



UNION OF  
BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
MUNICIPALITIES



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

NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 23, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## UBCM CONVENTION 2002

### Small Communities Concerned About Provincial Proposal to Raise Property Taxes for Policing

**Whistler, B.C. ...**The 99th Annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)

Convention is underway this week at the Whistler Conference Centre. A key session on day one of the convention involves policing costs for small and rural communities.

The UBCM convention will discuss the issue of policing costs in small communities and rural areas during a study session Monday afternoon Sept. 23, from 1:30 pm. - 4:30 pm. The Minister of Community Safety and Solicitor General, the Honourable Rich Coleman will address the study session and be available for questions. Small communities and rural areas are concerned about the provincial government's proposal to add a new property tax levy to their communities to pay for police costs, which are approximately \$50 million. Regional Districts responsible for rural areas are also concerned because the provincial government proposal says they will be responsible for collecting revenue to cover rural police costs and will be required to send that revenue to Victoria. Minister Coleman has indicated that the provincial government is interested in discussing how to phase in these changes.

The Union of BC Municipalities Convention 2002 is being held 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 *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 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 presentations by ministers, and the Premier's address.

(more)

**Highlights of Tuesday's Sessions include:**

- Address by Attorney General, Honourable Geoff Plant
- 2010 Olympic Bid
- Electoral Area Directors Forum

**Highlights of Wednesday's Sessions include:**

- Briefing by the Minister of Forests, Honourable Michael de Jong
- Remarks by Minister of State for Community Charter, Honourable Ted Nebbeling
- Address by Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, Honourable George Abbott
- The effects of downloading on rural and small communities
- New Liquor Policy

The UBCM Convention continues Tuesday, September 24 through Friday, September 27 at the Whistler Conference Centre in Whistler Village.

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**[www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2002](http://www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2002)**