

Voicing differing OPINIONS IS HEALTHY



Joe Masi, Executive Director

By the time you read this we will have wrapped up our annual series of Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings which ran from March 15-23, 2009. These meetings represent the first opportunity of the year for the AMM Executive to update our members on issues of importance, and update you we did. Your Executive covered almost two dozen of our most pressing issues during the seven meetings, including the Onsite Wastewater Management System Regulation, provincial land use policies, economic development, housing, recycling, health care, rural childcare, policing, drainage, and more.

The meetings also gave us an opportunity to fill you in on some newer issues that have come up, things like the need for equal rights for municipal officials while in council meetings and our work on the women in government resolution.


We also provided timely updates on federal infrastructure funding and gas tax, two items – thankfully – not clawed back in the recent federal budget. Furthermore, we filled you in on our priority issue for 2010 – the core challenges of municipalities.

Most importantly, the Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings are an opportunity for you to ask questions and generate discussion on issues of concern. The issue of holding the annual convention in Winnipeg on a regular basis certainly generated a great deal of discussion at some meetings, less at others. Our members expressed both agreement and dissent on the subject, and differences of opinion continue to be voiced. To me, this is not a negative but a positive – you will not agree all the time on what is best for your association and members, but you will always have the opportunity to express your opinions and hear those of your peers. This is why Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings are so important, why all AMM gatherings are so important, in fact – so that our members may hear each other's point of view. This

is also why it is essential that every AMM member has an equal opportunity to attend these events.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Mayors, Reeves and CAOs meetings, and thank you to this year's hosts – the RM of Grandview and Town of Grandview (Parkland), RM of Hamiota and Town of Hamiota (Midwestern), RM of Pipestone (Western), RM of South Norfolk and Town of Treherne (Central), RM of West St. Paul (Interlake), Town of Churchill (Northern), and RM of Springfield (Eastern). Your hospitality was outstanding.

We now turn our attention to our next big event, the Municipal Officials Seminar and MTCML Trade Show at the Keystone Centre in Brandon on April 14 and 15. As always, we expect approximately 700 municipal elected officials and staff to attend and take advantage of our wide selection of policy and professional development workshops and plenary sessions. The MTCML Trade Show is THE largest municipal trade show event in Manitoba, with a wide range of displays taking part this year. From 4:00 to 7:00 pm, come and have some fun at the annual Wine and Cheese reception that caps off the Trade Show. It is always a great time and there are lots of prizes to be won.

We've included a sneak preview of the entire event in this issue. I look forward to seeing you at MOS! 

Contact the AMM STAFF

Joe Masi
Executive Director
856-2360
jmasi@amm.mb.ca

Linda Hargest
Director of Administration & Marketing
856-2361
lhargest@amm.mb.ca

Tyler MacAfee
Director of Policy & Communications
856-2362
tmacafee@amm.mb.ca

Julia Green
Administrative Assistant -
Board & Administration
856-2365
jgreen@amm.mb.ca

Lynne Bereza
Communications Coordinator
856-2366
lbereza@amm.mb.ca

Patti De Baets
Finance Coordinator
856-2367
pdebaets@amm.mb.ca

Erika Rempel
Administrative Assistant -
Policy & Communications
856-2369
erempel@amm.mb.ca

Lynn Ferguson
Senior Policy Analyst
856-2371
lferguson@amm.mb.ca

Donna Belbin
Events Coordinator
856-2374
dbelbin@amm.mb.ca

THE AMM FAX NUMBER IS
204-856-2370