



MANITOBANS STRONGLY AGREE:

TIME FOR PROVINCE TO BECOME “PARTNERS IN GROWTH” WITH MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES

85% Say Fair Funding Important to Keep the Growing Going

Winnipeg, MB – September 4, 2019 – Manitoba Municipalities are growing quickly – many at or sometimes far faster than the national average. To keep the growing going, municipalities often pay far more than their fair share to create jobs and improve services that benefit the provincial economy. It’s an unfair strategy that must change, according to Manitobans.

In a recent public opinion poll, conducted for the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), Manitobans overwhelmingly agreed that the Province should more fairly support municipalities given that the growth they generate fuels Manitoba’s economic strength.

“Growth is great but growth costs money,” said AMM President, Ralph Groening. “Too often, municipalities contribute more than their 1/3 of a share to build the roads, water and wastewater facilities needed to move growth projects forward. That’s why we’re calling on the next provincial government to join us as Partners in Growth to keep Manitoba growing.”

A total of 751 live calling interviews were conducted province-wide by NRG Research August 22-27, 2019. Results represent a margin of error of +/- 3.7%, 19 times out of 20. Results show:

- 85% of Manitobans agree, with 52% in strong agreement, that the Manitoba government should support municipalities with a fair share of funding given that their growth benefits the entire provincial economy;
- In a second question, 75% of Manitobans also agreed that the provincial government should rebate municipalities on the PST they pay, similar to the rebate they receive from the federal government on the GST paid.

As the 2019 campaign began, the AMM and its 137 member strong, province-wide coalition of Mayors and Reeves called on the next government to work as **"Partners in Growth"** to:

- Ensure long-term, stable and predictable funding, after a three-year funding freeze;
- Provide funding tied to Manitoba’s GDP to support more municipal growth;
- Rebate the PST municipalities pay, consistent with federal rebate of the GST;
- Move to multi-year budgeting to assist with long-term planning and priority setting.

“Throughout the campaign, we have reached out to all political parties,” said Rick Chrest, Mayor of Brandon, Manitoba’s second largest city. “Our goal was simple – to make the point that municipalities are growing and want to do more to continue fueling economic development across the province. But to do so, we need the Province to provide growth related funding.”

Chrest pointed to the nearly 12,000 businesses located outside of Winnipeg and the 35% contribution they make to the GDP. “Add to this fact that both major cities are growing faster than the national average plus many Manitoba communities are achieving landmark levels of growth and in all sectors.”

As the 2019 election campaign enters the homestretch, the AMM is reporting out on what all political parties have included in their platforms. Commitments include:

Manitoba Green Party	Manitoba Liberals	Manitoba NDP	Manitoba PC's
Supporting and investing in community economic development initiatives	Providing predictable and stable funding and becoming an active partner in growth	Being a long-term partner in growth for municipalities	Establishing a process to strengthen growth partnerships
	Sharing 25% of cannabis revenues	Ending the freeze on operating funding in their first year	Phasing-out education taxes
	Restoring 50/50 provincial funding for public transit	Reinstating the 50/50 operating grant for municipal transit agencies	Opening an Economic Development Office in Brandon
		Embarking on infrastructure investment program to support growing cities	Establishing a Municipal Audit and Accountability Program
			Giving municipalities a fair say on matters like Sunday and holiday shopping

“With such strong support from Manitobans, as indicated in our recent poll, we are hopeful that whoever forms the next provincial government will take a Team Manitoba approach to fairly funding growth opportunities across the province,” AMM President Ralph Groening concluded.

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities identifies and addresses the needs and concerns of its members in order to achieve strong and effective municipal government.

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