
Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures

Meeting with Minister Ian Bushie

September 18, 2025



Association of
Manitoba Municipalities

Summary of Municipal Priorities

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Ian Bushie and representatives of Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures. The AMM encourages the provincial government 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 Minister Bushie's portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.

1. Crown Land Acquisition for Economic Development

Recommendation:

- ✓ *Expedite the development of a comprehensive toolkit that offers clear guidance, simplifies processes, and functions as a centralized resource for municipalities.*

2. Fostering Municipal-Indigenous Partnerships and TLE

Recommendation:

- ✓ *Support municipal-Indigenous partnerships by investing in training, tools, and resources.*

Crown Land Acquisition for Economic Development

Recommendation:

- ✓ ***Expedite the development of a comprehensive toolkit that offers clear guidance, simplifies processes, and functions as a centralized resource for municipalities.***

As the AMM prioritizes travelling across the province and meeting one-on-one with municipalities, provincial red tape related to Crown Land acquisition is a recurring theme. Many municipalities have provincial Crown Lands within their boundaries, with some municipalities having a significant portion of their borders comprised of Crown Land, while others have Crown Land situated within the heart of their municipality.

Municipalities often face challenges in securing Crown Land within their boundaries for essential purposes like community development projects and infrastructure expansion. Moreover, some municipalities have identified undeveloped Crown Land areas presenting wildfire and public safety risks as well as drainage issues to communities. Rather than leaving this land unmaintained, municipalities would like the opportunity to develop parcels to enhance their communities and mitigate these abovementioned risks.

However, municipalities must navigate through cumbersome application procedures and requirements, involving multiple government departments in order to acquire Crown Land. This administrative burden not only delays local planning efforts but also undermines the potential for Crown Land to contribute meaningfully to economic development – both at the municipal and provincial level.

The AMM welcomes the ongoing inter-departmental collaboration between your Department, Department of Municipal and Northern Relations, and Department of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation. We continue to support the development of a cross-departmental Crown Land Acquisition toolkit aimed at streamlining processes and offering municipalities a clear, consistent path forward.

While we appreciated receiving an update in May, it addressed only part of the information our organization had anticipated. The AMM continues to encourage coordination across all relevant departments to ensure this toolkit is practical, accessible, and functions as a one-stop shop for municipal inquiries. We remain hopeful this important tool will be finalized in a timely manner to help municipalities access Crown Land more efficiently and advance local development goals.

Fostering Municipal-Indigenous Partnerships and TLE

Recommendation:

- ✓ ***Support municipal–Indigenous partnerships by investing in training, tools, and resources.***

The AMM has long recognized the importance of fostering strong municipal-Indigenous partnerships and has taken proactive steps to support this goal. In 2015, AMM partnered with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) and the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) to develop a comprehensive toolkit to support municipalities in better understanding and navigating the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process.

Since then, AMM has expanded these efforts through the creation of a dedicated webpage showcasing successful municipal–Indigenous partnerships, along with key lessons learned and best practices. This work has been further supported by a Special Report in *Municipal Leader* magazine, as well as panel discussions and a webinar focused on partnership opportunities – particularly those tied to the transfer of TLE lands.

Given that many municipalities and First Nations in Manitoba are immediate neighbours, fostering positive and productive working relationships is essential to advancing reconciliation, sharing resources, and advancing joint opportunities. Across the province, municipalities and Indigenous communities are working together to strengthen local governance, attract economic development, and enhance service delivery. For example, the City of Portage la Prairie and Long Plain First Nation are collaborating through the Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) to develop a shared roadmap for infrastructure and service agreements on urban reserve lands, demonstrating how long-term, trust-based partnerships can lead to tangible benefits for all.

Despite growing momentum, municipal-Indigenous collaboration still faces challenges. One of the most persistent barriers is a lack of mutual understanding around different governance models, legal frameworks, and taxation systems. Overcoming these gaps requires sustained support from all orders of government, as well as the development of practical tools, training opportunities, and culturally relevant resources to help municipal officials and Indigenous leaders engage in informed, respectful dialogue. By continuing to invest in this work, Manitoba's municipalities and Indigenous communities can lay the groundwork for lasting partnerships built on trust, transparency, and shared success.

Active AMM 2024 Resolutions

AMM Resolution #15-2024: Crown Lands

Sponsor(s)

Ste. Anne, RM (Eastern)
Reynolds, RM (Eastern)
Brokenhead, RM (Eastern)
St. Clements, RM (Eastern)
Alexander, RM (Eastern)
East St. Paul, RM (Eastern)
Stuartburn, RM (Eastern)
Springfield, RM (Eastern)
Lac du Bonnet, RM (Eastern)
Beausejour, Town (Eastern)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba, in coordination with the Manitoba Association of Watersheds, to address the ongoing, uncontrolled, improper use of Crown Lands, including the removal and enforcement of littering under provincial legislation, at the expense of the Province of Manitoba, rather than the municipal taxpayers.
