

# ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POSITION PAPER

MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE | RON SCHULER | MARCH 8, 2021



ASSOCIATION OF  
MANITOBA  
MUNICIPALITIES

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Ron Schuler and representatives of Manitoba Infrastructure.

The AMM encourages the Province 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 Infrastructure portfolio.

## PRIORITY ITEMS:

INFRASTRUCTURE  
PRIORITIES &  
PARTNERSHIPS

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DISASTER FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE REVIEW  
& FLOOD  
MITIGATION

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ENFORCEMENT  
OF WEIGHT  
RESTRICTIONS

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## **PARTNERS IN GROWTH**

**The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.**

## Priority Item #1

### Infrastructure Priorities and Partnerships

The AMM recommends the government:

✓ ***Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities through the MI-AMM Service Delivery Review Working Group.***

- One-third of core municipal infrastructure is in fair, poor, or very poor condition, which is concerning, given that municipalities manage 60 per cent of Manitoba's infrastructure despite collecting less than 10 cents of every tax dollar.
- While the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant economic challenges, the AMM believes it is important now more than ever to invest no less than \$1 billion annually in strategic infrastructure as it is imperative that road infrastructure investments enable local growth while budgeted infrastructure dollars are fully maximized to benefit all municipalities.
- The AMM appreciates the restart of the MI Service Delivery Review Working Group to identify approaches to reduce red tape and find efficiencies that benefit the Province and municipalities.
- Any possible changes to the responsibilities between the Province and municipalities should be discussed within the existing framework of the Working Group to ensure no downloading of provincial responsibilities to municipalities.
- Potential provincial changes to service delivery, particularly around road maintenance, are clearly impacting our members. We urge the department to enhance communication with local officials as well as increase compensation for a more collaborative relationship during these challenging times.
- Given gravel road and snow clearing agreements are set to expire at the end of March 2021, it is vital that municipalities receive the proper tools and clear resources to voluntarily enter into a new agreement on April 1, 2021.
- Moreover, due to the significant compliance costs associated with the *Grade Crossings Regulations* coupled with the economic slowdown, local governments are currently experiencing tremendous financial strain.
- The appreciates the letters sent to the Minister of Transport Canada requesting additional federal support for municipalities and an extension of the 2021 deadline.

- Lastly, rural, remote and northern airports are facing significant financial pressures due to the pandemic, with provincial restrictions causing operating losses of over \$400,000. Coupled with stagnant provincial operating grants, many of these airports will be forced to reduce their services or close outright.
- The AMM strongly encourages the Province to provide additional resources to support capital and operating costs for these facilities.

## Priority Item #2:

### Disaster Financial Assistance and Flood Mitigation

The AMM recommends the government:

- ✓ ***Support municipalities by immediately restoring the previous disaster assistance cost-sharing formula.***

- The AMM appreciates the establishment of a disaster financial assistance (DFA) program for municipalities affected by the October 2019 severe weather event, the 2020 Spring flooding event as well as the June/July severe rainstorms.
- Additionally, the AMM commends the provincial government for developing a new online DFA claims portal on Manitoba Municipalities Online (MMO).
- We appreciate the meaningful consultation with Manitoba Infrastructure to comprehensively review the provincial DFA program to streamline processes and minimize financial risk to municipalities while maximizing cost-sharing mechanisms.
- As municipalities have remained on the frontlines of this pandemic delivering essential services, it is vital that the Province expedite the approval of municipal DFA applications in the future and continue implementing the provincial recommendations regarding the DFA review.
- Moreover, in 2015, the previous federal government enacted changes to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) cost-sharing formula, which significantly increased federal funding thresholds for disastrous weather events.
- Over the years, the AMM has strongly urged the Province to support municipalities by calling on the federal government to reverse these changes as many Manitoba communities are situated in flood prone areas and will be negatively impacted.
- Yet in 2020, we saw the Province of Manitoba change the DFA cost-sharing formula to align with the federal DFAA formula. The AMM believes these changes must be reversed immediately – we call on the Province and all provincial parties to urge their federal counterparts to restore the previous disaster assistance cost-sharing formula.
- Lastly, the AMM commends the provincial government for more than doubling its initial commitment to support the Spring Flood Preparedness Program. As municipalities cannot fight floods alone, these additional dollars further help underscore the importance of the provincial-municipal partnership.

## Priority Item #3:

### Enforcement of Weight Restrictions

The AMM recommends the government:

- ✓ ***Work collaboratively with municipalities to allow local councils the option to enforce certain sections of the Highway Traffic Act to protect municipal infrastructure.***

- As municipal roads connect local communities and support economic growth, the AMM understands the importance of the need to properly maintain and protect municipal infrastructure.
- Weight restrictions are in place on provincial highways at various times of the year to prevent damages to the surface or roadbed. However, weight restrictions imposed by the Province often causes traffic to be redirected onto municipal roads.
- In some cases, heavy trucks rerouted onto municipal roads have caused substantial damages, resulting in costly infrastructure repair costs which adds to the overall municipal infrastructure deficit.
- In 2012, By-law Enforcement Officer Special Constable appointments were revoked by Manitoba Justice due to the provincial review of the *Police Services Act*.
- Without the ability to enforce weight restriction by-laws on municipal roads, municipalities have expressed concerns that the lack of provincial attention to roads will result in downloading infrastructure costs to the municipal level.
- Moreover, this past year we saw the Province of Manitoba provide municipal by-law officers the option to help enforce Public Health Orders to help stop the spread of COVID-19. This collaborative partnership is a successful example of the power of working together to allow local officials the ability to enforce certain sections of legislation.
- Thus, the AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to work collaboratively with municipalities to allow local Councils the ability to enforce sections of the *Highway Traffic Act* to protect municipal roads from heavy trucks if they so choose.

## Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

### **AMM Resolution #04-2020**

#### **Topic: Maintenance of Designated Roadway (DR) Routes**

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Glenboro-South Cypress (Western District), Municipality of Deloraine-Winchester (Western District), Two Borders Municipality (Western District), RM of Argyle (Western District), Municipality of Brenda-Waskada (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the main commercial routes within most communities are Designated Roadways “DR” routes owned by the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS from time to time, municipalities have chosen to access funds through the Urban Highway Fund and the Municipal Road Improvement Program to work in partnership with Manitoba Infrastructure for the repair and maintenance of said "DR" routes, said programs no longer in existence; and

WHEREAS said “DR” routes are in deplorable conditions causing unsafe conditions for traffic due to not receiving the necessary maintenance and upkeep;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to improve the rapid and maintenance of said “DR” routes; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to re-establish funding programs which would allow municipalities access to funding enabling the municipalities to partner with Manitoba Infrastructure, from time to time, for the repair and maintenance of said “DR” routes.

### **AMM Resolution #09-2020**

#### **Topic: 911 Navigational System**

Sponsor(s): RM of Portage la Prairie (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Justice

WHEREAS emergency response is required everywhere; and

WHEREAS current systems are absent or insufficient to navigate emergency response to the right location in the most efficient time, causing delays to emergency response; and

WHEREAS municipalities recognize that navigational systems are available and/or able to be built to assist in arriving at the site of emergency as quick as possible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to implement a navigational system compatible to all addressing systems in Manitoba for all emergency response units and that all 911 responders receive adequate training on all addressing systems.

### **AMM Resolution #09-2020**

#### **Topic: Cameras at Provincial Intersections**

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Glenboro-South Cypress (Western District), RM of Argyle (Western District), Municipality of Prairie Lakes (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Justice

WHEREAS crime is increasing in rural areas during periods when occupants are not there or during night time hours causing crime to go undetected until a time period has lapsed, allowing sufficient time for criminals to escape undetected; and

WHEREAS the regulations under FIPPA and PHIA may regulate the locations, notifications, and restrictions to the use of security cameras and the use of recorded surveillance footage; and

WHEREAS security systems that would effectively identify criminals and criminal activity can become costly when purchased and installed for both municipal land and dwellings as well as for residential land and dwellings; and

WHEREAS many provincial highway intersections in Manitoba have road cameras installed that will display weather conditions as well as traffic conditions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to create favourable legislation for the use and installation of security camera systems and the use of recorded footage in order to help prevent rural crime from occurring, and the apprehension of the criminals; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to create programs that will offer rebates for the purchase of security cameras; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to install and/or update cameras at all provincial intersections that can properly detect any and all vehicles using such roadways to aid in the identification of vehicles.

#### **AMM Resolution #17-2020**

##### **Topic: Snow Removal Agreements**

Sponsor(s): City of Dauphin (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) is responsible for maintaining provincial roads and highways within municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS municipalities previously maintained the provincial roads and highways and billed MI for their services according to the municipalities standard billing rates; and

WHEREAS MI has no require municipalities to enter into agreements for the municipalities to provide snow removal maintenance based on predetermined lump sump payment; and

WHEREAS the funds proposed by MI are significantly lower than actual costs incurred by municipalities and maintenance by municipalities is not possible without serious financial hardship to ratepayers and municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to review snow removal agreements with municipalities that maintain provincial highways and roads and negotiate fair and sufficient payment for municipal services.

#### **AMM Resolution #20-2020**

##### **Topic: Rail Crossings**

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Russell-Binscarth (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure, Transport Canada

WHEREAS all federal railways (CP/CN) have informed landowners and municipalities with approaches and crossings to their field they will now have to maintain these crossings at their own expense; and

WHEREAS all federal Railways (CP/CN) will upgrade the crossings but the costs are to be passed onto the landowner and/or respective municipality; and

WHEREAS in addition to this costs there will be an annual “crossing fee” for each crossings (fees can be adjusted at any time) as well the landowner is required to purchase a five (5) million dollar general insurance AND a two (2) million dollar automobile insurance package strictly for the crossings; and

WHEREAS if the landowner refuses to sign the contract with the federal railway (CP/CN) all crossings on their property will be removed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to review this with the Government of Canada and acknowledge this is a Canada-wide issue that needs to be amended to ensure it is financially and operational/attainable for all landowners and municipalities.

**AMM Resolution #07-2019**

**Topic: No Unilateral Downloading**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Municipal Relations; Manitoba Central Services

WHEREAS in 2018 AMM passed Resolution #25-2018 which resolved that Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) remove a clause from The Highways Act that permitted the unilateral offloading of provincial roads and highways to rural municipalities; and

WHEREAS the response to a similar resolution in 2018 resulted in an answer that suggested the present Act clause allowing unilateral downloading/closure was appropriate; and

WHEREAS in many cases the ongoing operation/repair by a RM of such a PR or PTH would not be possible without severe financial hardship for RM residents, or even bankrupting the affected municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba so that any/all downloading of responsibilities to municipal governments be accompanied by commensurate funding from present provincial revenue streams, that this funding never decrease, and that incremental contributions to this funding as directed by established asset management practices be tied to the annual Manitoba Construction Cost increase.

**AMM Resolution #33-2019**

**Topic: Priority Infrastructure Upgrades**

Sponsor(s): Town of Carberry (Western District), Municipality of North Cypress-Langford (Western District), RM of Whitehead (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

WHEREAS there have been a streamlining of ER and hospital services that have resulted in communities sharing on-call services between them; and

WHEREAS this may result in a delay of ambulance services being offered to local residents on a timely basis due to the distance between communities that share these services; and

WHEREAS the infrastructure between these communities may pose an undue risk of further injury or delay to First Responders and patients during transport if not kept up to date;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba so that communities that share Emergency Room services be placed in a priority position to receive infrastructure upgrades to the main roadways between them to further enhance the safety and effectiveness of First Responders so they can safely and effectively do their jobs en route to the appropriate facility.

**AMM Resolution #24-2018**

**Topic: Downloading of Provincial Roads and PTHs**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to remove the unilateral ability of Manitoba to download responsibility for Provincial Roads and Provincial Trunk Highways from The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act.

**AMM Resolution #25-2018**

**Topic: Amend The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act**

Sponsor(s): City of Selkirk (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the provincial government seeks to enact Bill 14: The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act; and

WHEREAS this Bill maintains the power of the Province of Manitoba to download ownership and ongoing maintenance and renewal responsibilities of previously designated provincial highways on to municipalities; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's municipal infrastructure deficit currently exceeds \$11 billion or \$10,000 per Manitoban; and

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities are already responsible for 60% of all public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS such downloading does not reflect giving municipalities a fair share or a fair say;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend Bill 14: The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act to include provisions that require such transfer of ownership and ongoing responsibility of provincial highways through negotiations and actual agreement from the municipality.

**AMM Resolution #28-2018**

**Topic: Noxious Weeds**

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Clements (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development

WHEREAS the spread of noxious weeds is an area of shared concern between municipalities and the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS current AMM policy includes working with the Province of Manitoba to ensure noxious weeds are controlled in provincial drains and highway ditches as well as around waterways; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is responsible for the revegetation of crown land that is disturbed as a result of infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS current Province of Manitoba revegetation practices and compliance criteria are inconsistent with those known to produce desirable, enduring and competitive cover, often resulting in the establishment and spread of noxious weeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to revise its standard practices for revegetation on any infrastructure project to adopt site appropriate practices of native plant revegetation which are known to provide improved performance standards and better protection for adjacent lands from weed encroachment.

**AMM Resolution #35-2017**

**Topic: Strategy to Increase Physical and Electronic Connectivity**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Economic Development and Training

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is currently reviewing and establishing strategies to increase economic opportunities throughout the province; and

WHEREAS the AMM has passed resolutions in recent years regarding the need to increase electronic connectivity in all areas of the province; and

WHEREAS the provision of all-weather road access in all areas of the province is a basic need and the Province of Manitoba needs to live up to its socio-economic responsibility for all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS the provision of physical and electronic access are paramount to creating and enhancing economic development opportunities in the province; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba needs to develop a long-term strategy that will address these issues so that all Manitobans have the opportunity to grow the economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop a long-term strategy that increases physical and electronic connectivity to enable economic development opportunities in all areas of the province.

**AMM Resolution #46-2017 \*Standing Policy**

**Topic: Water Rights Act Compliance**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure has constructed part of a drain upstream of the outlet and had no plans to upgrade the downstream end; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure did not consult or gain approval from Manitoba Sustainable Development, the affected municipality, or affected land owners before commencing; and

WHEREAS this is contrary to the *Water Rights Act* in our opinion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to set policy that when any provincial government department performs drainage works they must consult and gain approval from Manitoba Sustainable Development, affected municipalities, and property owners prior to commencement of the works to ensure compliance with the *Water Rights Act*.

**AMM Resolution #48-2017 \*Standing Policy**

**Topic: Municipal Drainage**

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Andrews (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS there exists many provincial drains that were designed and constructed to convey agricultural and residential drainage to receiving waterways in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the funding for operation and maintenance of these drains has been declining for an extended length of time; and

WHEREAS this has resulted in significant local and regional drainage problems affecting residents, municipalities, and financial systems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby to the Province of Manitoba to adequately resource the operation and maintenance of these drains and those programs that effectively integrate with all municipalities.

**AMM Resolution #49-2017 \*Standing Policy**

**Topic: Support for Increased Water Flows**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure has been replacing culverts in provincial roads with larger culverts to withstand a 1 in 100-year flood; and

WHEREAS municipal infrastructure is not designed to withstand increased water volumes; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure is not required to obtain a drainage license or to consult with the local drainage authority when increasing water flow through their roads;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to require Manitoba Infrastructure to prepare drainage plans and to consult with municipalities prior to increasing water flows; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Manitoba Infrastructure be required to contribute financially and with in-house expertise toward upgrades required in municipal drains and roads due to increased water flows.

**AMM Resolution #32-2016**

**Topic: Consultation on Waterway Projects**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS municipalities must obtain a license from Manitoba Sustainable Development for culvert replacement, runway cleaning or drainage projects; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure is not required to go through this process for waterway projects on provincial highways and provincial trunk roads; and

WHEREAS on occasion Manitoba Infrastructure projects have resulted in damage to downstream municipal infrastructure as a result of increased water flows;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to make it mandatory for Manitoba Infrastructure to consult with Manitoba Sustainable Development when working on waterway projects.

**AMM Resolution #35-2016**

**Topic: Federal DFAA Program Changes**

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Laurent (Interlake District), RM of Woodlands (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Public Safety Canada

WHEREAS in January 2015 the federal government changed the funding structure of the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA), which will result in a reduction of the amount of federal money available to those affected by disasters; and

WHEREAS these changes came into effect on February 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has consistently been the second largest user of the DFAA program due to natural disasters and flooding events in its region; and

WHEREAS the said changes to the DFAA program will cause major and significant financial implications and downloading to the Province of Manitoba and ultimately Manitoba municipalities; and

WHEREAS a new federal government was elected in October 2015 since the changes were implemented;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and the new federal government to repeal the DFAA program changes made by the previous federal government.

**AMM Resolution #46-2016 \*Standing Policy**

**Topic: Noxious Weeds**

Sponsor(s): Mossey River Municipality (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development; Transport Canada

WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for appointing a weed inspector for the control of noxious weeds within the municipality; and

WHEREAS provincial ditches contain noxious weeds but little is done for the control of these weeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled in provincial drains and highway ditches as well as around railways.

**AMM Resolution #31-2015**

**Topic: Emergency Response Communication Equipment**

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Emerson-Franklin (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Infrastructure Canada

WHEREAS provincial, federal and municipal governments play a prominent role in emergencies;

AND WHEREAS the primary responsibility to deal with emergencies lies with local authorities;

AND WHEREAS municipalities utilize the MTS FleetNet network as the emergency communication system;

AND WHEREAS MTS is planning to upgrade its FleetNet system to digital in the near future;

AND WHEREAS there will be a significant cost to municipalities for the upgrade of digital FleetNet equipment (\$3,000 per radio);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the federal government and Province of Manitoba to provide funding opportunities similar to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program to assist with the purchase of emergency response communication equipment to reduce the cost and to increase the ability of municipalities to respond effectively.

**AMM Resolution #18-2013**

**Topic: Review of Disaster Financial Assistance**

Sponsor(s): City of Brandon (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Public Safety Canada

WHEREAS municipalities continue to face a significant threat from massive storm damage to municipal infrastructure, and commercial and residential properties within municipal jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS already financially burdened municipalities and their citizens do not have the resources to respond quickly to the damage caused by these storms, or the funds to undertake preventative actions;

AND WHEREAS governments are unable to respond quickly enough or allow a consistent level of access to disaster financial assistance for municipalities and their citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for a review of the current policies for disaster financial assistance programs and to increase funding to and the eligibility criteria for these programs, in order to allow municipalities more rapid and consistent access to funding.

**AMM Resolution #51-2012 \*Standing Policy**

**Topic: Maintenance of Right-of-Way on Provincial Drains**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS provincial drains are composed of a right-of-way, which includes a constructed drain with riparian area;

AND WHEREAS activities destructive to the right-of-way of the constructed drain, create impediments to proper drainage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to enforce the maintenance of the undeveloped right-of-way as a riparian area in conjunction with ongoing maintenance of provincial drains.

**AMM Resolution #26-2010**

**Topic: Strategy to Address Municipal Infrastructure Deficit**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Finance; Manitoba Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the national municipal infrastructure deficit totals more than \$123 billion;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba municipal infrastructure deficit totals more than \$11 billion;

AND WHEREAS this deficit only includes the upgrades and retrofitting of existing municipal infrastructure with no new construction;

AND WHEREAS the Province has been increasing the regulatory requirements on municipal infrastructure such as water, wastewater and solid waste disposal to a point where many projects are unaffordable without provincial funding;

AND WHEREAS the Province does not have a strategy to address this growing infrastructure deficit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Province of Manitoba to work with municipalities to start developing a strategy which will address the current municipal infrastructure deficit;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide stable long-term funding commitments which will allow municipalities to better plan for future infrastructure projects.

**AMM Resolution #37-2008**

**Topic: Increase Operating Grants for Small Rural Airports**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba provides annual operating grants to small rural airports in the amount of \$1,200 for airports with unpaved runways and \$2,400 for airports with paved runways;

AND WHEREAS costs to operate these airports continue to rise;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial grants have not increased in many years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase operating grants for small rural airports.

**AMM Resolution #23-2007**

**Topic: Assistance for Damages Caused by Provincial Weight Restrictions**

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

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS weight restrictions placed on Provincial roads redirect traffic onto municipal roads causing substantial damages;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for assistance with rebuilding municipal roads damaged as a result of traffic diverted from provincial roads because of Provincial weight restrictions.

**AMM Resolution #11-2002**

**Topic: Funding of Airports**

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Andrews (Interlake District)

Department: Manitoba Infrastructure; Transport Canada

WHEREAS the federal government has transferred ownership of 11 regional airports to municipalities;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada has established new regulations to enhance the safety and integrity of regional airports;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada no longer provides either ongoing training for existing regional airport employees, or training for new employees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Government of Canada to provide funding for airport facility equipment and maintenance, which is necessary to maintain existing and implement new federal standards and regulations.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Governments of Canada and Manitoba to provide funding and training programs for airport maintenance and staff, so that airports may comply with federal standards and regulations.



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