



ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POLICY BRIEF – FEBRUARY 22, 2022

| MINISTER OF FAMILIES | ROCHELLE SQUIRES |

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Rochelle Squires and representatives of Manitoba Families. 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 Families portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.

TOP POLICY IMPLICATIONS



- The AMM thanks the Province of Manitoba for announcing a new \$20 million endowment fund that will provide grants up to \$50,000 to municipalities to eliminate accessibility barriers.
- Given the COVID-19 pandemic, municipalities are facing significant financial pressures. While this funding will help, it is imperative that the Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF) framework be supported by a streamlined application process so that all proponents regardless of capacity are able to apply and funding support can be maximized to eliminate accessibility barriers at the local level.
- It is vital that costs are not financially downloaded, and regulatory changes do not negatively impact municipalities.
- Currently, there is a significant gap between housing options available and housing needs in Manitoba. While social and rental housing are viable options, the availability of these options falls short of supply and lack affordability, especially in rural communities.
- The AMM urges the Province to expedite housing options across Manitoba through the 10-year housing agreement.

MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

1. ACCESSIBILITY
LEGISLATION AND
STANDARDS
2. HOUSING IN MANITOBA

Since 2011, the AMM has voiced concerns over the lack of provincial funding to municipalities to support effective implementation of the AMA standards. These concerns can be found in AMM's official submissions regarding the proposed accessibility standards, which can be found on the AMM website.

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support municipalities by continuing to reduce administrative and financial burdens as a result of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its corresponding standards; and*
- ❖ *Consult with AMM on how municipalities can leverage federal funding with the Province to address the need of affordable housing in local communities.*

ACTIVE AMM FAMILIES RESOLUTIONS

AMM Resolution #41-2017: Accessibility Legislation and Standards

AMM Resolution #39-2016: Eliminating Municipal Contributions to Income Assistance

AMM Resolution #40-2016: The Manitoba Assistance Act