

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Update

“Local issues affect people where they live,” says Kovach

Canada depends on strong cities and communities for its prosperity and quality of life. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) believes that during this federal election, all party leaders and every candidate for Parliament must tell Canadians what they propose to keep our cities and communities prosperous and competitive. The FCM’s election platform, released December 9, calls on all federal parties to commit to erasing Canada’s \$60-billion municipal infrastructure deficit.



Gloria Kovach

“Local issues affect people where they live,” said Councillor Gloria Kovach, president of FCM. “We need to hear now from all the national parties about where they stand on renewing our communities. We need a clear commitment from all the leaders that they will support a long-term plan to fix our municipal infrastructure no matter who forms the next government.”

The platform document, available on the FCM website at www.fcm.ca, outlines the issues that concern Canada’s municipal sector and what the sector agrees should be done to fix our cities and communities. The document asks all parties for five things:

1. To commit to giving municipalities a seat at the table by fully engaging them in decisions on issues affecting their communities,
2. To commit to develop and fund—in collaboration with provincial/territorial and municipal governments—a long-term collaborative plan to eliminate the municipal infrastructure deficit within 20 years;
3. To put into place a long-term legislative framework to support and guarantee the gas-tax transfer;
4. To maintain funding for existing infrastructure programs; and
5. To develop a set of targets and accountabilities for eliminating the infrastructure deficit.

FCM’s more than 1,100 municipal government members, including the 90 in Manitoba, look forward to hearing all leaders and candidates discuss the issues that concern the people in their communities in their televised debates and on the campaign trail. ■

Other FCM News

Town-Hall meeting held

The FCM Board of Directors met December 1 in a town-hall style meeting with representatives from the Liberal, Conservative and New Democratic parties to discuss and debate where the three parties stand on municipal issues. Board members questioned John Godfrey, Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities, and opposition critics Rahim Jaffer of the Conservative Party of Canada and David Christopherson of the NDP.

Kovach FCM President

Councillor Gloria Kovach of Guelph, Ont., began her term of office as president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) on December 5. Kovach, who addressed AMM delegates at our 7th Annual Convention in November, succeeds former Duncan, B.C., Mayor Michael Coleman as FCM president. Winnipeg Councillor Gord Steeves becomes FCM’s First Vice-President; Sherbrooke Mayor Jean Perrault becomes Second Vice-President; and Kamloops Councillor Patricia Wallace becomes Third Vice-President.

AMM Comments on Bill 7

The AMM recently submitted a letter to the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development regarding proposed amendments to **Bill 7: The Architects and Engineers Scope of Practice Dispute Settlement Act**. The recent ruling in the case against the City of Winnipeg has created the need to have this issue revisited. With the infrastructure deficit facing Manitoba communities, it is imperative that costs are controlled and municipalities are allowed to employ only the professionals needed to complete projects. Municipalities understand the importance of both professions and this new legislation will allow municipalities to employ the professionals most appropriate for the task at hand.

The AMM is pleased to see that Bill 7 will grandfather projects currently in the works, to ensure progress made will not be lost. As well, we are pleased to see that Bill 7 includes a mechanism for engineers and architects to deal with disputes in a timely manner should they arise.

The AMM was pleased to see Bill 7 receive Royal Assent on November 30.

If Manitoba is to continue to grow, it is essential that the process is clear and not unnecessarily burdensome for those undertaking major projects. Manitoba communities face serious challenges when it comes to local infrastructure and it is imperative that any unnecessary obstacles are removed to maximize limited resources. The AMM believes Bill 7 addresses these concerns, and was pleased to see the Bill receive Royal Assent on November 30. ■

Coming Events

Municipal Innovation Award

The AMM will award the 2nd Annual **Municipal Innovation Award** at the Municipal Officials Seminar in Brandon. We recently emailed the submission form and guidelines for the program to all municipalities. They can also be found on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.

An award will be presented to the winner, however *all* applicable submissions will be profiled at MOS and in the AMM Municipal Leader Magazine.

Questions? Contact Tyler MacAfee, Director of Policy & Communications:

Telephone: 204-856-2362
Email: tmacafee@amm.mb.ca

AMM Education 2006

Education Session #1

Wednesday March 1, 2006

Presented by:

**McCandless
Tramley &
Roger
Bouvier**



Greg Tramley



Roger Bouvier

Brandon
Keystone Centre
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Cost - \$75. + GST

Registration/Cancellation deadline for this session -

****MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006****

Questions? Contact
Donna Belbin, Events Coordinator
Phone: 204-856-2374
email: dbelbin@amm.mb.ca

**REGISTER ONLINE:
WWW.AMM.MB.CA**

Coming Events

Municipal Officials Seminar & Trade Show

February 27 & 28, 2006

Visit our website at
www.amm.mb.ca for:

**Trade show information
List of displayers
Sponsorship opportunities**

We are finalizing our agenda of professional development and policy sessions. We look forward to seeing you at MOS!

MTCMLOfficial Supplier

NORQUAY PRINTERS

Products Available:

Customized business forms, letterhead, envelopes, business cards, rubber & self-inking stamps, corporate seals, etc.

Telephone: 204-857-7582
Email:

norquayprinters@shawcable.com

For more information on Norquay Printers and other important Official Suppliers check out the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.

Notices

Explosive Magazine Fees

Has your municipality paid an explosive magazine license fee in the last six years? If so, you may be entitled to a reimbursement from the Federal government. If your municipality has paid for this license you may be eligible. Please contact:

Dave McCulloch in Ottawa
Telephone: 613-948-5171 or
Email: dmccullo@nrcan.gc.ca

Job Postings

Chief Administrative Officer RM of Reynolds

The Council for the Rural Municipality of Reynolds is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the position of Chief Administrative Officer, effective March 1st, 2006. The incumbent will work with elected council in carrying out the affairs of the municipality; be responsible to maintain all municipal records including minutes and bylaws of council meetings, accounting system, tax roll, budgets, financial statement etc. and be responsible for the management and operation of the municipal office.

Qualifications:

- must have completed the four-year University of Manitoba Municipal Administration Course or equivalent
- should have a minimum of five years of experience as a Chief Administrative Officer in a municipality
- knowledge of municipal accounting, budgets and administration
- ability to develop, interpret and administer agreements, statutes and by-laws
- excellent communication & interpersonal skills to deal with Council, the public and other employees
- organizational & supervisory skills
- personal initiative balanced by a willingness to follow directions
- experience in Auto Admin will be considered an asset

Salary: According to qualifications and experience (\$42,000.00 - \$55,000.00). An attractive benefit package is also provided. Candidates are to submit written application with resume, in sealed envelope marked "Application CAO", by 4:00 pm on January 6th, 2006 to:

**Personnel Committee
RM of Reynolds Box 46
Hadashville, Manitoba ROE OXO**



The AMM Board and Staff wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!