



News Release

Prairie Association of Rural Municipalities Meets in Neepawa

New Deal for Municipalities, BSE Crisis Top the Agenda

June 30, 2004 - The Prairie Association of Rural Municipalities (PARM) met yesterday in Neepawa to discuss a number of issues facing municipalities in the Prairie Provinces. PARM is made up of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C). The organization meets several times each year to discuss issues of importance and identify actions to be taken.

Stuart Briese, President of the AMM, chaired yesterday's meeting. Also in attendance were Neal Hardy, President of SARM, Jack Hayden, President of the AAMD&C, and a number of vice-presidents and directors from each organization.

Two items topped the agenda - the federal New Deal for municipalities, and the BSE crisis. The need for improved infrastructure for roads, water and sewer was discussed. Concern was also expressed about how federal New Deal funding will be distributed. It was agreed that each association will engage in further dialogue on New Deal issues within their respective provincial governments.

On the BSE crisis, it was agreed that the most important action at this time would be to request a meeting with the new federal Agriculture Minister, once appointed. PARM recognizes that even after the border does open, it will take some time for the markets to stabilize. PARM will be writing to Prime Minister Martin to encourage his government to establish BSE as a priority issue, and to ensure that everything necessary is being done to have the border re-opened.

Also discussed at the meeting was economic development, education taxes on property, federal water funding, and roles and responsibilities of municipal governments.

The next PARM meeting will take place in February, 2005.

- 30 -

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Lynne Bereza
AMM Communications Coordinator
204.856.2366