



April 9, 2014

## Minister Meetings Continue

The AMM met with the Honourable **Steve Ashton**, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, on February 19.

Infrastructure funding was the first item on the agenda. The AMM expressed appreciation for the municipal roads program, but reiterated the need for more funding for municipal roads and infrastructure.

The AMM also asked how much of a share of the New Building Canada Fund (NBCF) the province will use for provincial infrastructure. Minister Ashton said the Province didn't apply for any projects yet. The AMM also asked for more investments in maintenance of roads/highways. The Province is looking at new technologies to stretch funding.

Funding for rural airports, railway abandonment, flood mitigation, inter-city bus

service, crown lands and municipal development, roadside maintenance, and the Port of Churchill were also discussed with Minister Ashton.

The next meeting took place on February 25, with the Honourable Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

After several years of lobbying the AMM was pleased to see rural water pipeline funding included in Growing Forward II. Yet the funding is significantly lower than before and it will only cover the agriculture-related portion of any project. Funding will be administered by the Water Services Board.

Ecological Goods and Services will also be funded under GF2. Conservation districts are important and the Minister suggested that CDs and AMM should have the same messaging on some of the issues important to both.



President Doug Dobrowolski (left) joined Minister Ron Kostyshyn in Brandon on April 3 to announce the Partner 4 Growth Program.

On the Partner 4 Growth program, the AMM acknowledged it works well, but requires more funding as it replaced economic development funding, but not to the same level.

Beaver Program funding, noxious weeds, rural veterinary board funding and support for biomass energy were also discussed with the Minister.

## New Building Canada Fund launched

On March 28, the Government of Canada launched the New Building Canada Fund (NBCF). It is worth a total of \$14 billion over 10 years, and will include 3 components:

- A national infrastructure component with \$4 billion
- A provincial infrastructure component with \$10 billion
- A Small Communities Fund with 10% of the provincial component, or \$1 billion

In total, Manitoba will receive \$467 million over 10 years.

The Small Communities Fund is for communities with fewer than 100,000 people. Municipal projects are eligible

under either of these components, as long as they meet the conditions and fall under the approved categories. For instance, the National Infrastructure Component can include municipal projects in the eligible areas if they have "national significance."

There have been some major changes to project categories under the Building Canada Fund. For instance, local roads and sport/recreation/culture and tourism infrastructure have been removed. There is also a new category called "innovation" which applies to things like infrastructure for research in post-secondary institutions. This means universities and others will now be competing for infrastructure dollars.

In addition, the maximum federal contribution to municipal projects can't exceed 1/3 of the funding, including the Gas Tax. This means municipalities can't use their Gas Tax Funding as their 1/3rd share. Without a source of alternate revenue this is a concern.

Although the NBCF has officially launched, a number of outstanding issues still need to be addressed. The AMM will continue to update members as information becomes available.

*For more information on the New Building Canada Fund, visit:*  
[www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/plan-eng.html](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/plan-eng.html)

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## Coming Events

### Municipal Officials Seminar & MTCML Tradeshow

...is just around the corner!

**Please note:  
online registration has now closed.**

Should you still wish to register, you must do so on-site at the Keystone Centre on Wednesday, April 16, 2014.

**Visit the AMM website for the latest agenda:**

[www.amm.mb.ca/events\\_seminar.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_seminar.html)

*A final agenda will be provided to delegates upon checking in at the Seminar.*

*See you there!*



**Twitter hashtag:  
#2014MOS**

## June District Meetings

The 2013 June District Meetings will take place June 9 - 13, 16 & 17, 2014.

The deadline to submit resolutions for all June District Meetings is **June 1, 2014**. The resolution must be passed by Council to be eligible.

**In order to ensure your resolutions are sent in to the AMM office by June 1st, please review and pass resolutions at your May council meetings.**

Please review the "Process for resolutions" and "How to write a resolution" for more information. These documents are available at:

[www.amm.mb.ca/events\\_june\\_form.cfm](http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_june_form.cfm)

If you have any questions regarding resolutions for the upcoming June District Meetings, please contact Lindsay Thomson, Senior Policy Analyst at [lthomson@amm.mb.ca](mailto:lthomson@amm.mb.ca) or 1-204-856-2371.

## Notices



### Partner 4 Growth

#### Providing funds for economic opportunity in your region

The Partner 4 Growth program provides up to \$15,000 in cost-shared funding to rural municipalities and non-profit organizations in rural and northern Manitoba to help strengthen or diversify economic activity in their regions.

Partner 4 Growth will fund:

- a maximum of \$8,000 for projects that identify strategic economic opportunities and the feasibility of economic opportunities such as:
  - strategic planning
  - feasibility studies
- a maximum of \$15,000 for projects intended to implement activities to pursue strategic economic opportunities such as:
  - business retention and expansion
  - training and workshops
  - investment attraction

Applications are now available for 2014/15 at [www.manitoba.ca/agriculture](http://www.manitoba.ca/agriculture) or contact your local Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development GO Office.

**The application deadline is May 31, 2014.**

#### Did you miss the Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings?

Or were you there, but suffered from information overload? Don't worry, we have now posted a recap on the AMM website.

Visit:

[www.amm.mb.ca/events\\_meetings.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_meetings.html)

## Notices

### New Seniors Guide Available

A new version of the Manitoba Seniors' Guide, offering a wide range of information from financial tips to health services, can be picked now up at many locations across the province.

The guide offers a comprehensive listing of programs and services available to seniors to help them make informed decisions about important issues in their lives. Seniors are encouraged to have a copy of the guide right next to their phone. If assistance is required, they can call the seniors information line with questions.

The guide also includes highlights of the Caregiver Recognition Act, the Elder Abuse Strategy, the Healthy Aging Strategy and the Age Friendly Manitoba Initiative, and lets seniors and their families know where to find a wide range of resources offered by government.

For a free copy of the Manitoba Seniors' Guide, call the Seniors Information Line at 204-945-6565, 1-800-665-6565 (toll-free) or visit [www.manitoba.ca/shas](http://www.manitoba.ca/shas).

The guide is also available online at [www.gov.mb.ca/shas/publications/docs/seniors\\_guide.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/shas/publications/docs/seniors_guide.pdf).

### Manitoba Soccer Association (MSA) Community Soccer Camps

Mick Gale who is the Facilitator of MSA Soccer Camps has been visiting communities for the past two months introducing MSA's exciting new opportunity to run a Soccer Camp in your area.

The MSA is committed to hosting an MSA Soccer Camp in your community and using the revenue from the camp to provide funding to Regional Development initiatives such as camps, competitions and coach and player development opportunities.

Please have your community's Recreation Director work with the MSA to provide these opportunities for the youth in your area.

For more information or for any questions please have them contact us at [mbsoccer@manitobasoccer.ca](mailto:mbsoccer@manitobasoccer.ca)