

New Deal, Infrastructure high on AMM agenda

On November 9, 2004, President Stu Briese and Executive Director Joe Masi met with The Honourable John Godfrey, Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities, to discuss the federal New Deal.

Minister Godfrey indicated that the new deal is Prime Minister Martin's next priority. It will mean \$5 billion for municipalities over five years. It is hoped that something will be in place for the next federal budget in 2005.

Minister Godfrey explained the formula allowing 1% to each province and the rest on a per capita basis is difficult for a \$5 billion program, as territories would receive a great deal more than some provinces, and the needs are great all across Canada. A flexible formula that will also address the needs of the larger urban centers is needed.

Minister Godfrey also noted that municipal infrastructure must be a priority, and municipalities will need to show capital plans leading to sustainable communities.

President Briese suggested one way to administer new deal money would be through the existing infrastructure secretariat already in place and working well in Manitoba. He also stressed that the new deal formula must be simple, fair and equitable to all provinces and territories. ■

A new Canada—Manitoba agreement to improve infrastructure in Manitoba communities was announced on December 3, 2004. The Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) will provide **\$82 million** for local infrastructure projects, with local governments funding the remaining \$41 million.

Applications are available from the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Secretariat at 1-800-268-4883, or by emailing infra@gov.mb.ca.

The Secretariat will also mail the application form on interactive CD-ROM's to local governments.

AMM Executive Meets with RCMP

The AMM Executive met with the RCMP, D Division, on November 5, 2004. As the RCMP has been stressing the need for local officers to meet monthly with local municipal officials, they feel it only makes sense for the RCMP Commanding Officer (CO) to meet regularly with the AMM Executive. The AMM raised several key issues at the meeting:

Detachment Report—The AMM inquired as to the timeline for the completion and implementation of the detachment report, as we have no major concerns with the report. The CO indicated an overall viewing of the report would take place this week, with the new structure being rolled out in 2005/2006. He did note that much of what develops over the next year would be the result of the Province's reaction to the report.

By-Law Enforcement—The AMM raised two issues around by-law enforcement: the high costs of by-law enforcement and the need to get by-laws out of the court system, and the use of private by-law enforcement agencies by municipalities.

The RCMP indicated that while they believe by-law enforcement officers may have a role in policing in the province, this is a public policy issue that only the Province can decide. They did express concern with having

these types of officers in situations where they lack training, however as parking offenses have limited officer to violator contact, they agreed it would make sense to have by-law enforcement officers.

Policing Costs—The AMM stated municipalities are frustrated with the minimal control they have in this area. AMM noted that the costs

...in some municipalities salary costs of policing make up to 80% of the policing budget.

should not outstrip the economic realities municipalities face, yet in some municipalities salary costs of policing make up 80% of the policing budget. This is a major issue that the AMM's Large Urban Policing

Working Group has taken forward to the Province.

The RCMP stated it is awaiting a response from Treasury Board regarding a pay increase for 2004. The principle issue is cost containment vs. affordability and the RCMP has been reducing its internal costs.

Levels of Service—The RCMP is aware that many detachments are under resourced and officers are overworked, and both the RCMP and the Provincial Government want to address this issue. The RCMP indicated that greater service is needed north of the Trans-Canada highway, and there is a much higher incidence of violent crime outside of Winnipeg than within Winnipeg. ■

Notices

Community Investment Support Program (CISP)

The Community Investment Support Program (CISP) provides 50/50 matching funds for communities or regions that are seeking to improve or develop their investment attraction infrastructure. The next deadline for applications is

December 17, 2004

The program assists with projects such as profile development, regional assessments and target development, among others. Full program information is available at:

www.cisp.gc.ca

Or, please contact:

Amanda McNaughton

(204) 983-2594

Amanda.mcnaughton@ic.gc.ca

Young Leaders in Rural Canada Awards

Your assistance is needed to promote the second annual Young Leaders in Rural Canada Awards. The Rural Secretariat is seeking nominations of young Canadians (18 - 29 years old) who have demonstrated outstanding achievements and contributions to rural, remote and northern Canada, at the local, regional or national level in three areas: **INNOVATION, LEADERSHIP** and **PARTNERSHIP**.

The deadline for submissions is no later than:

Monday, January 17, 2005

To find out more, visit:

www.rural.gc.ca/dialogue/youth/nominations_e.phtml

Reminders

Manitoba Planning Excellence Awards

Please be reminded that the deadline to nominate your community project for a Manitoba Planning Excellence Award is December 21, 2004. Awards will be presented during the Manitoba Planning Conference in Brandon, February 9th to 11th, 2005.

For more information, contact:

Manitoba Planning Excellence Awards

Phone: (204) 945-8161

Email: provincialplanning@gov.mb.ca

Job Postings

**The R.M. of Lakeview
Chief Administrative Officer**

The Rural Municipality of Lakeview invites applications for the position of Chief Administrative Officer. Under the direction of the Council, the CAO is responsible for the overall management of the supervision of staff, policies, plans and programs including facilitating economic development initiatives for the Rural Municipality.

Remuneration to be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Applications (mail, fax, email) must be received by Friday, Dec 10, 2004.

Please send applications to:

CAO Position

The RM of Lakeview

Box 100

Langruth, MB R0H 0N0

Fax 204-445-2162

email: rmlakeview@mts.net

A complete job posting may be viewed at www.amm.mb.ca/jobposting.htm.



Help! I'm In a Meeting and I Can't Get Out!



Alex Wray

Presented by:
Alex Wray

Friday, January 14,
2005

9:00 am—4:00 pm

Victoria Inn—1808
Wellington Ave.,
Winnipeg

AMM Education Seminars are a great way to meet and exchange ideas with your municipal colleagues. The AMM strives to bring you high quality facilitators and session topics that address issues that you encounter regularly. We also keep seminar fees low so you can budget each member of your council to attend one or more of the sessions.

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Please register for:

Help! I'm In a Meeting and I Can't Get Out! no later than

**** Friday, December 9, 2004 **
(this Friday)**

or we will be forced to cancel this session! Don't delay any longer. You may download a registration form at:

www.amm.mb.ca/education.htm

For more information, please contact:

*Donna Belbin
AMM Events Coordinator*

Phone: 204-856-2374

Email: dbelbin@amm.mb.ca



Contact the Association of Manitoba Municipalities

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