



Contact:

Nick Krawetz, AMM Director of Policy and Communications

Telephone: (204) 856-2371

Email: nkrawetz@amm.mb.ca

1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.

Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1

NEWS RELEASE

BILL 37: MUCH IMPROVED, ALTHOUGH SIGNIFICANT RISKS REMAIN

November 2, 2020 – Today's release of [Bill 37](#) reflects positive discussions with municipal leaders, according to Association of Manitoba Municipalities President Ralph Groening. "While the government's new Bill 37 hasn't amended the old Bill 48 to address all of our concerns, in most cases where they have not, the Province has acknowledged problems must be addressed in regulation."

In particular, Groening noted that the potential for land-use decision delays remains, as does the potential for expanded Municipal Board appeals to override the legitimate jurisdiction of elected municipal officials. Recent changes to Ontario's appeals system created a one-thousand case backlog of hearings as various stakeholders flooded the system to jockey for advantage.

"The Province has acknowledged the need to develop guidelines to limit the scope of appeals as well as create mechanisms to mitigate frivolous appeals to not clog the system," stated Groening. "The AMM believes these details should be statutory as they are elsewhere in Canada, yet the government's announcement today at least infers they may be covered in regulation."

Groening added that requiring the Minister of Municipal Relations to consult with municipalities before establishing future planning regions "substantially addresses" municipal concerns about 'amalgamation-lite' scenarios. "We thank the government for its quick action to address this sensitive issue."

-30-