



Joe Masi, Executive Director

Sharing of ideas a learning experience

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference recently wrapped up in Montreal, Quebec. One of the highlights of this conference for me is the annual meeting with Executive Directors from across Canada. This meeting gives the AMM an excellent opportunity to look at how we do business as compared to other associations, and to learn from our counterparts in other provinces.

This year's meeting had an additional, critical result. The group of Executive Directors commissioned a major study that will provide a detailed examination of the roles, responsibilities, resources and relationships between municipalities and their respective provincial governments across Canada. The final report will provide a practical, concrete look at how the two interact on a province-by-province basis. This is a groundbreaking initiative and I am confident that it will provide extremely valuable information as we move toward a realignment of fiscal responsibilities among governments. The study will be completed in April of 2007, and I look forward to reporting its findings to you.

Here in Manitoba, we've taken our own initial steps by collecting your feedback into our recently released *Roles, Responsibilities*

and *Resources of Municipal Government in Manitoba* report. Your input into this report was invaluable and provided the AMM a great deal of insight into how the municipal fiscal imbalance directly affects our members. This report is available on our website at www.amm.mb.ca.

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge the CAOs who will be busy preparing for the municipal elections. A municipal election is an exciting time, yet some of you may be also feeling anxious at the thought of the inevitable changes that may occur at your council table. We are already planning a special session at this year's Convention for newly elected officials, and will support and assist them in any way that we can. However, I want to assure all CAOs that this support is further extended to *you*, as we enter this time of possible change. The AMM recognizes that you are an extremely critical part of your local municipal government. While you are well represented by the Manitoba Municipal Administrator's Association, I want to assure you that you have the utmost support and respect of the AMM as well. ☺

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