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Association of
Manitoba
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News Release

AMM Members Deliver Clear Message

Three major issues emerge from meetings with top municipal officials

April 1, 2005 - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) wrapped up its annual Mayors, Reeves and CAO's meetings recently with record attendance and clear direction from its members.

The meetings, held in each of the seven AMM districts, drew participants from 164 of the 199 municipalities in Manitoba, or 82%. Every municipality in Manitoba is a member of the AMM.

The high turnout did not surprise AMM President Ron Bell, who explained "Our members appreciate having this opportunity to hear updates on the AMM's activities and to voice their individual municipal concerns. There are several issues right now that are having a huge impact on municipalities and it is imperative that their concerns are heard and addressed by the other levels of government."

The top three issues that emerged from the 2005 meetings were:

- 1) AMM members fully support a per capita division of the Federal New Deal gas tax funding,
- 2) AMM members continue to push for the removal of education funding from property taxes, and
- 3) Municipalities need adequate resources for the training of water and wastewater operators, as well as for the certification of water treatment plants.

Bell noted that "These are issues we are already working on, but it is encouraging to hear that our efforts are consistent with what our members feel are the greatest needs in their municipalities. We assured our members that these concerns will be brought forward strongly in our future discussions with the Province."

A summary of the issues raised at the Mayors, Reeves and CAO's meetings is available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.