Debt Ratio Formula
- Resolution #04-2015: Sustainable Taxation and Revenue
- Resolution #05-2015: Service-Based Taxation Models
- Resolution #26-2010: Strategy to Address Municipal Infrastructure Deficit
- Resolution #23-2009: Infrastructure Funding Cost-Sharing
- Resolution #31-2009: Funding for Offloading of Provincial Responsibilities
- Policy File P-MIT-01: Provincial Infrastructure Issues
- Policy File P-MF-01: Budgets and Municipal Finance

PST Rebate for Municipalities

- Resolution #01-2015: PST Rebate
- Resolution #37-2015: PST Exemption
- Policy File P-MF-02: PST

Modernizing Education Funding

- Resolution #33-2017*: Education Funding Model Task Force
- Resolution #32-2013: Modernize Education Funding
- Policy File P-EDUC-01: Education Funding

Essential Cell Service and Broadband Internet Access

- Resolution #38-2015: Improve Cellular Reception Services
- Resolution #21-2014: Cellular Service Considered An Essential Service

- Resolution #00-2012: Improve Emergency and Cellular Service
- Resolution #50-2012: High Speed Internet and Cell Service for Rural Manitoba
- Policy File P-GET-01: Cell Service and Broadband Internet Issues

DFAA Cost-Sharing Changes & Provincial DFA Review

- Resolution #35-2016: Federal DFAA Program Changes
- Resolution #18-2013: Review of Disaster Financial Assistance
- Policy File P-EM-21: Disaster Assistance

Accessibility Legislation and Standards

- Resolution #41-2017*: Accessibility Legislation & Standards
- Policy File P-PD-01: Accessibility Legislation & Standards

Port of Churchill & Northern Manitoba Economic Development

- Resolution #00-2016: Port of Churchill
- Resolution #31-2013: Second Generation Northern Development Strategy

Police Staffing and Funding

- Resolution #37-2017*: Amend The Police Services Act
- Resolution #20-2014: RCMP Detachment Staffing
- Resolution #33-2013: Rural and Northern Manitoba Cadet Program
- Resolution #45-2012: Provincial Per Capita Funding for RCMP
- Resolution #20-2010: Amend The Mental Health Act
- Resolution #42-2009: New Police Services Act
- Resolution #43-2009: Funding for RCMP Support Staff
- Resolution #57-2008: Police Service in Rural Manitoba
- Policy File P-JUS-04: Police Services & Costs

Drainage Licensing and Approvals:

- Resolution #48-2017*: Municipal Drainage
- Resolution #31-2016: Saskatchewan Drainage Issues
- Resolution #17-2014: Tile Drainage Policy
- Resolution #18-2014: Drainage Upgrades and Solutions
- Resolution #17-2012: Drainage on Crown Lands
- Policy File P-CWS-10: Water Management & Drainage Issues

Provincial Planning and Assessment Services Staff

- Resolution #10-2016: Support for Municipal Planning
- Resolution #39-2015: Increase Assessment Branch Staffing
- Resolution #07-2013: Land Use Planner Positions
- Resolution #43-2011: Resources for Planning Districts
- Resolution #46-2011: Increase Number of Field Assessment Officers

Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

- Resolution #13-2011: Cosmetic Pesticide Use Ban
- Policy File P-CWS-08: Sustainable Development Issues

Community Capital Contributions for Health Facilities

- Resolution #25-2013: Reduce Community Contribution Requirements

Cannabis Legalization and Regulation

- Policy File F-HEA-01: Marijuana Legalization & Regulation

Municipal Police Boards

- Resolution #42-2009: New Police Services Act

Manitoba Hydro Rate Increases & Support for Recreational Facilities

- Resolution #01-2017*: Manitoba Hydro Rate Increases
- Resolution #50-2009: Operating Costs for Recreation Facilities
- Policy File P-MH-04: Manitoba Hydro & Recreational Facilities

Important Issues – More Collaboration Needed

Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention

- Resolution #25-2017*: Recruitment and Retention of Healthcare Professionals
- Resolution #20-2015: Physician License Review
- Policy File P-HEA-01: Health Issues

Rural Economic Development Strategy

- Resolution #31-2013: Second Generation Northern Development Strategy
- Resolution #34-2009: Increase Funding for Economic Development
- Policy File P-AFRD-01: Economic Development Strategy

Amalgamation Costs

- Resolution #01-2014: Additional Funding to Assist with Amalgamation Costs
- Policy File P-MG-15: Amalgamation

Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan

- Resolution #20-2017*: Carbon Tax Offset for Manitoba Hydro Rates
- Policy File P-CWS-08: Sustainable Development Issues

Flood Mitigation, Drainage, Water Management and Conservation Districts

- Resolution #21-2017*: Comprehensive Provincial Water Management Strategy
- Resolution #22-2017*: Creating a Sustainable Surface Water Management Strategy
- Resolution #21-2012: Support for LIDAR Coverage
- Resolution #41-2013: Increase Funding to Conservation Districts
- Resolution #19-2011: Permanent Flood Solutions
- Policy File P-EM-31: Flooding Issues
- Policy File P-CWS-10: Water Management & Drainage Issues
- Policy File P-CWS-78: Provincial & International Water Issues

Affordable and Seniors' Housing

- Resolution #22-2010: Housing in Manitoba

Community Development Programs & AMM Involvement

- Resolution #55-2001: Funding for Community Places Program

Manitoba Tourism Strategy

- Resolution #14-2009: Museum Grants
- Resolution #15-2009: Tourism Funding

Handi-Transit Services

- Resolution #03-2014: Review of Rural Transportation and Handi-Van Systems
- Resolution #38-2009: Funding for Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program
- Policy File P-MG-20: Handi-Van Services

Dutch Elm Disease Management

- Resolution #11-2014: Dutch Elm Disease Tree Removal
- Policy File P-CWS-08: Sustainable Development Issues

Hometown Green Teams

- Resolution #41-2016: Green Team Program

Rural Veterinary Funding

- Resolution #39-2013: Infrastructure Grants for Veterinary Clinics
- Resolution #09-2011: Rural Veterinary Board Funding
- Resolution #12-2007: Increase to Operating Grants for Veterinary Services

Rural, Remote and Northern Airports

- Resolution #33-2011: Funding for Airports with Paved Runways
- Resolution #37-2008: Increase Operating Grants for Small Rural Airports
- Resolution #11-2002: Funding of Airports

Library Funding and Universal Access

- Resolution #47-2016: Library Funding
- Resolution #15-2011: Increase Per Capita Base Rate for Library Funding
- Resolution #22-2008: Library Cards

Canada-Manitoba Job Grant Funding

- Resolution #30-2015: Canada-Manitoba Job Fund Agreement

Support for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Process

- Resolution #35-2015: TLE Consultation & Support
- Policy File P-ANA-01: Municipal "Duty to Consult" with First Nations & TLE
- Policy File P-ANA-02: TLE and First-Nation-Municipal Relations

NOTE: If required, please contact AMM staff to receive detailed information about AMM resolutions.