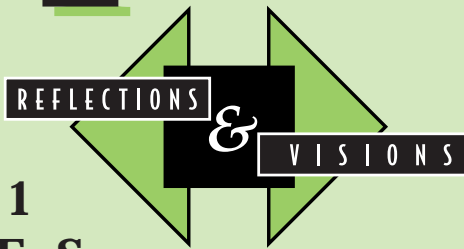


UBCM DAILY

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES
CONVENTION 2001
DAILY UPDATES



THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- 7:30 a.m. Clinics (5 concurrent)
8:30 a.m. "B" Resolutions
12:15 p.m. Address by Federal Minister of Environment, Hon. David Anderson
2:00 p.m. Address by the Premier, Hon. Gordon Campbell
3:00–5:00 p.m. **Cabinet Session: A Panel with with Ministers of ...**
 - Health
 - Resources
 - Business and the Economy
 - Community and Safety

**VISIT MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE,
EXHIBIT HALLS B/C 7:00 am to 4:30 pm**

DAILY #2

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2001

Vision for future includes partnerships

AS THE SIDE-BY-SIDE, THEN (1970) and now (2001) pictures of UBCM President **Jim Abram** illustrated, this is an opportune time to reflect back on the organization's goals over the last ten years, assess the progress made, and evaluate new directions to be taken. Hence the theme of the 2001 UBCM convention – Reflections & Visions. President Abram noted that at the 1991 convention, the members set ambitious goals for the future of local government in a major policy paper "Local Government and the Constitutions." This Local Government Bill of Rights saw local government as having full authority to meet community needs; local responsibility to manage community life; taxation and revenue authority requisite to its responsibility; and community-provincial relations reflective of this authority.

Looking ahead, he indicated that the convention would consider a revised BC Communities Agenda that will set broader goals. The Agenda comprises two parts. The first part, building communities, focuses on safe, secure, accessible and healthy communities, that are economically and socially sustainable. The second part, governing communities, concentrates on creating financially sustainable communities, having respectful governance relationships and creating a fair balance in community interests. One of the implementation activities in the Agenda is creating partnerships with other groups. President Abram pointed out that there are existing cooperation agreements with both the provincial government, such as the 1996 Protocol of Recognition, and community partners, such as the 1998 Council of Forest Industries and the 1999 Business Summit. A number of new community partnership agreements are to be considered.

In his closing remarks, Abram challenged delegates to "work outside the box." "Are you ready," he asked, "to form partnerships with others that can help us to work through the difficult issues we are about to be faced with? Our best chance of success is to pool those skills and talents and form alliances that will strengthen our position as an independent, responsible and accountable level of government. We cannot allow ourselves to be afraid to try new things." ■

Minister stresses new partnership role

THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT IS ready to enter into a new relationship with local government: a relationship that is based on the last ten years of UBCM achievements in realizing the goals of the Local Government Bill of Rights, **George Abbott**, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services stated in his keynote address on Wednesday afternoon. A new relationship with local government which is open, fair, and responsible is also Minister Abbott's top priority in his new ministerial role. He commented that the relationship would be one of partnership, with local government having more autonomy and power with accompanying enabling tools and resources. "Local government will no longer have to come cap in hand to the provincial government," he pledged.

He noted that his government also shares the goals of the BC Communities Agenda for ensuring sustainable communities. He acknowledged that there will be challenges. The ministry is working very hard to address the leaky condo issue, and is carefully reviewing the BC Supreme Court's decision on Delta. Another challenge to be addressed is the need for more affordable housing. Based on existing commitments, without any more building, the cost of the program will have grown to more than \$160 million by fiscal year 2004/05. ■

Chair Hans Cunningham President Elect

The following UBCM Table Officers were elected by acclamation:

President:

- Chair **Hans Cunningham**, Central Kootenay RD

First Vice-President:

- Councillor **Patricia Wallace**, Kamloops

Second Vice-President:

- Mayor **Frank Leonard**, Saanich

Balloting for Third Vice-President will continue between 8:00–9:00 am today in the Concourse area.

Thursday sessions will feature:

- presentation of nominations received for Director at Large, Small Community and Electoral Area Representatives (8:30 am)
- nominations (9:55 am)
- candidate speeches (1:40 pm) ■

Selected Highlights of Proposed Community Charter Released

Community Charter Minister **Ted Nebbeling** released a 12-page overview of selected highlights of the Community Charter. It contains descriptions of proposals including:

- broad regulatory and service powers
- title to roads and parks
- local-provincial relations
- principles respecting offloading
- borrowing framework
- roles of mayor and council
- public participation, accessibility and accountability
- municipal bylaw courts

Copies of the overview are available from the UBCM Information Desk. ■

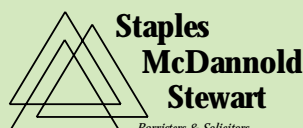
Staples McDannold Stewart ...

We provide a full range of legal services and administrative advice to local governments in British Columbia.

Visit our website at www.sms.bc.ca for more information about our firm and lawyers and for recent issues of our newsletters, client bulletins and other news items.

Partners Lorena Staples, Q.C.
Guy McDannold
Colin Stewart

Associates Robert Macquisten
Peter Johnson
Kathryn Stuart
Bruce Jordan
Troy DeSouza
Anita Bleick



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Wednesday Resolutions Dispositions

SECTION A

ROTATION OF TABLE OFFICERS BETWEEN AREA ASSOCIATIONS

Not endorsed

A1 SECURE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE SOURCES

Endorsed

A2 PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Endorsed

A3 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AT MEETINGS TO ADDRESS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Endorsed and referred to Community Charter consultations

A4 NATURAL GAS DELIVERY EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Endorsed as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM strongly urge the BC Utilities Commission to direct that natural gas and electrical delivery companies ensure that resources exist so that an emergency response can be provided to the community within 30 minutes.

A5 GST ON LATECOMER CHARGES

Endorsed as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the FCM intervene on behalf of local governments, to urge Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) to rescind its application of GST on latecomer charges; and further that it also coordinate a voluntary legal defense fund to oppose the assessment of GST on latecomer charges;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM consider amending its legal assistance policy to allow assistance to be given to appeals from courts, as well as from legally binding reviews of tribunals or government agencies.

A6 CLASS 4 (MAJOR INDUSTRY) ASSESSMENT

Endorsed

A7 CROSS-BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS - ADDRESSING THE NEED TO ESTABLISH AIR QUALITY MODELING STANDARDS

Endorsed and referred to FCM

A8 PACIFIC HAKE - A COMMUNITY POLICY DOCUMENT

Endorsed

A9 PROVINCIAL LAND USE DECISIONS

Endorsed as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM call upon the provincial government and its Crown Corporations, Boards and Commissions to ensure through the Community Charter that adequate consultation takes place and encourage development of MOUs on specific referrals with affected local governments prior to their making land use, development and environmental decisions.

A10 SOFTWOOD LUMBER AGREEMENT

Endorsed as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM emphasize to the Federal Government the urgency of immediate and vigorous principle-based discussions with the United States of America to ensure free and unrestricted access for Canadian lumber exports to the United States;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM encourage the Federal Government to work with leaders from industry and provinces Canada wide to ensure a consistent and united approach to negotiations ensuring a fair and equitable agreement for all Canadian lumber producers.

A11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION AND NAFTA, CHAPTER 11

Endorsed and referred to FCM

SECTION B – PART I (B2, B16, B17 AND B32 WERE PULLED FROM THE BLOCK FOR INDIVIDUAL DEBATE)

B1 DIRECTOR BENEFITS

Endorsed

B2 REDEMPTION OF PROPERTY SOLD

Not endorsed

B3 INITIATING LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS (SECTIONS 630 AND 631 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT)

Endorsed and referred to Community Charter consultations

B4 FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM

Endorsed

B5 FINES - CONTRAVENTION OF BYLAW

Endorsed and referred to Community Charter consultations

B6 HIGHWAY RESCUE FUNDING

Endorsed

B7 RECOVERY OF POLICING COSTS FOR PRISONERS

Endorsed

B8 HIGHWAY RESCUE SERVICES

Endorsed

B9 POLICING COSTS

Endorsed

B10 MATCHING FUNDS TO SUSTAIN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVES

Endorsed

B11 BYLAW COURTS

Endorsed

B12 VICTIM SERVICE PROGRAM - INCREASE IN FUNDING

Endorsed

B13 RURAL ROAD MAINTENANCE

Endorsed

B14 WINTER MAINTENANCE OF BC'S HIGHWAY SYSTEM

Endorsed

B15 ROAD CLOSURE/ ABANDONMENT PROCESS

Endorsed

B16 TRAFFIC PATROL / ADULT CROSSING GUARDS

Endorsed

B17 PAYMENT OF UTILITY LEVY BY SATELLITE TV COMPANIES

Not endorsed

B18 CONSTRUCTION OF PASSIVE LEISURE FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGE INITIATIVE

Endorsed and referred to Community Charter consultations

B19 ELIMINATION OF GST ON FUNERAL SERVICES

Endorsed

B20 FUEL TAX REVENUES FOR TRANS-CANADA/YELLOWHEAD HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Endorsed

B21 EQUITABLE PROPERTY TAXATION

Endorsed

B22 SHARE OF FEDERAL GAS TAX REVENUE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Endorsed

B23 PROVINCIAL SALES TAX EXEMPTION - FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Endorsed

B24 EQUALITY IN GRANT-IN-LIEU PAYMENT

Endorsed

B25 FEDERAL FUNDING FOR DOCKS

Endorsed

B26 INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS

Endorsed

B27 BC ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

Endorsed

B28 GROUNDWATER REGULATIONS

Endorsed

B29 STREAMSIDE PROTECTION - TERRAIN RESOURCE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (TRIM) MAPPING

Endorsed

B30 DEVELOPMENT PERMITS FOR INSTITUTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL LAND USES

Endorsed and referred to Community Charter consultations

B31 EXPORT OF RAW LOGS

Endorsed

B32 NEED FOR PROVINCIAL HEALTH SMOKING REGULATIONS

Endorsed

B33 FIRST NATIONS CLAIMS

Endorsed

B34 REGIONAL PARK FEES AND CHARGES

Endorsed

SECTION B - PART II

B35 PUBLIC EXCLUSION FROM MEETINGS

Endorsed and referred to Community Charter consultations

B36 INTERPRETATION ACT

Endorsed as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the Provincial Government to amend the Interpretation Act to make Crown Corporations or their agents subject to municipal and regional district rules.

B37 AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4(2)(A) OF THE PROVINCIAL NEGLIGENCE ACT

Endorsed as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM and the Municipal Insurance Association appeal to the Provincial Government to amend Section 4(2)(a) of the Negligence Act to exclude local governments from Joint and Several Liability.

B38 LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND LIABILITY OF DIRECTORS

Endorsed

B39 FIRE SERVICES ACT - INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX

Endorsed

B40 RESCINDING OF HOLIDAY SHOPPING REGULATION ACT

Endorsed

B41 CIVIC YOUTH COUNCILS

Not Endorsed

B42 ESTABLISHMENT OF SPEED LIMITS WITHIN A MUNICIPALITY PURSUANT TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE ACT

Not endorsed

B43 COUNTER PETITION PROVISIONS

Not endorsed

B44 RCMP CONTRACT POLICING COSTS

Endorsed

B45 POLICING COST SHARING POLICY

Not Endorsed

B46 FUNDING FOR FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Endorsed

B47 STREET PROSTITUTION - SEIZED VEHICLES

Endorsed ■

Support FCM federal budget plan

COUNCILLOR JACK LAYTON, PRESIDENT, Federation of Canadian Municipalities made the observation at Wednesday morning's plenary session that a change was definitely in the wind, and praised the UBCM and BC communities for being trailblazers in reshaping the role of local government in Canada. "You are increasingly recognized as an impressive voice for local government," he observed. The recognition and granting of more autonomy at the local level must be accompanied by an acknowledgement from senior levels of government that there is a necessity for greater financial resources. At the present time, while local governments provide the basic, fundamental services in their communities which support the activities that sustain the national economy, only 4.5% of tax revenues is collected by local governments, whereas 95.5% is collected by the Provinces and Ottawa. Additionally, in the past five years, federal revenues have grown by 33% and provincial revenues have grown by 26%, but municipal revenues have grown only by 7.7%. In spite of this, the other levels of government have withdrawn grants and assistance and downloaded responsibilities without additional financial resources. To address these inequalities, the FCM has developed a federal budget proposal for investment in local government, with \$1.7 billion invested in environment and core infrastructure, \$1 billion in integrated intermodal transportation, and \$1 billion invested in a national housing strategy. The FCM is asking councils to adopt a motion to endorse this federal budget plan. Details can be found on their website at fcm.ca. ■

Consideration of Cooperation Agreements

President Abram presented resolution SR1 Consideration of Cooperation Agreements.

Consideration of each of the agreements resulted in the following:

- Federal Department of Environment
Endorsed
- Federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs
Endorsed
- BC Environmental Network
Referred to the Area Associations for consideration
- First Nations Summit
Endorsed
- Health Association of BC
Endorsed
- BC School Trustees Association
Endorsed
- BC Association of Police Boards
Endorsed
- Lands Advisory Board, BC Chiefs
Endorsed
- Protocol on Principles for Sharing Environmental Responsibilities
Endorsed

The endorsed agreements will be signed on Thursday morning. ■