



ASSOCIATION OF  
**MANITOBA**  
MUNICIPALITIES

Meeting with the Honourable Scott Fielding  
Minister of Finance

AMM Submission for Budget 2019

November 13, 2018

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## INTRODUCTION

- ❖ The AMM is pleased to present its pre-budget submission document for Budget 2019, 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 2017-2018, Critical Issues requiring immediate action, and Important Issues that have seen some progress, but require more collaboration.

## SUCSESSES IN 2017-2018

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### ✓ Investing in Canada (Phase 2) and AMM Involvement

#### ○ Department of Municipal Relations

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the signing of the Canada-Manitoba Integrated Bilateral Agreement.*
- ❖ *The AMM is very pleased to participate as a member of the consultative committee that will be reviewing applications for the various streams under Phase 2 of the Investing in Canada plan.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Ensure a minimum provincial share of 33% for Phase 2 infrastructure investments under the Investing in Canada plan and a fair share of available funding under the Green Infrastructure stream in consultation with the AMM;*
- ❖ *Continue to provide municipalities a ‘fair say’ to more effectively respond to local infrastructure priorities and support AMM input in the decision-making process for any application-based infrastructure funding; and*

### ✓ Community Development Programs and AMM Involvement

#### ○ Department of Municipal Relations

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the \$570,000 (11 per cent) funding increase to the Community Places Program in Budget 2018.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to involve the AMM in the decision-making process that approves projects through the single-window portal for community development programs.*

## ✓ Public Safety Communications Service Upgrade

### ○ Department of Municipal Relations

- ❖ *Reliable communications technology is vital for saving lives, keeping first responders safe and protecting local communities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to upgrade the province's public safety communications service and provide regular updates to the AMM.*

## ✓ Red Tape Reduction Initiatives

### ○ Various Departments

- ❖ *The AMM submitted a comprehensive report to the Red Tape Reduction Task Force with 20 targeted recommendations in March 2017.*
- ❖ *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.*

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.*

## ✓ Increased Objector Threshold to Municipal Board

### ○ Department of Municipal Relations

- ❖ *Increasing the objector threshold related to zoning by-laws to 25 people or 50 per cent of the total number of property owners located within 100 metres of an affected property is a very positive and long overdue change.*
- ❖ *The AMM also appreciates the steps taken by the Municipal Board to eliminate the backlog of cases.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to reduce red tape and streamline Municipal Board processes.*

## ✓ Dissolution of the Highway Traffic Board

### ○ Department of Infrastructure

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the dissolution of the Highway Traffic board under the auspices of The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to work with AMM to ensure a smooth transition process for municipalities who know their roads best.*

## ✓ Canada-Manitoba Job Grant Funding

- Department of Education and Training

- ❖ *Municipalities are now eligible applicants under the renewed Canada-Manitoba Job Grant.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide flexibility to municipalities and regular updates regarding future application intakes for the Canada-Manitoba Job Grant.*

## CRITICAL ISSUES – IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

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### ✓ Fair Share, Alternate Revenues, and PST Rebate

#### ○ Department of Finance

- ❖ *Municipalities rely on property taxes to generate revenues while receiving less than 10 cents on every tax dollar.*
- ❖ *In 2017, the legislative guarantee under The Municipal Taxation and Funding Act to share 1/7 of provincial PST revenues with municipalities was repealed.*
- ❖ *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.*
- ❖ *Each year, municipalities pay more than \$25 million in PST to the provincial government.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase operating funding support to municipalities;*
- ❖ *Identify new, additional sources of revenue for municipalities to address Manitoba's growing \$11+ billion infrastructure deficit and increasing municipal responsibilities;*
- ❖ *Increase investments in core infrastructure, namely municipal roads, bridges, and water and wastewater-related projects as well as provincial highways; and*
- ❖ *Eliminate or rebate the more than \$25 million in PST paid on an annual basis by municipalities.*



## ✓ **Municipal Road and Bridge Program**

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *The Municipal Road and Bridge Program has been reduced to \$2.25 million from \$14 million in 2017.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Immediately reinstate this critical, predictable, and effective municipal program.*

## ✓ **Cannabis Legalization and Regulation**

- **Department of Finance**

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

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

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.*

## ✓ Direct Appeals to Municipal Board

### ○ Department of Municipal Relations

- ❖ *Allowing direct appeals on conditional use applications for aggregate quarry and large-scale livestock operations to the Municipal Board undermines the decisions of local Councils who know their communities best.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Do not proclaim the sections regarding appeals in The Planning Amendment Act.*

## ✓ 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.*

## ✓ Accessibility Legislation and Standards

- Department of Families

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

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Recognize the unique needs of municipalities by providing financial and resource support to municipalities to help identify, prevent, and remove barriers to accessibility within local communities; and*
- ❖ *Significantly reduce the administrative and financial burdens on municipalities as a result of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its corresponding standards.*

## ✓ 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;*
- ❖ *Continue working with municipalities wishing to establish Community Safety Officer (CSO) Programs; and*
- ❖ *Reduce the financial and administrative burdens in relation to police services due to amalgamation.*

## ✓ **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.*

## ✓ **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.*

## IMPORTANT ISSUES – MORE COLLABORATION NEEDED

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### ✓ **Municipal Code of Conduct Consultations**

#### ○ **Department of Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the provincial review of The Municipal Act and other relevant legislation to identify opportunities to strengthen protections for municipal officials.*
- ❖ *The AMM is committed to promoting respectful workplace policies and practices for all AMM members.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Strengthen protections for municipal officials in close consultation with the AMM and municipalities.*

### ✓ **Determining Local Speed Limits**

#### ○ **Department of Infrastructure**

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the granting of authority to municipalities to establish speed limits within their respective boundaries under The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult with municipalities regarding the parameters for municipal authority to set speed limits; and*
- ❖ *Develop necessary by-law templates and other resource materials in consultation with the AMM and Manitoba Municipal Relations.*

## ✓ Manitoba Infrastructure Service Delivery Model Review

### ○ Department of Infrastructure

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide regular updates and continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities throughout the review process; and*
- ❖ *Ensure no downloading of provincial responsibilities to municipalities without consultation and compensatory funding.*

## ✓ Support for Economic Development

### ○ Department of Infrastructure

- ❖ *With 37% of Manitoba's population and more than 12,000 businesses, rural Manitoba is vital to the provincial economy.*
- ❖ *The potential of Manitoba's north is limitless, but it also requires sustained and innovative solutions to ensure communities are ready for investment and to capitalize on new opportunities.*

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; and*
- ❖ *Incorporate rural priorities into Manitoba's new provincial economic development strategy.*
- ❖ *Continue to consult with northern communities and the AMM on the implementation of the Look North initiative.*

## ✓ Support for Churchill and Northern Manitoba

### ○ Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the historic public-private partnership and transfer of ownership of the Hudson Bay Rail Company, Hudson Bay Port Company and Churchill Marine Tank Farm to the Arctic Gateway Group.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide timely support to the Arctic Gateway Group to ensure a smooth transfer of ownership; and*
- ❖ *Ensure resources and logistical arrangements are in place before winter to support the residents of the Town of Churchill and communities situated along the Hudson Bay rail line during its repair.*

## ✓ Essential Cell Service and Broadband Internet Access

### ○ Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to 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.*

## ✓ **Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan**

### ○ **Department of Sustainable Development**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities on the implementation of the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan; and*
- ❖ *Provide funding to municipalities to support the development and effective implementation of Community Energy Plans (CEPs).*

## ✓ **Provincial DFA Review and Federal Cost-Sharing Changes**

### ○ **Department of Infrastructure**

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the review of the provincial disaster financial assistance (DFA) program to make it more accessible and responsive to the needs of municipalities.*
- ❖ *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:

- ❖ *Continue to consult the AMM when reviewing the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program; and*
- ❖ *Support municipalities by urging the federal government to reverse changes made in 2015 to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) cost-sharing formula.*



## ✓ Flood Mitigation, Water Management and Conservation Districts

### ○ Department of Sustainable Development

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 to Conservation/Watershed Districts.*

## ✓ Drainage Licensing and Approvals

### ○ Department of Sustainable Development

The AMM recommends the government:

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

## ✓ 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:

- ❖ *Expedite a comprehensive provincial strategy to recruit and retain physicians throughout Manitoba; and*
- ❖ *Immediately launch the physician recruitment pilot projects in Melita and Shoal Lake area.*

## ✓ 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.*

## ✓ **The Municipal By-Law Enforcement Act**

- **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.*

## ✓ **Affordable and Seniors' Housing**

- **Department of Families**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Partner with municipalities to leverage federal funding under the National Housing Co-Investment Fund; and*
- ❖ *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.*

## ✓ 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*
- ❖ *Continue to support and increase funding to financial incentive programs that promote and encourage*

## ✓ 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.*

## ✓ Support for Local Community Museums

### ○ Department of Sport, Culture and Heritage

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the establishment of the Manitoba Heritage Trust Program.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to investment in the tourism sector across Manitoba while creating stronger links with local community museums; and*
- ❖ *Increase the maximum amounts under the Community Museum Grants Program (CMGP).*

## ✓ 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 AMM appreciates recent modifications to the Dutch Elm Disease management program that were implemented in consultation with the AMM.*
- ❖ *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.*

## ✓ Support for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Process

- Department of Indigenous and Northern Relations
- Department of Municipal 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

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### Successes in 2017-2018

#### **Investing in Canada (Phase 2) and AMM Involvement**

- Resolution #06-2017: Infrastructure Cost-Sharing Formula

#### **Community Development Programs and AMM Involvement**

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

#### **Public Safety Communications Service Upgrade**

- Resolution #31-2015: Emergency Response Communications Equipment
- Resolution #00-2012: Improve Emergency and Cellular Service

#### **Red Tape Reduction Initiatives**

- Various Resolutions

#### **Increased Objector Threshold to Municipal Board**

- Resolution #04-2014: Legislative Requirements for Municipal Board Hearings
- Resolution #05-2014: Municipal Board and Public Utilities Board Processes

#### **Dissolution of the Highway Traffic Board**

- Resolution #31-2017: Highway Traffic Board

#### **Canada-Manitoba Job Grant Funding**

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

### Critical Issues – Immediate Action Required

#### **Fair Share, Alternate Revenues, and PST Rebate**

- Resolution #06-2017: Infrastructure Cost-Sharing Formula
- Resolution #01-2015: PST Rebate
- Resolution #03-2015: Flexible and Equitable Debt Ratio Formula
- Resolution #04-2015: Sustainable Taxation and Revenue
- Resolution #05-2015: Service-Based Taxation Models
- Resolution #37-2015: PST Exemption
- 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

#### **Municipal Road and Bridge Program**

- Resolution #01-2018\*: Municipal Road and Bridge Program

#### **Cannabis Legalization and Regulation**

- Resolution #02-2018\*: Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing

#### **Direct Appeals to Municipal Board**

- Resolution #04-2018\*: The Planning Amendment Act

#### **Modernizing Education Funding**

- Resolution #33-2017: Education Funding Model Task Force
- Resolution #32-2013: Modernize Education Funding

### **Accessibility Legislation and Standards**

- Resolution #41-2017: Accessibility Legislation & Standards

### **Police Staffing and Funding**

- Resolution #03-2018\*: Comprehensive Review of Municipal Policing Costs and Structure
- Resolution #37-2017: Amend The Police Services Act
- Resolution #20-2014: RCMP Detachment Staffing
- Resolution #33-2013: Rural and Northern Manitoba Cadet Program
- Resolution #44-2012: Amend Population Base for Policing
- 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 #57-2008: Police Service in Rural Manitoba

### **Cosmetic Pesticide Ban**

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

### **Rural, Remote and Northern Airports**

- Resolution #37-2008: Increase Operating Grants for Small Rural Airports
- Resolution #11-2002: Funding of Airports

## **Important Issues – More Collaboration Needed**

### **Municipal Code of Conduct Consultations**

- Resolution #04-2017: Respectful and Safe Work Environment
- Resolution #05-2017: Workplace Anti-Harassment
- Resolution #26-2016: Code of Conduct

### **Determining Local Speed Limits**

- Resolution #31-2017: Highway Traffic Board

### **Manitoba Infrastructure Service Delivery Model Review**

- Resolution #24-2018\*: Downloading of Provincial Roads and PTHs
- Resolution #25-2018\*: Amend The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act

### **Support for Economic Development**

- Resolution #35-2017: Strategy to Increase Physical and Electronic Connectivity
- Resolution #31-2013: Second Generation Northern Development Strategy
- Resolution #34-2009: Increase Funding for Economic Development

### **Support for Churchill and Northern Manitoba**

- Resolution #31-2013: Second Generation Northern Development Strategy

### **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

### **Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan**

- Resolution #20-2017: Carbon Tax Offset for Manitoba Hydro Rates



### **Provincial DFA Review and Federal Cost-Sharing Changes**

- Resolution #35-2016: Federal DFAA Program Changes
- Resolution #18-2013: Review of Disaster Financial Assistance

### **Flood Mitigation, Water Management and Conservation Districts**

- Resolution #18-2018\*: Conservation/Watershed Districts
- Resolution #19-2018\*: Realignment of Conservation Districts
- Resolution #21-2017: Comprehensive Provincial Water Management Strategy
- Resolution #22-2017: Creating a Sustainable Surface Water Management Strategy
- Resolution #23-2017: Watershed Resiliency
- Resolution #33-2016: Funding for Impacted Waterways
- Resolution #21-2012: Support for LIDAR Coverage
- Resolution #41-2013: Increase Funding to Conservation Districts
- Resolution #19-2011: Permanent Flood Solutions

### **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

### **Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention**

- Resolution #36-2018\*: Rural Healthcare
- Resolution #26-2017: Healthcare Services
- Resolution #20-2015: Physician License Review

### **The Mental Health Amendment Act**

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

### **Municipal By-law Enforcement**

- Resolution #38-2017: By-Law Enforcement

### **Affordable and Seniors' Housing**

- Resolution #22-2010: Housing in Manitoba

### **Manitoba Hydro Rate Increases & Support for Recreational Facilities**

- Resolution #40-2018\*: Energy Costs for Recreational Facilities
- Resolution #01-2017: Manitoba Hydro Rate Increases
- Resolution #50-2009: Operating Costs for Recreation Facilities

### **Provincial Planning and Assessment Services Staff**

- Resolution #07-2018\*: Standardizing Approval Periods for Planning Processes
- Resolution #08-2018\*: Assistance for Development Plans
- Resolution #09-2018\*: Better Coordination for Subdivisions
- Resolution #10-2016: Support for Municipal Planning
- Resolution #39-2015: Increase Assessment Branch Staffing
- Resolution #07-2013: Land Use Planner Positions

### **Support for Local Community Museums**

- Resolution #42-2018\*: Funding for Community Museums
- Resolution #14-2009: Museum Grants

### **Handi-Transit Services**

- Resolution #16-2018\*: Support and Sustainability of Rural Transportation Programs
- Resolution #03-2014: Review of Rural Transportation and Handi-Van Systems
- Resolution #38-2009: Funding for Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program

### **Dutch Elm Disease Management**

- Resolution #11-2014: Dutch Elm Disease Tree Removal

### **Support for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Process**

- Resolution #35-2015: TLE Consultation & Support

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