



Meeting with Premier Greg Selinger and Members of the
Provincial Cabinet

November 25, 2015

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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ The AMM is pleased to host our annual meeting with the Provincial Cabinet to share municipal priorities, and continue a dialogue with the provincial government about the future of Manitoba.
- ❖ We also hope to meet with every Minister again in the New Year to discuss new and ongoing issues in greater detail with each department.
- ❖ In this document, the AMM has outlined our main lobbying priorities in three categories: Successes in 2014-2015, Critical Issues requiring action, and Important Issues that have seen some progress, but are not yet resolved.

SUCSESSES IN 2014-2015

✓ Building Canada – Small Communities Fund

- **Manitoba Municipal Government**
- **Manitoba Finance**

❖ *The AMM is very pleased to participate as a member of the local consultative committee that reviews applications for the Small Communities Fund.*

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.*

✓ Funding for Municipal Infrastructure Programs

- **Manitoba Municipal Government**

❖ *The AMM appreciates the doubling of funding for the Municipal Bridge Program (\$1 million to \$2 million) and additional funds for the Municipal Road Improvement Program.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to partner with municipalities to repair and replace roads and bridges in local communities;*
- ❖ *Streamline the approval and notification process to successful applicants to ensure they can take advantage of the construction season.*

✓ Subdivision Approval Technical Advisory Committee

- **Manitoba Municipal Government**

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the cooperation from all departments involved to streamline the subdivision review process for rural, single-lot subdivisions.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to work towards streamlining other aspects of the subdivision review process identified by the AMM.*

✓ Partner 4 Growth Program

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

- ❖ *The AMM was pleased to see a modest increase to the successful Partner 4 Growth Program in Budget 2015.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Expand the successful Partner 4 Growth program to enhance the ability of local communities to identify and pursue economic development opportunities.*

✓ Hometown Green Teams

- **Manitoba Children and Youth Opportunities**

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the additional \$30,000 in funding and creation of 20 additional positions since 2014-15.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to support this successful program, which benefits local communities and gives students valuable work experience.*

CRITICAL ISSUES – NEED ACTION

✓ **Alternate Revenues**

- **Manitoba Finance**

- ❖ *Municipalities must rely on property taxes to generate revenues while receiving only 8 cents on every tax dollar.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Identify new, additional sources of revenue for municipalities to address Manitoba's growing \$11 billion infrastructure deficit and increasing municipal responsibilities.*

✓ **PST Rebate for Municipalities**

- **Manitoba Finance**

- ❖ *One order of government should not tax another.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Rebate the more than \$25 million in PST paid on an annual basis by municipalities.*

✓ **Amalgamation Costs**

- **Manitoba Municipal Government**

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates Manitoba Municipal Government's willingness to cooperate with the AMM and the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association (MMAA) to address challenges faced by newly-amalgamated municipalities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Commit to covering the hard costs resulting from municipal amalgamations, including but not limited to upgrades or conversions to municipal offices, administrative and financial services.*

✓ **Cellular Service and Broadband Internet Access**

○ **Manitoba Jobs and the Economy**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Facilitate discussions with cell carriers and other stakeholders to explore options to expand cellular coverage and broadband Internet access;*
- ❖ *Work with municipalities to develop solutions to ensure the safety of emergency responders and the public in Manitoba through reliable communications technology.*

✓ **Northern Development Strategy**

○ **Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Speed up consultations with local communities and northern municipal officials as the Province of Manitoba develops the Northern Development Strategy.*

✓ Health Practitioner Recruitment, Training and Retention

- **Manitoba Health**

- ❖ *Local communities continue to struggle to attract and retain health practitioners.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to implement the recommendations from the Brandon Medical Education Study to ensure residents in rural and northern Manitoba have access to suitable primary care.*

✓ Police Overtime Costs

- **Manitoba Health**

- **Manitoba Justice**

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the provincial government's willingness to meet and discuss rapidly increasing, unsustainable policing costs;*
- ❖ *Required police-escorted patient transfers under The Mental Health Act (MHA) contribute to reduced police coverage and response times in many local communities as well as high overtime costs.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Improve timely access to care for MHA patients to free up police resources or provide alternate options for escorting patients.*

✓ Accessibility Legislation

- **Minister responsible for persons with disabilities**

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates being a member of Manitoba's Accessibility Advisory Council.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Ensure the Accessibility Advisory Council remains the primary forum for developing corresponding regulations to The Accessibility for Manitobans Act;*
- ❖ *Provide adequate funding to help municipalities identify, prevent and remove barriers to accessibility within local communities.*

✓ Community Places Program

- **Manitoba Housing and Community Development**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase the maximum grant amount for all recipients;*
- ❖ *Reinstate funding to the level received prior to the 2012 cuts (\$4.5 million to \$3.5 million) at a minimum.*

✓ Provincial Planning and Assessment Services Staff

- **Manitoba Municipal Government**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Fill vacancies in regional planning and assessment offices to ensure municipalities are receiving timely and accurate services from each of these branches.*

✓ **Modernize Education Funding**

○ **Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide new, sustainable long-term funding to reduce school division reliance on property taxes;*
- ❖ *Rescind the 5,000 cap on the Farmland School Tax Rebate;*
- ❖ *Eliminate school taxes on farmland and for seniors.*

✓ **Community Capital Contributions for Health Facilities**

○ **Manitoba Health**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Fund all health facilities provincially or reduce the local contribution requirement from 10 per cent to a fixed 5 per cent of the project cost.*

✓ **Rural Veterinary Funding**

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

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the opportunity to present to the 2015 Rural Veterinary Task Force.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reinstate the Technical Enhancement Grant to assist Veterinary Service Districts with increasing equipment costs;*
- ❖ *Increase funding for operating costs to keep rural veterinarian salaries competitive and to enable rural clinics to continue providing veterinary services to their communities.*

✓ Dutch Elm Disease Management

- **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship**

- ❖ *The current level of provincial financial assistance is insufficient as communities regularly incur costs of up to \$1,000 per diseased elm tree.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Remove all diseased elms or provide 100% cost recovery funding to municipalities to ensure proper management.*

IMPORTANT ISSUES – SOME PROGRESS, MORE ACTION NEEDED

✓ Economic Development Strategy

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

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the establishment of the Rural Economic Development Strategy Advisory Committee.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Develop a coordinated economic development strategy for all of Manitoba to ensure good value is generated from investments in each region.*

✓ Affordable Housing

- **Manitoba Housing and Community Development**

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 hold Housing Advisory Roundtable meetings;*
- ❖ *Continue to support a federal role in housing.*

✓ Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

○ Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the Province of Manitoba's efforts to reduce confusion and clarify the circumstances in which municipal sidewalks, ditches, and centre median boulevards are exempt from the applicability of the Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Implement measures to ensure the safe use of cosmetic pesticides without banning them, such as public education or restricting access to licensed applicators;*
- ❖ *Recognize and address the financial impact this pesticide ban will have on municipal weed control efforts and municipal budgets.*

✓ Flood Mitigation

○ Manitoba Emergency Measures

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to invest in flood prevention and mitigation infrastructure;*
- ❖ *Support the AMM by urging the federal government to involve municipalities in developing the National Disaster Mitigation Program;*
- ❖ *Implement improvements to existing flood forecasting, response and mitigation tools based on the 2011 flood review reports;*
- ❖ *Urge the federal government to review and improve Disaster Financial Assistance Policies;*
- ❖ *Recognize and address the economic impact of recent flooding.*

✓ DFAA Changes

- **Manitoba Emergency Measures**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Urge the federal government to review and improve Disaster Financial Assistance Policies;*
- ❖ *Support municipalities by ensuring federal government changes do not negatively affect municipal budgets.*

✓ Municipal By-Law Enforcement

- **Manitoba Justice**

- **Manitoba Municipal Government**

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the development of a new approach to municipal by-law enforcement.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide support to municipalities in order to implement the new by-law enforcement process;*
- ❖ *Cover training costs for municipal officials to ensure the effective administration of municipal by-law enforcement.*

✓ **Handi-Transit Services**

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

The AMM recommends the government:

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

✓ **Palliative Care**

- **Manitoba Health**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Ensure sufficient funding is provided for palliative care in every RHA to deliver good quality patient care, and avoid excessive reliance on community fundraising.*

✓ **Support for Recreation Centre Operating Costs**

- **Manitoba Children and Youth Opportunities**
- **Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase funding to financial incentive programs that promote and encourage greater efficiency of recreation centres throughout Manitoba.*

✓ **Surface Water Management and Sustainable Drainage**

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

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Apply new drainage regulation in consultation with municipalities;*
- ❖ *Provide sufficient funding to fulfill the Surface Water Management Strategy objectives, including increased support for Conservation Districts;*
- ❖ *Continue to provide support for ecological goods and services through various means, including Growing Forward 2;*
- ❖ *Address inter-jurisdiction flooding and drainage issues.*

✓ **Recycling Strategy**

- **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Ensure proposals outlined in Recycling and Waste Reduction: A Discussion Paper do not significantly alter the WRARS levy or negatively impact municipalities;*
- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM on any new or existing recycling programs.*

✓ Waste Management Facilities Regulation

○ Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Significantly reduce the financial and administrative impact of the newly proposed Waste Management Facilities Regulation.*

✓ Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Support

○ Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide financial and consultative support to assist municipalities in developing service sharing agreements with First Nations communities as well as throughout the Treaty Land Entitlement process.*