

Meeting with the Honourable Scott Fielding Minister of Finance

AMM Submission for Budget 2021

INTRODUCTION	1
SUCCESSES IN 2019-2020	
COVID-19 Assistance	
AMM-Province of Manitoba Strategic Collaboration Working Group	
Strengthening Protections for Municipal Officials	
Provincial DFA Programs	
 \$30 Million to Support Climate Resiliency/Spring Flood Preparedness 	
\$20 Million to Manitoba Mineral Development Fund (MMDF)	
\$5 Million Fire Protection Grant	
Speed Display Devices (Driver Feedback Signs)	6
CRITICAL ISSUES - IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED	7
Fair Share, Alternate Revenues, and PST Rebate	7
Bill 37: The Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act	8
Modernize Education Funding	8
Essential Cell Service and Broadband Internet Access	
Direct Appeals to Municipal Board	
Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing	
Accessibility Legislation and Standards	
Differential Mill Rates and Simplifying Municipal Tax Tools	11
Enforcement of Weight Restrictions	
Newspaper Recycling Initiatives	
Paramedic Self-Regulation	
Cosmetic Pesticide Ban	
Rural, Remote, and Northern Airports	14
IMPORTANT ISSUES - MORE COLLABORATION NEEDED	15
Investing in Canada (Phase 2) and AMM Involvement	15
Support for Economic Development	16
Police Staffing and Funding	17
Community Safety and Local Crime	18
Drainage Licensing and Approvals	18
Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan	19
Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention	19
Municipal By-law Enforcement Act	19
Provincial Planning and Assessment Services Staff	
Support for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Process	20
APPENDIX - SUPPORTING AMM RESOLUTIONS	21



INTRODUCTION

- ❖ The AMM is pleased to present its pre-budget submission document for Budget 2021 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, especially as our economy looks to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ In this document, the AMM has outlined our main lobbying priorities in three categories: *Successes* in 2019-2020, *Critical Issues* requiring immediate action, and *Important Issues* that have seen some progress, but require more collaboration.



SUCCESSES IN 2019-2020

✓ COVID-19 Assistance

Department of Municipal Relations

- The AMM is pleased with the collaborative effort between the Province of Manitoba, our organization, and other stakeholder groups to hold and facilitate regular regional calls to ensure that municipal officials are informed throughout the pandemic.
- The AMM welcomes the Province of Manitoba flowing 75 per cent of operating grants to municipalities up front to ease financial pressures due to the pandemic.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Make available greater funding under the Manitoba Restart Program to offset increased operating expenses due to facility closures and public health restrictions; and
- Continue to consult with municipalities and the AMM in ongoing provincial-federal discussions so that local communities can continue to help lead our province's economic recovery.

✓ AMM-Province of Manitoba Strategic Collaboration Working Group

Department of Municipal Relations

In response to the AMM's 'Partners in Growth' campaign we thank the Province of Manitoba for establishing a working group focused on strategic collaboration.

- Continue to work with the AMM to reduce red tape of provincial regulations that impact municipalities; and
- Review provincial-municipal funding models and shared engagement opportunities with municipalities.



✓ Strengthening Protections for Municipal Officials

Department of Municipal Relations

- The AMM thanks the Province of Manitoba for extensive consultations throughout the development of the regulations and online training materials.
- The AMM is committed to promoting respectful workplace policies and practices for all members.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities during the implementation of this new legislative framework; and
- Provide municipalities with supporting tools and resources to ensure a smooth transition to help maintain respectful workplaces.

✓ Provincial DFA Programs

Department of Infrastructure

- The AMM appreciates the establishment of a disaster financial assistance (DFA) program for municipalities affected by the October 2019 severe weather event, the 2020 Spring flooding event as well as the June/July severe rainstorms.
- The AMM welcomes the review of the provincial DFA program to ensure it is more accessible and responsive to the needs of municipalities.

- Continue to implement the provincial review recommendations of the DFA program in partnership with the AMM; and
- Support municipalities by immediately restoring the previous disaster assistance cost-sharing formula.



✓ \$30 Million to Support Climate Resiliency/Spring Flood Preparedness

- Department of Infrastructure
- Department of Municipal Relations
- The AMM commends the Province of Manitoba for the one-time capital investment of \$30 million for damage prevention as well as for more than doubling its initial commitment to support the Spring Flood Preparedness Program.

The AMM recommends the government:

Continue to allocate funding for flood prevention and mitigation infrastructure.

✓ \$20 Million to Manitoba Mineral Development Fund (MMDF)

- Department of Agriculture and Resource Development
- Department of Economic Development and Training
- The AMM thanks the Province of Manitoba for committing \$20-million and an additional annual infusion of up to six per cent of revenues to establish the new Manitoba Mineral Development Fund (MMDF).

The AMM recommends the government:

* Continue to ensure the newly-created Manitoba Mineral Development Fund (MMDF) is responsive to the needs of municipalities.



✓ \$5 Million Fire Protection Grant

Department of Infrastructure

- As community safety is paramount to the AMM, we welcome the one-time \$5-million fund to enhance fire protection services in local communities.
- The AMM appreciates the opportunity to be involved in reviewing and providing feedback on project applications.

The AMM recommends the government:

Continue to work with the AMM to ensure this fund is responsive to municipal priorities so that municipalities can continue to deliver long term fire protection and public safety.

✓ Speed Display Devices (Driver Feedback Signs)

Department of Infrastructure

The AMM thanks Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) staff for their willingness to actively consult with both the AMM and the MMAA during the development of these new guidelines.

The AMM recommends the government:

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



CRITICAL ISSUES - IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

✓ Fair Share, Alternate Revenues, and PST Rebate

- Department of Finance
- Department of Municipal Relations
- Municipalities rely on property taxes to generate revenues while being responsible for 60% of public infrastructure and only receiving less than 10 cents of every tax dollar to complete the job.
- 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 <u>2016</u> 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.

- Continue to work as 'Partners in Growth' with the AMM to ensure long-term stable and predictable funding as a counterbalance to the current four-year freeze;
- Provide funding tied to Manitoba's GDP to support municipal growth;
- Rebate the more than \$25 million in PST paid on an annual basis by municipalities; and
- Move to multi-year budgeting to assist with long-term planning and priority setting.



✓ Bill 37: The Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act

Department of Municipal Relations

- While we thank the government for actively consulting with the AMM, municipal leaders and other stakeholders prior to introducing Bill 37, it is vital that the scope of appeals and decisions are statutory as they are elsewhere in Canada.
- Allowing direct appeals on all land-use decisions to the Municipal board overrides the legitimate jurisdiction of elected municipal officials who know their communities best.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Continue to involve the AMM through a Working Group that will address policy, guidelines, and regulations that respects municipal authority;
- Co-develop guidelines to limit the scope of appeals as well as create mechanisms to mitigate frivolous appeals to not backlog the current system; and
- Ensure this proposed legislation reduces red tape and is responsive to the concerns of municipalities to ensure economic recovery.

✓ Modernize Education Funding

Department of Education

- Convene a multi-stakeholder Task Force to comprehensively review and modernize Manitoba's education funding model;
- Provide new, sustainable long-term funding as education property taxes are phased out starting in 2021;
- Re-evaluate the impact of the 2019 Education Property Tax Credit (EPTC) application changes; and
- Rescind the \$5,000 cap on the Farmland School Tax Rebate.



✓ Essential Cell Service and Broadband Internet Access

Department of Economic Development and Training

- Manitoba continues to experience some of the slowest Internet download speeds in the country while cell network coverage remains sparse in many areas.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the digital divide between communities as well as the immediate need for better broadband access so residents have the tools and resources available to work from home, access quality healthcare and education services.

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 connectivity; and
- To consult with the AMM, and municipalities to immediately develop a provincial broadband strategy to expand coverage to ensure all Manitobans have access to high-quality Internet and come out of this pandemic stronger than ever.

✓ 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:

Repeal the sections regarding appeals in The Planning Amendment Act.



✓ Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing

- Department of Finance
- Department of Municipal Relations
- Department of Crown Services
- Department of Economic Development and Training
- The AMM understands that the Province of Manitoba is not a signatory of the Coordinate Cannabis Taxation Agreement (CCTA), and therefore does not receive the provincial share of the federal cannabis excise tax.
- However, the province collects a cannabis retailer Social Responsibility Fee of 6 per cent on annual revenues from the sale of non-medical cannabis by all provincially-licensed retailers -- but no funding support has been provided to Manitoba municipalities.

- Ensure municipalities receive all tools and resources necessary to address increased municipal policing and administrative costs; and
- Co-develop a fair revenue sharing model that respects municipal authority.



✓ Accessibility Legislation and Standards

Department of Families

- The AMM welcomes the establishment of quarterly meetings with departmental staff to discuss accessibility standards and compliance requirements.
- 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;
- Significantly reduce the administrative and financial burdens on municipalities as a result of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its corresponding standards; and
- Continue to consult with the AMM to ensure a smooth transition process once the accessibility compliance framework is operationalized.

✓ Differential Mill Rates and Simplifying Municipal Tax Tools

Department of Municipal Relations

- The AMM welcomes the Province of Manitoba extending the deadline from 2022 to 2024 for municipalities that have not yet transitioned to a single mill rate.
- However, many of the provincial tools currently offered are administratively burdensome and corresponding procedures are met with unnecessary red tape.

- Streamline the use of existing tax tools and grant greater tax flexibility and autonomy to municipalities; and
- Continue to consult with our organization and municipalities that have not fully transitioned to a single mill rate to ensure a smooth transition.



✓ Enforcement of Weight Restrictions

Department of 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.

The AMM recommends the government:

Work collaboratively with municipalities to allow local councils the option to enforce certain sections of the Highway Traffic Act to protect municipal infrastructure.

✓ Newspaper Recycling Initiatives

Department of Conservation and Climate

Since 2017, more than \$2 million has been withheld from Manitoba municipalities even though they continue to collect and process newspapers as part of their community recycling programs.

- Immediately call a joint stakeholder meeting involving the AMM, City of Winnipeg, Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSSM) and News Media Canada (NMC) to ensure municipalities are compensated for newspaper recycling; and
- Continue to directly consult with the AMM on new waste diversion and recycling initiatives.



✓ Paramedic Self-Regulation

- Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living
- The new Manitoba paramedic fees are among the highest fees across Canada.
- Full time and part-time paramedics should not be treated the same within the new CPMB framework as it will likely have an effect on volunteers in local communities.

The AMM recommends the government:

Facilitate a joint stakeholder meeting involving the AMM, Shared Health and the College of Paramedics of Manitoba (CPMB) to help mitigate financial and administrative burdens so that municipalities can continue to deliver essential services and protect local communities.

✓ Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

- Department of Conservation and Climate
- The AMM welcomes the Province of Manitoba's willingness to comprehensively review the Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation.

- Recognize and address the financial impacts of the current ban on municipal weed control efforts and municipal budgets;
- Reverse the ban on federally-approved weed control products; and
- Consider 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

- 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

✓ Investing in Canada (Phase 2) and AMM Involvement

- Department of Central Services
- Department of Municipal Relations
- The AMM is very pleased to participate as a member of the Manitoba Local consultative committee (MBLCC) to review applications for the various streams under Phase 2 of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).
- Given the COVID-19 pandemic it is vital that municipalities are able to take advantage of our short construction season.

- Make available a 'fair share' of funding under the Green Infrastructure stream to municipalities 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;
- Immediately expedite approvals for municipal projects under ICIP so that municipalities can take advantage of the short construction season; and
- Streamline processes and increase flexibility for applicants and funding recipients by expanding stacking limits and eligible costs under ICIP.



✓ Support for Economic Development

- Department of Municipal Relations
- Department of Economic Development and Training
- The AMM welcomes the provincial government's commitment to open a new Economic Development Office in Brandon to reduce red tape, foster economic growth, and provide 'single-window' services to rural Manitoba
- 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.

- Fully implement all the recommendations of the Rural Economic Development Strategy report, including providing 'single-window' services to rural Manitoba;
- Immediately provide clarity to the EDO's Board of Directors regarding their funding for the 2020-2021 fiscal year so that they can begin to hire staff, secure office space and launch programming to benefit all Manitobans as municipalities look to recover from COVID-19;
- Incorporate rural priorities into Manitoba's new provincial economic development strategy; and
- * Continue to consult with northern communities and the AMM on the implementation of the Look North initiative.



✓ Police Staffing and Funding

- Department of Justice
- Department of Municipal Relations
- The AMM welcomes the independent report of the Police Services Act as well as the provincial commitment to include the AMM and other stakeholders to continue identifying solutions to address gaps in the current legislation.

- Undertake a comprehensive review of policing in Manitoba in consultation with the AMM and municipalities focused on the distribution of policing costs and grant funding to promote a more transparent, fair and sustainable policing model;
- Reduce the financial and administrative burdens in relation to police services due to amalgamation;
- Help ensure Manitoba communities are not negatively impacted by the right of RCMP officers to collective bargaining; and
- 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.



✓ Community Safety and Local Crime

- Department of Justice
- Department of Municipal Relations
- Manitoba municipalities have been ringing the alarm on increasing crime rates in their communities since the Prairie provinces are experiencing higher rates of rural crime compared to other areas of the country.
- The AMM welcomes the provincial government seeking feedback from rural Manitoba to help combat rural crime in partnership with municipal officials and stakeholders.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Increase support to police services to address increasing rates of rural crime; and
- Ensure municipalities receive all necessary tools and resources to help mitigate illicit drug use in local communities.

✓ Drainage Licensing and Approvals

Department of Conservation and Climate

- Continue to streamline and reduce provincial red tape to expedite drainage licensing approvals;
- Allow municipalities to bundle applications for projects on non-contiguous parcels of land to mitigate application fee increases;
- Establish a customer service standard for approving licensable projects; and
- Ensure consistent enforcement by local Water Resource Officers.



✓ Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan

Department of Conservation and Climate

The AMM recommends the government:

- Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities during the implementation of the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan;
- Provide funding to municipalities to support the development and effective implementation of Community Energy Plans (CEPs); and
- Support the AMM's call on the federal government to provide exemptions to municipalities from the federal Carbon Tax.

✓ Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention

- Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living
- The AMM welcomes the provincial government's commitment to establish a Physician Recruitment and Retention program for local communities throughout Manitoba - but 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.

✓ Municipal By-law Enforcement Act

- Department of Justice
- Department of Municipal Relations

- Review the municipal by-law enforcement act in consultation with the AMM and municipalities; and
- Ensure the effective enforcement of municipal by-laws by developing an adequate fine collection process.



- **✓** Provincial Planning and Assessment Services Staff
 - Department of Municipal Relations

The AMM recommends the government:

- ✓ Immediately fill all vacancies in regional planning and assessment offices to ensure municipalities are receiving timely and accurate services from each of these branches.
- **✓** Support for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Process
 - o Department of Indigenous and Northern Relations
 - o 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 Nation communities as well as throughout the TLE process.

- **✓** Weed Control
 - o Department of Manitoba Infrastructure

The AMM recommends the government:

✓ Immediately provide the AMM with the new weed control process communication materials to ensure municipalities are well informed prior to when the changes take effect Spring 2021.



APPENDIX - SUPPORTING AMM RESOLUTIONS

Successes in 2019-2020

COVID-19 Assistance

None

AMM-Province of Manitoba Strategic Collaboration Working Group

None

Strengthening Protections for Municipal Officials

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

Provincial DFA Programs

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

\$30 Million to support Climate Resiliency/Spring Flood Preparedness

None (refer to AMM Policy File P-CWS-10)

\$20 Million Manitoba Mineral Development Fund (MMDF)

• None (refer to AMM Policy File P-GET-04)

\$5 Million Fire Protection Grant

None (refer to AMM Policy File P-LI-02)

Speed Display Devices (Driver Feedback Signs)

Resolution #26-2018: Driver Feedback Signs

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

Bill 37: The Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act

- Resolution #01-2020*: Reaffirming Local Authority over Land-Use Planning
- Resolution #02-2020*: Increasing Planning Region Accountability

Modernizing Education Funding

- Resolution #42-2018: Education Property Tax Credit (EPTC) Application Changes
- Resolution #33-2017: Education Funding Model Task Force
- Resolution #25-2015: Business Education Tax
- Resolution #32-2013: Modernize Education Funding
- Resolution #42-2012: Exempt Public Libraries from Education Levies and Taxes

Essential Cell Service and Broadband Internet Access



- Resolution #41-2019: Essential Cell Service SP
- Resolution #38-2015: Improve Cellular Reception Services
- Resolution #50-2012: High Speed Internet and Cell Service for Rural Manitoba

Direct Appeals to Municipal Board

• Resolution #04-2018: The Planning Amendment Act

Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing

- Resolution #02-2018: Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing
- Resolution #05-2019: Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing

Accessibility Legislation and Standards

• Resolution #41-2017: Accessibility Legislation & Standards

Differential Mill Rates and Simplifying Municipal Tax Tools

- Resolution #08-2019: Municipal Autonomy
- Resolution #38-2019: Maintain Differential Mill Rates SP
- Resolution #36-2018: Mill Rates SP
- Resolution #13-2017: Differential Mill Rates

Enforcement of Weight Restrictions

• Resolution #38-2017: By-Law Enforcement

Newspaper Recycling

• None (refer to AMM Policy File P-CWS-04)

Paramedic Fees

None

Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

- Resolution #13-2014: Weed Control Districts Chemical Exemption
- Resolution #13-2011: Cosmetic Pesticide Use Ban

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

Investing in Canada (Phase 2) and AMM Involvement

None (refer to AMM Policy Files P-MI-01 & F-IC-01)

Support for Economic Development

Resolution #35-2017: Strategy to Increase Physical and Electronic Connectivity

Police Staffing and Funding

- Resolution #39-2019*: RCMP Funding Formula
- Resolution #40-2019*: RCMP Staffing
- 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 #42-2009: New Police Services Act

Community Safety and Local Crime

• Resolution #19-2019: Methamphetamine Issues



Resolution #10-2020*: Proceeds from Rural Crime

Drainage Licensing and Approvals:

- Resolution #27-2019: Drainage Licensing
- Resolution #48-2017: Municipal Drainage
- Resolution #17-2014: Tile Drainage Policy
- Resolution #18-2014: Drainage Upgrades and Solutions
- Resolution #17-2012: Drainage on Crown Lands

Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan

• None (refer to AMM Policy File P-CWS-08)

Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention

- Resolution #35-2018: Rural Healthcare
- Resolution #26-2017: Healthcare Services

Municipal By-law Enforcement Act

• Resolution #38-2017: By-Law Enforcement

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 Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Process

Resolution #35-2015: TLE Consultation & Support

Weed Control

Resolution #25-2020*: Weed Control

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

