



Donna Belbin, AMM Events Coordinator

High Integrity POLITICS

FOR EFFECTIVE COUNCIL RELATIONSHIPS

The 2008 AMM Education Program continued with its second workshop on April 18. Barbara Bowes, President of Bowes HR, led the seminar **High Integrity Politics for Effective Council Relationships**.

The focus of the workshop was to gain understanding of:

- political organizations and politics as an influence strategy
- participants' personal approach to politics
- power and influence
- general power bases and relationships
- the key elements of influence skills and
- a range of influence tools and tactics

Although a council is working for one common goal, they sometimes have different views of how to achieve that goal. Maintaining your own high ethical values and understanding your motivation can allow you to understand how your colleagues approach a topic, make decisions and see their point of view.

Participants were provided with case studies and examples so that they could apply the skills they studied.


The Mind Mapping exercise was a powerful brainstorming tool that dem-

onstrated how to be clear as to what you want to talk about. It can help you visualize and stimulate the discussion.

Skills such as the ability to network, using straight talk vocabulary, listening and responding, and your sincerity all play a powerful role in the perception others hold of you. These skills also help you to understand your political style and build power relationships.

From work groups to sharing experiences, the elected officials learned about themselves and others from the point of view of political and influence styles and studied successful high integrity strategies and tactics for managing relationships and getting things done.

According to Bowes, "applying a political strategy that focuses on the good of your organization as community accompanied by high ethical values, creates a powerful instrument to develop win/win situations every time."

The AMM would like to thank those who attended the workshop and congratulates Rhonda Merke, Councillor, RM of Alonsa, winner of complimentary registration for the October 3 workshop plus a \$150 Canad Inns gift card. 



(L to R) President Ron Bell, Barbara Bowes, and Midwestern Urban Director Eileen Clarke.

"If you want to be an effective councillor, you need to act like a head coach of a football team. You watch the other players, understand how they play the game and then script a tailored game plan that will give you the wins you are looking for. To do that, you need to develop your political skills."

- Barbara Bowes

Municipal officials are reminded to register for

THE NEXT AMM EDUCATION WORKSHOP

What Happens When the Abacus Meets the Blackberry?

Understanding the New Public Sector Accounting Board's Financial Statements is designed for the elected official and other users of local government financial statements to be implemented

Please visit the AMM website for workshop information and to register online: amm.mb.ca.

AMM Education 2008

for all local governments for years beginning January 1, 2009.

- "The WoW Team" of Ron Well or Wendy Wolfe of Municipal Finance and Advisory Services, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs.