



NOVEMBER 19, 2009



**Members of the FCM
Manitoba Caucus:**

- AMM President Doug Dobrowolski
- Reeve Don Forfar
RM of St. Andrews
- Councillor Jeff McConnell
Town of Virden
- Councillor Bob Bodnaruk
RM of Springfield
- Councillor Jenny Gerbasi
City of Winnipeg

“MANITOBA NIGHT” IN OTTAWA

On Tuesday, November 17, the Manitoba Caucus of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), along with AMM Executive Director Joe Masi, participated in “Manitoba Night” in Ottawa. An offshoot of the FCM’s federal lobby days, “Manitoba Night” is an opportunity for the Manitoba Caucus to meet individually with Manitoba Members of Parliament and raise our concerns. This year, the Caucus highlighted a number of pressing issues for municipalities, beginning with the federal deficit and accompanying cost-cutting that threatens to affect municipal funding. The Manitoba Caucus stressed the need to protect and enhance the funding municipalities currently receive, rather than reduce it.

The need for an extension clause in the federal Gas Tax Agreement was also noted. The Gas Tax Agreement has become a model of sustainable, predictable long term funding that works well for municipalities and the focus should now turn to providing an escalator for the fund to ensure municipal purchasing power remains in years to come.

The Building Canada Fund was discussed as well. As most of the communities’ component of the fund has been allocated in Manitoba, there is a need for a new round of programs to fund municipal infrastructure. A concern was also raised with the stimulus funding awarded through Building Canada. The requirement that those projects be completed by March, 2011 will be very difficult for some municipalities.

Other issues raised included the need for accompanying funding for new federal wastewater requirements, and the need for a disaster financial assistance program earmarked for preventative work.

President Doug Dobrowolski notes the timing of the meetings worked in Manitoba’s favour this year, as Manitoba Conservative MPs were scheduled to meet with federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty over the next few days.

Manitoba MPs who participated in this year’s “Manitoba Night” included Conservative members James Bezan (Selkirk-Interlake), Candice Hoepfner (Portage-Lisgar), Inky Mark (Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette), and Joy Smith (Kildonan-St. Paul); Liberal member Anita Neville (Winnipeg South Centre), and NDP member Jim Maloway (Elmwood-Transcona). ■

AMM EXCHANGE PARTNERS EXPERIENCE NATURAL DISASTER

For the past several years the AMM has participated in an FCM sponsored exchange with the Corporation of Municipalities of the Republic of El Salvador (COMURES). We’ve received word that in early November El Salvador suffered a natural disaster from tropical storm Ida that seriously affected the areas of San Salvador, San Vicente, La Paz, La Libertad and Cuscatlan. The latest details are:

- 130 people dead
- 60 people missing
- 2,333 people evacuated
- 158 houses destroyed
- 10,400 displaced



El Salvador

Approximately 30 municipalities have suffered loss of life and materials/infrastructure, and local governments are working with rescue teams to support their respective populations. Although there is support amongst the Salvadorian population, assistance is not sufficient to deal with this situation.

As a result, our counterparts at COMURES are asking their sister organizations and the international community for solidarity with the affected municipalities.

To support the municipalities affected by this natural disaster to diminish the difficult situation for those living in the municipalities most affected, COMURES requires food, clothing, small mattresses and blankets (to first deal with this emergency situation), followed by metal and wood for houses, and other basic infrastructure to assist with rebuilding.

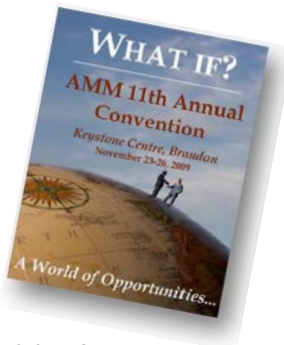
Municipalities can help by making donations (financial assistance only) to the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](http://www.fcm.ca) (FCM). FCM will pass them on to COMURES to assist their members in supporting their citizens through this difficult time.

COMURES thanks the AMM for its solidarity with the Salvadorian people. They promised to keep AMM members informed of this difficult situation that is affecting their country. ■

AMM 11th Annual Convention—November 23-26—Keystone Centre, Brandon



CONVENTION REMINDERS:



- **Come prepared:** Be sure to pack your Convention handbook, and don't forget a pen for note-taking and a bag to carry everything!

- **Register:** Once you arrive at Convention, find the registration desk and register by the **first letter** in the name of your **municipality**.



- **Check your name badge:** This is where you will find your *Final Agenda* AND your *Gala tickets*!

- **See the Ministers:** Visit the Department of Local Government desk to check times and locations for meetings with the Province.
- **Watch the screens:** Keep an eye on the screens in the main plenary room for a constant, visual reminder of what's happening each day. Any changes to the schedule will be shown on these screens, too.
- **Read the daily bulletin:** Grab it on your way in to the UCT Pavilion each day for all the latest Convention news.
- **See the sights:** Our sold-out *Convention Display Area* is an event in itself. Make sure you take the time to walk through and experience it with your council!
- **Meet your neighbours:** Convention is a time to not only come together with your council, but also with your counterparts from across the province to share, learn and network.
- **Remember courtesy:** We encourage networking *in-between sessions* or *outside* the main plenary room. Please remain **quiet** during sessions to ensure all delegates can hear. Also remember to turn off your **cell phones** before entering any of the sessions!
- **Above all—enjoy yourself!**

GALA EVENING

Wednesday,
November 25, 2009
Keystone Centre, Brandon
Manitoba Room

Doors and Cash Bar
6:00 p.m.

Dinner and Program
7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT

The mesmerizing, energetic and funny

WAYNE LEE



ICE BREAKER RECEPTION



Monday, November 23
7:30 pm-12:00 am

Keystone Centre Optimist Arena

Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

*****Entertainment by The Heartbreakers*****

*Open to delegates, partners,
Icebreaker Sponsors and AMM Special Guests only!*

Please recycle
your name
badges!

*There will be a
prize drawn from
the name badges
recycled—we'll
notify the winner
after Convention.*

