



# ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POLICY BRIEF – FEBRUARY 16, 2022

| Minister of Agriculture | Derek Johnson |

*The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Derek Johnson and representatives of Manitoba Agriculture. 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 Agriculture portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.*



## TOP POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Veterinary funding has remained stagnant for over 20 years, while operating costs continue to increase substantially. Increased funding will help attract and retain veterinarians in local communities.
- The AMM and Manitoba Pork Council collaborated to develop a 'Best Practices Guidebook' to assist both elected officials and hog barn proponents.
- While livestock operation proposals can sometimes be contentious local issues, *The Planning Amendment Act* allows applicants to appeal a rejection of a conditional use application or the imposition of conditions on an approval directly to the Municipal Board – undermining the decisions of local Councils who know their communities best.
- As part of the provincial government's new rural service delivery model, 21 communities were impacted by the closure of Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) offices.
- The current service delivery model lacks representation in the western side of the province and assumes that all areas throughout the province have sufficient broadband internet connectivity.

## MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

1. VETERINARY FUNDING
2. LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS
3. MASC OFFICE CLOSURES

*While the AMM understands the needs and delivery methods for agricultural services continues to evolve, we believe any changes to rural service delivery, including the closure of offices, should be communicated to local municipalities well in advance of any government announcements.*

## **The AMM recommends the government:**

- ❖ *Review the funding of rural veterinarian clinics with consideration of rising operating costs;*
- ❖ *Repeal the livestock operation appeal provisions under *The Planning Amendment Act*; and*
- ❖ *Work with municipalities to mitigate service disruptions in local communities by reconsidering the placement of MASC offices to ensure offices throughout Manitoba.*

## **ACTIVE AMM AGRICULTURE RESOLUTIONS**

### **AMM Resolution #10-2021: Funding for Veterinary Clinics**

WHEREAS provincially funded Regional Veterinarian Clinics are an integral and necessary service in rural Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has not increased funding or provided other financial support to the rural veterinarian clinics; and

WHEREAS the Province does provide support for veterinarian education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to expand funding to rural veterinarian clinics by the establishment of a Rural Veterinarian Endowment Fund.

### **AMM Resolution #05-2019: Farmland School Tax Rebate**

### **AMM Resolution #36-2019: Animal Control Registry**

### **AMM Resolution #04-2018: The Planning Amendment Act**

### **AMM Resolution #05-2018: Livestock Operations**

### **AMM Resolution #34-2016: Public Hunting on Agricultural Lands**

### **AMM Resolution #24-2015: Deadline for Farmland School Tax Rebate**

### **AMM Resolution #44-2015: Funding for Problem Beavers – SP**

### **AMM Resolution #39-2013: Infrastructure Grants for Veterinary Clinics – SP**