

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is with pleasure that I present the Executive Director's message for the ninth Annual Report of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities.

It is always pleasant to begin with good news, and this past year was indeed excellent in terms of finances. Both the AMM and the Municipalities Trading Company of Manitoba Ltd. (MTCML) continue to be strong, as illustrated in the financial statements on pages 36-42. MTCML sales were strong enough, in fact, to result in our largest member rebate to date - \$750,000. This brings the cumulative rebate total to \$2.5 million since 2002. Thanks to all of our members for their continued use of the MTCML, and to our Official Suppliers for offering our membership excellent products and services at the best possible prices.

Another issue we spent a great deal of time on last year was Public Sector Accounting Board Generally Accepted Accounting Practices - otherwise known as PSAB GAAP. Effective January 1, 2009 all governments in Canada, including local governments, must adopt PSAB GAAP. The AMM and Department of Intergovernmental Affairs undertook a joint venture to help municipalities adopt PSAB GAAP, including hiring a project manager and setting up a number of training sessions. This is an initiative of great importance to municipalities, and the AMM is committed to providing support to our members over the next year as we approach the implementation date.

Our lobbying activities reached well beyond North America last year, as President Bell, Vice-President Dobrowolski and I traveled to El Salvador in January. The purpose of this mission was to help our counterparts at The Corporation of Municipalities of the Republic of El Salvador (COMURES) to develop a lobbying and communications strategy that will assist their organization with improving their communities. This exchange, initiated by COMURES in 2005, is sponsored by the FCM and totally funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). It is the

AMM's way of sharing our knowledge and experience with others, and in the end, both organizations ultimately benefit.

While our lobbying activities routinely call upon us to look forward, we also spent some time last year reflecting on our history by initiating a very special project. This project will culminate in late 2008 with a complete "History Book" about the activities of the AMM and our predecessors, the Union of Manitoba Municipalities (UMM) and the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities (MAUM) over the past century. We spent a large part of the past year communicating our plans to our members and calling upon you to share your memorabilia for possible inclusion in the book. The finished product will showcase the history that we all share and we look forward to presenting it to you at next year's convention.

The AMM is nothing without its people, and to that end I would like to sincerely thank our Board of Directors for their support over the past year. We said farewell to some directors and welcomed others, but all Board members, past and present, have made a valuable contribution to our organization. I appreciate the opportunity to work for and with such a diverse and dedicated group of municipal officials.

My thanks also go to our staff who have done an excellent job throughout the year. They are an outstanding group of professionals who enjoy the work they do on your behalf.

Last but not least, I must extend a warm thank you to our membership for their continued support, encouragement and involvement. Your dedication to serving your communities is what motivates us to move forward on the many issues detailed in the pages of this annual report. I hope you enjoy it.



Joe Masi, Executive Director



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