

May 18, 2017

Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage  
Assistant Deputy Minister's Office  
6<sup>th</sup> floor, 213 Notre Dame Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1N3  
Via email: [imaginecreative@gov.mb.ca](mailto:imaginecreative@gov.mb.ca)

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), which represents all 137 municipalities in Manitoba, I would like to take this opportunity to provide some comments in regards to the provincial government's cultural review.

The *Imagine. Creative Manitoba!* discussion document identifies 166 community museums located throughout the province. These facilities not only contribute to the quality of life, sense of identity, and unique character of local communities but they also foster economic development by increasing the attractiveness of a community to residents, businesses and tourism.

Provincial tourism reports also confirm that visits to museum and historic sites are the most frequent activities visitors choose or look forward to in planning their trip to Manitoba. Meanwhile, according to the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, Manitoba's tourism sector generates more than \$1.5 billion annually and is made up of close to 5,500 tourism businesses creating close to 25,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs throughout Manitoba. In addition, the discussion document also acknowledges that more than 318,000 people visit local community museums annually.

However, the *Community Museum Grants Program* (CMGP) awards maximum amounts of only \$1,350 and \$3,150, depending on the type of museum. These amounts have remained constant since 1991, or 26 years. Consequently, many local community museums have increasingly become reliant on local fundraising and donations as their operating costs continue to increase. Therefore, increased investments in local community museums are urgently needed to help promote tourism across Manitoba as well as to protect and interpret Manitoba's historical and heritage resources. Increased provincial grant support may also help attract greater private investments.

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In regards to public libraries, municipalities are proud to provide library services independently or in partnership through a regional library service. However, even though libraries are evolving into community hubs that foster community relations and partnerships, the provincial contribution rate to the *Rural Library Operating Grant Program* has remained constant at \$8.50 since 2004. This 13-year stagnation has resulted in additional burdens as municipalities are addressing these financial shortfalls through greater municipal contributions in order to not cut programming available to residents. Moreover, the stagnant level of funding combined with accessibility standards mandated by the Province of Manitoba with no funding support further compounds the challenges facing community libraries.

Therefore, the AMM encourages the Province of Manitoba to complete its review of the provincial library system and consult with the AMM on how libraries can be supported by the provincial government going forward. Increased provincial grant support would certainly complement the economic benefits listed in the discussion document, which highlighted that for every dollar invested in the provision of library services, the return value to the local economy is between \$2.50 and \$7.50.

In addition, 40 municipalities are without access to library service today. The AMM continues to support a universal, province-wide library card system to increase efficiencies and facilitate library use. The AMM believes that all library cards issued in Manitoba should be valid at any library that receives provincial funding. Precedents such as the "One Province, One Library Card" initiative in Saskatchewan have proven successful while library patrons are now able to receive faster, more convenient and more equitable access to public library services and materials.

For consideration, please see the enclosed active AMM resolutions regarding local community museums and libraries as they identify priorities and opportunities for efficiency and growth.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments and we look forward to reviewing the recommendations that emanate from this important consultation.

Sincerely,



Joe Masi  
Executive Director





## Museum Grants

### Sponsor(s)

Elkhorn, Village (Western)  
Grandview, Town (Parkland)

### Department(s)

Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

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WHEREAS museums are a vital component of restoring and maintaining the history of a municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba supports museums under the Community Museums Grant Program;

AND WHEREAS the maximum grant available to a community museum has not increased in many years;

AND WHEREAS the number of museums in Manitoba have increased;

### Therefore Be It Resolved That

the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase funding for the Manitoba Museums Grant Program;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that new museums be allowed to qualify for the grant offered by the Province.





## Tourism Funding

**Sponsor(s)**

Elkhorn, Village (Western)

**Department(s)**

Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

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WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has implemented a Star Attraction Program to promote tourist attractions within the province;

AND WHEREAS there are many attractions that have not been funded through the program;

AND WHEREAS promotion of these attractions will enhance tourism traffic throughout the province;

**Therefore Be It Resolved That**

the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to pursue additional funding for the Star Attraction Manitoba Program.



# AMM Resolution #47-2016

## Library Funding - SP

### Sponsor(s)

Grandview, Municipality (Parkland)

### Department(s)

Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

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WHEREAS libraries provide valuable services to all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS libraries are faced with ever increasing costs to provide these services; and

WHEREAS the Rural Library Operating Grant matches municipal funding up to a maximum amount that hasn't been increased since 2004;

### Therefore Be It Resolved That

the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase the maximum funds available to libraries to reflect the increasing costs libraries have seen in the last 12 years and in the years ahead.

**\* Standing Policy Note: This resolution is consistent with AMM policy and will not be brought forward to the Convention floor unless requested by delegates.**

**AMM Resolution #15-2011 requests the Province of Manitoba to increase the per capita base rate funding for libraries as well as to re-evaluate the funding formula for library boards to better reflect the actual cost of delivering library services.**



## Increase Per Capita Base Rate for Library Funding

### Sponsor(s)

North Cypress, RM (Western)  
Carberry, Town (Western)

### Department(s)

Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

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WHEREAS the current provincial maximum per capita levy amount for library funding is \$8.50 and was last raised in 2003;

AND WHEREAS funding for many libraries has been at this maximum rate for years;

AND WHEREAS the provincial funding falls short of the current financial requirements to operate libraries and increases to municipal levies are required annually just to sustain existing services;

### Therefore Be It Resolved That

the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase the per capita base rate funding for library boards to \$10.00.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to re-evaluate the funding formula for library boards annually or bi-annually to better reflect the actual cost of delivering the services.



# AMM Resolution #22-2008

## Library Cards

**Sponsor(s)**

Morris, RM (Central)

**Department(s)**

Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

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WHEREAS each library system in Manitoba has its own identification cards for members;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba provides major funding to all libraries;

AND WHEREAS some residents may live closer to a library in a neighbouring district;

**Therefore Be It Resolved That**

the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to mandate that all library cards issued in Manitoba be valid at any library that receives provincial funding.