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News Release

Recycling, DFA, infrastructure up for debate

November 21, 2008 – The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) 10th Annual Convention takes place from November 24 – 27, 2008 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The most important agenda items of the event are the resolutions sessions, as the resolutions carried will form the lobbying position of the AMM over the coming year. According to AMM President Ron Bell, several themes will dominate the sessions this year.

“Recycling is always an important topic,” says Bell. “Several resolutions deal with managing the waste we create, including #14, which calls for legislated biodegradable or reusable shopping bags”. Resolutions #15, #16 and #17 carry on the theme asking for a public education program about recycling, fast-tracking of new industry-led programs, and increased funding for recycling.

Disaster financial assistance (DFA) is often a key issue with AMM members and while this year is no different, Bell says the two resolutions submitted are. “Resolution #24 asks that cottage and secondary residence owners be allowed to apply for funding, as this is a real gap in our opinion,” says Bell. “The other resolution, #25, is more visionary. Current DFA regulations call for structures to be replaced only to original condition, not upgraded. The resolution asks for this to be reconsidered in certain situations, where upgrading would actually eliminate the need for future claims and save money down the road.”

Resolutions dealing with infrastructure are plentiful this year and deal with everything from rail lines (#32), major approaches (#33), bridge inspections (#36) and airports (#37). One resolution (#35) calls for interest-free loans for infrastructure projects, something Bell points out is yet another symptom of municipalities’ inability to fund essential projects with the amount of revenue they currently receive.

All media are welcome to attend. The four resolutions sessions scheduled to take place are:

Tuesday, November 25 - 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 26 - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 26 – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 26 - 2:45 p.m.

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A complete agenda is available on the AMM website at: www.amm.mb.ca