



# News Release

## **AMM Disappointed with Province's Decision**

### ***Uncertainty, delay will impact municipalities***

**November 3, 2004** – The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) is disappointed in the Province's decision to not move forward with Bill 40, since it will create uncertainty in the municipal planning process. In fact, many municipalities have delayed moving forward with their development plans in anticipation of the bill.

"Planning impacts every citizen" said AMM President Stuart Briese. "Our organization has spent a great deal of time ensuring several key principles are in place that would provide clarity to municipal development plans. This decision essentially places a great deal of uncertainty back onto municipalities."

The AMM believes the following key principles are essential for effective local land use planning:

1. Municipalities must maintain control over local land-use decisions;
2. The Province, not the municipality, is best qualified to take responsibility for environmental issues;
3. The Province must be in attendance at public hearings to answer questions and provide support to municipal councils, and
4. Local decisions must be final with no appeal beyond the municipal council.

President Briese explained that "our support of Bill 40 is the result of a two year process that involved a great deal of consultation with our member municipalities and the Province. Through the process it became clear that up front planning and local control over land use decisions had positive implications for both levels of government. It is disappointing to have to start over at this point, as it means further delays for our members who want to move ahead with their development plans."

However, "planning is a partnership" between the Province and Manitoba municipalities, Briese added. "While we are certainly disappointed in this step back, we will continue working with the Province in the coming months to ensure our key principles are maintained."

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For more information, or to arrange an interview with President Briese, contact:

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