
Advanced Education and Training

Meeting with Minister Renée Cable

May 4, 2026



Association of
Manitoba Municipalities

Summary of Municipal Priorities

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Renée Cable and representatives of Manitoba Advanced Education and Training. 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 recommendation on an important municipal issue relevant to Minister Cable's portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.

1. Water and Wastewater Operator Certification

Recommendation:

- ✓ ***Support municipalities with localized training and enhanced education to promote recruitment and retention in water and wastewater professions.***

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For more than two decades, municipalities have consistently voiced concerns regarding Water and Wastewater Operator Certification. The stringent certification standards are discouraging potential recruits from entering the field, and for those who do, many struggle to pass the exam due to irrelevant questions. This is problematic given the demand for water and wastewater infrastructure continues to increase. While AMM recognizes the province's update that 18 certification exams are under review with the intent to align with standardized exams across jurisdictions, municipalities need a clear plan and action now to address ongoing workforce challenges.

As the demand for certified treatment operators grows, the urgency to retain and attract qualified professionals will also escalate. Thus, municipalities want to see immediate solutions to help recruit and retain facility operators. While the AMM recognizes the Province's and the Certification Advisory Committee's (CAC) efforts to review certification requirements, training standards, and administrative processes, the CAC's report – completed over two years ago – has still not been released publicly. Without access to its findings, municipalities are left in the dark on recommendations that could help address long-standing challenges.

We welcome provincial updates on the report's recommendations, but it is essential that the Department work closely with the Department of Environment and Climate Change to expedite solutions made within the report. This includes advancing solutions such as regional cooperation, shared operational support for smaller communities, and modernized training approaches that are more accessible and relevant.

As more and more municipalities look to regional efforts, sharing this report, and looking to solutions such as regional cooperation and support for the operation of water and wastewater facilities could be a solution, particularly for smaller communities. Moving forward, empowering municipalities to recruit and retain skilled operators must be a priority. This requires exploring localized, flexible training opportunities that not only improve accessibility but also raise the profile of this profession – ultimately helping to ensure the sustainability of water and wastewater services across Manitoba.

Active AMM Resolutions

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

Sponsor(s)

Ste. Rose, Municipality (Parkland)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to implement a better method for the certification and recertification of Water Treatment Plant Operators for small communities.
