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Association of  
Manitoba  
Municipalities

*Representing  
Manitoba's  
Municipalities*

# News Release

## AMM talks infrastructure with Feds

### ***Delivers Pre-budget submission to Federal Finance Sub-Committee today***

**Winnipeg, October 21, 2005** – Ron Bell, President of The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) presented the Association's Budget Submission to the Federal Finance Sub-Committee earlier today. The AMM's submission was almost entirely devoted to issues involving municipal infrastructure.

"As municipalities, infrastructure drives virtually everything we do," explains Bell. "Local service delivery is highly dependent on physical infrastructure, which makes infrastructure investment a significant priority for municipalities across the country. Unfortunately, Manitoba municipalities have not been equipped to increase infrastructure investment to keep pace with these growing responsibilities. Our infrastructure assets are aging rapidly and require targeted, sustained investment."

Bell stresses that there is no one solution to the growing infrastructure deficit. "AMM members do appreciate the infrastructure programs that are in place, however, the sheer magnitude of the demand in Manitoba calls for further action from the Federal Government. This should include: signing a New Deal for Manitoba; increasing the funds available through the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund; making a Federal commitment to an intergovernmental recreational infrastructure program; and extending funding for Manitoba's rural water infrastructure."

The submission also dealt with the issues around Disaster Financial Assistance. "We need better disaster response in Manitoba, period," says Bell. "Over 130 municipalities are requesting disaster assistance this year because of the extensive flooding. The current compensation rates aren't adequate and actually penalize municipalities for doing their own work in a disaster situation. This is something that our members brought up repeatedly at the consultative meetings we held with affected municipalities, and it's also something the AMM has lobbied on for several years. We'd like to see this rectified before another disaster occurs."

-30-

*The AMM's Federal Budget Submission is available on the AMM website at*

*[http://www.amm.mb.ca/pol\\_budgets.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/pol_budgets.html). To discuss the AMM's Federal Budget Submission with*

*President Bell, please contact the Association of Manitoba Municipalities at 204-856-2366.*