

**WORKING TO
ACHIEVE STRONG
AND EFFECTIVE
MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENT**

2022
ANNUAL REPORT

ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES





TABLE OF CONTENTS

2. Map	12. Advocacy Highlights
4. From the President	14. Policy Accomplishments & Obstacles
5. From the Executive Director	18. AMM Cities Caucus
6. AMM Board of Directors	19. Meeting with Provincial Cabinet
8. AMM Staff	20. Member Events
9. AMM Members	22. Trading Company
10. Meeting with Ministers	24. Financial Statements

FROM THE PRESIDENT



KAM BLIGHT,
PRESIDENT



2022 SAW THE MOST SUCCESSSES IN AMM HISTORY

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), it is my pleasure to present the 2022 Annual Report, encapsulating the highest number of policy successes in any given year for the AMM. I hope that as you peruse the pages of this Annual Report, you feel a sense of pride in the accomplishments we have highlighted.

First, having just finished the 2022 municipal elections, I would like to congratulate all newly elected and re-elected officials. New councils bring fresh ideas, changes, and innovation to achieve strong and effective municipal government. I want to also thank all who served, those who put their names on the ballot this year, and especially first-time candidates stepping forward.

In my message, I am pleased to speak to some of the most successes we have seen in AMM history. Some of the advocacy wins that I am proud of and that you will see throughout the Annual Report are COVID-19 assistance to municipalities, reversing the ban on federally approved weed control products (Bill 22), **\$15 million** to support municipal road repairs, **\$9 million** for Green Teams Program, and **\$750,000** for rural public libraries and library services for the second year in a row, to name a few. The AMM has also led several national policy files, such as RCMP unionization and body-worn cameras, as well as advocating for greater funds for water and wastewater infrastructure.

While we have begun to shift away from the pandemic, we continue to deal with inflationary pressures and skyrocketing fuel costs, all while trying to recover from the financial and economic challenges brought on by the pandemic. The AMM recognizes these pressures and remains committed to working collaboratively with the Province of Manitoba to help advance our Partners in Growth Initiative so municipalities can continue to help build a stronger Manitoba.

Finally, it has truly been an honour serving as AMM President for the past two years. I want to thank the AMM Executive, Board, and staff for all their efforts and support; their incredible dedication ensures that the AMM stays focused on what the future holds for municipal government and helping municipalities meet the challenges facing them.

Kam Blight
AMM President



DENYS VOLKOV,
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



**OUR MEMBERSHIP
EVENTS ARE
ALWAYS A
HIGHLIGHT, BUT
THIS YEAR WAS
TRULY SPECIAL AS
WE COULD FINALLY
HOLD BOTH OF OUR
MAJOR EVENTS
IN PERSON**

In-person events are always more enjoyable, and even though we've perfected the delivery of virtual meetings, there is no question that being together in a room is the most preferred method for most.

As we start to move past the pandemic, municipalities are dealing with a number of pressing issues such as inflation and fuel costs, all while recovering from pandemic-related economic and financial challenges. Thankfully, one thing that has remained unchanged for AMM members is your insurance protection.

Our group insurance is extremely important to the overall operations of the AMM, as this program provides municipalities with complete insurance protection and premiums significantly lower in comparison to if individual municipalities were to purchase their own coverage.

Since 2009, the program has returned over **\$16.25 million** in premium returns to municipalities directly in the form of returns-of-premium! These extra funds empower you to meet local needs by giving your councils the authority to allocate funding toward various projects that impact your communities in a positive and meaningful way.

This year, the AMM engaged the Exchange Group to independently review the AMM's property/casualty 'protected self-insurance' program administered by Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions. We can, once again, confidently say that our members are receiving the best coverage – and value – for their money, making our insurance program the best in class.

Not only does the AMM offer such a robust insurance program, but we also offer employee benefits packages and HR services. As you get settled into your four-year election term, I encourage you to check out our website to learn more about the programs the AMM has to offer!

Denys Volkov
AMM Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President
Reeve Kam Blight
RM of Portage la Prairie



Vice-President
Mayor Chris Ewen
RM of Ritchot



Vice-President
Reeve Brad Saluk
RM of Brokenhead



Central Director
Reeve Morris Olafson
RM of Stanley



Central Director
Councillor Nancy Penner
City of Morden



Eastern Director
Councillor Melanie Parent
RM of Piney



Eastern Director
Reeve Loren Schinkel
RM of Lac du Bonnet



Interlake Director
Councillor Kelly Cook
City of Selkirk



Interlake Director
Reeve Cheryl Smith
RM of St. Laurent



Midwestern Director
Councillor Linda Little
Hamiota Municipality



Midwestern Director
Mayor Mervin Starzyk
RM of Yellowhead

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Northern Director
Councillor Karen MacKinnon
City of Flin Flon



Northern Director
Councillor Kathy Valentino
City of Thompson



Parkland Director
Reeve Ron Kostyshyn
Mossey River Municipality



Parkland Director
Councillor James Manchur
Gilbert Plains Municipality



Western Director
Councillor Rhonda Coupland
Municipality of Boissevain-Morton



Western Director
Mayor Stuart Olmstead
Town of Carberry



Winnipeg Director
Councillor Jeff Browaty
City of Winnipeg



President Duane Nicol
Manitoba Municipal
Administrators



AMM STAFF



Denys Volkov
Executive Director



Linda Hargest
Director of Administration
& Marketing



Nick Krawetz
Director of Policy &
Communications



Patti De Baets
Finance Coordinator



Stefanie Vieira
Senior Policy Analyst



Donna Belbin
Events Coordinator



Nanette Eserio
Administrative Assistant



Ainsley Murdock
Client Relations Manager
Canoe Procurement Group of Canada

Alexander, RM
 Alonsa, RM
 Altona, Town
 Arborg, Town
 Argyle, RM
 Armstrong, RM
 Beausejour, Town
 Bifrost-Riverton, Municipality
 Boissevain-Morton, Municipality
 Brandon, City
 Brenda-Waskada, Municipality
 Brokenhead, RM
 Carberry, Town
 Carman, Town
 Cartier, RM
 Cartwright-Roblin, Municipality
 Churchill, Town
 Clanwilliam-Erickson, Municipality
 Coldwell, RM
 Cornwallis, RM
 Dauphin, City
 Dauphin, RM
 De Salaberry, RM
 Deloraine-Winchester, Municipality
 Dufferin, RM
 Dunnottar, Village
 East St. Paul, RM
 Ellice-Archie, RM
 Elton, RM
 Emerson-Franklin, Municipality
 Ethelbert, Municipality
 Fisher, RM
 Flin Flon, City
 Gilbert Plains, Municipality
 Gillam, Town
 Gimli, RM
 Glenboro-South Cypress, Municipality
 Glenella-Lansdowne, Municipality
 Grahamdale, RM
 Grand Rapids, Town
 Grandview, Municipality
 Grassland, Municipality
 Grey, RM
 Hamiota, Municipality
 Hanover, RM
 Harrison Park, Municipality

Headingley, RM
 Kelsey, RM
 Killarney-Turtle Mountain, Municipality
 La Broquerie, RM
 Lac du Bonnet, RM
 Lac du Bonnet, Town
 Lakeshore, RM
 Leaf Rapids, Town
 Lorne, Municipality
 Louise, Municipality
 Lynn Lake, Town
 Macdonald, RM
 McCreary, Municipality
 Melita, Town
 Minitonas-Bowsman, Municipality
 Minnedosa, Town
 Minto-Odanah, RM
 Montcalm, RM
 Morden, City
 Morris, RM
 Morris, Town
 Mossey River, Municipality
 Mountain, RM
 Mystery Lake, LGD
 Neepawa, Town
 Niverville, Town
 Norfolk Treherne, Municipality
 North Cypress-Langford, Municipality
 North Norfolk, Municipality
 Oakland-Wawanesa, Municipality
 Oakview, RM
 Pembina, Municipality
 Pinawa, LGD
 Piney, RM
 Pipestone, RM
 Portage la Prairie, City
 Portage la Prairie, RM
 Powerview-Pine Falls, Town
 Prairie Lakes, RM
 Prairie View, Municipality
 Reynolds, RM
 Rhineland, Municipality
 Riding Mountain West, RM
 Ritchot, RM
 Riverdale, Municipality
 Roblin, Municipality

Rockwood, RM
 Roland, RM
 Rosedale, RM
 Rossburn, Municipality
 Rosser, RM
 Russell-Binscarth, Municipality
 Selkirk, City
 Sifton, RM
 Snow Lake, Town
 Souris-Glenwood, Municipality
 Springfield, RM
 St. Andrews, RM
 St. Clements, RM
 St. François Xavier, RM
 St. Laurent, RM
 Stanley, RM
 Ste. Anne, RM
 Ste. Anne, Town
 Ste. Rose, Municipality
 Steinbach, City
 Stonewall, Town
 St-Pierre-Jolys, Village
 Stuartburn, RM
 Swan River, Town
 Swan Valley West, Municipality
 Taché, RM
 Teulon, Town
 The Pas, Town
 Thompson, City
 Thompson, RM
 Two Borders, Municipality
 Victoria Beach, RM
 Victoria, RM
 Virden, Town
 Wallace-Woodworth, RM
 West Interlake, RM
 West St. Paul, RM
 WestLake-Gladstone, Municipality
 Whitehead, RM
 Whitemouth, RM
 Winkler, City
 Winnipeg Beach, Town
 Woodlands, RM
 Yellowhead, RM

MEETING WITH MINISTERS

2022



February 16:
Agriculture Meeting
with Minister
Derek Johnson



February 18:
Infrastructure and
Transportation
Meeting with Minister
Doyle Piwniuk



February 22:
Families
Meeting
with Minister
Rochelle Squires



March 10:
Mental Health
and Community
Wellness Meeting
with Minister
Sarah Guillemard



March 14:
Natural Resources
and Northern
Development
Meeting
with Minister
Scott Fielding



March 21:
Labour,
Consumer
Protection and
Government
Services Meeting
with Minister
Reg Helwer



April 14:
Advanced
Education, Skills
and Immigration
Meeting with
Minister Jon Reyes



April 14:
Economic
Development,
Investment and
Trade Meeting
with Minister
Cliff Cullen



April 14:
Indigenous
Reconciliation
and Northern
Relations
Meeting with
Minister Alan
Lagimodiere



**The AMM meets regularly throughout the year with the Minister of Municipal Relations, the Honourable Eileen Clarke.*



June 7:
Health Meeting
with Minister
Audrey Gordon



June 13:
Environment,
Climate and
Parks Meeting
with Minister
Jeff Wharton



September 26:
Education and
Early Childhood
Learning
with Minister
Wayne Ewasko



September 26:
Seniors and
Long-Term
Care Meeting
with Minister
Scott Johnston



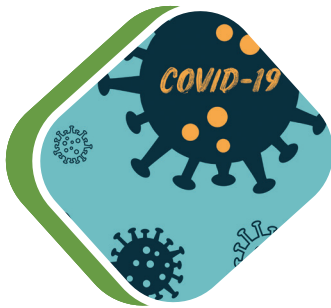
September 26:
Sport, Culture and
Heritage Meeting
with Minister
Andrew Smith



October 10:
Justice Meeting
with Minister
Kelvin Goertzen



ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



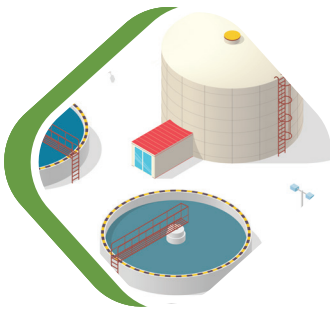
COVID-19

Our advocacy efforts for greater COVID-19 support have resulted in the Province of Manitoba flowing 75% of operating grants to municipalities back in May, with the other 25% in the fall for the **third year in a row**.



Public Safety and Local Crime

Public safety and crime prevention are top priorities for municipalities. The AMM developed a survey to better understand public safety challenges throughout local communities. The survey was administered in April 2022, and the AMM received 73 survey responses.



Manitoba Water Services Board

The Province of Manitoba increased funding to **\$20 Million** for the Manitoba Water Services Board to upgrade or construct water and wastewater treatment facilities as well as sewer infrastructure across Manitoba.



Building Sustainable Communities Program

As part of Budget 2022: Recover Together, the Manitoba government more than doubled funding to **\$25 million** in the Building Sustainable Communities (BSC) Program to fund local projects that will support economic growth and recovery throughout the province.



Municipal Road Repairs

On May 9, 2022, the Honourable Heather Stefanson, Premier of Manitoba, and the Honourable Eileen Clarke, Minister of Municipal Relations, announced that the Province will invest **\$15 million** in a one-time grant program to provide municipalities with financial support for road reconstruction, rehabilitation, and preservation projects.



Green Team Program

On April 20, 2022, the Honourable Eileen Clarke, Minister of Municipal Relations, announced that the Manitoba government is providing **\$9 million** for the province's Green Team Program to employ young leaders aged 15 to 29 to help advance community development projects across Manitoba.



Rural Public Libraries and Library Services

The Province of Manitoba announced over \$750,000 of new funding to support rural public libraries and library services for the **second year in a row**.



Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance Program (DFA)

The Manitoba government quickly announced a DFA Program for impacted municipalities in May for Manitoba municipalities who once again endured several detrimental spring storms and significant flooding. In fact, 32 municipalities declared States of Local Emergency.

POLICY ACCOMPLISHMENTS & OBSTACLES

COVID-19 Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic caused all orders of government to adjust to an ever-changing reality. Meanwhile, municipalities have remained on the front lines delivering essential services that Manitobans rely on. The AMM recognizes that the economic slowdown has exacerbated the financial pressures on municipalities.

Over the course of the pandemic, the AMM has appealed to both the provincial and federal governments requesting greater financial assistance so that municipalities are equipped to continue delivering critical services during and after this pandemic. For this reason, the AMM administered a third COVID-19 survey to gather information on the 2022 fiscal impacts on Manitoba municipalities. The goal of the survey was to provide guidance to the provincial and federal governments as they contemplate additional financial assistance to municipalities.

The survey was administered in January 2022, and 77 municipalities responded. The data from the survey strongly suggests that municipalities remain under tremendous financial strain, and further revenue losses are anticipated throughout 2022 and beyond. In fact, **89%** of municipalities identified further operating losses since the Province of Manitoba flowed \$106 million on behalf of the federal

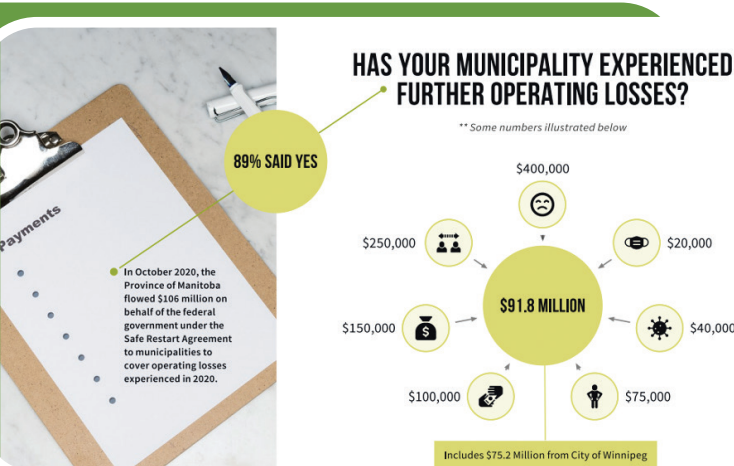


government under the Safe Restart Agreement (SRA). Survey data also shows that municipalities in Manitoba have collectively experienced **\$91.8 million** in further operating losses since the distribution of SRA, **\$7.3 million** in pandemic-related costs, and **\$53.3 million** in forecasted financial losses for 2022. These figures have been extrapolated to reflect all 137 municipalities.

Our advocacy efforts for greater COVID-19 support have resulted in the Province of Manitoba flowing 75% of operating grants to municipalities back in May, with the other 25% in the fall for the **third year in a row**. Moreover, while the AMM appreciates the \$106 million for municipalities under the Safe Restart Agreement (SRA), our members noted that it could take between five to eight years to recover financially to pre-crisis COVID-19 levels. We know that municipalities are feeling the effects of the ongoing pandemic, supply-chain challenges, and soaring inflation. Thus, the AMM will continue to call on the provincial and federal governments for greater support to help offset operating losses due to the pandemic.

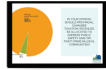
Public Safety and Local Crime

We know that policing and public safety is the fastest-growing cost for municipalities and now exceeds 20% of spending. Since public safety and crime prevention are top priorities for municipalities, the AMM developed a survey to better understand public safety challenges throughout local



For more information, please visit <http://www.amm.mb.ca/download/presentations/covid-19-survey-3.pdf>.

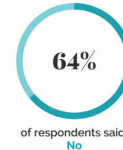
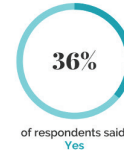
Key Findings



- 84% of respondents noted that property crime is very/somewhat likely to occur in their municipality.
- 77% of respondents noted that drug crime is very/somewhat likely to occur in their municipality.
- 92% of respondents noted that they are very/somewhat concerned about illicit drug use in their municipality.
- 92% of respondents noted that they are very/somewhat concerned about the lack of police presence.
- 64% of respondents feel that their municipality does not have enough police officers to make community members feel safe.
- 88% of municipalities believe that enhanced police visibility is a priority for 2022 and beyond.
- 95% of respondents noted that they strongly/somewhat believe, provincial cannabis taxation-revenues should be allocated to address public safety and/or fight crime in local communities.
- 90% believe the Province should not be able to replace municipal representatives on police boards with provincial appointees.



Do you feel that your municipality has enough police officers to make community members feel safe?



communities. The survey was administered in April 2022, and the AMM received 73 survey responses.

Based on our survey results, municipalities want to see enhanced community presence to address rising crime rates in local communities. For instance, 92% of respondents noted that they are concerned about the lack of police presence throughout their communities, while 90% believe the Province should not be able to replace municipal representatives on police Boards with provincial appointees. In addition, 84% and 77% of respondents noted that property and drug crimes are likely to occur within their municipal boundaries. 92% of respondents also expressed concern about illicit drug use in their municipality.

As the survey reaffirmed long-standing municipal concerns, the AMM has met and continues to meet with stakeholders and Manitoba Justice departmental staff to review our survey findings and possible next steps. The AMM continues to encourage Manitoba Justice to increase support to local community police forces to address increasing rates of rural crime as well as the violence and social implications related to the distribution and use of illicit drugs.

Moving forward, the AMM will continue to call on the provincial and federal governments to increase support for policing services in order to properly address local public safety priorities and help local governments manage increasing public safety costs.

\$20 Million for the Manitoba Water Services Board

Demand far outpaces provincial and federal dollars as municipalities have identified more than **\$752 million** to upgrade or construct water and wastewater treatment facilities as well as sewer infrastructure across Manitoba. Thus, we are pleased to see the Province of Manitoba increase funding for the Manitoba Water Services Board.

As municipalities look for solutions to mitigate future flooding and increase drought resilience, investments in water storage structure and irrigation will also be critical

to manage water sustainability. We know that municipalities across Manitoba continue to experience marketplace pressures and the need for additional infrastructure dollars due to provincial and federal delays announcing Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) projects.

That is why the AMM continues to call on both the provincial and federal governments to make available greater funding for water and wastewater treatment facilities. In fact, AMM President Kam Blight made this point known during the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) national meeting. At this meeting, the AMM had the opportunity to address water and wastewater challenges across Manitoba and to ensure next generations of federal funding are reflective of municipal Manitoba. Additionally, the AMM continues to call on Infrastructure Canada to strongly consider delivering an increased amount of federal infrastructure funding through the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) instead of cost-shared or application-based programs, which are less flexible and predictable.

\$25 Million for the Building Sustainable Communities Program

As part of Budget 2022: Recover Together, the Manitoba government invested \$25 million in the Building Sustainable Communities (BSC) Program to fund local projects that will support economic growth and recovery throughout the province.

Launched in 2019, the BSC Program gives municipalities and non-profit organizations a single point of access to community grants. In 2021-22, the BSC Program was expanded to include support for larger-scale capital projects with a maximum grant contribution of 50% of eligible capital project costs up to \$300,000. The AMM commends the Province for doubling the Building Sustainable Communities Program. During a time of economic uncertainty, this Program is vital to help promote greater economic development and thriving local communities across Manitoba.

For more information, please visit <http://www.amm.mb.ca/download/presentations/2022.08.02-amm-public-safety-survey-summary-presentation.pdf>.

Bill 22 Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

Since 2015, the AMM has called on the Province of Manitoba to reverse the ban on federally approved weed control products as it negatively affects weed control services in local communities. The AMM has long called for this change since modifications to the *Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation* increased costs tenfold for some municipalities, which forced them to use alternative products that proved ineffective.

On March 14, 2022, the Province of Manitoba announced amendments to align Manitoba's cosmetic pesticide legislation with federal regulations. The review process undertaken by Health Canada is rigorous and encompasses public safety review mechanisms. Thus, the AMM has great confidence in science-based federal regulations regarding the approval of pesticides. Aligning with federal regulations will allow municipalities to effectively manage weed control programs while mitigating financial pressures on municipal budgets. Moving forward, we will continue to work with the provincial government to help with communication and inform our members of these positive changes.

\$15 Million to Support Municipal Road Repairs

The AMM has long called on the Province of Manitoba to provide municipalities with predictable long-term funding to help municipalities properly maintain and protect municipal infrastructure. On May 9, 2022, the Honourable Heather Stefanson, Premier of Manitoba, and the Honourable Eileen Clarke, Minister of Municipal Relations, announced that the Province will invest \$15 million in a one-time grant program to provide municipalities with financial support for road reconstruction, rehabilitation, and preservation projects.

As part of this grant program, the Province will distribute \$15 million to Manitoba's 137 municipalities on a per-capita basis. The grant is equivalent to a **5% increase** to the comprehensive operating and infrastructure funding support municipalities receive annually through Manitoba's basket funding model, the Strategic Municipal Investment Fund. This funding announcement is certainly a step in the right direction and will positively help all municipalities across the province.

\$9 Million in Green Team Program

On April 20, 2022, the Honourable Eileen Clarke, Minister of Municipal Relations, announced that the Manitoba

government is providing \$9 million for the province's Green Team Program to employ young leaders aged 15 to 29 to help advance community development projects across Manitoba.

We know that local communities have experienced significant operating losses as well as staffing shortfalls due to the ongoing pandemic. Thus, the AMM commends the Province for increasing the Green Team Program for the **third year in a row**. As we look to move past this pandemic, programs such as Green Team are essential to continue building a stronger economy. This Program will not only help municipalities hire students looking to gain work experience but also promote community involvement while improving local communities.

\$750,000 for Rural Public Libraries and Library Services

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become clear that local libraries are critical for fostering community relations and partnerships throughout local communities. The AMM has long called on the Province of Manitoba to increase provincial funding to libraries to ensure these facilities can keep their doors open in local communities. Therefore, we are pleased to see the Province of Manitoba announce over \$750,000 of new funding to support rural public libraries and library services for the **second year in a row**.

Aggregate Mining and Transportation Fees Regulation Amendments

Since 2017, the AMM has called on the Province of Manitoba, alongside the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) and other industry stakeholders, to increase mining and transportation fees.

From 2017 to 2019, the AMM participated on the Pits and Quarries Advisory Committee to review Manitoba's Pit and Quarry Rehabilitation Program and the existing municipal transportation levy process. **As of August 15, 2022**, the Regulation has been amended to increase maximum fees based on inflation and reflects annual inflationary increases into the future based on the Consumer Price Index. Municipalities can pass bylaws to collect fees from aggregate operators to offset municipal costs associated with aggregate mining. However, municipalities must amend their existing aggregate bylaw to charge the increased fees or pass a new bylaw to begin collecting fees. Municipal roads continue to get damaged from heavy trucks being rerouted from provincial roads, and thus we welcome the increased fee amendments.

Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance Program (DFA)

This April, Manitoba municipalities once again endured several detrimental spring storms and significant flooding. In fact,

32 municipalities declared States of Local Emergency due to successive rain events that led to widespread overland flooding.

As weather forecasting predicted multiple heavy rain events, the AMM proactively wrote to the provincial government, calling for a DFA Program to be established for municipalities affected by spring storms and flooding. The AMM called on the Manitoba government to swiftly approve the creation of a DFA Program to support municipal claims and prevent further damages and risks to public safety. Therefore, we were pleased to see the Manitoba government quickly announce a DFA Program for impacted municipalities in May.

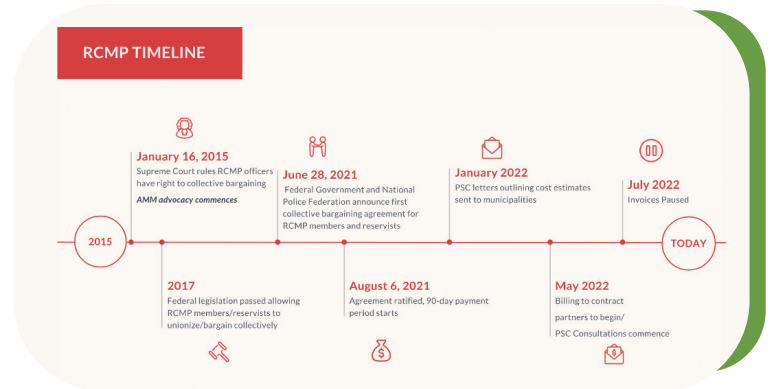
However, the AMM knows that if there is a major flood event in Manitoba, the current Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) cost-sharing formula will have devastating impacts on municipalities, particularly for smaller municipalities, due to increased thresholds. Moving forward, the AMM will continue to call on the Province of Manitoba to urge the federal government to restore the previous DFAA cost-sharing formula.

RCMP Unionization Advocacy

Since 2015, the AMM has been advocating on this issue and raising awareness of possible impacts on municipalities since unionization-related costs coupled with rising policing costs overall could result in significant financial burdens for municipalities.

Despite being a paying contract partner, municipalities were completely shut out of the RCMP collective bargaining process between the federal government and National Police Federation. While municipalities respect the right to collective bargaining, we believe downloading these costs onto municipalities is both unreasonable and unfair. That is why the AMM has been calling on the federal government to fully absorb all retroactive pay increases which were negotiated by the federal government.

In April 2021, the Western Canadian Municipal Associations (WCMA) wrote a joint letter to Public Safety Canada (PSC) Minister Bill Blair, calling on the federal government to absorb all costs. In October 2021, the AMM developed a template letter for impacted municipalities with RCMP contracts to express concerns directly to the federal government. In January 2022, the AMM sent a formal request to PSC to set up a meeting with all 21 Manitoba municipalities with MPSA contracts to discuss local impacts and to demonstrate a united front. Moreover, due to AMM advocacy efforts, we were pleased to see the Federation of Canadian



Municipalities (FCM) adopt AMM language in their national advocacy efforts regarding this issue.

The AMM continued to call on the Government of Canada to pause RCMP retroactive invoices until municipalities were meaningfully engaged. Due to our ongoing advocacy efforts, the AMM was pleased that PSC Minister Mendicino agreed to pause invoices until various governments discuss how to handle the retroactive portion of the bills. While we appreciate the Government of Canada pausing invoices to municipalities, the federal government needs to find an immediate solution to retroactive policing bills. Moving forward, we will continue to call on the federal government to fully absorb all retroactive pay increases.

Bill C-21 Legislation (Handguns)

In 2021, the Government of Canada tabled Bill C-21, which would potentially allow municipalities to ban handguns through bylaws restricting their possession, storage, and transportation.

The AMM immediately contacted the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Manitoba Justice, several Members of Parliament, and Public Safety Minister Bill Blair to relay municipal concerns. We strongly believe that the federal government must adopt a nationwide approach to improving public safety since gun-related crime does not respect local borders.

The AMM strongly called on the federal government to adopt a nationwide approach to improving public safety since gun-related crime does not respect local borders. Due to our advocacy efforts, in **May 2022**, the Government of Canada re-introduced Bill C-21; however, all sections which once mentioned municipalities were **removed from the bill entirely**.

AMM CITIES CAUCUS



Cities Caucus delegates inside the Access Event Centre in the City of Morden

The AMM Cities Caucus is made up of Manitoba's ten cities. Modelled after the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Big City Mayors' Caucus, the AMM Cities Caucus provides opportunities for representatives from each city in Manitoba to share ideas about how to tackle common concerns and key priorities to benefit all municipalities.

The Cities Caucus meets at least three times annually. During the 2021/22 meetings, discussions focused on helping to advance the AMM's 'Partners in Growth' initiative as well as addressing the seven-year municipal operating funding freeze and tackling local crime and other community safety issues. Additionally, discussions focused on funding shortfalls related to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), COVID-19 impacts, and the need for greater economic and financial assistance for all municipalities, given unprecedented inflation and soaring fuel costs. Moreover, the new RCMP bargaining agreement also featured prominently in discussion since several Manitoba cities are contract partners.

The traditional fall meeting was hosted by the City of Morden on September 27, 2022.

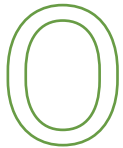
AMM Cities Caucus:
City of Brandon
City of Dauphin

City of Flin Flon
City of Morden
City of Portage la Prairie

City of Selkirk
City of Steinbach
City of Thompson

City of Winkler
City of Winnipeg

2021 MEETING WITH THE PROVINCIAL CABINET



On November 22, 2021, the AMM Executive and Board of Directors met with the Provincial Cabinet during the 23rd Annual Fall Convention.

President Blight began the meeting by thanking all ministers for participating in the Ministerial Forum co-chaired by the Honourable Derek Johnson, Manitoba's Minister of Municipal Relations. President Blight also thanked the provincial government for working with the AMM on a number of files over the past year to address the needs and concerns of Manitoba municipalities.

President Blight commended the provincial government for several positive funding announcements that have impacted municipalities over the course of the ongoing pandemic. These successes include \$500 million for the Manitoba Restart Agreement with \$50 million for water and wastewater projects. President Blight highlighted the significant infrastructure deficit as well as the increased demand for water and wastewater projects here in Manitoba. Additionally, President Blight thanked the Honourable Rochelle Squires, Minister of Families, for establishing the \$20 million Manitoba Accessibility Endowment Fund. As the AMM has been advocating for increased accessibility funding for over ten years, this investment will certainly help mitigate accessibility barriers throughout local communities. President Blight also thanked the Honourable Cathy Cox, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage, for over \$750,000 of new library funding – another long-term ask by the AMM.

While we recognize the positive funding announcements over the past year, President Blight raised concerns with Bill 37: *The Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act*. Fundamentally, our position has remained the same from the very beginning; we continue to believe that clear parameters related to the appeals process should be statutory as they are elsewhere in Canada. In response, Minister Johnson acknowledged that there is still room for improvement and indicated that dialogue would continue through the Bill 37 Stakeholder Working Group that AMM participates on.

Moreover, President Blight highlighted the impacts of the RCMP collective bargaining agreement given the significant looming retroactive pay increases. Since negotiations were conducted exclusively between the federal government and National Police Federation (NPF), we believe that any retroactive pay increases should be fully absorbed by the federal government. In response,

the Honourable Cameron Friesen, Minister of Justice, highlighted identical concerns, noting that the department continues to bundle municipal correspondence directly to the Government of Canada. Minister Friesen understands that these costs cannot be absorbed by municipalities and formally wrote a joint letter with Minister Johnson to Public Safety Canada urging them to absorb all retroactive policing costs.

Next, President Blight highlighted the AMM's 'Partners in Growth' initiative, which calls on the provincial government to:

- Ensure long-term, stable, and predictable funding;
- Provide funding tied to Manitoba's GDP to support more municipal growth;
- Rebate the PST municipalities pay, consistent with the federal rebate of the GST; and
- Move to multi-year budgeting to assist with long-term planning and priority setting.

The AMM strongly feels that these requests are not only reasonable, given the five-year operating funding freeze municipal governments have endured, but necessary to ensure Manitoba keeps growing, especially as we look to a post-pandemic world. Moreover, President Blight stressed that the five-year funding freeze restricts the delivery of municipal services and hinders much-needed investments and economic development in local communities.

In response, Minister Johnson discussed the provincial government's commitment to providing operating funding to municipalities – 75% upfront in the summer with 25% in the fall for the second year in a row, as well as increased funding under the Building Sustainable Communities (BSC) Program, and \$500 million Manitoba Restart funding with some funding carved off for water and wastewater projects.

President Blight also raised concerns regarding broadband and connectivity issues experienced across our province. As the ongoing pandemic has undoubtedly highlighted the digital divide between communities, President Blight asked the Honourable Reg Helwer, Minister of Central Services, for an update regarding the provincial broadband strategy. Minister Helwer acknowledged the digital divide while also noting that further announcements regarding the strategy will be forthcoming.

In closing, President Blight and Minister Johnson expressed their joint desire to continue the open and productive relationship between the AMM and the Province of Manitoba. Both parties also reaffirmed their willingness to continue to partner to strengthen and grow local communities across the province.

Education Program

October 8 & 15, 2021

Under the Umbrella: How to Weather a Media Storm – facilitated by Nicole Harris, Maverick Media.

March 17, 2022

A Vision Check-up: Establishing a Preferred Future and Mandate – facilitated by Gordon McIntosh.

April 19, 2022

Drawing the Line: Protecting Municipal Council and Staff from Harassment – facilitated by John Stefaniuk and Jennifer Hanson, TDS Thompson Dorfman Sweatman.

Actionable Leadership – 2021 Annual Fall Convention

November 21 & 22, 2021

AMM members met at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg for an abbreviated AGM.

- Chris Goertzen was presented with the Honourary Life Member award
- 496 Delegates registered to attend in person
- 144 Delegates registered to attend via Zoom

Municipal Visits

Municipal visits brought the AMM Executive and District Directors (in-person and virtual) to local councils to hear firsthand about the issues their communities are involved in. All municipalities are visited once during a municipal election term, and in 2022 the AMM met with the five remaining councils, including the City of Flin Flon.

Mayors Reeves & CAOs Meeting

April 19, 2022

Over 200 elected officials and senior administrators, representing 117 municipalities, participated at the in-person meetings.

2022 Spring Convention

April 20 & 21, 2022

A mix of professional development and policy-based presentations made up the program.

- 479 registered delegates
- Council Decorum: Tory McNally, Legacy Bowes Group
- Fostering Municipal-Indigenous Partnerships: Chief Nelson Genaille, President of Treaty Land Entitlement Committee of Manitoba (TLEC), Sapotaweyak Cree Nation; Chris Henderson, Executive Director of TLEC; and Jason Delaurier, Councillor, Town of Swan River
- Municipal Fireside Chat: Honourable Eileen Clarke, Minister of Municipal Relations; and Reeve Kam Blight, President, Association of Manitoba Municipalities
- Abuse Policy and Protocols – A Primer for Local Governments: Lindsay Nilsson, Partner, Dolden Wallace Folick, LLP
- Being Culturally Responsive: Audrey North, Legacy Bowes
- Demystifying the Municipal Board: Jeff Bereza, Chair, Manitoba Municipal Board
- Advancing Accessibility in Manitoba's Municipalities: Lucía Madariaga-Vignudo, Assistant Director, Accessibility Compliance Secretariat, Manitoba Government
- Why Does it Benefit Us?: Jordan Lontajo, Program Manager, Employee Benefits Service Centre, Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions
- COVID-19 Conversations - Strategies for Polarizing Interactions: David C. Jung, MACC, RPC, Q.Med, Facilitator & Consultant, ACHIEVE Centre for Leadership
- Manitoba Municipal Relations – Bill 25/Elections
Prep: Ann Ransom, Delores Macksymchuk, and Randi Salamanowicz, Municipal Service Officers, Manitoba Municipal Relations



- Liability Risk Management – Recreation Programs and Outside Users of Facilities: Drew Woytko, Manager, Commercial Client Service; and Rudy Penner, Director Risk Management, Western Financial Group
- Immigration to Manitoba: Eric Charron, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration
- Engaging and Retaining Employees: Deanna Lanoway, Executive Consultant, People First HR Services
- Bill 22: Changes to Manitoba’s Cosmetic Pesticide Legislation: Larry Markwart, Acting Manager of Livestock, Agriculture and Pesticides Section; and Krystal Penner, Pesticide and Agriculture Program Specialist, Environmental Approvals Branch, Manitoba Environment, Climate & Parks
- Spotlight on Manitoba Ombudsman’s Work with Municipalities: Jill Perron, Manitoba Ombudsman
- Workplace Investigations and Whistleblower Hotlines: Michael McCormack, BA CFI, Investigative and Forensic Services, MNP LLP

Women in Municipal Government Breakfast Event

April 21, 2022

This informative discussion showcased five distinguished speakers on the importance of ensuring and encouraging women to enter politics, as well as mitigating barriers while exploring opportunities for change. The event attracted over 80 municipal officials.

2022 District Meetings

The AMM toured each of the seven districts to experience the hospitality of the hosting municipalities. In total, over 490 municipal officials representing 118 municipalities attended the meetings.

- June 9 – Northern District: City of Thompson
- June 15 – Central District: RM of Stanley and City of Winkler
- June 16 – Eastern District: RM of Springfield
- June 17 – Interlake District: RM of Gimli
- June 22 – Parkland District: City of Dauphin and RM of Dauphin
- June 23 – Midwestern District: Hamiota Municipality
- June 24 – Western District: Municipality of Grassland



CANOE PROCUREMENT GROUP OF CANADA

CANOE Procurement Group of Canada (CANOE), YOUR trading company, allows AMM members to purchase products and services at lower prices through the power of bulk buying.

Our CANOE Vendors and Official Suppliers (Manitoba only) continued to provide our members with excellent service and pricing. CANOE provides a major source of revenue for the AMM and allows the AMM membership dues to remain one of the lowest in Canada. In return, suppliers have direct contact with Manitoba's municipal market and can be a part of regular marketing opportunities through AMM events and communications. CANOE performs all the necessary Requests for Proposals (RFP) for each category and eliminates the need at the municipality's level, increasing efficiency.

Due to the great participation of our members (not to mention discount pricing, which offers significant savings to municipalities) through CANOE, we were able to rebate another **\$1 million** for 2021/2022 to our members based on their sales. This brings the cumulative rebate over the past 21 years to **\$14.44 million**.

AMM Programs – <http://www.amm.mb.ca/partner-programs/>

AMM Capital Purchasing
Enterprise Fleet
People First HR Services
RMA Fuel
Safetycare Program
Western Financial Group

AMM Trading Company – Exclusive to AMM Members

Alcom Electronic Communications Ltd.
Everest Supply & Services Inc.
Evergro/WestGro/Nutrien Solutions
Fort Distributors Ltd.
MacMor Industries Ltd.
Orkin
Shippam & Associates
The Flag Shop

CANOE Procurement Group of Canada

Visit the new website at www.canoeprocurement.ca for more details, or contact Ainsley Murdock at ainsley@canoeprocurement.ca, who will provide a full online demonstration and program overview.

Official Suppliers

Click here to see the CANOE 2022 Official Suppliers Directory.

HR SERVICES

There have been 82 unique inquiries from AMM members between September 1, 2021, and August 31, 2022. The top three categories are Employee and Labour Relations, Employment Standards, and HR Best Practices. Some common themes are performance management, discipline/terminations, time away from work, and COVID-19/vaccination policies. There have been 47 towns/RMs that have directly used the HR OnCall service.

In terms of Projects (outside of HR OnCall), the HR@YourService team assisted four municipalities with HR policy manuals, employment agreement templates, disability management, and termination support. At the same time, the Strategic HR Consulting team assisted eight municipalities relating to organization structure review, EQI assessments, mediations, investigations, customized training, and coaching.

People First HR Services also participated in the AMM Spring Convention on April 21, 2022, through a one-hour session specifically focusing on 'Employee Retention Strategies' for municipalities. Retaining employees in a time of societal and economic change can be extremely challenging. That said, there are tried and true strategies that can increase an employer's odds of keeping their strongest employees. Key learnings addressed the Manitoba landscape, talent strategies, key success factors, using stay interviews effectively, and the role of leaders in retention. Our session provided our best advice to become and remain an employer of choice.

INSURANCE

136 AMM member municipalities outside Winnipeg participate in the AMM's property/casualty 'protected self-insurance' program, administered by Western Financial Group Insurance Solutions.

This industry-leading program allows members to gain partial ownership of their program through a \$12,225,000 annual self-insurance loss pool, used to pay out a portion of claims. Insurance is then purchased from excess insurance providers for coverage in excess of the loss pool amount to provide municipalities with complete insurance protection. This keeps member premiums much lower than if individual municipalities purchased their own individual coverage and provides the opportunity for significant refunds in low-claiming years.

With over \$19.75 million in returns-of-premium to municipalities since 2009, this form of protected self-insurance structure provides municipalities with funds that otherwise would be insurer profit and is only made possible through the participation of municipalities as a whole, in partnership with the AMM & WFGIS.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

For over 40 years, the AMM Employee Benefits Program has focused on pooling all cities, towns, and municipalities together across Manitoba to provide a unique program of unmatched control, flexibility, and ownership for program participants.

Currently, over 112 municipalities participate in addition to watershed districts, recreation districts, planning districts, weed districts, and retirees. Since 2005, the AMM Employee Benefits Program has been self-insured, with claims payment being provided by Manitoba Blue Cross.

Under the Program, a large portion of premiums are allocated to a member-owned 'self-insurance' fund. This fund allows for the unique opportunity to circumvent traditional insurance costs and provide for returns-of-premium when surpluses are built as a result of low-claiming years. This creates a greater level of program stability. In addition, there is substantially more premium to offset larger claims than a group might experience under the traditional open market.

Looking back over a 10-year period, 2013 pool premiums sat at \$4.7 million, whereas 2022 pool premiums are now over \$8.4 million. This is a growth of \$3.7 million or 78%, with plan participation now over 80%, whereas participation in 2013 was only 50%. Participating members have received over \$3.7 million in returns-of-premium since 2015.

PROTECTED SELF-INSURANCE

Returned to municipalities since 2009: \$19.75M

**CLICK HERE TO VIEW
THE AMM FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS YEAR
ENDED AUGUST 31, 2022**

**CLICK HERE TO VIEW
THE AMM TRADING
COMPANY FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS YEAR
ENDED AUGUST 31, 2022**

