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Association of
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News Release

PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2007: PROMISING BUT MORE TO DO

April 4, 2007 – The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) watched Budget 2007 unfold with great interest. As the organization representing Manitoba's 198 incorporated municipalities, the AMM was hoping to see movement in several key areas, and were pleased to see a firm commitment in one of those areas – education tax on property.

“This budget provides a promise to increase provincial funding of education to 80 per cent,” notes AMM President Ron Bell. “It also promises a five year plan to work further on the issue, and that is something the AMM has long been pushing for.”

Another major issue for the AMM is fiscal balance, and the end of the day while the infrastructure commitments made in the budget will help, they are lacking in light of the total needs in communities. “Budget 2007 failed to deliver on the long-term plan needed to address the growing municipal infrastructure deficit in this province,” indicated Bell.

The AMM remains concerned with the lack of resources for the implementation of the requirements of the Water Protection Act. This budget was expected to present a clear and adequate funding plan to deal with water related initiatives in Manitoba. While stricter standards have been mentioned, the Budget failed to make a firm commitment to assist with the funding of the proposed requirements.

On the plus side, Budget 2007 contained some positive measures for municipalities. “We were really pleased to see movement in some key areas,” says Bell. “New officers, new environmental initiatives, more doctors, and improving access to healthy foods will only help to build strong, vibrant communities”.

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