



“We’re really not alone out there”

by Val Turner, CMMA – President of Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association

Elected officials, CAOs, Public Works supervisors - just about anyone in the municipal community has had a day like this. The day that you run into something that you have never seen before, you really don't know how to handle, and you just don't understand. You remember that sick feeling in the pit of your stomach. Just remember, in the Manitoba municipal community, we're not alone out there!

Besides asking someone from a neighbouring municipality, there are your Associations to turn to. The Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association as well as the Association of Manitoba Municipalities pride themselves on bringing members together for opportunities to learn, to share experiences and ideas, as well as simply creating relationships that will benefit all

in the future, especially when you just need someone to call on.

Members of the MMAA are, for the most part, the administrators and senior support staff from municipalities. The Association's mission statement reads, *“The purpose of the MMAA is to promote and increase the professional growth of its members and to be the voice on issues affecting municipal administration.”* In so doing, the MMAA believes that it creates a better environment for everyone within the Municipal family.

While the services offered are too numerous to mention here, I'd like to bring everyone's attention to just a few. We are very proud of our *Request for Information* system (facilitated by our Broadcast Service). Within 10 minutes of a request leaving our Executive Director's office, all MMAA members

can receive a question posed by a registered member and within minutes, using e-mail reply, the member needing the information is already getting feedback.

One of our little known services is our *Mentorship Program*. Through its mandatory Professional Development Program, the MMAA encourages members to become involved in the one-on-one mentorship of less experienced administrators.

What about that mandatory Professional Development Program? We believe that the series of seminars resulting from this program are second to none. Many of you who aren't members have attended these sessions, which are open to all, and have experienced the benefit for yourselves. Registered members, however, receive a discount of \$50 each time they attend a session.

These services are of benefit to members, absolutely, but it doesn't take much imagination to realize how they benefit everyone in the municipal community. I ask you to support your municipal associations; encourage all elected officials and employees to be active members; and realize that the small investment that you make on behalf of your communities today will pay countless dividends for many years to come. ☺

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