



April 19, 2013

Clerk of Committees
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
251 - 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), I would like to provide comments about Bill 6: The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Flexible Short-Term Regulation of Vehicle Weights and Dimensions).

Bill 6 amends several provisions of The Highway Traffic Act to provide more flexibility for short-term and seasonal variations in permissible vehicle weights and dimensions. It will allow quicker action to allow recently upgraded roads to carry higher weights or to create a detour if a particular road or bridge is damaged. In addition, the Bill will also allow the extension of winter weight allowances based on favourable weather conditions.

The AMM supported the Province of Manitoba's revised Spring Road Restrictions instituted in 2012. These more flexible, weather-based policies and procedures were designed to protect Manitoba's surfaced highways from damage during spring thaw conditions by reducing allowable weights.

This approach has generally been beneficial to municipalities by reducing damage to municipal roads caused by large truck traffic. As a result, the AMM is pleased to see a more flexible approach to decrease or increase permissible weights and dimensions over a short-term. The AMM hopes these amendments result in more efficient and effective regulation of vehicle weights and dimensions to better reflect transportation trends. These amendments may also provide a boost to Manitoba's rural economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Dobrowolski
President