

News Release

AMM release report on economic development in Manitoba

Community leadership key to driving economic development

Brandon, November 27, 2003 – Today, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) released its report on economic development, *Creating a Vision: Association of Manitoba Municipalities' Report on Economic Development*, outlining the Task Force committee's review process, five key conclusions regarding economic development in Manitoba, as well as 12 recommendations.

"I am pleased to be releasing this important report on economic development. With several key recommendations coming from this report, the AMM now has a blueprint to lobby the provincial and federal government," said AMM President, Stuart Briese.

The Task Force was formed the summer of 2002 after a provincial document, titled *Building an Integrated Regional Economic Development Model*, was released which contained recommendations that would impact the level of Regional Development Corporation (RDC) funding for municipalities.

After a year and a half of consultations, written submissions, analysis of the findings and extensive research of other economic development models, the Task Force report was completed September 2003 and accepted by the AMM Board of Directors.

One of the main conclusions the Task Force made was that there was no one perfect economic development service model but that economic development should come from local community stakeholders that have a vested interest in seeing their community succeed.

The Task Force also determined that communities must have the ability to self-select their partners in the delivery of economic development based on their needs and that there is a role for both regional and community organizations.

"With several economic development organizations out there, efforts must be made to coordinate services and mandates and to eliminate duplication," said President Briese. "With so many different delivery agencies receiving government funding often work is being duplicated in a region. There needs to be a better way to provide efficiency and accountability."

As part of its lobbying strategy on economic development, the AMM will use this report to bring together all government departments responsible for economic development programming to review in detail the recommendations contained in this report.

Copies of the submission are available on the AMM Web site at www.amm.mb.ca. President Briese will be available for comment following the news conference at 9:30 a.m. Please call Cindy Miller, Communications Coordinator, at 204.856.3965.

Background

AMM Task Force on Economic Development Task Force members:

Harold Foster (Chair)

Harold Foster is currently the rural Director for the AMM Interlake District. As the Reeve for the RM of Bifrost, Harold serves on the Arborg & District Agricultural Society, the local community club board and has been the President of the Arborg Credit Union for 20 years.

Frank Bloodworth

Frank Bloodworth is the current President of the Leaf Rapids Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Leaf Rapids Community Development Corporation, co-chair of the Northern Vision Regional Roundtable and past board member of the Northwest Manitoba Community Futures Corporation.

Klaus Thiessen

Klaus Thiessen currently runs his own consulting business called Klaus Thiessen & Associates. He is the Past-President and CEO of Economic Development Winnipeg. Klaus is also the Past-President of the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) and was the first Canadian elected to the Board of Directors of the Washington-based International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

Graham Starmer

Graham Starmer was selected as the President of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce in January 1998. He has worked for the RCMP, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and the Ombudsman's office in Winnipeg.

Ron Bell

Ron Bell is the urban Vice-President of the AMM and Mayor of the Town of Birtle. Over the years he has been involved with many community committees including the volunteer economic development group *Birtle Into The Future*.

Steve Lupky

Steve Lupky is the urban Director for the AMM Interlake District and Councillor for the Town of Arborg. Steve serves as the Chair of the Arborg Bifrost Community Development Corporation and also Chairs the Arborg and Districts Health Centre Foundation.

Peter Heide

Peter Heide is the Reeve for the RM of Riverside and was the rural Director for the AMM Western District. Peter has served on various committees including the Tri-Lake Hospital Board, Manitoba Product Stewardship Board and the Pelican Lake Centre Advisory Committee.

Professional Advisors:

Shelley Morris, Morris Wrighton Management

- The Task Force was formed the summer of 2002 to review economic development in Manitoba with a view to recommending models that could facilitate the delivery of economic development in an effective and efficient manner.
- The first consultation the Task Force had was in October 2002. Approximately 30 people attended with most representing Regional Development Corporations (RDCs) and Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs).
- The second consultation took place in May 2003. The focus of the consultation was to get feedback on what was heard in October 2002. The meetings were held in Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Winnipeg, and Thompson. A separate meeting was held with Destination Winnipeg. A total of 45 people attended, including municipal representatives, to economic development organizations to the local Chamber of Commerce.
- Regional Development Corporations (RDCs) provide assistance to member local governments in a wide variety of initiatives; regional promotion, marketing and information; assistance to individuals looking to start or expand business. Municipal participation is voluntary however RDCs must generate 25% of their revenue from municipalities to qualify for 75% funding from the Province.
- Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) assist with preparing and assessing business plans; providing business and market information; provide business loans; develop long term community economic development strategies and plans; coordinate resources and promote the region. CFDCs receive federal funding (about 60 – 80%) with the average core funding of \$220,000.
- Community Development Corporations (CDCs) are municipally owned and have a community focus. They assist in community project development and provide support for local entrepreneurs.

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