

Contact:
Tyler MacAfee, AMM Director of Policy & Communications
Telephone: (204) 856-2362 Fax: (204) 856-2370
Email: tmacafee@amm.mb.ca
1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1



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News Release

Mandated regulations, cost of reviews key themes dominating resolutions sessions

November 16, 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, downloading from other orders of government is a major theme running through the list of resolutions to be debated this year.

“Municipalities roles and responsibilities are changing, with municipalities being asked to do more and more with less and less,” says Bell. “For instance, resolution #6 raises an issue that we have heard significantly more about over the past several years. Regulations are imposed on municipalities in many different areas – health, water related issues, policing, etc. – but without any consultation or additional funding. Communities are falling through the gaps created by other orders of government.” A further example is resolution #28, which highlights two examples of recent legislation that requires costly reviews that municipalities have no means to pay for.

On the health care front, “municipalities are expected to make a 10 per cent community contribution to any health care facilities, including hospitals and care homes,” explains Bell. “This is a financial hardship for any municipality – resolution #19 asks for that contribution to be removed.” Bell cites boil water orders as another example. “Municipalities under boil water orders all need the same thing – adequate water treatment facilities. Resolution #21 calls for targeted funding for these facilities.”

The issue of municipal roles and responsibilities is also the theme of a plenary session scheduled for Thursday, November 29 @ 9:00 am. The presenter is Dr. Enid Slack, one of Canada’s foremost experts in municipal finance.

The three resolutions sessions scheduled to take place are: 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.