



June 6, 2013

Clerk of Committees  
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba  
251 - 450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), I would like to provide comments about Bill 43: The Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation Act and Liquor and Gaming Control Act.

As the organization representing all Manitoba municipalities, the AMM identifies and addresses the needs and concerns of its members in order to achieve strong and effective municipal government.

The AMM supports changes to reduce red tape, and allow businesses more flexibility to grow and to better respond to consumers.

In particular, the AMM supports the reduction of liquor licence types from 12 to three, consisting of sales, manufacturing and service licences. This will reduce the administrative burden for communities to licence their facilities or host community events.

The reduced number of licences will address concerns raised by AMM members in a 2011 resolution regarding challenges for multi-use facilities under the current licensing framework. Since multi-use facilities are often designed to accommodate a number of different purposes including convention, arts, entertainment, sports and wellness functions, these types of facilities have encountered difficulty obtaining a liquor licence.

As well, moving the terms and conditions of licences into regulation will make them more responsive and easier to amend.

The AMM also supports provincial plans to bring gaming and liquor regulatory services under one roof, which will allow integration of licensing, inspection and compliance services. This will only require businesses and community groups to apply for one licence for both liquor and gaming, whether it is for video lottery terminals or raffles.

Additionally, the AMM supports provincial measures to enhance public safety and social responsibility, especially for communities facing particularly serious challenges due to high crime and other related issues. As a result, we support the provisions in section 48 that will require the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation to allocate two per cent of annual net revenue to conduct or fund initiatives that promote responsible gaming and responsible liquor consumption, including research and treatment programs. The Province

should provide additional support to these communities to develop targeted solutions to improve public safety and reduce social problems.

Moreover, the AMM supports the creation of improved opportunities for citizens and municipalities to provide input into the liquor licensing process, including a dispute resolution mechanism. The AMM has already indicated our support for the 2011 Hospitality Strategy results and other measures to allow businesses and communities to respond to consumer choices. However, some communities have different lifestyle preferences, therefore local governments should retain their ability to respond to community preferences.

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Doug Dobrowolski  
President