

News Release

Municipalities call for \$25M PST rebate

November 24, 2015 – The first resolution to be debated during this week’s Association of Manitoba Municipalities’ (AMM) Annual Convention, taking place at the Keystone Centre in Brandon, asks the Province of Manitoba to rebate 100% of the PST paid by municipalities.

“The need for municipal dollars to be returned to the hands of municipalities is a resonating theme of this Convention,” explained President Chris Goertzen. “Municipalities pay over \$25 million each year in PST, and we think that should be rebated to municipalities, just like the federal government does with the GST. This money could go directly to municipal infrastructure where it is needed the most.”

The resolution was sponsored by the RM of Portage la Prairie, and Reeve Kam Blight was on hand to explain why his municipality brought the resolution forward: ““Municipalities pay PST on many things like insurance, tools, water meters, electricity, phone and internet, just to name a few. For the RM of Portage, it adds up to over \$100,000 every year,” explained Reeve Blight. "If municipalities were not required to pay PST they could reinvest the funds into projects to address some of the aging infrastructure."

Manitoba’s cities pay the largest portion of PST at \$15.5 million, or 65 percent. City of Brandon Mayor Rick Chrest shared what his city could do with that money: “Brandon’s PST expenditures are significant with our 2015 outlay alone being easily \$1.2 million. That money could go a long way towards road and sidewalk repairs and other infrastructure priorities for our residents,” he explained. “It’s a common practice that one level of government not tax another and it would make sense that municipalities be rebated back their PST just as we currently are for GST.”

In total, 44 resolutions will be debated during several resolution sessions scheduled during the Annual Convention:

Tuesday, November 24 – 9:30 am, 11:30 am, and 4:00 pm

Wednesday, November 25 - 2:45 pm (if necessary)

All media are welcome to attend. A complete agenda and list of resolutions is available on the AMM website at: www.amm.mb.ca/events/event/amm2015/