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Water quality initiative

With increasing pressure on our water systems, the Province's new Water Stewardship Department has taken strides to ensure that Manitoba effectively protects all waterways. Earlier this year, \$1 million was announced for new water initiatives, with a specific focus on improving water quality in Lake Winnipeg. It is important for all Manitobans to recognize our impact on beaches and waterways, and to actively participate in the identification and implementation of solutions. For more information on Lake Winnipeg Stewardship, visit www.gov.mb.ca/lakewinnipeg.



Aboriginal Skills and Employment Program

Over the past year Manitoba Hydro and the Provincial Government have each made funding contributions to support training projects for the proposed northern hydroelectric stations. In addition to this \$30 million, Ottawa has just committed \$22 million to further these initiatives. This investment will ensure that Aboriginal residents have the skills required for the new jobs created by the proposed hydro developments. These projects represent a significant investment in economic development that will benefit northern communities and Aboriginal residents through the acquisition of transferable skills and access to employment opportunities.

Capital Region Steering Committee

The establishment of a regional partnership will enhance Manitoba's ability to market its Capital Region as a cohesive unit. Consistent with a key recommendation of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee Report, the new Steering Committee is tasked with determining how a regional partnership will be formed. Important issues will include the collaborative marketing of the Capital Region as well as improved communication and information sharing among the municipalities. Focused efforts that are supported by the entire region can work to address common economic, social and environmental challenges. For more information visit www.gov.mb.ca/ia/capreg.

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Young Entrepreneur Program expansion

To further encourage youth who have started or plan to start their own full-time businesses, the Young Entrepreneur Program has initiated two new assistance projects. *Skill Development for Young Entrepreneurs* will assist northern young entrepreneurs in covering the costs of business-related training courses, including tuition, books, travel and accommodation expenses. *Aboriginal Youth Mean Business* will enhance support for Aboriginal young entrepreneurs by establishing a coalition of business development professionals. Participants will have access to facilitated networking, information exchanges and youth mentorship opportunities. Together, these programs will provide targeted support to northern and Aboriginal youth.

Our busy President

Stu Briese, AMM President, has been busy with the association's lobbying efforts, including the tabling of the Provincial Budget in April.



Stu talking with CJOB.



Stu listens to Glen Murray, former Mayor of Winnipeg's, take on the budget.



Stu in a media scrum.



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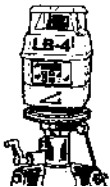
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Mineral Exploration Assistance Program

In order to ensure that mining companies are attracted to Manitoba, the Province allocated \$1.4 million to the Mineral Exploration Assistance Program in the spring of 2004. This program provides financial assistance for non-fuel mineral exploration and is designed to increase exploration initiatives. Thirty-eight companies received financial support for 55 new mineral exploration projects across the Province. Of these, nine new operations were drawn to Manitoba and recognized the Mineral Exploration Assistance Program as a strong incentive. These new projects represent a \$22 million investment in mineral exploration projects. Funding for additional projects will be allocated through an intake of applications this fall.

Share your thoughts on the Local Authorities Election Act

The Province is undertaking a review of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, an important act for Manitoba's municipal governments. The goal of the review is to develop new election processes and procedures that are enabling and flexible but respectful of democratic values. The Province will be posting a discussion document online and is encouraging the public to provide ideas for new election laws for Manitoba's local authorities. Your comments are important to ensure that local election laws continue to serve the interests of the public, but are also easy to administer and interpret. You may submit your comments electronically by visiting www.gov.mb.ca/laeareview.





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