



# News Release

## AMM Welcomes New Minister

### *Former councillor's municipal experience an asset*

**October 13, 2004** - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) welcomes the newly appointed Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade, Scott Smith.

"We are looking forward to working with Scott", said AMM President Stuart Briese, while noting there is often a learning curve with a new post. However, "Scott's municipal background is definitely an asset to our organization. We meet with our minister on a regular basis and also depend on our minister to assist in our liaisons with other departments, so someone with a municipal perspective definitely makes it easier to get things done."

Briese added that the AMM will waste no time in requesting a meeting with the Minister, as there are a couple of issues that need to be focused on as soon as possible. "We will ask for a meeting immediately to discuss the AMM's number one issue, education taxes on property." The other issue the AMM wants to move to the forefront is a Federal New Deal for municipalities. "Municipal governments are struggling" said Briese. "The New Deal has important ramifications for all municipalities across Canada, and some strategies really need to be put into place in order to maximize the benefit to all municipalities, whether urban or rural. We are looking forward to working with the Province, and our new Minister, to make those strategies a reality."

Briese also thanked former Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Rosann Wowchuk for her dedication to the portfolio over the past four months, even while balancing it with her many other responsibilities. "We enjoyed working with Rosann and wish her all the best."

The AMM represents all 199 municipalities in Manitoba.

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

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