

FCM develops “New Deal” formula

AMM President Ron Bell and Executive Director Joe Masi recently returned from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) board meeting in Ottawa. The meeting resulted in a proposed distribution formula for New Deal funding.

The FCM applauds the Government of Canada and Prime Minister Martin for recognizing the needs of Canada's communities. Refunding 100% of the GST, appointing the Honourable John Godfrey as Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities, sharing a portion of federal fuel taxes with municipalities beginning in 2005, maintaining existing infrastructure program funding (see note), and embracing a new partnership with the municipal sector are all highlighted in a statement prepared by the FCM.

In order for funds to begin flowing to municipalities in 2005 negotiations should begin now. A formula for distribution of fuel-tax revenue, recognizing a diversity of needs, must be in place. The impact of the infrastructure deficit is felt from the largest urban centre to the smallest remote community, but their specific needs do differ based on size, region, economic conditions and infrastructure.

Recent efforts to develop a national distribution formula reflect the complexity of these needs. One approach, known as the 75/25 formula, focused on the needs of Canada's largest cities, while the 13/87 formula better met the needs of Canada's smaller jurisdictions.

In order to meet the needs of *all* communities, the FCM and the municipal sector focused on a number of key principals to determine a funding formula:

- ◆ Partnerships must respect municipal autonomy to address local priorities;
- ◆ Predictable and stable revenue of \$2.5 billion per year is needed (including a portion of both gasoline and diesel-fuel tax), it must be protected from claw-back and it must grow with the economy;
- ◆ The allocation formula must recognize the needs of the largest cities, particularly in the area of transit, while recognizing that more remote areas suffer from high construction costs and a dispersed population base;
- ◆ Sustainable communities must be a priority;
- ◆ Accountability and reporting must be based on real outcomes;
- ◆ Local program administration must be flexible and simple, and

- ◆ Municipalities must publicly recognize the contributions by the Government of Canada.

FCM's proposal is comprised of the following key points:

- *The national allocation of fuel-tax revenue should be based on a per capita calculation;*
- *Separate, special regional allocations should be established for smaller provinces and territories ensuring that each receives at least \$25 million/year.*
- *To meet the needs of large cities, intra-provincial/territorial distribution (where applicable) should include a permanent dedicated allocation that supports transit investments, not lower than 25% of total fuel-tax revenue.*

The FCM's proposal recognizes both the pressing needs of Canada's largest cities, as well as the special circumstances of our smaller cities. It provides a green framework for eliminating the infrastructure deficit, while recognizing the need for partnership and accountability.

Important note: *The recent announcement of a Canada-Manitoba investment of \$82 million for local infrastructure projects is NOT tied to the federal New Deal. The FCM proposal accepts in good faith that the gas tax will constitute **net new revenue** for the municipal sector, and that existing infrastructure program funding will continue unchanged.*

MAFRI to Modernize Department

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) Minister Rosann Wowchuk recently unveiled a new plan for a modernized department that aims to better meet the specialized needs of the province's agriculture and agri-food sector for value-added production, economic growth, information, service and food safety.

Goals of the plan include making specialized services available to clients through 20 expanded agricultural offices now called Growing Opportunities Centres (GO Centres) located throughout the province. GO Centres will provide producers and rural communities with one-stop locations for services ranging from farm production and rural economic development to business development and financing, and crop insurance. The remaining current agricultural office sites (GO Offices) will still provide important local services while tapping into the expertise of GO Centres.

The GO Centres and GO Offices will be supported by four knowledge centres that will focus on specific areas of expertise such as rural economic development; food commercialization and marketing; crops, agri-environmental and agri-food; and innovations for livestock and food safety.

The Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation (MCIC) and the Manitoba Agriculture Credit Corporation (MACC) will begin the process of bringing together technology and human resources functions while maintaining offices in Brandon and Portage la Prairie.

For Sale

**Arborg & District
Handi-Van**

- ◆ 1999 Ford E450 Aerotech 220 Paratransit Bus
- ◆ 6.8L U10 GAS Engine
- ◆ 16 Ambulatory / 3 Wheelchair 10 Ambulatory
- ◆ \$35,000.00 o.b.o.
- ◆ Mint condition, must be seen.

CALL Maureen @ (204) 376-3494 for more details



The AMM Education Seminar for
January 14, 2005

**“Help! I’m in a Meeting and I
Can’t Get Out!”**

has been

CANCELLED

We are currently finalizing arrange-
ments for the next AMM education
session, scheduled for March, 2005:

**“Decision-Making for
Councils and Boards”**

Details coming soon!

For more information, please contact:

Donna Belbin

AMM Events Coordinator

204-856-2374

Email: dbelbin@amm.mb.ca

Job Postings

**City of Portage la Prairie
Transportation Operator “A”**

Under the direction of the Transporta-
tion Foreman, assists with the ongoing
public works programs of the Division.
Performs duties related to the mainte-
nance and construction of City infra-
structure. Supervises seasonal staff as
needed.

Applications must be received by
4:30pm, Friday December 31, 2004
and marked posting “2004-14”

**Water Treatment Plant
Operator—Class I, II or III**

Under the direction of the Water Treat-
ment Operations Foreman ensures the
safe and effective monitoring and
operation of processes and facilities for
the Water Treatment Division.

**Applications must be received by
4:30pm Wednesday January 5, 2005
and marked posting “2004-15”**

Send applications to:

Human Resources Office
City of Portage la Prairie
97 Saskatchewan Avenue East
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0L8
FAX to (204) 239-1532
Email: HR @city-plap.com

**Town of Ste. Anne
Chief Administrative Officer**

The Town of Ste. Anne, 20 minutes
from Winnipeg, Manitoba, is seeking a
Chief Administrative Officer. Starting
date: March 1, 2005

Interested applicants are invited to
forward their resume no later than
Friday, January 7th, 2005, to:

The Town of Ste. Anne
La Ville deSte-Anne
181 Central Avenue
Ste. Anne, Manitoba R5H 1G3
Fax: (204) 422-5459
Email: Guy_Levesque@steannemb.ca

Job Postings

**Town of Erickson
Relief Water Plant Operator**

Seasonal Employment and year-round
Relief Water Plant Operator required
for the Town of Erickson.

Written applications, clearly marked
“Operator” containing resume and 3
references to be received by the
undersigned by January 7th, 2005;

William Hildebrand, CAO
Town of Erickson
Box 40 Erickson, Manitoba R0J 0P0
Telephone: (204) 636-2431
Fax: (204) 636-2516

**RM of Gimli
Assistant Chief Administrative
Officer**

Submit Resumes by January 17, 2005
Box 1246
Gimli, Manitoba
R0C 1B0
Attention ACAO Search Committee
Fax 642-6660
email jking@rmgimli.com

**FOR COMPLETE JOB POSTINGS, VISIT THE
AMM WEBSITE AT:**

www.amm.mb.ca/jobposting.htm

Seasons Greetings

From the Board and Staff

of the Association of

Manitoba Municipalities



Contact the Association of Manitoba Municipalities

1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W. Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1
Tel: 204-856-2366 Fax: 204-856-2370 Email: amm@amm.mb.ca
www.amm.mb.ca