

Contact:  
Lynne Bereza, AMM Communications Coordinator  
Telephone: (204) 856-2366 Cell: (204) 871-0517 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  
Manitoba  
Municipalities



# News Release

## Infrastructure top priority in AMM budget submission

### *“Roads are crumbling and recreation centres are struggling”: Bell*

**October 25, 2006** - The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) will present its list of priorities to Provincial Finance Minister Greg Selinger tomorrow afternoon. The Minister will be in Portage la Prairie as part of a series of province wide budget consultations.

While a number of priority items are listed in the budget submission prepared for Minister Selinger, AMM President Ron Bell says the focus this year is broader in scope than in previous submissions. “You only need to take a look around Manitoba communities to know that the funding so far, while appreciated, is not enough,” says Bell, pointing to the growing infrastructure deficit that exists in our communities as proof that more is needed. “Roads are crumbling and recreation centres are struggling as communities try to balance infrastructure needs with competing priorities and limited resources. Municipalities have become masters of maximizing resources, however the reality is that there are not enough resources to deal with the ever-increasing responsibilities in our communities. We need the Province to take a close look at the roles, responsibilities and resources of municipal governments.”

Aside from the big picture, the AMM also has over two dozen priority items to raise with the minister tomorrow. One of those items is interfacility patient transfers. “Medical transportation is an integral part of health care services,” says Bell, “yet patients are subjected to additional costs when they must be transported across RHA jurisdictional boundaries for more than 24 hours. This has to change.”

Not surprisingly, issues relating to water are also plentiful on the priority list to be discussed with the Minister. These range from the impacts of water legislation, drainage issues, and the need for a tripartite water funding program, to training opportunities for water and wastewater operators. A number of issues related to highways and recreational infrastructure are high on the list also.

The meeting with Minister Selinger will take place between 4:00 and 5:00 pm on Thursday. President Bell will be available for comment immediately following the meeting. The AMM's complete 2007 Provincial Budget Submission will also be available on the AMM website at [www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca) immediately following the meeting.