



COMMUNITY

Manitoba
Municipal and Northern Relations

CONTACT

Winter 2025 ❄️

The Northern Affairs Newsletter



HAPPY
New Year
2025

Winter Road Safety

Community Feature: Camperville Winter Activities

Inside:

Message from the
Minister & DM

Winter Road
Safety

Community
Feature:
Camperville

Election Results

Public Works
& CAO
Workshop

Northern
Affairs
Updates

Burn
Awareness
Week



Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

Page 5

Page 6-7

Page 8

Page 9

& More

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER GLEN SIMARD AND DEPUTY MINISTER MONA PANDEY

Message from the Minister

As the Minister for Municipal and Northern Relations, I want to wish Northern Affairs Communities a Happy New Year. This is always a hopeful time, as we celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of another. In November 2024, I was appointed to this role. I am also the Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs and the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation. I am deeply honoured to serve Manitobans in these portfolios and work in partnership with communities to explore new ways to foster inclusive growth and maintain essential municipal services.

Prior to my current cabinet position, I was the Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism, so I come to this department with great appreciation for the rich history and vibrancy of Northern Affairs Communities. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and working with Northern leadership in partnership and mutual respect to build better relationships that support healthy, safe, and sustainable Northern communities.

Wishing us a year of collaboration, progress and shared success!



Sincerely,

Glen Simard, Minister
Municipal and Northern Relations

Message from the Deputy Minister

I am honoured to serve as the new Deputy Minister for Municipal and Northern Relations. Since Minister Simard and I joined the department in November 2024, we have been on a learning journey, one made far easier by the help of staff and the willingness of community leadership to teach us about your communities.

Prior to joining this department, I have worked in various leadership roles with the province. I have learned so much in a short time and I am eager and excited to collaborate with communities to accomplish great outcomes for us all.

As Deputy Minister, my role is to ensure that I am responsive and supportive to the government's priorities by providing strategic policy advice and at the same time working with the leadership in the department to enable effective programs and services that accomplish results for Northern Affairs Communities and the province at large.

I am truly excited to be a part of this team and look forward to working with you, learning and building with you!



Sincerely,

Mona Pandey, Deputy Minister
Municipal and Northern Relations

WINTER ROAD SAFETY

Quick Facts

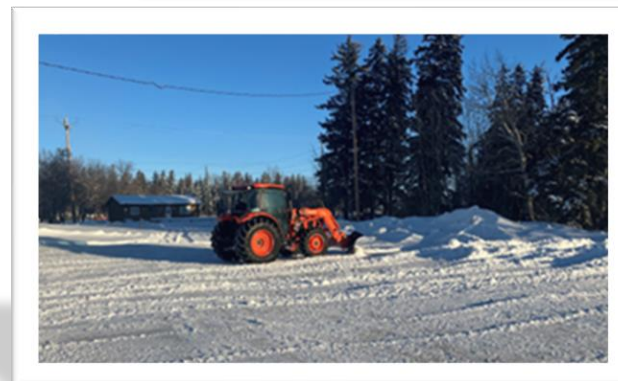
- As each new year begins, Canada and Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) work with remote and Northern Manitoba communities on a temporary winter road system built out of ice and snow when the ice is thickest on lakes and rivers
- On average, winter roads are open from mid-January to mid-March, for approximately six to eight weeks. This window has gotten shorter each year due to climate change
- Winter roads are a vital lifeline, supporting social networks, economic development, and provision of infrastructure and essential goods to Northern communities
- Winter roads serve about 30,000 Manitobans in 22 communities

Safety Tips

Here are some important safety tips to consider before heading out on a winter road:

- **Do not travel on closed winter roads:** Closed roads are not inspected or maintained. If you are stranded, help could be a long time coming
- **Slow down:** For vehicles over 7000kg GVW, the recommended ice road speed limit of 15 km/hr must be strictly followed. Exceeding the speed limit causes ice pop-outs, cracking, wave action and ice failures
- **Carry a winter emergency/survival kit:** Items such as blankets, parka, mitts, tuque, boots, emergency food supplies, water, tools for vehicle repairs, an emergency radio, a locator beacon, phone
- **Drive safe:** Know the road conditions and ensure your vehicle is in good condition
- **Offer assistance:** do what you can to help someone in need because their lives may depend on it
- **Allow extra time for travelling:** Share your departure time, approximate travel time and route with family members or those you are travelling to see
- Do not park a vehicle or store shipped goods on the ice as the constant weight will weaken the ice
- Slow down when passing other vehicles to avoid blowing snow that may blind other drivers
- Be cautious of animals crossing

The above information is from the web pages of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure. For more information, visit MTI's website at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/mti/> or call the 24-hour highways information line at 1-877-627-6237. Road information is updated regularly.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: CAMPERVILLE

Winter Snowman Contest

Submitted by Camperville

To liven up the cold winter and introduce a little fun during these snow-filled days, Camperville's Council planned a Snowman Building Contest for the youth. Residents were encouraged to submit photos of snowmen made by the children and youth in their households. There was no limit on the number of submissions per person. The deadline for submission was on December 20, 2024, and winners were announced on Facebook earlier this month.

The judges awarded the top three entries below:



1st place:
Ashley Peebles
and family with
their two
winning entries
(\$100 gift card)

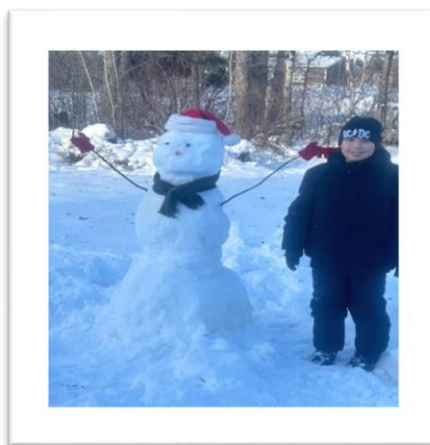
“

Getting outdoors, being active and having fun with family is what inspired this idea. Seeing the kids working cooperatively with their families to create these delightful snowmen was a joy.

– Kelly Parenteau CAO of Camperville ”



2nd place:
Nikita Cortney
(\$75 gift card)



3rd place:
Ruth Komarnicki
(\$50 gift card)

Council was happy to see people active and outside, particularly in the winter. Building a snowman can be great family fun and it gets children and adults into the fresh winter air rather than being cooped up inside. This was the first winter snowman contest Camperville has hosted, and they have hopes to make this an annual event. Congratulations to the winners!

COMMUNITY ELECTION RESULTS

The fall regular election in the Northern Affairs Communities was held October 23, 2024. The senior election official (SEO) appointed by council bylaw conducted the election in accordance with The Northern Affairs Act and Community Councils Election Regulation. Overall, the election process ran smoothly. The term of office for the elected members started fourteen days after election day. Each elected member must make and file their oath of office and conflict of interest form with the community administrative officer before entering on the duties of a council member.



Congratulations to all the successful candidates! We wish you great success in taking on this important civic responsibility for your community.

Summary of Election Results - 2024

Elected	Acclaimed	To Appointed	be New	Incumbents
43	38	2	39	42

- Of the 83 positions posted: 46% were acclaimed (in 55% of the communities), 52% were elected, 2% vacant
 - Of the 81 positions filled: 52% were incumbents, 48% were new
- Average voter turnout was 59%, with highest community percentage at 97% and lowest 22%
- For the one councillor position posted in which no nominations were received, council may appoint a person who was eligible to be nominated
- For the one mayor position posted in which no nominations were received, council may appoint one of their number as the mayor after which a by-election is required to fill the vacant councillor position
- The next regular election is legislated for October 28, 2026.

Contact Donna Sitko
Principal Electoral Officer
204-679-0678 or Fax: 204-677-6525
Email: Donna.Sitko@gov.mb.ca
Election Official's Handbook: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/northern/community-docs.html>

NORTHERN AFFAIRS EVENTS

PUBLIC WORKS WORKSHOP

The 2024 Public Works Employees Workshop took place in Winnipeg, at the Holiday Inn on Pembina Hwy, from November 5-7. The workshop aimed to provide productive, educational and essential training in a range of key areas relevant to public works professionals.

The Public Works Workshop featured a series of informative seminars, focused on improving practical skills, knowledge, operations and safety:

- **Roofing:** Best practices for maintaining and repairing roofs, with an emphasis on safety and durability
- **Small Engine Maintenance:** Tips and techniques for keeping small engines in top working condition
- **Safety:** An overview of safety protocols and best practices to ensure a safe working environment
- **Interpreting Fire Reports:** A session on how to accurately understand and respond to fire reports in public works contexts
- **Waste Disposal Sites:** Guidance on proper management and environmental considerations for waste disposal sites
- **Conflict Resolution:** Techniques for handling disputes effectively and maintaining a positive relationship with coworkers, council and members of the public
- **Water Sampling:** Procedures and best practices for sampling and testing water quality to meet public health standards



In addition to the seminars, the 15 participants from various communities across the province, received Certification for The Transportation of Dangerous Goods, a vital qualification for public works employees involved in the transportation of hazardous materials. The participants also earned 1.4 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for their professional development in the water treatment industry.



Thank you to everyone who attended, we look forward to further enhancing the professional growth of public works employees at the next workshop! Please watch for a survey that will be sent out to assist with planning our next event.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS EVENTS

CAO WORKSHOP



This past November, the Northern Affairs Branch hosted a community administrative officer (CAO) workshop at the Holiday Inn Airport West in Winnipeg on November 20th and 21st. The workshop had CAOs representing communities from both Northern and North Central Regions.

The first day included an Emergency Planning and Preparedness exercise. This was followed by presentations on Grants and Proposal Writing, the Power of Culture, Funding Delivery Updates, Orientation Delivery Process and Quarry Mining Claims.

The second day consisted of the following presentations: Crown Lands Update, CAO Speed Mentoring, Communication, MPI Discussion, Property Assessment and Workplace Health and Safety Updates. The CAOs found the speed mentoring to be most beneficial, as talking with other CAOs allowed for further networking, idea sharing and problem-solving.

This workshop was deemed a success and the CAOs expressed interest in the workshop continuing to be an annual event. Due to the inclement weather, several CAOs couldn't make it to the event. The department is hard at work planning another workshop for Fall 2025. We hope to see all CAOs there!

NORTHERN AFFAIRS UPDATES



CSO Program Review

The Northern Affairs Branch (NAB) is conducting a community safety officer (CSO) program review to be completed in 2025. Communities that currently operate a CSO program are being engaged. The goal is to share changes to The Police Services Act, understand community needs, identify administrative challenges, and review funding for the CSO program.



Fire Program Review

The Northern Affairs Branch (NAB) is conducting a fire program review, to be completed on March 31, 2025. NAB has conducted engagement sessions over the past few months with multiple fire departments. A survey was also shared with Northern Affairs communities in Winter 2024 and a What We Heard Report will be shared shortly. Thank you to all the communities that participated!



Lead Sample

The Office of Drinking Water identified 14 communities to start lead testing this summer, including: Brochet, Cross Lake, Norway House, Thicket Portage, Wabowden, Bissett, Berens River (North), Camperville, Crane River, Duck Bay, Manigotagan, Pelican Rapids, Seymourville and Waterhen. Lead testing samples must be collected at household kitchen taps and can be collected by community staff or by the homeowner. Communities

will have to collect samples from 5 or 10 homes depending on population. Priority should be given to homes built before 1990 and homes with children ages 5 and under, including private daycares. NAB is currently drafting a tender for laboratory services and can also help draft posters or letters to homeowners asking if they would like to participate in this new testing program.

REMINDERS

Feb 4 @ 1:30pm
Community Townhall (Teams Call)

Feb 17
Louis Riel Day - STAT

Municipal Calendar:
https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/northern/pubs/na_manual/financial/appendix_f2-a.pdf

Mar 4 @ 1:30pm
Community Townhall (Teams Call)

April 18
Good Friday - STAT

BURN AWARENESS WEEK**FEB 2 – 8, 2025**

National Burn Awareness Week is held February 2 – 8, 2025 and is a time for communities to unite in sharing a common burn and fire awareness prevention message.



Use National Burn Awareness Week as an opportunity to connect with your communities, and promote fire and life safety activities.

Here are some ideas to get started:

- Do an educational outreach presentation on burn injuries and prevention in the community
- Sponsor a student or community contest with a burn awareness or prevention-focused theme. Contests can involve the creation of games, public service announcements, posters, photos, colored drawings, or other artwork.
- Hold an open house at the fire hall
- Approach local schools and health/science teachers to do a school class assignment related to burns (e.g., physiology, incidence, first aid, treatment, recovery).

For information on Burn Awareness Week and the resources available to get everyone involved, please see the following link to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Website:

<https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety/burns>

“ The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. ”
- Catherine Pulsifer

Alero Tenumah, Editor

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✉ Email: Alero.Tenumah@gov.mb.ca

🌐 Website: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/northern/newsletters.html>

Kindly contact us with your feedback and or article suggestions.

We acknowledge that Manitoba is located on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishininewak, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk Nations, the ancestral lands of the Inuit, and the homeland of the Red River Metis.

