



NEWS BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 27, 2009

Minister meetings focus on infrastructure funding

The AMM continued its annual series of meetings with Provincial Cabinet Ministers with a meeting with Ron Lemieux, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation on February 10, 2009. This meeting was followed up a week later with a meeting with The Honourable Vic Toews, Federal Regional Minister for Manitoba, on February 17. Both meetings focused on infrastructure funding within the Building Canada Fund (BCF) and the recent federal budget.

The first item on the AMM's agenda with Minister Lemieux was to ask for an update on the BCF. Although the Minister had no additional details on how the funding outside of the communities component would be allocated, he noted the additional money for communities (\$500M) in the federal budget will not flow in Manitoba until the original money is allocated. The Minister acknowledged it would be difficult for some communities to come up with their 1/3 funding, but was disappointed to learn some communities would not be applying for this reason.

The Minister indicated that he believed the AMM would not be included in the selection committee for projects in this round of applications, and further stressed the Federal Government has given no indication on how projects will be prioritized. The Infrastructure Secretariat will evaluate projects and provide the information to Ministers Toews and Lemieux. The process is expected to be completed within one month from the application deadline, so municipalities can expect to hear on projects by the end of March.

The Minister advised the AMM to inform the Federal Government of municipal priorities so they are reflected in the selection process. The AMM indicated that upgrading roads is important, as are water, sewer, grant-in-aid roads and bridges. The Minister noted that he has been told Prairie Grain Roads Program funding has been rolled into the Building Canada Fund and there will not likely be a new program.

Other issues discussed with Minister Lemieux included rail line abandonment, drainage concerns, water system assessment funding, and LGD issues. The AMM also raised its general issue of Alternate Revenues for Municipalities and Infrastructure Investment. The Minister agreed with the infrastructure needs and was optimistic that Manitoba would fare better than some provinces in the next few years.

The process is expected to be completed within one month from the application deadline, so municipalities can expect to hear on projects by the end of March.

Similar to the AMM's meeting with Minister Lemieux, the intent of the meeting with Minister Toews on February 17 was to get an update on the BCF money and other infrastructure money from the 2009 Federal Budget.

The Minister confirmed that how the money outside of the Building Canada

Fund will be allocated is still to be decided. The allocation and criteria will be decided in the coming weeks.

The AMM inquired about potential involvement on the BCF selection committee. The Minister confirmed that the AMM will not be involved in this round due to the need to get projects allocated quickly, but involvement in future rounds will be reviewed.

The Minister also noted that many of these projects have been reviewed by AMM already as they are left over from the last intake of the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF).

He also indicated there will be some issues regarding how money will flow and the federal government is working on those issues right now. Minister Toews' preference is to get money into the hands of municipalities as quickly as possible, which might require a special vote in Parliament.



The Honourable Vic Toews with AMM President Doug Dobrowolski.

Minister Toews did commit to having further details in time for the AMM's Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings in March, 2009. ■

Coming Events

AMM Mayors, Reeves & CAOs Meetings

Remember to register for Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings online at:

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

Monday, March 16, 2009

Parkland District

Hosted by the RM of Mountain Cowan Community Centre, Hwy 10, Cowan

Please register by Monday, March 9, 2009

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Midwestern District

Co-hosted by the RM of Shellmouth-Boulton & the RM of Silver Creek

Assessippi Ski Area & Resort

Please register by Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Western District

Co-hosted by the RM of Cameron & the Town of Hartney

Centennial Centre, 119 East Railway Street, Hartney

Please register by Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Eastern District

Hosted by the RM of Ritchot Howden Community Centre, 1078 Red River Drive, St. Adolphe

Please register by Thursday, March 12, 2009

Friday, March 20, 2009

Interlake District

Hosted by the RM of Rosser Grosse Isle Recreation Club, 117 E Road 72N, Grosse Isle

Please register by Friday, March 13, 2009

Monday, March 23, 2009

Northern District - Monday, March 23, 2009

Hosted by the Town of Gillam Gillam Rec Centre - Curling Lounge, 235 Mattonabee Avenue, Gillam

Please register by Monday, March 16, 2009

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Central District

Hosted by the RM of Headingley Headingley Community Centre, 5353 Portage Avenue, Headingley

Please register by Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Coming Events

2009 Municipal Excellence Award Deadline for Submissions: 12:00 noon March 20, 2009

The **Municipal Excellence Award** allows municipalities to share best practice ideas with other municipalities. What better way to showcase your municipality!

We encourage municipalities to collaborate with the economic development officer and/or community members to recognize your local best practice and work together on your submission.

Finalists will be highlighted in the *Municipal Leader* magazine and the award recipient will be recognized at the Municipal Officials Seminar & MTCML Trade Show held at the Keystone Centre in Brandon April 15 & 16, 2009.

Questions about the Municipal Excellence Awards Program? Contact Tyler MacAfee, Director of Policy & Communications, at:

tmacafee@amm.mb.ca

204-856-2362

WORKSHOP hosted by

Canadian Canola Growers Association and its Biofleet partners

Date: Friday, March 13, 2009 ****New Date****

Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: CanadInn, 2401 Sask. Ave. W., Portage la Prairie

Cost: Free

Lunch: Included

The Biofleet program is holding a biodiesel workshop for Manitoba municipalities. The workshop is open to any interested parties involved with municipalities. It will be an interactive workshop discussing practical issues of biodiesel use. It will also provide information on new provincial supports and incentives for biodiesel users.

To register please contact:

Brendan Boyd

brendan.boyd@gov.mb.ca

204-945-4535

Registration deadline: **March 9th/09**

For more information visit <http://www.biofleet.net>

www.biofleet.net

Notices

Hometown Manitoba offers new Tree Planting Component



A new tree planting component offering up to \$5,000 to municipalities or town organizations to plant trees in public areas has been added to the list of grants available for community improvement through the Hometown Manitoba program

The program also offers grants of up to \$5,000 for communities to improve and enhance outdoor public areas and up to \$1,000 for non-profit organizations or small businesses looking to enhance or improve exterior building appearance or signage. Completed applications are due by March 15.

Information on program criteria, project suitability and application forms are available at local GO offices or online at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/ri/community/ria01s04.html>. A list of GO offices is available toll-free at 1-800-567-7334 or on line at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/contact/agoffices>.

Job Postings

RM of Ste. Rose Equipment Operator

Applications will be accepted up to and including **Monday March 16, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.** for the Position of Equipment Operator.

Experience is preferred, but not necessary. For more information contact Michelle Denys at 447-2633.

Detailed resume including three references to be submitted to the following:

**Rural Municipality of Ste. Rose
P.O. Box 30, 630 Central Avenue
Ste. Rose du Lac MB R0L 1S0**

Complete job postings available at

[http://www.amm.mb.ca/
member_job.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/member_job.html)