



Joe Masi, Executive Director

## 2006 lobbying course set

The AMM 7th Annual Convention has come and gone, and the work of carrying out our lobbying direction as driven by you, our membership, has begun for another year. While further issues will be raised throughout the year at regular regional meetings and municipal visits, it is the resolutions voted on at the Annual Convention that have set the main lobbying course of the AMM for the next 12 months. I'd like to provide you with a short overview of how we will chart this course.

Immediately after Convention, the AMM forwarded all accepted resolutions to the appropriate government departments for their response. This is extremely helpful to the AMM's lobbying efforts as it gives us an indication of where government stands on an issue. This also ensures the issue appears on the government's radar. Once all of the government's responses are received, the AMM will forward them on to our members. We will also keep our members up to date on our communications activities through our news bulletin, *Municipal Leader* magazine, resolutions updates, and at our various events. In addition, position papers for each government department along with a searchable database of active AMM resolutions, are available on the AMM website at [www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca).

Once we know the government's response to the issues, we will then begin to address the active resolutions in a number of different ways. We will highlight the issues through

letters, position papers and at our regular meetings with Provincial Cabinet Ministers. AMM Board and Executive members also sit on a variety of external committees of government, so that we have active input into issues that affect municipalities. Some resolutions are very straightforward and will be resolved at the staff level. Others are more complicated and will require a number of meetings and correspondence before they are resolved. Resolutions may be dropped only when they are completed, (such as the changes to the Workers Compensation Act that now recognizes the needs of volunteer firefighters), or where the outcome sought is not possible. In this situation, the AMM Board of Directors must agree on whether to drop the resolution.

The 63 resolutions passed by the AMM membership at Convention will be incorporated into our active files. Currently, the AMM has 299 active files, including 237 resolutions and 62 policy files. We are certainly looking forward to a busy year ahead. Rest assured that we will work on ALL resolutions to the best of our ability, and continue to keep you up to date on our progress.

Finally, the Municipal Officials Seminar & Trade Show takes place in Brandon on February 27 and 28, 2006. I look forward to seeing you there! ☺

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