



Meeting with Premier Greg Selinger and Members of the
Provincial Cabinet

November 29, 2012

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SUCSESSES IN 2012

✓ Compensation for Ancillary Services at Motor Vehicle Accident Scenes

- **Minister Responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance**

- ❖ *The AMM and Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) were successful negotiating a rate for municipal fire departments to claim for ancillary services to secure the site at motor vehicle accidents.*
- ❖ *These services do not fall under the responsibility of fire departments; therefore even though it does not cover the costs of ancillary services, this rate represents an important recognition of the services firefighters provide in emergency situations when the police are unavailable.*
- ❖ *The AMM continues to lobby MPI for an increase in the rates for special equipment.*

✓ Federal- Provincial Agreements for RCMP Services

- **Manitoba Justice**

- ❖ *The AMM was pleased with the communication between our association and Manitoba Justice throughout the negotiation and distribution of the new policing agreements.*
- ❖ *The AMM also appreciates the development of the Manitoba Contract Advisory Committee (MCAC) to help improve communication between municipalities and the RCMP to increase responsiveness of policing to the community.*

✓ Speed Limits in School Zones

○ Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

- ❖ *The AMM was pleased this legislation was passed, and appreciates being involved as the regulations are drafted.*
- ❖ *The AMM has recommended that the government allow municipalities the authority to establish the times when the speed limit is in effect, with the minimum hours and minimum signage outlined in the regulations.*

✓ Water and Wastewater Apprenticeship Program

○ Manitoba Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade

- ❖ *The AMM recommends that the government support the proposed changes to the apprenticeship model for water and wastewater operators;*
- ❖ *Dividing the original trade into four different sub-trade designations will likely make the training more accessible, and it will also be more useful for employers, who may only require an employee with one of the four sub-trades.*

CRITICAL ISSUES – NEED ACTION

✓ **Alternate Revenue Sources**

- **Manitoba Finance**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Identify new sources of revenue for municipalities to address the infrastructure deficit and their increasing responsibilities.*

✓ **Cell Service and High Speed Internet**

- **Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue facilitating discussions with MTS and other stakeholders to explore options to extend cellular coverage and broadband access;*
- ❖ *Support municipalities with unreliable cell service to ensure the safety of emergency responders and the public.*

✓ **Economic Development Support**

- **Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide a replacement program for Regional Development Corporations, whose operating grants were discontinued in 2012;*
- ❖ *Provide sufficient notice to Regional/Community Development Corporations of any changes in their funding or loan repayments to allow them time to budget accordingly.*
- ❖

✓ **Mandatory Police Boards**

○ **Manitoba Justice**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide funding to cover the operating costs of Municipal Police Boards required under The Police Services Act.*

✓ **Removal of Community Capital Contributions for Health Facilities**

○ **Manitoba Health**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Fund all health facilities provincially without the current requirement for a local contribution for 10 per cent of the project cost.*

✓ **Rural Water Pipeline Funding**

○ **Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Include rural water pipeline funding in Manitoba's priorities for the Growing Forward 2 agreement with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.*

✓ **Support for Recreation Centre Operating Costs**

○ **Manitoba Children and Youth Opportunities**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Develop new incentive programs to assist recreation and community centres with operating costs;*
- ❖ *Work with Manitoba Hydro to promote existing support programs and establish a new rate structure to assist recreation centres with energy costs.*

✓ **Veterinary Board Funding**

- **Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reinstate the Technical Enhancement Grant;*
- ❖ *Review the funding formula for Veterinary Services District Boards in order to reflect the rising cost of delivering services.*

IMPORTANT ISSUES – SOME PROGRESS, MORE ACTION NEEDED

✓ Accessibility Legislation

○ Manitoba Family Services and Labour

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue working with stakeholders to propose efficient and cost-effective measures to increase accessibility in Manitoba communities;*
- ❖ *Determine costs and provide funding for all feasible upgrades to buildings and other infrastructure to meet proposed accessibility standards;*
- ❖ *Permit flexibility and a reasonable time frame to meet proposed accessibility standards.*

✓ Beaver Management Program

○ Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Distribute the guidelines for the 2012 Problem Beaver Management Program guidelines (PBMP) as soon as possible;*
- ❖ *Apply the PBMP retroactively to costs incurred during the 2012 trapping season;*
- ❖ *Continue to provide the \$50 tag rate per beaver, as well as funding for targeted beaver management in severely affected regions of Manitoba;*
- ❖ *Review options for maximizing the available resources in the PBMP in future years.*

✓ **By- Law Enforcement**

- **Manitoba Justice**
- **Manitoba Local Government**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Communicate to municipalities the most effective by-law enforcement tools at their disposal and the limits of their authority to use these tools;*
- ❖ *Allow municipalities to restrict the re-issuance of driver and vehicle licenses pending the payment of outstanding parking and traffic violation fines;*
- ❖ *Support the implementation of short-term and long-term solutions to improve municipal by-law enforcement, once identified by the By-law Enforcement Working Group.*

✓ **Centralization of Rural Ambulance Services**

- **Manitoba Health**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Ensure emergency response services are located a reasonable distance from every community and discontinue any further centralization of ambulance services;*
- ❖ *Allow local, qualified volunteers to drive RHA ambulances and/or equip ambulances with appropriate navigational tools to ensure they reach their destination as quickly as possible;*
- ❖ *Provide the results of the provincial review of emergency response services to the AMM.*

✓ **Community Places Program Funding**

○ **Manitoba Housing and Community Development**

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the increase to the maximum grant amount of up to \$75,000 for the Community Places Program North; however this excludes The Pas, Thompson and Flin Flon.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase funding to the Community Places Program to permit a higher number of recipients and an increase to the maximum grant amount for all recipients.*

✓ **Cosmetic Use Pesticide Ban**

○ **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to allow the use of cosmetic pesticide applications in residential, municipal and recreational areas;*
- ❖ *Implement measures to ensure the safe use of cosmetic pesticides without banning them, such as public education, or restricting access to licenced applicators.*

✓ **Drainage Issues**

○ **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship**

○ **Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation**

- ❖ *The AMM is currently involved through the Drainage Regulation Steering Committee to improve drainage licensing and enforcement.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Make comprehensive improvements in the drainage licensing process under The Water Rights Act to reduce the backlog of applications;*
- ❖ *Continue promoting better communication between Water Resource Officers and municipalities;*

- ❖ *Commit sufficient resources for adequate drain construction and maintenance;*
- ❖ *Develop an overall drainage plan to guide the allocation of provincial and municipal drainage funding.*

✓ **Dutch Elm Disease Funding**

- **Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Reinstate permanent funding for Dutch Elm Disease management services for municipalities who request them.*

✓ **Flooding Issues**

- **Manitoba Emergency Measures**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to allocate funding for flood prevention infrastructure;*
- ❖ *Make improvements to existing flood response and mitigation based on the reviews of 2011 flooding and response;*
- ❖ *Ensure that fair compensation is paid out in a timely manner.*

✓ **Health Practitioner Recruitment, Training and Retention**

- **Manitoba Health**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Implement the recommendations of the Brandon Medical Education Study to address the shortage of physicians in Manitoba;*

- ❖ *Dedicate adequate resources to the provincial strategy to recruit, train and retain health professionals in rural and northern Manitoba;*
- ❖ *Ensure that every Manitoban has access to a family doctor by 2015.*

✓ **Housing Shortage**

○ **Manitoba Housing and Community Development**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Establish a long-term plan to improve access to housing including rural and northern Manitoba;*
- ❖ *Implement the recommendations of the Rental Supply and Seniors Housing Roundtables;*
- ❖ *Partner with the AMM and other stakeholders to improve municipal knowledge about existing tools to assist them in increasing their local housing supply.*

✓ **Infrastructure Funding – New National Program**

○ **Manitoba Local Government**

- ❖ *The AMM and Manitoba Local Government were able to work together to present the needs of municipalities to the federal government as it develops its new long-term infrastructure plan.*
- ❖ *The AMM continues to work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) on municipal priorities for the new long-term infrastructure plan.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support municipal input in the decision-making process for any application-based infrastructure funding when the new national program is introduced.*

✓ Immunity for Elected Municipal Officials

○ Manitoba Local Government

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Work with the AMM to address municipal concerns regarding protection of elected municipal officials from civil liability.*

✓ Libraries

○ Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase funding for libraries from \$8.50 to a minimum of \$10.00 per capita;*
- ❖ *Review the funding formula for public libraries;*
- ❖ *Allow portions of a municipality to join the closest regional library;*
- ❖ *Consider a universal library card for Manitoba libraries.*

✓ Oil Production Issues

○ Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines

- ❖ *The AMM is pleased the Minister established a new group to deal with these issues.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Develop solutions with the Rural Municipality Oil Industry Working Group to address infrastructure and resource use challenges in oil-producing communities;*
- ❖ *Facilitate partnerships between the Province, the oil industry and municipalities to jointly address future challenges.*

✓ **Regional Health Authority (RHA) Boards**

○ **Manitoba Health**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Improve coordination and responsiveness within the newly amalgamated RHAs;*
- ❖ *Allow elected representatives to serve on RHA Boards;*
- ❖ *Create a Health Ombudsman office to investigate complaints or disputes, and conduct reviews of health services.*

✓ **Reduce Education Tax on Property**

○ **Manitoba Education**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide new, sustainable long-term funding to cover 80 per cent of operating costs for education to reduce school division reliance on property taxes;*
- ❖ *Reinstate Tax Incentive Grant funding;*
- ❖ *Fulfill election promises to eliminate school taxes on farmland and for seniors.*

✓ **Regional Bus Service**

○ **Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation**

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support community-sponsored options for inter-city bus travel;*
- ❖ *Ensure the safety of travelers;*
- ❖ *Provide affordable options for all residents, including those who must travel for medical reasons.*

✓ Surface Water Management Strategy

○ Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue with the development and implementation of a Surface Water Management Strategy in consultation with municipalities;*
- ❖ *Provide sufficient funding to fulfill the Surface Water Management Strategy objectives;*
- ❖ *Increase support for the Conservation District Program and consider reevaluating the funding formula.*

✓ Transportation Infrastructure

○ Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Allocate sufficient funding to repair and maintain provincial roads and urban highways, including:*
 - *Highways with safety issues (Highway #6);*
 - *Highways important for trade and travel (Highway #75);*
- ❖ *Allocate sufficient funding to repair and replace bridges throughout Manitoba as soon as possible;*
- ❖ *Increase funding for both capital and operating costs of small rural and northern airports.*