

President's Message



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), I am pleased to present our 2003 Annual Report. This report represents our fifth year as an organization and reflects many of our activities over the past year.

On June 3, 2003, Manitobans went to the polls and re-elected Premier Gary Doer and the New Democratic Party. The AMM has worked very hard over the past four years to keep the provincial government accountable and sensitive to the needs of municipalities. Your Board of Directors is committed to ensuring municipal concerns are heard loud and clear throughout the new mandate of this provincial government.

On the policy and lobbying efforts of the AMM, we accomplished a great deal and made significant progress on many of the issues facing municipalities. Some of these initiatives included:

- * An agreement with the Province on a single-tier social assistance system for Manitoba.
- * An agreement with Manitoba Telecom Services on municipal rights-of-way, one of the first such agreements reached with a private company in Canada.
- * A continuation of the infrastructure program for municipalities over the next 10 years.
- * A compensation program for municipalities affected by Treaty Land Entitlements.
- * A certification program for water and wastewater operators.

In addition to these accomplishments, we achieved progress on issues such as policing, financial assistance for producers affected by BSE and drought, an economic development strategy for municipalities, housing, library funding, rural water funding and by-law enforcement. We were also pleased to see that the AMM's number one priority for the year, education funding from property taxes, was a major issue during the provincial election campaign. It is our hope that in 2004 the Minister of Education's Working Group, which includes the AMM, will develop a long-term strategy that will reduce Manitoba's reliance on property taxes as a mechanism for funding education.

This past year saw the Municipalities Trading Company of Manitoba Ltd. (MTCML) continue to grow and provide excellent service and savings to our members. We were particularly pleased to provide a \$300,000 rebate to our members out of the Trading Company this past year. Coupled with the rebate of \$250,000 given in 2002, municipalities have received \$550,000 over the past two years out of the Trading Company, based on the amount of business done by each municipality.

The success of our Association could not have been accomplished without the excellent work of our Board of Directors and staff. Their commitment and dedication to the work of our Association is to be commended. I would also like to thank all 199 member municipalities of our Association. It is only with your support, advice and encouragement throughout the year that we are able to accomplish the things we do on your behalf. The work you do day after day in your communities makes our province a better place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Briese". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stuart Briese
President