



UNION OF  
BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
MUNICIPALITIES



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

NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 25, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## UBCM CONVENTION 2002

### **Municipalities and Regional Districts Discuss the Implications and Costs of Downloading by the Provincial Government**

**Whistler, B.C. ...**The 99th Annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention 2002 taking place September 23 through September 27 at the Whistler Conference Centre, is in its third day. Today's discussions highlight the implications and increased costs of government downloading on local communities.

Municipalities and regional districts are concerned that the provincial government's implementation of core service plans across many ministries is resulting in the downloading of costs on to local government. Closing courthouses, for example, results in increased police costs for those communities that now must pay travel time and overtime for officers required to appear in court houses in other communities. Roadside grass-cutting is another example cited by some communities as downloading of provincial costs on to local governments. The provincial government has stopped cutting the roadside grass on some highways, which puts pressure on some local communities to cover the cost. School and hospital closures are also mentioned as potentially adding costs to local government although the provincial government disagrees that changes to health and education increase local government costs.

The Union of BC Municipalities Convention 2002 is being held from 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.

Several ministers will also address the convention today including remarks by Minister of State for Community Charter, Honourable Ted Nebbeling, a briefing by Minister of Forests, Honourable Michael de Jong and an address by the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, Honourable George Abbott.

Premier Gordon Campbell will address the convention on Thursday, Sept.26 from 2:15p.m. to 2:45p.m. at the Westin Resort.

(more)

**Highlights of Thursday's Session include:**

**Keynote address by the Premier Gordon Campbell** (2:15 p.m.)

Drinking Water Action Plan (7:30 a.m.)

Innovative Community Drug Strategy (7:30 a.m.)

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)**