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# Cabinet Brief

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Meeting with the Premier and  
Members of the Provincial Cabinet

NOVEMBER 26, 2025



Association of  
Manitoba Municipalities

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# Introduction

The AMM is pleased to host our annual meeting with Premier Kinew and the Provincial Cabinet to share municipal priorities and continue a dialogue with the provincial government about the future of Manitoba.

We also hope to meet with every Minister again in the near future to discuss new and ongoing issues in greater detail with each department.

In this document, the AMM has outlined our main lobbying priorities in three categories: Successes in 2024-2025, Critical Issues requiring immediate action, and Important Issues that have seen some progress, but require more collaboration.

# Successes in 2024/25

## Boost to Municipal Operating Basket and Public Safety Basket

### Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

### Department of Justice

- The AMM welcomes the **2%** increase to the Municipal Operating and Public Safety Baskets in Budget 2025.
- While we appreciate the Premier's commitment to continue the **2%** annual increase, this initial boost should serve as a baseline, not a long-term solution, as municipal costs continue to rise.
- The AMM looks forward to renewed collaboration with the Province to advance a modern, predictable, growth-oriented funding framework that better reflects demands on municipalities.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Resume work with the AMM and municipalities to deliver on the Budget 2024 commitment to develop a reliable and flexible multi-year funding model that works for all municipalities; and
- Consult with the AMM and municipalities on the distribution of policing costs and grant funding to promote a more transparent, fair, and sustainable policing mode.

## \$62 Million One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund

### Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- The AMM welcomes the Province's \$62 million *One Manitoba Growth Fund*, a new five-year investment outside the operating basket to advance local infrastructure and growth priorities.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Collaborate with the AMM to develop a modernized growth-oriented funding framework that goes beyond per-capita allocations and effectively addresses the diverse needs of all municipalities.

## \$42 Million Manitoba GRO Program & AMM Involvement

### Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- The AMM appreciates the Province opening the second intake of the Manitoba GRO program earlier than last year, a clear response to our advocacy and the feedback municipalities have provided on the importance of accelerating program timelines.
- The AMM was disappointed to be excluded from the review process for the first intake of the program, which departed from long-standing collaborative practice.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Ensure the AMM remains involved in the application review process, as previously committed, to support fair and transparent funding decisions that reflect municipal perspectives

## 14.2% Increase for Healthcare Funding

### Department of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care

- The AMM appreciates the Manitoba government's **14.2%** increase to the health budget to improve provincial healthcare delivery.
- Municipalities should not fund healthcare initiatives, and sustained provincial investment is essential to provide care closer to home for all Manitobans.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Develop and release a comprehensive provincial strategy to recruit and retain healthcare professionals across all regions of Manitoba.

## **\$76 Million (9.2% increase) for Public Safety Initiatives**

### **Department of Justice**

- The AMM thanks the Province of Manitoba for committing \$76 million to enhance public safety across the province.
- The AMM welcomes the Public Safety Strategy, including the **2%** increase for municipal law enforcement funding.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Enhance public safety further by ensuring municipalities are provided with adequate resources and increasing financial support to address rising crime rates across all municipalities; and
- Advance the Public Safety Strategy in alignment with municipal priorities and provide the necessary funding to enable effective implementation; and
- Provide funding to expand Community Safety and Well-Being Plans and help municipalities cover the costs of potentially training and employing a Community Safety Officer (CSO).

## **\$1.3 Million boost for Urban/Hometown Green Team Programs**

### **Department of Municipal and Northern Relations**

- The AMM thanks the Province for increasing funding to the Urban and Hometown Green Team Programs by \$1.3 million to strengthen the program and expand access for more communities.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Ensure the AMM remains involved in the application review process, as previously committed, to support fair and transparent funding decisions that reflect municipal perspectives

## 21% Boost for Gravel Road Agreements

### Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

- The AMM welcomes the Province's **21%** funding increase for municipal gravel road agreements to help address rising maintenance costs.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities through the AMM-MTI Service Delivery Review Working Group.

## Re-opening two Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) Offices

### Department of Agriculture

- The AMM welcomes the re-opening of two MASC offices in western Manitoba as a direct response to municipal concerns over reduced local access following the closure of offices in 2021.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Maintain and expand adequate regional staffing and office locations to provide timely, accessible service for all municipalities.



## Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) Program Changes

### Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

- The AMM thanks the Province for updating the provincial Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program to align with the new federal guidelines under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA).
- The AMM welcomes the ongoing cost-sharing model and new “build back better” feature, allowing municipalities to use up to 15% of repair costs for local resilience upgrades and recover deductibles through the Mitigation and Preparedness Program (MPP).

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Ensure disaster claims are processed promptly and continue urging the federal government to include interest costs in the DFAA program to protect municipalities from added financial burdens.

## Updating the pre-set fine amounts for *The Water Rights Act*

### Department of Environment and Climate Change

- The AMM welcomes the modernization of *The Water Rights Act* and Regulation, including increased water fines and the addition of five new offenses.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Continue to streamline and reduce provincial red tape to expedite drainage licensing approvals and continue to enhance enforcement efforts to address illegal drainage.

## Regulatory Change of Waterhemp to Tier 2 Noxious Weed

### Department of Agriculture

- The AMM welcomes the changes to *The Noxious Weeds Act* that reclassify waterhemp from a Tier 1 to Tier 2 noxious weed, enabling municipalities to prioritize containment and control over eradication.
- This update reflects the current distribution and establishment of waterhemp, consultations with AMM, and the intent of the 2024 AMM resolution.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Enhance municipal and public awareness by implementing a targeted education campaign on waterhemp identification, its impacts on crop production, and effective control strategies.

# Critical Issues – Immediate Action Required

## Modernized Funding Model & Growth Framework

### Department of Finance

### Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- While the AMM welcomes the **2%** annual increase to the municipal operating basket, municipalities require a modernized growth-oriented funding framework that reflects today's realities and supports long term growth.
- Per capita allocations do not reflect the realities faced by many municipalities, particularly those with extensive road networks or smaller populations.
- Municipalities rely on property taxes to generate revenues while being responsible for **60%** of public infrastructure and only receiving less than 10 cents of every tax dollar to complete the job.
- Each year, municipalities pay more than \$25 million in PST to the provincial government.
- Since cannabis legalization, municipalities have overseen local regulation and enforcement without provincial funding support, even as Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries reports growing annual cannabis profits.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Continue working with the AMM to establish a modernized growth-oriented framework model with an annual escalator that addresses legacy inequities and reflects municipal cost pressures; and
- Move to multi-year budgeting to assist with long-term planning and priority setting; and
- Provide targeted PST relief for municipalities, including on trilateral cost-shared projects, to reduce financial burdens and ensure sustainable delivery of essential local services; and
- Co-develop a fair cannabis revenue-sharing framework that offsets local costs and supports effective enforcement.

## Strategic Infrastructure Basket & Funding for Critical Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

### Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- The AMM is concerned that the Strategic Infrastructure Basket was frozen in Budget 2025, despite municipalities owning and maintaining **60%** of the public infrastructure that underpins Manitoba's economy.
- Municipalities have identified 300+ shovel-ready projects totaling more than \$1.6 billion to upgrade or construct water and wastewater treatment facilities and sewer infrastructure across the province.
- The Manitoba Water Services Board's budget is massively oversubscribed, yet its funding has increased by only \$4 million since 2023.
- While Canada and Manitoba have finalized a 10-year, \$209.8 million Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) agreement, the Province has not yet announced the roll-out of the Provincial-Territorial stream.
- The AMM also notes that federal Budget 2025 includes new and reprofiled municipal investments, including a \$12.2 billion Provincial and Territorial Stream under the Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF).

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Introduce a predictable annual escalator to the Strategic Infrastructure Basket so funding keeps pace with municipal needs and supports long-term planning for essential water and wastewater projects; and
- Advocate for a dedicated water and wastewater infrastructure funding program at both the provincial and federal levels; and
- Significantly increase the Manitoba Water Services Board's (MWSB) budget to address the growing backlog of municipal water infrastructure priorities; and
- Expedite the roll-out of the CHIF Provincial-Territorial stream in partnership with the AMM and ensure sufficient provincial matching funds are in place so municipalities can fully leverage CHIF and new federal infrastructure programs such as the BCSF.

## From the Ground Up Program

### Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- The AMM appreciates the increase in the proportion of funds awarded to municipal projects under this year's From the Ground Up (FTGU) intake.
- At the same time, we are disappointed that the long-standing AMM-Province collaborative practice in reviewing municipal applications was not restored, despite assurances that this process would occur.
- Some projects funded through the FTGU program align more closely with the mandates of other provincial departments.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Continue to grow the proportion of FTGU funds allocated to municipalities; and
- Restore the collaborative AMM–Province review process for municipal applications; and
- Ensure that projects more appropriately aligned with other departmental mandates are redirected to free up FTGU resources for municipal projects.

## Provincial Infrastructure Maintenance

### Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

- Municipalities continue to raise concerns about the lack of maintenance on provincial drains and roads, particularly those running through municipal boundaries.
- The lack of routine maintenance has led to flooding and infrastructure damage in several communities, often caused by clogged provincial drains.
- Irregular grass mowing, brush cutting, and provincial drain maintenance are creating additional financial pressures on the vast majority of municipalities.
- Some municipalities have proposed maintaining provincial drains, ditches and culverts under a service agreement with adequate compensatory funding, similar to those for snow and gravel road maintenance.
- While the AMM acknowledges previous increases of **10.2% and 4%** to provincial infrastructure maintenance funding, escalating repair costs and deteriorating transportation networks demand a more sustained and strategic investment.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Significantly increase maintenance and timely upgrades to provincial drainage and road infrastructure to mitigate flood risks and prevent damage to municipal assets; and
- Expedite discussions on potential municipal service delivery agreements, using the AMM–MTI Service Delivery Working Group as the forum to advance opportunities for interested municipalities.

## Tackling Crime and Policing Sustainability

### Department of Justice

### Department of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness

- Municipalities have been ringing the alarm on increasing crime rates in their communities since the Prairie Provinces experience higher rates of rural crime compared to other areas of the country.
- Frontline police visibility in communities is declining as administrative duties, court appearances for repeat prolific offenders, and rising mental health calls strain municipal resources and pull first responders away from core law enforcement responsibilities.
- Manitoba now faces the highest RCMP provincial vacancy rate, compounding local safety challenges.
- In 2024, the AMM commissioned a poll by Probe Research which revealed that only **5%** of Manitobans feel safer in their community than they did three years ago while **56%** of Manitobans feel decidedly “less safe” in their community.
- The AMM welcomes the Public Safety Strategy and the annual **2%** increase for municipal law enforcement funding, but sufficient resources and sustained funding are essential for effective implementation across all communities.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Address rising crime rates by strengthening support for law enforcement and enhance advocacy to reduce RCMP vacancies to ensure officers can focus on frontline community safety; and
- Diversify response agencies beyond the RCMP, so mental health, addiction, and social service needs are addressed by specialized teams rather than overloading law enforcement; and
- Accelerate implementation of the Public Safety Strategy in partnership with municipalities, backed by adequate resources and dedicated funding to ensure measures are delivered effectively and aligned with local priorities.

## Modernize Education Funding & Homeowners Affordability Tax Credit (HATC)

### Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning Department of Finance

- The current education funding model is outdated and places increasing financial pressures on municipalities.
- The AMM acknowledges the Province's 2026 increase to the Homeowners Affordability Tax Credit (HATC) to \$1,600 and the decision to apply it directly to municipal tax bills rather than mailing cheques.
- Since education funding appears on municipal property tax bills, many residents do not distinguish between municipal and provincial taxes, creating confusion and additional administrative burdens for municipalities.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Collaborate with municipalities and the AMM to develop a modernized education funding model that addresses municipal concerns, reduces confusion, and eases administrative burdens; and
- Consider separating education and municipal taxes on property tax statements to improve transparency and public education.



## Essential Cell Service & NG-911 Services

### Department of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation

### Department of Justice

- The inability to access emergency services in critical situations is deeply concerning and unacceptable, particularly as Manitoba prepares to transition to Next Generation 911 (NG-911) amid widespread coverage gaps across the province.
- The AMM appreciates the Department of Justice's efforts to advance NG-911 timelines by convening stakeholders, including Bell MTS, to finalize an FAQ toolkit for distribution ahead of 2027 implementation.
- A 2023 Probe Research poll found that only **34%** of rural and Northern Manitobans outside Winnipeg consider their cell service fully reliable, while **64%** find it unreliable or only somewhat reliable.
- While the Economic Development Strategy highlights the need to improve connectivity in rural and northern Manitoba, it currently lacks dedicated funding or a clear implementation plan.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Establish an inter-departmental Working Group with the AMM to oversee the NG-911 transition, support municipalities, and prevent added costs; and
- Provide dedicated funding and resources to expand cellular services in rural and northern Manitoba in alignment with the Economic Development Strategy; and
- Develop a comprehensive broadband and cellular connectivity strategy to ensure all communities have reliable and efficient communications infrastructure.

## Broadband Internet Connectivity

### Department of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation

- The AMM has consistently advocated for a provincial broadband connectivity strategy.
- Since its inception, only \$9.6 million from the Universal Broadband Fund has been allocated to Manitoba, highlighting a concerning gap in broadband connectivity that limits the province's competitiveness and growth potential.
- While the Economic Development Strategy highlights the need to improve connectivity in rural and northern Manitoba, it currently lacks dedicated funding or a clear implementation plan.
- This gap is particularly concerning given recent tragedies in the province, highlighting the critical need for reliable communications infrastructure.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Expedite the rural broadband expansion project to ensure all residents have equal access to high-quality Internet; and
- Develop a comprehensive broadband and cellular connectivity strategy to ensure all communities have reliable and efficient communications infrastructure; and
- Leverage federal funding programs, such as the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF), to expand broadband and cellular programs across Manitoba.

## Modernizing Municipal Tax Tools and Service Equity

### Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- Many of the provincial tax tools currently offered are administratively burdensome and corresponding procedures are met with unnecessary red tape.
- Residents in unorganized areas, provincial parks, and Crown lands often rely on municipal services without contributing to their costs, creating significant financial pressures for municipalities.
- The AMM welcomes the Province's Cottage Administration Modernization Project (CAMP) and the initial meeting with impacted municipalities, but no further discussions have occurred to develop long-term solutions.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Create additional and streamline the use of existing tax tools and grant greater tax flexibility and autonomy to municipalities; and
- Develop a cost-sharing framework for residents in unorganized areas and Crown lands, including a provincial fee system with revenues allocated to support municipal infrastructure and services; and
- Advance the CAMP initiative through ongoing, close consultation with affected municipalities to identify sustainable, long-term solutions.

## Crown Land Acquisition for Economic Development

**Department of Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures**  
**Department of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation**  
**Department of Municipal and Northern Relations**

- Municipalities face challenges accessing Crown Land for development and infrastructure, with some areas posing wildfire, public safety, and drainage risks.
- Obtaining Crown Land requires navigating cumbersome application processes and multiple departmental requirements, creating delays and administrative burdens for municipalities.
- The AMM welcomes the ongoing inter-departmental collaboration among the Departments of Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, Department of Municipal and Northern Relations, and Department of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation to develop a municipal guide and toolkit for Crown land acquisition to support economic development.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

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

## By-Law Enforcement Efficiency and Standardization

### Department of Justice

### Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- By-law enforcement is crucial for overall public safety, although municipalities continue to face ongoing challenges related to resource limitations, issues with fine collection, and external pressures such as rising crime.
- The maximum administrative penalty for by-law violations has not been updated, while prosecution costs often exceed the \$1,000 allowable fine.
- Municipalities draft and vet their own by-laws at significant cost. Provincially vetted standardized by-laws available in a central repository may help reduce duplication and legal fees while promoting more consistent enforcement.
- The AMM appreciates establishing a joint Working Group with both departments dedicated to by-law enforcement and the development of an informative toolkit to help enhance clarity. However, this should be viewed as a first step, as further support will be needed to address ongoing by-law enforcement challenges

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Increase the maximum administrative penalty for by-law violations to reflect inflation and municipal realities; and
- Collaborate with the AMM and municipalities to streamline by-law enforcement and expedite the roll-out of an informational toolkit; and
- Identify a standardized set of court-vetted by-laws with modernized fines to reduce administrative and financial burdens on municipalities.

## Water and Wastewater Operator Certification

### Department of Environment and Climate Change Department of Advanced Education and Training

- For more than 20 years, municipalities have repeatedly raised concerns about Water and Wastewater Operator Certification, yet these challenges remain unresolved.
- The Certification Advisory Committee's (CAC) report offers clear recommendations that align with municipal concerns and AMM's longstanding advocacy.
- Municipalities are calling for the swift implementation of these recommendations, including alternative local training opportunities, to ensure every community has access to the certified operators they need.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Expedite the implementation of the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Advisory Committee's recommendations to ensure the continued operation of essential water infrastructure.

# Important Issues – More Collaboration Needed

## Next Generation Federal Infrastructure Funding and AMM Involvement

### Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- As Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funds have been fully allocated, next-generation federal infrastructure programming must reflect Manitoba municipalities' priorities.
- The AMM values past collaboration in reviewing municipal funding applications, ensuring local projects are prioritized under federal programs.
- Federal Budget 2025 introduces new and reprofiled investments, including the \$51-billion, 10-year Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF) and a \$12.2-billion Provincial and Territorial Stream under the BCSF.
- Demand far outpaces provincial and federal dollars as municipalities have identified more than \$1.6 billion to upgrade or construct water and wastewater treatment facilities as well as sewer infrastructure across Manitoba.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Work with municipalities to fully leverage federal funding opportunities, including those requiring provincial cost-sharing, to ensure all allocated dollars are effectively utilized within Manitoba.
- Advocate for a dedicated water and wastewater infrastructure funding program at both the provincial and federal levels; and
- Continue to involve AMM input in reviewing applications for current and forthcoming federal funding programs to ensure municipal priorities are considered.

## Bill 37 (Planning Legislation) Review & Action Plan

### Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- The AMM thanks the Province of Manitoba for addressing long-standing concerns by expediting the review of *The Planning Act and The City of Winnipeg Charter*, and for tabling and accepting all recommendations from the *Statutory Review of Planning Legislation Report*.
- We appreciate the stakeholder working group for informing this review, which will remain a key forum as the Province implements its Action Plan in response to the Braid Report.
- Municipalities continue to face significant and costly delays due to outdated processes in their interactions with the Municipal Board under current legislation and regulations.
- Since the introduction and passage of the planning legislative amendments, the AMM's position has remained the same – the role and autonomy of local government must be maintained.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Collaborate with the AMM on the implementation of the report's recommendations and the development of an accompanying Action Plan to ensure Manitoba's planning framework is strengthened in a way that upholds local autonomy; and
- Modernize the Municipal Board's mandate, processes, and scope of work, including introducing legislative changes to eliminate de novo hearings without delay.



## Recruitment & Retention of Healthcare Professionals

### Department of Health, Seniors, and Long-Term Care Department of Labour and Immigration

- Despite healthcare being a provincial responsibility, more than **90%** of Manitoba municipalities are facing doctor shortages, and nearly **95%** are using local tax dollars to recruit and retain healthcare practitioners.
- We commend the government for exceeding its recruitment target with 1,255 new healthcare workers and for investing in 126 Institutional Safety Officer (ISO) positions to strengthen facility safety and support front-line staff.
- The AMM thanks the Province for showcasing the Healthcare Recruitment and Retention Office at the AMM Spring Convention and raising awareness of its role in supporting internationally educated health professionals in Manitoba.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Release a comprehensive provincial strategy to recruit and retain paramedics, nurses, doctors and other health professionals working in all Manitoba regions; and
- Ensure that the mandate of the Healthcare Recruitment and Retention Office aligns with the recommendations from the Immigration Advisory Council to accelerate credential recognition and increase regional settlement incentives for foreign-trained doctors and other professionals.

## Provincial Bail Reform Measures

### Department of Justice

### Department of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness

- As Manitoba continues to face some of the highest rates of violent crime in Canada, the AMM and municipalities have consistently called for stronger bail reform measures to improve community safety, and we appreciate the collaborative efforts to engage the federal government on this issue.
- Frontline police visibility is declining as officers increasingly handle administrative duties, court appearances for repeat prolific offenders, and mental health emergencies, pulling them away from core law enforcement responsibilities.
- These pressures are compounded by significant caseloads within Manitoba's justice system, where Crown prosecutors are managing high volumes of files, contributing to delays and limiting the system's ability to respond promptly.
- The AMM welcomes the five-point bail reform plan, but its success will depend on dedicated and transparent funding.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Collaborate with the AMM and municipalities to ensure forthcoming federal legislative changes address all forms of criminal activity and target repeat prolific offenders impacting Manitoba communities; and
- Promptly implement corresponding provincial measures to strengthen community safety once federal bail reform legislation is enacted; and
- Increase resources for Crown prosecutors and support staff to reduce backlogs and enforce stronger bail measures as well as increased investment to address mental health, addictions and homelessness.

## Economic Development Strategy

### Department of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation

- The AMM has long advocated for a comprehensive, province-wide economic development strategy and thanks the Province for responding with the launch of the Economic Development Strategy in September 2025.
- Economic development across Manitoba continues to be hindered by shortages in local and regional water capacity within municipalities.
- 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.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Collaborate with the AMM and municipalities on the implementation of Manitoba's Economic Development Strategy to ensure local priorities are fully reflected in provincial actions; and
- Accompany the strategy with clear, dedicated investment commitments, particularly for water and wastewater infrastructure to spur economic growth; and
- Collaborate with northern communities and stakeholders to position the north as a critical hub with a strong supply chain.

## Accessibility Legislation and Standards

### Department of Families

- The AMM welcomes the government's fourth intake of the \$20 million Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF), which offers grants of up to \$50,000 to municipalities to eliminate accessibility barriers; and
- The AMM supports the recommendation in *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act* (AMA) Reviewer's Report to extend the update cycle for public sector accessibility plans to four years to better align with municipal election cycles.
- We are concerned about the government's consideration of new regulatory measures that would penalize organizations for non-compliance with *AMA* standards.
- The AMM appreciates its role on the Accessibility Advisory Council (AAC) to ensure municipal perspectives are heard.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Support municipalities by reducing administrative and financial burdens under *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act* and extending compliance deadlines for accessibility plans to four years to allow more effective implementation; and
- Prioritize education and capacity-building alongside any potential enforcement strategies to better support municipalities in meeting accessibility standards.

## Transition Plan to Full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

### Department of Environment and Climate Change

- The AMM supports efforts to reduce and divert waste as well as welcomes expanded recycling initiatives in Manitoba that may include a transition to full EPR.
- The AMM thanks the department for establishing the Ministerial Advisory Committee with MMSM and other stakeholders impacted by the transition to review the plan and provide recommendations that ensure the transition aligns with municipal concerns and interests.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Continue to directly consult with the AMM and municipalities on the transition to full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

## Drainage Licensing and Approvals

### Department of Environment and Climate Change

- While the AMM appreciates the Legacy Drainage License Project, which allows municipalities to bundle drainage projects under a single \$500 application fee, frustration with the process remains a significant challenge.
- The high costs associated with municipal drain and culvert surveys continue to severely limit the ability of local governments to maintain and upgrade critical infrastructure.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Continue to streamline and reduce provincial red tape to expedite drainage licensing approvals.

## Landfill Engineering Costs

### Department of Environment and Climate Change Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- Interpretation of provincial regulations varies across the province, which often results in continued strain on municipal budgets.
- The AMM appreciates the department's collaborative efforts, including the establishment of a working group with municipalities and the development of informational materials to improve clarity, however, concerns from municipalities persist.

#### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Continue to review and streamline landfill engineering requirements to reduce red tape and associated costs for municipalities.

## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program

### Department of Environment and Climate Change

- The AMM appreciates the Province's collaboration in hosting the 2025 AIS Virtual Summit, which provided municipalities with a valuable platform to discuss challenges and share best practices.
- We welcome the provincial announcement of a \$540,000 investment to combat the spread of AIS, including the creation of a dedicated AIS Prevention Fund.
- The AMM was pleased to work with the department in developing an AIS Prevention FAQ and a new by-law template to support municipal prevention efforts.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Increase financial resources and enhance public awareness to effectively prevent the spread of AIS, including Zebra Mussels.
- Expand decontamination and inspection sites across Manitoba to cover all regions effectively and protect local water bodies.

## Fostering Municipal–Indigenous Partnerships

### Department of Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures

- Many Manitoba municipalities and First Nations are immediate neighbours, making positive and productive relationships essential for advancing reconciliation, sharing resources, and pursuing joint opportunities.
- Despite growing momentum, municipal–Indigenous collaboration continues to face challenges, with one of the most persistent barriers being limited mutual understanding of differing governance models, legal frameworks, and taxation systems.
- In British Columbia, the Community to Community (C2C) grant program has successfully supported a wide range of relationship-building initiatives between municipalities and First Nations, demonstrating the benefits of dedicated support for these partnerships.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Invest in training, tools, and resources to support municipal–Indigenous partnerships; and
- Consider implementing a dedicated grant program, modeled on British Columbia’s Community to Community (C2C) program, to foster and strengthen municipal–Indigenous relations.



## Funding for Community Museums

### Department of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism

- The AMM thanks the Province for committing up to \$524,000 in operational support through the Community Museum Grant Program (CMGP), increasing maximum funding levels per museum by **48–58%**
- Only 110 museums receive funding from the CMGP, yet 160 museums meet the CMGP institutional criteria and eligibility but are excluded due to limited funds.

### ***The AMM recommends the government:***

- Continue investing in museums through a sustainable funding model that supports their operations, recognizing their vital contributions to tourism and local communities.

# Appendix

## SUCCESES IN 2024-2025

### **Boost to Municipal Operating Basket and Public Safety Basket**

- Resolution #02-2024: Annual Operating Grant Deadline
- Resolution #01-2023: New Funding Model
- Resolution #02-2022: Municipal Revenue
- Resolution #12-2023: Funding Formula
- Resolution #04-2019: Municipal Grant Indexing

### **\$62 Million One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund**

- Resolution #02-2024: Annual Operating Grant Deadline
- Resolution #01-2023: New Funding Model
- Resolution #12-2023: Funding Formula
- Resolution #02-2022: Municipal Revenue
- Resolution #01-2022: Strategic Municipal Investment Fund
- Resolution #04-2019: Municipal Grant Indexing

### **\$42 Million Manitoba GRO Program & AMM Involvement**

- Resolution #01-2023: New Funding Model
- Resolution #12-2023: Funding Formula
- Resolution #01-2022: Strategic Municipal Investment Fund

### **14.2% Increase for Healthcare Funding**

- Resolution #32-2024: Remove Requirement for Audited Financial Statements

### **\$76 Million (9.2% increase) for Public Safety Initiatives**

- Resolution #22-2023: Fair Allocation of the Cost of Policing
- Resolution #29-2022: Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan
- Resolution #03-2018: Comprehensive Review of Municipal Policing
- Resolution #10-2020: Proceeds from Rural Crime

### **\$1.3 Million boost for Urban/Hometown Green Team Programs**

- None

### **21% Boost for Gravel Road Agreements**

- Resolution #18-2024: MTI Snow Removal Agreement
- Resolution #51-2023: MTI Snow Removal Funding - SP

### **Re-opening two Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) Offices**

- None (Long-standing concern raised in ministerial position papers)

### **Financial Assistance (DFA) Program Changes**

- Resolution #29-2023: DFAA Interest Charges
- Resolution #29-2022: Disaster Financial Assistance Eligibility

### **Updating the pre-set fine amounts for *The Water Rights Act***

- Resolution removed following regulatory changes

### **Regulatory Change of Waterhemp to Tier 2 Noxious Weed**

- Resolution removed following regulatory changes

## **CRITICAL ISSUES – IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED**

### **Modernized Funding Model & Growth Framework**

- Resolution #01-2025\*: Municipal CCBF – Annual Indexing Rate of Construction Inflation
- Resolution #01-2023: New Funding Model
- Resolution #12-2023: Funding Formula
- Resolution #02-2022: Municipal Revenue
- Resolution #05-2019: Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing
- Resolution #07-2019: No Unilateral Downloading
- Resolution #03-2015: Flexible and Equitable Debt Ratio Formula
- Resolution #37-2015: PST Exemption
- Resolution #45-2016: Base Tax - SP

### **Strategic Infrastructure Basket & Funding for Critical Water and Wastewater Infrastructure**

- Resolution #29-2025\*: Increase Funding to the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB)
- Resolution #01-2022: Strategic Municipal Investment Fund
- Resolution #16-2022: Water Infrastructure Funding

### **From the Ground Up**

- None

### **Provincial Infrastructure Maintenance**

- Resolution #22-2025: Drainage Permit Amendments
- Resolution #34-2023: Drainage Requirement Changes – Culverts
- Resolution #35-2023: Drainage Requirement Changes
- Resolution #36-2023: Drainage Fees
- Resolution #08-2022: Water Infrastructure Funding
- Resolution #15-2022: Third Order Drains and Drainage Policy
- Resolution #27-2019: Drainage Licensing
- Resolution #48-2017: Municipal Drainage - SP
- Resolution #17-2012: Drainage on Crown lands

### **Tackling Crime and Policing Sustainability**

- Resolution #17-2025\*: Fines and Consequences for Offenders
- Resolution #18-2025\*: Amendments to the Criminal Code
- Resolution #20-2024: Bail Reform
- Resolution #23-2023: Full Staffing for RCMP detachments
- Resolution #22-2023: Fair Allocation of the Cost of Policing
- Resolution #26-2022: Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan
- Resolution #22-2021: RCMP Unionization Costs
- Resolution #10-2020: Proceeds from Rural Crime
- Resolution #26-2020: Policing Service Agreement - SP
- Resolution #39-2019: RCMP Funding Formula
- Resolution #40-2019: RCMP Staffing
- Resolution #42-2009: New Police Services Act

### **Modernize Education Funding & Homeowners Affordability Tax Credit (HATC)**

- Resolution #25-2015: Business Education Tax
- Resolution #32-2013: Modernize Education Funding

### **Essential Cell Service & NG-911 Services**

- Resolution #09-2024: NG-911 Cellular Services
- Resolution #24-2024: Cellular Service
- Resolution #41-2019: Essential Cell Service - SP
- Resolution #38-2015: Improve Cellular Reception Services

**Broadband Internet Connectivity**

- Resolution #50-2012: High Speed Internet and Cell Service for Rural Manitoba

**Modernizing Municipal Tax Tools and Service Equity**

- Resolution #03-2024: Tax Exemption for all Municipally Owned Land Containing Municipal Infrastructure
- Resolution #01-2023: New Funding Model
- Resolution #10-2023: Tax Exemptions
- Resolution #12-2023: Funding Formula
- Resolution #02-2022: Municipal Revenue
- Resolution #04-2021: Assessment and Taxation Tools
- Resolution #05-2021: Tax Reform Study
- Resolution #08-2019: Municipal Tax Autonomy

**Crown Land Acquisition for Economic Development**

- Resolution #15-2024: Crown Lands
- Resolution #16-2024: Crown Land Public Hunting
- Resolution #07-2020: Crown land
- Resolution #28-2016: Crown Land
- Resolution #17-2012: Drainage on Crown Land

**By-Law Enforcement Efficiency and Standardization**

- Resolution #24-2023: By-Law Enforcement
- Resolution #25-2023: By-Law Standardization

**Water and Wastewater Operator Certification**

- Resolution #24-2017: Certification of Water Treatment Plant Operators

**IMPORTANT ISSUES – MORE COLLABORATION NEEDED****Next Generation Federal Infrastructure Funding and AMM Involvement**

- Resolution #03-2023: CCBF Funding Formula Distribution

**Bill 37 (Planning Legislation) Review & Action Plan**

- Resolution #03-2025\*: Municipal Board Processes
- Resolution #01-2024: Revision of the Municipal Board Mandate and Function
- Resolution #05-2023: Municipal Board Delays

**Recruitment and Retention of Healthcare Professionals**

- Resolution #13-2025\*: Funding Support for Recruitment and Retention of Healthcare Professionals
- Resolution #13-2024: Healthcare Access
- Resolution #12-2024: Establish ISOs in all Manitoba Hospitals
- Resolution #17-2021: Medical Staff Retention

**Provincial Bail Reform Measures**

- Resolution #17-2025\*: Fines and Consequences for Offenders
- Resolution #18-2025\*: Amendments to the Criminal Code
- Resolution #20-2024: Bail Reform

**Economic Development Strategy**

- Resolution #35-2017: Strategy to Increase Physical and Electronic Connectivity

**Accessibility Legislation and Standards**

- Resolution #41-2017: Accessibility Legislation & Standards

**Transition Plan to full Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**

- None

**Drainage Licensing and Approvals**

- Resolution #22-2025\*: Drainage Permit Amendments
- Resolution #34-2023- Drainage Requirement Changes – Culverts
- Resolution #35-2023: Drainage Requirement Changes
- Resolution #08-2022: Water Infrastructure Funding
- Resolution #15-2022: Third Order Drains and Drainage Policy
- Resolution #27-2019: Drainage Licensing
- Resolution #48-2017: Municipal Drainage - SP
- Resolution #17-2012: Drainage on Crown lands

**Landfill Engineering Costs**

- Resolution #11-2022: Waste Disposal Financial Assistance

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program**

- Resolution #14-2020: Zebra Mussels

**Fostering Municipal–Indigenous Partnerships**

- None

**Funding for Community Museums**

- None

***NOTE: If required, please contact AMM staff to receive detailed information about AMM resolutions.***