



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

Meeting with the Honourable Scott Fielding
Minister of Finance

AMM Submission for Budget 2020

January 7, 2020

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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ The AMM is pleased to present its pre-budget submission document for Budget 2020, and continue a dialogue with the provincial government about the future of Manitoba.
- ❖ The AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to consider new and existing challenges facing municipalities in its upcoming budget.
- ❖ In this document, the AMM has outlined our main lobbying priorities in three categories: *Successes* in 2017-2018, *Critical Issues* requiring immediate action, and *Important Issues* that have seen some progress, but require more collaboration.

SUCSESSES IN 2018-2019

✓ Investing in Canada (Phase 2) and AMM Involvement

- Department of Central Services
- Department of Municipal Relations

❖ *The AMM is very pleased to participate as a member of the consultative committee that will be reviewing applications for the various streams under Phase 2 of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Make available a 'fair share' of funding under the Green Infrastructure stream to municipalities in consultation with the AMM; and*
- ❖ *Continue to provide municipalities a 'fair say' to more effectively respond to local infrastructure priorities and support AMM input in the decision-making process for any application-based infrastructure funding.*

✓ \$10M for Municipal Roads and Bridges

- Department of Municipal Relations

❖ *The AMM welcomes the \$10 million in reinstated funding to support critical municipal infrastructure needs.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to work with the AMM to review the distribution formula of this essential funding.*

✓ Support for Economic Development

- **Department of Municipal Relations**
- **Department of Economic Development and Training**
- ❖ *With 37% of Manitoba's population and more than 12,000 businesses that generate more than \$16 billion, rural Manitoba is vital to the provincial economy.*
- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the provincial government's commitment to open a new Economic Development Office in Brandon to reduce red tape, foster economic growth, and provide 'single-window' services to rural Manitoba.*
- ❖ *The potential of Manitoba's north is limitless, but it also requires sustained and innovative solutions to ensure communities are ready for investment and to capitalize on new opportunities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Fully implement all the recommendations of the Rural Economic Development Strategy report, including providing 'single-window' services to rural Manitoba;*
- ❖ *Incorporate rural priorities into Manitoba's new provincial economic development strategy; and*
- ❖ *Continue to consult with northern communities and the AMM on the implementation of the Look North initiative.*

✓ Provincial DFA Program Review

○ Department of Infrastructure

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the review of the provincial disaster financial assistance (DFA) program to make it more accessible and responsive to the needs of municipalities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to implement the recommendations resulting from provincial review of the DFA program in partnership with the AMM.*

✓ Determining Local Speed Limits

○ Department of Infrastructure

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the granting of authority to municipalities to establish speed limits within their respective boundaries under The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide timely assistance and resources to municipalities wishing to set local speed limits within their jurisdictions; and*
- ❖ *Ensure municipal requests are not unnecessarily delayed due to red tape.*

✓ Public Safety Communications Service Upgrade

○ Department of Finance

- ❖ *Reliable communications technology is vital for saving lives, keeping first responders safe and protecting local communities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to upgrade the province's public safety communications service and provide regular updates to the AMM;*
- ❖ *Work with municipalities to develop solutions to ensure the safety of emergency responders and the public in Manitoba through reliable communications technology; and*
- ❖ *Provide funding to assist municipalities with the purchase of emergency response communication equipment.*

CRITICAL ISSUES – IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

✓ **Partners in Growth – Long-Term Funding for Municipalities**

- **Department of Finance**
- **Department of Municipal Relations**
- ❖ *Municipalities rely on property taxes to generate revenues while being responsible for 60% of public infrastructure and only receiving less than 10 cents on every tax dollar.*
- ❖ *In 2017, the legislative guarantee under The Municipal Taxation and Funding Act to share 1/7 of provincial PST revenues with municipalities was repealed.*
- ❖ *The freezing of municipal operating funding at **2016** levels does not recognize inflationary increases, while provincial initiatives and program funding decisions affecting municipalities are often announced following the municipal budgetary process.*
- ❖ *Each year, municipalities pay more than \$25 million in PST to the provincial government.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Establish a multi-year ‘Partners in Growth’ partnership program to ensure long-term stable and predictable funding as a counterbalance to the current three-year freeze;*
- ❖ *Provide funding tied to Manitoba’s GDP to support municipal growth;*
- ❖ *Rebate the more than \$25 million in PST paid on an annual basis by municipalities; and*
- ❖ *Move to multi-year budgeting to assist with long-term planning and priority setting.*

✓ Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing

- Department of Finance
- Department of Municipal Relations
- Department of Crown Services
- Department of Economic Development and Training

- ❖ *To support new municipal costs, the federal government released an additional 25 per cent of cannabis excise tax revenues to the Province of Manitoba—but no funding support has been provided to Manitoba municipalities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Ensure municipalities receive all tools and resources necessary to address increased municipal policing and administrative costs; and*
- ❖ *Co-develop a fair revenue sharing model that respects municipal authority.*

✓ Manitoba Infrastructure Service Delivery Review

- Department of Infrastructure

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities throughout the review process; and*
- ❖ *Ensure no downloading of provincial responsibilities to municipalities without meaningful consultation and compensatory funding.*

✓ **Modernize Education Funding**

○ **Department of Education**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Mandate a multi-stakeholder Task Force to comprehensively review and modernize Manitoba's education funding model;*
- ❖ *Provide new, sustainable long-term funding to reduce school division reliance on property taxes;*
- ❖ *Re-evaluate the impact of the 2019 Education Property Tax Credit (EPTC) application changes; and*
- ❖ *Rescind the \$5,000 cap on the Farmland School Tax Rebate.*

✓ **Direct Appeals to Municipal Board**

○ **Department of Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *Allowing direct appeals on conditional use applications for aggregate quarry and large-scale livestock operations to the Municipal Board undermines the decisions of local Councils who know their communities best.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Repeal the sections regarding appeals in The Planning Amendment Act.*

✓ Accessibility Legislation and Standards

- Department of Families

- ❖ *The AMM is a member of Manitoba's Accessibility Advisory Council.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Recognize the unique needs of municipalities by providing financial and resource support to municipalities to help identify, prevent, and remove barriers to accessibility within local communities; and*
- ❖ *Significantly reduce the administrative and financial burdens on municipalities as a result of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its corresponding standards.*

✓ Municipal By-Law Enforcement

- Department of Justice

- Department of Municipal Relations

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide support to municipalities in order to implement the new by-law enforcement process; and*
- ❖ *Ensure the effective enforcement of municipal by-laws by developing an adequate fine collection process.*

✓ Provincial Planning and Assessment Services

○ Department of Municipal Relations

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Immediately fill all vacancies in regional planning and assessment offices to ensure municipalities are receiving timely and accurate services from each of these branches.*

✓ Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

○ Department of Conservation and Climate

- ❖ *In 2016, the AMM welcomed the Province of Manitoba's willingness to comprehensively review the Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Recognize and address the financial impacts of the current ban on municipal weed control efforts and municipal budgets;*
- ❖ *Reverse the ban on federally-approved weed control products; and*
- ❖ *Consider implementing measures to ensure the safe use of cosmetic pesticides without banning them, such as public education or restricting access to licensed applicators.*

IMPORTANT ISSUES – MORE COLLABORATION NEEDED

✓ **Community Development Programs and AMM Involvement**

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the streamlined Building Sustainable Communities Program.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to involve the AMM in the decision-making process that approves projects through the single-window portal for community development programs; and*
- ❖ *Review the 10% non-government contribution requirement.*

✓ **Municipal Code of Conduct Consultations**

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the provincial review of The Municipal Act and other relevant legislation to identify opportunities to strengthen protections for municipal officials.*
- ❖ *The AMM is committed to promoting respectful workplace policies and practices for all AMM members.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Strengthen protections for municipal officials in close consultation with the AMM and municipalities.*

✓ Police Staffing and Funding

- Department of Justice
- Department of Municipal Relations

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Undertake a comprehensive review of policing in Manitoba in consultation with the AMM and municipalities focused on the distribution of policing costs and grant funding to promote a more transparent, fair and sustainable policing model;*
- ❖ *Reduce the financial and administrative burdens in relation to police services due to amalgamation; and*
- ❖ *Help ensure Manitoba communities are not negatively impacted by the right of RCMP officers to collective bargaining.*

✓ Patient Transfers under The Mental Health Act

- Department of Justice
- Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living
- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the deployment of ‘qualified persons’ at hub healthcare facilities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to implement training programs for ‘qualified persons’ to reduce policing costs and help ensure police service coverage in local communities.*

✓ Essential Cell Service and Broadband Internet Access

○ Department of Economic Development and Training

- ❖ *Manitoba continues to experience some of the slowest Internet download speeds in the country while cell network coverage remains sparse in many areas, which may hinder economic development or harm public safety.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to facilitate discussions with cell carriers and other stakeholders to explore options to expand cellular coverage and broadband Internet access.*

✓ Drainage Licensing and Approvals

○ Department of Conservation and Climate

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to streamline and reduce provincial red tape to expedite drainage licensing approvals;*
- ❖ *Allow municipalities to bundle applications for projects on non-contiguous parcels of land to mitigate application fee increases;*
- ❖ *Commit to a customer service standard for approving licensable projects; and*
- ❖ *Ensure consistent enforcement by local Water Resource Officers.*

✓ Flood Mitigation and Water Management

- Department of Infrastructure
- Department of Agriculture and Resource Development

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to allocate funding for flood prevention and mitigation infrastructure;*
- ❖ *Ensure timely investments under the Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) Trust; and*
- ❖ *Increase core operating funding to Watershed Districts.*

✓ Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan

- Department of Conservation and Climate

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities during the implementation of the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan; and*
- ❖ *Provide funding to municipalities to support the development and effective implementation of Community Energy Plans (CEPs).*

✓ PUB Water Rate Approvals

- **Department of Finance**

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the establishment of the joint Working Group with the Public Utilities Board (PUB) and Manitoba Municipal Administrators' Association (MMAA) to streamline the PUB water rate application process.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to work with the AMM and MMAA to streamline PUB processes and expedite water rate approvals.*

✓ Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention

- **Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living**

- ❖ *Local communities continue to struggle to attract and retain health practitioners.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Expedite a comprehensive provincial strategy to recruit and retain physicians throughout Manitoba.*

✓ Support for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Process

- **Department of Indigenous and Northern Relations**

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide financial and consultative support to assist municipalities in developing service sharing agreements with First Nation communities as well as throughout the TLE process.*

APPENDIX – SUPPORTING AMM RESOLUTIONS

Successes in 2018-2019

Investing in Canada (Phase 2) and AMM Involvement

- None (refer to AMM Policy Files P-MI-01 & F-IC-01)

\$10M for Municipal Roads and Bridges

- Resolution #06-2019: Municipal Road and Bridge Program Distribution Formula

Support for Economic Development

- Resolution #35-2017: Strategy to Increase Physical and Electronic Connectivity
- Resolution #50-2017: Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF)

Provincial DFA Review

- Resolution #35-2016: Federal DFAA Program Changes
- Resolution #18-2013: Review of Disaster Financial Assistance

Determining Local Speed Limits

- None (refer to AMM Policy File P-MI-02)

Public Safety Communications Service Upgrade

- Resolution #31-2015: Emergency Response Communications Equipment

Critical Issues – Immediate Action Required

Partners in Growth – Long-Term Funding for Municipalities

- Resolution #06-2017: Infrastructure Cost-Sharing Formula
- Resolution #01-2015: PST Rebate
- Resolution #03-2015: Flexible and Equitable Debt Ratio Formula
- Resolution #04-2015: Sustainable Taxation and Revenue
- Resolution #05-2015: Service-Based Taxation Models
- Resolution #37-2015: PST Exemption
- Resolution #26-2010: Strategy to Address Municipal Infrastructure Deficit
- Resolution #23-2009: Infrastructure Funding Cost-Sharing
- Resolution #31-2009: Funding for Offloading of Provincial Responsibilities

Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing

- Resolution #02-2018: Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing
- Resolution #05-2019: Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing

Manitoba Infrastructure Service Delivery Model Review

- Resolution #24-2018: Downloading of Provincial Roads and PTHs
- Resolution #25-2018: Amend The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act

Modernizing Education Funding

- Resolution #42-2018: Education Property Tax Credit (EPTC) Application Changes
- Resolution #33-2017: Education Funding Model Task Force
- Resolution #25-2015: Business Education Tax
- Resolution #32-2013: Modernize Education Funding
- Resolution #42-2012: Exempt Public Libraries from Education Levies and Taxes

Direct Appeals to Municipal Board

- Resolution #04-2018: The Planning Amendment Act

Accessibility Legislation and Standards

- Resolution #41-2017: Accessibility Legislation & Standards

Municipal By-law Enforcement

- Resolution #38-2017: By-Law Enforcement

Provincial Planning and Assessment Services Staff

- Resolution #07-2018: Standardizing Approval Periods for Planning Processes
- Resolution #08-2018: Assistance for Development Plans
- Resolution #09-2018: Better Coordination for Subdivisions
- Resolution #10-2016: Support for Municipal Planning
- Resolution #39-2015: Increase Assessment Branch Staffing
- Resolution #07-2013: Land Use Planner Positions

Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

- Resolution #13-2014: Weed Control Districts - Chemical Exemption
- Resolution #13-2011: Cosmetic Pesticide Use Ban

Important Issues – More Collaboration Needed

Community Development Programs and AMM Involvement

- None (refer to AMM Policy File P-MI-01)

Municipal Code of Conduct Consultations

- Resolution #04-2017: Respectful and Safe Work Environment
- Resolution #05-2017: Workplace Anti-Harassment
- Resolution #26-2016: Code of Conduct

Police Staffing and Funding

- Resolution #39-2019: RCMP Funding Formula
- Resolution #40-2019: RCMP Staffing
- Resolution #03-2018: Comprehensive Review of Municipal Policing Costs and Structure
- Resolution #37-2017: Amend The Police Services Act
- Resolution #20-2014: RCMP Detachment Staffing
- Resolution #33-2013: Rural and Northern Manitoba Cadet Program
- Resolution #44-2012: Amend Population Base for Policing
- Resolution #45-2012: Provincial Per Capita Funding for RCMP
- Resolution #42-2009: New Police Services Act

Patient Transfers under The Mental Health Act

- Resolution #18-2019: The Mental Health Act

Essential Cell Service and Broadband Internet Access

- Resolution #38-2015: Improve Cellular Reception Services
- Resolution #21-2014: Cellular Service Considered an Essential Service
- Resolution #00-2012: Improve Emergency and Cellular Service
- Resolution #50-2012: High Speed Internet and Cell Service for Rural Manitoba

Drainage Licensing and Approvals:

- Resolution #27-2019: Drainage Licensing
- Resolution #48-2017: Municipal Drainage

- Resolution #31-2016: Saskatchewan Drainage Issues
- Resolution #17-2014: Tile Drainage Policy
- Resolution #18-2014: Drainage Upgrades and Solutions
- Resolution #17-2012: Drainage on Crown Lands

Flood Mitigation, Water Management and Conservation Districts

- Resolution #18-2018: Conservation/Watershed Districts
- Resolution #19-2018: Realignment of Conservation Districts
- Resolution #21-2017: Comprehensive Provincial Water Management Strategy
- Resolution #22-2017: Creating a Sustainable Surface Water Management Strategy
- Resolution #23-2017: Watershed Resiliency
- Resolution #33-2016: Funding for Impacted Waterways
- Resolution #21-2012: Support for LIDAR Coverage
- Resolution #41-2013: Increase Funding to Conservation Districts
- Resolution #19-2011: Permanent Flood Solutions

Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan

- None (refer to AMM Policy File P-CWS-08)

PUB Water Rate Approvals

- Resolution #29-2018: Emergency Increases for Utilities
- Resolution #29-2017: PUB Staffing
- Resolution #05-2014: Municipal Board and Public Utilities Board Processes

Health Practitioner Recruitment and Retention

- Resolution #35-2018: Rural Healthcare
- Resolution #26-2017: Healthcare Services

Support for Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Process

- Resolution #35-2015: TLE Consultation & Support

NOTE: If required, please contact AMM staff to receive detailed information about AMM resolutions.