

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



Association of  
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# News Release

## AMM reports on flooded municipalities

### *Manitoba communities hit hard, more programs needed*

**August 30, 2005** – The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) recently wrapped up a series of regional meetings aimed at finding out how municipalities have been affected by the flooding and wet conditions in Manitoba this year. The well-attended meetings took place between August 12 and 22 in five communities – Hamiota, Deloraine, Lockport, Elie, and Letellier.

“We’re still preparing the final report,” states Ron Bell, AMM President, “but I can say that when agriculture is in a disaster situation, as it is this year, communities take a serious hit also – it’s intertwined.” The AMM heard repeatedly that a program similar to the Jobs and Economic Recovery Initiative (JERI) that was implemented in 1997 is needed to provide relief. “This type of program would help to alleviate some of the resulting economic down-turn in Manitoba communities,” Bell stressed.

Bell also noted many problems with drainage, lake levels, and shoreline erosion, highlighting the need for a provincial water management plan. “A recurring theme is definitely prevention – municipal officials want to know why the clean-up effort doesn’t include a contingency so that future damages of the same magnitude can be prevented.”

Another issue raised is that the federal government pays only 16% recovery on municipal equipment used to do flood repair work, and 100% for contract work, making it more feasible for municipalities to hire out the work. “However, if contractors are not available, the municipality is forced to do the work themselves and can’t recover their actual costs,” noted Bell. “This is an issue the AMM has been advocating for some time and it’s one our members obviously continue to feel strongly about, as it was mentioned at every meeting.”

Bell did note that overall satisfaction with the provincial Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) is high, with good people doing good work. “However, it appears there aren’t enough inspectors during difficult years, so the wait for someone to assess damages can be lengthy,” he added.

The AMM expects to complete the final report, including recommendations, by mid-September. It will be posted on the AMM website at [www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca).