



Meeting with Honourable Jennifer Howard
Minister of Finance
AMM Pre-Budget Submission

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CRITICAL ISSUES – REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ACTION

- **Alternate Revenue Sources**

- *Manitoba Finance*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Identify new sources of revenue for municipalities to address the infrastructure deficit and increasing municipal responsibilities.

- **Building Canada 2014**

- *Manitoba Finance, Manitoba Municipal Government*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Support AMM input in the decision-making process for any application-based infrastructure funding;
- ❖ Ensure municipalities receive a fair share of the new Building Canada Fund in consultation with the AMM;
- ❖ Recognize the unique needs of small communities in program design in consultation with the AMM.

- **Provincial Sales Tax Rebate for Municipalities**

- *Manitoba Finance*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Exempt municipalities from paying PST or provide a rebate of all PST paid by municipalities.

- **Cell Service and High Speed Internet Access**

- *Manitoba Jobs and the Economy, Manitoba Mineral Resources*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Continue facilitating discussions with cell carriers and other stakeholders to explore options to expand cellular coverage and broadband access;
- ❖ Meet with the federal government and municipalities to develop solutions to ensure the safety of emergency responders and the public in Manitoba.

- **Community Places Program**

- *Manitoba Housing and Community Development*

- ❖ Funding for the Community Places Program was reduced by \$600,000 in Budget 2013-14.

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Provide additional funding for the highly successful Community Places Program to allow an increase in the maximum funding available and an increased number of recipients.

- **Funding for Conservation Districts**

- *Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Increase funding to CDs to the funding level received prior to the 2013 cuts at a minimum, and consider reevaluating the funding formula.

- **Problem Beaver Management Program**

- *Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship; Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Maintain provincial responsibility for problem wildlife and reinstate funding for the Problem Beaver Management Program;
- ❖ Reinstatement of funding and upholding agreements for beaver management pilot projects with participating municipalities.

- **Modernize Education Funding**

- *Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Provide new, sustainable long-term funding to cover 80 per cent of operating costs for education to reduce school division reliance on property taxes;
- ❖ Reinstatement of Tax Incentive Grant funding;
- ❖ Fulfill election promises to eliminate school taxes on farmland and for seniors.

- **Removal or Reduction of Community Contributions for Health Facilities**

- *Manitoba Health*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Fund all health facilities provincially without the current requirement for a local contribution covering 10 per cent of the project cost; or
- ❖ Reduce the required community capital contribution to a fixed 5 per cent.

- **Rural Airports**

- *Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Reinstatement of a capital assistance program for airports on a 50-50 basis with municipalities;
- ❖ 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.

- **Rural Water Pipeline Funding**

- *Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Identify rural water pipeline funding as a provincial priority either under the Growing Forward 2 Agreement or with Infrastructure Canada.

- **Support for Recreation Centre Operating Costs**

- *Manitoba Healthy Living and Seniors, Manitoba Children and Youth Opportunities*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Support the development of a pilot project to increase the efficiency of older recreation centres.

- **Veterinary Board Funding**

- *Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Reinststate the Technical Enhancement Grant to provide assistance with equipment costs;
- ❖ Increase funding for operating costs to keep rural veterinarian salaries competitive and to enable rural clinics to continue providing veterinary services to their communities.

ONGOING ISSUES – SOME PROGRESS, MORE ACTION NEEDED

- **Affordable Housing Shortage**

- *Manitoba Housing and Community Development*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Fulfill commitments to build additional affordable housing and personal care homes, and provide incentives to build more rental housing.

- **By-law Enforcement**

- *Manitoba Justice*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Allocate resources to support the implementation of changes resulting from the new Provincial Offences Act and The Municipal By-law Enforcement Act.

- **Emergency Medical Services**

- *Manitoba Health*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Provide funding to implement the recommendations of the Emergency Medical Services Review;
 - ❖ Improve response times and address the shortage of paramedics in rural and northern Manitoba.

- **Flood Compensation and Mitigation**

- *Manitoba Emergency Measures*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Provide compensation to municipalities and individuals in a timely manner for assessment and property losses due to flooding;
- ❖ Make improvements to flood response and mitigation capabilities, as well as flood prevention infrastructure, based on the reviews of 2011 flooding.

- **Health Practitioner Recruitment, Training and Retention**

- *Manitoba Health*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Continue to fund initiatives to help attract and retain health professionals in rural and northern Manitoba and ensure every Manitoban has a family doctor by 2015;
- ❖ Continue with the implementation of Brandon Medical Education Study recommendations to address the severe shortage of physicians and other health professionals in rural and northern Manitoba.

- **Palliative Care Services**

- *Manitoba Health*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Ensure sufficient funding is provided for palliative care in every RHA to avoid reliance on community fundraising.

- **Ecological Goods and Services**

- *Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Fulfill commitments to provide provincial funding through Growing Forward 2 for Ecological Goods and Services (EG&S).

- **Surface Water Management Strategy**

- *Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Consult with municipalities, and provide sufficient funding to fulfill the Surface Water Management Strategy objectives and address inter-jurisdiction flooding and drainage issues.

- **Support for LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Data Collection**

- *Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Provide funding to support the acquisition of LiDAR coverage in partnership with local governments.

- **Noxious Weed Control**

- *Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Allocate additional resources to provincial weed control, and support Weed Districts in their weed control efforts.

- **Land Use Planner Positions**

- *Manitoba Municipal Government*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Fill vacancies to ensure all areas of the province have access to land use planning support, and review development plans in a timely manner.

- **Libraries**

- *Manitoba Tourism, Culture, Sport and Consumer Protection*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Establish funding for a universal, province-wide library card system;
- ❖ Increase overall funding for libraries from \$8.50 to at least \$10.00 per capita.

- **Tourism Funding**

- *Manitoba Tourism, Culture, Sport and Consumer Protection*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Maintain support for vibrant communities by continuing to provide funding to promote tourism in Manitoba.

- **Costs of Survey Monument Restoration**

- *Manitoba Tourism, Culture, Sport and Consumer Protection*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Allocate adequate funding to cover survey monument restoration program costs.

- **Intercity Bus Service**

- *Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Provide support to community-sponsored options for intercity bus service in rural and northern Manitoba.

- **Transportation Infrastructure**

- *Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Provide sufficient funding to maintain and renew provincial roads, including gravel roads, access roads and urban highways, particularly:
 - Highways with safety issues; and
 - Highways important for trade and travel.

- **Oil Production Issues**

- *Manitoba Mineral Resources*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Support ongoing work by the oil industry and municipalities to jointly address future challenges;
- ❖ Commit to act on recommendations made by the Rural Municipality Oil Industry Working Group to address infrastructure and resource use challenges in oil-producing and affected communities once the work is completed.

- **Mining Issues in Northern Manitoba**

- *Manitoba Mineral Resources*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Support resource-based communities and municipalities in their development of long-term sustainability plans.

- **Tax Exemption for Municipalities**

- *Manitoba Finance*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Include municipalities as exempt entities under Section 113(2) of *The Tax Administration and Miscellaneous Taxes Act* to exempt them from paying land transfer tax.

SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES – MORE FUNDING NEEDED

- **Municipal Bridge Renewal Program**

- *Manitoba Municipal Government*

- ❖ The AMM appreciates the \$75,000 from this program allocated to engineering assessments for municipal bridges to prepare them for future infrastructure funding as well as the commitment in Budget 2013 to provide another \$1 million for this program.

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Continue to support bridge repair and replacement.

- **Community Museums**

- *Manitoba Tourism, Culture, Sport and Consumer Protection*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Increase funding to the Community Museum Grants Program and reevaluate funding for the Signature Museum Program to ensure museums remain sustainable.

- **Dutch Elm Disease Management Program**

- *Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Make funding available for Dutch Elm Disease management services for municipalities who request these services.

- **Hometown Green Team Program**

- *Manitoba Children, and Youth Opportunities*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Increase funding for this program to allow the approval of more applications.

- **Handi-Transit**

- *Manitoba Municipal Government, Manitoba Healthy Living and Seniors*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Increase the maximum grant amount available and total funding for the program;
- ❖ Ensure people with mobility issues have reliable and affordable transportation options, particularly when they need to travel to medical appointments.

- **Partner 4 Growth Program**

- *Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ Expand the successful Partner 4 Growth program to provide more economic development funding to communities.