

**Federal Budget 2004 – A  
focus on municipalities**

On March 23, 2004, Ralph Goodale, Federal Finance Minister, introduced his budget to Parliament. Along with health care, learning and the economy, a New Deal for communities was a major theme in this year's budget.

The 2004 Budget outlined the following first steps for its New Deal:

- Full goods and services tax (GST) relief for municipalities of all sizes.
- Accelerated infrastructure funding.
- A stronger voice for municipalities.

In a news release issued by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), President Yves Ducharme stated that the budget is "a very good start, but that we need a clear time frame for negotiations on a revenue-sharing agreement."

Stuart Briese, AMM President, agreed with Mr. Ducharme. "I think the federal government is showing an understanding of the issues facing Canadian municipalities. With the implementation of the 100 per cent GST rebate and acceleration of the federal government's infrastructure commitments from ten years to five years, I believe the government is heading in the right direction."

The AMM, along with the FCM, will be following up on the federal government's commitment to Canadian municipalities as well as their commitment to developing a revenue-sharing agreement.

discussed with Minister Struthers. The Minister pointed out that the effectiveness of MPSC has made it the model for the new agency and discussions are still ongoing.

The AMM expressed frustration with the delays in implementing the Household Hazardous Waste Program. The Minister indicated that the department is drafting a discussion paper on this and will make it public once complete.

**Minister Meetings continue**

At the beginning of March, the AMM met with four more Ministers as part of its annual Minister meetings: Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth (March 8); Tim Sale, Minister of Energy, Science and Technology (March 8); Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation (March 8); and Diane McGifford, Minister of Advanced Education and Training (March 12). Along with bringing forward the AMM's top lobbying priorities for 2004, education funding and a New Deal for municipalities, the AMM also raised several specific issues with each Minister. The following is a brief overview of what was discussed at each meeting.

**Bjornson**

The AMM raised concerns with the date the Province notifies municipalities of the amount of provincial school taxes that need to be levied. The change of date prevents municipalities from having complete information in their draft budgets that are taken forward to the public.

The Minister indicated that it is necessary for the Province to set the date for April if it is going to meet its commitment to phase out the education support levy in 5 years. The Minister indicated the set date would be changed back to the original date as soon as the education support levy was eliminated

The AMM and the Minister also had an in-depth discussion on education funding.

**Sale**

Cellular service expansion is a critical component of Manitoba's communication infrastructure. The AMM is concerned that those areas of the province that do not have cellular service have an increased safety risk as well as an economic disadvantage.

The Minister indicated that the AMM and his department should work together to get the Canadian Radio and Television Commission to change the definition of minimum level of service for cellular so that remote areas would receive cellular service.

The AMM expressed appreciation for the creation of the Manitoba Ethanol Office and the Bio-diesel Advisory Council as well as The Biofuels Act. The AMM urged the Minister to ensure a financial commitment to these initiatives.

With the creation of Efficiency Manitoba, the AMM urged the Minister to ensure that well-functioning programs such as the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC) are not adversely affected.

The Minister told the AMM that the department is still working out details regarding the model for this agency and will consult with the AMM on any new developments.

**Struthers**

The AMM's concern regarding the MPSC and the new efficiency agency was also

The Manitoba Municipal Efficiency Program and its similarity to the new efficiency agency was also discussed.

The AMM also talked about the well-functioning beaver control program and its hopes that it will not get lost if it is included in a wider Predator Control Program.

### McGifford

The first issue discussed was physician training in Manitoba and the need for more spaces for doctor training at the University of Manitoba. The Minister pointed out that the Province has recently raised the number of spaces to 85 and hopes to eventually raise it to 100.

The second issue raised was the need for qualified and trained personnel to run municipal water and wastewater facilities. The AMM urged the Minister to ensure that adequate financial support is available for water and wastewater training across the Province.

The AMM will be following up shortly with each Minister on all issues that were brought forward at these meetings. Copies of the position papers presented to the Ministers are available on the AMM website at [www.amm.mb.ca/provministermeetings.htm](http://www.amm.mb.ca/provministermeetings.htm).

### From the AMM Office ...

#### Notices

#### Survey Monument Program Changes

There have been some changes to the Survey Monument Program. Municipalities are encouraged to contact Gary Fraser, Examiner of Surveys before paying for any survey work invoiced to the municipalities. Questions about the program changes can also be directed to Gary.

**Gary Fraser, Examiner of Surveys**  
Ph: 204.945.2281  
Fax: 204.948.2823  
Email: [gfraser@gov.mb.ca](mailto:gfraser@gov.mb.ca)

#### Job Posting

#### RM of Alexander Chief Administrative Officer

Due to the retirement of our current Administrator, the RM of Alexander is seeking applicants for the position of Chief Administrative Officer.

The Chief Administrative Officer would report to Council and would be responsible for the administration, supervision and co-ordination of all staff, policies, plans and programs approved by Council.

The successful applicant must possess:

- strong management, analytical and communication skills;
- the ability to interpret and administer agreements, statutes and by-laws;
- a sound understanding of municipal accounting, financing and budget preparation;
- a sound understanding of the subdivision process, development agreements and zoning by-laws;
- proven knowledge of the Municipal Act and the Planning Act;
- computer experience with Solomon and Microsoft Office software and knowledge of spreadsheets and financial system applications.

Graduation from or enrolment in the University of Manitoba Certificate Program for Municipal Administrators and at least 5 years experience as a Chief Administrative Officer (preferred), however, an equivalent combination of training, education, skills and experience will be considered. Bilingualism is preferred but not essential.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a written application and a detailed resume with a minimum of three references **by April 8, 2004** to:

Rural Municipality of Alexander  
Attn: Chief Administrative Officer  
P.O. Box 100  
St. Georges, MB R0E 1V0  
Email: [rose@mts.net](mailto:rose@mts.net)

Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

#### For Sale

#### RM of Russell Culvert

6 pieces large used culvert for half price of new  
(3 pieces 8.37 ft. diameter of 2.8 guage, 1 piece is 26.25 ft. long, 1 piece is 29.53 ft. long, 1 piece is 32.8 ft. long)  
(3 pieces 8.86 ft. diameter of 2.8 guage, 1 piece is 26.25 ft. long, 1 piece is 29.53 ft. long, 1 piece is 32.8 ft. long)

Will only sell by the piece. Couplers available to fit.

RM of Russell  
Box 220  
Russell, MB R0J 1W0  
Ph: 204.773.2294

#### RM of Argyle Elevating Scraper

1974 John Deere 860A Elevating Scraper. Engine & Transmission have been redone. Needs elevator gear box. \$10,000 OBO.

Also set of front fenders for a Cat 140H grader. \$500 OBO.

Call Don at 204.535.2482 or  
204.825.7029

#### RM of South Cypress Office Equipment

Offers will be received up until Mon., April 12, 2004 for the purchase of the following office equipment:

1 – Hewlett Packard LaserJet Model 2100 black & white printer purchased in 2001 for \$1,080  
1 – Canon Plain Paper Model B340 Bubble Jet Facsimile Machine, purchased in 1996 for \$1,130  
1 – Okidata Microline 591 – 24 Dot Matrix Printer purchased in 1994

All equipment is in excellent condition and will be sold in “as-is, where-is” condition.

For further information contact:  
CAO Eric Plaetinck  
Ph: 204.827.2252