

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to provide the Executive Director's message for our 2008 annual report of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM). This report outlines the activities of our 10th year, a milestone for the AMM and our membership.

On the financial side, the AMM and Municipalities Trading Company of Manitoba Limited (MTCML) continue to be strong. MTCML sales remained solid and as a result the AMM was able to offer a significant rebate back to our membership. This year's rebate was the largest ever at \$1,300,000, bringing the total rebates to \$3.8 million over the past seven years. We sincerely thank all municipalities for their continued use of our Trading Company, and our MTCML Official Suppliers for their part in our success. I am also pleased to welcome four new Corporate Members this year, further strengthening our service to our members.

In terms of our events and communications, this past year the AMM was able to offer three first-rate and affordable professional development courses for elected officials. Our other events, including the Annual Convention, Municipal Officials Seminar & Trade Show, June District Meetings and Mayors, Reeves and CAOs Meetings were also well attended.

On the communications side of the AMM, our magazine and bulletins continue to improve and keep our membership informed on various initiatives of the AMM. The AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca continues to be a valuable resource for our members and we strive to keep it up to date and easy to navigate.

We took on a number of additional activities in 2008, to commemorate our anniversary and help us to look forward into the future. Fittingly, January saw the launch of our new logo to begin the New Year. We incorporated this new "look" into our stationary, building signage, and all communications material. The new logo has been well received by our membership and others, as it is modern, colourful and depicts Manitoba in its entirety.

The seed for the AMM History Book, *"With One Voice: A History of Municipal Governance in Manitoba"* germinated in early 2007 and after much research, hard work and dedication throughout this past year, has bloomed into an attractive, informative keepsake for our members. This book was a real labour of love for those involved in its production and I hope you enjoy it.

We also commissioned a survey of our membership in 2008, the findings of which will help us to look forward to the next several years and beyond. Highlights of this survey are noted on page 25. Suffice it to say our membership expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the work that we do on your behalf and we take pride in that. But we also recognize there is always more work to be done and the results of this survey will be very beneficial in helping us move forward to accomplish even more in the coming years.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors for its support and guidance throughout the year. Without their great investment of time and effort into the AMM we would not be the successful association we are today.

To our staff at the AMM, I would sincerely like to recognize the excellent work they do on behalf of our Board and our membership. While this year has been particularly challenging given the many extra 10th anniversary tasks on the calendar, they easily rose to the challenge. They are dedicated and professional in the performance of their duties and I could not do my job as Executive Director without their support.

I would like to thank and acknowledge President Ernie Epp and Executive Director Mel Nott of the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association (MMAA) and all the members of MMAA for their valuable contribution to the AMM. We truly value the partnership and excellent working relationship between the AMM and MMAA.

Lastly, I would like to thank our membership for their continued advice, support and encouragement. You have welcomed our association to your offices on municipal visits, provided us with valuable feedback on various issues facing municipalities and you continue to serve your communities with dedication.

We hope you enjoy this annual report and we look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Masi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Masi
Executive Director