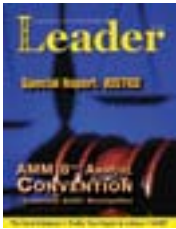


This installment of 'And Furthermore' updates readers on two very different, but equally groundbreaking, initiatives. The first has worked so well in making our communities safer that other provinces are emulating it. The second, if successful, will create a "striking new presence on the Winnipeg skyline." Read on!

## SAFER COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS ACT SETS NATIONAL PRECEDENT



The Fall, 2006 issue of *Municipal Leader* contained a special report on Justice and featured an article entitled "New law makes communities safer." That new law is the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* and recent reports indicate that it is doing just that – making communities safer.

### UPDATE

Attorney General **Dave Chomiak** reported on January 25 that more than 200 drug, sniff and prostitution houses have been shut down under Manitoba's groundbreaking *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* since the initiative came into force in 2002.

"We have made tremendous progress in shutting down operations that were literally destroying neighbourhoods," Chomiak said. "Manitoba has set a national precedent in reclaiming the safety and security of neighbourhoods plagued by drugs, prostitution and solvent abuse."

The minister noted Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and the Yukon have followed Manitoba's lead by introducing similar legislation and several other jurisdictions are currently bringing in a similar act.

Under the Act, personnel from the Public Safety Investigations Unit target properties where prostitution and related activities; the possession, sale or use of drugs; sale of liquor without a licence (booze cans); and the use or sale of intoxicating substances (sniff) are affecting the safety and security of neighbourhoods.

In total, the Public Safety Investigations Unit has received 1,386 complaints involving 1,182 operations. The majority of shutdowns have taken place in Winnipeg, although three shutdowns occurred in northern Manitoba, two in western Manitoba and one in southern Manitoba.

As part of an expanded strategy to help neighbourhoods and individuals exploited by the sex trade, the Act was recently strengthened to allow for the closure of prostitution bases of operation, even when no prostitution was taking place on-site. Amendments were also made to broaden the activities that can be investigated to include sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of a child, possession or storage of illegal weapons and explosives, and the cultivation or production of drugs.

The Act places the responsibility on property owners, including landlords, to take action to stop such activities from taking place on their properties. Landlords have co-operated with investigators in all completed cases to date except one. In that matter, a community safety order was obtained to shut down the property.

Manitoba's Public Safety Investigations Unit is comprised of staff with specialized training and extensive policing experience and expertise. Anyone can contact the Public Safety Investigations Unit, in confidence, about a problem property at 1430 - 405 Broadway in Winnipeg or by calling 945-3475 or 1-800-954-9361 toll-free.

## MANITOBA WIND POWER COULD SOON BE ON WINNIPEG HORIZON



The Summer 2006 issue of our Special Report on Municipal Technology featured 'Harnessing the Wind,' a story on wind energy. While Manitoba's successful St. Leon wind farm's 63 turbines are now a fixture on the prairie skyline, Winnipeggers may soon have their own emission-free tourist attraction.

### UPDATE

A wind turbine as tall as the Richardson Building could soon become a striking new presence on the Winnipeg skyline if community consultations and tests at The Forks prove successful. Science, Technology, Energy and Mines Minister **Jim Rondeau** and **Jim August**, CEO, The Forks North Portage Partnership, made this announcement on February 2, 2007.

"Manitoba is already home to one of the largest wind farms in Canada and we've taken steps to soon develop enough wind energy to power an additional 100,000 homes," Rondeau said. "A wind turbine in the heart of Winnipeg is a perfect symbol of Manitoba's rich clean-energy resources and the interest Manitobans share in protecting their environment."

August noted data collected from a temporary meteorological test tower will determine whether an economic case exists to build a wind turbine somewhere on The Forks site.

"A preliminary look has shown us that a wind turbine could produce enough power to meet a significant portion of the energy needs on The Forks site, reducing the environmental footprint of Winnipeg's number-one tourist attraction," August said.

Stakeholder consultations will be held during the six- to 12-month testing phase to ensure any proposed development respects the heritage of The Forks site and reflects input from the community.

Rondeau and August cautioned development of a permanent wind turbine would not proceed, nor would any site chosen, prior to consultations taking place. As well, an environmental licence would be required prior to the project moving forward.

Apart from powering The Forks with clean energy, Rondeau and August noted a wind turbine at the site would serve as a public education hub where schoolchildren and visitors could see the generation of renewable energy first-hand.

Manitoba is home to a 63-turbine, 99-megawatt wind farm in St. Leon, which generates enough wind energy to power approximately 35,000 homes. The province has committed to developing 1,000 megawatts of wind power over the next decade and recently hosted the Canadian Wind Energy Association national conference, the largest such event in the organization's history.

The province and The Forks will share the cost of the \$50,000 test tower. ♻️