



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

Meeting with the Honourable Cliff Cullen
Minister of Growth, Enterprise and Trade

2017

Introduction 1

Priority Issues 2

 1) Port of Churchill & Manitoba’s Look North Initiative 2

 2) Rural Economic Development Strategy..... 3

 3) Essential Cell Service and Internet Access 4

 4) Manitoba Tourism Strategy 5

Appendix A – Active Resolutions 6

Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Cliff Cullen and representatives of the Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade.
- The AMM encourages the Province of Manitoba to consider municipal concerns as well as the effects of funding decisions on local communities throughout the budget process.
- This document outlines the AMM's position and recommendations on a number of important municipal issues relevant to the Growth, Enterprise and Trade portfolio.

Priority Issues

1) Port of Churchill & Manitoba's Look North Initiative

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Develop a short-term and long-term plan in partnership with affected municipalities and the federal government regarding the sustainability of the Port of Churchill; and*
 - ❖ *Consult with northern communities and the AMM on a northern economic development strategy.*
- Since OminTRAX's sudden decision to close its port facilities in the Town of Churchill and lay off its employees without any prior notice or discussion with the affected communities, the AMM took immediate steps to facilitate meetings between municipal leaders and the provincial and federal governments.
 - As many communities and Manitobans rely on the Port of Churchill and Hudson Bay Railway, the AMM would like to see the provincial and federal governments develop a short-term and long-term plan in partnership with the affected communities for the sustainability of the Port of Churchill.
 - In addition, the AMM welcomes the launch of the Look North initiative and reiterates its call for the Province of Manitoba to develop and implement a northern economic development strategy in consultation with local communities and northern stakeholders.
 - The potential of Manitoba's north is limitless, but it also requires sustained and innovative solutions to ensure communities are ready for investment and to capitalize on new opportunities.

2) Rural Economic Development Strategy

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Fully implement all the recommendations of the Rural Economic Development Strategy report, including providing ‘single-window’ services to rural Manitoba.***

- With 37 per cent of Manitoba’s population and more than 12,000 businesses, rural Manitoba is vital to the provincial economy.
- That is why the AMM has repeatedly urged the provincial government to proactively develop and implement a comprehensive, province-wide economic development strategy.
- In January 2016, the Rural Economic Development Strategy’s Steering Committee released a *Discussion Paper* reflecting wide-ranging consultations with individuals and organizations from across Manitoba with expertise in economic development, regional partnerships, rural policy and business.
- The Steering Committee’s final report has also been formally endorsed by the AMM, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, Community Futures Manitoba and the Economic Developers Association of Manitoba (EDAM).
- The AMM strongly urges the Province of Manitoba to implement all the recommendations of the Rural Economic Development Strategy report, including providing ‘single-window’ services to rural Manitoba.
- The cross-departmental web of programs and services is not only confusing to municipal officials and entrepreneurs, but also undermines economic growth and solutions to business problems.
- Moreover, high-quality and accessible training with provincial accreditation for economic development practitioners is also high in demand and essential for fostering business growth and stimulating economic activity in rural Manitoba.

3) Essential Cell Service and Internet Access

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Facilitate partnerships with other orders of government and the private sector to improve communication networks in rural, remote and northern communities.***

- The AMM welcomes the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) recent decision declaring broadband Internet access a basic service across Canada as well as its commitment to fund projects in areas that currently do not meet new target download speeds.
- Currently, Manitobans experience the second-slowest internet speeds in Canada.
- In addition, the AMM appreciates the commitment made by Bell Canada and MTS to invest in rural network infrastructure throughout Manitoba.
- For public safety and economic reasons, the AMM continues to appeal to the Province of Manitoba to facilitate discussions with cell carriers and other stakeholders to explore options to expand cellular coverage and broadband Internet access within Manitoba.
- Sustained digital network infrastructure upgrades can improve the competitiveness of Canadian businesses and maximize job opportunities in rural and remote areas.
- The AMM urges the Province to pursue partnerships with municipalities and the private sector while considering ways to provide additional financial assistance for rural telecommunications infrastructure projects.
- The AMM also encourages the provincial government to appeal to the federal government to ensure local communities benefit from the new \$500 million broadband infrastructure investment, particularly since the digital divide between many Manitoba communities remains a major challenge.
- Partnerships with the private sector and increased federal investment in Canada's digital economy that support network infrastructure will be key to any future productivity growth and economic development.

4) Manitoba Tourism Strategy

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Increase investments in the tourism sector across Manitoba while creating stronger links with local community museums; and***
- ❖ ***Consult with the AMM on the development of a Manitoba Tourism Strategy.***
 - As provincial tourism reports consistently confirm that visits to museum and historic sites are the most frequent activities visitors choose or look forward to in planning their trip to Manitoba, increased investments in local communities museums are urgently needed to help promote tourism across Manitoba.
 - In fact, the *Community Museum Grants Program* (CMGP) awards maximum amounts of only \$1,350 and \$3,150, depending on the type of museum.
 - These amounts have remained stagnant since 1991, or 26 years.
 - Consequently, many local community museums have increasingly become reliant on local fundraising and donations as their operating costs continue to increase.
 - The AMM appreciates the new provincial government's commitment to invest in the tourism sector, and urges the Province of Manitoba to provide additional financial support for facilities that serve to protect and interpret Manitoba's historical and heritage resources.
 - The AMM also wishes to be consulted and directly involved in the development of a Manitoba Tourism Strategy that aims to attract visitors and grow local communities.

Appendix A – Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution #00-2016

Topic: Port of Churchill

Sponsor(s): Town of Churchill (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS for 85 years the Port of Churchill, Canada's only Arctic Seaport has been in the national interest by serving as a competitive alternative for prairie farmers to export their grain, and also provides an essential service for the resupply of the Kivalliq Region communities of Nunavut; and

WHEREAS the long-term viability and expansion of the Port of Churchill and Hudson Bay Railway is essential in order to continue to provide economic benefits to Manitoba and to the broader Canadian economy; and

WHEREAS the Port of Churchill grain season was abruptly cancelled without notice on July 22, 2016 that caused more than 100 grain elevator, port and railway employees to be off work throughout Manitoba; and

WHEREAS many farmers who traditionally had large portions of their crops shipped through the Bay Line thereby lost the opportunity to have their grain exported through the most economical port in the country for their product; and

WHEREAS the potential loss of the port and rail line would be a setback to farmers and all municipalities in the province who support the development of Canada's North; and

WHEREAS climate change and the rapid growth in all kinds of commodity traffic in the arctic will continue benefiting exporters, producers and shippers elsewhere at the expense of Manitoba producers, First Nations and municipalities unless the Port re-opens in 2017 with a new commitment to serve its traditional markets and the North; and

WHEREAS the Port should serve as an essential base of arctic operations in support of Canada's Ocean Protection Plan; and

WHEREAS the Region has formed a broad-based coalition of communities and interests called the Northern Delegation who are in support of acquiring the assets for the purpose of creating a sustainable long-term economic plan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to jointly act to ensure that the Port re-opens for the 2017 grain season by setting up meetings at the highest level with the current owner of both the Port and Hudson Bay Rail line and the two levels of government to negotiate an ownership transfer at the earliest opportunity; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to request the new Northern Economic Development Strategy Task Force make revitalizing the Port and Railway their number one priority by convening an urgent meeting with the Northern Delegation and the AMM Board of Directors on ways and means to ensure that the Port and Hudson Bay Rail Line reopen for the 2017 shipping season.

AMM Resolution #37-2016

Topic: Mines and Minerals Applications

Sponsor(s): RM of Woodlands (Interlake District), RM of Lac du Bonnet (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba issues quarry permits and quarry leases for mines and minerals; and

WHEREAS their process involves a circulation procedure for referral from other provincial departments but doesn't include Community Regional Planning or the affected municipality; and

WHEREAS per section 13 of *The Planning Act* states municipalities are "responsible for the adoption, administration and enforcement of the development plan by-law, zoning by-law and all other by-laws respecting land use and development for the municipality"; and

WHEREAS under *The Mines and Minerals Act* the current procedure for obtaining approval for mining and quarry operations on Crown Land does not allow for consultations with encompassing municipalities prior to authorization and permitting; and

WHEREAS a municipality has no method of opportunity to address potential conflicting land use until after the provincial licensing; and

WHEREAS mitigating issues prior to provincial licensing would benefit all stakeholders and reduce potential land use conflicts by enabling a municipal consultation process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop a circulation policy that ensures mining and quarry applications are sent out for review and comments to the appropriate municipalities including adjacent municipalities prior to issuing approval; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to include municipalities in the circulation process when considering mines and minerals applications; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to attach municipal conditions to mines and minerals 'conditionally approved' applications.

AMM Resolution #21-2015

Topic: Rural Fire Department Funding

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Oakland-Wawanesa (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS small rural fire departments are faced with ever increasing costs in maintaining and operating firefighting equipment;

AND WHEREAS rules for fire equipment replacement fall under the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards as well as Work Place Health and Safety, often making the costs of equipment replacement prohibitive in small fire departments;

AND WHEREAS bunker gear according to the NFPA standard should be replaced every 10 years, major equipment is to be replaced or refurbished every 20 years, and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are to be replaced every 15 years;

AND WHEREAS the daily operating costs such as fuel, insurance, apparatus, hose, nozzles, clothes, and paying volunteers continue to increase;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for financial assistance for rural fire departments in the acquisition of major firefighting equipment to keep up to the standards that are set by NFPA and Workplace Health and Safety.

AMM Resolution #22-2015

Topic: Reimbursement for Fire Services

Sponsor(s): Town of Powerview-Pine Falls (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

WHEREAS fire protection services to reduce the loss of life and property for ALL Manitobans is considered high priority;

AND WHEREAS for many Manitoba municipalities this includes their First Nation neighbours for which there is no legal agreement to provide firefighting services and compensation for same;

AND WHEREAS the onus currently falls to individual municipalities to acquire agreements with First Nation Communities for fire protection services provided and the process to obtain such agreements is cumbersome and difficult to ensure continuity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM and the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs, which can also include the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, lobby the Province of Manitoba and the federal government to implement a claim system matrix based on fixed rates, similar to the MPI claim matrix, wherein municipalities are able to receive reimbursement for fire services rendered to First Nation Communities.

AMM Resolution #30-2015

Topic: Canada-Manitoba Job Fund Agreement

Sponsor(s): Town of Winnipeg Beach (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, Manitoba Education and Training, Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Canada

WHEREAS the Canada-Manitoba Job Fund Agreement offers funding toward the cost of training provided by eligible third-party trainers, with the Government of Canada providing two-thirds of the cost of training, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per grant;

AND WHEREAS Eligible Recipients under this agreement excludes municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Agreement calls for a review of its terms in Year 2 (2015/2016) of the program;

AND WHEREAS municipalities incur training costs, especially in the training of Water and Wastewater Treatment and Distribution to meet provincial mandated requirements that can reach \$10,000 or more per operator;

AND WHEREAS such training provides the operators with skills that can result in long-term, specialized employment, thus fulfilling the objectives of the Canada-Manitoba Job Fund Agreement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the federal and provincial governments to revise the Agreement to include municipalities as Eligible Recipients under the Canada-Manitoba Job Fund Agreement.

AMM Resolution #38-2015

Topic: Improve Cellular Reception Services *Standing Policy

Sponsor(s): RM of Taché (Eastern District), Rossburn Municipality (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

WHEREAS cellular phone service has become an essential service to the general population and is extremely important in emergency situations;

AND WHEREAS cellular reception in rural areas has often been reported to be erratic and inadequate;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have communicated this concern to major service providers on numerous opportunities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to improve cellular service across Manitoba.

AMM Resolution #42-2015

Topic: Aggregate Mining Fees *Standing Policy

Sponsor(s): RM of Ste. Anne (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS the RM of Ste. Anne requires the payment of fees based on the quantity of aggregate removed from land in the Rural Municipality of Ste. Anne by the organization removing it, pursuant to The Municipal Act, Regulations 48/97, as amended, and 2 I6/2004;

AND WHEREAS Schedule A (Subsection 2(2)) only prescribes an increase in fees for mining aggregate until 2013, at which point the fees remain the same for years to follow;

AND WHEREAS the RM of Ste. Anne does not receive enough tax dollars from those mining aggregate in the municipality to sufficiently contribute to the impact their operations have on municipal infrastructure and therefore depends on aggregate fee revenue to compensate for this;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend the regulations prescribing increases to the amount of aggregate mining fees municipalities may collect from mining operations in their municipalities.

AMM Resolution #21-2014

Topic: Cellular Service Considered an Essential Service

Sponsor(s): RM of Piney (Eastern District)

Department(s): CRTC, Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has deemed various telecommunications means as essential services;

AND WHEREAS more and more people are relying on alternative communication methods as basic communication means and often cell phones replace conventional land lines for voice communication;

AND WHEREAS society has determined that cell service is essential for emergencies, economic development and overall public benefit;

AND WHEREAS the CRTC has the ability to deem which telecommunication services are essential and mandate that service providers establish a network system that benefits all Canadians;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby CRTC to deem cellular service as an essential service for all Canadians and begin the implementation process of providing cellular coverage for all Canadians.

AMM Resolution #22-2014

Topic: Emergency Response Costs on Provincial Roads

Sponsor(s): RM of Langford (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS local Fire Departments are called to address traffic related emergencies on provincial roads that run through their municipality;

AND WHEREAS all traffic related emergencies are not claimable (or included as eligible claims) through Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are paying the costs of assisting Manitobans by attending all motor vehicle emergencies on provincial roads;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to cover all costs of all traffic related emergency response on provincial roads.

AMM Resolution #25-2014

Topic: Use of the Mining Community Reserve Fund (MCRF)

Sponsor(s): Town of Snow Lake (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS as of December 31, 2012, the Province has spent over \$100 million on the Orphaned/Abandoned Mine Site Rehabilitation Program (OAM) administered by Manitoba Mineral Resources and those monies came from the Mining Community Reserve Fund (MCRF);

AND WHEREAS people are exposed to higher metals content in the environment in mining communities that used mine waste for municipal fill;

AND WHEREAS municipal officials and the media have raised concerns suggesting that mine

waste and tailings were used as base and fill in the development of community infrastructure like waste and water pipes, roads, hospitals and schools and housing and that they may be a human health risk and cause accelerated deterioration of infrastructure;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to:

- Immediately mandate and increase to the transfer of mining taxes to the Mining Community Reserve Fund (MCRF) from 6% to 10%;
- Ensure all monies over the \$10 million reserve are directed to affected municipalities;
- Implement the 2003 Manitoba Mining Task Force recommendation that the MCRF be more proactively used to stimulate economic and community development, and that the MCRF allow the fund to be used for infrastructure investments in mineral resource communities;
- Ensure that all funds placed in the MCRF remain in that fund and are not transferred to cover other general expenditures.

AMM Resolution #29-2014

Topic: Arena Operator Certification

Sponsor(s): City of Flin Flon (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations

WHEREAS arenas are widely recognized as being a focal point for recreation and social activities in small and rural communities, and are vital to the well-being and sustainability of such centres;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has a stringent set of qualifications, which involve both examinations and lengthy periods of time actually at work;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba requires that a fully certified operator must be present in the building at all times that the facility is open to the public;

AND WHEREAS in rural and remote areas, it is difficult if not impossible to find applicants for operator positions that already have all the necessary qualifications, and so the municipalities that operate the rinks must hire unqualified persons and gradually train them;

AND WHEREAS the time on-the-job requirements for certification are so lengthy that workers frequently move on to other positions or other employers before the training process is complete, wasting the training investment as well as still leaving the municipality without enough fully qualified operators;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to create an "operator trainee" certification standing, with less onerous time on-the-job requirements, that can satisfy the requirement to have a certified person on site at the rink, provided that the trainee has constant phone access to a fully qualified operator;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this category be available to municipalities in rural and remote areas, to allow municipalities to continue to operate their arenas.

AMM Resolution #31-2013

Topic: Second Generation Northern Development Strategy

Sponsor(s): City of Thompson (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is in the process of creating a second generation Northern Development Strategy;

AND WHEREAS municipalities were not involved in the creation of the initial Northern Development Strategy;

AND WHEREAS a consensus was reached that northern Manitoba communities should be involved in the creation of the second generation Northern Development Strategy;

AND WHEREAS decisions concerning economic development made in one region of the province have financial, environmental and economic impacts on the entire province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to ensure that northern Manitoba communities are included in the creation of the second generation Northern Development Strategy.

AMM Resolution #00-2012

Topic: Improve Emergency and Cellular Service

Sponsor(s): RM of Stuartburn (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, Manitoba Telecom Services

WHEREAS cellular phone service has become an essential service to the general population and is extremely important in emergency situations;

AND WHEREAS the Southeastern part of Manitoba contains vast areas that completely lack service, or receive such weak, intermittent service that one cannot make a phone call;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba uses and promotes the MTS FleetNet network as the emergency communication system for fire, police, etc;

AND WHEREAS the R.M. of Stuartburn suffered a devastating wildfire on October 2 and the FleetNet system was not working for any emergency personnel;

AND WHEREAS cellular service was adequate right in the Village of Vita during the emergency, it was time consuming to use, and not available in all locations that emergency crews attended;

AND WHEREAS a snow storm occurred on October 4 that cause most the Southeastern corner of Manitoba to lose electricity as well as land line phone service, thereby effectively leaving most homes with no way to communicate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Telecom Services to take immediate steps to provide Manitoba with reliable emergency (FleetNet) service and new improved cellular service.

AMM Resolution #13-2012

Topic: Coal Use in Manitoba

Sponsor(s): RM of Argyle (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, Manitoba Finance

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has initiated the emissions tax on coal to every person purchasing more than one tonne of coal for use in Manitoba as of January 1, 2012;

AND WHEREAS the Province is banning the use of coal used for space and water heating as of January 1, 2014;

AND WHEREAS many areas in Manitoba are limited to hydro energy only as other products are limited or not accessible;

AND WHEREAS the Province introduced the Manitoba Biomass Energy Support Program on January 1, 2012 with a submission deadline of March 9, 2012;

AND WHEREAS the Province did not allow adequate time for municipalities and residents or industry to plan for the conversion of infrastructure necessary to utilize alternate energy sources;

AND WHEREAS biomass energy sources are not yet available to meet the needs of Manitobans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to abolish the banning date on use of coal in Manitoba;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide alternate incentives to Manitobans to convert existing coal systems to alternate energy sources.

AMM Resolution #48-2012

Topic: Funding Formula for Oil Related Revenue for Municipalities

Sponsor(s): RM of Pipestone (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba acquires a great deal of revenue from oil activity in some municipalities;

AND WHEREAS some communities suffer infrastructure damage as a result of the volume of traffic associated with the oil industry;

AND WHEREAS substantial provincial revenue is derived from the oil industry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for a funding formula whereby a percentage of oil-related revenue be returned to the municipalities whose infrastructure is unduly taxed by traffic generated by the oil industry.

AMM Resolution #50-2012 *Standing Policy

Topic: High Speed Internet and Cell Service for Rural Manitoba

Sponsor(s): RM of Lawrence (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

WHEREAS all major urban centres in the Province of Manitoba have had affordable high speed internet and cell service for the past decade;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada recently spoke on the importance of having the proper technology and having options available to rural residents and businesses for affordable technology such as high speed internet and cell service;

AND WHEREAS many rural areas have no access to affordable high speed internet and in many cases do not even have basic cell service;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada for affordable technology options for high speed internet and cell service in rural Manitoba.

AMM Resolution #42-2010

Topic: Support for Resource Based Communities

Sponsor(s): City of Thompson (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

WHEREAS Vale Canada announced on November 17, 2010 the decommissioning of the Thompson smelting and refining operations in 2015, with an anticipated job loss of 650 people;

AND WHEREAS resource based industry and employment contribute to the economic strength of the Province of Manitoba and Canada, and generate significant revenue on an annual basis;

AND WHEREAS the reduction of resource based industry and employment in rural and northern Manitoba will have a negative ripple effect and consequence for all communities in Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS multiple stakeholders have come together to seek solutions and meet with senior levels of government to address the situation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the provincial and federal governments to support and protect resource based industries and jobs in rural and northern Manitoba.

AMM Resolution #15-2009

Topic: Tourism Funding

Sponsor(s): Village of Elkhorn (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has implemented a Star Attraction Program to promote tourist attractions within the province;

AND WHEREAS there are many attractions that have not been funded through the program;

AND WHEREAS promotion of these attractions will enhance tourism traffic throughout the province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to pursue additional funding for the Star Attraction Manitoba Program.

AMM Resolution #34-2009

Topic: Increase Funding for Economic Development

Sponsor(s): RM of Eriksdale (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the economic base is the determining factor in the viability of most municipalities;

AND WHEREAS promoting economic development and diversification in communities will lessen the strain of a boom and bust local economy;

AND WHEREAS municipalities need support from the Province of Manitoba to diversify local economies;

AND WHEREAS given current levels of funding to local regional economic development organizations are inadequate and barely cover annual operating costs for these organizations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to substantially increase funding levels to regional and municipal economic development organizations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT funds for economic development efforts should be directed to areas of greatest need as demonstrated by factors such as unemployment levels, social and other assistance program recipients, average income levels, age demographics of local workforces and population and other measures identified by AMM.