Cabinet Brief

Meeting with the Premier and Members of the Provincial Cabinet

NOVEMBER 24, 2026

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 2025-2026, Critical Issues requiring immediate action, and Important Issues that have seen some progress, but require more collaboration.

Successes in 2025/26

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 2026.
- While we appreciate the Premier's commitment to a **2%** annual increase, Manitoba's **4.4%** inflation rate as of September 2026 highlights the growing gap between funding increases and rising costs. This initial boost should serve as a baseline, not a long-term solution.
- 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 model.

Bill 33: The Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act

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 19 recommendations from the *Statutory Review of Planning Legislation Report.*
- We appreciate the multi-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.
- Bill 33 helps modernize the Municipal Board's mandate, processes, and scope of work, including introducing legislative changes to eliminate de novo hearings for certain planning appeals, a long-standing priority for the AMM.
- 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:

- Continue to collaborate with the AMM as the Action Plan moves forward to ensure Manitoba's planning framework is strengthened in a way that upholds local autonomy.

Amendments to The Capital Planning Region Regulation

Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- Since democratically elected municipal Councils know their communities best, the AMM welcomes the provincial government implementing legislative changes to enable a municipality to withdraw from the Capital Planning Region, if desired.
- By enabling municipalities to make decisions tailored to their unique contexts, this legislation enhances municipal ability so serve residents effectively and building a stronger, more resilient Manitoba.
- At the same time, the AMM recognizes that regional collaboration plays a major role in attracting business investment and fostering economic growth.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Collaborate with the AMM and affected municipalities as the Province prepares and adopts its first regional plan by-law, ensuring that regional planning decisions reflect the needs, priorities and long-term growth plans of municipalities within the Capital Planning Region.

Strengthening Bail Reform Measures

Department of Justice

Department of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness

- With Manitoba continuing to experience high rates of violent crime, the AMM and municipalities have called for stronger bail reform measures to support community safety. We appreciate the collaborative efforts to advance this issue with the federal government.
- The AMM welcomes the five-point bail reform plan, but its success will depend on dedicated and transparent funding.
- In June 2026, the federal government passed Bill C-14: *The Bail and Sentencing Reform Act,* which introduced sweeping reforms to strengthen Canada's bail and sentencing framework.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Promptly implement corresponding provincial measures to strengthen community safety now that 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.

Manitoba RCMP Vacancy Rates

Department of Justice

- The AMM has consistently raised concerns about high RCMP vacancy rates in Manitoba and the resulting impacts on frontline policing and the delivery of emergency services.
- The AMM welcomes the addition of new RCMP recruits to Manitoba, helping reduce vacancies by more than 50% across the province.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Continue working with our organization and the RCMP to sustain recruitment efforts, further reduce vacancies and ensure adequate frontline policing resources are available to meet the needs of Manitoba communities.

$39 Million (4.3% increase) for Public Safety Initiatives

Department of Justice

- The AMM thanks the Province of Manitoba for committing $39 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;
- 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).

Investing in the Revitalization of the Port of Churchill

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation
Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures

- The AMM welcomes Budget 2026's commitment of $262.5 million over five years in federal-provincial funding to strengthen transportation infrastructure and advance the Port of Churchill's potential as a strategic trade and energy corridor.
- The AMM also welcomes the Province’s new $10 million Churchill Plus Catalyst Fund to help attract investment and build momentum toward building the Port of Churchill Plus project as well as the PST exemption on major capital investments.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Ensure municipalities along the Hudson Bay Railway corridor are meaningfully consulted and involved in planning and development related to the Port of Churchill Plus project; and
- Expand PST relief to municipalities on high-priority capital equipment purchases, similar to the exemption provided for major Port of Churchill investments.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Department of Environment and Climate Change

- The AMM welcomes the Province's annual $4-million commitment to combat aquatic invasive species (AIS), including through the dedicated AIS Prevention Fund.
- The AMM was pleased to work with the department in developing an AIS Prevention FAQ and by-law template to support municipal prevention efforts.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Continue to invest and enhance public awareness to effectively prevent the spread of AIS, including zebra mussels; and
- Expand decontamination and inspection sites across Manitoba to cover all regions and effectively and protect local water bodies.

Funding for Municipal Airport Upgrades

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

- As municipal airport operating and maintenance costs continue to rise, the AMM welcomes the Province's investments in airport upgrades to maintain critical infrastructure and support essential services.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Continue investing in municipal airports and further enhance the Manitoba Airport Assistance Program (MAAP) to better reflect municipal needs and support ongoing airport infrastructure improvements.

10.3% Increase for Health-Care Initiatives

Department of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care

- The AMM appreciates the Manitoba government's **10.3%** increase to the health budget to improve provincial healthcare delivery, which includes $6.3 million to recruit more doctors to rural Manitoba.
- Municipalities should be cautious about funding healthcare initiatives, as 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.

Community Toolkit to Support Health-Care Initiatives

Department of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care

- The AMM welcomes the development and launch of the Community Toolkit and appreciates the Province's collaboration with the AMM and municipalities throughout its development.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Continue working with the AMM and municipalities to strengthen local health-care recruitment and retention efforts and improve access to care closer to home.

Bill 43: The Highway Traffic Amendment and Drivers and Vehicles Amendment Act

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

- The AMM appreciates the Province's response to concerns raised by municipalities through a provincial definition for personal electric vehicles (PEVs) and legislation addressing regulatory gaps previously managed at the local level.
- The AMM also supports the Bill's enabling approach, which provides municipalities with the flexibility to regulate personal electric vehicles based on local needs and circumstances.
- The AMM understands that new regulatory rules are anticipated to come into force in early 2027.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Prioritize ongoing public education and awareness campaigns to support the implementation of new PEV regulations, recognizing that enforcement will present practical challenges for municipalities; and
- Work with the AMM to ensure implementation does not result in additional enforcement responsibilities being downloaded onto municipalities.

Wildfire Provincial After-Action Review

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

- The AMM appreciates the Province's response to municipal feedback through the release of the Interim Wildfire Provincial After Action Review at the Spring Convention, outlining actions underway to strengthen wildfire preparedness and response ahead of the 2026 season.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Work with the AMM and municipalities to review and implement the recommendations of the final Wildfire Provincial After Action Review, ensuring municipal perspectives and local capacity are considered in strengthening wildfire preparedness and response.

Provincial DFA Program

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

- The AMM appreciates the Province's establishment of Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) programs to support municipalities impacted by the 2025 wildfires and the June 2026 heavy rainfall and overland flooding events.

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.

Survey Monument Restoration Program Cost Increase

Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- As an active member of the Survey Monument Restoration Working Group, the AMM welcomes the increase to the maximum eligible survey cost per monument to $1,500, with annual adjustments based on CPI.
- This is an important update, as the previous amount had not changed in over a decade.
- These changes will help ensure all eligible municipal survey monument restorations qualify for some level of reimbursement, addressing gaps under the previous funding structure.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Continue working through the Survey Monument Restoration Working Group to monitor program uptake, assess municipal needs and identify any further adjustments required through the annual guideline review process.

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, it falls short of **4.4%** inflation, underscoring the need for a modernized, growth-oriented funding framework that reflects current realities.
- Per capita allocations do not fully reflect municipal needs, particularly in communities with extensive road networks or smaller populations.
- Municipalities rely on property taxes while maintaining **60%** of public infrastructure, despite receiving less than **10 cents** of every tax dollar.
- Municipalities pay more than **$25 million** in PST annually to the Province and face rising costs for equipment, materials and infrastructure. Despite these pressures, they were excluded from the Province's **$100-million** tariff relief fund.
- 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:

- Work with the AMM to establish a modernized growth-oriented framework model with an annual escalator that addresses legacy inequities and reflects municipal cost pressures;
- Move to multi-year budgeting to assist with long-term planning and priority setting;
- Expand PST relief for municipalities through rebates on commonly purchased equipment and trilateral cost-shared projects, helping offset rising costs, including those associated with tariffs; 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 remained unchanged for two years, despite municipalities owning and maintaining **60%** of the public infrastructure that underpins Manitoba's economy.
- Outside Winnipeg, municipalities have identified **375 requests** for funding for water and wastewater treatment facilities and sewer infrastructure, with a combined value of approximately **$1.6 billion**.
- The Manitoba Water Services Board's budget is massively oversubscribed, yet its annual budget has been maintained in recent years.
- Canada and Manitoba have finalized a 10-year, $209.8 million Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) agreement to support housing-enabling infrastructure.
- The AMM also notes that the federal government's Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF) includes significant new investments for provincial and territorial infrastructure, including a $479.8 million agreement with Manitoba for housing and post-secondary infrastructure over 10 years.

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;
- Advocate for a dedicated water and wastewater infrastructure funding program at both the provincial and federal levels;
- Significantly increase the Manitoba Water Services Board's (MWSB) budget to address the growing backlog of municipal water and wastewater infrastructure priorities; and
- Collaborate with the AMM to ensure sufficient provincial matching funds are available so municipalities can fully leverage federal infrastructure programs, including CHIF and BCSF.

From the Ground Up Program

Department of Municipal and Northern Relations

- The AMM appreciates the investments made to municipal projects under this year's From the Ground Up (FTGU) intake.
- The AMM believes the longstanding collaborative approach between the AMM and the Province to reviewing municipal applications can be strengthened.
- 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;
- Enhance 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 to provincial infrastructure maintenance funding, overall investment remains insufficient to address rising repair costs, aging infrastructure and growing pressures on municipal transportation networks.

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
- Expand the scope of the AMM-MTI Service Delivery Working Group to address broader municipal priorities, including drainage and opportunities to advance pilot projects and service delivery agreements with 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.
- While RCMP vacancy rates in Manitoba have declined significantly, continued efforts are needed to achieve full staffing across detachments and ensure consistent policing services.
- Law enforcement represents one of the largest municipal expenditures. While the Province provides a **2% annual increase** in municipal law enforcement funding, this falls short of **4.4% inflation**, placing additional pressure on municipal budgets.
- The AMM's 2024 Probe Research poll found that only **5%** of Manitobans felt safer in their communities than three years earlier, while **56%** felt less safe, highlighting ongoing public concern about community safety.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Continue efforts to reduce RCMP vacancies and strengthen support for law enforcement to ensure adequate staffing and frontline police presence in communities;
- Explore alternative patient and inter-facility transfer options under *The Mental Health Act* to reduce reliance on the RCMP and the associated strain on police resources and municipal budgets; 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.

Accessibility Legislation and Standards

Department of Families

- The AMM welcomes the governments fifth 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 also appreciates the Province's decision to extend public sector accessibility plan timelines from two to four years, reflecting AMM feedback to better align with municipal election cycles.
- We are concerned about the government's proposed 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:

- Expand funding through the Manitoba Accessibility Fund and reduce the administrative and financial burdens on municipalities in meeting the requirements of *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act*; and
- Prioritize education and capacity-building to better support municipalities in meeting accessibility standards.

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 2027 increase to the Homeowners Affordability Tax Credit (HATC) to $1,700 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 and financial pressures; and
- Improve transparency in property tax billing by exploring options to clearly distinguish education and municipal taxes on property tax statements, reducing confusion for taxpayers and administrative burdens for municipalities.

Medical Lift Assists Funding Framework

Department of Health, Seniors, and Long-Term Care

- As healthcare is a shared provincial and federal responsibility, the AMM is concerned that municipal firefighters continue to be dispatched to perform medical lift assists in provincial healthcare facilities where staff are available.
- Regional health authorities have taken inconsistent approaches to funding lift assists. Some previously compensated municipalities for these services but have since discontinued funding, while others have never provided compensation.
- The AMM has been working with Shared Health and the Province for over a year to explore a potential funding framework that addresses existing inconsistencies and the ongoing demands placed on municipal fire departments.
- Lift assists create additional costs for municipalities and pull firefighters away from their communities, potentially affecting local emergency response capacity.
- With significant federal transfers supporting provincial healthcare and infrastructure priorities, the AMM believes a modest provincial investment to reimburse municipalities for lift assists is a practical solution.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Establish a standardized provincial reimbursement framework for municipal lift assists, modelled on Manitoba Public Insurance's (MPI) Securing the Scene program and its emergency response reimbursement structure.

Essential Cell Service

Department of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation

- AMM continues to hear directly from municipal leaders about persistent cellular coverage gaps across Manitoba and their impacts on public safety, economic growth, and regional competitiveness.
- 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:

- 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 provincial connectivity strategy that brings together all orders of government, telecommunications providers, and other stakeholders to improve cellular services 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;
- 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.

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;
- Expedite the development and distribution of an informational toolkit, in collaboration with the AMM and municipalities, to support more consistent and effective by-law enforcement.; and
- Identify a standardized set of court-vetted by-laws with modernized fines to reduce administrative and financial burdens on municipalities.

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.
- The AMM welcomes new federal infrastructure investments through the Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF), while emphasizing the need for timely rollout of the provincial-territorial stream so municipalities can advance local projects without missing another construction season.
- 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;
- Expedite the provincial-territorial BCSF stream and provide municipalities with clear funding timelines and application details;
- Advocate for a dedicated water and wastewater infrastructure funding program at both the provincial and federal levels; and
- Maintain the AMM's involvement in reviewing municipal funding applications to support transparent decisions that reflect local priorities.

Next Generation 911 Transition Plan

Department of Municipal and Northern Relations
Department of Justice

- The AMM has been engaged with Bell MTS on Manitoba's Next Generation 911 (NG-911) transition since 2022, with the Province becoming more actively involved over the past two years.
- The AMM values its collaboration with the Department of Justice and appreciates its efforts to advance the FAQ with the AMM and Bell MTS, while supporting ongoing efforts to enhance communication and information sharing with municipalities.
- Given the complexity of NG-911, municipalities need clear, consistent information about their responsibilities and timelines. Evolving communications from Bell MTS have contributed to uncertainty around future GIS requirements.
- The AMM understands that the Province has engaged a third-party consultant to assess Manitoba's GIS data gaps and determine the scope of work required.
- Other provinces have committed significant funding to support their NG-911 transitions. Manitoba must also ensure municipalities have the financial and technical resources needed to meet the requirements of this transition.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Lead and resource a coordinated, province-wide approach to GIS data collection and aggregation for Next Generation 911 to alleviate costs on municipalities; and
- Establish an inter-departmental Working Group with the AMM to oversee the NG-911 transition, support municipalities, and prevent added costs.

Recruitment and Retention of Healthcare Professionals

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

- Despite healthcare being a shared provincial and federal 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.
- The AMM recognizes the Province's efforts to strengthen the health-care workforce, including adding 4,725 net-new health-care workers since 2023, investing in more than 130 Institutional Safety Officers (ISOs) and expanding recruitment pathways for internationally trained professionals through initiatives such as the Health Care Retention and Recruitment Office.
- Despite this progress, ongoing concerns remain, including hospitals across Manitoba being designated as grey zones, highlighting continued challenges with workplace safety and staffing pressures.
- The AMM welcomes the development and launch of the Community Toolkit and appreciates the Province's collaboration with the AMM and municipalities throughout its development.

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
- Build on the previous work of the Immigration Advisory Council by advancing opportunities to accelerate credential recognition and strengthen regional settlement supports for internationally trained health-care professionals.

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 AMM welcomes the Province's release of the Certification Advisory Committee's (CAC) report, which contains recommendations that align with longstanding municipal concerns and AMM advocacy.
- As part of these efforts, an initial toolkit has been developed addressing three of the CAC report's 31 recommendations, with further work needed to advance the remaining recommendations.
- 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; and
- Collaborate with the AMM and municipalities to expand the initial toolkit into a comprehensive, centralized resource that provides practical guidance and support.

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.
- The AMM welcomes the new Economic Development Agency (EDA) to support economic development across all regions, providing single-window access to programs, services, and business supports.
- Economic development across Manitoba continues to be hindered by shortages in local and regional water capacity within municipalities.
- Renewed attention to the Port of Churchill and northern trade opportunities presents significant economic potential for Manitoba, reinforcing the need for sustained investment in northern infrastructure and community capacity to ensure municipalities can capitalize on emerging 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;
- Accompany the strategy with clear, dedicated investment commitments, particularly for water and wastewater infrastructure to spur economic growth; and
- Ensure northern communities and directly affected municipalities are actively involved in decisions on regional development and infrastructure investments.

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 understands that the Province is currently reviewing the transition plan, which, once approved, is expected to be implemented through a phased approach over four years by MMSM.
- Meanwhile, uncertainty around the timing of the transition to full EPR is creating challenges for municipalities as they make time-sensitive decisions regarding contracts, capital investments and service levels.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Expedite the review and approval of the proposed transition plan to provide municipalities with greater certainty and allow the four-year phased implementation of full EPR to proceed; and
- 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.
- Refrain from introducing new provincial regulatory requirements that increase costs for municipalities without providing appropriate financial support to offset those costs.

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.
- Additionally, the AMM appreciates the Department's efforts to raise awareness of Crown land acquisition processes by sharing the guide through a breakout session at the AMM Fall Convention.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Continue working with the AMM to finalize, communicate and maintain the municipal guide and toolkit, ensuring it provides clear, practical guidance on Crown land acquisition processes.

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.

Broadband Internet Connectivity

Department of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation

- As strong connectivity is essential for communities to participate in today's digital economy, the AMM has consistently advocated for a provincial broadband connectivity strategy.
- Since its inception, only a small fraction of 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.
- The AMM understands that the Province has taken steps to improve access to Manitoba Hydro's fibre infrastructure, including new agreements with Valley Fiber announced in 2026. However, broader rural and northern connectivity gaps remain.
- The AMM continues to emphasize the importance of leveraging existing Manitoba Hydro fibre infrastructure to expand reliable, affordable broadband access across rural, northern and remote communities.

The AMM recommends the government:

- Advance a coordinated provincial rural broadband strategy that leverages existing fibre infrastructure to expand reliable, high-speed Internet access across Manitoba; and
- Leverage federal funding programs, such as the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF), to expand broadband and cellular programs across Manitoba.

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

SUCCESSES IN 2025-2026

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

Bill 33: The Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act

- Resolution #03-2025: Municipal Board Processes
- Resolution #05-2023: Municipal Board Delays
- Resolution #04-2018: The Planning Amendment Act

Amendments to The Capital Planning Region Regulation

- N/A

Strengthening Bail Reform Measures

- Resolution #18-2025: Amendments to the Criminal Code

Manitoba RCMP Vacancy Rates

- Resolution #24-2025: RCMP Staffing Shortages
- Resolution #15-2025: Updating and Modernizing The Mental Health Act
- Resolution #23-2023: Full Staffing for RCMP Detachments

$39 Million for Public Safety Initiatives

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

Investing in The Revitalization of The Port of Churchill

- N/A

Aquatic Invasive Species

- Resolution #14-2020: Zebra Mussels

Funding for Municipal Airport Upgrades

- Resolution #20-2023: Funding for Municipally Owned Airports

10.3% Increase for Health-Care Initiatives

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

Community Toolkit to Support Health-Care Recruitment and Retention

- 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

Bill 43: The Highway Traffic Amendment and Drivers and Vehicles Amendment Act

- Resolution #10-2025: Golf Carts on Municipal Roads

Wildfire Provincial After Action Review

- Resolution #12-2025: Forest Fire Mitigation
- Resolution #13-2023: Fire Equipment
- Resolution #05-2022: Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training
- Resolution #04-2022: Permanent Fire Protection Grant Program

Provincial DFA Programs

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

Survey Monument Restoration Program Cost Increase

- Resolution #18-2023: Survey Monument Restoration Program

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 #37-2015: PST Exemption

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 #08-2022: Water Infrastructure Funding
- Resolution #15-2022: Third Order Drains and Drainage Policy
- Resolution #17-2012: Drainage on Crown lands

Tackling Crime and Policing Sustainability

- Resolution #18-2025: Amendments to the Criminal Code
- 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 #39-2019: RCMP Funding Formula
- Resolution #42-2009: New Police Services Act

Accessibility Legislation and Standards

- Resolution #41-2017: Accessibility Legislation & Standards

Modernize Education Funding & Homeowners Affordability Tax Credit (HATC)

- Resolution #32-2013: Modernize Education Funding

Medical Lift Assist Funding Framework

- Resolution #28-2023: Medical Assist Calls MPI Reimbursement
- Resolution #27-2023: Ending the Downloading of Emergency Medical Service Responsibilities

Essential Cell Service

- Resolution #24-2024: Cellular Services

- Resolution #09-2024: NG-911 Cellular Services
- Resolution #24-2024: Essential Cell Service

Simplifying Municipal Tax Tools and Service Equity

- Resolution #09-2025: Tax Sale
- Resolution #25-2025: Amendment to The Municipal Assessment Act
- Resolution #01-2023: New Funding Model
- Resolution #12-2023: Funding Formula
- Resolution #52-2023: Assessment and Taxation Tools
- Resolution #02-2022: Municipal Revenue
- Resolution #05-2021: Tax Reform Study
- Resolution #08-2019: Municipal Tax Autonomy

By-Law Enforcement Efficiency and Standardization

- Resolution #39-2024: By-Law Enforcement Fines
- Resolution #24-2023: By-Law Enforcement
- Resolution #25-2023: By-Law Standardization
- Resolution #28-2022: By-Law Enforcement Clarity

IMPORTANT ISSUES – MORE COLLABORATION NEEDED

Next Generation Federal Infrastructure Funding and AMM Involvement

- Resolution #03-2023: CCBF Funding Formula Distribution

Next Generation 911 Transition Plan

- Resolution #09-2024: NG-911 Cellular Services
- Resolution #09-2020: Navigational System for 911

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

Water and Wastewater Operator Certification

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

Economic Development Strategy

- N/A

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 #17-2012: Drainage on Crown lands

Landfill Engineering Costs

- Resolution #11-2022: Waste Disposal Financial Assistance

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

Fostering Municipal–Indigenous Partnerships

- None

Broadband Internet Connectivity

- N/A

Funding for Community Museums

- None

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