



Message From the President

Time seems to fly when things are going well and the past year has just flown by. Another year has passed and things are still going strong. We achieved a significant milestone by paying out the mortgage on the building, fall programs fell into place with a record number of students, we hired new youth program staff and have been part of many province and region wide initiatives.

This summer we received funding from the federal government and had a presentation by Joe Comuzzi before he retired. He expressed the government's commitment to TBMA and the programs we provide. It was a good time for the community to learn about TBMA and we got a lot of press coverage for the programs.

The Folklore Festival was a great success and we had a special TBMA Gala to celebrate paying off the building. The food was second to none and everyone had a great time.

We have new signage on the building so that the general public knows where we are. We have hired new staff for the programs funded in this fiscal year. A HOST youth coordinator, a new youth resource book coordinator and youth involvement facilitators as well as hiring our language services coordinator for the interpreter services.

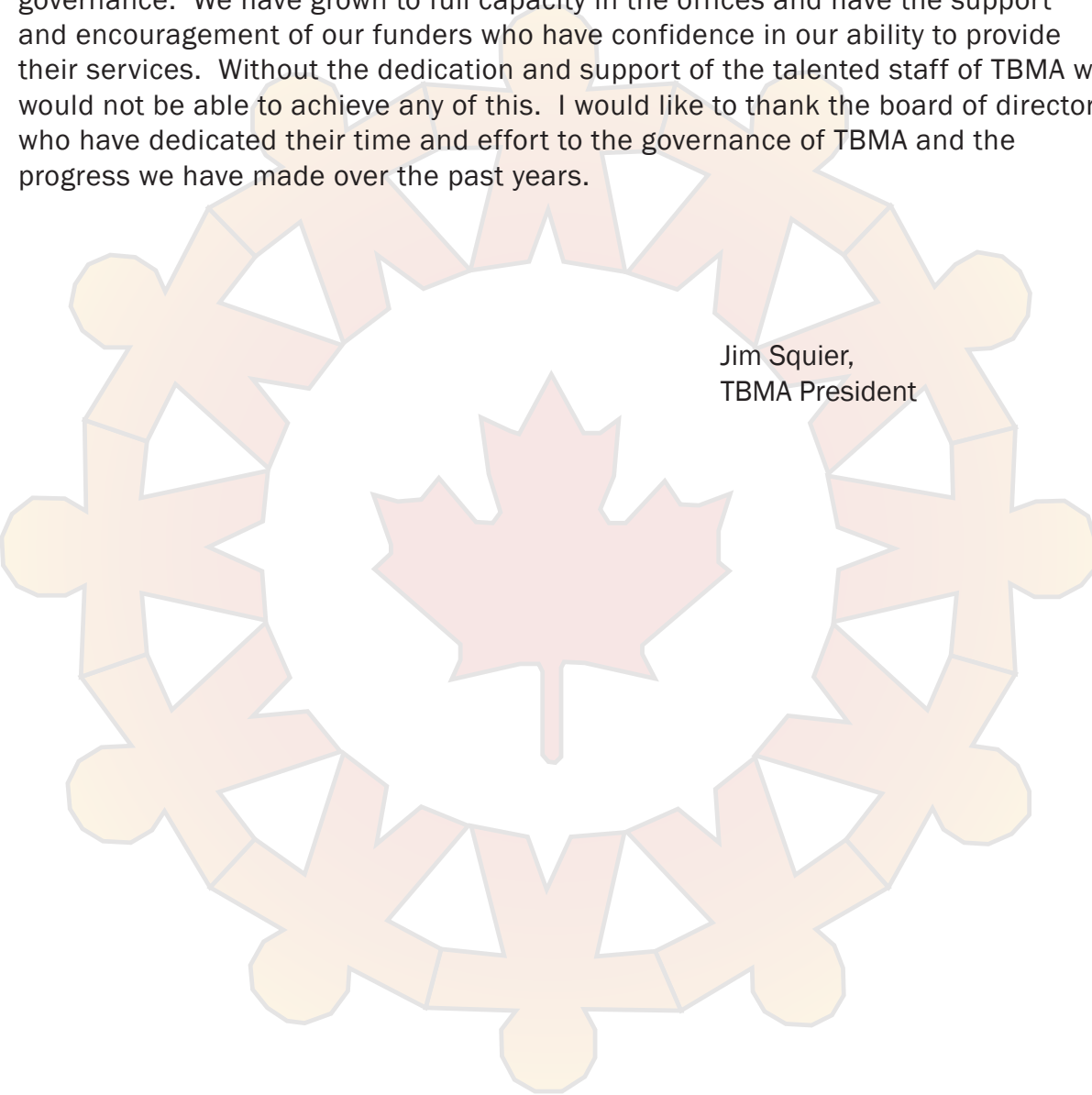
We are in the process of doing more repairs and renovations to the building now that we own it and will continue to make TBMA a better place to work, attend LINC and provide services.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada decentralized and relocated our funding officers to Sudbury. We have spent a lot of time working with Shawn Gingras and Bill Abercrombie on the issues relating to the North. We have had two meetings of the Northern Ontario service providers and are working together to serve newcomers who choose to come to the North. TBMA's programs in Thunder Bay and surrounding area are thriving and being supported by CIC with enthusiasm. We will continue to work with North Bay, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Kenora and Dryden to provide a coordinated effort to serve immigrants and refugees in our region. We continue to have successful partnerships with DOORS to New Life Refugee Centre, the Multicultural Association of Kenora and District and Diversity Thunder Bay.

We also spent time over the past year working with a group of Business students from Lakehead University to do a review of TBMA and the potential for the future.



Through this we found the need to work on our constitution, by-laws, mission, vision and values as well as a strategic plan for the future. We have grown so much over the past 4 to 5 years that we need to reflect that in our structure and governance. We have grown to full capacity in the offices and have the support and encouragement of our funders who have confidence in our ability to provide their services. Without the dedication and support of the talented staff of TBMA we would not be able to achieve any of this. I would like to thank the board of directors who have dedicated their time and effort to the governance of TBMA and the progress we have made over the past years.



Jim Squier,
TBMA President