



Meeting with Premier Greg Selinger and Members of the
Provincial Cabinet

November 28, 2013

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SUCSESSES IN 2013

✓ Building Canada 2014

- **Manitoba Municipal Government**

- ** **Yellow in 2012**

- ❖ *The AMM would like to thank the former Minister of Local Government for supporting the AMM's request to be included at the application review stage.*
- ❖ *The AMM also appreciates provincial funding for infrastructure through programs such as the Municipal Roads Improvement Program, the Municipal Bridge Program and the Manitoba Water Services Board.*
- ❖ *The federal government has recognized the AMM as one of the most involved municipal associations in the infrastructure program discussions, and we believe our organization can provide valuable input.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support AMM input in the decision-making process for any application-based infrastructure funding;*
- ❖ *Ensure municipalities receive a fair share of the new Building Canada Fund in consultation with the AMM;*
- ❖ *Recognize the unique needs of small communities in program design in consultation with the AMM.*

✓ Manitoba RCMP Contract Management Committee

○ Manitoba Justice

- ❖ *The AMM is pleased with the ongoing work of the Contract Management Committee, which would not have been possible without the dedication and support of Department of Justice staff.*
- ❖ *MPSA municipalities are developing an improved understanding of policing services in their communities and benefiting from networking with the National Contract Management Committee.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Urge the federal government to renew or replace the Police Officer Recruitment Fund.*

✓ Changes to Liquor and Gaming Legislation

○ Minister Responsible for The Liquor Control Act

○ Minister Responsible for The Gaming Control Act

- ❖ *As indicated in our submission on Bill 43, the AMM was pleased with the changes to bring liquor and gaming regulatory services under one roof, and simplify licensing and inspection.*
- ❖ *Plans to reduce the number of licenses will reduce the administrative burden for communities and businesses, particularly for multi-use facilities.*
- ❖ *As well, the AMM is pleased that local governments will maintain the ability to respond to community preferences.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Develop solutions to enhance public safety and address social problems caused by liquor and gaming, including research and treatment programs.*

✓ Coal Ban Extension

- **Manitoba Mineral Resources**
- **Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development**

❖ *The AMM appreciates the decision to phase in the enforcement of the coal heating ban if a conversion plan is filed by the June 30, 2014 deadline to allow coal users more time to convert to biomass.*

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ *Continue supporting coal users converting to biomass, and supporting the biomass energy industry to ensure supply can meet demand.*

✓ Subdivision Review Process

- **Manitoba Municipal Government**

❖ *The AMM appreciates the participation from all departments involved to develop a streamlined subdivision review process for rural, single-lot subdivisions.*

❖ *The AMM hopes the implementation is successful, and looks forward to further discussions on improving other aspects of the subdivision review process.*

✓ Speed Limits in School Zones

- **Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation**

❖ *The AMM is pleased this legislation and the regulations are now in effect.*

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ *Support municipalities passing reduced-speed school zone by-laws to ensure they are following the regulations with regard to the by-law contents and signage.*

✓ Updates to AMM Resolutions

- ❖ *The AMM would like to thank the staff of several departments (Municipal Government, Infrastructure and Transportation, Labour, Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Health) for taking time to review outstanding issues with AMM staff to help us update our members' resolutions.*

CRITICAL ISSUES – NEED ACTION

✓ Amalgamation

- Manitoba Municipal Government

- ❖ *The AMM is not opposed to voluntary amalgamations, as long as the decision is community-driven, made by local councils.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Re-evaluate this initiative, and stop forced municipal amalgamations;*
- ❖ *Provide sufficient resources, support and time for municipalities who wish to amalgamate;*
- ❖ *Re-evaluate municipal viability based on more than a population threshold of 1,000.*

✓ Alternate Revenues

- Manitoba Finance

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Identify new sources of revenue for municipalities to address the infrastructure deficit and increasing municipal responsibilities.*

✓ Provincial Sales Tax Rebate for Municipalities

- Manitoba Finance

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Exempt municipalities from paying PST or provide a rebate of all PST paid by municipalities.*

✓ Cell Service and High Speed Internet

○ Manitoba Mineral Resources

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue facilitating discussions with cell carriers and other stakeholders to explore options to expand cellular coverage and broadband access;*
- ❖ *Meet with the federal government and municipalities to develop solutions to ensure the safety of emergency responders and the public in Manitoba.*

✓ Community Places Program

○ Manitoba Housing and Community Development

**Yellow in 2012

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase the maximum grant amount for all recipients;*
- ❖ *Reinstate total funding to the Community Places Program to its 2012 amount or higher to permit a greater number of recipients.*

✓ Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

○ Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

**Yellow in 2012

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to allow the use of cosmetic pesticide application in residential, municipal and recreational areas, in accordance with Health Canada's stringent regulations;*
- ❖ *Implement measures to ensure the safe use of cosmetic pesticides without banning them, such as public education or restricting access to licenced applicators.*

✓ **Problem Beaver Management Program**

- **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship**

***Yellow in 2012*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Maintain provincial responsibility for problem wildlife and reinstate funding for the Problem Beaver Management Program;*
- ❖ *Reinstate funding and uphold agreements for beaver management pilot projects with participating municipalities.*

✓ **Reduce Education Tax on Property**

- **Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide new, sustainable long-term funding to cover 80 per cent of operating costs for education to reduce school division reliance on property taxes;*
- ❖ *Reinstate Tax Incentive Grant funding;*
- ❖ *Fulfill election promises to eliminate school taxes on farmland and for seniors.*

✓ **Remove Community Capital Contributions for Health Facilities**

- **Manitoba Health**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Fund all health facilities provincially without the current requirement for a local contribution covering at least 10 per cent of the project cost.*

✓ **Veterinary Board Funding**

- **Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reinstate the Technical Enhancement Grant;*
- ❖ *Review the funding formula for Veterinary Services District Boards in order to provide funding that reflects the rising cost of delivering services.*

IMPORTANT ISSUES – SOME PROGRESS, MORE ACTION NEEDED

✓ Affordable Housing Shortage

- **Manitoba Housing and Community Development**

- ❖ *The AMM was pleased with the introduction of measures in Budget 2013 in the form of additional investments in affordable housing units, a tax credit to support the construction of more rental housing, and an increase to RentAid benefits.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Partner with the AMM and other stakeholders to improve municipal knowledge about existing tools to assist them in increasing their local housing supply;*
- ❖ *Continue to support a federal role in housing.*

✓ By-Law Enforcement

- **Manitoba Justice**

- **Manitoba Municipal Government**

- ❖ *The AMM would like to thank the Departments of Municipal Government and Justice for their commitment to improving municipal by-law enforcement.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue working with the AMM to provide support to municipalities in order to implement the new by-law enforcement process;*
- ❖ *Help to minimize municipal costs to ensure by-law enforcement is a viable process for all communities.*

✓ Economic Development Funding

- **Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development**

**** Red in 2012**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Expand the successful Partner 4 Growth program to provide more economic development funding to communities.*

✓ Emergency Medical Services and Palliative Care

- **Manitoba Health**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue with the implementation of the Brandon Medical Education Study recommendations to address the shortage of physicians and other health professionals, including paramedics, in rural and northern Manitoba;*
- ❖ *Improve Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in all areas of Manitoba in consultation with communities;*
- ❖ *Ensure EMS response times are safe for all Manitoba communities;*
- ❖ *Ensure sufficient funding is provided for palliative care in every RHA to avoid reliance on community fundraising.*

✓ Green Manitoba Funding

- **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to use the WRARS levy revenue not rebated to municipalities to set up recycling and waste management programs for organic waste, and construction and demolition waste;*
- ❖ *Rebate the remaining WRARS levy revenue to municipalities once these waste management programs are operating.*

✓ **Handi-Transit and Bus Service**

- **Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation**
- **Manitoba Municipal Government**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support community-sponsored options for inter-city bus travel and local handi-transit services;*
- ❖ *Support affordable options for all residents, including those who must travel for medical reasons, and those with mobility issues.*

✓ **Oil Production Issues**

- **Manitoba Mineral Resources**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support ongoing work by the oil industry and municipalities to jointly address future challenges;*
- ❖ *Commit to act on recommendations made by the Rural Municipality Oil Industry Working Group to address infrastructure and resource use challenges in oil-producing and affected communities once the work is completed.*

✓ **Police Escorts under The Mental Health Act**

- **Manitoba Health**
- **Manitoba Justice**

- ❖ *The requirement for police escorts contributes to a lack of police coverage in many rural areas and high overtime costs.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to improve timely access to care for MHA patients to free up police resources or provide an alternate option for escorting patients.*

✓ Protection for Elected Municipal Officials

○ Manitoba Municipal Government

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Work with the AMM to help improve municipal officials' understanding of their existing protections from civil liability.*

✓ Rail Safety

○ Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to support the need for Transport Canada to improve communication and inter-jurisdiction information sharing about the transportation of dangerous goods in order to support municipal first responders;*
- ❖ *Support federal and industry policies and regulations to address the rail safety concerns of municipalities;*
- ❖ *Oppose downloading of rail safety and emergency response costs to municipalities.*

✓ Support for Recreation Centre Operating Costs

○ Manitoba Children and Youth Opportunities

○ Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro

**** Red in 2012**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support the development of a pilot project to increase the efficiency of older recreation centres, as suggested by the Minister of Children and Youth Opportunities.*

✓ Surface Water Management and Flooding Issues

- **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship**
- **Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Implement the new drainage regulation in consultation with municipalities;*
- ❖ *Provide sufficient funding to fulfill the Surface Water Management Strategy objectives, including increased support for Conservation Districts;*
- ❖ *Address inter-jurisdiction flooding and drainage issues.*

- **Manitoba Emergency Measures**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to allocate funding for flood prevention and mitigation infrastructure;*
- ❖ *Make improvements to existing flood response and mitigation based on the reviews of 2011 flooding and response;*
- ❖ *Urge the federal government to review Disaster Financial Assistance policies;*
- ❖ *Ensure that fair compensation is paid out in a timely manner.*