



UNION OF
BRITISH
COLUMBIA
MUNICIPALITIES

99th Annual
UBCM Convention
Sept. 23-27, 2002
Whistler Conference Centre
4010 Whistler Way
Whistler, BC

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONVENTION 2002 HIGHLIGHTS

Union of BC Municipalities Convention 2002

Vancouver... The Union of BC Municipalities Convention 2002 is being held on September 23rd through September 27th at the Whistler Conference Centre. The convention provides an opportunity for local governments and the provincial government to meet and agree on how best to improve communication, delivery of services, and the health and sustainability of communities. Convention 2002 highlights include discussions about the *Community Charter*, police costs in small communities, provincial downloading, and new policy concerning liquor, forests and energy.

The general format of the convention is similar to past years with pre-convention sessions on Monday and Tuesday discussing the Community Charter, police costs, aboriginal issues and health issues. The main business sessions take place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and include the UBCM President's opening address, policy discussions on liquor, forestry and energy as well as remarks by provincial ministers, and the Premier's address.

Sessions on current issues effecting BC communities include:

- The Future of the Treaty Process & Local Government Participation
- Forest Policy
- Energy Policy
- Liquor Policy and The Changing Role of Local Government
- Community Charter, Local Government Liability; Civil Liabilities
- Flood Hazard Management; What is the future direction?
- Drinking Water Action Plan

Key convention addresses by the provincial government include:

- Keynote address by Premier Gordon Campbell, Thurs., Sept. 26
- Remarks by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Honourable Rich Coleman, Mon., Sept. 23
- Address by Attorney General, Honourable Geoff Plant, Tues. Sept. 24
- Briefing by the Minister of Forests, Honourable Michael de Jong, Wed. Sept. 25
- Remarks by the Minister of State for the Community Charter, Honourable Ted Nebbeling, Wed., Sept. 25
- Address by the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, Honourable George Abbott, Wed., Sept. 25.

Four Cabinet Panels:

- 18 ministers will be available on Wed., Sept. 25 to discuss resources, health & social development, business & the economy, and community & safety.

Policy Papers

The UBCM will present policy papers on the Community Charter, forest and energy policy as well as a response to the Attorney General's discussion paper on civil liability (joint and several liability; limitation periods). An update of the Environment Action Plan will also be considered by the convention.

Resolutions

Convention 2002 will deal with 179 resolutions, which are contained in the UBCM's Annual Report and Resolutions book. In addition, a special resolution on consultation and provincial government downloading will be presented to the convention.

The following is a brief list of some of the resolutions to be considered by Convention 2002:

- Resolution A2 **Re-affirming health capital funding formula** This resolution seeks to re-affirm the UBCM's commitment to the existing 60/40 cost-sharing formula with the provincial government for health care capital project funding.
- Resolution A4 **Air Travel Security Charge** The UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) request that the federal government review its decision to impose the flat air travel security fee and replace it with a sliding scale or other flexible mechanism to pay for the true costs of increased air travel security.
- Resolution B29 **Marijuana Grow Operations** This resolution seeks the support of UBCM members to petition BC's Attorney General for 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. The resolution also seeks changes in the *Local Government Act* to empower local governments to exact penalties on land owners who permit marijuana and other illicit drug producers (i.e. Ecstasy) to operate on their properties.
- Resolutions B31 – 34 **Full Disclosure of Campaign Contributions and related resolutions** Four resolutions deal with campaign contributions, residency of candidates for local elected office, tax receipts for local election campaign donations and non-resident voter status for corporations.
- Resolution B92 **Accessible Local Health Care Services** This resolution appeals to the provincial government to make every effort to preserve health care services in British Columbia in accordance with its commitments to provide accessible, timely and necessary health care throughout British Columbia.

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