



JANUARY 10, 2014

Amalgamation legal challenge update

On December 11, 2013, the AMM began a legal proceeding challenging the Province of Manitoba's implementation of the Municipal Amalgamations Act.

We have been notified that our argument will be heard on March 10, 2014.

If successful, the challenge will ensure all municipalities and their residents are treated fairly with respect to amalgamation. The challenge is directed at two aspects of the amalgamation process:

First, we are asking the Court to ensure that the procedure the Province must follow to consider amalgamating municipalities under the Amalgamations Act is fair and transparent for municipalities and their residents.

The AMM is asking the Court to ensure that if the Province wants to change in a material way the amalgamation plan created by the municipalities, then the Minister must give notice to and consult with the affected municipalities and their residents before going ahead with the amalgamation. The AMM is trying to provide the affected councils and residents with an opportunity to understand what the Province may be proposing by way of amalgamation for their communities and give them a chance to have a say.

Second, we are challenging the Province of Manitoba's decision, before the December 1, 2013 deadline, that certain groupings of municipalities will be amalgamated.

The AMM is also asking the Court to set aside the amalgamation decisions set out in the Province's October 30, 2013 letters, and give the choice whether and how to amalgamate to those affected municipalities. The AMM is asking that the amalgamation decisions set out in those letters be set aside and the Court provide an opportunity:

- for those municipalities interested in amalgamating, to file an amalgamation plan that is not influenced by the Province's letter and actions, and
- for those municipalities not interested in amalgamating, to have the discretion not to file a plan and not be considered for amalgamation under the Act.

The second part was included because the Province chose to take the actions set out in the October 30, 2013 letters which were unfair and in violation of the procedure set out under the Act. The AMM felt it had no choice but to include this aspect as part of the Court challenge. **However, even if the AMM is successful in the Court application, those municipalities who want to amalgamate may still do so.**

If you have any questions or concerns with the legal challenge, or the impact or effect it may have on a proposed amalgamation, please contact Joe Masi, Executive Director at 204-856-2360 or by emailing jmasi@amm.mb.ca. We welcome any feedback, questions or input. ■

The AMM understands that there are municipalities that are interested in amalgamating and others that are not. For those that want to amalgamate, the AMM respects these decisions and has always supported and continues to support them.

This legal proceeding is not intended or meant to interfere with those decisions in any way, and has been prepared to ensure municipalities that want to amalgamate continue to have the right to do so.

Coming soon:

The **Winter, 2014** edition of the **Municipal Leader**.



Including:

- Special Report on **Public Safety**
- Meeting with Provincial Cabinet
- Submissions from the *Government of Canada, Manitoba Hydro, Public Utilities Board, and the Office of the Fire Commissioner*
- Candid Camera pics from Convention
- *And much more!*



Coming Events

It's not too late to register for this AMM Education Session:

Strengthening Communication Skills for Difficult Situations

Monday, January 27, 2014

Location: Clarion Inn, 1445 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg



Trainer: Genella Macintyre, Partners in Discovery

This workshop will focus on when times and conversations are difficult.

Participants will examine social styles and how the

4 social styles communicate, difficult behaviours sets such as people who shut down or express their anger outright, and examine strategies to deal with defensive reactions in others and in ourselves.

Register now at:

[www.amm.mb.ca/
events_education_req.cfm](http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_education_req.cfm)



Recreation Connections Manitoba's Annual Provincial Conference

All communities are invited and encouraged to send representatives to our annual conference being held February 26-28, 2014 at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg. Recreation is an important component to your community and by attending this event you will have the opportunity to speak with fellow council members and recreation professionals from communities across the province. Join us in celebrating recreation in Manitoba!

To register, visit

www.reconnections.com

Early Bird Registration deadline is February 7, 2014.

Notices

New Change to Manitoba Grant Program for Journeypersons

The **Journeyperson Business Start Program** is a provincial program delivered by Manitoba Jobs and the Economy's Small Business Development office and Apprenticeship Manitoba. The program encourages new journeypersons in rural Manitoba to start their own full-time business and pursue self-employment as a career choice.

Applications are accepted on a year-round basis from eligible journeypersons who have received their Certificate of Qualification within the **past six years**.

Under the new program, applicants are eligible to receive a **grant of up to \$2,500** to help cover the cost of purchasing the necessary equipment, tools, supplies, buildings, leasehold and building improvements related to starting a trade related business. The program will provide a contribution of up to \$2,500 based on 50 per cent of eligible expenditures. Eligible purchase transactions must have occurred within an 18-month eligibility period. This period covers the time from six months prior to the business start date and up to 12 months after the business start date. Applications must be submitted within one year of starting the business.

The application, guidelines and business plan summary are available online at www.manitoba.ca/jbsp.

Program contact is **Shawna Wilson, Business Consultant** at 204-945-6729, 1-855-836-7250 or shawna.wilson@gov.mb.ca.



Job Postings

Town of Neepawa Economic Development Officer

The Economic Development Officer (EDO), reporting directly to the CAO with strategic objectives provided by Town Council and advisory committees, will be responsible for providing professional leadership and direction for the planning and implementation of economic development strategies in support of the goals established by the Town of Neepawa Council.

The successful candidate, as directed by the CAO and utilizing objectives provided by Town Council and advisory committees, will provide a variety of development and support services for existing, new or expanding businesses and ensure marketing to the types of business operations desired by Council. Research and analysis of results will be a key to success. Ideally, you will possess economic development experience in a government setting, and have excellent communication, organization and inter-personal skills with a proven ability to manage in a fast paced environment. Preferably, you have the designation of EC.D. from the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC). A diploma or degree in Community Economic Development and/or business administration is an asset.

A minimum of 3 years related experience in a municipal setting is required, as is a positive record of working with municipal Councils, Boards of Directors, and Committees in achieving desired results. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The Town of Neepawa offers a complete pension and benefits package. For a detailed job description please visit our website at www.neepawa.ca.

Interested applicants are invited to submit their application with detailed resume including references by 4:30 pm, Friday, February 7, 2014 to:

Mr. Richard Beachey, CAO
The Town of Neepawa
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Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

Fax: 204-476-7624

e-mail: neepawacao@wcgwave.ca