



**Contact:**

Denys Volkov, AMM Director of Advocacy and Communications

Telephone: (204) 856-2362

Email: [dvolkov@amm.mb.ca](mailto:dvolkov@amm.mb.ca)

1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.

Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1

# NEWS RELEASE

## CITIES CAUCUS TALKS CANNABIS, MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**September 19, 2018** - The leaders of Manitoba's cities met in Flin Flon today to discuss the forthcoming legalization of recreational cannabis and support for the Municipal Road and Bridge program following the provincial government's decision to terminate this essential program.

The legalization and regulation of recreational cannabis will pose substantial costs on Manitoba municipalities through increased administration and enforcement. AMM President Chris Goertzen says it is essential for the Province of Manitoba to partner with municipalities to develop a fair revenue-sharing model that respects municipal authority and recognizes rising policing costs. "As legalization is now less than a month away, Manitoba municipalities are working hard to prepare for October 17th." Goertzen explained. "Although the Province of Manitoba has been consulting with the AMM and municipalities, the uncertainty for local governments regarding cannabis taxation revenue-sharing is a serious cause for concern."

In June 2018, the Province of Manitoba announced that it is proceeding with plans to transition the Municipal Road and Bridge Program into Phase 2 of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP2). In effect, the Municipal Road and Bridge Program is being terminated with no guarantee current levels of funding for municipal road and bridge projects will continue under ICIP2 given its various streams and program goals.

Mayor Dennis Fenske, City of Thompson, is Chair of the AMM Cities Caucus. "Manitoba municipalities regard the Municipal Road and Bridge Program as critical, predictable, and effective for budgeting and planning purposes in order to address their infrastructure deficit. In short, the program was dependable and responsive to the needs of local communities."

Members of the AMM Cities Caucus include:

- City of Brandon
- City of Dauphin
- City of Flin Flon
- City of Morden
- City of Portage la Prairie

- City of Selkirk
- City of Steinbach
- City of Thompson
- City of Winkler
- City of Winnipeg

-30-