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NEWS RELEASE

CITIES CAUCUS TALKS CANNABIS, APPOINTS NEW CHAIR

November 28, 2017 - The leaders of Manitoba's cities met in Brandon yesterday, during the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) Annual Convention, to establish priorities for the coming year.

The group began by discussing the recent Speech from the Throne and the need for a full and fair cost-share from the Province of Manitoba to ensure federal investments can be fully utilized by municipalities. "The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has recommended a 40% federal / 40% provincial / 20% municipal cost-share, and we support that," stressed President Chris Goertzen.

A major topic of discussion was the establishment of new zoning by-laws for retail establishments selling cannabis. Municipalities appreciate having a 'fair-say' around what happens in their own communities, but in terms of implementation, enforcement and social costs, "there are certainly more questions than answers," noted outgoing Cities Caucus Chair Mayor Rick Chrest, City of Brandon.

And, while the legalization of cannabis will represent a number of challenges for municipalities, "there has been no mention of revenue-sharing," stressed Mayor Irvine Ferris, City of Portage la Prairie. "We need to make sure the costs aren't downloaded into municipalities."

The AMM's position is that municipalities should be closely consulted throughout the development and implementation of a cannabis legalization framework; tools and resources need to be provided to help municipalities prepare prior to and following the transition to legalization; and a fair revenue sharing model that respects municipal authority and recognizes rising policing costs needs to be developed.

The Cities Caucus also welcomed a new Chair in Mayor Dennis Fenske, City of Thompson. "I look forward to working with AMM to get some clarity on some of these issues over the coming year."

The AMM Cities Caucus was formed in 2013 and is modeled after the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) [Big City Mayors' Caucus](#) to provide opportunities for representatives from each city in Manitoba to share ideas about how to tackle common concerns and key priorities.

Members of the AMM Cities Caucus include:

- City of Brandon
- City of Dauphin
- The 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