

JUNE 2017

AMANS UPDATES

Municipal Marijuana Working Group

After the Cannabis Symposium, hosted jointly by the UNSM, AMA, NSHA and IWK, it was recommended a Municipal Marijuana Working Group be created. While Federal legislation sets out the framework of marijuana legalization, the Provinces are left to regulate many other factors and, currently, there is no formal plan to involve municipalities. This working group will be formed by the UNSM with involvement from AMA, designed to develop its own recommendations to present to the Province. If you're interested in participating in the working group please email Janice, jwentzell@amans.ca. In addition, both UNSM and AMA Boards have agreed to send a letter to the Province requesting a municipal voice be at the table is working on the Provincial regulations.

Spring Conference Presentations

The Spring Conference hosted by the South Shore Region, at the end of June was a great success. If you weren't able to make it, or if you'd like to look at the presentations from the conference, log in to our members only section of our website to view them.

<https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/amans/memberarea/index.asp>

Submit a Suggestion for a Future Project

As an association, we actively seek, and always welcome, input from our membership so that we can continue to provide relevant, timely, high quality professional development and policy support. If you have a suggestion for a future project, email David datchison@amans.ca



WELLNESS WEBINAR

The Wellness Program would like to award municipalities who have prioritized health & wellness to their staff. As well as, honour the Wellness Champions for their commitment in maximizing wellness within their municipality. Join our Wellness Coordinator for a Webinar on July 19th from 9:30am – 10:15am. Sign up for the webinar [here](#).

MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING AVAILABLE

The Working Minds program has been recently added to the AMANS/UNSM Wellness Program. The working minds program is designed to reduce stigma, promote mental health & resiliency in the workplace and enhance employee's mental health skills & knowledge. For more information email rkolstee@amans.ca

NEW PVSC GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

PVSC is looking at developing a new governance framework that is reflective of the strategic direction of the corporation and best practices. PVSC will be reviewing the independence of Board members, impact of municipal cycle on quorum, skillset of candidates for the board, and competencies involved with the Board. The UNSM, AMA and PVSC will hold a joint meeting to discuss the proposed changes in governance structure.

FALL CONFERENCE

Join us at our Fall Conference on September 26th – 29th at the Holiday Inn in Truro, NS. The theme for this year's conference is "It's a New World: Catching Up to the Future". [Use this link](#) to book your room at the Holiday Inn, rates are \$115.00 / night and breakfast is included in your room rate.

There is a block of rooms held at the Comfort Inn, in Truro, for overflow for \$120/night, please reference Association of Municipal Administrators.

Municipal Government Act Review

Last summer 37 housekeeping items were distributed to municipal councils for comment. These are now with the Province to move forward. There has been a significant amount of work done around the Code of Conduct piece. The original timeline of 2 years was too ambitious and there will be another 2 years required for the completion of the project.

Bill 177 Model By-law

AMANS and DMA are developing a model commercial development district by-law. This model by-law will enable the implementation of section 71C of the *Municipal Government Act* which provides municipalities with additional flexibility with respect to commercial taxation. This section of the *Act* authorizes municipal council to make a by-law providing for the phasing in, over a period of ten years, of an increase to the taxable assessed value of certain commercial or contaminated properties located in a commercial development district established by the by-law. The model by-law will also be accompanied by a model Phased-in-Assessment Agreement. Under the model by-law, both parties must enter into a Phased-In-Agreement before the municipality can provide support to a property owner. The model by-law is in its final stages of legal review, and will be distributed to all municipal units once complete.

JMAT Committee

The JMAT Committee submitted their final report to the Province on March 30th. This report was forwarded to all AMA Members and Municipalities. The Province tabled the legislation but it wasn't passed before the House rose. Although legislation is not in place, there is an opportunity for municipalities to take a leadership role and implement the recommendations prior to the legislation being passed. Recommendations from the report included:

- Posting expenses online in a standard form
- Strengthen expenses policies and practices
- Require a code of conduct and complain process
- Strengthen municipal audits and audit committee