

## BIGGEST event of the year



Joe Masi, Executive Director

As I pen this message Manitoba is delighting in warm, sunny, July-like temperatures – in mid-September. It is almost enough to lull us into a sense that autumn is not approaching quite as quickly as it is. However, warm weather aside, the AMM office is buzzing with activity as our staff prepare for the biggest event of the year – the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

I am very much looking forward to this year's event, perhaps due in part to its very positive theme – *What If? A world of opportunities*. These words really do bring to mind the vast potential and excitement that is again beginning to build in Manitoba communities. Although we have come through some very trying economic times, things do seem to be on the upswing. It is time to once again look outward and upward, and we have planned a schedule of events throughout Convention that will help you do just that.

To kick things off, we have an exciting and intriguing plenary planned around how to create an “inclusive” community. We've gathered a panel of experts – young and old, able-bodied and people with disabilities, new immigrants, and others – to give us their perspectives on what it takes to make our communities truly one-for-all.

We've also asked **Garth Manness**, President and CEO of Credit Union Central of Manitoba to present his economic outlook. Garth will talk to us not only about the current state of the Canadian economy, but what municipalities in Manitoba can look forward to in 2010.


While the other plenary sessions are still in the works you can rest assured they

will not disappoint. In fact, we've put extra effort into our plenary sessions this year, due to the unavailability of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Keystone Centre. Due to renovations, we are unable to access the rooms typically used for breakout sessions. While these sessions only affect one afternoon of the entire event, we want to ensure our plenary sessions and keynote addresses more than make up for this void by not only meeting, but exceeding your expectations. Our keynote speakers this year were chosen to do just that!

You will hear **Dr. David Foot**, world-renowned demographics expert and author of the *Boom, Bust and Echo* bestsellers. You will also hear from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Arctic Explorer **Dr. David Barber**. This former climate change skeptic is now a convert and he has the research to explain why.

Finally, you will have the once in a lifetime opportunity to hear Lieutenant General, the Honourable **Roméo Dallaire**, Retired, Senator. Senator Dallaire really needs no introduction. The author of *Shake Hands with the Devil* is quite simply a true hero with an unbelievable experience to share with AMM delegates.

Of course, it would not be Convention without some fun events as well. We've got that covered with Monday evening's Icebreaker and Wednesday's Gala featuring hypnotist and magician **Wayne Lee**.

Are you intrigued? I certainly am. I look forward to seeing you all at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention! 

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