

July 2, 2015

Clerk of Committees Legislative Assembly of Manitoba 251-450 Broadway Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), I am writing to provide some comments on the proposed amendments to *The Noxious Weeds Act*.

In addition, I would like to thank Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development for holding consultative meetings with the AMM Executive and staff in the lead up to the introduction of Bill 32, and for sharing the common goal of reviewing and modernizing *The Noxious Weeds Act*.

While the AMM supports amendments that enhance coordination and allow municipalities to recoup costs of controlling noxious weeds, we understand that this Act is also an important regulatory tool available to help municipalities comply with other pieces of legislation, namely the Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation under The Environment Act. Ensuring regulatory consistency and compatibility between these pieces of legislation is of the utmost importance.

Naturally, the spread of noxious weeds is an area of shared concern of municipalities and the Province of Manitoba. Therefore, the AMM strongly encourages the provincial government to consult with municipalities and the Manitoba Weeds Supervisors Association (MWSA) when subsequently developing the *Act*'s regulations. Moreover, in accordance with the MWSA's position, the AMM supports the idea of expanding the area to destroy tier 2 noxious weeds to 10 acres as well as increasing the area to control tier 2 noxious weeds to 10 acres or more.

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely

Joe Masi

Executive Director