



Contact:

Nick Krawetz, AMM Director of Policy and Communications

Telephone: (204) 856-2371

Email: nkrawetz@amm.mb.ca

1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.

Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1

NEWS RELEASE

RISING COSTS, PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS TOP OF MIND FOR MANITOBA'S CITIES

November 24, 2021 – Leaders from Manitoba's 10 cities met in Winnipeg earlier this week at the AMM 23rd Annual Fall convention where they discussed COVID-19's ongoing financial impacts and ways to emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever before.

"Across Manitoba, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on municipal finances," stated Cities Caucus Chair and Mayor of Thompson Colleen Smook. "While expenditures have increased and revenues have decreased, we are legally obligated to balance our books. This is extremely difficult to do when our operating funding has been frozen since 2016."

"A majority of AMM members have indicated that it will take more than two years to financially recover to pre-crisis COVID-19 levels, with some members have indicated as long as 5 to 8 years." noted AMM President Kam Blight. "Being asked to do more with less puts tremendous strain on our budgets, particularly when we continue to be taxed by another order of government and inflation impacts our bottom line."

"Since municipalities help fuel economic growth, AMM members are uniquely positioned to help lead our province's economic recovery. That is why all municipalities continue to urge the Province of Manitoba to establish a multi-year partnership program to ensure long-term and predictable funding as a counterbalance to the current five-year municipal operating funding freeze," added President Blight.

Delegates also discussed the financial impacts resulting from the first collective bargaining agreement for RCMP officers, tackling local crime and community safety issues, and the need to address provincial Crown Corporation delays so municipalities can move forward with development projects to grow Manitoba.

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