

Northern District Resolutions

CATEGORY 1

AMM Resolution #7001-2026

Amendments to the Municipal and School Board Elections Act

Sponsor(s)

Thompson, City (Northern)

Department(s)

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations

WHEREAS *The Municipal and School Board Elections Act* requires that all public notices be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the community; and

WHEREAS many municipalities are unfortunately no longer served by newspapers or other publications with general circulation in the community; and

WHEREAS the requirements for public notices have been modernized under *The Planning Act and The Municipal Act* to allow for alternative posting in the municipal offices, as well as in prominent community locations in municipalities that are no longer served by a community newspaper;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend *The Municipal and School Board Elections Act* to allow alternative posting options for municipalities that are not served by newspapers having general circulation in the community in alignment with changes already made to *The Municipal Act and The Planning Act*.

CATEGORY 1

AMM Resolution #7002-2026

Amendments to the Real Property Act

Sponsor(s)

Thompson, City (Northern)

Department(s)

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations

WHEREAS section 247.1 of *The Municipal Act* provides municipalities direction for enforcement of vacant dwellings or non-residential buildings, including authority to enact Derelict Building By-laws; and

WHEREAS the Association of Manitoba Municipalities adopted Resolution #08-2025, requesting changes to legislation to aid municipalities in the enforcement of Derelict Building By-laws; and

WHEREAS the enforcement processes required under *The Municipal Act* to obtain a Derelict Building Certificate are time-consuming and costly to municipalities, resulting in the excessive use of staff time, enforcement, fire and emergency services, policing resources, and legal fees, with proceedings often lasting multiple years while the public safety hazard remains; and

WHEREAS once a Derelict Building Certificate is obtained by a municipality, the property often ends up sold in tax auctions pursuant to section 365 of *The Municipal Act*; and

WHEREAS Land Titles Office advise that once sold at auction, the derelict building certificate ceases to exist because *The Real Property Act* section 45(5) does not expressly list “derelict certificate” in the list of encumbrances and caveats which survive a tax sale, meaning that the municipality must restart the process with the new owner at great time and expense to the municipality, allowing the public safety hazard to continue; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend *The Real Property Act* section 45(5) to expressly include derelict certificates in the list of encumbrances and caveats which survive a tax sale.

CATEGORY 1

AMM Resolution #7003-2026

Authority for Derelict and Vacant Commercial Property Taxation Tools

Sponsor(s)

The Pas, Town (Northern)

Department(s)

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations

WHEREAS municipalities across Manitoba continue to face challenges related to long-term vacant, abandoned, boarded, unsafe, and derelict commercial and industrial properties that negatively impact community safety, economic development, neighbourhood revitalization, property values, and community pride;

WHEREAS municipalities often incur significant costs related to by-law enforcement, fire protection, policing, emergency response, demolition, remediation, and property standards enforcement associated with derelict and chronically vacant commercial properties;

WHEREAS current provincial legislation under Manitoba's municipal framework does not provide municipalities with sufficient authority or flexibility to establish separate taxation subclasses or enhanced taxation mechanisms targeting derelict and long-term vacant commercial and industrial properties; and

WHEREAS municipalities in other provinces, including Alberta, are exploring legislative amendments to allow municipalities to implement taxation tools targeting derelict non-residential properties as a means to encourage redevelopment, remediation, occupancy, or sale of neglected properties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend relevant legislation, including *The Municipal Assessment Act* and *The Municipal Act*, to provide municipalities with authority to establish a separate taxation subclass, surcharge, levy, or other financial tools for derelict, vacant, abandoned, or chronically neglected commercial and industrial properties; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Manitoba work collaboratively with municipalities to develop clear definitions, eligibility criteria, exemptions, appeal mechanisms, and implementation guidelines to ensure such taxation tools are fair, transparent, and focused on encouraging redevelopment, revitalization, improved occupancy, and enhanced community safety;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Manitoba explore additional financial and legislative tools to support municipalities in addressing abandoned and unsafe commercial properties, including remediation assistance, demolition supports, redevelopment incentives, tax recovery tools, and strengthened enforcement mechanisms.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province work with all partners to ensure legislative changes are accompanied by appropriate funding, training, and infrastructure development, so municipalities are not left to shoulder additional costs or responsibilities alone.

CATEGORY 1

AMM Resolution #7004-2026

Municipal Board Hearing Support Tools and Training for Municipalities

Sponsor(s)

The Pas, Town (Northern)

Department(s)

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations

WHEREAS municipalities are required to participate in Municipal Board hearings and related quasi-judicial processes on matters affecting local planning, development, governance, finance, and community priorities; and

WHEREAS many municipalities have limited administrative capacity and financial resources to navigate complex Municipal Board hearing processes; and

WHEREAS municipalities often feel compelled to retain legal counsel or external consultants in order to adequately participate in hearings and protect municipal interests; and

WHEREAS the costs associated with legal representation and hearing preparation can place significant financial pressure on municipalities and local taxpayers; and

AND WHEREAS Municipal Board processes should support municipalities in making informed local decisions and should not create unnecessary administrative or financial burdens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and the Municipal Board to develop standardized support tools, templates, guides, and best practice resources to assist municipalities in preparing for and participating in Municipal Board hearings; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT AMM advocate for practical training sessions and educational workshops related to Municipal Board hearings to be included as part of future AMM Spring and Fall Convention programming and other municipal training opportunities; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Manitoba and the Municipal Board review opportunities to simplify hearing processes and improve accessibility for municipalities in order to reduce unnecessary reliance on legal representation and external consultants.

CATEGORY 1

AMM Resolution #7005-2026

Amendments to the Trespass Act Regulations

Sponsor(s)

Thompson, City (Northern)

Department(s)

Manitoba Justice

WHEREAS municipalities are facing increasing levels of disorder in public spaces, including intoxication, use of controlled substances, threats of physical harm to people and property, intentional damage to premises and property, and offences pursuant to the Criminal Code; and

WHEREAS public disorder is not only occurring inside enclosed spaces, but has become widespread across many types of public spaces, endangering the community and undermining public safety; and

WHEREAS *The Trespass Act* provides powers of arrest and summary conviction for offences under the Act; and

WHEREAS *The Trespass Act* is difficult to enforce in the modern context of public disorder, as it requires a space to be wholly enclosed or the trespasser to be provided notice by the owner or occupier not to enter, come or pass, creating a cumbersome dynamic wherein both police and occupiers must be working in conjunction with one another to engage any enforcement measures; and

WHEREAS the Province of Saskatchewan has enacted changes under their Trespass to Property Regulations to streamline notice requirements to leave or discontinue certain behaviours, to address drug use and improve public safety, empowering police and enforcement to immediately engage enforcement measures against individuals who are causing public disturbance or threatening public safety without seeking further information from the owners or occupiers of a premises;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend regulations under *The Trespass Act* to mirror Saskatchewan's Trespass to Property Regulations to improve public safety in all Manitoba municipalities.

CATEGORY 1

AMM Resolution #7006-2026

Amendments to The Garage Keepers Act and Municipal Authority for Abandoned Vehicles

Sponsor(s)

The Pas, Town (Northern)

Department(s)

Manitoba Justice

WHEREAS municipalities regularly tow, impound, and store abandoned, illegally parked, unsafe, or otherwise seized vehicles on municipal property; and

WHEREAS municipalities often incur significant ongoing costs related to the storage, administration, and maintenance of these vehicles; and

WHEREAS in some cases municipalities are unable to identify or locate the registered owner of the vehicle, resulting in vehicles remaining in municipal custody for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS private towing companies and repair garages operating under *The Garage Keepers Act* have legislative authority to apply storage fees, place liens, auction unclaimed vehicles, and dispose of abandoned property after prescribed notice periods; and

WHEREAS municipalities currently lack clear and efficient legislative authority to apply similar processes for abandoned or unclaimed vehicles in municipal possession;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to review and amend *The Garage Keepers Act* and/or related legislation to provide municipalities with authority comparable to private garage keepers, including the ability to:

1. Apply reasonable storage and administrative fees for impounded or abandoned vehicles;
2. Establish a lien process for unpaid fees;
3. Auction or dispose of unclaimed vehicles after reasonable notice requirements have been met; and
4. Create a clear and streamlined process for municipalities dealing with abandoned vehicles where ownership cannot be determined or the owner cannot be located.

CATEGORY 1

AMM Resolution #7007-2026

Provincial Radon Action Strategy to Support Manitoba Municipalities

Sponsor(s)

Thompson, City (Northern)

Department(s)

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care

WHEREAS radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that enters homes and buildings from the soil and is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Canada; and

WHEREAS Health Canada estimates that approximately 165 Manitobans die each year from lung cancer attributable to radon exposure, making radon a significant and preventable environmental health risk in the province; and

WHEREAS the updated Cross-Canada Survey of Radon Concentrations in Homes found that 43% of homes in Manitoba exceed the Canadian guideline of 200 becquerels per cubic metre, the highest proportion recorded in Canada, demonstrating that elevated radon exposure is a widespread issue affecting communities across Manitoba; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Manitoba are increasingly receiving inquiries from residents regarding radon exposure, testing, and mitigation, despite lacking the legislative authority, technical expertise, and resources to address indoor air quality issues; and

WHEREAS municipalities operate and maintain numerous public facilities – including municipal offices, libraries, recreation facilities, and fire halls – where municipal employees and members of the public may be exposed to elevated radon levels, creating operational, financial, and occupational health and safety responsibilities for municipal governments; and

WHEREAS in the absence of provincial leadership, municipalities are bearing increasing responsibility for public education, testing initiatives, and mitigation efforts, resulting in inconsistent approaches and financial pressures across communities; and

WHEREAS municipalities are often the first point of contact for residents seeking information about radon exposure, despite having no legislative authority over indoor air quality standards, residential tenancy requirements, or building code provisions related to radon mitigation; and

WHEREAS environmental health protection, public health policy, workplace safety and health regulation, residential tenancy legislation, and building code regulation fall primarily within the jurisdiction of the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS municipalities are incurring, and may continue to incur, significant costs related to radon testing, mitigation of municipal facilities, and responding to community concerns, without corresponding funding or legislative authority;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop and implement a comprehensive Provincial Radon Action Strategy to address radon exposure and support Manitoba municipalities in protecting the health and safety of their communities; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT such a strategy include coordinated provincial leadership in the areas of public awareness, province-wide testing initiatives, mitigation supports, regulatory modernization, and financial assistance programs to ensure a consistent, equitable, and effective province-wide approach that reduces financial and operational pressures on municipalities.

CATEGORY 3

AMM Resolution #7008-2026

Retention of Unspent School Division Funds Within Local School Divisions

Sponsor(s)

The Pas, Town (Northern)

Department(s)

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

WHEREAS municipalities collect and contribute significant education property taxes toward the operation of local school divisions; and

WHEREAS school divisions may experience staffing shortages, recruitment challenges, program limitations, or service delivery issues that can result in unspent operational funds at year-end; and

WHEREAS these unspent funds are often not the result of intentional surplus planning, but rather challenges in filling positions, delivering programs, or accessing services within the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS northern, rural, and geographically large school divisions frequently face unique operational pressures, including recruitment and retention challenges, transportation costs, travel expenses, extracurricular programming costs, and limited access to specialized services; and

WHEREAS municipalities and local taxpayers expect education funds raised within their communities to continue supporting local students, schools, and educational priorities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to ensure that unspent operational funds within school divisions remain within the local school division through reserve accounts or other financial mechanisms for future educational and operational priorities;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT school divisions not face reductions or penalties in future provincial funding allocations as a result of retaining reasonable unspent funds caused by staffing shortages, recruitment challenges, or program delivery limitations.