



**Contact:**

Nick Krawetz, AMM Director of Policy and Communications

Telephone: (204) 856-2371

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

1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.

Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1

# NEWS RELEASE

## MUNICIPALITIES SEEK TO PREVENT IMPACTS TO EMERGENCY SERVICES, ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY REMAINS TOP PRIORITY

**November 23, 2021** – The AMM’s 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Convention wraps up today at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg. A highlight each year is the resolutions session that takes place this afternoon.

With 22 resolutions up for debate, there is a wide range of issues to be voted on by the 700 delegates from across the province. While many of the issues have been highlighted in various media stories throughout the year, some issues will significantly impact emergency services if left unaddressed by the provincial and federal governments.

One of the issues pertains to retroactive pay increases for RCMP officers. “As the federal government exclusively negotiated a 23.7% pay increase retroactive to 2017, municipalities were completely shut out of the negotiating process despite being a paying contract partner. These looming costs will significantly impact municipal budgets at a time when Councils are focused on pandemic recovery efforts. Since these costs were negotiated by the federal government, they should be fully absorbed by the federal government,” stated AMM President Kam Blight. Resolution #22 is sponsored by the City of Thompson and City of Selkirk.

Manitoba municipalities are also concerned that the fee structure established by the College of Paramedics of Manitoba will negatively impact volunteerism in local communities. “Several municipalities rely on volunteer emergency medical responders. Excessive College registration fees will assuredly impact the recruitment and retention of volunteers. Now is not the time to be risking emergency response in the midst of a pandemic,” explained President Blight. Resolution #15 is sponsored by the Town of Niverville and RM of Morris.

In addition, many municipalities have been impacted by medical staffing shortages while struggling to keep their hospitals and Emergency Rooms open. “Throughout the pandemic, we have seen service disruptions and closure of facilities often with little advanced notice. Abrupt service delivery changes not only place significant pressures on municipalities, but they also

create barriers to accessing essential services for residents. It is essential that the Province unveil its overall plan for rural healthcare and redouble efforts to attract and retain healthcare professionals across Manitoba,” added President Blight. Resolution #17 is sponsored by the RM of Stuartburn.

A complete list of resolutions is available on the [AMM website](#).

The resolutions session is scheduled for 1:00 pm today at the RBC Convention Centre.

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Photo:



*Delegates at the AMM 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Convention  
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