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Association of
Manitoba
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News Release

AMM blitzes Manitoba Legislature

'Lobby Days' break new ground, promote municipal priorities

WINNIPEG - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) will blitz the Manitoba Legislature this week in an effort to inform members of the legislature about top issues facing municipalities.

The AMM is meeting with the NDP caucus in two groups (Winnipeg, and Rural/Northern), and with Progressive Conservative and Liberal MLAs on an individual basis.

While the AMM meets annually with every Provincial Cabinet Minister and briefs the Ministers on municipal issues, the opportunity to meet with members outside Cabinet is not as commonplace. AMM President Ron Bell says this is something the AMM wants to improve on. "The government doesn't end at Provincial Cabinet" he notes. "The entire caucus should be aware of municipal concerns as they are all part of the decision-making process. It is equally important for the opposition to be aware, so that municipal priorities are clearly understood by the legislature as a whole."

Bell adds that "MLAs are elected by the people and interact with their constituents on a regular basis. It's very important that they are knowledgeable about municipal issues as many of those issues affect their constituents significantly. We know that information gaps currently exist, and our goal during Lobby Days is to fill in as many of those gaps as possible."

Bell says that the AMM is following a model developed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for Lobby Days, albeit on a smaller scale. "FCM blitzed Parliament Hill last fall and was very successful in putting municipal issues, such as the Federal New Deal, front and centre. Some of the issues the AMM plans on placing on the front-burner this week include education taxation on property, distribution of New Deal funding, and water and land use planning."

AMM Lobby Days will take place at the Manitoba Legislature between 8:00 am and 12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 19th and Wednesday, April 20th, after which AMM President Ron Bell will be available for interviews.