



Joe Masi, Executive Director

Mission: *Possible!* – absolutely

A famous philosopher once said, “There is nothing permanent except change.” This could certainly apply to municipal life. Just when you become comfortable with a situation, something happens to change it. Sometimes we have advance warning that change is coming, but more often than not, it happens before we are really expecting it.

This year, several municipalities have experienced change of the worst kind. One community had a fire in its arena, while another felt the wrath of a raging hailstorm. These situations are unexpected and can have dire consequences on the quality of life of community residents. That is why we have insurance. Recently, our insurer, HED Insurance, informed us that these and other unexpected events have resulted in a much higher claims year. With several months left to go in the year, this means that AMM members may be facing increases to their premiums next year. How significant? We have no way of knowing at this point. Insurance is challenging and until the claims year is complete we are unable to predict exactly what the effect will be.

What we do know is that the AMM will do everything we can to keep the increases as low as possible. At our Board of Directors meeting of September 27, 2007, the Board voted to create an Insurance Reserve Fund with monies transferred from the Municipal Trading Company (MTCML), to possibly assist municipalities with their insurance renewal next year. While we cannot predict the future, I do hope this action gives you some peace of mind that there will be some assistance should the increases be significant.

We will keep you informed as our insur-

ance renewal approaches. Having said all of this, we still believe that we have one of the best municipal insurance programs in Canada based on cost, extent of coverage, and overall effectiveness.

On a different note, Convention is just around the corner and our theme, *Mission: Possible!* really reflects the challenges that our members overcome each and every day. We have an amazing group of keynote speakers (including astronaut Marc Garneau) to inspire you to meet the challenges of your municipal work head-on. Their profiles are on page 27. We’ve organized thought-provoking and informative plenary sessions, including Dr. Enid Slack’s update on the fiscal balance issue (see page 30 for a “Plenary Spotlight”). We’ve assembled a panel of experts to talk about wind energy, as well as a number of interesting and timely workshop sessions.

The agenda also includes resolutions sessions, elections for AMM President and Vice-Presidents, the popular Ministerial Forum, and the Convention Display Area, truly an event in itself! It runs the Monday and Tuesday of Convention and is an excellent opportunity to learn what MTCML Official Suppliers, AMM Corporate Members, and many other companies have to offer.

Of course, we will be keeping you informed every step of the way, and if you need any other information, look no further than our website at www.amm.mb.ca. It is truly the place for the most up-to-date Convention information. I look forward to seeing you there. \$

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