



# MEMBER ADVISORY

## PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2009 – MUNICIPAL HIGHLIGHTS

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**March 26, 2009** – President Doug Dobrowolski attended the reading of Budget 2009 yesterday at the Manitoba Legislature. Overall, the budget is disappointing with only a \$4 million increase for Manitoba municipalities for roads, transit, public safety and other municipal infrastructure and service priorities.

### BUDGET 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

- Increased funding for transit is included in municipalities' overall increase.
- A *Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Levy* will be introduced on Class 1 landfills, with revenues being rebated to municipalities and used to fund e-waste and household hazardous waste recycling.
- The elimination of entrance fees at provincial parks for the next two years will support recreation opportunities closer to home.
- Additional funds for water and wastewater operator training programs are included.
- Enhanced opportunities for rural medical students, including doubling the available scholarships for Aboriginal medical students and expanding nurse training across the province.
- An investment of over \$160 million in social housing.
- Enhanced youth recreation programs at nine inner-city recreation centres in partnership with the City of Winnipeg.

### WHAT THE BUDGET LACKED

- Municipalities outside of Winnipeg will see only \$4 million more than last year for roads, transit, public safety and other municipal infrastructure and service priorities.
- No new police officers outside Winnipeg and Brandon were included in this year's budget.
- Only \$46M for water and wastewater projects was included.
- An overall lack of funding for municipal infrastructure.

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***AMM is disappointed that our two highest priority issues - infrastructure and the need for alternate revenues – went largely ignored in this year's budget. The \$4 million increase does not come close to making a dent in the compounding increase to the infrastructure deficit, nor does it deal with the root problems, including rising construction costs.***

***With downloading continuing to be an issue as well, Budget 2009 will see Manitoba fall further behind other provinces, some that are making commitments to municipalities in the \$100s of millions. This kind of investment is needed in Manitoba but was not delivered in Budget 2009.***

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It is important to note that these are early observations from this year's budget, and more information will be released in the coming days and weeks. The AMM will continue to track this year's budget and will update our members as new information is discovered.