



Contact:

Lynne Bereza, AMM Communications Coordinator

Telephone: (204) 856-2366

Cell: (204) 871-0517

Email: [lbereza@amm.mb.ca](mailto:lbereza@amm.mb.ca)

1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.

Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1

# News Release

## Federal infrastructure funding, cannabis legalization top Cities Caucus agenda

**September 26, 2017** - Representatives of Manitoba's cities met at Portage la Prairie's Stride Place today for the annual fall meeting of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) Cities Caucus. Phase 2 federal infrastructure investments were the first item up for discussion.

AMM President Chris Goertzen explained why this issue topped the agenda. "The federal government has committed \$81 billion to infrastructure over 11 years. This is a huge investment but since municipalities still collect less than 10 cents on every tax dollar, the cost-share becomes extremely important."

Ottawa has committed a 40% cost-share, and has begun negotiations with the provinces. "We strongly hope that the province will also commit to 40%, leaving municipalities with a 20% cost-share. We feel this is fair and would ensure projects aren't stalled due to lack of funding."

The second main issue on the agenda was cannabis legalization. Cities Caucus Chair, Brandon Mayor Rick Chrest, shared some of the concerns of the group. "Marijuana is set to become legal in Canada by July 2018, but there are still a lot of unknowns. This will have huge impacts on municipalities, as they will be responsible for updating bylaws, creating regulations and enforcing new rules. None of these responsibilities are clear yet and we are becoming concerned that there won't be enough time to enact them before the deadline."

The impact on community policing with respect to the impending legislation was also raised, with Caucus members expressing concern about their ability to have the necessary resources in place.

Other items discussed included Manitoba Hydro rate increases, carbon taxes, and health care.

The AMM Cities Caucus was formed in 2013 and is modeled after the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' [Big City Mayors' Caucus](#).

Members of the AMM Cities Caucus are:

- City of Brandon
- City of Dauphin
- The City of FlinFlon
- City of Morden
- City of Portage laPrairie
- City of Selkirk
- City of Steinbach
- City of Thompson
- City of Winkler
- City of Winnipeg