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Association of
Manitoba
Municipalities

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News Release

New deal compromise not accepted

“It’s time to hear from our membership”

November 15, 2005 –The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) is disappointed that a compromise proposed by the Association, with respect to the allocation of new deal funding, has not yet been accepted by some of the parties. The AMM came up with the compromise at their Board of Directors meeting of October 27 and communicated it to the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada shortly after. The compromise included the following:

- A straight per capita distribution of the New Deal funding in years one and two of the five-year agreement;
- A 10% transit allocation from years three, four and five, with the remaining 90% allocated on a per capita basis;

AMM President Ron Bell explains, “Our position from day one has been a straight per capita distribution formula, and we still firmly believe this is the fairest scenario for all municipalities. But, we also understand the need to find a solution to get a deal signed and money flowing into Manitoba. This led our Board to put forward the compromise proposal.”

The negotiations for a new deal have been very difficult for not only the parties involved, but for the Association internally. “Our organization represents every municipality in Manitoba, and while a large number of those municipalities do support a per capita distribution for the new deal money, a number of our membership have asked for a deal to be signed that includes transit funding. What our board tried to do was reach a middle ground that would satisfy both points of view. The only thing we can do at this point is to seek further guidance from our membership.”

That guidance will be sought at the AMM Annual Convention, set to begin next Monday at the Keystone Centre in Brandon. The AMM has scheduled a plenary session for Monday at 3:15 to have an in-depth discussion on the New Deal negotiations to date, and ask for input from the delegate body. “Even if we do receive a proposal from the other parties between now and then, we will have to take it to our members,” says Bell. “These negotiations have been long and arduous and our members have been very patient. It’s time for them to have their say.”