



NEWS BULLETIN



OCTOBER 31, 2007

AMM PRESENTS BUDGET SUBMISSION

The AMM met with the Honourable Greg Selinger, Minister of Finance, on October 19, 2007. The Minister stopped at the AMM office in Portage la Prairie as part of his province wide budget consultation.

The AMM opened the meeting by thanking the Minister for the resolution of some key issues in the past year, including the expansion of the Neighbourhoods Alive! Program and provincial funding for inter-facility patient transfers.

The AMM then moved to the issue of the fiscal balance. The Minister indicated that he supports the concept of returning the revenue of one cent of the GST to municipalities.

The issue of education taxation was also discussed. The Minister noted the Province's commitment is to fund 80% of all education costs, including operating, not *solely* operating as requested by the AMM. The rebate system for farmland was also discussed, with the AMM indicating that even a system similar to the residential property tax system would be preferable to the current system.

On the issue of Disaster Financial Assistance, the Minister agreed that



L to R: Urban Vice-President Shirley Kalyniuk, President Ron Bell, Minister of Finance Greg Selinger, and Rural Vice-President Doug Dobrowolski

the current compensation rate of 16% is inadequate, and thought this was going to be changed. The AMM did indicate that in cases where the disaster meets only the threshold for provincial assistance, the Province could take action. The Minister indicated they would look at this option.

The Minister also agreed to the need for a permanent flood-proofing program, but did indicate it would be preferable to have this cost shared with the municipality.

Regarding community contributions to health capital projects, the Minister

indicated that he sees this as an effective way to manage the demand for new facilities.

He also noted that most provinces have communities contribute to health care facilities.

On policing, the Minister agreed the misallocation of resources is an issue, and officers should not be doing administrative work. He indicated frustration similar to municipalities in that the Province pays 70% of the policing costs, yet have little control over policing.

On the Bridge Co-op Program and the Manitoba Airport Capital Program, the Minister indicated he would look to see why these programs were discontinued.

The AMM also highlighted concerns with the lack of funding accompanying water directions in the Province. The Minister stated that Manitoba is doing a record number of water and sewer projects, but the needs are still huge. ■

**THE AMM'S
PROVINCIAL
BUDGET
SUBMISSION CAN
BE VIEWED ON
THE AMM
WEBSITE AT
WWW.AMM.MB.CA**

NEW REWARDING WORK PROGRAM: MANITOBA WORKS

On October 17, the Province announced several new programs under the Rewarding Work strategy. Of particular interest to municipalities is the Manitoba Works program. Through Employment Manitoba, the Province will initially provide up to \$500,000 in wage subsidies to employers across the province. Municipalities and non-profit employers can receive a full minimum wage subsidy for up to a year to hire and train people receiving welfare. Other employers can receive up to 50 per cent of minimum wage to help cover the cost of providing on-the-job training. The goal of Manitoba Works is permanent work with the subsidized employer.

More information about Rewarding Work is available at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/rewardingwork/>.

Coming Events



AMM 9th Annual Convention
November 26-29, 2007
Brandon Keystone Centre

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.AMM.MB.CA](http://www.amm.mb.ca)

Rural Matters! Attendance Bursary Award

The AMM, on behalf of [AAMD&C](#), will award one \$1,000.00 [Rural Matters!](#) Attendance Bursary Award to a Manitoba youth 25 years of age or under.

An application form is available on the AMM website at <http://www.amm.mb.ca/>. Please distribute these applications to those eligible in your municipality.

The deadline for applications is December 10, 2007.

Questions? Please contact Tyler MacAfee at 1-204-856-2362 or tmacafee@amm.mb.ca

5th Annual Storm Water Management and Erosion Control Conference

"Smart Construction and Risk: Making Storm Water Work FOR You"
Nov. 15-16, 2007

Greenwood Inn Conference Center
Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Come hear professionals in the erosion and sediment control industry talk about new developments in the industry, best management practices, ways to properly design and implement programs to do the right thing for the environment, and how to ensure compliance which limits your liability.

Register online at:
www.RP-Alliance.com

Coming Events

EDAM Fall Forum
The North—Not What You Think
November 7-9, 2007
Thompson Manitoba

This November, the Economic Developers Association of Manitoba (EDAM) travels north as Thompson hosts the 2007 fall forum. Thompson promises a few surprises with its theme "**The North - Not What You Think**".

For further information, call Shelley at (204) 795-2000.

"Our Landscape - What Does the Future Hold?"

MCDA Convention and Tradeshow
December 11th and 12th, 2007
Keystone Centre, Brandon, Manitoba

Ph: 204.571.1097
Fax: 204.729.8366
Email: mcda@mts.net
www.mcda.ca

Notices

Municipal Partnership Program MALI

FCM is seeking a Canadian municipality to undertake a 3-year partnership with a municipality in Mali. The partnership will aim to improve municipal affairs management and provision of community services.

The successful Canadian partner will be a municipality with a population of 25,000 or greater and will demonstrate expertise in municipal capacity strengthening, municipal staff coordination for building of community relations, and delivery of public training programs. The working language for this partnership will be in French.

Interested municipalities should complete an online application at: <http://www.international.fcm.ca/participation/>

by **November 15, 2007**

Coming Events

Municipal Green Building Policy Development Workshop
Winnipeg—November 14/07

This CaGBC workshop, sponsored by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), equips leaders and decision makers with practical information that supports progress toward municipal sustainability targets.

Greening their own projects provides municipalities with on-the-ground examples about how communities can address climate change and other important sustainability issues.

Explore key issues and processes related to "greening" buildings with a focus on municipalities as facilitators and influencers of private and municipal projects in their communities.

The Municipal Green Building Toolkit

This workshop compliments the Municipal Green Building Toolkit. A resource developed to assist municipal decision makers in identifying and implementing policies and programs that increase the number of high performance or "green" buildings within their portfolio.

Who should attend?

Municipal staff including:

- Project managers
- Sustainability teams
- Planners
- Energy specialists and engineers
- Elected officials and directors

Registration Fees

CaGBC & FCM Members **\$300 + GST**
Non-Members **\$350 + GST**

To register for this workshop,
Visit:
<http://www.cagbc.org>

For more information, contact the CaGBC at:

613-241-1184 or
toll-free at 1-866-941-1184 or
workshops@cagbc.org