



## News Bulletin

AMM news and updates right in your inbox



May 25, 2015

Dear Subscriber,

We hope you enjoy this AMM bi-weekly News Bulletin. A [printable version](#) of the bulletin is available on our website.

## Latest News

### Canada 150 Fund

As part of the Canada 150 celebrations, the Government of Canada has launched the **Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program**, which will invest \$150 million over two years to rehabilitate and improve existing community infrastructure across Canada.

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) will deliver the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program in Western Canada and will invest \$43.2 million in projects aiming to rehabilitate existing cultural and community infrastructure.

Detailed information on the delivery of the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program in Western Canada, including important details on eligibility, application

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### Municipalities Trading Company of Manitoba Ltd. (MTCML)

The MTCML offers AMM members lower prices on products and services through the power of bulk buying. Click [here](#) to learn more.

requirements and program priorities, are available on the WD website <http://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/18872.asp>.

**Applications in Western Canada will be accepted from  
Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
until Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @  
1:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time  
2:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time  
3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.**

### **Facility Operators Certification Program Update**

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship has implemented a new policy on exam registration as part of the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Program [update](#). Operators wanting to register for a certification exam must complete the exam [registration form](#) and pay the exam registration fee two weeks before the exam date. Operators can also pay online through Canada Map Sales - payment onsite is no longer accepted.

For more information, contact Siobhan Burland Ross at (204) 945-7015 or [Siobhan.burlandross@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Siobhan.burlandross@gov.mb.ca).

### **Reduction of Pesticide Buffer Zone to 90 meters**

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship administers the Pesticides Regulation under the Environment Act. Any application of pesticides on municipal property requires a Pesticide Use Permit (PUP), which enforces the policy concerning buffer zones for mosquito fogging. The AMM has lobbied for a reduction in buffer zones and is pleased the the buffer zone has been reduced from 100 metres to 90 meters, effective the 2015 mosquito season.

### **AMM, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Minister meet**

The AMM was pleased to meet with the Honourable Eric Robinson, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, on May 7.

The first item on the agenda was Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE), and President Doug Dobrowolski discussed the TLE process and the [Agreement](#) recently signed by the AMM, the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba and the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba. AMM also thanked the Minister for assigning a departmental staff member to attend the meetings on the TLE process.

Next, the AMM asked for an update on the Northern Development Strategy. The Minister committed to trying to speed up the consultation process with municipalities.

On the subject of the Bipole III Community Development



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Initiative, the AMM asked that it be changed to include cities. An AMM resolution passed in 2014 supports fair and equal treatment of all communities under this program. The Minister requested his Special Assistant to look into this matter to get back to the AMM. The Minister also promised to send a letter to Manitoba Hydro requesting an update on this issue.

## Letter to the Editor - Pesticide Ban Hurts Municipalities

***The AMM had the following letter published in the Winnipeg Free Press on May 6, 2015.***

On May 1, the ban on the use of cosmetic pesticides came into effect.

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities continues to voice its opposition to this unreasonable regulation not only due to its contradictory wording but also due to its impractical restrictions and skyrocketing compliance costs placed on municipalities.

The ban outlaws pesticides approved by federal government agencies, reducing the ability of municipalities to effectively manage weed-control programs and resulting in unnecessary financial constraints on municipal budgets.

Steinbach, for example, has estimated its annual cost of fighting weeds in the community will increase to more than \$237,000 from approximately \$15,000 -- which all citizens will ultimately have to pay.

[Read More](#)

## Letter to the Editor - Conservation Budget Cuts Raise Concerns

***The AMM had the following letter published in the Winnipeg Sun on May 7, 2015.***

One policy file within Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship's portfolio that continues to swallow up precious municipal resources is Dutch elm disease (DED) management. The province has shifted responsibility for the removal of diseased elms to communities participating in the DED management program. Currently, these communities receive a \$2,000 administrative grant plus \$181.32 for every diseased tree removed. According to some municipal estimates removal costs are up to \$1,000 per tree. When 40 communities remove 5,600 trees per year, municipal budgets feel the hit from the inadequate provincial reimbursement rate.

For comparative purposes, last year the City of Winnipeg removed roughly the same amount of trees, yet its operating expenses were \$5.6 million. The amount received by 40 communities combined from the province totalled \$1.05 million.

This is a textbook example of how one order of government downloads costs onto municipalities. Local communities should not have to bear an unfair burden to sustain our urban and rural

a municipal job for Manitoba or across Canada.

## Classified Ads

The place for AMM members to buy and sell: [Classifieds](#)

## Municipal Map

View our interactive [Municipal Map](#) to find out more about Manitoba's newly amalgamated municipalities.

## Policy

Read about the AMM's top [policy issues](#).

## Documents

Looking for something? Look no further than the AMM's searchable [Document Library](#).

## Presentations

From the recent Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings and the Municipal Officials Seminar.

[View presentations](#)

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forests.

## Coming Events

### June District Meetings

#### Resolution Deadline is **June 1!**

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.

**The resolution must be passed by Council to be eligible.**

If you have any questions regarding resolutions for the upcoming June District Meetings, please contact:

**Nick Krawetz, Senior Policy Analyst**

**Phone: 204-856-2371**

**Email: [nkrawetz@amm.mb.ca](mailto:nkrawetz@amm.mb.ca)**

## Notices

### Commuter Challenge

Green Action Centre is sending out the call to Manitobans to join their co-workers in the Commuter Challenge. This national event encourages everyone to try new, sustainable modes to commute to and from work each day. Manitoba has been a national leader for participation, and this year, Green Action Centre wants to see more than 8000 individuals take part.



"During the Commuter Challenge, we encourage Manitobans to try new ways of getting to and from work, with sustainability in mind. Perhaps you can start carpooling with a neighbour, or try out a cycle route that's near your home, or walk - even part of the way," says *Jaret Olford*, Commuter Challenge Coordinator. "We are happy to share tips with you and lend you support. We want this to be a great experience for you."

This year's event runs from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>. Visit Green Action Centre's [website](#) to register and learn more about the Commuter Challenge today.

### Municipal Burning Bans

In order to track fire protection efforts during spring dry conditions, the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) asks all municipalities to please inform the OFC immediately at

[firecomm@gov.mb.ca](mailto:firecomm@gov.mb.ca) if you currently have a burning ban in place. We also ask that changes to the status of the burning ban be reported.



Should any member of the public ask, refer them to this website [AND](http://www.gov.mb.ca/wildfire/burn_conditions.html) ask them to check with their municipal office for the most recent information.

[http://www.gov.mb.ca/wildfire/burn\\_conditions.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/wildfire/burn_conditions.html)

Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) | 204-857-8666 | [lbereza@amm.mb.ca](mailto:lbereza@amm.mb.ca) | <http://www.amm.mb.ca>  
1910 Saskatchewan Ave. W  
Portage la Prairie, R1N 0P1