

Contact:  
Lynne Bereza, AMM Communications Coordinator  
Telephone: (204) 856-2366 Cell: (204) 871-0517 Fax: (204) 856-2370  
Email: [lbereza@amm.mb.ca](mailto:lbereza@amm.mb.ca)  
1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.  
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1



Association of  
Manitoba  
Municipalities

*Representing  
Manitoba's  
Municipalities*

# News Release

## ***Deficit requires immediate action***

**Brandon, November 23, 2007** – The President of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) believes the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) report entitled *Danger Ahead: The Coming Collapse of Canada's Municipal Infrastructure*, released earlier this week, effectively highlights the vast municipal infrastructure deficit facing Canadian municipalities. The only solution to deal with this deficit, according to Bell, is immediate action from all orders of government.

“This isn't a new concern – we've been saying for a lot of years that this is a significant problem for municipalities,” says Bell. “What this report really tells us is that it is an even bigger problem than we thought – I don't think anyone was expecting the deficit to double over the past five years.”

The issue is taking centre stage at the AMM Annual Convention being held next week at Brandon's Keystone Centre, with FCM President Gord Steeves scheduled to address AMM delegates on Tuesday. Bell expects Steeves to shed even more light on the findings of the report. It charges that the physical foundations of Canada's cities and communities are “near collapse,” and says that Canada has used up 79 per cent of the service life of its public infrastructure. It sets the price for eliminating the municipal infrastructure deficit at \$123 billion.

Steeves said “Canada's economy and quality of life and the health and safety of Canadians depend on the infrastructure our municipalities build and own, yet we don't have the resources to maintain it. If we don't act soon as a nation to tackle this deficit, we will see more catastrophic failures in our roads, bridges, water supply and other vital infrastructure. Continued delay is unthinkable.”

Bell agrees. “Nothing is more important to municipalities than this issue right now.”

-30-

*President Steeves will address AMM delegates on  
Tuesday, November 27, 2007 @ 3:30 pm  
UCT Pavilion, Keystone Centre, Brandon*

Click [here](#) to view the FCM report