

News Release

Cities Caucus talks transparency, accountability

November 21, 2016 - The mayors and councillors of Manitoba's cities met in Winnipeg today during the AMM Annual Convention to discuss priorities for the coming year.

"Our roles in municipal government are strengthened through our collective involvement in the AMM, which is one of the only municipal associations in Canada that represents all municipalities," explained Brandon Mayor Rick Chrest, Chair of the AMM Cities Caucus. At the same time, "we recognize there can be great benefit for communities that share common ground to have their own forum in which to discuss issues. That is what the Cities Caucus is."

The main topic discussed by caucus members was the need for increased public sector disclosure on compensation. The City of Winnipeg recently passed a resolution calling for the Province of Manitoba to amend The Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act to further enhance access to information that promotes democratic values of open, transparent and accountable government.

"In cities, we have to disclose when people make over \$50,000. But taxpayers want to know how this compensation is arrived at," explained Winnipeg councillor Scott Gillingham. The reason for bringing the issue to the Cities Caucus, he explained, is because any changes the Province of Manitoba might make would affect all municipalities.

Caucus members were supportive of Winnipeg's resolution, and voted to ask the AMM Board of Directors to review the issue.

Other items discussed were the provision of services to unorganized municipalities, the rising costs of policing, unfunded regulations, and regional funding.

Members of the AMM Cities Caucus include:

- City of Brandon
- City of Dauphin
- The 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