



NEWS BULLETIN



NOVEMBER 1, 2006

Infrastructure top priority in AMM budget submission *“Roads are crumbling and recreation centres are struggling”*: Bell

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) presented its list of priorities to Provincial Finance Minister Greg Selinger on October 26th. The Minister was in Portage la Prairie as part of a series of province wide budget consultations.

President Bell opened the meeting by raising the issue of the fiscal imbalance between the levels of government in Manitoba. “You only need to take a look around Manitoba communities to know that the funding so far, while appreciated, is not enough,” said Bell, pointing to the growing infrastructure deficit that exists in our communities as proof that more is needed. “Roads are crumbling and recreation centres are struggling as communities try to balance infrastructure needs with competing priorities and limited resources.”

The Minister indicated that across Canada provinces want different things, and some are looking at tax points while others prefer per capita programs. There is recognition at the Federal level that a change is needed. The Minister indicated that any equalization funding would not be the solution to all of Manitoba’s problems, however.

The Minister did indicate that he believes the federal government is

onside with infrastructure issues and expects greater support in this area. He reiterated that good infrastructure attracts investment, and also commented on the importance of manageable debt loads and municipalities spreading infrastructure costs over longer periods of time.

The Minister indicated that the Provincial Government does not have secured revenue sources, which makes it difficult to guarantee this to municipalities. The Minister also indicated that the Provincial Government is responsible for most of the higher risk programs when it comes to escalating costs and this should be considered.

To view the AMM’s Provincial Budget Submission, visit:

<http://www.amm.mb.ca/PDF/ProvBudsubOct06.pdf>

Not surprisingly, issues relating to water were also plentiful on the priority list discussed with Minister Selinger. These range from the impacts of water legislation, drainage issues, and the need for a tripartite water funding program, to training opportunities for water and wastewater operators. A number of issues related to highways and recreational infrastructure were high on the list also.

The Minister discussed putting more funding into infrastructure, and indicated that there will be tougher standards around water.

The Minister discussed the tax increment financing as an option to attract investment in communities, as well as the community economic development tax credit.

The AMM also raised the issue of interfacility patient transfers. “Medical transportation is an integral part of health care services,” says Bell, “yet patients are subjected to additional costs when they must be transported across RHA jurisdictional boundaries for more than 24 hours.” ■



THE HONOURABLE GREG SELINGER,
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND AMM
PRESIDENT RON BELL

Notices

Vacancies on the AMM Board of Directors

As a result of the municipal election results on October 25, 2006, vacancies have occurred for **Urban Director for the Western District**, and **Urban Director for the Central District**. (A vacancy also exists for the Director for the City of Winnipeg, however this position is appointed by Winnipeg City Council.) Under Article 4, Section 7 of the AMM By-laws, any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors among the elected Directors shall be filled by a special meeting of the District for which the vacancy has occurred. The Director elected at the special meeting shall serve for the full unexpired term of the vacant directorship for which he or she has been elected.

An election to fill these positions on the Board will take place at the AMM Annual Convention on Thursday, November 30 immediately after the adjournment of the Convention at noon. All elected officials and Chief Administrative Officers for the Western and Central Districts shall be entitled to vote at this election.

If an elected official from an urban municipality in either the Western or Central Districts is interested in putting their name forward as a candidate for the AMM Board of Directors, they can be nominated at the AMM annual convention when the meeting takes place. The successful candidates will serve on the Board until June 2007, at which time elections will take place for all AMM Board of Directors.

If you have any questions about the election process for director or eligibility criteria for candidates, please feel free to call Executive Director Joe Masi at 204-856-2360 or by email at jmasi@amm.mb.ca

Coming Events

Manitoba Conservation Districts Association 31st Convention



"Challenges, Change and Consensus"

December 5-6, 2006

Keystone Centre Brandon, Manitoba
Mr. Jim Clemmer—Keynote Speaker

Contact your local Conservation District

Ph: 204-571-1097

Email: mcda@mts.net

Or go online to register at

www.mcda.ca

2007 FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards

The [2007 FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards](#) celebrate excellence in sustainable community development by highlighting the best municipal projects and initiatives that link economic, social and environmental goals.

Awards will be granted in eight categories: buildings, energy, residential development, solid waste, sustainable community planning, sustainable transportation, wastewater and water.

Nominations are open until December 14th, 2006.

Contact the Awards Office:

FCM-CH2M HILL Sustainable Community Awards
c/o Federation of Canadian Municipalities
24 Clarence Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 5P3
E-mail: awards@fcm.ca
Tel.: (613) 241-5221 ext. 334
Fax: (613) 244-1515
Web Site: www.fcm.ca

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www.amm.mb.ca

Congratulations!

To all newly elected and re-elected municipal officials, please accept our sincere congratulations on your success. The AMM Board and Staff wish you the best of luck in your time on council, and we look forward to meeting you at the upcoming AMM Annual Convention.

