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NEWS RELEASE

MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES UNVEIL PROVINCIAL ELECTION PRIORITIES

Predictable funding, infrastructure investment, talent attraction and public safety top municipal wish list with provincial election on horizon

May 5, 2023 – The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) unveiled its pre-election campaign today under the slogan “[Let’s Grow Manitoba Together](#),” identifying key policy priorities for Manitoba’s 137 municipalities in advance of the 2023 provincial election.

Speaking at the North End Water Pollution Control Centre, AMM President **Kam Blight** was joined by Winnipeg Mayor **Scott Gillingham**, Thompson Mayor **Colleen Smook**, and East St. Paul Mayor **Carla Devlin** to outline four priority pillars. **Kathy Valentino**, AMM Vice-President and Councillor from the City of Thompson, emceed the event. The group called upon all Manitoba political parties to enshrine the association’s priorities into their respective election platforms.

Municipal Priorities for 2023

1. Fair and Predictable Municipal Funding

- Work with municipalities to establish a simplified, predictable funding model with an annual escalator;
- Rebate the PST paid by municipalities, similarly to the federal GST rebate;
- Streamline existing tax tools and grant greater flexibility and financial autonomy to municipal governments.

2. Invest in Core Infrastructure

- Increase Manitoba Water Services Board funding for water and wastewater infrastructure, and commit to a permanent federal and provincial infrastructure fund;
- Amend Bill 37 to enshrine the primacy of elected municipal councils over the unelected Municipal Board;
- Improve coordination between economic development offices and agencies for efficiencies, synergies and responsiveness to municipal economic development needs;
- Comprehensive rural broadband and cell service as essential infrastructure for economic growth, public safety, education and health care.

3. Invest in People

- Accelerate a comprehensive provincial strategy to recruit health care professionals and paramedics throughout Manitoba;
- Implement recommendations from the Immigration Advisory Committee to increase regional settlement incentives for foreign-trained doctors and other professionals;
- Training opportunities for licensed professionals closer to home;
- Care closer to home – a plan to keep paramedics, doctors and other health professionals working in all our regions.

4. Public Safety

- Press the federal government for bail and conditional release reform;
- Refuse downloading of policing reform costs;
- Predictable police resourcing and flexibility to move certain enforcement and social service functions from police to separate provincially-funded authorities;
- Increase police funding to combat crime and drug trafficking;
- Expand municipal Community Safety and Well-Being plans.

Quotes

- *“Municipalities are an essential partner to the provincial government. Let’s grow Manitoba together.”* – AMM President Kam Blight
- *“Municipalities need predictable funding. We’re glad the Province lifted the operating funding freeze, but the next step is building in an annual escalator so municipalities can effectively plan for the future.”* – AMM President Kam Blight
- *“With inflation pressure on construction, fuel and labour costs, municipalities need strong, long-term provincial funding support – but we’re also calling on party leaders to commit to a new funding formula which would grow with the economy, so municipalities can be real partners with the Province in delivering economic growth.”* – Mayor Scott Gillingham, City of Winnipeg
- *“We need care closer to home – doctors, nurses, and paramedics in all our communities, and the local training opportunities to get them there.”* – Mayor Colleen Smook, City of Thompson
- *“Rural crime is going up, violent crime is going up, and drug crime is going up. We need bail reform for violent offenders, and we need enhanced police resources to keep our communities safe.”* – Mayor Carla Devlin, RM of East St. Paul

LET’S GROW MANITOBA TOGETHER

About AMM

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities is comprised of the mayors, reeves, and councillors that represent Manitoba’s 137 incorporated municipalities. Our mission is to identify and address the needs and concerns of our members to achieve strong and effective municipal government – the order of government closest to the people.
