



MANITOBA'S CITIES CALL FOR STRONGER PROVINCIAL SUPPORT AMID GROWING MUNICIPAL PRESSURES

April 28, 2026 – Manitoba's cities convened last week at the 2026 AMM Spring Convention in Brandon, calling for decisive action from provincial partners in response to growing pressures on municipal services and infrastructure.

At their meeting, delegates focused on strengthening public safety and ensuring communities have the tools and resources needed to meet evolving demands. Key priorities included advancing Next Generation 911, increasing investments in water and wastewater infrastructure, and securing sustainable funding for public transportation systems.

With communities across Manitoba continuing to grow, expectations on local governments are increasing in both scale and complexity. Cities Caucus members emphasized the urgent need to ensure emergency response systems are modernized for the transition to Next Generation 911 by March 2027, while stressing this must not download costs or administrative burdens onto municipalities.

While this modernization is an important step forward, municipalities continue to raise concerns about unclear funding commitments and the expectation that they duplicate existing GIS data collection efforts.

"Municipalities are committed to modernizing Manitoba's 911 system," said AMM President Kathy Valentino. "We've seen other provinces step up with significant financial support to help municipalities through this transition, but here in Manitoba it's still not clear how these costs will be covered. With the 2027 deadline approaching, we're asking the Province to take the lead as the sole aggregator and ensure a coordinated, well-resourced, province-wide GIS data system for NG-911."

The Cities Caucus also highlighted the need for a renewed funding model to support municipal public transit and help communities keep pace with growth-related infrastructure demands. Previously, the Province provided 50 per cent operational funding to communities with public transit — a program that is no longer in place.

"Municipalities are trying to plan for growth and make our communities better, but if people can't move around easily and affordably, that growth stalls," said Cities Caucus Chair and City of Portage la Prairie Mayor Sharilyn Knox. "Public transit is essential, and we can't carry that responsibility alone — we need predictable, long-term provincial funding to keep it viable."

Municipal leaders concluded the meeting by affirming support for the federal government's proposed Bill C-14, which advances bail and sentencing reform, as part of broader efforts to strengthen public safety in communities.

The AMM will continue to advocate on behalf of its members and work collaboratively with all orders of government to advance these priorities.

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AMM Cities Caucus Members:

- 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

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