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## Alta Vista councillor to head municipality association

**Jake Rupert**

The Ottawa Citizen

*Thursday, July 10, 2008*

Alta Vista Councillor Peter Hume has been acclaimed as the president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

The association represents the bulk of municipalities in the province, and its mandate is to further the interests of cities, towns, townships and counties on a number of issues largely dealing with the provincial government, which holds power over the lower-tier governments.

Mr. Hume, a veteran councillor, has served on the association's board of directors and ran unsuccessfully for the president's position two years ago.

The two-year position will require him to develop plans to achieve municipal goals and to meet frequently with provincial ministers, and sometimes federal ones, to push for change.

"It's a tremendous honour, and with it comes great responsibility to deliver in a number of areas that will benefit municipalities in the province, including Ottawa," Mr. Hume said. "For the City of Ottawa and myself, it's a leadership role with access to decision makers that doesn't come along very often."

Mayor Larry O'Brien said he hopes Mr. Hume uses his new position to push the province to take over financing responsibility for a number of programs that were downloaded to municipalities a decade ago.

"He's a strong advocate for the city and all municipalities, and we are going to support him with all the resources we have," Mr. O'Brien said.

Southwest Middlesex Mayor Doug Reycraft, the current association president, said it's a tough but rewarding position.

"It is a demanding job, and I hope that Peter gains as much from the experience as I have," Mr. Reycraft said. "Peter has been a strong member of AMO's board of directors for years ... and I know that AMO is pleased to have him serve as president."

Mr. Hume officially takes over as president of the association at its annual conference at the end of August, which is in Ottawa this year.

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### Presidential Goals

Peter Hume, the councillor for Alta Vista, has been acclaimed as president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Mr. Hume says his goals for the two-year position include:

- Improvements in housing and homelessness policy
- Economic development
- Changes to downloaded provincial programs
- Reform of the provincial board that hears planning appeals
- A decision on the future of public health departments
- Solving potentially huge problems with new property-value assessments by a provincially-owned corporation, which determine people's property taxes

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