



**AMM President Chris Goertzen
Speaking Notes – May 9, 2018**

Bill 19 – *The Planning Amendment Act*

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present municipal priorities and concerns related to Bill 19: *The Planning Amendment Act*.

I will begin my presentation today by providing a brief overview of the AMM, then discuss specific sections of Bill 19 and offer recommendations regarding the various proposed amendments.

The AMM was formed in 1999 as a result of a merger between the Union of Manitoba Municipalities (UMM) and the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities (MAUM).

Our organization is independent and non-partisan, and our mission is to identify and address the needs and concerns of our members in order to achieve strong and effective municipal government.

Our membership consists of all of Manitoba's 137 incorporated municipalities, including the City of Winnipeg.



In regards to the proposed amendments related to zoning by-laws, the AMM supports the increasing of the objector threshold to 25 eligible persons or 50% of the total number of owners of property located within 100 metres of the affected property.

Currently, one person can object to the adoption or amendment of a zoning by-law and this individual may or may not even live in the particular municipality.

Moreover, if a local Council receives a second objection following the initial public hearing, it must refer the objection to the planning district board or, if the municipality is not part of a planning district, to the Municipal Board. If a second objection is received in respect to a district-wide zoning by-law the objection must also be referred to the Municipal Board.

As you can imagine, one individual can significantly delay the zoning process and the development of land and buildings within a municipality. The increasing of the threshold to 25 people is a very positive and long overdue change.

In addition, the AMM supports the increasing of the variance of a zoning by-law that can be approved by a designated municipal employee from not more than 10% to 15%.



In regards to livestock operations, the AMM supports the amendment to no longer require large-scale livestock operations to be designated as a conditional use in a zoning by-law. Municipalities can determine this based on local conditions and the needs of their communities.

As you may be aware, several communities around Manitoba are currently interested in expanding hog barn operations and removing the 300-animal unit threshold should provide municipalities more flexibility and greater ability to capitalize on growth and economic development opportunities.

For example, Manitoba pork processing company HyLife has just completed a \$176-million expansion and modernization of its Neepawa processing plant, while the Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain is also pursuing multi-million dollar expansion opportunities.

Reducing red tape in this regard is certainly welcome, since Manitoba's pork industry contributes over \$1.7 billion to the provincial economy annually, while over 13,000 Manitobans rely on the pork industry for jobs.

However, as you also are all aware, the provincial government has committed to providing municipalities with more say and autonomy in their affairs. We believe municipalities are mature, responsible governments, accountable first and foremost to their citizens and electorate.



Bill 19 proposes to allow applicants to appeal a rejection of a conditional use application or the imposition of conditions on an approval directly to the Municipal Board. This process is also proposed for aggregate quarry operations.

The AMM does not support these proposed amendments since the option to directly appeal to the Municipal Board undermines the decisions of local Councils who know their communities best.

This is not 'fair say'. In fact, these amendments should be removed from the Bill.

The Bill also requires municipalities to provide a 60-day notice to the Minister regarding a hearing on an application to approve an aggregate conditional use. This time frame provides the opportunity for an Interdepartmental Technical Review of the proposal and to provide a report to the local Council on the application.

It is essential that this technical review be completed in a reasonable and standardized time frame to ensure local Councils are fully equipped to assess the aggregate conditional use application.

In fact, the Pits and Quarries Advisory Committee consisting of municipal and industry stakeholders, namely the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, as well as provincial government representatives reached consensus on this issue and has jointly recommended modeling the Technical Review process when a new or existing aggregate operation requires a conditional use hearing.



Lastly, in regards to advertising municipal notices, the AMM recognizes the vital and valuable work of local community newspapers.

Based on recent media reports, we will welcome the provincial government's decision to not enact sections of the Bill that would eliminate mandatory newspaper notices as per the comments made by Minister Cox.

We encourage our members to communicate public notices and Council decisions to their residents through community newsletters and social media as well as advertisements in local newspapers.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

If you have any questions for me, I would be happy to answer them.