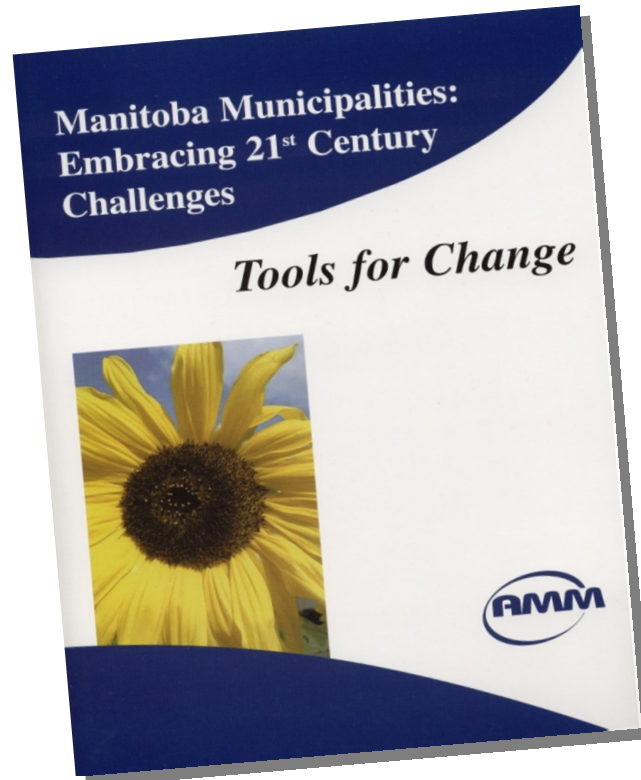


2ND ANNUAL MUNICIPAL INNOVATIONS AWARD

*RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN
MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE*



FEBRUARY 28TH, 2006 ■ KEYSTONE CENTRE ■ BRANDON, MB



TOOLS FOR CHANGE FINALISTS

BETTER MUNICIPAL BUSINESS PRACTICES

Rural Municipality of Morris: Self-Contracted Water Line Installation

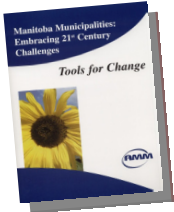
Finding a reliable water supply is a challenge for many rural municipalities. Residents in the RM of Morris were eager for a new approach since they had relied on cisterns and hauling water for some time. In 1998, Council proposed to run water lines to all households at a cost of \$8,000 to the ratepayer. The Federal and Provincial Governments each provided one-third of the project funding until 2003, when approximately half of the ratepayers had accessed the service. Council wanted to maintain the initial price of \$8,000 per household and decided to purchase equipment, train existing staff and hire new staff to complete the household connections in 2004. The Manitoba Water Services Board installed the main lines for these connections, but could not continue to provide this service in 2005. The RM of Morris then purchased the additional equipment so that the remaining 140 connections could be completed in 2006. The RM achieved a cost savings of approximately \$2.2 million over three years by developing capacity in-house, rather than contracting a private company.

Town of Rivers: Special Tax – Special Services Proposal

Municipalities are required to finance a wide range of services to meet the needs of their residents. The Town of Rivers was seeking a better way of funding the local police and fire protection services. Council decided that the best way to accomplish this would be to establish a special levy. All ratepayers would pay the same tax based on the services provided, rather than using property assessment as a determinant. The municipality proposed assessing a special levy against all taxable, grant-in-lieu and exempt rateable property benefiting from the services, including Class 52 railway property. Council held two separate public hearings for the fire and police levies and received few objections. In 2003, the Town built on the previous success of this method by implementing an additional special levy on the collection and transportation of waste materials. The special levy proved effective for the Town of Rivers since it distributes the costs of various services equally and fairly to all ratepayers.

Rural Municipality of Victoria: Chlorine Dioxide Disinfection System

The community of Holland in the RM of Victoria needed to solve a water treatment problem. Residents were using well water from which manganese could not be consistently removed with conventional treatment methods. Tap water in Holland was known for its bad taste, unpleasant odour and tendency to stain. Since the water treatment plant was in need of an upgrade, the RM saw an opportunity to make some fundamental changes. The municipality examined the possibility of a membrane filtration system, but this would have required sewage system upgrades and higher costs. Instead the use of chlorine dioxide provided the desired water quality at a much lower expense. A pilot project was developed with funding from the National Research Council of Canada and Manitoba's Technology Commercialization Program. This project marks the first time chlorine dioxide technology was used in Manitoba. The municipality successfully improved the staining, taste and odour issues for Holland's water supply, while using a much lower level of chemicals than other technologies.



TOOLS FOR CHANGE FINALISTS

SERVICE SHARING AGREEMENTS

Village of Glenboro & Rural Municipality of South Cypress: Shared Municipal Office

Faced with the retirement of their long-time CAO, the Village of Glenboro began to look for ways to enhance services to local residents. Council initiated discussions with the RM of South Cypress to explore the potential savings that would result from a shared municipal office. The two municipalities had already collaborated to provide many services including fire protection, waste management, economic development, community planning and recreation. A shared municipal office was a logical choice for both municipalities. The communities now share the costs of the office building, office equipment and staff. The Village also benefited from the RM's more advanced computerized accounting system. To ensure that local residents were supportive, the proposal was publicized in the local paper and invited residents to ask questions and share concerns. The feedback was positive and with this support, the municipal offices merged on July 1, 2005. The two municipalities are enjoying improved customer service and looking forward to realizing further cost efficiencies over the long-term.

TAX SHARING AGREEMENTS

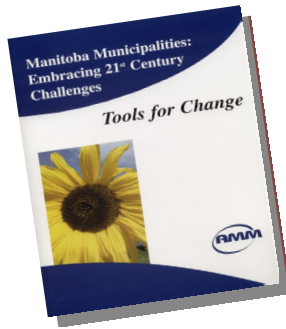
Towns of Altona, Gretna, Plum Coulee and Rural Municipality of Rhineland: Sunbelt Development Group

Recognizing that council decisions have local as well as regional impacts, the Towns of Altona, Gretna, Plum Coulee and the RM of Rhineland decided to work together to create the Sunbelt Development Group. The Councils realized that their collective resources, assessment and population would allow them to compete at a level not available to them as individual municipalities. Therefore, the Sunbelt Development Group was established to approach economic expansion in a unified manner. Individuals representing agricultural producers, the business community and each of the four councils were selected to form the board of directors. The parties negotiated a tax sharing agreement that assigned a percentage based on the municipal assessment and population, which allowed each member to benefit from new business development. The Group hired a consultant to develop a marketing strategy along with a website and promotional materials. The next steps involve a more extensive marketing strategy and applying to the Community Investment Support Program to extend marketing efforts internationally.

RESTRUCTURING

No submissions

AND THE WINNER IS...



Did you know...

Submissions were evaluated based on a number of criteria, including:

- complexity and creativity
- overall impact
- community support, and
- regional cooperation.

ABOUT THE MUNICIPAL INNOVATION AWARD

All municipalities have experienced change since their incorporation. For some, this change has meant continued growth and prosperity. For others, change has meant new approaches are needed for long-term sustainability. For this reason, the AMM in consultation with the department of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade developed the Tools For Change toolkit to help municipalities assess the health of their municipality and look at ways of improving how they do business.

The Municipal Innovations Award was given out for the first time at the 2005 Municipal Officials Seminar. It is part of the Tools For Change initiative and is designed to recognize excellence in municipal practices that improve governance, administration, service delivery, or inter-municipal cooperation.

What is your municipality doing? Let us know! Submit your innovative municipal ideas to the AMM Office as part of the Tools for Change program.

Watch for application forms to be sent out in January 2007 for the **Third Annual Municipal Innovations Award**, which will be given out at MOS 2007 in Brandon next year.



1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.
Portage la Prairie, Manitoba
R1N 0P1

Phone: 204-856-2366
Fax: 204-856-2370
Email: amm@amm.mb.ca