

# News Release

## Message sent: infrastructure dollars needed

### *Consequences of doing nothing “disastrous”: AMM President*

**September 19, 2011** – In early June, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities kicked off a campaign designed to send a strong message to all parties in the days leading up to the October 4 provincial election: it is time to Put Communities First.

This morning, that message was delivered to the leaders of the three main parties in Manitoba in the form of 145 resolutions passed by 74 per cent of the province’s municipalities.

The resolutions call on all parties in the October 4 provincial election to put communities first and commit to reallocating a portion of the tax revenue the Manitoba Government collects in our communities to repairing and upgrading our infrastructure.

“We’ve said from the beginning that the Putting Communities First campaign is really about the power of one voice amplified by almost 200-fold” said Councillor Doug Dobrowolski, President of the AMM. “Our membership really got behind this initiative and obviously that is due to the seriousness of the situation. Our infrastructure is in deplorable condition and municipalities simply cannot keep up with these challenges with the resources they currently have.”

Over 50 per cent of the resolutions cite street and road repair or replacement as the number one issue facing their communities, followed by water and sewer main replacement. Water and sewer treatment facilities, bridges, and the need for recreation and community centres also were mentioned frequently.

So far in this election campaign, there have been some promises made by some of the parties to commit funding to infrastructure, but nothing near what is needed, according to Dobrowolski. “We are asking for one cent of the PST simply to begin to tackle the \$11 billion infrastructure deficit in this province. This money would have an extremely positive impact on our economy and help Manitoba communities grow and be competitive.”

“We’ve dedicated a lot of resources to this initiative because it is so urgent,” Dobrowolski continues. “We hope Mr. Selinger, Mr. McFadyen and Dr. Gerrard are taking this seriously as well because the consequences of doing nothing will be disastrous not only now but for future generations.”

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View the resolutions at the AMM Campaign Centre <http://www.amm.mb.ca/campaigncentre/about.cfm>