



NEWS BULLETIN



OCTOBER 18, 2006

Eight cents not enough *AMM's pre-budget submission to Feds calls for long-term funding, review of municipal fiscal imbalance*

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) presented their annual Budget Submission to the Federal Standing Committee on Finance on October 6 in Portage la Prairie. The AMM's submission, presented by Urban Vice-President Lorne Boguski, was almost entirely devoted to issues involving municipal infrastructure and the municipal fiscal imbalance.

"Municipalities simply cannot afford to maintain infrastructure with the financial constraints that exist," stated Boguski. "Municipalities are having to postpone necessary repairs and upgrades in order to manage the expanding list of responsibilities we are asked to take on. That is why we are now facing a massive infrastructure deficit, estimated at \$7.4 billion in Manitoba, and \$60 billion across Canada."



AMM URBAN VICE-PRESIDENT LORNE BOGUSKI

"Municipalities simply cannot afford to maintain infrastructure with the financial constraints that exist."

AMM Urban Vice-President Lorne Boguski

The AMM believes the infrastructure deficit is a symptom of an overall municipal fiscal imbalance across Canada. "Provincial and Federal governments have a huge advantage over municipalities in terms of taxation, since their revenues grow with the economy, while our main source of revenue - property tax - does not," explained Boguski. "Making matters worse is the fact that municipalities receive only 8 cents out of every tax dollar, while 50 cents goes to Ottawa and 42 cents to the provinces.

Manitoba's municipalities appreciate the Federal and Provincial programs that have been established to date, but more is needed."

The AMM's submission calls for long-term, predictable infrastructure funding along with enhanced funding for successful programs like the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, the Prairie Grain Roads Program, and the National Water Supply Expansion Program. The AMM is also calling for the Federal Government invest in a separate recreational infrastructure program. The AMM's submission also dealt with issues around Disaster Financial Assistance. "It's time we had a national early warning system," stressed Boguski. "Manitoba experiences an average of 12 tornadoes per year, and this summer two of those struck populated areas and resulted in a death." ■

To view the AMM's Federal Budget Submission, visit:

<http://www.amm.mb.ca/PDF/FederalBrief06.pdf>

Coming Events



Handbooks coming soon!

The AMM has put the finishing touches on our Convention Handbook.

They will be mailed to your municipal office in early November.

For the latest Convention info, visit:

http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_convention06.htm

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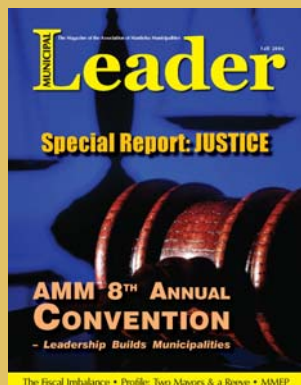
<http://www.amm.mb.ca/>

Coming Soon

The Municipal Leader

Fall, 2006

The upcoming issue of the Leader is packed full of interesting information. Highlights include our *Special Report on Justice*, a *Convention preview*, three very special *municipal profiles*, and much more.



Notices

2007-08 Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP)

Application packages are now available for the 2007-08 Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP).

The overall goal of the HSP is to "contribute to the recovery of endangered, threatened, and other species at risk, and to prevent other species from becoming a conservation concern, by engaging Canadians from all walks of life in conservation actions to benefit wildlife."

The HSP provides funding to "stewards" for implementing activities that protect or conserve habitats for species designated by the [Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada \(COSEWIC\)](#) as nationally "at risk" (endangered, threatened or of special concern).

The program also fosters partnerships among organizations interested in the recovery of species at risk. As such, it supports many organizations and individuals in their efforts to meet the requirements of the National Recovery Program and the new Species at Risk Act.

Please note that the deadline for completing applications for 2007-2008 funding is November 27, 2006.

Additional information on the HSP can be found at:

<http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/hsp-pih/>

Notices

Community Investment Support Program (CISP)

The Community Investment Support Program (CISP) is a grants and contributions program that supports Canadian communities in building their tools to attract, retain and expand employment-creating foreign direct investment (FDI). Whether it is a needs analysis, training or targeting, CISP can assist.

We are preparing for our 2007/08 fiscal year allocations adjudication so we invite you to explore www.cisp.gc.ca for program details. Applications are due November 30, 2006. This is a competitive process for the Manitoba portion of the federal program.

Please contact Genevieve Jones at the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada office in Winnipeg with any questions:

Phone: 204-983-2594

email:

genevieve.jones@international.gc.ca

We look forward to seeing some interesting, innovative proposals and to working with more Manitoba communities.



Thank You

...to all AMM members who provided us with your candidates lists for the 2006 municipal election. Those lists are now posted on the AMM website at

http://www.amm.mb.ca/election_06.html

We will again be asking you to submit information after election day, so that we can post the newly elected councils.

Please send in your lists as soon as possible after election day, so that we may update this popular page on our site!