

News Release

Infrastructure funding and flood relief assistance are the top themes at AMM Convention

November 23, 2011 – The resolutions sessions at The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) 13th Annual Convention at the Keystone Centre in Brandon have concluded.

Today's sessions focused on a number of central themes, including increased funding for municipal infrastructure priorities such as bridges, libraries, and rural airports. Infrastructure investments are needed to prevent closures of deteriorating bridges. Resolution #30 and #31 call for additional funding from the Province of Manitoba to speed up the timeline for bridge repairs. Resolutions #33 and 34 both dealt with rural airports, which provide critical services to municipalities.

Another resounding theme was downloading of responsibilities. A number of resolutions, including #47 – Municipal Enforcement of the Highway Traffic Act, and #38 – By-law Enforcement Program – were defeated amid concerns they would simply shift responsibilities to municipalities.

The issue of connectivity continues to be a priority for municipalities and resolution #45, calling for high speed internet service to be available to all rural residents, was amended to include cellular service. Another area of growing concern is equal rights for municipal officials, and resolution #41 - Municipal Council Immunities and Privileges Protection – was carried.

Assistance on flood relief was discussed again today via resolution #50, which calls for a comprehensive provincial watershed management strategy to help minimize the impact of flooding in our province. That resolution also carried.

Today's session saw 7 resolutions defeated (#37, 38, 47, 48, 52, 53 and 67), and one - #40 – withdrawn. In total, 66 resolutions were debated over the two days.

A complete list of resolutions is available at http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_convention.html.

The AMM Board of Directors is scheduled to meet with Premier Greg Selinger and members of Cabinet tomorrow morning before the Ministerial Forum, which begins at 10:00 am. According to President Doug Dobrowski, "we will waste no time in raising some of these issues with the Premier."

In other Convention news, both Urban Vice-President, Mayor Eileen Clarke, Town of Gladstone and Rural Vice-President, Reeve Roger Wilson, RM of Birtle, were acclaimed to their positions.