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Association of
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News Release

AMM MEETS WITH PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL MINISTERS *Uses opportunity to focus on infrastructure and municipal 3R's*

July 13, 2007 – In an unprecedented example of working together, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) accepted the invitation of the Province of Manitoba to address the annual meeting of Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government, so the Ministers could hear first hand about the key issues and challenges facing municipalities and communities in Manitoba.

“This is a very significant event for the AMM,” said AMM President Ron Bell. “While these ministers meet annually to discuss issues that relate to their common goal of strong and viable municipalities, they do not typically invite municipal associations to participate. We were pleased to be invited and to provide the Ministers with input on municipal issues and concerns.”

"This is another example of our successful partnership with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and as host province of the Provincial-Territorial annual meeting, we were extremely pleased the AMM accepted our invitation to be part of the event," said Steve Ashton, Manitoba Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

The AMM used the opportunity to focus on two of the most significant challenges facing municipalities across Canada – infrastructure, and the municipal “3R’s” - the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal governments. Bell explains: “The harsh reality is that municipalities, for a number of varying reasons, have taken on more and more responsibility over the years but haven’t seen the accompanying resources.”

Bell notes that this opportunity was a good first step towards working with provincial local government ministers, on an ongoing basis, for the future health and prosperity of municipalities across Canada. “Municipalities are more than willing to work with the province to find solutions to these challenges. No single order of government can do this alone. We need to work together and we think this meeting has started the dialogue.”

Bell’s presentation is available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.