

## Bulletin #2023-11

### **MUNICIPAL RELATIONS** Outcomes and Strategic Policy Division Municipal Assessment and Advisory Services Division

#### Important Notice to All Chief Administrative Officers

## **Operating Funding Escalator and 2023 Municipal Financial Plan Filing Deadline**

This notice serves to highlight the use and value of annual Financial Plans required by May 15 each year. It is important that the Department of Municipal Relations receive all plans by the legislated deadline to inform department direction on annual funding. Financial Plans are at the foundation of accountability to ratepayers and are essential for municipalities to make informed decisions related to sound financial management

#### **Financial Plans Due May 15, 2023**

The financial plan due date is legally established in The Municipal Act. All guidance regarding the preparation and submission of Financial Plans is outlined in Part 6, Division 2 of The Act: [C.C.S.M. c. M225 \(gov.mb.ca\)](#). If, due to extenuating circumstances, an extension is required, municipalities must provide a council resolution (and the written request) for consideration by the Minister in advance. These can be emailed to [mrmaas@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mrmaas@gov.mb.ca).

#### **Municipal Operating Grant**

On February 24, 2023, Premier Heather Stefanson and Minister Andrew Smith announced a \$47 million increase to the 2023 Municipal Operating grant, with details provided in the March 7, 2023 Budget Letters received by all municipalities. This increase addressed municipal concerns regarding inflation and increased operating costs to deliver core services and key programs. The unconditional operating grant allows municipalities to allocate this funding received from the Government of Manitoba at their discretion, to address local priorities.

A key consideration to inform annual Municipal Operating grant funding levels involves the potential development of a funding “escalator,” to address inflation as well as to support key areas of need, which may vary in municipalities across the province. The department’s receipt of an annual Financial Plan from each municipality by May 15, 2023, which identifies local priorities, will ensure staff have the information required now to advance proposals related to future year funding. Plans submitted after the deadline increase the likelihood of information from respective municipalities not being fully or accurately considered.

Should you require additional information on the above initiatives, or have any questions, please contact Municipal Funding Policy and Programs at [mfpp@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mfpp@gov.mb.ca) or Municipal Governance and Advisory Services at [mrmaas@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mrmaas@gov.mb.ca).

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