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# NEWS RELEASE

## AMM RESUMES 2020 MUNICIPAL VISITS, TOURS WESTMAN

**July 24, 2020** - The AMM toured the Western District of the province this week and met with local Councils from a number of municipalities. The AMM makes it a priority to visit each of its member municipalities at least once during each four-year election cycle.

"As we continue to navigate the new COVID-19 reality, we were very pleased to resume our 2020 municipal visits in accordance with social distancing practices. Meeting one-on-one with local Councils as well as discussing the challenges and opportunities they are facing is invaluable, as it allows AMM to more effectively advocate on behalf of all municipalities," stated AMM President Ralph Groening.

"During a time of economic uncertainty, taking advantage of our short construction season by delivering infrastructure projects was a commonly discussed theme. As municipalities are uniquely positioned to lead the economic recovery of our province, we continue to call on our provincial and federal partners to expedite the approval of municipal applications under Phase 2 of the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)*," noted Rhonda Coupland, Councillor of the Municipality of Boissevain-Morton and AMM Western District Director.

"Since municipalities fuel economic development, we also heard significant concerns regarding Bill 48: *The Planning Amendment and City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment Act*. Local insights are extremely beneficial as it helps the AMM push for legislative changes responsive to municipal needs while respecting local autonomy and decision-making," added Stuart Olmstead, Mayor of the Town of Carberry and AMM Western District Director.

The impact of the June and July heavy rains that caused significant infrastructure damage in several communities also featured prominently in the discussions along with increased financial pressures on municipal budgets due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AMM delegation visited the RM of Argyle, Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain, Municipality of Brenda-Waskada, Town of Melita, Municipality of Two Borders, RM of Pipestone, RM of Wallace-Woodworth, RM of Elton, RM of Cornwallis, and City of Brandon.

Members of the AMM delegation included President Ralph Groening, Vice-President Brad Saluk, Western District Directors Rhonda Coupland and Stuart Olmstead, and Executive Director Denys Volkov.

The AMM represents all 137 municipalities in Manitoba.

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