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News Release

Infrastructure #1 issue facing municipalities

MORE THAN HALF OF MAYORS, REEVES AND CAOS SPEAK UP

November 6, 2008 - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) commissioned its largest ever membership survey earlier this year and the results are no surprise to the lobby group representing 100% of Manitoba's municipalities: infrastructure is overwhelmingly the most important issue facing communities across the province.

The survey, administered for the AMM by Viewpoints Research, interviewed 328 heads of council (mayors and reeves) and chief administrative officers, representing about 83% of the AMM's member municipalities.

AMM President Ron Bell notes "the purpose of the survey was primarily to gauge our membership's opinions about the work that we do for them. We wanted to measure how they value the services we provide, our level of communications, and their overall satisfaction with our activities. While the majority of questions did revolve around the AMM's performance, we also wanted to know about issues they are struggling with in their communities. More than half (53%) rated infrastructure as their biggest issue."

Also of note is the #2 concern, depleting revenues, rated the biggest issue for one in eight respondents (13%). That is also no surprise to Bell as depleting revenues are directly tied to the \$123 billion infrastructure deficit municipalities are facing across Canada. "At every single meeting with Provincial Cabinet Ministers we attended over the past two years, we have asked for a major review of the roles, responsibilities, resources and relationships between municipalities and other orders of government, because clearly, something needs to shift. Municipalities do not have the resources required to meet expectations for municipal services. We simply need new sources of funding."

The complete report is available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.

-30-