
Transportation and Infrastructure

Meeting with Minister Lisa Naylor

May 4, 2026



Association of
Manitoba Municipalities

Summary of Municipal Priorities

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Lisa Naylor and representatives of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure. 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 Naylor's portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.

1. Service Delivery Partnerships

Recommendation:

- ✓ *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.*

2. Provincial Infrastructure Maintenance

Recommendation:

- ✓ *Significantly increase maintenance and timely upgrades to provincial drainage and road infrastructure to mitigate flood risks and prevent damage to municipal assets.*

3. 2025 Wildfire Response After Action Review

Recommendation:

- ✓ *Collaborate with AMM and municipalities throughout all phases of the wildfire after-action review process to ensure recommendations are practical and grounded in local realities.*

Service Delivery Partnerships

Recommendation:

- ✓ ***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.***

The AMM values its ongoing collaboration with the Province through the AMM–MTI Service Delivery Working Group and appreciates the department’s responsiveness to municipal concerns through this forum. For example, AMM welcomed the Province’s **21%** increase in funding for municipal gravel road agreements to help address rising maintenance costs, as well as MTI’s decision to improve snow clearing agreements by providing **50%** of funding upfront rather than requiring municipalities to wait for reimbursement late in the season. These are positive steps that reflect the benefits of continued collaboration.

However, municipalities continue to face funding shortfalls that do not fully meet essential maintenance needs, along with ongoing delays in snow clearing on provincial roads within municipal boundaries. These delays place significant strain on municipalities, increase financial pressures, compromise public safety, and disrupt essential services. Addressing these challenges will require modernizing existing service agreements to ensure they are adequately funded, timely, and reflective of current costs and operational realities.

While discussions to date have focused primarily on gravel road maintenance, snow clearing, and noxious weeds, there is an opportunity to expand the scope of the Working Group to address other critical infrastructure priorities. This includes establishing a more dedicated and structured forum to address service delivery challenges and advance opportunities for interested municipalities to take on agreements with appropriate compensatory funding. Drainage maintenance, for example, remains a persistent concern across Manitoba, with insufficient provincial maintenance contributing to flooding and associated impacts in many communities. Similarly, municipalities continue to raise concerns regarding aging provincial road infrastructure requiring repair or replacement to ensure safety and reliability. Leveraging the Working Group to advance solutions in these areas would support a more coordinated and proactive approach to infrastructure management.

Finally, municipalities have consistently identified challenges in navigating provincial processes and accessing the appropriate contacts. In this regard, AMM welcomed the department’s introduction of four regional liaison officers to provide a direct point of contact for municipalities on infrastructure planning and project coordination. Continued efforts to strengthen communication and streamline processes will be essential to improving service delivery outcomes and supporting more effective provincial-municipal partnerships.

Provincial Infrastructure Maintenance

Recommendation:

- ✓ ***Significantly increase maintenance and timely upgrades to provincial drainage and road infrastructure to mitigate flood risks and prevent damage to municipal assets.***

The AMM recognizes that the Ministerial mandate letter directs the department to ensure Manitoba's road network, including bridges and culverts, remains in good repair, and that the *2024/2025 Multi-year Infrastructure Strategy* emphasizes renewal, climate resiliency, and connectivity. However, as we continue to engage directly with municipal councils across the province, we continue to hear consistent and growing concerns regarding insufficient maintenance of provincial drains and roads within municipal boundaries.

The lack of routine maintenance is causing significant harm to local communities, as evidenced by flooding that was primarily caused by clogged provincial drainage systems, resulting in multi-million-dollar disaster financial assistance (DFA) claims. For instance, repeated flooding caused by upstream water flows from Saskatchewan continues to trigger states of local emergency and ongoing DFA claims in some Manitoba municipalities. Municipalities continue to call for a permanent, coordinated solution to address this long-standing issue. Since municipal drainage networks are directly affected by provincial infrastructure, timely and preventative maintenance is essential to protecting public safety and reducing water-related damage.

At the same time, inconsistent grass mowing, brush cutting, sediment removal, and culvert maintenance are placing additional and ongoing financial strain on municipalities already facing limited fiscal capacity. Despite the Province's focus on infrastructure renewal, municipalities continue to report that aging provincial roads, ditches, culverts, and bridges remain in poor condition, particularly as extreme weather events become more frequent and severe. In recent years, weather-related damage has resulted in millions of dollars in impacts to municipal road systems, much of which falls outside DFA eligibility. Given strict budget constraints and the legal requirement to balance budgets, municipalities cannot absorb these escalating costs without provincial support.

In response, some municipalities have even proposed maintaining provincial drains, ditches and culverts under a voluntary service agreement with adequate compensatory funding, similar to those for snow and gravel road maintenance. Others have taken on maintenance directly to prevent flooding impacts, while funding availability remains inconsistent across jurisdictions. This patchwork approach creates inequities and financial uncertainty, reinforcing the need for a standardized and compensated provincial approach where municipalities are asked to assume these responsibilities.

2025 Wildfire Response After Action Review

Recommendation:

- ✓ ***Collaborate with AMM and municipalities throughout all phases of the wildfire after-action review process to ensure recommendations are practical and grounded in local realities.***

In 2025, the Province experienced the most extreme wildfire season in over three decades across Manitoba. Communities were threatened, critical infrastructure was at risk and thousands of Manitobans faced the fear and disruptions of evacuation. In response, we saw more than 700 firefighters from 118 municipal fire departments deployed through the Office of the Fire Commissioner's (OFC) mutual aid system. Through these challenging times, municipal partners, provincial teams, first responders and volunteers all stepped forward.

AMM welcomed the Province's commitment to undertake the most comprehensive after-action wildfire review in Manitoba's history. While recognizing that thorough analysis takes time, the increasing likelihood of future wildfire seasons due to changing climate conditions underscores the urgency of action. We appreciate that the Department responded to municipal feedback by releasing interim findings at the AMM Spring Convention, outlining key actions already underway to strengthen wildfire response ahead of the 2026 season. As the Province moves toward releasing the full after-action review this fall, it will be critical to engage closely with municipalities, the Office of the Fire Commissioner, and AMM throughout the process to ensure recommendations are practical, achievable, and reflective of on-the-ground realities.

At the same time, the 2025 wildfire season exposed clear gaps in fire protection and emergency response capacity across Manitoba. Previous programs, such as the one-time fire protection grant introduced in 2020, were heavily oversubscribed, demonstrating the significant need for support. AMM urges the Province to work with Municipal and Northern Relations to establish sustained funding opportunities to strengthen local capacity. The cost of fire services continues to rise significantly—fire trucks can exceed \$600,000 to \$1 million, and equipping a single firefighter can cost upwards of \$30,000, excluding training. Protecting communities and preparing for future wildfire seasons will require sustained investment and long-term support to ensure municipalities have resilient, well-equipped emergency services.

Active AMM Resolutions

AMM Resolution #18-2024: MTI Snow Removal Agreement

Sponsor(s)

West Interlake, RM (Interlake)

Whitemouth, RM (Eastern)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to prioritize the snow removal operations on all main streets within municipalities, regardless of their designation as part of the PTH; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province be mandated to formulate a mutually agreeable protocol with all local governments to address this issue effectively.

AMM Resolution #19-2024: Maintenance of Provincial Drainage Infrastructure

Sponsor(s)

Portage la Prairie, RM (Central)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to improve maintenance of provincial drainage infrastructure by doing the following:

- Increase funding for the maintenance of provincial drainage infrastructure and including PR and PTH right-of-ways;
 - Provide an option of funding to municipalities for the repair of problematic areas within provincial drainage infrastructure that negatively impacts private property; and
 - Work collaboratively with municipalities and other stakeholders to identify and address issues related to provincial drainage infrastructure.
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AMM Resolution #25-2024: Spring Weight Restrictions Enforcement

Sponsor(s)

Alexander, RM (Eastern)

Whitemouth, RM (Eastern)

Brokenhead, RM (Eastern)

Lac du Bonnet, RM (Eastern)

Beausejour, Town (Eastern)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to assist municipalities by enabling Manitoba Motor Carrier Enforcement Officers

(MCEO's) to aid in enforcing Spring Weight Restrictions on designated municipal roads; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a review of the provincial regulation be performed to provide a standardized set of rules and regulations for restricted roads for all municipalities to follow.

AMM Resolution #26-2024: PR Speed Limits

Sponsor(s)

Souris-Glenwood, Municipality (Western)
Carberry, Town (Western)
Elton, RM (Western)
Oakland-Wawanesa, Municipality (Western)
Whitehead, RM (Western)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to grant municipalities the authority, by by-law, to set speed limits on designated portions of Provincial Trunk Highways (PTH) and Provincial Roads (PR) that pass through urban areas.

AMM Resolution #27-2024: Public Road Maintenance in Mineral Extraction Areas

Sponsor(s)

Riding-Mountain West, RM (Midwestern)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to:

1. Recognize the significant costs of dust control and potential safety hazards for residents and motorists if not applied;
 2. Urge the provincial government to utilize a portion of the royalties and taxes collected from mineral extraction activities to establish a dedicated fund or grant program specifically aimed at assisting municipalities in covering the costs of dust control on PR roads impacted by mining-related transportation activities; and
 3. Encourage the provincial government to engage in meaningful dialogue and consultation with municipalities, industry stakeholders, and affected communities to develop fair and transparent mechanisms for allocating funds and resources.
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AMM Resolution #28-2024: Financial Assistance for Upgrades to Heavy Haul Roads

Sponsor(s)

Grandview, Municipality (Parkland)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for financial assistance for upgrades to heavy haul roads within all municipalities.

AMM Resolution #29-2024: Designated Roadways

Sponsor(s)

Souris-Glenwood, Municipality (Western)
Carberry, Town (Western)
Elton, RM (Western)
Oakland-Wawanesa, Municipality (Western)
Whitehead, RM (Western)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to assist municipalities with the infrastructure costs and construction with maintaining parking and surface drainage along provincial roads.

AMM Resolution #30-2024: Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred During Highway Closures

Sponsor(s)

Virden, Town (Western)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to obtain funding to reimburse municipalities for costs incurred during the hosting of stranded travelers for all communities affected by highway closures.

AMM Resolution #31-2024: Image Capturing Enforcement

Sponsor(s)

Brandon, City (Western)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend *The Highway Traffic Act Image Capturing Enforcement Regulation 220/2002* Section 5, to authorize municipalities and police services to allow image enforcement on public streets and highways in all municipalities in the Province of Manitoba.

AMM Resolution #41-2024: Pedestrian Routes along Highways – Standing Policy

Sponsor(s)

Taché, RM (Eastern)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to consider establishing pedestrian routes along highways within urbanized areas.