



# MEMBER ADVISORY

## PRE-BUDGET INPUT REQUESTED

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**January 24, 2011** – Recently, AMM members received a letter from Manitoba’s regional Minister, the Honourable Vic Toews, requesting input into the federal budget. The AMM has prepared some key messages that may assist our members in preparing their submissions.

### **1. Infrastructure**

The state of our infrastructure is not the responsibility of any one order of government. A partnership is required between the federal government, the provinces, and municipalities to ensure a long-term plan is developed.

Earlier commitments like the Gas Tax Agreement and the GST rebate have proven to be successful in helping municipalities plan long-term to address infrastructure needs. A permanent infrastructure funding strategy is now needed to build on the momentum gained through the accelerated rollout of the Building Canada Fund and the federal stimulus funding.

### **2. Policing**

Municipalities are increasingly taking on the financial responsibility for the enforcement of federal public safety responsibilities. Municipally funded police forces are spending more and more time on federal laws, leaving little time for community priorities. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has estimated that this costs municipalities in excess of \$500M annually. This reality needs to be reviewed and revised, or the federal government should immediately begin providing municipalities with compensation for time spent enforcing federal priorities.

### **3. Wastewater Legislation**

Many municipalities are facing requirements to upgrade their wastewater treatment facilities as a result of new federal legislation. The Federal Government must provide financial support to these municipalities. The downloading of new mandates to municipalities without accompanying funding is simply unacceptable.

We encourage members to make your views known by mailing your comments and suggestions to:

**The Honourable Jim Flaherty**  
**Minister of Finance**  
**House of Commons**  
**Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6**  
[Flaherty.J@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Flaherty.J@parl.gc.ca)

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