Webinar Series

Manitoba’s amalgamated rural regions: a step forward?

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Key concepts

More top down  
Annexation

More bottom up
Amalgamation

Local Partnerships – local autonomy

Coordination
- Common rec program
- Regional tourism

Cooperation
- Shared services
- Shared purchases

Collaboration
- Tax sharing
- Joint development

Strengthening communities by aligning territory & partnerships: a Manitoba case
Amalgamation Reasons

Why amalgamate?

Why not amalgamate?

Why amalgamate?
Amalgamation Reasons

Why not amalgamate?
- A competitor
- Different service levels
- Unwanted debt
- Unequal - larger population, dominate decisions
- No history of working together

Why amalgamate?
- Sharing services & activities
- Similar history & future
- Same economic region
- Successfully working together
- Similar benefits and costs

Manitoba’s amalgamated rural regions: a step forward?
Overview – Amalgamation in MB

- Aligning territory
- Results to date
- Negotiation chronology
- Aligning partnerships
- Summary

Municipal amalgamations
- Cycle of 15-20 yrs
Aligning Territory

Manitoba’s amalgamated rural regions: a step forward?
MB municipalities

- 99 MB CSD <1000 pop 2011
  - 52 Rural municipalities
  - 24 Towns
  - 18 Villages
  - 4 Indian settlements
  - 1 Local government district
Aligning territory

What if: align boundaries with Where people live & work TODAY!

Manitoba’s amalgamated rural regions: a step forward?
Aligning territory

- Strong municipalities contribute to the economic, social and env’al aspects of MB
- “Strong” municipality is a dynamic concept
  - Ability to serve residents
  - Potential for growth
  - Geographic footprint – territory to govern

- Strong municipalities
  - Indicators
  - Boundaries

Manitoba’s amalgamated rural regions: a step forward?
Defining strong municipalities

- No single definition
- Experiences & reports suggest
  - Capacity to serve people & invest
  - Trajectory of growth
  - Efficiency
- Key indicators
  - Population
  - Tax assessment
  - Debt

Sources
- NB – Building stronger local govts and regions
- MB Municipal health checklist (AMM 2003)
- Functional economic areas (Stabler & Olfert, 2002)
30 municipalities tested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guidepost Approaches</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>10 municipalities (5 by Govt, 5 by RDI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMM Municipal Health Checklist</td>
<td>Top 10 municipalities with growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Efficiency</td>
<td>Top 10 efficient, lowest govt expenditure per resident</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Brunswick Thresholds</td>
<td>4,000 population and $200M tax assessment + high school</td>
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</tbody>
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Test results – strong municipalities

• **3 of 30** ‘Strong’ Manitoba municipalities rank high with all definitions of “Strong”

• **27 of 30** median values
  – 3,126 population
  – $124 M tax assessment

• **Indicators of Strong municipalities**
  – 3,000 population (vs 4,000 NB)
  – $130 million tax assessment (vs $200M NB)
Defining strong municipalities

- Strong municipalities
  - Indicators
  - Boundaries
Functional Economic Rural Region

Reciprocal commuting flows based on daily exchanges between CSD of where people live and travel to work: more travel the stronger the relationship (Munro et al. 2011)
Functional Economic Rural Region

99 MB CSD <1000 pop 2011

Map 1 Manitoba CSDs with less than 1000 in population
Functional economic rural regions

Indicators
3,000 population
$130M tax assessment

112 amalgamate to 49 municipalities

**New Municipalities (Aug ’14)**

- RM+T: 16
- RM+V: 10
- RM+RM: 9
- RM+T+V: 5
- RM+RM+T: 4
- RM+T+T or V: 2
- RM+RM+RM: 1

7 municipalities < 1000 pop.
## 112 amalgamate to 49 municipalities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLAs (southern Manitoba)</th>
<th>SLAs matched with amalgamated municipal (Aug’14)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amalgamation same as SLAs</td>
<td>Amalgamated within an SLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandon</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killarney-Boissevain</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dauphin</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other SLAs</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
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Manitoba’s amalgamated rural regions: a step forward?
MB amalgamation chronology

- Rationale
- Resources & materials
- Timeline
- 3 steps
MB rationale for amalgamation

• More efficient municipalities – 25% municipalities spend 20%+ on adm costs
• Realizing savings and efficiencies via economies of scale
  – Reducing adm costs, investing savings into better services.
  – Sharing facilities, rec centres to reduce operational costs
• Recruiting & retaining staff, share expertise, meet challenges
• Attracting businesses & local development
• Broader pool for elected office, eg succession.
• More effective provincial investment in regional infrastructure
MB initiative supports

• Learn more

  – RDI Research on Indicators for Strong Rural Municipalities in Manitoba
  – Frequently Asked Questions
  – Manitoba Amalgamation Success Stories
  – Manitoba Government News
  – Guide to Municipal Amalgamation
  – Regional Seminars

http://www.gov.mb.ca/ia/muniamalg/index.html
Negotiation Chronology

**Top-down (Prov)**
- **Nov ‘12** Throne speech
- **Dec’12** Minister’s letter to Councils, CAOs too
- **Feb-Sept’13** Regional sessions, guide, field consultants, & new law to expedited process
- **Oct ‘13** Minister advises 32 w/out plan into 11
- **Oct’14** Municipal election

**Bottom up (Municipal)**
- Voluntary amalgamation
- **Dec’12** AMM says “No”
- **Mar’12** Confirm local partners to Minister, 32 no response
- **Dec’13** Amalgamation plans to Minister
- **Jan’15 -’19** Amalgamation

Manitoba’s amalgamated rural regions: a step forward?
Aligning Partnerships
3 steps in building municipal partnerships

1\textsuperscript{st} 2014
Partners, new name, council size & structure, office location, ruling by-law

2\textsuperscript{nd} 2015+
Name CAO, Council mtg date, financial & equipment assets

3\textsuperscript{rd} by 2019
After a yr or more determine eg., staffing levels, facilities, other by-laws

Manitoba’s amalgamated rural regions: a step forward?
Summary

• Indicators of “strong”
  - Now & trajectory

• Functional rural regions
  - Territory

• Negotiated processes
  - Municipal leadership
  - Enabling Prov’al decisions

• Getting more things right
  – Top down & bottom up
References


Questions?