

MUNICIPAL AND NORTHERN RELATIONS

Important Notice to All Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers

AUDITOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION REPORT MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AND NORTHERN RELATIONS

On August 28, 2025, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) of Manitoba released its investigation report on several Manitoba municipalities as well as the Department of Municipal and Northern Relations. The investigation was prompted by a cybersecurity incident involving the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone. Auditor General Tyson Shtykalo also examined:

- Allegations of wrongdoing at six other municipalities.
- The Department of Municipal and Northern Relations' oversight of municipalities.

We encourage all municipalities to read the full report available at:

https://www.oag.mb.ca/files/ugd/1f1746_dfafce34bb3048f995dac2507d7246fb.pdf

Cybersecurity Guidelines

The OAG investigation brought significant attention to the need for increased security measures around municipal finances and banking, and;

“recommend(s) that all municipalities implement, at minimum, the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security’s baseline cybersecurity controls, where they are not already implemented.”

In response, Municipal and Northern Relations

“recognizes that municipalities do face cybersecurity threats regularly and [advises] municipalities to take these threats seriously and adopt best practices. Doing so will decrease the risks to municipal operations and assets and protect Manitobans.”

All municipal councils and administrative staff are encouraged to review best practices from the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security guidelines for small and medium enterprises (See: <https://www.cyber.gc.ca/en/guidance/baseline-cyber-security-controls-small-and-medium-organizations>). A PDF copy of the guideline is also attached.

As will be noted in the department’s response to Recommendation #2, Municipal and Northern Relations will be surveying municipalities about their current cybersecurity practices, and collaborating with, the Manitoba Municipal Administrators and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities to develop guidance for municipalities on these baseline cyber security controls.

If you have any questions, please contact mrmaas@gov.mb.ca.

This information is available in other accessible formats upon request. Please contact Department Accessibility Coordinator, at mrmaas@gov.mb.ca.