



ASSOCIATION OF  
**MANITOBA**  
MUNICIPALITIES

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

**2020**

**Introduction**..... 1

**Priority Issues** ..... 2

    1) Manitoba’s Look North Initiative ..... 2

    2) TLE Consultation and Support ..... 3

    3) Reimbursement for Fire Services..... 4

**Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions** ..... 5

## 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.
- The *Speech from the Throne* (November 2019) highlighted the provincial government's commitment to work closely with municipal partners to provide efficient, cost-effective local government, in response to the AMM calling for a 'Partners in Growth' Memorandum of Understanding during the provincial election campaign. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities through a balanced discussion of both revenues and expenditures.
- 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) Manitoba's Look North Initiative

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Continue to consult with northern communities and the AMM on the implementation of the Look North initiative.***

- The AMM has consistently underscored the importance of building strong partnerships in the North and strongly believes that northern economic development must be led by northern Manitobans.
- AMM welcomes Manitoba's Look North Initiative as well as the provincial announcement naming the Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF) as the regional economic development partner for northern Manitoba.
- Implementing a new northern CEDF office as the lead entity responsible for the Look North initiative is both timely and critical to foster competitiveness and facilitate northern economic growth.
- However, the AMM continues to reiterate 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 investment ready and able to capitalize on new opportunities.
- Fostering partnerships with municipalities in northern Manitoba as well as with the AMM is vital to further unlock the tremendous economic potential that exists in the North.

## 2) TLE Consultation and Support

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Continue to provide financial and consultative support to assist municipalities in developing service sharing agreements with First Nation communities as well as throughout the TLE process.***

- Municipalities and First Nations across Manitoba are continuing to work together to create economic opportunities and improve the quality of life in their communities.
- In 2015, a historical partnership agreement was signed with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) and Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba (TLEC) to foster dialogue to help establish a more open and effective TLE claim process in Manitoba.
- The AMM appreciates the Province's support for the TLE Information Toolkit which was published in 2017.
- Additionally, the AMM welcomes the provincial government's commitment to expedite TLE obligations and partner with First Nation leaders to enhance economic opportunities under the TLE process in partnership with municipalities.
- The AMM urges the Province to consult with municipalities and First Nation communities in order to collaboratively identify opportunities to simplify TLE claim process and promote greater partnerships.
- As a lack of communication is often identified as a main barrier to municipal-First Nation partnerships, the AMM would like to see additional tools and resources devoted to initiatives that create a better understanding among stakeholders regarding differing governance and taxation systems.
- The AMM would also appreciate an update on the provincial review of its Tax Loss Compensation policy.

### 3) Reimbursement for Fire Services

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Work with the federal government to ensure municipalities are fully compensated for fire services rendered to First Nation Communities.***

- According to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, some First Nation Band Councils have created their own fire departments on reserve while others have signed formal agreements with neighbouring municipalities for fire protection services.
- A First Nation community is required to make their own arrangements as well as pay for these fire services through their operational budget.
- However, the AMM understands that Municipal-First Nation agreements for fire protection services can be cumbersome while payments to municipalities are often delayed and delivered inconsistently in some cases.
- The AMM understands that Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations is not directly involved with this matter, however, we strongly encourage the provincial and federal governments to work together to ensure municipalities are fully compensated for fire services rendered to First Nation communities.

## 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; 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; Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

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 supported 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.