



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Association for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (AMBM)

Thursday, October 8, 2015

5:30 p.m.

Centre culturel franco-manitobain
340 Provencher Boulevard, St. Boniface, Manitoba

1. WELCOMING REMARKS

Emcee Suzanne Druwé welcomed us to this 20th AGM of the AMBM, and launched the evening's proceedings under the banner of **“Strong local governance through proud and sustainable communities / Une gouvernance locale forte, des collectivités fières et durables.”**

Before beginning the formal part of the evening's program, Mr. Bruno Burnichon, Honorary Consul of France in Winnipeg, was given the opportunity to present a very prestigious award, the Ordre des Palmes académiques (France's Order of Academic Palms), to CDEM's Executive Director, Louis Allain, on behalf of the French government.

Louis Allain has been the CDEM's Executive Director since 2007. Mr. Allain founded and chaired the Community Development Corporation (CDC) of St. Laurent from 1997 to 2007. He was a teacher from 1981 to 1990 and a school administrator from 1990 to 2007. He also served as a volunteer with the ACELF (Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française) as vice-president for Western Canada and the Territories. He was a founding member and President of the FCDEF (Fédération canadienne des directions d'école francophone) from 2006 to 2008. He has sat on a number of committees, including Santé en français, the SFM (Société franco-manitobaine), and many other boards in his community. The Ordre des Palmes is one of France's oldest civil awards and was reinstated in its current form on October 4, 1955. The original decoration, the Officier de l'Académie (Silver Palms), was created in 1808 by Napoleon I to honour eminent members of the University of Paris. On behalf of the French Republic and the French Minister of Education, Mr. Burnichon was pleased to bestow the Academic Palms Award on Louis Allain.

Louis Allain thanked Mr. Burnichon for his leadership in the community, adding that the solid support he consistently received over the years has allowed him to move his initiatives forward.

2. GREETINGS – DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Marc Marion, AMBM's president, addressed a few words of welcome and introduced the distinguished guests.

Twenty-one years ago, a Deloitte & Touche review indicated that if we did not put an economic development strategy in place, Manitoba's bilingual municipalities would soon disappear. As a result, we developed partnerships and implemented major projects for our member partners and went on to establish our super driver of economic development, the CDEM. Today, our municipalities are enjoying unprecedented population and economic growth. Tonight's theme focuses on strong local governance through proud and sustainable communities. In the face of municipal realignment, we want to turn threats into opportunities in order to reinvent ourselves once again. We will be reviewing our membership options and our bylaws and regulations to increase the representation of Francophone and bilingual residents from across Manitoba in the AMBM. Looking back at the organization's past 20 years, we realize just how far we have come and are ready to move on to the next level of prosperity with our members.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Honourable Drew Caldwell, was invited to say a few words on behalf of the provincial government.

Minister Caldwell said he was pleased to address the Assembly on behalf of the Province of Manitoba. He thanked the AMBM for everything it has done this past year as the voice of Manitoba's bilingual municipalities, by offering bilingual services to its residents. French and bilingualism are important means of promoting culture and the economy at the provincial and national levels.

Jenny Gerbasi took the floor to speak on behalf of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). She is the second vice-chair of the FCM and was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

Ms. Gerbasi told us that she was proud to be with us tonight on behalf of the FCM. She thanked the AMBM for its 20 years of existence and for having supported and contributed to promoting our bilingual heritage, which is an extraordinary asset for the province. The federal election is a vital opportunity to advance the cause of our municipalities. The FCM has been successful in persuading key decision-makers from all the parties that local issues are important to Canadians. The four federal parties have addressed some or all of the issues raised by the FCM during the election campaign. The FCM relies on community leaders to become great defenders of municipal needs, and launched the [bilingual hometownproud.fcm.ca](http://bilingual.hometownproud.fcm.ca) / fierdevivreici.fcm.ca website to facilitate this process. Manitobans can also tweet their local candidates to ask them to make local issues a priority, using the #cdnmuni hashtag in English and #municipal in French. Together, we can help elect a federal government that is prepared to work with local governments as equal partners.

Marc Marion thanked Ms. Gerbasi and invited Chris Goertzen, President of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) to say a few words. Joe Masi, Executive Director of the AMM, could not be with us tonight.

Chris Goertzen was pleased to be here to address the AMBM's AGM on behalf of the AMM. He took over the role of President of the AMM in July and has also served as the Mayor of Steinbach for more than nine years. He congratulated the AMBM on its 20 years and for all the work it has done for Manitoba's bilingual municipalities. The AMM represents 137 incorporated municipalities in Manitoba, which allows us to speak with one voice to the government on behalf of the municipalities. The AMM appreciates its ongoing working relationship with the AMBM, and especially its Executive Director, Louis Tétrault and President, Marc Marion. Mr. Goertzen said that our bilingual municipalities are fortunate to be represented by the AMBM when it comes to linguistic and cultural issues. To show the AMM's appreciation, he presented the AMBM with a cheque for \$1,000, representing a platinum sponsorship for the AGM. He closed by once again congratulating the AMBM on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

Mr. Marion thanked Mr. Goertzen for his remarks.

The SFM (Société franco-manitobaine) is an important partner of the AMBM and the CDEM. Daniel Boucher, President and CEO, and Jacqueline Blay, Acting President of the SFM, were both in attendance tonight. Ms. Blay was invited to address the Assembly.

Ms. Blay wished the AMBM a happy 20th anniversary. The AMBM and the CDEM are the first offshoots of the États généraux review process held 25 years ago, after the DSFM (Franco-Manitoban School Division). Those hearings determined that once the school issue was settled, we would need to focus on the economy, which led to the creation of the AMBM and the CDEM. We are once again preparing for the États généraux and appreciate the collaboration of both organizations. Louis Tétrault chairs our steering committee, and Suzanne Druwé has been seconded to do some work for us. Once the report has been drafted, we can begin work on this social project. The results should be ready in April, following which there will be a gathering and work done on the priorities identified by the consulting firm to prepare a strategic plan. Ms. Blay concluded by wishing us a good AGM.

Mr. Marion thanked Ms. Blay and wished her every success for the 2016 French-language summit (*États généraux*).

The emcee introduced the distinguished guests in attendance at this year's AGM: the Honourable Maria Chaput, Canadian Senator, Dennis Smook, MLA for La Vérendrye, Cliff Graydon, MLA for Emerson, Blaine Pedersen, MLA for Midland, Guy Jourdain, from the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Mélanie Cwikla, Executive Director of the Francophone Affairs Secretariat, Réal Déquier and

Diane Dorge, from Canadian Heritage, Tanya Gracie, of Cooperatives and Mutuals Canada, and Raymond Poirier, founder of the AMBM and a recipient of the Order of Canada. Other partners included the Caisse Financial Group, whose CEO, Joël Rondeau, was in attendance, along with key partners USB and the DSFM. She also thanked all of the elected officials and directors of the 17 AMBM member municipalities, the municipal, provincial and federal officials who work regularly with us, and our funders.

Suzanne Druwé took the floor again to say that the agenda would be projected on the screen throughout the meeting and that the CDEM's annual report would be presented in video format. Only the municipal officials received a package containing hard copies of the minutes, the financial report and the AMBM's annual report. All of this material, including the CDEM video, will be available on the AMBM Web portal and the CDEM website.

Ms. Druwé then invited AMBM President, Marc Marion, to proceed with the business part of the meeting, which he did after establishing that a quorum was present. He reminded us that the bylaws and regulations stipulate that only elected officials and Board members have voting rights.

3. ELECTION OF A MEETING CHAIR

MOTION

Ivan Normandeau/Richard Pelletier

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT Denis Clément act as the meeting chair."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Jeannot Robert/Angelo Fouillard

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as presented."

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OCTOBER 4, 2014

MOTION

Marc Marion/Richard Pelletier

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Annual General Meeting dated October 4, 2014 be approved as presented."

CARRIED

6. 2014–2015 FINANCIAL REPORT (AMBM)

Lise Deleurme, of the Lise Deleurme Chartered Accountant Inc. firm, presented the AMBM's financial statements as at March 31, 2015.

MOTION

Lilliane Sorin/Mathieu Allard

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMBM’s audited financial report for the year ended March 31, 2015 be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS – (AMBM)

MOTION

Lilliane Sorin/Gaëtan Talbot

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the firm of Lise Deleurme Chartered Accountant Inc. be appointed Auditor for the AMBM for 2015-2016.”

CARRIED

8. [AMBM ANNUAL REPORT](#)

Once again this year, the AMBM's annual report was presented in talk-show format with Executive Director Louis Tétrault and President Marc Marion.

Strategic planning

- The goal of this strategic planning exercise is to review the AMBM's objectives for the next 20 years.
- In follow-up to the municipal elections, we felt it was appropriate to develop a strategic plan to determine what we should do with our members in the rural/urban areas.
- We began by sending out a survey to 200 people, including elected officials and organizations, and received 120 responses. We then held a strategic planning session with the Board members to plan the AMBM's future and assess the roles of the AMBM and the CDEM.

Municipal amalgamation

- We are reviewing the AMBM's rationale as the political arm of Manitoba's bilingual municipalities.
- The AMBM's role in this amalgamation is to determine who is affected with a view to protecting what is already in place.
- Ron Lemieux, Minister of Manitoba Municipal Government at the time, encouraged us to look at the realities and priorities of Manitoba's bilingual municipalities. Bill 10 was developed and is presently awaiting a third reading. This bill was created to maintain the integrity and continuity of French-language services in Manitoba's bilingual municipalities.
- We want to review our structure to determine the level of capacity for offering French-language services.

Translation services

- Translation services are available to all the residents of our member municipalities.
- We translate roughly 600,000 words a year and approximately 350 documents, including minutes, websites, and material for recreational activities.
- The municipalities' use of this simple and effective service increases each year.

Economic development

- We receive and transfer some \$136,000 from the Canada/Manitoba Agreement to the municipalities for economic development through sports and recreation and libraries.
- The municipalities' contributions of more than \$650,000 to community economic development help maintain and create businesses and many direct and indirect jobs.

Mali and Burkina Faso

- This project ended in 2015.
- During the five-year initiative, we worked with Mali and Burkina Faso to establish municipal economic development councils in those countries.
- We also worked with smaller municipalities in the Kadiolo region to establish small CDCs.
- Members were encouraged to consult the final report detailing the project results, which is now available on the FCM website.

Commitment to the green economy

- We are building on the CDEM's and the Éco-Ouest team's expertise to develop climate change plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in some 60 Manitoba municipalities that are not all AMBM members.
- For the Éco-Ouest project, we are working with Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia to develop regional green projects.

Website

- Potential immigrants to Manitoba use the directionmanitoba.com website to conduct their preliminary research and explore the various Francophone communities in Manitoba.

MOTION

Marc Marion/Jeannot Robert

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMBM’s 2014-2015 Annual Report be received for information.”

CARRIED

At the end of the first part of the AMBM AGM, Suzanne Druwé drew our attention to the special issue distributed to the members in attendance. This retrospective of the AMBM's past 20 years will soon be available on the AMBM website at directionmanitoba.com. We want to thank our sponsors for their financial support of this issue. AMBM has also produced a series of videos to celebrate its 20 years, which will also be available on its website.

Suzanne Druwé asked Marc Marion to give a little toast in honour of the AMBM's 20th anniversary.

Mr. Marion underscored the leadership, commitment and vision of the first bilingual municipalities, and the founding fathers, the late Maurice Gauthier, who promoted the importance of an organization like the AMBM, Raymond Poirier, its first Executive Director, and Denis Bibault, the first President. He toasted the municipalities, who for the past 20 years have recognized the importance and added value of French by encouraging economic development.

A meal catered by Fried Green Tomatoes, owned by Joanne Gobeil, winner of our first edition of the Fosse aux Lions competition, was then served.

The second part of the AGM began with a video highlighting the AMBM's 20th anniversary and focusing on our Community Development Corporations (CDCs). In our 17 bilingual municipalities, the CDCs are a pillar around which our communities revolve, providing the jumping-off point for many projects that have greatly enhanced the quality of life in our communities over the past two decades.

Next on the agenda was the CDEM's 2014-2015 Annual Report, followed by a talk-show-type exchange.

9. CDEM ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Druwé invited Louis Allain, the CDEM's Executive Director, and its President, Edmond LaBossière, to talk with her about the CDEM's activities over the past year.

Our rural CDCs at a glance...

- Edmond LaBossière participated in several community AGMs.
- A number of communities are working on a wide range of projects.
- Some communities have put strong structures in place. Mr. LaBossière encouraged the CDCs to review their structures.
- Some CDCs have successfully secured funding resources. The Riel district CDC even has income-generating assets.

Canadian Economic Forum

- All of the regional economic development councils from across Canada came to Winnipeg to see how we do things in Manitoba.
- There are vibrant, vital forces in our communities.
- The entire network came to find out about our best practices and governance.
- The Forum was well organized and a success thanks to the CDEM team's excellent work.
- Forum participants were impressed by the Fosse aux Lions event.

Funding diversification

- We are increasingly aware of the importance of securing new funding resources.
- Consultant Maurice Chiasson facilitates sessions on diversifying funding for today and tomorrow at the CDEM.
- If we rely solely on grants and subsidies, we risk becoming unstable and less in control of our future. We need to diversify our funding to secure income-generating assets. Innovating and taking calculated risks are required to invest in our communities and diversify funding to optimize projects.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was moved by Francine Roy.

Chair

Secretary

Louis Tétrault concluded by thanking all of the CDEM's team, in particular Louis Allain, Denis Clément, Suzanne Druwé, Julie Turenne-Maynard, Joanne Laroche and Jean-Michel Beaudry, for their excellent work in organizing this event. He also thanked the participants, elected officials, stakeholders and invited guests for coming tonight. Following the October 2014 elections, we have 12 new Board members, whom he thanked. He also thanked the past Board members, and paid his respects to Denis Bibault, the AMBM's first President, and Raymond Poirier, its first Executive Director. Mr. Tétrault urged us to read the AMBM's special 20th anniversary issue, which details why the organization exists, and he thanked the contributing sponsors.

Suzanne Druwé said a few more words before wrapping up the meeting. This year's calendar is the result of a strong partnership between the CDEM and the *La Liberté* newspaper. Over the past year, *La Liberté* held a photography contest on six different themes. The winning photographs in each of the categories –18 in all – are featured in the calendar.

She also told participants that they would be receiving an AMBM survey to get their feedback and suggestions for future AGMs, and thanked them for attending this year's meeting.