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Association of  
Manitoba  
Municipalities

*Representing  
Manitoba's  
Municipalities*

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# News Release

## AMM blitzes Manitoba Legislature

### *Second annual 'Lobby Days' raises the Municipal Agenda*

**WINNIPEG** - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) will blitz the Manitoba Legislature this week in an effort to inform its members about top issues facing municipalities. The AMM is meeting with the NDP caucus this evening, and with Conservative and Liberal MLAs on an individual basis between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm tomorrow.

While the AMM meets annually with every Provincial Cabinet Minister and briefs the Ministers on municipal issues, the opportunity to meet with members outside Cabinet is not as commonplace. This started to change last year. As AMM President Ron Bell explains, the first Lobby Days in 2005 was highly successful and the AMM intends to build on that success. "The government doesn't end at Provincial Cabinet", he notes. "Making the entire caucus, as well as the opposition, aware of municipal concerns opens the lines of communication. That can only benefit municipalities."

Municipalities aren't the only ones to benefit from Lobby Days. "MLAs are elected by the people, and it's important that they are knowledgeable about municipal issues when interacting with their constituents," adds Bell.

Bell says three main issues will be the focus of Lobby Days. "We'll hit on education tax and water issues, both which continue to be priorities for us." While those issues will be familiar to most MLAs, the third may not be. "The Municipal Agenda is something we've just begun to raise with Ministers this year", says Bell. "It's basically the need for a closer examination of the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal governments."

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*AMM Lobby Days will take place at the Manitoba Legislature between 8:00 am and 12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information, or to schedule an interview with President Bell, please contact the AMM.*