

Federal Gas Tax

As you know, on November 18, 2005, the Province of

Manitoba and the Government of Canada signed an agreement for the transfer of Federal gas taxes to Manitoba municipalities. In order for municipalities to receive their funding the next step is for each municipality to sign a Funding Agreement with the Province.

The AMM mailed two (2) original copies of the Funding Agreement to each municipality on February 9. The Funding Agreement sets out the payment schedule and the terms and conditions for receiving these funds. **Municipalities must sign both copies and return them as soon as possible to the AMM office.** The AMM will then forward the agreements to the Province for signature and payment.

The AMM also mailed a Q&A sheet that answers some of the most commonly asked questions about the gas tax agreement and the requirements for municipalities.

(This information is also posted on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.)

If you have further questions regarding your Funding Agreement, please contact AMM Executive Director Joe Masi at (204) 856-2360 or Director of Policy and Communications Tyler MacAfee at (204) 856-2362.

The AMM is pleased to see gas tax funds flowing to Manitoba municipalities and will continue to represent the interests of all municipalities throughout the implementation of this agreement.

Minister Meetings Continue

February 7 was a busy day as the AMM met with three Provincial Cabinet Ministers: Minister of Justice and Minister responsible for MPIC, Gord Mackintosh; Minister of Family Services and Housing, Christine Melnick; and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade, Scott Smith.

The meeting with **Minister Mackintosh** began with a discussion around the costs of policing in Manitoba. The Minister noted the Province is feeling the impact of policing costs. He added that a focus should be on ways to reduce crime.

The AMM also raised concerns with the Youth Criminal Justice Act. The Minister suggested that communication is key and success stories exist, but more municipalities should become involved.

Also discussed were parking violations and motor vehicle licence renewal. The major issue here is information accuracy, but it was agreed that recent changes to the by-law enforcement process should help in this regard. Minister Mackintosh committed to looking at ways that municipalities could collect unpaid parking violations.

The AMM also expressed appreciation for the changes in MPIC compensation for motor vehicle accidents. The Minister noted that the rate increases are effective January 19th, 2006.

The meeting with **Minister Melnick** began with a discussion around the need to provide funding for housing across the province, and how the changes in government at the federal level might affect funding for this issue.

The AMM also raised the successful Neighbourhoods Alive! Program and noted we would like to see it expanded to more communities. The AMM also stressed that funding levels for the three communities currently served by the program should not be reduced.

COMPLETE POSITION PAPERS
FROM ALL MINISTER MEETINGS
ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.AMM.MB.CA

Also discussed was the Aging in Place initiative and ways that the department can help improve accessibility for the elderly.

In closing, the AMM expressed appreciation for the Minister's department in making single tier social assistance a reality. The Minister thanked the AMM for our partnership in the process.

The Municipal Agenda general issue was also raised with Ministers Mackintosh and Melnick.

Next steps involved with the New Deal was the first topic discussed when the AMM met with **Minister Smith**. (See sidebar).

The AMM also raised the issue of Minister Meetings at the AMM Convention, expressing the need for ministers to meet with those municipalities that have travelled great distances to attend.

The AMM closed by discussing the overall DFA program with Minister Smith. The Minister committed to reviewing the issue of compensation for community hostings for those municipalities that incur costs related to stranded travellers due to blizzards in Manitoba. ■

SEE YOU AT THE 2006 MOS & MTCML TRADE SHOW!

For the latest MOS agenda, visit: www.amm.mb.ca/events_seminar.html

Visit the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca

Coming Events

2006 Mayors, Reeves and CAOs Meeting Schedule

Northern District Monday, March 13

The Sam Waller Museum, The Pas

Parklands District Tuesday, March 14

Grace Baptist Church, Ochre River

Mid-Western District Monday, March 20

Elkhorn Resort Spa & Conference Centre, Onanole

Western District Tuesday, March 21

Ninette Centennial Hall, Ninette

Central District Wednesday, March 22

Rosenort Arena, Rosenort

Eastern District Thursday, March 23

Shevchenko Ukrainian Centre (Rosa Hall), Dominion City

Interlake District Friday, March 24

Selkirk Inn & Conference Centre, Selkirk

Manitoba Planning Conference March 15-17, 2006

Canad Inns Portage la Prairie

Come to Portage la Prairie in March and experience Manitoba planning in the making. For a complete program and registration information, visit:

[www.ptgplanningdistrict.ca/
events.html](http://www.ptgplanningdistrict.ca/events.html)

Manitoba Takes To The Sky Aviation Symposium March 2-3/06

An AGM/Conference combining a trade show, industry presentations and panel discussions. To register, contact the Manitoba Aviation Council:

Ph: (204) 774-2580, or email:
info@manitobaaviationcouncil.ca



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<http://www.protelec.ca/>

Coming Events

Land Management in Local Communities:

Opportunities and Challenges for First Nation-Municipal Government Relations in Manitoba

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and various partners has undertaken a project to enhance communication between First Nations and municipal governments. As part of the project, workshops are being conducted across Canada. The next workshop will be held on:

Wednesday, February 22, 2006
8:00 am—4:00 pm

Radisson Hotel Downtown
288 Portage Ave. Winnipeg, MB

For more info or to register, contact Dallas Alderson at (613) 907-6230 or email dalderson@fcm.ca.

Trade Team Manitoba InfoFair Brandon—March 8, 2006

Trade Team Manitoba (TTM) is made up of various Federal and Provincial Government Departments and Agencies involved in facilitating export development. The InfoFair is an opportunity for TTM members to meet with partners in Southwestern Manitoba and to provide information on the programs and services they provide related to exporting. Short presentations by each core partner as well as displays, brochures and networking will be featured. To RSVP for this event, contact Nancy Zubriski by March 1/06 at nancyz@shaw.ca or phone (204) 233-2902.

Notices

Municipal Elections Website

The Manitoba Municipal Elections Website features links to relevant legislation, frequently asked questions about municipal elections, a link to the Candidate's Guidebook to running in a municipal election, information for voters on available voting opportunities, and links to reminder election bulletins. The website is located at:

[http://www.gov.mb.ca/ia/programs/
local_gov/elections.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/ia/programs/local_gov/elections.html)

Notices

Message from the West Nile Virus Program, Manitoba Health

Manitoba Health is finalizing the 2006 West Nile Virus (WNV) plan and as in previous years, municipalities will be eligible to apply for provincial funding that will cover 75% of costs for mosquito control activities to reduce the risk of human exposure to WNV.

A cost share funding application package will be sent to municipalities in early spring. In preparation for the application process, municipalities are encouraged to begin considering their WNV-related larviciding plans for 2006.

Job Postings

Chief Administrative Officer Town of The Pas

The CAO is responsible for administering the Town in accordance with the plans, policies, programs, by-laws and regulations established by Town Council and by Provincial statutes. Preferred applicants will have:

1. Completed the Manitoba Municipal Administrator Certificate Program;
2. A minimum of five years experience;
3. Interpersonal and communication skills to work with Council, the Public and Town employees;
4. Organizational and supervisory skills;
5. Experience working in a computerized work environment.

An accounting designation and/or business administration diploma would be an asset. Salary to be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please submit a resume detailing education, experience and references no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 3rd, 2006, to:

Town of The Pas
P.O. Box 870 The Pas, MB R9A 1K8
Phone: (204) 627-1108
Fax: (204) 623-5506

Please note: The above job posting has been edited for space. View the complete posting at www.amm.mb.ca