



April 20, 2012

Robert Betcher  
Manager, Groundwater Management Section  
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship  
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Dear Mr. Betcher:

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, I would like to provide comments about the new *Groundwater and Water Well Act*, which will replace the existing *Ground Water and Water Well Act*. At the outset we would like to state our support for the intent of the new Act: to establish better and more consistent protection for groundwater sources.

The AMM supports measures to improve groundwater supply and quality as well as the sustainable management of aquifers because they provide an important source of municipal, industrial, agricultural and residential water supply. Please find attached one of our resolutions, passed in 2001, regarding the improvement of land use policies to provide greater protection for groundwater sources. The new Provincial Planning Regulation has identified protection of groundwater as a goal, and the AMM is pleased to see further protection efforts with the updates in the new *Groundwater and Water Well Act*.

As well, the AMM supports consistent provincial licensing requirements, providing there is adequate provincial capacity to administer them. Additionally, expanding the definition of a well will also improve consistency and help prevent contamination of groundwater resources and aquifers.

The AMM also supports the introduction of set-back limits for the construction of wells near potential contamination sources to protect potable groundwater. We also believe a formal process for the creation of aquifer management plans will benefit municipalities by ensuring proper management, protection and sustainable use of aquifers. This will provide support to municipalities to help them maintain water quality and supply to their ratepayers. In addition, the AMM supports changes to address compliance and enforcement issues and allow timely and cost effective enforcement.

Finally, the changes seem to affect well drillers the most, therefore the AMM would like to ensure the new Act will not negatively affect residents who depend on wells for their water supply. Specifically, there would be concerns if the new requirements for well drillers affect residents' access to their wells.

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to provide comments about this updated legislation. If our comments raise any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Masi", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Masi  
Executive Director

Enclosure

**AMM Resolution 39-2001**

**Topic: Protection for Groundwater Sources**

Sponsor: Town of Stonewall

Department: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

WHEREAS the quality of potable groundwater has always been of great importance to the quality of life and health of the citizens of the province;

AND WHEREAS a potable water source is essential for rural residential land uses;

AND WHEREAS septic fields and injection systems in rural residential developments are resulting in a negative impact on potable groundwater sources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Province to strengthen the provincial land use policies to require greater protection for potable groundwater sources.