

2015 Mayors, Reeves and CAOs Meetings

March 16, 2015
Winnipeg





Doug Dobrowolski

President



New Building Canada Fund

- \$14-billion Building Canada Fund is a component of the overall federal government's \$53-billion New Building Canada Plan
- \$1-billion Small Communities Fund (SCF)
- In total, Manitoba will be receiving \$467 million over 10 years, and 10% of this amount - or \$4.67 million per year - will be set aside for small communities
- The AMM is the only provincial association across Canada working together with its respective provincial government on selecting SCF projects



Provincial Infrastructure Funding

- In its November 2014 Speech from the Throne, the Province of Manitoba indicated provincial funding was provided to support the renewal of over 400 kilometers of municipal roads and 13 bridges outside of Winnipeg
- **Municipal Bridge Renewal Program**
 - In the coming year, funding for municipal bridges will be doubled
- **Municipal Road Improvement Program**
 - Provides up to 50% cost-shared funding for the renewal of existing roads and the construction of new roads in communities outside Winnipeg



Amalgamation Costs

- As of January 1, 2015, newly amalgamated municipalities are now officially legal entities
- Total amalgamation costs reported to the AMM: **\$1.5 million+**
 - Approximately **\$55,000** per municipality (figures reflect the responses from only **28** out of **54** newly amalgamated municipalities)
- Field consultant services are available at no cost to municipalities until March 31, 2015



DFAA Changes

- In effect since February 1, 2015
- Changes to the cost-sharing threshold for Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) will potentially affect **ALL** municipalities
- Could result in major downloading of financial costs onto municipalities
- Potential election issue?



PST Rebate

- One order of government should not tax another
- Need to identify alternate revenue streams and better ways to fund infrastructure
- PST exemption or rebate
 - Currently, municipalities receive only 8 cents from every tax dollar collected
 - Need to vocalize our concerns and ensure proposals are incorporated into election platforms



Recycling Strategy

- Recycling and Waste Reduction: A Discussion Paper
 - Submission deadline: March 20, 2015
 - **MOS Seminar**: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 @ 11:35am
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) levy
 - Currently under review
- New Waste Management Facilities (WMF) regulation
 - Re-classification of waste management facilities may potentially result in significant costs to municipalities
 - Stay tuned for AMM's official submission
 - Submission deadline: **April 2, 2015**



Economic Development Strategy

- We continue to urge the Province of Manitoba to proactively develop and implement a comprehensive economic development strategy
- Needed to remain competitive and to foster business growth, as well as to stimulate economic activity in rural and northern Manitoba
- Requires significant inter-departmental collective action and communication to promote economic development across the province



Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

- AMM is encouraged by the recent announcement of exempting road rights-of-way, hard-surface sidewalks, side and centre median boulevards, and ditches
- AMM staff following up with CWS officials
- We remain committed to addressing your needs and concerns while working with the Province of Manitoba, and CWS in particular, to modify this regulation



Rail Safety

- The AMM continues to participate in the National Municipal Rail Safety Working Group facilitated by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- New regulations and standards are intended to ensure public safety and clarify responsibilities of the railways and road authorities
- Protective Direction No. 32



Treaty Land Entitlement

- March 17, 2015 – the AMM will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding between TRCM and TLEC
- Parties will commit themselves to participate in an on-going dialogue to establish a more open and effective Treaty Land Entitlement process in Manitoba
- Parties will review established TLE-related municipal service agreements and draft template agreements to assist municipalities



2016 Provincial Election

- Upcoming discussion following AMM Executive reports
- I encourage you all to think of ways we can get municipal issues incorporated into provincial party platforms during the upcoming election





Ralph Groening

Vice-President



Housing

- AMM's participation in the Housing Advisory Roundtable
- Solutions are badly needed, particularly for areas that are growing, and especially in rural, remote and northern communities across the province
- April 28-May 1, 2015: 47th National Congress on Housing and Homelessness will be taking place right here in Winnipeg



Provincial Fire Strategy

- In November 2014, the 2015-2018 Provincial Fire Strategy was officially released
- Working Group is actively consulting guide in our ongoing review of challenges facing the Manitoba Fire Service and municipalities
- The AMM continues to emphasize its willingness to facilitate effective communication between the Province, local governments, Manitoba Fire Service, and the general public



MPI Claim Rates for MVAs

- For this year, the basic rate increased from \$749 to \$771, and the complex rate increased from \$999 to \$1,028 – a 2.9% increase
- We encourage all of you to continue submitting claims to MPI, as municipalities have the ability to submit firefighting/rescue cost reimbursement and funds are available
- Funds are also available under MPI's **Securing the Site** program



Accessibility Legislation & Standards

- *Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)* key areas:
 - Customer service, information and communications, ‘Built’ environment, employment accessibility, and accessible transportation
- The ‘Built’ Environment standard addresses access into and within buildings and outdoor spaces, and is expected to build on Manitoba’s Building Code
- The AMM is participating on the Accessibility Advisory Council, which makes recommendations to the Minister



Building Inspector Training

- Manitoba Emergency Services College (MESC) is planning to offer courses again in September 2015
- Course materials are currently being revised in order to comply with Manitoba's needs
- Contact MESC for additional information



Growing Forward 2

- GF2 is a five-year, \$3-billion agricultural policy framework agreement among federal-provincial-territorial governments
- For Manitoba's sake, \$176-million will be invested over five years, which is roughly \$35-million per year
- During AMM's recent meeting with Minister Kostyshyn (MAFRD), we made our concerns known about the Rural Water Development Program, which is funded through the Manitoba Water Services Board



Surface Water Management Strategy & Drainage Regulation Submissions

- The AMM appreciated efforts by CWS to ensure thorough consultation was undertaken for both the *New Approach to Drainage Regulation* and Manitoba's *Surface Water Management Strategy*
- We were pleased to provide comments on these consultation documents in December 2014
- Since making our official submissions, a formalized provincial committee/working group with stakeholders has yet to be established, however we are prepared to participate in the near future



Conservation Districts

- Many CDs are struggling to fulfill their current mandates with existing funding, particularly after funding cuts in the 2013 budget
- Reliance on application-based funding makes long-term planning and staff retention extremely difficult for CDs
- If CDs are expected to fulfill new responsibilities, provincial operating funding should be reinstated and/or significantly increased



Education Tax on Property

- Since all of society benefits from public education, including citizens without children currently attending school, our position remains education should be funded through provincial revenues
- The process of funding education through property taxes should be reviewed and modernized
- Moreover, as AMM members raised the recent \$5,000 cap on the Farmland School Tax Rebate again at the 2014 Convention, we are urging the Province to lift it entirely



Oil Production Issues (Western District)

- RM-Oil Industry Working Group
- It is imperative the needs of municipalities are effectively addressed and oil revenues are re-invested back into local communities to support growth
- Upcoming meeting with Minister Chomiak





Chris Goertzen
Vice-President



Subdivision Review Committee

- The purpose of this TAC is to identify and recommend strategies to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of common conditions of subdivision approval
- Monthly meetings have been scheduled, and will commence later this month
- As this Committee involves the participation of high-ranking public servants, the AMM anticipates significant action as inefficiencies and opportunities will be identified to streamline the approval process in Manitoba



Handi-Transit & Active Transportation

- Despite a slight increase in funding, many local Handi-van services are struggling to provide dependable and affordable services
- Current guidelines under the Mobility Disadvantaged Program and the Motor Transport Board are restrictive, creating additional challenges to local transportation services
- Additional financial support for Transportation Options Networks for Seniors (TONS)



By-law Enforcement

- Training costs for municipal staff should be covered by the Province of Manitoba, while the impact of adjudication costs on municipal budgets should be assessed
- Planning Boards should have the ability to enforce by-laws using the new administrative scheme
- New administrative scheme needs to be communicated in a clear, accurate, and consistent manner across the province



Policing Costs

- Municipalities continue to pay roughly 60 per cent of all policing costs in Canada, including costs for federally mandated responsibilities
- Costs are rapidly increasing, and are simply unsustainable
- Without long-term funding and a re-distribution of roles and responsibilities, municipal budgets will continue to be severely strained while depriving other essential services and programming



Police Escorts under MHA

- Public safety issues and financial burdens
- Escorting patients not only reduces police service coverage and response times, particularly in small rural communities, but it can also contribute substantially to overtime costs and competing demands on police resources while frustrating officers
- Meeting next week with Minister Allum



Dutch Elm Disease Program

- While reimbursement from the Province totals **\$180.32** per tree, some municipalities have incurred costs of up to **\$1,000** per tree while removing diseased elms
- Simple math indicates municipal budgets are clearly negatively impacted while restricting your ability to deliver other programs and services to your communities
- AMM staff following up with CWS officials



Community Places Program

- The AMM was pleased to see over \$2.5 million in total grants awarded in 2014-2015, in addition to over \$650,000 for CPP-North
- Lack of sufficient funding can affect the ability of communities to complete major capital projects
- CPP is a valuable program, however it is in need of greater funding in order to make a more positive impact in communities



Palliative Care

- Upcoming meeting with Minister Blady
- Sufficient funding, separate budget item for palliative care funding in RHA budgets, and funding for a full-time Palliative Care Coordinator
- RHA funding decisions must also be transparent, and Palliative Care Coordinators must be able to carry out their important work without substantially reducing their time spent on patient care to worry about fundraising for their own position



Capital Contributions to Health Facilities

- Municipalities are becoming increasingly involved in health care, which is a provincial responsibility
- We will urge Minister Blady to reduce the required contribution to a fixed 5 per cent of the project's cost, regardless of the payment schedule (as per Resolution 25/13)
- We will also encourage the Province to continue to consider in-kind contributions, and examine alternative ways to build new health facilities



MB Hydro Recreation Centre Pilot Program

- Energy Efficient Guide for Municipal Recreation Facilities
- Program was specifically designed for AMM members based on municipal survey responses
- By participating in this Power Smart program, you can receive incentives and financing to upgrade your recreation facilities and lower your energy usage, which will, in turn, lower your energy bills
- Grab a brochure at Manitoba Hydro's booth at AMM's MOS!
 - Also available for downloading on AMM's website





Thank you!