

ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POSITION PAPER

MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS & NORTHERN RELATIONS | EILEEN CLARKE |
FEBRUARY 10, 2021



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Eileen Clarke and representatives of Indigenous and Northern Relations.

The AMM encourages the Province to consider municipal concerns as well as the effects of funding decisions on local communities throughout the budget process.

This document outlines the AMM's position and recommendations on a number of important municipal issues relevant to the Indigenous and Northern Relations portfolio.

PRIORITY ITEMS:

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

TITLE CONSULTATION
AND SUPPORT

PARTNERS IN GROWTH

The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.

Priority Item #1

Economic Development

The AMM recommends the government:

✓ ***Consult with northern communities and the AMM on the implementation of the Look North initiative and a northern economic development strategy.***

- While the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant economic challenges, the AMM believes it is important now more than ever to develop and implement a comprehensive, northern economic development strategy.
- The AMM has long advocated for building strong partnerships in the North and strongly believes that northern economic development must be led by northern Manitobans.
- Moreover, the AMM welcomes the Look North Initiative as well as the implementation of the new northern Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF) office as the lead entity responsible for the initiative.
- As municipalities look to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Northern development will be key to foster competitiveness and northern economic growth.
- While the AMM understands that the Economic Development Office (EDO) based in Brandon was placed on hold due to the pandemic, we would appreciate receiving an update on the CEDF office as well as the Province's plan to implement the Look North initiative given the challenges caused by COVID-19.
- The potential of Manitoba's north is limitless, but it also requires sustained and innovative solutions to ensure communities are ready for investment and to capitalize on new opportunities.
- Fostering partnerships with municipalities in northern Manitoba as well as with the AMM is vital to further unlock the tremendous economic potential that exists in the North.

Priority Item #2:

TLE Consultation and Support

The AMM recommends the government:

✓ ***Provide financial and consultative support to assist municipalities in developing service sharing agreements with First Nation communities as well as throughout the TLE process.***

- Municipalities and First Nations across Manitoba are continuing to work together to create economic opportunities and improve the quality of life in their communities.
- In 2015, a historical partnership agreement was signed with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) and Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba (TLEC) to foster dialogue to help establish a more open and effective TLE claim process in Manitoba.
- The AMM appreciates the Province's support for the TLE Information Toolkit which was published in 2017.
- Additionally, the AMM welcomes the provincial government's commitment to expedite TLE obligations and partner with First Nation leaders to enhance economic opportunities under the TLE process in partnership with municipalities.
- The AMM urges the Province to consult with municipalities and First Nation communities in order to collaboratively identify opportunities to simplify TLE claim process and promote greater partnerships.
- As a lack of communication is often identified as a main barrier to municipal-First Nation partnerships, the AMM would like to see additional tools and resources devoted to initiatives that create a better understanding among stakeholders regarding differing governance and taxation systems.
- Moreover, the AMM would appreciate an update on the provincial review of its Tax Loss Compensation policy.

Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution #22-2015

Topic: Reimbursement for Fire Services

Sponsor(s): Town of Powerview-Pine Falls (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations; Manitoba Municipal Relations; Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

WHEREAS fire protection services to reduce the loss of life and property for ALL Manitobans is considered high priority;

AND WHEREAS for many Manitoba municipalities this includes their First Nation neighbours for which there is no legal agreement to provide firefighting services and compensation for same;

AND WHEREAS the onus currently falls to individual municipalities to acquire agreements with First Nation Communities for fire protection services provided and the process to obtain such agreements is cumbersome and difficult to ensure continuity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM and the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs, which can also include the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, lobby the Province of Manitoba and the federal government to implement a claim system matrix based on fixed rates, similar to the MPI claim matrix, wherein municipalities are able to receive reimbursement for fire services rendered to First Nation Communities.

AMM Resolution #35-2015

Topic: TLE Consultation & Support

Sponsor(s): RM of Lac du Bonnet (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations; Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

WHEREAS on March 17, 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM), Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba Inc. (TLEC), and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) to jointly engage provincial and federal orders of government and other stakeholders to achieve the objectives for work done under the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement (TLEFA) and expedite the process;

AND WHEREAS the AMM represents all municipalities in Manitoba:

AND WHEREAS the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet local government as directed under 3.07 of the TLEFA, has in reasonable and good faith, presented municipal concerns in relation to TLE land selections in 2002 and again in 2014 to the Entitlement First Nation and the Province;

AND WHEREAS Section 3.07(2) of the TLEFA states: Where a Municipality expresses concerns about the land being supported as Reserve Land, the Entitlement First Nation shall make reasonable efforts to address the concerns of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Entitlement First Nation has not addressed all concerns;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs has not addressed all concerns;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide clear support to municipalities in the Treaty Land Entitlement Process through proper consulting and lobbying the Province for answers prior to setting apart the entitlement land as reserve.



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