

AMM Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE

President
Mayor Ron Bell,
Town of Birtle

Vice-President, Rural
Councillor Doug Dobrowolski,
RM of Macdonald

Vice-President, Urban
Mayor Shirley Kalyniuk,
Town of Rossburn

DIRECTORS

Councillor Ralph Groening,
RM of Morris

Mayor Melvin Klassen,
Town of Altona

Reeve Alice Bourgoiun,
RM of Rosser

Mayor Randy Sigurdson,
Town of Arborg

Reeve William Danylchuk,
RM of Tache

Councillor Art Rempel,
City of Steinbach

Reeve Roger Wilson,
RM of Birtle

Reeve Robert Misko,
RM of Hillsburg

Mayor Rene Maillard,
Town of Ste. Rose du Lac

Councillor Alan Ransom,
RM of Morton

Councillor Maxine Chacun,
Town of Virden

Councillor Bert Lagimodiere,
Town of The Pas

Councillor Russ Wyatt,
City of Winnipeg

Dale Lyle,
President of the Manitoba Municipal
Administrators Association



Ron Bell, President

Meeting with Premier kicks off '07

I must begin by conveying my deep gratitude for showing your confidence in me by acclaiming me as your President for a third term. It's a humbling experience indeed and one I do not take for granted. I can't express enough, after the difficult year we faced together in 2005, how proud I am at the way we all pulled together in 2006. Our recent, highly successful Convention is a testament to that. Our resolutions sessions were virtually seamless and we have a very clear picture of our lobbying direction as we enter 2007.

You also elected two new AMM vice presidents during Convention and I am excited to be working with them. Both Urban Vice-President **Shirley Kalyniuk** and Rural Vice-President **Doug Dobrowolski** bring a wealth of experience to their new roles and will be a huge asset to me as we lead our organization throughout the next year. I would also like to welcome our four new board members – Western Urban Director **Maxine Chacun**, Central Rural Director **Ralph Groening**, Central Urban Director **Mel Klassen**, and City of Winnipeg Director **Russ Wyatt**. I look forward to working with all of you.

One of the first orders of business for our 'new' board of directors occurred on December 19, when we met with Premier **Gary Doer** and members of the Provincial Cabinet. This is a very important annual meeting for the AMM and we appreciate the opportunity to have a frank and positive discussion with the Premier. *(The position paper we prepared for this meeting is available on the AMM website.)*

Another important event took place in early January – our annual Board strategic planning session. During this session, we reviewed our policy priorities and identified our main issues and goals as we move forward in 2007. I am certain that it will come as no surprise that our #1 policy priority for the coming year is *fiscal balance and infrastructure*, followed by *land use and water planning*, *Education taxation*, *physician and health practitioner recruitment and retention*, and *recycling* rounded off our list of top issues for the coming year.

As you know, there is a definite possibility of a provincial election on the near horizon. This is **your** chance to voice municipal concerns and have strong input into the future of our province. The AMM will certainly be doing its part to ensure our priorities are on the agenda. A provincial election gives us all an opportunity to position ourselves so that municipal issues are front-and-centre with all parties. Let's seize that opportunity!

Our own municipal election last fall resulted in many new faces around council tables throughout the province. I believe that the energy and vision of those newly elected, combined with the experience and wisdom of returning council members, will result in a dynamic surge ahead for municipalities over the next year. Both as a Mayor and as your President, I am thrilled to be a part of it. §



Premier Gary Doer and President Ron Bell.