

BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH
INTERIM ACTIVITY REPORT

Since the majority of the Bureau's membership billings occur in November of each year, it seems appropriate to offer our membership an interim activity report as a means of judging the value of continuing membership in the Bureau.

Since last year at this time we have published four *Civic Affairs*:

Citizen Participation in Metro Toronto: Climate
for Cooperation?
Directory of Governments in Metropolitan Toronto 1975/76
Metro Toronto Under Review: What Are The Issues?
Fire Protection Services in Metro: Is Unification
the Answer?

We have also published five *BMR Comments*:

The Politics of Waste Management
Should the Metro Chairman Be Directly Elected?
Metro Toronto Under Review: What Are The Issues?
Report of Leisure Time Patterns of Apartment Dwellers
in the City of London
The Teaching of Local Government in our Schools

As you can see the studies have covered a wide range of subjects and their acceptance by decision makers, while generally excellent, has in some cases sparked controversy which may also be good if it leads to positive reform.

At the time of printing this report, there were an additional three studies due for publication on the following subjects: county school reorganization; a case study; animal control in Ontario; and why people don't vote in municipal elections.

Aided by our Policy Committee comprised of Council members, the Bureau will continue to select topics for study which are topical and in demand. Some volatile issues will continue to be avoided due to the need to allow emotions to settle and create an atmosphere receptive to research. And as our research capabilities continue to broaden we will endeavour to study more difficult and complex issues. The two studies which you have received most recently on fire departments in Metro and local government in the schools are prime examples.

We believe that studies to be undertaken in the year to come will be even more interesting and sensitive to the real needs of local government in Ontario than those in the past. We will also continue to pursue our program of expanding the Bureau's operation into other

municipalities in Ontario. Our Outreach program is bringing important information about topics, new contacts with decision makers in other cities and a broadening of moral and financial support for our program. Our existing membership, by providing a strong ongoing base of moral and financial support, has made this evolution of our operation possible and while we do not intend to assume the role of lobbyist on any issue, we are certain that the efforts outlined here are going to result in a much higher profile for the Bureau and a much greater awareness on the part of key decision makers in Ontario of the Bureau's existence.

We thank all of our members for helping to make this possible and hope that they will continue in the sharing of this responsibility and the pride of accomplishment that goes with it.

November 1975.