

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to provide the Executive Director's message for the 2009 Annual Report of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM). This report outlines the activities of our 11th year of operation.

On the financial side, the AMM and Municipalities Trading Company of Manitoba Limited (MTCML) continue to be strong. MTCML sales remained consistent

at around \$25,000,000 and despite the serious economic downturn this past year, the AMM was able to offer a rebate back to our membership. This year's rebate was \$500,000, bringing the total rebates to \$4.3 million over the past eight years.

We sincerely thank all municipalities for their continued use of our trading company, and our MTCML Official Suppliers for their part in our success. I am also pleased to welcome several new Official Suppliers and Corporate Members this year, further strengthening our service to our members.

Our events continued to draw a large number of members this past year, and with good reason. The AMM was able to offer two first-rate and affordable professional development courses for elected officials. Events such as the Municipal Officials Seminar & Trade Show last spring were well attended despite the disastrous flooding conditions taking place in many parts of Manitoba.

Our 10th Annual Convention was second-to-none and succeeded in showcasing just how far we have come during our first decade. This Convention also saw the culmination of over a year of preparation for our 10th anniversary and the completion of the AMM History Book, *With One Voice: A History of Municipal Governance in Manitoba*. It was an event no one in attendance will soon forget.

On the communications side, our magazine and bulletins continue to see increased readership while keeping our members and a growing list of subscribers informed on various AMM initiatives. The AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca continues to be a valuable resource for our members as we continue to offer increased on-line registration opportunities, along with the most up-to-date information.

A number of special events take place annually and one of the most exciting this past year was a visit from our friends with The Corporation of Municipalities of the Republic of El Salvador (COMURES). We have been part of an exchange with COMURES since 2005 and their visit in April marked

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the beginning of the technical phase of the exchange, with a strong focus on communication. This exchange is sponsored by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and is truly as much a learning experience for AMM as it is for COMURES.

I owe thanks to our Board of Directors for its support and guidance throughout the year. Board members come and go but each and every one makes an indelible mark on this organization. Without their great investment of time and effort into the AMM we would not be the successful lobby group we are today.

I also must recognize the excellent work the staff of the AMM do on behalf of our Board and our membership. The events leading up to the 10th anniversary celebrations resulted in a great many extra tasks on the calendar for every member of our staff. We have had no staff turnover for over five years and that long-term commitment to the organization shows in everything they do. I could not do my job as Executive Director without their support.

Thanks also to President Ernie Epp and Executive Director Mel Nott of the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association (MMAA) and all MMAA members for their contribution to the AMM. The MMAA holds a position at the AMM board table and their input and perspective is indispensable. We truly value the partnership and excellent working relationship between the AMM and MMAA.

Lastly, I thank our membership for their continued advice, support and encouragement. You have welcomed our Association to your offices on municipal visits and provided us with valuable feedback on various issues facing municipalities. This past year has been challenging in so many ways. You have faced flooding, an unstable economy, difficulties with PSAB, the download of services, and many other trials and tribulations. The dedication and professionalism with which you continue to serve your communities is admirable.

I hope you enjoy this annual report and we look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in the coming year.

Joe Masi, Executive Director