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President of the Manitoba Municipal
Administrators' Association



Doug Dobrowolski, President

A WELCOME BREAK between busy seasons

I certainly hope as you read this that summer weather has finally arrived in Manitoba, crops are well-established, and AMM members are thinking about taking a well-deserved break after the demands of the past few months. We've seen a provincial budget, come together at MOS, and recently wrapped up June District meetings. Some of us also attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference in Whistler, BC while carrying on with our council duties and, of course, all the other responsibilities that fill our lives. It is definitely time for a bit of a breather before we head back into our busy fall season and toward Convention.

I would like to thank the membership who attended June Districts for coming out, submitting and voting on resolutions, and for electing your AMM directors. I must also extend a huge 'thank-you' to our hosts – the RMs of East St. Paul, Rhineland, Russell, Shell River, and Hillsburg; the Towns of Altona, Russell, Roblin, and Lynn Lake; the Village of Binscarth; the City of Selkirk; and the Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain – all of whom did an outstanding job of welcoming us into their communities. It is always nice to wrap up a successful series of meetings and this would not be possible without the commitment and hard work of our hosts.

The Manitoba Legislature also had a busy spring session, passing Budget 2009 and introducing 35 bills. A complete recap can be found on page 15. Several bills pertaining to municipalities will be dealt with in the fall sitting, including:

- *Bill 4: The Community Revitalization Tax Increment Financing Act*, a new tool to help stimulate development in communities by allowing properties to be designated as community revitalization properties.
- *Bill 16: The Police Services Act*, which creates new rules for how municipal police forces in the province will be governed.
- *Bill 35: The Municipal Conflict of Interest and Campaign Financing Act*, which includes a number of changes with direct impact on municipal elected officials.

Our practice is to carefully review the bills put before the provincial Legislature to analyze their impact on municipalities. As we will be developing our submissions on these bills throughout the summer, please let us know if you have any comments.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Councillor Jeff McConnell, Town of Virden, Councillor Bob Bodnaruk, RM of Springfield, and Reeve Don Forfar, RM of St. Andrews for their successful elections in Whistler. These three gentlemen will represent Manitoba on the FCM board of directors, along with Councillor Jenny Gerbasi from the City of Winnipeg and yours truly.

I would also like to bid farewell to outgoing AMM directors – **Robert Misko**, and **Rene Maillard** – whose contributions during their time on our board are greatly appreciated. At the same time, I wish a warm welcome to **Ron Kostyshyn** and **Betty Nykyforak** who join us for the next two years. We look forward to getting to know you. 

Have a relaxing summer!