6 St Barth Weekly n°388

## Bruno Magras Wins Presidency And All Seats On Executive Council



unday, April 2, marked the first meeting for the new Territorial Council as elected in the first round of local elections on March 19. The list, Saint-Barth d'Abord, led by Bruno Magras, garnered 53.66% of the votes, giving him 14 of the 19 seats on the council. The first order of business on Sunday was to elect the council president. A foregone conclusion, as Magras was the only candidate for the position.

With his 14-seat majority, Magras also had two votes from the list, Unis pour Saint-Barthélemy: Xavier Lédée and Franciane Gréaux-Le Quellec, for a total of 16 votes out of 19. And even though three blank votes were

received, Magras was re-elected for his third five-year term as president, to loud applause by those assembled at town hall on Sunday morning.

"I see that two members of the opposition voted for me. That is a

sign of openness and the desire to work together," declares Magras. He then donned his red, white, and blue presidential sash, "without too much emotion, as this is the fifth time I have done this," joked Magras, who was elected as mayor of Saint Barthélemy twice, then president of the Collectivité twice, all since 1995.

The election of the six other members of the executive council was next on the agenda. And once again Bruno Magras saw success, as all six names come from his list, Saint-Barth d'Abord: Nicole Gréaux, Nils Dufau, Micheline Jacques, Andy Laplace, Marie-Angèle Aubin, and Alfred Brin.

"The tools for governing are now in place," Magras notes. "It's time to get to work. All propositions, no matter where they come from, will be considered in function of their credibility and priorities will be set by the majority," he points out. Some key points from his campaign: services for older residents, the new zoning map, which the president insists will be strictly observed, and an increase in capital gains tax to slow real-estate speculation.

