



For Immediate Release
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City and AMM challenge Provincial candidates to make infrastructure a priority

Election pledges neglect focus on basic infrastructure

Winnipeg, September 27th –Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz and AMM President Doug Dobrowolski today again called on those seeking election in the upcoming Provincial election to make infrastructure investment a top priority.

Earlier this year, City Council passed a motion asking the Province of Manitoba to provide one point of the existing provincial sales tax (PST) over and above funds that are already received to be dedicated annually as a stable, reliable source of funding for municipal infrastructure.

So far according to media reports, over \$3 billion dollars has been pledged from all the political parties to entice the votes of Manitobans. As infrastructure continually remains a top priority for our citizens, it is disappointing to see that very little of those dollars promised actually address our infrastructure needs.

“We’ve seen millions of dollars being promised for a variety of interests from those seeking office this election, but if you actually want to do something positive to improve the quality of life for our citizens, then step up and do what’s right and provide municipalities with a real funding source to address the priorities of the people who are electing you,” said Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz. “What’s the point of investing more money into health care if ambulances can’t navigate our roads? Why pledge more money for community centres if we can’t even walk on our sidewalks? Although there are many laudable priorities, we need to take care of the basics and first address our infrastructure needs to have a lasting impact and make a positive difference.”

“The condition of our public infrastructure is deplorable, and municipalities need new revenue to even begin to address the problem,” said President Dobrowolski. “But it is also personal. This issue affects Manitobans where they live. The lack of adequate infrastructure costs communities new business, it hurts economic development opportunities, and it affects our lives every day. It’s time for the leaders to make a serious

commitment to our municipal infrastructure, because the consequences of doing nothing will be disastrous not only now but for future generations.”

This year’s Provincial budget claimed that a share of the PST would be provided to municipalities to address their infrastructure challenges. In reality, provincial funding from general revenue would now come from the PST, effectively repackaging money under a new name but from the same pot of money.

Manitobans go to the polls on Tuesday, October 4th.

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