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NEWS RELEASE

CITIES CAUCUS MEETS IN MORDEN, DISCUSSES RISING COST OF LIVING IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES

September 29, 2022 – Municipal leaders from Manitoba's 10 cities met in Morden to discuss challenges resulting from the rising cost of living and impacts on municipal operations.

“Municipal budgets are under tremendous strain given unprecedented inflation and soaring fuel costs. We are also still feeling the impacts of the pandemic. As municipalities are not allowed to run deficits, the seven-year municipal operating funding freeze must be lifted,” stated Cities Caucus Chair and City of Thompson Mayor Colleen Smook.

During the proceedings, delegates discussed funding shortfalls related to the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program* (ICIP). “Municipalities submitted applications back in 2019. Fast-forward three years and we are still waiting for approvals – meanwhile project costs have increased 30-40-50%. These increases should be fully absorbed by other orders of government, as municipalities did their due diligence and met program deadlines,” noted City of Morden Mayor Brandon Burley.

Retroactive costs associated with the new RCMP bargaining agreement also featured prominently in the discussion since several Manitoba cities are contract partners. “These costs were negotiated without municipalities being at the table. The AMM along with municipal partners across Canada have called on the federal government to absorb these retroactive costs and to ensure municipalities are properly consulted moving forward,” noted Vice-President Chris Ewen.

The AMM wishes to thank the City of Morden for hosting this year’s fall Cities Caucus meeting.

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

PHOTO:



*Cities Caucus delegates in the Access Center in the City of Morden
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