



February 26, 2014

Minister meetings begin for 2014

Each year, the AMM meets with every provincial cabinet minister to discuss municipal issues within their departments. This year's meetings began on February 6, 2014.

Community policing was the first topic raised with the *Honourable Andrew Swan, Minister of Justice*. The AMM requested the Province's support for the renewal of the federal Police Officer Recruitment Fund (PORF). The AMM also asked how policing will be affected in amalgamated municipalities, inquired about the success of the police boards, and raised the issue of overtime costs for police officers.

Minister Swan told the AMM he had received no indication from the federal minister the PORF the fund would be renewed. He reassured the AMM there will be no major impact on amalgamated municipalities regarding policing, but some municipalities will have to make choices about their policing arrangements after five years.

Minister Swan indicated he is working on reducing overtime costs, noting the new Municipal By-Law Enforcement Act (Bill 38) should help to reduce costs. Also, The Province is looking at using technology to reduce costs. According to the Minister, the police boards are working well.

The issue of police escorts under the Mental Health Act and establishment of the cadet program (specifically in Thompson) was also raised. The Minister is working on both of the issues.

To view the complete position papers for each department, visit:

www.amm.mb.ca/pol_provincial.html

The AMM opened the meeting with the *Honourable Erin Selby, Minister of Health* with a discussion around the implementation of the Brandon Medical School Study. The Minister expressed interest in learning about municipal best practices to attract doctors in communities. The AMM is pleased to be on the selection committee of the Office of Rural and Northern Health.

Next, the AMM raised capital contribution to health facilities. AMM members recently passed a resolution asking the government to reduce municipal contributions from 10% to 5%. The Minister responded by saying other provinces require municipalities to contribute even more, from 20% in B.C. to up to 50% in Ontario. The AMM stressed the need for flexibility and in-kind contributions.

Other items discussed with Minister Selby included the implementation of the EMS review, the need for a separate budget item in RHA budgets for palliative care, and RHA board representation and communication with local councils. The AMM also asked the Minister to work with Minister Swan on transfers of Mental Health Act patients.

The AMM opened the final meeting of February 6, with the *Honourable Erna Braun, Minister of Labour and Immigration*, with a discussion about the provincial fire strategy. The AMM supports this initiative but would like it completed in a shorter time frame. The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) is working with the AMM on revising the recent survey which didn't generate enough responses from municipal administrators.

Immigration was then discussed, as there are a number of issues with retention of international medical professionals in rural areas. There are also language skill barriers for new immigrants. The Deputy Minister informed the AMM about the federal changes to the language requirements which will affect the provincial nominee program.

The need for immigrant housing was also noted. The AMM asked the Minister to work with the Minister of Housing on the implementation of the rental housing roundtable recommendations.

Fire service safety issues were also discussed, starting with the AMM resolution calling for a ban on sky lanterns. The OFC is working on this issue. The AMM also raised recent changes to the workers safety legislation (Bill 2) which also authorized firefighters to control traffic, and expressed concern this part of the bill will be a burden on firefighters in the future. •



Upcoming Events

Mayors, Reeves and CAOs Meetings

March 18—Parkland District

Host: RM of Swan River and Town of Swan River

March 19—Western District

Host: RM of Cameron and Town of Hartney

March 20—Midwestern District

Host: Town of Gladstone

March 21—Central District

Host: RM of Portage la Prairie and City of Portage la Prairie

March 24—Interlake District

Host: RM of Siglunes

March 25—Eastern District

Host: RM of Hanover

March 26—Northern District

Host: Town of Snow Lake

Register online at:

www.amm.mb.ca/events_meetings_form.cfm

Notices

Protecting First Responders: Amendments to the Highway Traffic Act

Amendments to the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) were passed in September, 2013 under Bill 2, which address the Safety of Emergency and Enforcement Personnel.

These amendments address two separate issues regarding the safety of persons working on/near roadways. The first component is already in force, while the second will come into force on a date determined by government.

For a summary of each component of the amendments, visit the AMM website:

www.amm.mb.ca/documents/SCN_HTAamendments.pdf

Notices

MTS now accepting applications for Future First Community grants

Ten \$10,000 awards to be presented in May 2014

MTS is pleased to invite youth-serving organizations in Manitoba to apply for one of ten MTS Future First community grants. These grants form part of MTS's new community investment program – Future First: Connecting Today's Youth to Tomorrow. The objective of our program is to support organizations like yours working to remove barriers to success and help our young people achieve their full potential.

For the inaugural year of the Future First Community grants, MTS will present a total of ten \$10,000 grants to organizations focused on bettering the lives of Manitoba's young people.

To be considered for a Future First community grant, interested organizations are invited to submit an application form that clearly identifies how the program or project achieves at least one of the following results for Manitoba youth under age 24:

- Enhance knowledge, skills and/or leadership capabilities
- Develop/acquire skills to make healthy and positive life choices
- Increase capacity to cope with life's challenges

The deadline to apply is March 30, 2014. Future First community grants will be awarded at a special Manitoba Day celebration in May.

For details about the application process and criteria, please visit www.mts.ca/futurefirst. You can also contact our Community Investment and Communications Officer, *Erin Bartlett* for more information at:

futurefirst@mts.ca or
(204) 941-7378.

Job Postings

Labourer Village of McCreary

The Village of McCreary is accepting written applications for a full-time term Labourer position. The term will commence March 24, 2014 (or as soon as possible thereafter) and will end December 31, 2014. It is possible that this term position MAY become permanent full time with opportunity for advancement for the ideal candidate.

The successful candidate will be required to: hold a valid Class 5 Manitoba drivers license and provide a copy of same; be a Grade 12 graduate, or have the GED equivalent, and provide a copy of same; be capable of operating and providing maintenance for municipal equipment; possess the ability to work independently, but also have a consultative and cooperative teamwork approach; express a willingness to pursue education in the field of water/waste water operations.

The duties to be fulfilled will include: equipment operation and maintenance; street/drainage/sidewalk improvements and maintenance; facility maintenance as well as some facility janitorial duties; mowing, landscaping, painting where/as required; water and sewer system repairs and maintenance; other duties as assigned by the Public Works Foreman.

Your full resume will be accompanied by: a full list of previous work experiences; two (2) work related references and one (1) character reference; salary expectations.

Deadline for applications is **12:00 Noon, on March 7, 2014**. Applications may be submitted in person, by fax or by e-mail to:

Village of McCreary
436 Second Avenue – P. O. Box 267
McCreary, Manitoba R0J 1B0
Fax to 1 (204) 835-2658
E-mail to mccreary@mymts.net

We are a small urban community with much to offer. Please visit www.exploremccreary.com to view our amenities. Further information may be obtained by calling 1 (204) 835-2341.