

UBCM DAILY

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES
CONVENTION 2002
DAILY UPDATES



DAILY #3

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2002

Premier upbeat in his second address to UBCM

PREMIER GORDON CAMPBELL began by speaking about the Community Charter, acknowledging his awareness of the disappointment felt when it wasn't passed this fall, but assured the delegates that he is still committed to the Charter and the flexibility and autonomy it will provide to local communities. He mentioned that 40,000 copies of the Charter have been downloaded from the government's website since it was posted in the spring and time was needed to review any responses.



Premier Gordon Campbell

The Premier acknowledged that his government has had to make many difficult decisions since taking office, but stressed that there has to be a generational shift in thinking. "Our generation has an obligation to upcoming generations," he stated, "and that may mean that we can't take as much." To that end, he added, we must begin to think about long-term solutions that will work for all of the province, now and in the future.

The Premier recognized that the decisions made have had a huge impact, but noted that since January of this year, there have been positive signs that things are turning around. British Columbia now leads the nation in job creation, with a 4.6% growth in employment and 88,000 new jobs. As well 42.8% of investor immigrants came to BC last year. He also recognized that there are still challenges, especially in the forestry sector, with the softwood lumber decision and the pine beetle epidemic.

A focus for his government will be on providing tools for regions to use to open up their full development potential. "BC has been closed, and we need to open it up, to open everyone's eyes to the potentials in BC," he emphasized. He stated that the process of opening up economic opportunities in BC must be inclusive of all regions of the province. Transportation is therefore a key component, and BC must move forward with improving the transportation infrastructure. Road access is what makes the economy flourish, and it is bad planning to let the road system deteriorate, he added.

The province will look at \$30 million in improvements in the Northeast road system, with the oil and gas industry working in

partnership so that they can access resources in this sector. In the Okanagan, a new bridge will be built across Lake Okanagan, a portion of Highway 97 will become a four-lane highway, and the feasibility of building the Needles bridge will be studied. The government will be working with the federal government on expanding the airport runways at the Cranbrook airport so that the Kootenays can build on their massive tourist potential. They will also be working in partnership with the federal government to improve the Trans Canada highway through the Kicking Horse Canyon. The Sea to Sky Highway will also be upgraded. Road safety is the first priority in making improvements, the Premier stated, and there has been 3,300 accidents on the Sea to Sky Highway between 1996 and 2001.

The Premier then turned to the 2010 Olympic bid and stated that he could think of no better way to build BC's future. That the Olympics would give BC the opportunity to showcase itself to a worldwide audience, and would provide both financial benefits and help fund legacy facilities that would benefit the province for not only this generation, but generations to come. ■

UBCM Long-Service Awards (25 years)

Presentations made at the Annual Banquet:

- Mayor **Michael Coleman**, Duncan
- Mayor **Doug Drummond**, Burnaby
- Mayor **Tom Euverman**, Houston
- Councillor **Dorothy Kostrzewa**, Chilliwack

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- 7:30 a.m. Clinics (4 concurrent)
 - Drinking Water Action Plan
 - Flood Hazard Management Initiatives
 - Innovations in Bylaw Enforcement
 - Delivering Gaming within a Socially Responsible Framework
- 8:30 a.m. Keynote Speaker – Toben Anderson
- 9:00 a.m. Policy Papers and Resolutions

Executive Elections

- Director **Aaron Dinwoodie**, Central Okanagan Regional District, elected Third Vice-President.
- Director **Susan Gimse**, Squamish-Lillooet R.D. declared Electoral Area Representative.
- Mayor **Sharon Hartwell**, Village of Telkwa, declared Small Community Representative.

Election for the positions of five Directors at Large continues this morning 8:00-9:00 a.m. The nominating committee encourages you to vote. ■

Problems facing BC Airports

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE British Columbia Airline Industry Merger Consortium and the Council of Tourism Associations of BC at a Thursday morning clinic, **Mike Tretheway** of InterVISTAS Consulting outlined the challenges being faced by Canadian airports and airport communities in dealing with the federal government's policies surrounding the air transportation sector.

He first touched on the impacts that will occur when Air Canada will be allowed, as of January 2003, to withdraw airline service to communities with 120 days notice. The Federal policy has no provisions which will guarantee replacement service. At the time of the January 2000 merger of Air Canada and Canadian Airlines, Air Canada was obliged to continue service on all routes for a three-year period. So far, they have given notice of abandonment to three communities in the Maritimes who will have no air carrier service. Other communities in Canada have had replacement carriers, one being Dawson Creek who will be served by Central Mountain and

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Staples McDannold Stewart ...

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2002 RESOLUTIONS DISPOSITIONS

B28 TRAINING OF RESCUE/FIRE PERSONNEL

Endorsed as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to include local governments with municipal fire/rescue departments in any discussion about pre-hospital care to ensure local government has access to any level of training that it feels would meet local needs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities support a position that any discussion about the provision of pre-hospital emergency care be based on the principle of providing consistent and adequate levels of service province-wide and establish a compatible and recognized level of first aid for B.C. ambulance, fire department, and industry sectors.

B29 MARIJUANA GROW OPERATIONS

Endorsed as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Attorney General of the Province of British Columbia to pursue legislative changes to seek harsher penalties for persons involved in the growing and distribution of illicit drugs, and further that a specific policing initiative be undertaken to actively eliminate the production of illicit drugs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pursue changes to the *Residential Tenancy Act* to permit an owner to evict a tenant engaged in the production of illicit drugs.

B30 CONTROLLING SALE OF GRAFFITI IMPLEMENTS

Withdrawn

B31 FULL DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Not Endorsed

B32 RESIDENCY OF CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICE

Not Endorsed

B33 TAX RECEIPTS FOR LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN DONATIONS

Not Endorsed

B34 NON-RESIDENT VOTER STATUS FOR CORPORATIONS

Not Endorsed

B35 SMALL CRAFT HARBOURS FACILITIES

Endorsed

B36 IMPACT OF BEETLE KILL ON TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Endorsed

B37 COAL DUST EMISSIONS

Endorsed

B38 DEFERRAL OF INDUSTRIAL TAXES

Not Endorsed

B39 BC RAIL - EXCESSIVE FEES BEING CHARGED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Endorsed as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to have rail crossing maintenance costs and lease payments suspended or at the very least rolled back to the 1997 level immediately until such time as BC Rail pays full property taxes as promised by this provincial government.

B40 FOREST FARMING ON AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE

Referred to UBCM Executive

B41 STRATA VS. FEE SIMPLE RESIDENTIAL TAX RATES

Not Endorsed

B42 REMOVE TAX BENEFIT FROM USE OF MUNICIPAL VEHICLES

Endorsed and referred to FCM

B43 BC GAS FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS

Endorsed

B44 TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FUNDING

Endorsed

B45 MANAGING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN ASSESSMENT

Endorsed

B46 BASIS OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Not endorsed

B47 FARM CLASS REVIEWS

Endorsed

B48 CLASSIFICATION AND EXEMPTION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN THE LAND RESERVE

Endorsed

B49 BUILDING CODE AMENDMENTS: TOILETS

Endorsed

B50 MUNICIPAL SEWAGE REGULATION

Endorsed

B51 WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT - APPEALS

Endorsed

B52 DRINKING WATER PROTECTION - SURCHARGES

Endorsed

B53 MANAGING CANADA GEESE POPULATIONS

Endorsed

B54 PROTECTION OF WATER SYSTEMS

Endorsed as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government adopt legislation similar to section 23 and sections 40 to 45 of the proposed "Drinking Water Protection Act 2001" which prohibits any tampering with water systems and proposing

penalties of considerable strength, recognizing that encroachment of tampering with water systems places quality and control of these systems in perilous jeopardy and negatively affects the ability of water utilities to deliver a safe water supply, and establishing that such tampering or encroachment is a criminal offense punishable by significant fines or a jail term and providing authority for local government to stop such tampering or encroachment, under any circumstance and with immediate effect.

B55 FRASER RIVER DEBRIS TRAP

Endorsed

B56 LAND AND WATER BC, INC.

Endorsed as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the provincial government to amend its land disposal policy and permit provincial agencies to grant Crown land direct to local government at no cost where such lands are required to provide necessary community services.

B57 TEMPORARY PERMIT TERM

Endorsed

B58 SUBDIVISION TO PROVIDE A RESIDENCE FOR A RELATIVE

Endorsed

B59 SOIL REMOVAL AND DEPOSIT

Endorsed

B60 MEAT INSPECTION REFERRED TO UBCM EXECUTIVE

B61 HEALTH AUTHORITY BOARDS - REPRESENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Endorsed as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities be requested to support a requirement for

regional hospital district representation on health authority boards.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in keeping with the mandate of accountability to the public and local communities that regional health boards work with local governments and regional hospital districts to develop effective consultation processes on health issues of importance to citizens in communities.

B62 AUDIO BOOK SERVICE

Endorsed as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government reinstate full funding for audio book services and not download this service to municipal and regional libraries to fund from local property taxation.

B63 CANADA POST UNADDRESSED ADMAIL POLICY

Endorsed

B64 FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS

Endorsed as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly urge the provincial government to maintain its commitment to the development of new social housing through the funding of appropriate housing programs that encompass the range of need in communities, including components of family housing and homeless at risk.

B65 INSURANCE INDUSTRY LIABILITY CHANGES

Endorsed

B66 INFORMATION SHARING IN THE TREATY PROCESS

Endorsed

B67 SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY TRAILS

Endorsed

Resource Panel

AT THE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON Resource Panel, the Hon. **Stan Hagen**, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, noted that sustainability used to mean protecting the environment, but that its definition now acknowledges the interdependence of the environment and the economy, as well as the role of local communities. He observed that the Ministry works to balance the interests of the environment, the economy and BC communities. The Ministry is presently producing a draft of ten sustainability principles and will be looking forward to receiving local government's feedback.

The Hon. **Joyce Murray**, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, stated that the principal of shared stewardship was important to her Ministry and that they work with many other Ministries and stakeholders to develop more efficient and streamlined policies. For example she cited the changes being made to the contaminated sites legislation, the drinking water action plan, the *Waste Management Act* and the recommendations being considered for BC's enlarged system of parks.

The Hon. **Richard Neufeld**, Minister of Energy and Mines, commented that his Ministry was going through restructuring at the present time, and that the Ministry was also actively working in conjunction with the other "dirt" ministries to get away from a "silo-style" mentality. He noted that there are some positive news on the resource side with exploration being up, new finds of copper near Atlin, untapped oil and gas resources, and huge reserves of coal bed methane. He observed that they are looking at lifting the moratorium on offshore exploration and drilling, but need to determine questions of ownership and regulation to ensure these assets flow to the benefit of British Columbia.

The Hon. **Michael de Jong**, Minister of Forests, also spoke at the panel session and emphasized many of the points he had made at the early morning session on forest policy (see *Daily News* #2 for highlights). ■

AIRPORTS – continued from page 1

2 communities, Comox and Campbell River, are serviced by Pacific Coastal. Pacific Coastal has limited code sharing abilities with Air Canada, which means that only on long haul flights will their connecting flights show up on the Air Canada reservation system. Central Mountain flights to Dawson Creek will not show up on this system at all. The BC tourism industry is concerned about the impact this Federal policy will have on the "beyond-the-gateway" markets.

The second area of concern is the arrangements surrounding airports. In BC, Vancouver, Victoria, Prince George and Kelowna are part of the National Airport System (NAS), and lease their airports from Transport Canada, and pay rent. In 2001, Canadian airports paid \$240 million in rent to the federal government. To date, Vancouver has paid \$425 million in rent, for an airport that has a book value of \$100 million. Regional airports have been forced to purchase their airports from Transport Canada, they pay no rent, but have been incurring operating losses. In 2001, the federal government has provided only \$39 million in capital assistance to regional airports.

Another impact on the short-haul market in BC is the Air Traveler Security Charge (ATSC) where a fixed \$12 charge is levied. This has resulted in a 15% drop in traffic on short-haul routes, and carriers are deploying aircraft on the long-haul rather than short-haul flights.

Recommendations coming out of the BC Aim consortium's report include asking the federal government to develop a policy to maintain community air service; a cap on rents paid by NAS airports; reinvestment of NAS rents into system maintenance, especially in the community airports; no imposition of regulations on community airports unless there is financial support; and a reduction of the ATSC. ■

BC Energy Aware Award Winners

For demonstrating collaboration and innovation in energy planning and project implementation.

Corporation of Delta and City of Vancouver in partnership with CanAgro Produce Ltd and Maxim Power Corp

Project: Landfill Gas Utilization Project

2002 HONOUR MENTION

For its achievements and approach to incremental planning and development of transportation alternatives in a smaller urban centre.

City of Quesnel

Project: "Transportation Infrastructure and Public Transit Section- A rural Energy Friendly Transportation System"

Hans Cunningham is UBCM's newest Life Member.