

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to provide the Executive Director's message for the sixth annual report of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities.

At our Strategic Planning session in January 2004, the Board of Directors agreed to a number of strategic directions for the AMM. Some of these directions included:

- Developing a public awareness campaign regarding the role of the AMM and the municipal agenda. Last year the AMM made presentations at service clubs, schools, and public events, and was featured in a special publication of Manitoba Hydro, which was sent to 700,000 households in Manitoba.
- Continuing to press for a federal new deal for municipalities in 2004, leading to additional sources of revenue for municipalities in the federal budget of 2005/06. It appears the federal government will be dedicating a portion of the federal fuel tax in their upcoming budget.
- Promoting the Tools for Change program for municipalities, which provides municipalities with the tools to provide effective, responsive and innovative local government for the 21st Century.

On the financial side, the AMM and MTCML continue to be strong, as shown in the financial statements in this report. For the third consecutive year, the AMM issued a rebate to all municipalities that use the trading company, based on the amount of business the municipality did with the trading company. In addition, this past year the AMM was able to offer an average 2% reduction in our insurance rates after two difficult years. Finally, as a result of excellent risk management by municipalities, we were able to refund \$1 million to municipalities out of our insurance loss pool.

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I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their support and guidance throughout the year. I would like to especially thank President Stuart Briese, who will not be seeking another term as President. President Briese was a dedicated and excellent President who served many years with both the UMM and AMM. His contribution to the municipal cause over the years will not be forgotten and I am sure we will all miss him.

Secondly, I would like to thank our staff for their dedication and professionalism in serving the AMM and our membership. Without their contribution, many of the excellent initiatives outlined in this report would not have been possible.

Thirdly, I would like to thank and acknowledge the excellent contribution of the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association to the success of the AMM. The advice and input from the Chief Administrative Officers is critical to the AMM and they should all be commended for doing an excellent job in their municipality.

Finally, I sincerely wish to thank our membership for their advice, support and encouragement. They are a fine group of dedicated municipal officials, who despite the difficult economic times faced by their communities, and in some cases, by them personally, continue to serve their communities with distinction.

We hope you enjoy this annual report and it serves as a valuable reference for you and your Council.

Sincerely,



Joe Masi
Executive Director