



NEWS BULLETIN



SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

FCM Board of Directors Meets in N.B.

The National Board of Directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) met last week in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. President Ron Bell sits on the Board and, along with Executive Director Joe Masi, attended the meeting.

FCM reported on its activities and of interest was the report on infrastructure and finance—specifically the Building Canada Fund (BCF). FCM was concerned that it was unclear how much, if any, of this new fund would be dedicated to municipal priorities. Unlike MRIF, there was no guaranteed municipal funding stream, which could result in small projects being forced to compete with larger scale projects.

To address this concern, FCM undertook a spring advocacy campaign to

ensure the new BCF includes significant, dedicated funds to municipal priorities. It appears to have worked—officials recently informed FCM that BCF will now provide dedicated funds for municipal projects.

FCM also reported on public safety, noting it recently received a draft report examining the roles, responsibilities and costs of policing in Canada. The report demonstrates that municipalities are assuming an increased financial burden of policing costs, even underwriting federal policing costs in some areas. The report stresses that municipal taxpayers cannot continue to finance the ever-increasing costs of policing, and calls for a national vision and framework for policing. Once the final report is completed, it will be used to kick-

THE BUILDING CANADA FUND WILL NOW PROVIDE DEDICATED FUNDS FOR MUNICIPAL PROJECTS.

start a public campaign for additional federal support for policing in Canada.

President Bell raised concerns regarding the lack of progress on national disaster financial assistance (DFA). President Bell encouraged the FCM to renew its lobbying efforts to push the federal government to make DFA arrangements that will benefit municipalities.

Other topics reported on included *increasing women's participation in municipal government, environment, housing and homelessness, Northern and rural issues, and municipal/aboriginal relations.* ■

AMM, Minister Lemieux discuss rail lines in Manitoba

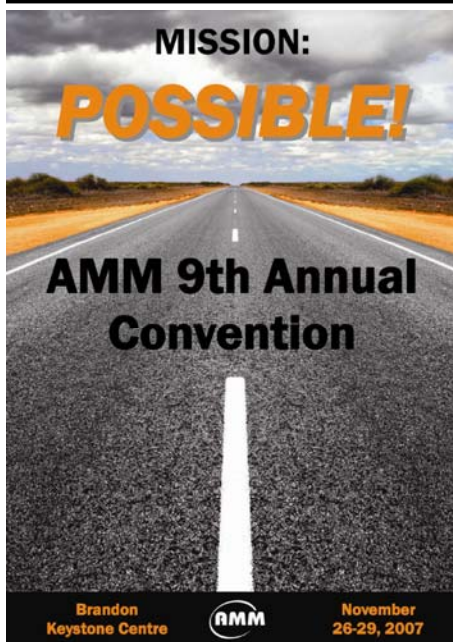
The AMM met with the Honorable Ron Lemieux, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation on August 29th to discuss the issue of the discontinuance process for rail lines in Manitoba. The AMM expressed concern with the current process and highlighted both the economic and environmental impact rail line abandonment has on an area. The AMM also discussed the impact of rail closure on municipal infrastructure and the constant change to the flow of commerce.

Minister Lemieux indicated that he felt a greater harmonization of the federal and provincial processes is needed. The Minister noted that his department was looking at the provincial rules, and he is working to get the issue of short lines on the national agenda, specifically at an upcoming federal/provincial/territorial ministers meeting.

The AMM plans to send a letter to The Hon. Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to have the issue of short line abandonment on the agenda for the upcoming minister's meeting. The AMM will also encourage other associations to send similar letters to their provincial ministers. ■



Coming Events



The AMM Annual Convention is quickly approaching! Visit our website at

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

for all the details!

Notices



If you have photos or other documents to contribute to the AMM History Book, please bring them with you to the AMM 9th Annual Convention in Brandon! We will scan your items on-site and return them to you.

For more info, please contact:

Lynne Bereza
Communications Coordinator
204-856-2366

lbereza@amm.mb.ca

Or visit:

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

Notices

Important Notice: Proposed Changes to AMM By-Laws

The following are three proposed changes to the AMM By-Laws that will be discussed and voted on at the 2007 AMM Annual convention in Brandon on November 26-29, 2007:

- The first proposed change is being sponsored by the **AMM Board of Directors**. It's purpose is to include a rule that would prohibit a member of the Board from holding a position on the AMM Board of Directors if seeking a party nomination for a provincial or federal election.
- The second proposed change is being sponsored by the **AMM Board of Directors**. It's purpose is to grant the requests from the RM and Village of McCreary and the RM of Headingley to switch the District in which they belong.
- The third proposed change is being sponsored by the **City of Thompson**. The purpose of this amendment to the bylaws is to require that there be two representatives from the Northern District on the AMM Board of Directors instead of one and that each of the Directors represent part of the Northern District.

These proposed By-Law changes were emailed to municipalities on August 24/07. You may also view the proposed changes on our website at:

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

Municipalities are encouraged to review these proposed changes to the AMM By-Laws and be prepared to discuss and vote on them at Convention.

If you have any questions regarding these By-Laws, please contact:

Joe Masi, Executive Director
204-856-2360
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Notices



**Waste
Reduction
Week**
October 15th –
21st, 2007

In its seventh year as a national event, **Waste Reduction Week** raises awareness about waste and its environmental and social impacts, and about the countless easy ways for communities, businesses, schools and individuals to reduce waste.

Waste Reduction Week is a perfect chance for municipalities to celebrate the waste reduction and resource conservation practices that already exist or to launch new ones, whether it's a recycling depot, bicycle racks, a compost site, or an energy-efficiency campaign. By reducing waste, communities contribute to healthier places for people to live, work and play, help protect the environment, and save money!

To declare October 15th-21st Waste Reduction Week in your community and to find free sample proclamations, resources, posters, and tips, visit:

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

or contact Resource Conservation
Manitoba at (204) 925-3775.

Opportunities for Rural Canada— digital video series on-line

The New Rural Economy Project has produced 8 digital videos, each telling a specific "story" about success in rural Canada, under the title *Opportunities for Rural Canada*. Four of the videos are available in French.

The videos are publicly available for viewing or downloading at

<http://www.mta.ca/rstp/nrevideos/>

A Companion Resource Book is included in the on-line edition.