

We're *Ready*

20 25 | ANNUAL REPORT



Association of
Manitoba Municipalities

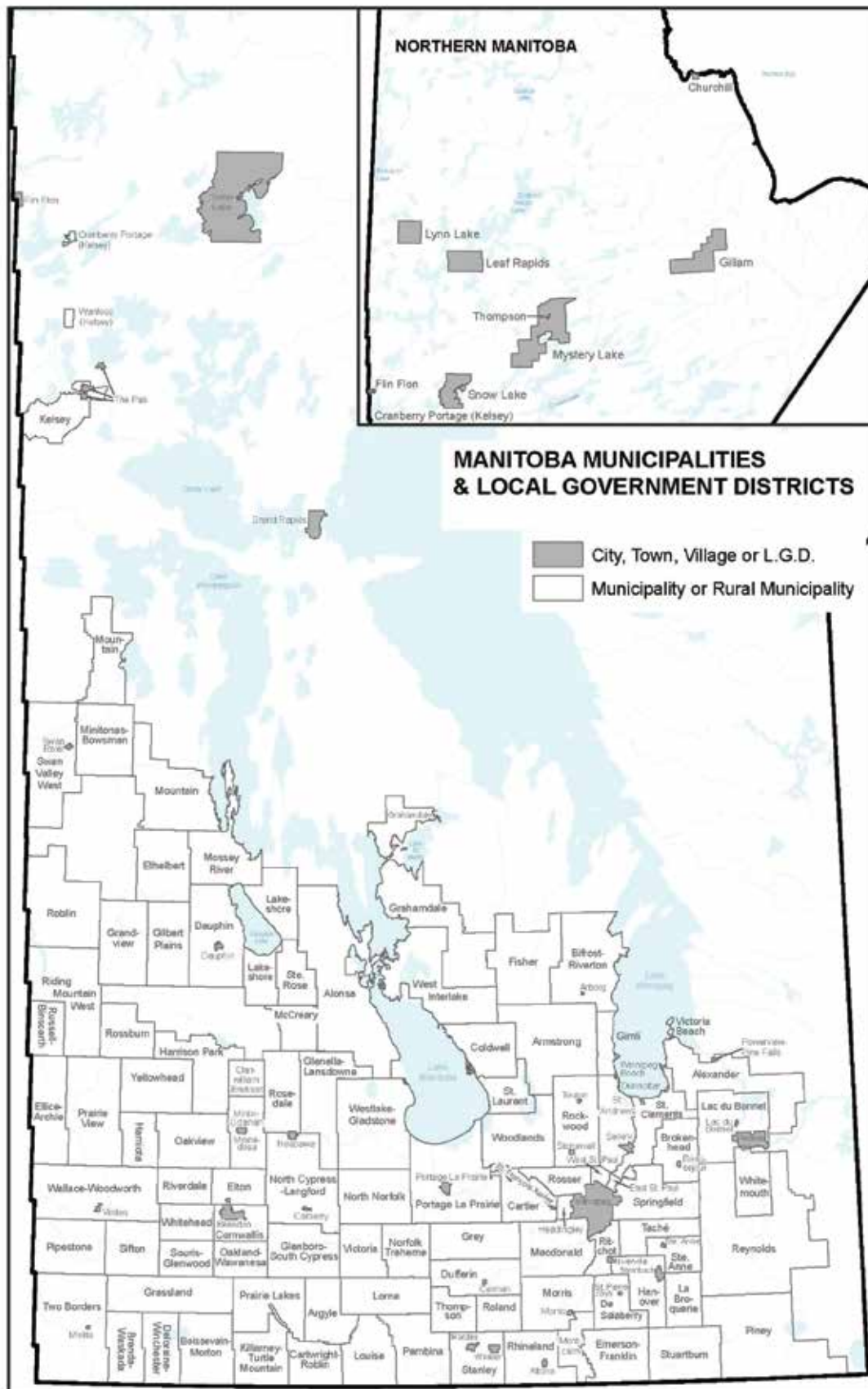


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The Value of Engagement



KATHY VALENTINO,
President

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), I am proud to present the 2024/25 Annual Report. We continue to celebrate a strong record of policy achievements, with significant successes this year reflecting our collective effort, impact, and the strength of our partnerships. These accomplishments demonstrate our unwavering dedication to advancing the priorities of Manitoba's municipalities.

A key development in 2024-25 was the **2% increase** to both the Municipal Operating Basket and the Public Safety Basket. We also welcomed the launch of the **\$62 million** One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund, which will provide support over the next five years, as well as the **\$42 million** One Manitoba Growth Program, offering additional resources to municipalities. While these investments are important, the AMM continues to advocate for a modernized, sustainable funding model that better reflects today's municipal realities.

In the pages ahead, I hope you take pride in reading about our advocacy efforts and policy successes. Several initiatives first highlighted in last year's report have now come to fruition, including the expedited

review of Bill 37 planning legislation, the advancement of community-based medical first response services, and the re-opening of two MASC offices. These successes, among others, show how persistence and partnerships deliver real results for Manitoba municipalities.

Overall, my first year as your President has been an incredible privilege. I have truly enjoyed connecting with communities across Manitoba. Together with Vice-Presidents Saluk and Phillips, I had the opportunity to visit nearly **40** municipalities, listening to local leaders, learning about their priorities, and gaining a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities they face. One of the most inspiring takeaways has been seeing the power of regional collaboration, with neighbouring municipalities working together to address shared challenges and build on each other's strengths. These experiences reinforce my belief that collaboration is essential to strengthening communities and shaping a brighter future for all Manitobans.

I look forward to visiting even more communities in the year ahead and learning about the innovative initiatives taking place across our province. Together, we are building a stronger Manitoba.



The AMM Executive at the Legislature Building in Winnipeg.

Strength and Growth Through Flexibility



DENYS VOLKOV,
Executive Director

Another year has passed, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the activities and events that brought us together. Throughout the year, the AMM has hosted a variety of gatherings, from our Annual Convention, Mayors, Reeves, and CAOs meetings to the June District Meetings. These events continue to provide valuable opportunities to connect, collaborate, and advocate for municipal priorities.

This year, we embraced a fresh look with the launch of our refreshed brand. Your input was invaluable in evolving our brand to not only embody AMM's mission but also resonate with municipalities across Manitoba. We were excited to unveil the refreshed brand at the 2024 Fall Convention. While our look may have changed, our commitment has not – we will continue working hard to get municipal priorities across the finish line.

Alongside our events, our Insurance Program continues to play a crucial role in supporting the AMM and our member municipalities. By providing comprehensive insurance coverage at significantly lower premiums than individual municipalities could

secure on their own, the program delivers significant value. Since 2010, the program has returned nearly **\$30 million** in premiums directly to municipalities. These returns allow councils to allocate funds to local projects that make a meaningful impact in their communities.

The strength of the program is in large part due to its flexibility and the choices available to municipalities. We can once again, confidently say, our members are receiving the best coverage – and value – for their money, making our insurance program the best-in-class.

Beyond insurance, the AMM also offers comprehensive employee benefits packages, HR services, and educational programs. I encourage all members to explore our website to learn more about the full range of programs available to support your municipality.

Finally, I want to thank all municipal officials and staff for your unwavering dedication and service to your communities. Your hard work is the foundation of Manitoba's success, and we are honoured to stand alongside you in this journey.



A big moment at the 2024 AMM Fall Convention – Executive Director Volkov unveils our refreshed brand.

Meet Your District Directors

Louis Fitzpatrick, Northern District
Councillor, City of Thompson



Andre Murphy, Northern District
Mayor, Town of The Pas



Lance Jacobson, Parkland District
Mayor, Town of Swan River



Jim Manchur, Parkland District
Reeve, Gilbert Plains Municipality



Adam Grabowski, Midwestern District
Councillor, Rossburn Municipality



Merv Starzyk, Midwestern District
Mayor, Yellowhead Municipality



Colin Doyle, Central District
Councillor, City of Portage la Prairie



Marc Savy, Western District
Councillor, Town of Virden



Rhonda Coupland, Western District
Councillor, Municipality of Boissevain-Morton



Scott Phillips, Vice-President
Councillor, RM of Sifton





Kathy Valentino, President
City of Thompson



Christa Vann Mitchell, Central District
Reeve, RM of Cartier



Loren Schinkel, Eastern District
Reeve, RM of Lac du Bonnet



Ray Schirle, Eastern District
Mayor, Town of Beausejour



Angela Emms, Interlake District
Councillor, RM of Rosser



Jeff Browaty, City of Winnipeg
Councillor, City of Winnipeg



Brad Saluk, Vice-President
Reeve, RM of Brokenhead



Nicole Chychota, MMA President
City Manager, City of Portage la Prairie



Delmer Nott, Interlake District
Reeve, RM of St. François Xavier



Executive Director
Denys Volkov



**Deputy Executive Director
& Director of Policy and
Communications**
Nick Krawetz



Manager of Finance
Patti De Baets



Senior Policy Analyst
Stefanie Vieira



Executive Coordinator
Nanette Eserio



**Finance &
Administration Officer**
Erin Thompson



Client Relations Manager
Canoe Procurement
Group of Canada
Ainsley Murdock



AMM's new office building sign.

MEMBERS

Alexander, RM	Headingley, RM	Rockwood, RM
Alonsa, RM	Kelsey, RM	Roland, RM
Altona, Town	Killarney-Turtle Mountain, Municipality	Rosedale, RM
Arborg, Town	La Broquerie, RM	Rosburn, Municipality
Argyle, RM	Lac du Bonnet, RM	Rosser, RM
Armstrong, RM	Lac du Bonnet, Town	Russell-Binscarth, Municipality
Beausejour, Town	Lakeshore, RM	Selkirk, City
Bifrost-Riverton, Municipality	Leaf Rapids, Town	Sitton, RM
Boissevain-Morton, Municipality	Lorne, Municipality	Snow Lake, Town
Brandon, City	Louise, Municipality	Souris-Glenwood, Municipality
Brenda-Waskada, Municipality	Lynn Lake, Town	Springfield, RM
Brokenhead, RM	Macdonald, RM	St-Pierre-Jolys, Village
Carberry, Town	McCreary, Municipality	St. Andrews, RM
Carman, Town	Melita, Town	St. Clements, RM
Cartier, RM	Minitonas-Bowsman, Municipality	St. François Xavier, RM
Cartwright-Roblin, Municipality	Minnedosa, Town	St. Laurent, RM Stanley, RM
Churchill, Town	Minto-Odanah, RM	Ste. Anne, RM
Clanwilliam-Erickson, Municipality	Montcalm, RM	Ste. Anne, Town
Coldwell, RM	Morden, City	Ste. Rose, Municipality
Cornwallis, RM Dauphin, City	Morris, RM	Steinbach, City
Dauphin, RM	Morris, Town	Stonewall, Town
De Salaberry, RM	Mossey River, Municipality	Stuartburn, RM
Deloraine-Winchester, Municipality	Mountain, RM	Swan River, Town
Dufferin, RM	Mystery Lake, LGD	Swan Valley West, Municipality
Dunnottar, Village	Neepawa, Town	Tache, RM
East St. Paul, RM	Niverville, Town	Teulon, Town
Ellice-Archie, RM	Norfolk Treherne, Municipality	The Pas, Town
Elton, RM	North Cypress-Langford, Municipality	Thompson, City
Emerson-Franklin, Municipality	North Norfolk, Municipality	Thompson, RM
Ethelbert, Municipality	Oakland-Wawanesa, Municipality	Two Borders, Municipality
Fisher, RM	Oakview, RM	Victoria Beach, RM
Flin Flon, City	Pembina, Municipality	Victoria, RM
Gilbert Plains, Municipality	Pinawa, LGD	Virden, Town
Gillam, Town	Piney, RM	Wallace-Woodworth, RM
Gimli, RM	Pipestone, RM	West Interlake, RM
Glenboro-South Cypress, Municipality	Portage la Prairie, City	West St. Paul, RM
Glenella-Lansdowne, Municipality	Portage la Prairie, RM	Westlake-Gladstone, Municipality
Grahamdale, RM	Powerview-Pine Falls, Town	Whitehead, RM
Grand Rapids, Town	Prairie Lakes, RM	Whitemouth, RM
Grandview, Municipality	Prairie View, Municipality	Winkler, City
Grassland, Municipality	Reynolds, RM	Winnipeg Beach, Town
Grey, RM	Rhineland, Municipality	Woodlands, RM
Hamiota, Municipality	Riding Mountain West, RM Ritchot, RM	Yellowhead, Municipality
Hanover, RM	Riverdale, Municipality	
Harrison Park, Municipality	Roblin, Municipality	



AMM delegates take the mic during the Ministerial Forum at the 2024 Fall Convention – asking questions and voicing local priorities.

2024 MEETING WITH THE PROVINCIAL CABINET

Stefanie Vieira, Senior Policy Analyst

On November 26, 2024, the AMM Executive and Board of Directors met with **Premier Wab Kinew** and the provincial Cabinet during the 26th Annual Fall Convention. This meeting provided a valuable opportunity to discuss shared priorities, celebrate recent accomplishments, and outline pathways for continued collaboration between Manitoba's municipalities and the provincial government.

President Valentino opened the meeting by thanking all Ministers for their participation in the Ministerial Forum, co-chaired by Premier Kinew. She reflected on the notable progress achieved over the past year, commending the provincial government for their collaborative approach and substantial investments that positively impacted municipalities during 2023-2024. These efforts were particularly appreciated as they marked a transition period for the government.

Additionally, President Valentino welcomed the Premier's announcement of the \$62 million *One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund* during his address to Convention delegates. However, she also highlighted the continued importance of working together to develop a modernized, growth-oriented funding model with an annual escalator to ensure sustainable financial support for municipalities of all sizes. President Valentino underscored the pressing need to exempt municipalities from paying PST as well, particularly on cost-shared trilateral infrastructure projects aimed at growing Manitoba overall.

Furthermore, President Valentino reiterated the AMM's appreciation to the Premier regarding the provincial commitment to provide municipalities a 2% annual funding increase, which included \$44 million for municipal operating basket funding and \$3.3 million for strategic infrastructure in Budget 2024. She also expressed gratitude for the Province's decision to double the Manitoba Airport Assistance Program – a much-needed enhancement for the fund that has been stagnant for more than two decades. These measures signify progress toward addressing longstanding financial concerns, though President Valentino emphasized the need for ongoing collaboration to ensure funding is strategically aligned with municipal priorities.

CONCERNS WITH THE FROM THE GROUND UP PROGRAM

Vice-President Brad Saluk raised concerns regarding substantial funding cuts to municipalities under the From the Ground Up Program. He highlighted that funding had been reduced by 50%, reverting to pre-pandemic levels that fail to meet current needs. Despite the program being oversubscribed this year, the program was also underspent, which further compounds the issue.

Saluk stressed the importance of reinstating AMM's role in the program's application review process, citing the association's history of offering valuable input in collaboration with successive governments. He urged the restoration of this long-standing partnership to ensure more efficient use of available funds.

The **Hon. Glen Simard**, Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations, addressed AMM's concerns by reaffirming the government's commitment to a 2% annual funding increase for municipalities and additional funding available under the *One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund*. Minister Simard emphasized that the fund aims to provide municipalities with greater financial predictability and stability, aligning allocations with municipal budget cycles for improved planning.

Premier Kinew reiterated these points, highlighting that the combined funding commitments under the *One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund* and existing operating grants represent a 76% increase in municipal operating funding, equating to a \$16.8 million boost for municipalities in 2024.

CELL SERVICE AND BROADBAND EXPANSION

Vice-President Saluk expressed frustration over the limited progress in expanding cell service and broadband connectivity. Winnipeg Director **Jeff Browaty** added that delays in broadband deployment hinder critical services like Next Generation 911. He emphasized the need for measures to prevent costs from being shifted to municipalities.

In response, the **Hon. Adrian Sala**, Minister of Finance, acknowledged the challenges and confirmed plans to explore new partnerships to accelerate connectivity improvements once existing contracts expire. Premier Kinew reaffirmed the government's dedication to leveraging federal funding and collaborating with private providers to enhance both cell service and broadband access across Manitoba.

ADDRESSING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

The discussion then shifted to the issue of Aquatic Invasive Species, particularly the growing prevalence of zebra mussels in Manitoba's water bodies. Central District Director **Christa Vann-Mitchell** called for greater financial investment, stronger enforcement coordination among agencies, and more decontamination and inspection sites to mitigate the impact of invasive species. Central District Director **Nancy Penner** also highlighted the economic toll of zebra mussels on municipal infrastructure, stressing the urgency of expanding inspection stations.

The **Hon. Jamie Moses**, Minister of Business, Mining, Trade, and Job Creation, responded by noting that the AIS file would soon transition to the Department of Environment and Climate Change. He outlined ongoing initiatives, including educational campaigns and increased collaboration with municipalities, as key components of the Province's strategy to address this issue.

PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTMENTS

Northern District Director **Louis Fitzpatrick** commended the provincial government for its recently announced *Public Safety Strategy* and investments aimed at improving safety in downtown



President Kathy Valentino with Premier Wab Kinew at the AMM 2024 Fall Convention.

Winnipeg and Brandon. However, he noted that other municipalities also continue to grapple with rising crime rates in their downtown areas. Fitzpatrick urged the government to implement broader safety initiatives that address the needs of communities regardless of their size or location.

In response, the **Hon. Matt Wiebe**, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, acknowledged the historical challenges posed by past funding freezes on municipal safety initiatives. He outlined a plan to address these issues, which includes a 2% annual escalator for the public safety basket to ensure predictable, sustainable funding growth.

Minister Wiebe also praised the Community Safety Officers program, highlighting its success in empowering municipalities to develop innovative and locally tailored safety strategies. He emphasized his department's commitment to working closely with municipalities to enhance public safety across Manitoba.

CLOSING REMARKS

The meeting concluded with President Valentino and Premier Kinew expressing their shared commitment to fostering an open and productive relationship between AMM and the Province of Manitoba.

President Valentino reiterated her appreciation for the Province's leadership and responsiveness to municipal concerns, emphasizing the importance of maintaining alignment on key priorities. Premier Kinew commended AMM for its proactive and collaborative approach to advocacy, describing the opportunity to engage directly with municipal leaders as both refreshing and energizing.

This meeting underscored the continued alignment between AMM and the provincial government in tackling challenges and advancing shared goals. It serves as a foundation for strengthening collaboration and building a future where Manitoba's municipalities thrive through sustainable growth, enhanced infrastructure, and improved quality of life for residents.

MEETING WITH MINISTERS



February 10, 2025: Finance Meeting with Minister Adrian Sala



February 10, 2025: Justice Meeting with Minister Matt Wiebe



February 10, 2025: Transportation and Infrastructure Meeting with Minister Lisa Naylor



March 24, 2025: Environment and Climate Change Meeting with Minister Mike Moyes



July 15, 2025: Innovation and New Technology with Minister Mike Moroz



September 2, 2025: Agriculture with Minister Ron Kostyshyn



The AMM meets regularly throughout the year with the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations, the Hon. Glen Simard.



April 9, 2025: Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care with Minister Uzoma Asagwara



July 21, 2025: Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation with Minister Jamie Moses



September 18, 2025: Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures with Minister Ian Bushie



Provincial Ministers field questions from AMM delegates during the Ministerial Forum at the Fall Convention.

BUILDING MOMENTUM – AMM HIGHLIGHTS AND POLICY SUCCESSES

Stefanie Vieira, Senior Policy Analyst

THE AMM IS READY

In 2024, we made it a priority to involve our members throughout the entire rebranding process, using our events such as the Mayors, Reeves, and CAOs meetings in April and June District Meetings to gather feedback on what our new brand should represent. We are very excited for this next chapter in the evolution of our association's brand and communications.

As our members' perspectives are essential to the success and growth of our association, we wanted to make sure our refreshed brand accurately reflects how we serve our members. Their involvement proved pivotal in shaping our brand evolution that truly reflects who we are, and how we move forward.

At the 2024 Fall Convention, we were thrilled to unveil our new look and feel. Our refreshed brand goes beyond a logo; it is the total sum of the perceptions, emotions, and experiences that our members associate with us. With these considerations in mind and reflecting on what we heard, we are convinced that we can seize the opportunity to be bold and lead with our energy and passion to serve our members.

We want to inject confidence that change can happen and add momentum to everything we say and do on our members' behalf. The AMM is READY.

We are READY to serve.
We are READY to engage.
We are READY to collaborate.
We are READY to move forward.

The AMM continues to move the interests of Manitoba's municipalities across the finish line.

Earlier this year, we were thrilled to see our socks spotted across municipal Manitoba – thank you to everyone who participated in our **Spot the Sock** initiative and helped showcase our refreshed look and feel. As always, we encourage members to reach out to the AMM office at any time. We're here to support your municipality, advance your priorities, and provide any information you may need.

Be sure to check out our new Brand page on our website and watch the promotional video showcasing this exciting transformation.

WATCH OUR LAUNCH VIDEO HERE.

AMM FEDERAL LOBBYING UPDATE

With the federal election taking place in 2025, the AMM dedicated considerable time and resources to ensuring Manitoba's municipal priorities remained front and center on the national stage. As federal decisions continue to impact municipalities, the AMM has



strengthened its engagement with the federal government to advance Manitoba's municipal interests, while maintaining strong advocacy on key policy issues with the Province of Manitoba.

In early December, the AMM, alongside Manitoba's Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) representatives, met with key federal officials in Ottawa to amplify the voices of Manitoba's municipalities before the election.

These included formal meetings with the Prime Minister's Office, ministers of the Crown, numerous MPs from government and opposition, and with officials working on election platforms for the various parties.

During these meetings, we reinforced the critical role of municipalities and the need for strong federal-municipal collaboration.

ADVOCATING FOR REAL SOLUTIONS

Our policy recommendations focused on three key themes:

- Responsive Development
- Modernized Funding Model & Core Infrastructure Investments
- Public Safety & Sustainable Policing

Under these themes, our message was clear, while we support incentivizing housing development and increasing core infrastructure investment, a one-size-fits-all approach does not work. Federal programs must be tailored to the realities of municipalities.

For example, our polling shows **61%** of Canadians believe different solutions are needed for small, rural, and remote communities compared to larger cities and suburbs. As Manitoba municipalities rapidly approve housing projects, we have worked hard to dispel the false federal narrative that local governments are delaying development.

At the same time, municipalities need a funding model that reflects today's economic realities. We made it clear to federal representatives that Manitoba faces a critical water and wastewater infrastructure deficit, which directly limits economic and residential growth in communities already at capacity. We emphasized the urgent need for a dedicated federal program to support these essential projects.

Finally, public safety remains a top priority. We continued to push for tougher bail reforms to keep repeat prolific offenders off our streets and called on the federal government to fully fund the commitments they make on behalf of municipal budgets.

SUMMARY OF AMM RECOMMENDATIONS

Responsive Development

- Work with municipalities to set homebuilding targets, responsively to local needs and pressures
- Avoid a one-size-fits-all policy that penalizes rural, smaller urban, or northern communities
- Reward municipal innovation that builds homes quickly and efficiently

Modernized Funding Model & Core Infrastructure Investments

- 21st century municipalities need 21st century funding
- Enhance the Canada Community-Building Fund to support municipal strategic investments for growth
- A new dedicated core infrastructure fund for water and wastewater
- Less red tape, and more flexibility for getting infrastructure projects off the ground

Public Safety & Sustainable Policing

- Reform the bail and parole systems to keep repeat offenders off the streets
- No more offloading of higher policing costs
- Consult with municipalities before policing changes that cost communities more
- Enhance social and mental health support to keep police focused on policing

PROGRESS ON MUNICIPAL FUNDING – CONTINUED COLLABORATION NEEDED

At the 26th Annual AMM Convention, Premier Wab Kinew and Minister Glen Simard announced the One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund, valued at **\$62 million** over five years with **\$12.4 million** allocated in the first year. This new fund is in addition to the municipal operating grant, which now includes a **two per cent** annual increase over the next four years, reflecting ongoing discussions and advocacy by the AMM and municipalities.



The AMM welcomes these commitments as important progress toward strengthening municipal funding. However, further modernization of the funding model is needed. Per-capita allocations alone do not reflect the realities faced by many municipalities, particularly those with extensive road networks or smaller populations. A revised framework that addresses legacy funding inequities and considers a broader range of cost drivers is essential to ensure municipalities of all sizes can maintain infrastructure, plan responsibly, and support sustainable growth.

In addition, the Province introduced the **\$42 million** Manitoba Growth, Renewal and Opportunities for Municipalities (Manitoba GRO) program to support projects focused on community renewal, disaster mitigation, climate resiliency, and recreation across municipalities outside Winnipeg.

We were disappointed to be excluded from the review process for the first intake of the program, which departed from long-standing collaborative practice. However, we appreciate that the government addressed municipal concerns by including the AMM in the next intake, helping to ensure fairness, transparency, and municipal input in funding decisions.

The AMM will continue to advocate for a modernized municipal funding framework that maintains a fair per-capita component, addresses historic inequities within the basket, and includes an annual escalator that reflects real municipal costs and growth needs. Throughout 2024–25, we met several times with senior officials to discuss these priorities and continue to urge the Province to expedite this work and confirm municipal allocations earlier, enabling municipalities to plan their budgets with greater certainty and efficiency.

STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR GREEN TEAMS AND FROM THE GROUND UP PROGRAMS

When the new government launched the Urban/Hometown Green Team Program and the From the Ground Up Program (which replaced the *Building Sustainable Communities Program*)



AMM President Kathy Valentino, Reeve Loren Schinkel (RM of Lac du Bonnet), Mayor Sharilyn Knox (City of Portage la Prairie), the Hon. Matt Wiebe (Minister of Justice and Attorney General), and Councillor Bruce Luebke (City of Brandon) at the AMM media event highlighting the urgent need for bail reform and improved public safety.

in 2023/24, the AMM immediately raised concerns about delayed announcements and reduced municipal allocations compared to previous years.

Thanks to our continued advocacy, the Manitoba government opened the 2025 intake for both programs earlier than last year. We appreciate the Province's responsiveness to municipal concerns about last year's delays, as well as its decision to increase funding by **\$1.3 million** for the Green Team Program and **\$1 million** for the From the Ground Up Program. These investments are an encouraging step that better recognizes the vital role municipalities play in building strong, sustainable communities across Manitoba.

However, we remain disappointed that the long-standing collaborative practice between the AMM and the Province to review municipal applications was not reinstated, despite assurances it would be. The AMM will continue to call on the Province to restore this partnership to ensure municipal priorities remain at the forefront of decision-making.

BAIL REFORM AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Addressing public safety and the rise of repeat prolific offenders has remained a top priority for the AMM. The issue has been front and center during our federal lobbying efforts, Provincial Lobby Days, and discussions with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Western Canadian Municipal Associations (WCMA). Through every forum, the AMM has continued to emphasize the urgent need for stronger bail and parole reforms to protect communities across Manitoba.

In February, following a meeting with Justice Minister Matt Wiebe, the AMM and the Province of Manitoba jointly sent a letter to federal Justice Minister Arif Virani urging stronger federal bail reform measures. In March, all Canadian premiers echoed this call in a joint letter to Prime Minister Carney, referencing the tragic incident in Portage la Prairie.

Building on this momentum, the AMM hosted a media event in April featuring President Kathy Valentino, Minister Wiebe, and municipal leaders from the City of Portage la Prairie, RM of Lac du Bonnet, and City of Brandon to highlight the impact of repeat prolific offenders on communities across Manitoba. In July, AMM President Valentino, along with the mayors of Winnipeg, Brandon, and Portage la Prairie, sent a joint letter to Minister Sean Fraser reinforcing the need for urgent reform.

These collective efforts emphasize the growing concern over repeat and violent offenders, the strain on public safety, and the erosion of confidence in the justice system. The AMM continues to advocate for stronger bail measures at both the federal and provincial levels as national reforms are expected later this fall.

BILL 37: PLANNING LEGISLATION REVIEW UPDATE

In response to AMM advocacy and concerns raised by municipalities, the Province launched an expedited review of *The Planning Act* and *The City of Winnipeg Charter* in 2024 to gather input from municipal and stakeholder representatives. The AMM actively participated through a stakeholder working group and submitted five formal recommendations, including a call to modernize the scope and function of the Municipal Board.

We are pleased to see the Province move forward with Bill 3 and Bill 4, which reflect key AMM recommendations and address longstanding municipal concerns – important steps toward restoring local decision-making authority.

Under Bill 3, the AMM supports the changes to increase the threshold for automatically triggering Municipal Board hearings from 25 objectors to:

- 300 eligible persons for municipalities or planning districts with populations of 6,000 or more, and
- The greater of 100 eligible persons or 5% of the population for those under 6,000.

Through Bill 4, the AMM also supports legislative changes enabling municipalities to withdraw from Capital Planning Regions through a clear and transparent process. We continue to emphasize that democratically elected municipal councils are best positioned to make decisions reflecting the needs and priorities of their communities.

The AMM will continue advocating for full implementation of our remaining recommendations and ongoing modernization of Manitoba's planning framework.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) UPDATE

In 2020, AMM members passed a resolution calling for stronger action and resources to combat Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Since then, the AMM has consistently raised this issue with ministers and senior provincial staff. This year, those efforts contributed to a major milestone, with the Province of Manitoba announcing a new **\$540,000** investment in AIS prevention as part of Budget 2025. This includes the creation of a dedicated AIS Prevention Fund to support municipalities and other partners across the province with prevention initiatives and resources.

We commend the Province for listening to municipal concerns and taking action. In support of this initiative, the AMM collaborated

with the Department on the development of an AIS Prevention FAQ and a new by-law template to assist municipalities in their prevention efforts. These tools are now available through the Department's updated AIS Partnership Program.

MTI GRAVEL ROAD AGREEMENTS

As a result of continued advocacy through the joint AMM-MTI Service Delivery Working Group, Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure increased funding for municipalities with Gravel Road Agreements by **21 per cent** for 2024/25.

If your municipality does not participate in these voluntary agreements but would like to learn more about the Gravel Road Agreements (GRA), please reach out to your assigned MTI Maintenance Superintendent for more information. Please note that participation in these agreements with Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure is completely voluntary and entirely at the individual municipality's discretion.

These are just a few highlights of the positive successes we've achieved over the past year. To explore all our accomplishments, please visit the Cabinet Brief document available on the AMM website. We remain committed to keeping you informed and advocating for solutions that benefit all municipalities.

AMM CITIES CAUCUS

The AMM Cities Caucus is made up of Manitoba's ten cities. Modeled after the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Big City Mayors' Caucus, the AMM Cities Caucus provides opportunities for representatives from each city in Manitoba to share ideas about how to tackle common concerns and key priorities to benefit all municipalities.

The Cities Caucus meets at least three times a year. In 2024/25, discussions focused on critical municipal priorities, including water and wastewater infrastructure, public safety, and healthcare. A key concern was the urgent need for stronger bail reform to prevent the rapid release of repeat prolific offenders back into communities. Members also concentrated on advancing key federal priorities in the lead-up to the 2025 Federal Election. They echoed AMM's call for federal leaders to prioritize reforms focused on modernizing funding models, supporting locally driven development, and strengthening public safety measures. The Caucus further discussed the need for regulatory amendments that would grant municipalities enabling authority to use photo enforcement on public roads, should they choose to do so.

The traditional fall meeting was hosted by the City of Steinbach on August 20, 2025.



Cities Caucus delegates met in Steinbach, Manitoba, at the newly opened Southeast Event Centre.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

April 14, 2025: Turning Tension into

Teamwork: Conflict Resolution for Councils

The AMM was pleased to welcome members to a customized, interactive three-hour workshop focused on effective and practical methods for resolving conflict. Cheryl Christian, President of GovFox Municipal Consulting Inc., shared proven strategies and best practices to help council members navigate disagreements, defuse tensions, and foster respectful, solutions-oriented discussions at the council table.

COLLABORATION IS KEY – 2024 ANNUAL FALL CONVENTION

November 25 to 27, 2024

The AMM's 26th Annual Convention brought together 746 delegates at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg under the inspiring theme of *Collaboration is Key*. Members connected, shared ideas, and celebrated municipal leadership across Manitoba. A highlight of the event was the presentation of the Honourary Life Member Award to Immediate Past President Kam Blight, recognizing his dedication and years of service to local government.

MUNICIPAL VISITS

January and February 2025: The AMM's Municipal Visits once again brought the Executive and District Directors together with councils across Manitoba to discuss local issues, priorities, and community accomplishments. Each municipality is visited once per election term, and in 2025, the AMM met with **37** municipalities.

MAYORS REEVES & CAOs MEETING

April 14, 2025: More than 228 elected officials and senior administrators took part in an interactive session with Hon. Glen Simard, Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations, complemented by a presentation from Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure.

2024 SPRING CONVENTION

April 15-16, 2025: The program featured a mix of professional development and policy-focused presentations, covering topics such as strategies for mental health, balance, and resilience, Manitoba's public safety strategy, and various breakout sessions. 526 delegates registered.

- Thriving Under Pressure: Strategies for Mental Health, Balance, and Resilience: Tyler Smith
- Building Safer Communities: Implementing the Public Safety Strategy: Hon. Matt Wiebe, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
- Medical First Response: Representatives from Emergency Response Services, Shared Health, and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care
- Protecting Your Team: Managing Difficult Ratepayers and Ensuring Security: Jennifer S. Hanson, Margaretha J. Spezzano, and Scott J. Hoepfner, Thompson Dorfman Sweatman (TDS)
- Understanding FCM and its Role in Advocating for Municipal Interests on the Federal Stage: Leslie Muñoz, Director, Advocacy and Engagement, and Michael Aubie, Manager, Advocacy, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- Who Pays? Your Roadmap to Financial Recovery Following a Major Railway Accident Involving Crude Oil: Chantal Guénette, Director, Rail Fund
- Effective Complaint Resolution Systems and Managing Unreasonable Conduct: Andrea Grynol, Senior Investigator, Ombudsman Act Investigations and Megan Prydun, Manager of Ombudsman Act Investigations, Manitoba Ombudsman
- Insights from the Manitoba Water Services Board: Travis Parsons, General Manager, Manitoba Water Services Board
- Unlocking Heritage: Municipal Designation and Tourism Opportunities: Dr. Gordon Goldsborough, Head Researcher, Webmaster, Manitoba Historical Society
- Canada: Today and Tomorrow: Andrew Coyne
- Don't Mock It 'Till You Try It: Staff from Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations
- Municipal Cyber Security: Strategies for a Safer Digital Environment: Chris Ronson, Business Development, MicroAge Manitoba and Tracie Orisko, Worldwide Sr. Director, Sales Development and Community, Huntress
- Tariff Proofing Your Municipality: Dave Dextraze, General Manager, National Partnerships, Canoe Procurement of Canada
- Building a Stronger Manitoba: Advancing Excellence in Municipal Administration: Nicole Chychota, President of MMA and City Manager, City of Portage la Prairie
- Municipal Cyber Security: Strategies for a Safer Digital Environment: Encore Presentation
- Healthcare Recruitment in Manitoba: Michele Lane-Provincial Lead, Dr. Don Klassen-Physician Ambassador, and Dr. Shadi Rezazadeh-Physician Ambassador, Health Care Recruitment and Retention Office, Manitoba Health
- Public Lands and Our Shared Resources: 2024 and 2025: Dennis Schindler, Senior Land Conservation Specialist and Rob Olson, Senior Science Advisor, Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF)



WOMEN IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT NETWORKING RECEPTION

April 16, 2025: Building on the success of previous years, we were pleased to host our 4th Women in Municipal Government Event. Strong municipalities need strong leaders, and supporting women with mentorship, guidance, and confidence is key to fostering municipal leadership. The networking event featured remarks from President Valentino, interactive discussions on breaking barriers and strengthening mentorship, and was also attended by the Hon. Bernadette Smith, Minister of Housing, Addictions, and Homelessness.

2025 DISTRICT MEETINGS

The AMM visited all seven districts, enjoying the warm hospitality of our host municipalities. In total, more than 720 delegates attended the meetings.

- June 9: Central District: City of Morden
- June 10: Eastern District: Town of Beausejour and RM of Brokenhead
- June 11: Interlake District: RM of St. Laurent
- June 17: Parkland District: Gilbert Plains Municipality
- June 18: Midwestern District: Municipality of Clanwilliam-Erickson
- June 19: Western District: Municipality of North Cypress-Langford
- October 8: Northern District: City of Thompson



Leader of the Official Opposition, MLA Obby Khan with President Valentino



L-R: MLA Jeff Bereza, Vice-President Brad Saluk, President Kathy Valentino, MLA Obby Khan, MLA Trevor King, Vice-President Scott Phillips.

CANOE – YOUR TRADING COMPANY



CANOE PROCUREMENT GROUP OF CANADA

AMM Group Buying Program, together with Canoe Procurement Group of Canada. YOUR trading company, allows AMM members to purchase products and services at preferential rates by leveraging the collective buying power of over 6,000 public sector organizations. The AMM-Canoe collaboration has seen substantial growth and engagement over the past year. AMM members have increasingly adopted group procurement contracts, with notable success witnessed among municipalities like Cartier, Stanley, Montcalm, Springfield, Tache, West Interlake, MacDonald, Gimli, and Russel-Binscarth. These organizations utilize Canoe and Canoe/Sourcwell contracts for a wide range of products and services, from office supplies to heavy equipment.

Beyond municipalities, the Winnipeg Airports Authority has benefited from utilizing Canoe's Tire program. Additionally, newly onboarded school divisions, including Rolling River and Turtle River, have shown particular interest in Canoe's Food Services program with Sysco, aligning with Manitoba's new Nutrition Plan. Larger public agencies have also expanded their use of group procurement through the AMM and Canoe collaboration, such as the Province of Manitoba, the City of Brandon, and the City of Winnipeg. The expansion beyond municipalities benefits AMM and its members for increased buying power, discounts, and support for services AMM is able to offer members.

Canoe has actively supported AMM members and suppliers by providing education and resources. This includes Canoe University in Winnipeg and ongoing outreach to non-profits and Indigenous communities like the Manitoba Non-Profit Association and Tataskweyak Cree Nation. Canoe has successfully finalized a new fuel tender to better serve members and continues to promote procurement best practices. Contact Ainsley Murdock at ainsley@canoeprocurement.ca to provide a full online demonstration and program overview.

CANOE FUEL

For over 15 years, Canoe has managed the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) fuel programs formerly under the RMA Fuel umbrella. To ensure these programs continue meeting AMM members' fuel and lubricant needs while complying with Canadian trade regulations, Canoe has recently implemented several changes.

A key enhancement is the addition of 4Refuel as a new supplier. Known for its secure and efficient bulk fueling services, 4Refuel specializes in direct-to-equipment filling, which can improve operational efficiency, reduce spills, and minimize fuel waste. This expansion offers members increased convenience and cost savings.

Canoe's fuel program now includes the following suppliers:

- Bulk Fuel: Imperial Oil, Suncor, and 4Refuel
- Cardlock and Retail: Petro-Canada
- Retail: Esso

Additional program improvements include direct billing for some suppliers, self-management capabilities, and enhanced market discounts. These updates reflect Canoe's commitment to providing AMM members with a more efficient, secure, and cost-effective fuel program.

Canoe was founded on the idea of group buying power and has partnered with municipal associations to increase volumes, thereby decreasing costs for members. AMM and Canoe members can purchase at will, with no minimum purchasing requirements or use obligations, while benefiting from the buying power of the public sector. For more information, please contact Ainsley Murdock at ainsley@canoeprocurement.ca.



Enterprise Fleet

New vehicle additions and disposal of old inventory. Fleet assessment and fuel tracking. Vehicle budgeting guidance and roadside assistance. Ask your local Enterprise Fleet Team for a free fleet analysis!

AMM Capital Purchasing

AMM Capital Purchasing provides AMM members with the equipment they need at preferential rates. From graders to trucks, crawlers to office supplies, AMM Capital Purchasing grants access to top suppliers and brands, offering an improved procurement solution for municipalities, academic institutions, schools, hospitals, health, electric, and gas association districts, registered non-profit organizations, and other public sector entities. The program has experienced year-on-year growth over the past year, with a forecasted 81% increase in total purchases from 2023.

INSURANCE – PROPERTY/CASUALTY – 45+ YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

AMM member municipalities outside Winnipeg participate in the AMM's property/casualty 'protected self-insurance' program, administered by Western Financial Group. This industry-leading program allows members to gain partial ownership of their program through a \$10,625,000 annual self-insurance loss pool, used to pay out a portion of property and equipment breakdown claims, with a further \$4,000,000 Self-Insured Retention fund for Public Entity General Liability Losses. Insurance is then purchased from excess insurance providers for coverage in excess of the loss pool amount to provide municipalities with complete insurance protection. This keeps member premiums much lower than if individual municipalities purchased their own individual coverage and provides the opportunity for significant refunds in low-claiming years. With over \$30 million in returns-of-premium to municipalities since 2010, this form of protected self-insurance structure provides municipalities with funds that otherwise would be insurer profit and is only made possible through the participation of municipalities as a whole, in partnership with the AMM and Western Financial Group.

BENEFITS

The AMM Employee Benefits Program is recognized as an industry-leading, best-in-class program with efficient administration, which continues to benefit from strong participation.

The AMM advantage is based upon a fair and equitable structure relating to premiums paid by participants with the added protection of pooling. The pooled structure provides protection against substantial premium increases that can result from an influx of claims.

Since 2005, the program has been self-insured, consisting of thousands of members and over \$104 million in total program premiums are pooled.

Over 150 municipalities and affiliated entities benefit from AMM's customized insurance coverage, access to online administration, and dedicated service. Long-term rate stability is rare within the traditional group insurance marketplace, as fluctuations in claims directly impact rates.

Over the past five years, the program has renewed with an average of 55% increase, which is significantly lower than current health and dental trends on the market.

Under the Program, a large portion of premiums are allocated to a member-owned 'self-insurance' fund. This fund allows for the unique opportunity to circumvent traditional insurance costs and provide for returns-of-premium when surpluses are built as a result of low claiming years.



This creates a greater level of program stability. In addition, there is substantially more premium to offset larger claims than a group might experience under the traditional open market.

Since 2015, the AMM Employee Benefits Program has returned over \$4.6 million in returns of premium back to program participants.



HUMAN RESOURCE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

People First HR Services maintains a partnership with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), to provide HR On Call support for all AMM member municipalities.

The following report has been prepared outlining support provided for the fiscal year 2025.

ON CALL INQUIRES

Between September 2, 2024, and August 31, 2025, HR On Call received 111 unique inquiries, from 48 towns/RMs that directly accessed the service. The top three support categories were Employee & Labour Relations, Disability Management and Termination Practices.

Some common themes were managing leaves of absence, employee terminations/layoff guidance, performance and attendance concerns, and HR templates requests.

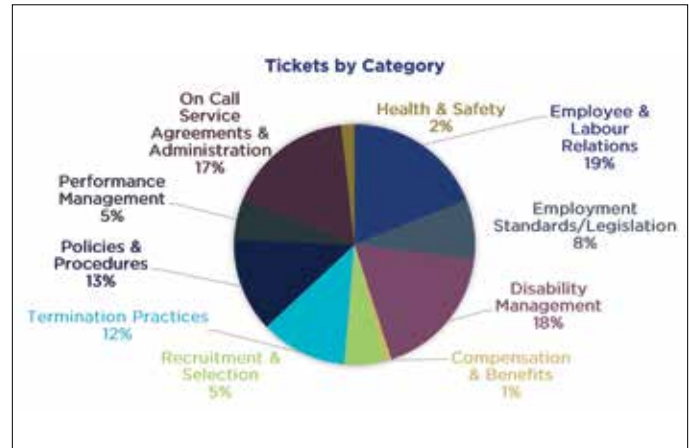
PROJECTS/ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

In addition to the HR On Call support, members of the PFHR team attended the tradeshow for both the fall 2024 and spring 2025 conferences. PFHR also facilitated a full day in person session September 19, 2024 on Peak Performance: Conquering Team Dysfunction and delivered a one-hour webinar on August 7, 2025 on Unlocking the Power of HR On Call.

Looking forward to the next fiscal year, PFHR will be facilitating a one hour webinar October 23, 2025 on Thriving Through Adversity: Building Resilience and Practicing Self-Care. In addition to attendance at the spring and fall trade shows, we will offer 2 additional complimentary sessions with topics to be confirmed.

CLOSING COMMENTS

When compared to the 2024 annual report, support inquiries increased by 44% and the number of towns/RMs accessing the service increased by 26%. The increased number of tickets, as well as the requests for templates, is a reflection of the



updated communication efforts and the enhanced service offering for 2025.

In 2025, a significant enhancement to our service offering was the introduction of HR templates, now available to all AMM member municipalities. These resources, ranging from policy frameworks to operational guides, have proven to be a high-impact support tool. Previously priced at \$50 per template, the current offering represents a direct cost savings for the municipalities. For example, a municipality accessing just 10 templates would save \$500 - funds that can now be redirected towards other strategic initiatives. This offering not only strengthens municipal HR infrastructure but also reinforces AMM's commitment to practical, cost-effective support for its members.

People First HR Services truly appreciates our partnership and looks forward to continuing our working relationship. We have enjoyed being able to support the communities with their HR needs. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding this report.



SAFETYCARE PROGRAM

Our safety video content is concise and engaging to help you achieve all your training goals.

NEW FROM SAFETYCARE

As part of our commitment to delivering value to all our subscribers, we are pleased to announce a new micro-learning video series!

- New **Safety Shorts** series. These are available now in SafetyHub as a separate category of 'micro-learning' videos, five minutes or less.

- There are a total of 17 titles in this series, covering such topics as Hand Washing Basics, Fire Extinguishers Basic Operation, Lifting Technique Basics, How to Use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and more.
- If you have employees working from home or returning to work, these Safety Short videos are perfect for a quick refresher on proper practices.

To learn more, contact Ed Aasman at ed_aasman@safetycare.com.

We're *Ready*

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ANNUAL REPORT

[CLICK HERE](#) TO VIEW THE AMM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2025

[CLICK HERE](#) TO VIEW THE AMM TRADING COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2025

