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News Release

AMM to blitz Manitoba Legislature

April 20, 2009 - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) will blitz the Manitoba Legislature this week in an effort to inform MLAs about top issues facing municipalities. As part of its 5th Annual “Lobby Days”, the AMM will meet with the NDP caucus as a group tomorrow evening, and with Conservative and Liberal MLAs on an individual basis Wednesday morning.

Although the AMM meets annually with each Provincial Cabinet Minister to raise municipal issues, the opportunity to meet with members outside Cabinet is less frequent. This is why the event is now a critical part of the AMM’s annual lobbying activities. As AMM President Doug Dobrowolski explains, “The government doesn’t end at the Provincial Cabinet. Bringing the entire NDP caucus, as well as the Opposition, up to speed about municipal concerns opens the lines of communication. That can only benefit our members, as well as the MLAs who need to be knowledgeable about municipal issues when dealing with their constituents.”

Dobrowolski notes the AMM’s most critical issue—the need for alternate revenue for infrastructure investment—is the focus of Lobby Days this year. “We are asking the Province to share one per cent of the Provincial Sales Tax with municipalities for infrastructure, which would provide municipalities with over \$200 million a year.” Dobrowolski points out that this would have positive spin-offs for the national and provincial economy while helping municipalities address some of their most serious infrastructure needs. “The message we are hoping to convey to all MLAs is not that the provincial government has not brought in some good programs for municipalities. The message is that despite their efforts, municipalities still face enormous challenges and more is needed.”

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The AMM will meet with the NDP caucus at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, April 21 in the Victoria/Albert room at the Delta Hotel. They will then meet individually with the Conservative and Liberal MLAs between 8:00 am and 11:30 pm on Wednesday, April 22 at the Manitoba Legislature. For more information, or to schedule an interview with President Dobrowolski, please contact the AMM.