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NEWS RELEASE

8 IN 10 MANITOBANS SUPPORT PST REBATES TO MUNICIPALITIES

April 10, 2022 – The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) recently commissioned a Probe Research poll asking whether the provincial government should provide PST rebates to Manitoba municipalities.

Out of 1,000 respondents, **78 per cent** indicated that they strongly agree or somewhat agree that the provincial government should return provincial sales tax (PST) payments to local governments.

“Manitoba municipalities pay PST and federal goods and services tax (GST), however the federal government rebates the GST while the provincial government does not return the approximate \$25 million paid annually in PST,” explained AMM President Kam Blight. *“These funds could be immediately reinvested in local communities to address our growing infrastructure deficit and help spur a quicker economic recovery from the pandemic.”*

The AMM has long called for a PST rebate since one order of government should not tax another. *“Clearly, the vast majority of Manitobans support our call since there is only one taxpayer and tax dollars should be used efficiently to advance growth projects. PST funds should remain in local communities where they are needed the most,”* added President Blight.

As the provincial budget will be unveiled on April 12th, the AMM will be looking for movement on rebating the PST to municipalities as one option to lift the six-year freeze on municipal operating funding as well as the provision of additional supports to help offset the estimated \$91.8 million operating loss experienced in 2021 by municipalities due to the pandemic. AMM President Kam Blight will be at the Manitoba Legislature on Budget Day to provide comments.

The findings of the Probe Research poll can be found at the following link:

- http://www.amm.mb.ca/download/other_documents/2022.04.10-Infographic-Support-for-PST-Rebates-to-Municipalities-March-2022.pdf