



ASSOCIATION OF  
**MANITOBA**  
MUNICIPALITIES

**Meeting with the Honourable Eileen Clarke  
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations**

**2018**

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## Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Eileen Clarke and representatives of Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations.
- 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 Indigenous and Northern Relations 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 suspension of rail service; and*
  - ❖ *Continue to consult with northern communities and the AMM on the implementation of the Look North initiative.*
- The reduction of the Port of Churchill's operations and indefinite suspension of rail service to communities situated along the Hudson Bay Railway (HBR) is causing undue hardship on all northern Manitobans.
  - The AMM appreciates the initial support provided by the Province of Manitoba and Government to Canada to the Town of Churchill and surrounding communities.
  - 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 and restoration of rail service.
  - In addition, the AMM welcomes the launch of the Look North initiative and reiterates its call for the Province of Manitoba to 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) TLE Consultation and Support

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Continue to provide tools and resources to facilitate Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) claims involving municipalities.***

- Municipalities and First Nations across the province are continuing to work together to create economic opportunities and improve the quality of life in their communities.
- The AMM meets regularly with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) and the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba (TLEC), and signed a historical Partnership Agreement with these stakeholders in 2015 to foster dialogue to help establish a more open and effective TLE claim process in Manitoba.
- The AMM appreciates the Province of Manitoba's support for the TLE Information Toolkit which was published in 2017.
- The AMM also expresses its appreciation to Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations and Manitoba Municipal Relations for helping municipalities and First Nation communities work together through simplifying the TLE claim process.
- As a lack of effective communication is often identified as a main barrier to economic partnerships, the AMM would like to see additional tools and resources be devoted to initiatives that create a better understanding among stakeholders regarding differing governance and taxation systems.

### 3) Reimbursement for Fire Services

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Establish a reimbursement framework to compensate municipalities for fire services rendered to First Nation Communities.***

- According to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, some First Nation Band Councils have set up their own fire departments on reserve while others have signed formal agreements with neighbouring municipalities for fire protection services.
- Moreover, it is the responsibility of the First Nation community to make these arrangements, and to pay for the services through their operational budget.
- However, the AMM understands that Municipal-First Nation agreements for fire protection services can be cumbersome and payments to municipalities are often not delivered in a consistent and timely fashion.
- Therefore, the AMM encourages the Province of Manitoba to establish a reimbursement framework to compensate municipalities for fire services rendered to First Nation communities in consultation with affected stakeholders.

## Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

### **AMM Resolution #22-2015**

#### **Topic: Reimbursement for Fire Services**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations; Manitoba Municipal Relations; Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade; 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 #35-2015**

#### **Topic: TLE Consultation & Support**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations

WHEREAS on March 17, 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM), Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba Inc. (TLEC), and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) to jointly engage provincial and federal orders of government and other stakeholders to achieve the objectives for work done under the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement (TLEFA) and expedite the process;

AND WHEREAS the AMM represents all municipalities in Manitoba:

AND WHEREAS the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet local government as directed under 3.07 of the TLEFA, has in reasonable and good faith, presented municipal concerns in relation to TLE land selections in 2002 and again in 2014 to the Entitlement First Nation and the Province;

AND WHEREAS Section 3.07(2) of the TLEFA states: Where a Municipality expresses concerns about the land being support as Reserve Land, the Entitlement First Nation shall make reasonable efforts to address the concerns of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Entitlement First Nation has not addressed all concerns;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs has not addressed all concerns;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide clear support to municipalities in the Treaty Land Entitlement Process through proper consulting and lobbying the Province for answers prior to setting apart the entitlement land as reserve.

**AMM Resolution #31-2013**

**Topic: Second Generation Northern Development Strategy**

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

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

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.