



MEMBER ADVISORY

PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS SCHEDULED

October 5, 2010 – The Province of Manitoba has scheduled its pre-budget consultations. The dates and locations are as follows:

Brandon - Thursday, October 14, 1:00-3:00pm

Pioneer Lounge, Upper Concourse, The Keystone Centre, 1175 18th Street

Portage la Prairie -Thursday, October 14, 7:00-9:00pm

Portage Rotary Multipurpose Room, PCU Centre, 245 Royal Road South @ Island Park

Winnipeg -Monday, October 18, 7:00-9:00pm

Westwood Community Church, 401 Westwood Drive

Flin Flon -Thursday, October 28, 12:00-2:00pm

The Victoria Inn, 160 PTH 10a

Thompson - Thursday, October 28, 7:00-9:00pm

St. John's United Church, 52 Caribou Road

Winnipeg - Thursday, November 4, 7:00-9:00pm

Norquay Community Centre, 65 Granville Street

Misipawistik Cree Nation/ Grand Rapids - Friday, November 5, 1:00-3:00pm

Chief Peter Beardy Memorial Hall

Ste. Rose Du Lac - Friday, November 5, 7:00-9:00pm

Jolly Club, 638 1st Avenue SW

St. Laurent - Tuesday, November 9th – Bilingual presentation – 7:00-9:00pm

St. Laurent Parish Hall, Parish Lane # 119

Winnipeg - Thursday, November 18, 7:00-9:00pm

Southdale Community Club 254 Lakewood Blvd

Key “Asks” for Pre-Budget Meetings

We encourage AMM members to attend these pre-budget meetings and raise your specific local concerns. Should you have an opportunity please consider raising the following municipal core issues as well.

Municipal elected officials know very well that operating the business of today’s municipal government is nothing short of a juggling act. Every day municipalities are facing new demands from both citizens and other orders of government and must try to balance these with existing priorities and scarce revenues. The two most pressing issues for municipalities today are the ballooning municipal infrastructure deficit and the downloading of responsibilities from other orders of government through unfunded mandates. The AMM would like to see the following:

1. *An investment in municipal infrastructure by all levels of government.*

Background: In Canada the municipal infrastructure deficit is in excess of \$123 billion for current needs. Here in Manitoba, we estimate the deficit to be over \$11 billion. Yet the total municipal taxes levied in 2007 were just over \$730,000,000 – how are municipalities supposed to tackle this huge deficit? It is crippling Manitoba’s economy. Municipal councils want to create vibrant, welcoming communities, but this is nearly impossible with the state of infrastructure today.

2. *An end to downloading and a requirement that new mandates come with new funding.*

Background: Municipalities are continually being asked to do more and more, either through the downloading of responsibilities or through new mandates being forced on municipalities by other orders of government. These new responsibilities do not come with new revenue sources meaning core programs suffer and in some cases, municipalities find it difficult to meet provincial requirements.

Municipal officials care greatly about their community and when they see a need they will do everything they can to address it. In some cases municipalities are just filling gaps in service unintentionally left by other orders of government and other times municipalities are stepping in because the provincial and federal governments have made it clear they must. Add *new* responsibilities and unfunded mandates to the mix, and municipalities are being pushed further and further behind.

3. *A commitment to provide new alternate revenues to municipalities*

Background: To deal with these new responsibilities and new expectations, municipalities must have access to new revenue sources. Relying on property taxes and provincial and federal grants alone is not enough. Municipalities need access to sustainable growth revenues. Otherwise we will be forced to leave future generations with an insurmountable infrastructure deficit.

A new approach is needed. We would like to see the Province of Manitoba collect a one cent municipal tax to be allocated to municipalities for infrastructure and split equally among municipalities on a per capita basis. This will provide municipalities with over \$200 million a year. For a community of 1,000 people, this means roughly an investment of \$185,000 in their local infrastructure, or \$370,000 for a community of 2,000 people. A community such as Thompson could see close to \$2.5 million, while Winnipeg would expect to see over \$117 million.

Although this funding alone will not erase the infrastructure deficit in Manitoba, it would be a positive first step.