

Infrastructure Update

- In September 2008, the Federal and Provincial Governments signed a framework agreement for Manitoba's Building Canada Fund.
- In mid-January, the Federal and Provincial Governments announced the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund, which is the portion available for communities with a population less than 100,000.
- The first application intake deadline was February 23 and we are expecting a fast turnaround on the selection process since the Federal Government wants to get projects underway as quickly as possible. In fact, projects could be announced as soon as the end of March.
- This program is an extremely important source of funding for smaller communities, but the AMM had major concerns with the way it was rolled out.
- The AMM was not consulted prior to the announcement and had no part in the announcement itself.
- We recently learned that there will be no municipal representation on the selection committee, unlike the previous consultative committee that was established for the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF).
- We have raised these concerns with Minister Toews and Premier Doer, as well as Infrastructure and Transportation Minister Ron Lemieux and Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Steve Ashton.