



# AMA Updates April 2017

## JMAT Committee

The AMA appointed two members from the Board of Directors, to sit on the Joint Municipal Accountability and Transparency Committee. This committee has worked with the Province and other municipal officials to develop a plan for posting of municipal elected officials, and CAO expenses online. Final recommendations have been presented to the Minister and Legislation was tabled on April 26<sup>th</sup>. See Bill 84 at [http://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/62nd\\_3rd/1st\\_read/b084.htm](http://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/62nd_3rd/1st_read/b084.htm)

AMA representatives on the JMAT committee were:

Mike Dolter, CAO Town of Truro  
Greg Herrett, CAO Town of Amherst  
Janice Wentzell (non-voting)

## Joint Municipal-Provincial Priority Setting

AMANS is working with UNSM and DMA to develop a work plan to move forward items identified in the partnership agreement, as well as, other issues such as the UNSM resolutions, fiscal review, MGA Review and Town's Task Force.

## AMANS Inverness/Richmond/Victoria Regional Representative Appointed

The AMA has appointed Leanne MacEachen, the Director of Finance from County of Victoria as a Regional Representative on the AMA Board.

## CAO Meeting with Deputy Minister on Municipal Structure Reform

This meeting was held on April 7<sup>th</sup> in Halifax, to lay the practical and relational foundation for a continued discussion of, and action toward, municipal structural reform. The day-long workshop was designed to lead the group through a series of conversations and identify and prioritize themes and action items to continue the conversation in the future. This included a strong focus on trust and relationship building. The meeting was facilitated by Tim Merry, from Mahone Bay. Tim

specializes in participatory engagement, strategic clarity, and collaborative action. The report will be presented at the AMA Spring Conference.

## Employee Benefits Expansion – HR Support Solutions

Effective April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, the UNSM/AMA EFAP Program through the Morneau Plan will begin to include HR Solution Programs. This provides on-demand access to advice and legal expertise of qualified HR Professionals. Your municipality must be a member of the UNSM Benefits Program in order to receive this service.

## MGA Review

The DMA is providing additional resources to allow David Atchison, the Policy Analyst to continue working on the project. The timeline of 2 years has been extended. Gretchen Pohlkamp at DMA is the new lead on the project. Gretchen has engaged other members of her team to work on the project.

## how can we help?

What can we do for you? How can we make your membership more meaningful? Let us know if there are model policies or by-laws that you would like us to develop, projects we could work on that would help municipalities or training that we could provide. **(902)423-8323**  
[jwentzell@amans.ca](mailto:jwentzell@amans.ca)

Know someone who might like to join AMANS?  
Contact Andrea Jeffs at  
902-423-2215 or  
[ajeffs@amans.ca](mailto:ajeffs@amans.ca)





### Wellness Program Rebrand

Our Workplace Wellness Program has gone through a re-brand. There is a new logo and some characters that are associated with the rebrand. It's designed to symbolize and bring awareness to your health and wellness.

### Working Minds Training

Next month AMA Wellness Coordinator Rebecca Kolstee will be taking the Train the Trainer Program for Working for the Minds Program. Taught by the Mental Health Commission of Canada the program trains participants to learn valuable ways to support and deliver training relating to mental health in the workplace. This will enable Rebecca to be an instructor for the Working Minds Program so watch for upcoming workshops.

### AMA Website Redevelopment

The AMA recently underwent a website redevelopment. The new site launched the first week of April and can be found at [www.amans.ca](http://www.amans.ca). One of the new features we are working on is a Member Highlight component. It is designed to highlight hard working staff who have made a difference in your community. We want to raise the profile of the important work municipal staff does as well as encourage others to see why a career in Municipal Government is the right choice! For more information please visit: <https://amans.ca/member-highlight-project.html>

## Cannabis Legalization

### Municipal Impacts

**May 26**

With the impending legalization of cannabis, the UNSM and AMANS have partnered with Nova Scotia Health Authority and the IWK to offer a Cannabis Legalization Symposium. **Call Andrea Jeffs for more information 902-423-2215 or e-mail [ajeffer@amans.ca](mailto:ajeffer@amans.ca)**

### Changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Act

The Provincial Government recently introduced and passed Amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The amendments were passed by the legislature with a commitment by the Department of Labour and Advanced Education to work with stakeholders on next steps. The amendments will come into force on June 12, 2017. The changes better define when, how, and what injuries and incidents must be reported, and give government additional tools and authority to enforce safety requirements for those who repeatedly disregard safety regulations, putting people at risk of serious injury or death. The amendments can be viewed at:

[http://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/62nd\\_2nd/3rd\\_read/b165.htm](http://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/62nd_2nd/3rd_read/b165.htm)

### AMA and DMA Working on a Model By-Law for Bill 177

AMANS and the Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA) have been working on a model by-law for Bill 177. The model by-law is in the final stages of a legal review and will be distributed to all municipal units as soon as the review is complete.

### Paper on In Camera Meetings of Council

AMANS is working on a paper that summarizes the legislative requirements related to in camera meetings of council including the requirement for minutes of in-camera meetings. This paper is being developed with input from DMA staff and solicitors.

### Spring and Fall Conferences

AMANS Spring Conference – Atlantica Oak Island – June 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017

AMANS Fall Conference – Holiday Inn, Truro September 26-29, 2017