

## AMM Board of Directors

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President of the Manitoba Municipal  
Administrators Association



Ron Bell, President

## Spring brings longer days and AMM events

The coming of spring represents increased daylight hours, warmer temperatures, and thoughts of summer days just around the corner. For the AMM, spring also heralds some significant events – Provincial Budget Day and our annual series of Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings.

I had the opportunity to attend the 2006 Budget Speech on March 6. As always, the AMM was pleased with some areas of the budget and disappointed in others. On the education tax front, the five-year plan we hoped for was not forthcoming. However, the Education Support Levy (ESL) was eliminated and the Farmland Education Tax rebate was further extended to 60% - both positive announcements.

Also positive was a 6% increase to the Building Manitoba Fund, including \$3.4M for rural Manitoba and \$4.5M for Winnipeg. Out of this funding \$1.7M of the rural increase is earmarked for a new Recreation and Library Infrastructure Program, and a further \$5.3M has been committed for next year. (For more details on this year's provincial budget, see page 12.)

Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings ran from March 13 – 24 this year and I am pleased to report that they were indeed one of the best series of meetings we have

had to date. I don't state that lightly, as any opportunity the AMM executive and board has to dialogue with community leaders is extremely valuable. However, this year's meetings were the 'whole package.' They were well attended; they were interactive; and most importantly, they were productive. Those who attended participated in breakout groups tasked with discussing "The Municipal Agenda – Roles, Responsibilities and Resources of Municipal Governments". These discussions resulted in a great deal of high quality feedback that will only serve to strengthen our lobbying position over the course of the year.

My sincerest thanks go to each and every one of you who attended our Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings this year. Your participation is directly responsible for making the meetings so successful, and is very much appreciated by the AMM Board of Directors.

In closing, as spring turns to early summer we will finalize our preparations for June District Meetings. Early indications are that our speakers promise to be stimulating and timely. I look forward to seeing you there. ☺



President Bell being interviewed by CBC Radio on Budget Day 2006.