

NEWS RELEASE

Municipal Leaders from Canada's Prairie Provinces Call for Enhanced Collaboration with Provincial and Federal Governments

November 27, 2023 – Municipal leaders from Canada's three Prairie Provinces met today in Brandon, Manitoba to discuss common challenges and solutions to pressing municipal priorities.

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities ([AMM](#)) hosted the meeting which brought together representatives from the Rural Municipalities of Alberta ([RMA](#)), Alberta Municipalities ([AB Munis](#)), Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association ([SUMA](#)) and Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities ([SARM](#)).

Equipping municipal governments with sources of revenue that grow with the economy and national population featured prominently in the discussions, particularly given the heightened attention on inflationary pressures and affordability concerns across the country. Federal infrastructure funding, housing, mental health and addictions, public safety and policing costs, broadband connectivity, and support for the agricultural and energy sectors were also key items discussed.

Quotes

- *“Municipalities have outgrown the 19th century fiscal framework within which we are currently operating. Our members urgently need a fairer distribution of tax revenues between orders of government to keep up with the demands of economic and population growth and service delivery mandates.”* – AMM President Kam Blight
- *“Municipalities in Canada's Prairie provinces have unique challenges and responsibilities compared to others in Canada. Meeting with our WCMA colleagues provided an opportunity to discuss how we can work together for a stronger voice in areas such as municipal infrastructure funding, rural broadband deployment, adequate support for the country's agriculture industry, and many others.”* – RMA President Paul McLaughlin
- *“It was fantastic to meet with our western colleagues to discuss our shared issues. When we look at things like policing and housing, it doesn't matter the size of the community, we are all feeling the impacts of chronic underfunding of services that are the responsibility of the federal and provincial governments. We intend to act as a united voice for these concerns with our provincial and federal representatives.”* – Alberta Municipalities Director Tina Petrow

- *“As municipalities grow, so too must the services geared toward treating mental health and addictions. As it stands, whether it’s emergency treatment beds, supportive housing, or income supports, needs are currently greater than available resources. Municipalities require help now and taking proactive steps will guide us toward more permanent solutions that prevent further loss of life.” – SUMA President Randy Goulden*
- *“The importance of food security in Canada cannot be overstated. Neglecting the safeguarding of our food sources jeopardizes not only our dinner tables but the resilience of our communities. We as RM’s in Saskatchewan are on the front lines of food production and are working to raise awareness of government policies that continue to increase the cost of food production and the impact this will have on Canadians grocery bills.” – SARM President Ray Orb*

Photo:



*WCMA delegates meeting in Brandon, Manitoba
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