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Association of
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News Release

Fairness, organizational structure key themes dominating resolutions sessions

November 20, 2007 – The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) 9th Annual Convention takes place from November 26 – 29, 2007 at the Brandon Keystone Centre. One of the highlights of the event is the three resolutions sessions scheduled to take place. According to President Ron Bell, a couple of themes seem to be running through the list of resolutions to be debated this year.

“We are finding that issues of fairness are on the rise, specifically in terms of all municipalities receiving the same entitlements,” Bell explains. “For instance, licensed childcare services exist for just 14 per cent of Manitoba children aged 0-12. Resolution #16 calls for more capital and operating grants for rural childcare services.”

Bell cites the Hometown Green Team Program as another example. “This is an excellent program that provides wage incentives for summer employment opportunities for youth, but it’s half of the Urban Green Team Program incentive. Resolution #14 calls for increased funding to the rural program.”

Another theme to arise in this year’s resolutions is the organizational structure of the AMM, something Bell attributes to the association approaching the end of its first decade. “Next year marks the 10th anniversary of the amalgamation of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities and the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities into the present-day AMM. We are finding that, with maturity, comes the need for some change,” says Bell, noting that resolutions #1 through #5 all revolve around AMM operations. “Some of these resolutions are by-law changes brought forth internally and others are membership-driven,” he explains.

Bell further notes that he expects resolution #2 – Limitations on Board Members Seeking Nominations – to inspire much debate. “What we’re asking for is any board member who seeks party nomination for a provincial or federal election to step down from the board as soon as they make their intentions known,” he explains. “It will be interesting to see how that plays out.”

Three resolutions sessions are scheduled to take place: Tuesday, November 27 @ 3:45 p.m., Wednesday, November 28 @ 10:30 a.m., and a final session Wednesday, November 28 @ 2:30 p.m. (if necessary). All media are welcome to attend the resolutions sessions.