



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

**Meeting with the Honourable Cathy Cox
Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage**

2019

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Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Cathy Cox and representatives of Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage.
- 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 Sport, Culture and Heritage portfolio.

Priority Issues

1) Library Funding and Universal Access

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Increase provincial funding to the Rural Library Operating Grant Program; and***
 - ❖ ***Allow all library cards issued in Manitoba to be valid at any library that receives provincial funding.***
- The AMM was pleased to make formal submissions to the provincial government's review of libraries in December 2016 as well as its Cultural Review in May 2017.
 - As many libraries are evolving into community hubs that foster community relations and partnerships, the provincial contribution rate to the *Rural Library Operating Grant Program* has remained constant at \$8.50 since 2004.
 - In effect, this 15-year stagnation has resulted in additional burdens as municipalities are addressing these financial shortfalls through greater municipal contributions in order to not cut programming available to residents.
 - Moreover, the stagnant level of funding combined with accessibility standards mandated by the Province of Manitoba with no funding support further compounds the challenges facing community libraries.
 - The AMM strongly encourages the Province of Manitoba to immediately take steps to increase the maximum provincial grant amount to better ensure libraries are able to keep their doors open in local communities.
 - The AMM also continues to support a universal, province-wide library card system to increase efficiencies and facilitate library use.
 - Precedents such as the "One Province, One Library Card" initiative in Saskatchewan have proven successful while library patrons are now able to receive faster, more convenient and more equitable access to public library services and materials.

2) Funding for Community Museums

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Continue to consult with the AMM regarding the implementation of the Heritage Trust Program; and***
 - ❖ ***Work with community museums and local heritage foundations to ensure eligibility for the Heritage Trust Program.***
- The AMM welcomes the first investments under the Heritage Trust Program in support of small and medium-sized museums since 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 community museums are urgently needed to help promote tourism across the province.
 - Meanwhile, the *Community Museum Grants Program* (CMGP) supports over 100 community museums while awarding maximum grant amounts of only \$1,350 and \$3,150, depending on the type of museum.
 - These amounts have remained stagnant since 1991, or 28 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 provincial government's recent increased investments 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.

3) Provincial Review of Privacy Legislation

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Provide an update on the provincial review of privacy legislation.***

- In May 2017, the AMM made a formal submission to the provincial government's review of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA).
- As the last review of FIPPA was undertaken in 2004, the AMM welcomed this consultation process as municipalities have responded to a significant increase of FIPPA requests in recent years, which has led to increased staff time, copying, computer charges, and legal costs.
- Search and preparation fees have remained constant since FIPPA was proclaimed in 1998 despite the considerable human and financial resources required to locate requested records, prepare and redact documents, and make copies.
- Given the added administrative and financial burdens faced by municipalities, the AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to examine the current fee structure of providing FIPPA services, particularly since there is no limit to the number of requests an individual or organization may make at one time or during the year.
- The AMM also believes the Province of Manitoba should examine the possibility of implementing a modest application fee for multiple or concurrent requests.

Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution #41-2018 *Standing Policy

Topic: Funding for Community Museums

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

Department(s): Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

WHEREAS at present, 110 museums receive funding from the Community Museum Grants Program (CMGP); and

WHEREAS 160 museums fit the CMGP institutional criteria and merit consideration of eligibility, but are currently excluded due to the limitation of the availability of funds to this program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to reinvest in the Community Museum Grants Program (CMGP) by setting forth an inclusive, rather than exclusive, mandate for this program, thus opening it up to all eligible museums who meet the required operating and governance criteria; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the provincial government increase funding for community museums to reflect their importance to local communities.

AMM Resolution #44-2016

Topic: FIPPA

Sponsor(s): RM of De Salaberry (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

WHEREAS *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (CCSM, C.F. 175) Regulation 64/98 was registered on April 17, 1998; and

WHEREAS AMM Resolution #28-2010 requested amendments, including a review of and clarification of fees and chargeable times; and

WHEREAS the response from the former Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism in February 2011 indicated a comprehensive review would be undertaken within five years and will involve public representations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to conduct a comprehensive review of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in consultation with the AMM and all municipalities, including a review of and clarification of fees and chargeable times.

AMM Resolution #47-2016 *Standing Policy

Topic: Library Funding

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Grandview (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

WHEREAS libraries provide valuable services to all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS libraries are faced with ever increasing costs to provide these services; and

WHEREAS the Rural Library Operating Grant matches municipal funding up to a maximum amount that hasn't been increased since 2004;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase the maximum funds available to libraries to reflect the increasing costs libraries have seen in the last 12 years and in the years ahead.

AMM Resolution #42-2012

Topic: Exempt Public Libraries from Education Levies and Taxes

Sponsor(s): Town of Stonewall (Interlake District), RM of Rockwood (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage; Manitoba Municipal Relations

WHEREAS there are ninety-two public libraries in the Province of Manitoba formed under The Public Libraries Act and funded by the Province and member municipalities;

AND WHEREAS public library properties are subject to the other property provincial education support levy and the local school division education levy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend The Municipal Assessment Act to exempt public library properties from provincial and local school division education levies and taxes.

AMM Resolution #15-2011

Topic: Increase per Capita Base Rate for Library Funding

Sponsor(s): RM of North Cypress (Western District), Town of Carberry (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

WHEREAS the current provincial maximum per capita levy amount for library funding is \$8.50 and was last raised in 2003;

AND WHEREAS funding for many libraries has been at this maximum rate for years;

AND WHEREAS the provincial funding falls short of the current financial requirements to operate libraries and increases to municipal levies are required annually just to sustain existing services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase the per capita base rate funding for library boards to \$10.00.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to re-evaluate the funding formula for library boards annually or bi-annually to better reflect the actual cost of delivering the services.

AMM Resolution #22-2008

Topic: Library Cards

Sponsor(s): RM of Morris (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

WHEREAS each library system in Manitoba has its own identification cards for members;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba provides major funding to all libraries;

AND WHEREAS some residents may live closer to a library in a neighbouring district;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to mandate that all library cards issued in Manitoba be valid at any library that receives provincial funding.