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NEWS RELEASE

AMM MOTION CALLING FOR FURTHER STUDY OF MUNICIPAL HANDGUN BANS ENDORSED AT NATIONAL FCM MEETING

March 12, 2021 – Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) representatives participated in several virtual meetings this week as part of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Board of Directors Meeting which included municipal officials from across the country.

“Given municipal concerns about the federal government’s newly proposed firearms measures, the AMM stressed the importance of the federal government adopting a nationwide approach to improving public safety,” stated AMM President Kam Blight. “Since gun-related crime does not respect local borders, measures to deal with this issue should focus on national solutions.”

Last month, the federal government tabled Bill C-21 that would potentially allow municipalities to ban handguns through by-laws restricting their possession, storage and transportation. A motion endorsed by the AMM was unanimously carried directing staff to report to the FCM Executive Committee at its April 2021 meeting with an analysis of this proposed legislation and impacts on municipalities.

“During the committee meetings, the AMM raised the need for more financial support for water and wastewater projects under national infrastructure programs given the demand in Manitoba. This type of infrastructure is critical for attracting economic development and growing local communities,” noted AMM Executive Director Denys Volkov.

“Several municipal associations, including the AMM, also called for increased advocacy on existing FCM resolutions that call for greater federal support for national energy infrastructure projects, including pipelines. Ensuring our resources can get to market and establishing national energy corridors will allow the country to recover from the pandemic in the quickest manner possible,” added President Blight.

The week-long FCM meetings are typically held in-person, however due to COVID-19 the meetings were held virtually to ensure municipal concerns from across Canada continue to be heard at the federal level. The AMM also wishes to thank Manitoba’s FCM representatives Councillors Doug Dobrowolski, Marvin Plett, Laurent Tétrault, and Jeff Browaty as well as the Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (AMBM) for helping to advance Manitoba municipal priorities.

The AMM represents all 137 municipalities in Manitoba.