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Association of
Manitoba
Municipalities

*Representing
Manitoba's
Municipalities*

News Release

AMM to meet with Premier Doer and Cabinet

December 18, 2006 - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) meets tomorrow morning with Premier Doer and members of the Provincial Cabinet. The meeting will take place at 8:30 a.m. at the Legislative Building.

“Our presentation to the Premier and Cabinet is the major lobbying event for the AMM. While we meet with individual ministers throughout the year, this meeting gives us a chance to highlight all of our major issues at one time,” explains AMM President Ron Bell.

The top issue to be raised with the Premier is a hot button topic for municipalities all across Canada – fiscal balance. “Money is the lifeblood of governments,” says Bell, “and municipalities need greater assistance to meet the demands placed on them. Across Canada, municipalities receive only eight cents out of every tax dollar – it is simply not enough. That is why we will request a serious examination of the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal governments in Manitoba.”

Water and planning issues will be another major issue raised during the meeting. “Water protection has become one of the most important issues for all Manitobans,” says President Bell, “and while we are supportive of the Water Protection Act, we do have a number of issues that we feel need to be addressed, particularly in regard to implementation.”

While a number of other issues will be raised with the Premier (see attached), the meeting won't be devoted solely to lobbying. “I plan to thank the Premier and Cabinet for some of the initiatives they have taken on recently that will help municipalities, such as the decision to fund inter-facility patient transfers. That is something we've lobbied for and I will certainly express the AMM's appreciation.”

Bell continues, “I look forward to a constructive and frank discussion with the Premier, as we continue with our ongoing process of finding solutions to our issues and concerns.”

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President Bell will be available for comment immediately following the meeting.

*Copies of the Cabinet brief will be available on the AMM website at
http://www.amm.mb.ca/pol_cabinet.html Tuesday afternoon.*

Cabinet Brief 2006

Association of Manitoba Municipalities



General Issues

- Treaty Land Entitlements and Municipalities
- Legal Costs of Negotiating TLE Agreements
- Education Tax
- Recycling
- Water and Wastewater Operator Training Opportunities Needed In-Province
- Increased Funding for Recreational Infrastructure
- Funding for Libraries
- Disaster Financial Assistance
- Artificial Flooding
- Affordable Housing in Rural Manitoba
- Municipal Exemption from Provincial Sales Tax
- Physician Recruitment, Retention and Training
- Highways Capital Budget
- Sufficient Funding for Urban Highways
- Reinstate the Manitoba Airports Capital Assistance Program (MACAP) and the Bridge Co-Operative Program
- Rocky Mountain Doubles
- Crime in Communities
- Policing Costs for Municipalities
- Funding for Renewable Energy
- Tripartite Water Funding Program
- Drainage
- Conservation Districts