



Stuart Briese, President

# From Edmonton to Broadway

Spring, as always, has been a busy time for the AMM. In early June, I returned from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference in Edmonton. National board elections took place at the conference and I'd like to offer my congratulations to Councillor **Gord Steeves** from the City of Winnipeg on being elected third Vice President of the FCM National Board of Directors. Also joining me in representing Manitoba on the National Board is Brandon Councillor **Don Jessiman**, Councillor **Jeff McConnell** from Virден, and Mayor **Neil Schmidt** of Winkler.

The AMM recently wrapped up another series of June District Meetings, and I

enjoyed meeting with members from each and every district of our province. June Districts are always an excellent opportunity for municipal officials to gather and discuss their issues at a regional level. As you know, many of the resolutions voted on at June Districts will be debated at our Annual Convention in November, and will guide the AMM's policy and lobbying efforts. The AMM is pleased with the number of municipal officials who attended the meetings and we do appreciate the input from our members.

While Canadians welcome a new government as a result of the June 28 Federal Election, here in Manitoba we are still early into a second mandate of NDP leadership. In early June, the AMM prepared a cabinet brief to present to Premier Doer and Cabinet. This annual meeting is one of the most important of the year, as it gives the AMM the opportunity to present our membership's top issues. The brief covered a number of important items that we hope to see movement on either over the short or long-term.

Short-term, we expect to see progress on issues that include the Provincial water bomber policy, compensation for community hostings, and workers compensation benefits for volunteer firefighters. Longer-term items include education funding and property taxes (the AMM's top issue), as well as new water legislation and the proposed *Planning Amendment Act*.

The AMM raised more than 30 issues during our meeting with the Premier and Cabinet. As we are only one year into this government's current mandate, we are hopeful that many of the larger issues facing Manitoba municipalities will be dealt with during their time in office. The cabinet brief that was prepared and presented to Cabinet is available for download on our website at [www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca).

Have a safe and relaxing summer. ●

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Briese". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.