

LOBBY DAYS



“MUNICIPALITIES ARE FACING SUCH ENORMOUS CHALLENGES THAT MUCH MORE IS NEEDED. ALL THREE PARTIES HEARD OUR MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR.”

The AMM blitzed the Manitoba Legislature in 2009 in an effort to inform MLAs about top issues facing municipalities. During the fifth annual “Lobby Days”, held on April 22-23, 2009, the AMM met with the NDP caucus as a group, and with Conservative and Liberal MLAs on an individual basis.



Top: Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines Jim Rondeau; AMM Vice-President Shirley Kalyniuk; MLA for St. Norbert Marilyn Brick; and AMM Interlake Rural Director Alice Bourguin

Middle: Midwestern Rural Director Randy Lints and Central Rural Director Ralph Groening wait in the “lobby”

Bottom: Eastern Urban Director Art Rempel and President Doug Dobrowolski present MLA for Arthur-Virden, Larry Maguire, with the AMM history book “With One Voice”.

One message was delivered to all MLAs this year and that is the AMM’s most critical issue—the need for alternate revenue for infrastructure investment. “We continued pushing the Province to share one per cent of the provincial sales tax with municipalities for infrastructure, which would provide municipalities with over \$200 million a year,” explains President Doug Dobrowolski. Since this resolution was carried by AMM members at the 2008 annual convention, the AMM has raised it with each Minister individually. However, “it is important to ensure all MLAs are aware of the needs of our municipalities,” according to President Dobrowolski. “It is good for our members, but also good for the MLAs so they are informed when dealing with their constituents.”



The AMM also gave credit where credit was due during Lobby Days. “The Province has brought in some good programs for municipalities, and we acknowledged that,” noted Dobrowolski. “But municipalities are facing such enormous challenges that much more is needed. I think MLAs from all three parties heard our message loud and clear.”