



# MEMBER ADVISORY

## ASK YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATES

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**September 29, 2008** – Canadian municipalities need help. While the last 15 years have seen a greater federal commitment to municipal needs through dedicated programs in areas such as infrastructure and housing, it is not enough. A long-term coordinated national approach is needed to meet the real challenges facing our communities. With the current federal election now underway, it is the time for municipal issues to take front and centre.

The AMM is calling on all municipalities to raise municipal issues with your local candidates. This will be your voice in Ottawa and it is important to know where they stand on key municipal issues including:

### 1. Decaying Municipal Infrastructure

FCM has shown through *Danger Ahead: The Coming Collapse of Canada's Municipal Infrastructure* that Canadian municipalities are facing a \$123 billion infrastructure deficit. While there has been some help (Gas Tax Fund) a comprehensive long-term strategy is required to eliminate the deficit.

*Ask your local candidates: What is their party's long-term plan to eliminate the municipal infrastructure deficit?*

### 2. Securing our Rural, Remote and Northern Communities

Many of Canada's small communities are struggling. Shrinking tax bases, dwindling populations and rising fuel costs are all contributing to the problem. Across Canada, and especially in Manitoba, communities need to see a plan to deal with these challenges.

*Ask your local candidates: What is your party's plan to support Canada's rural, remote and Northern communities?*

### 3. Getting where we need to go

Every day, Canada becomes more interconnected, placing even greater emphasis on transportation. Major cities need greater investment in public transit to move people around growing metropolitan areas. Northern communities need improved links to the major transportation corridors which are relied on for goods. Remote communities are seeing an increased burden on municipal roads due to longer haul times and the shift away from rail transportation. Canada's transportation network is of paramount importance to municipalities and needs to be front and centre in this election.

*Ask your local candidates: What is your party's plan for Canada's transportation network?*

This Federal Election provides an opportune time to hear directly from all political parties on where they stand on these important municipal issues. We encourage you to raise these and any other municipal issues with your local candidates.