



President's Report

Navigating Crises and Supporting Change

Councillor Amy Coady

We have had
success

I am pleased to bring forward the 2023 President's Report to you. The MNL board and staff have been working incredibly hard on your behalf to advocate for you, advance issues of concern, and make meaningful change possible for our municipalities.

Our pre-budget advocacy campaign, which launched in February 2023, brought forward three key issues to government and to the public. Municipalities need more fiscal stability and an increase to municipal operating grants; they require greater access and transparency on infrastructure funding along with a commitment to develop a long-term municipal infrastructure plan. At that time, we were still waiting for a regionalization update from the provincial government. Our advocacy pressed for answers as to where that was next heading. As always, we expressed the need for updated municipal legislation.

We met with cabinet ministers, as well as members of all three party caucuses, to carry our messages forward. As a result of that advocacy, municipal operating grants increased by \$6 million dollars over a two-year period. This year, the MOG disbursements will total \$25 million. Next year, it will be \$28 million. This extra infusion of operating funding support for our members is much needed at a time when costs are rising and budgets are tightening. Though we did not get a commitment to a long-term municipal infrastructure plan, we did get clarity on the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan (ICIP) funding program from the provincial government, namely that the outstanding \$213 million funding package had been accounted for. The MNL team is working with publicly available infrastructure data from the Federal Government to further answer where and how ICIP funds have been disbursed over the period of that funding agreement. We were disappointed to hear in April that the provincial government is not moving forward with regional government. We continue to work with the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs to ensure that regional initiatives are moving forward and that they are supported in more formalized ways. We must continue to think and act regionally. It is the only way forward. We continue to advance enabling



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conversations on municipal legislation.

Our new CEO, Rob Nolan, joined us in December, 2022 with a focus on strengthening governance, supporting the development of our strategic plan, reviewing organizational policy and leading MNL on key advocacy priorities and membership services. As you can see from his report, and from the proposed by-law amendments in your AGM package, he has progressed this work significantly. These are all the building blocks we need to ensure that we can head into the coming years with the confidence that we know where we are going and we have a roadmap to get there.

We are facing crises

MNL is strong. We represent our members well in all the work that we do, but we also know that you are facing some of the most challenging circumstances of your municipal careers. Beyond the core municipal issues of municipal finance, infrastructure, and programs and services delivery, you find yourself entrenched in the health-care crisis, the climate crisis and a housing crisis, among many other things. These may not be the spaces you anticipated you would find yourself in when you first joined council.

And, while jurisdiction over addressing these things does not sit squarely on your municipal shoulders, we know municipalities have a role to play in managing crises at the community level, because that's where the impacts are felt. Though we find ourselves here, and we want to be part of the solutions for climate resilience, well-being and housing, just to name a few, we cannot do more with less. I invite you to take a close look at the resolutions submitted for our AGM – for the most part they all speak to the need for more resources to support the important work that we do.

I am so proud of this organization. I am proud to be your leader. I am excited to continue in our work together as President over the next two years. I know it will be hard, as it always is, but we have the right approach and the right people to get us to where we need to be.

Thank you.

