

December 6, 2011

To the Editor:

**RE: DECEMBER 3, 2011 "ONE JOB DONE, PLENTY TO GO" – WINNIPEG FREE PRESS**

Your recent article ("One job done, plenty to go", December 3) speaks to the City's infrastructure deficit, estimated at about \$3.8 billion dollars, to fix our roads, bridges, water mains, sewers and other vital infrastructure. The article also notes that all three levels of government say "they are all working on the problem."

When the City's Infrastructure Funding Council (IFC) asked for input into a municipal infrastructure funding strategy for Manitoba, CUPE Local 500 provided a submission citing the need for access to a more equitable sharing of tax revenues between the different levels of government. Without an equitable, sustainable source of revenue, our ability to make any significant progress towards bridging the infrastructure gap will continue to have serious implications on the quality of life in our communities.

Back in the 1960s, the federal government funded a huge portion of the municipal infrastructure and we still need that commitment today. While all three levels of government must work together to devote more resources to our communities, the Federal Government must be an active and continuing partner in our infrastructure renewal.

Both federal and provincial legislation and programs must also be strengthened to encourage and support local government use of bond, debenture and local investment options. In short, the Federal Government needs to step up to the plate and ensure we have a national infrastructure strategy that will allow municipal and provincial governments to sustain our important, essential infrastructure now and into the future.

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