



ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POLICY BRIEF – OCTOBER 7, 2022

| Minister of Justice | Kelvin Goertzen |

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

TOP POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Despite being a paying contract partner, municipalities were completely shut out of the RCMP collective bargaining process between the federal government and National Police Federation.
- While municipalities respect the right to collective bargaining, we believe downloading these costs onto municipalities is both unreasonable and unfair.
- Salary increases equating to 23.7% is much higher than the national recommendation communicated to some municipalities to set aside 2.5% annually.
- Municipalities are already facing tremendous financial pressures due to the ongoing pandemic and are not in a position to absorb any significant costs resulting from the RCMP collective bargaining agreement.
- Moreover, the RCMP intends to procure 10,000-15,000 body worn cameras (BWC) to equip all officers who have operational interactions with the public.
- Public Safety Canada has estimated the annual per unit cost to be \$2,000-\$3,000, however costs may vary once a vendor has been chosen.
- The federal government intends to transfer responsibility for BWC to provincial governments and contract municipalities in 2024/2025 in which they will be forced to assume all financial responsibility.

MUNICIPAL PRIORITY

1. RCMP UNIONIZATION AND BODY WORN CAMERAS

In Manitoba, there are 21 municipalities across the province with direct federal RCMP contracts and 18 municipalities with contracts via the Province. Although, structural reforms to RCMP contracts may encourage other police forces to re-examine their own pay scales in the future which could result in nationwide impacts for all municipalities.



The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to support municipalities by calling on the federal government to fully absorb all retroactive pay increases and costs related to BWC to ensure local communities are not negatively affected by these changes.*

TOP POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- In April 2022, the AMM developed a survey to better understand public safety challenges throughout local communities.
- Policing and public safety is the fastest-growing cost for municipalities and now exceeds 20 per cent of spending.
- The increasing prevalence of methamphetamines and illicit drug use also presents an urgent and growing threat to local communities and public health throughout Manitoba.
- In fact, **77%** of municipalities indicated that drug crime is likely to occur within their communities, while **92%** indicated they are concerned about illicit drug use in their municipality.
- Moreover, the revolving door of criminals being released by the courts back into local communities contributes to rising crime rates throughout Manitoba municipalities.
- As community safety and crime prevention are among the top priorities of municipalities, the AMM encourages Manitoba Justice to increase support to local community police forces to address increasing rates of rural crime as well as the violence and social implications related to the distribution and use of illicit drugs.
- Additionally, since municipalities with their own police force continue to express concern with the mandatory police board requirement in *The Police Services Act*, the AMM appreciated the ministerial commitment to review this requirement within the scope of the mandatory comprehensive review of the Act.
- **90%** of respondents believe the Province should not be able to replace municipal representatives on police boards. The AMM strongly believes that municipal representation on police boards is critical.
- Furthermore, as some “urban” and “rural” municipalities were amalgamated, significant financial and administrative burdens in relation to police services have been created.
- Communities with direct RCMP contracts or those that are serviced by regional police forces may also be similarly affected.
- Therefore, funding arrangements among many amalgamated communities should be reviewed to address and resolve outstanding inequities.

MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

2. LOCAL CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

3. POLICE SERVICES ACT REVIEW

Municipalities have been ringing the alarm on increasing crime rates in their communities since the Prairie Provinces experience higher rates of rural crime compared to other areas of the country. In fact, 92% of respondents noted that they are concerned about the lack of police presence throughout their communities and 64% of respondents feel that their municipality does not have enough police officers.

The AMM has long called on the Province to review the distribution of policing costs and grant funding in Manitoba as the current model is antiquated and unsustainable. The net cost of policing varies between municipalities while the policing grant does not reflect what different municipalities pay for policing.

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase support to police services to address increasing rates of rural crime and help mitigate illicit drug use in local communities;*
- ❖ *Maintain municipal representation on police boards and allow police boards to be established on a voluntary basis; and*
- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities to promote a more transparent, fair and sustainable police funding model.*

TOP POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 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.
- 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.
- While we thank the Province for establishing a Working Group with our organization focused on weight restriction enforcement, it is vital that municipalities are able to protect municipal infrastructure. Thus, we are pleased to see the department in discussion with a number of municipalities about possibly participating in a provincial pilot project to help enforce weight restrictions.
- The AMM is hopeful that this pilot project will help municipalities protect municipal infrastructure.

MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

4. ENFORCEMENT OF WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Over the course of the pandemic, 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.

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.***

ACTIVE AMM JUSTICE RESOLUTIONS

AMM Resolution #14 – 2021: Road Weight Restrictions

WHEREAS road restrictions on provincial highways through municipalities force heavy vehicles to detour using municipal roads during spring restrictions; and

WHEREAS in order for Manitoba Infrastructure to protect their highways it causes municipal roads undue stress and damage which is costly to repair and upgrade on municipal budgets;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop a process and criteria for funding to qualify for municipal road upgrades on these roads that are being used as alternate routes.

AMM Resolution #22 – 2021: RCMP Unionization Costs

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Mounted Police provide public safety services through contracts with the Province of Manitoba or directly with Manitoba municipalities; and

WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for a large share of policing and public safety costs, which represent significant portions of municipal budgets; and

WHEREAS the RCMP has recently unionized and completed collective bargaining with the Government of Canada, which will result in increased costs to municipalities; and

WHEREAS municipalities have no say or control in collective bargaining negotiations for RCMP services, nor the ability to control associated costs; and

WHEREAS Canada advised municipalities to budget 2.5% per year in anticipated costs associated with unionization retroactive to 2016, and Manitoba municipalities have budgeted accordingly; and

WHEREAS the actual cost increases negotiated through collective bargaining are well in excess of 2.5% retroactive to 2016, beyond amounts budgeted for by municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to provide financial assistance to Manitoba municipalities to offset the unexpected rise in policing costs associated with RCMP unionization.

AMM Resolution #08 – 2020: Trespass to Property Legislation

AMM Resolution #09 – 2020: Navigational System for 911

AMM Resolution #10 – 2020: Proceeds from Rural Crime

AMM Resolution #11 – 2020: Cameras at Provincial Intersections

AMM Resolution #26 – 2020: Policing Service Agreement – SP

AMM Resolution #18 – 2019: The Mental Health Act

AMM Resolution #19 – 2019: Methamphetamine Issues

AMM Resolution #20 – 2019: Proceeds of Crime

AMM Resolution #39 – 2019: RCMP Funding Formula - SP

AMM Resolution #40 – 2019: RCMP Staffing - SP

AMM Resolution #43 – 2019: Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP)

AMM Resolution #03 – 2018: Comprehensive Review of Municipal Policing Costs and Structure

AMM Resolution #37 – 2017: Amend The Police Services Act

AMM Resolution #38 – 2017: By-Law Enforcement

AMM Resolution #33 – 2013: Rural and Northern Manitoba Cadet Program

AMM Resolution #44 – 2012: Amend Population Base for Policing

AMM Resolution #45 – 2012: Provincial Per Capita Funding for RCMP

AMM Resolution #42 – 2009: New Police Services Act