

UBCM DAILY

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

UBCM 2003 / 100th AGM

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

CONVENTION 2003 DAILY UPDATES

DAILY #3

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

New federal deal needed for local communities

HON. PAUL MARTIN extended a promise to delegates in his Thursday morning address to the UBCM

Convention that, under his leadership, the federal government will revitalize and create a deeper relationship with local governments across Canada. He acknowledged that British Columbia's sense of alienation is not a myth, but a reality. He stated that he was struck by the historic tendency in Ottawa to treat central Canada's issues as national issues, but to relegate outlying provinces' concerns to the status of regional issues. Mr. Martin assured delegates that changes will happen in Ottawa, both on an administrative level and on a legislative level, so that all representatives can engage in the national debate. "It is important," he stated, "that British Columbia's voice be heard clearly."

Mr. Martin observed that he believed that Canada's future is dependent on local communities; on the quality of life that is offered both in urban and rural settings. "The path to Canada's future runs through local communities, large and small," he observed. "We need you," he added. He illustrated this by commenting that the best run federal government programs he has ever seen are the environmental initiatives managed at a local level.

He promised that the federal government needs to ensure that local communities have reliable and predictable funding, adding that local governments presently have no taxing powers that grow as the economy grows. "Municipal funding must be more predictable and reliable", Mr. Martin observed. He promised that he will also do everything possible to provide Canadian municipalities with a portion of the gas tax.

Reinforcing one of the UBCM's tenets, Mr. Martin stated that he is sensitive to the differing needs of communities across Canada and will not apply one rigid model. "We will listen as you tell us what you need", he promised. We need better partnerships between the three orders of government and to acknowledge that your neighbourhood has not only local and regional connections but extends to all of Canada, he emphasized. ■



Inclusiveness: the way to the future

JOY MACPHAIL, LEADER OF THE Opposition, reflected on her 12 years in provincial politics in her address to the UBCM Convention on Thursday morning. She observed that although British Columbia is known for its "special brand" of politics, she believes that in facing the challenges of the future, we will succeed or fail to the degree that we respect and listen to everyone's contribution.

Ms. MacPhail stated that the agenda of her political party, the NDP, is to end pendulum politics in the province. She emphasized that the political will should be to unite and inspire, not to divide and discourage. "Mike Harcourt did it," she noted, "and we can do it again if we invite everyone to the table to find solutions to our problems." She added that this is the most important challenge and the biggest contribution that politicians can make. "Whether we can transcend these differences will determine our future as a province." ■

Executive election continues

- Mayor **Sharon Hartwell**, Village of Telkwa, declared Small Community Representative.

Election for the positions of five Directors at Large and Electoral Area Representative continues this morning 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the concourse area of the VCEC. The nominating committee encourages you to vote! ■

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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| 7:30 a.m. | Clinics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Dispute Resolution and Mediation • New Local Responsibilities for Floodplain Development • Quality Planning for Local Governments • Water Use Management: Cash Register to a Managed Water System |
| 8:30 a.m. | Policy Papers and Resolutions |
| 10:30 a.m. | Feature Presentation: Interface Forest Fires, Summer 2003 |
| 11:15 a.m. | Address by the Premier, Honourable Gordon Campbell |

Anderson sees green opportunities

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT MINISTER David Anderson spoke to delegates on Thursday morning and reiterated the emerging federal perspective that the senior level of government has to change in order to support the dramatic shift of responsibility that modern local governments now shoulder. "The federal government must act to ensure the success of Canadian communities by connecting the disconnect," he stated. He observed that communities are taking responsibility for maintaining a healthy environment and that \$1.7 billion has been earmarked over the next five years to support locally driven green initiatives.

Minister Anderson shared his optimism about the opportunities that the 2010 Olympics could provide British Columbia in terms of economic spin-offs from emerging green technologies. He stated that our bid for the Olympics included a promise to host the greenest games in modern times. All sports facilities being built or renovated for the Olympics will be built to sustainable, green standards. He stated that he wants to see these economic opportunities benefit the whole of the province. The Minister added that the Games will act as a "spark plug" for developing new ideas in green design and technology, and British Columbia can capitalize on emerging consumer markets for sustainable solutions. ■

UBCM Long-Service Awards (25 years)

Presentations made at the Annual Banquet:

- Director **Ted Armstrong**, Cariboo Regional District
- Director **Michael Kokura**, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

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UBCM 2003 resolutions dispositions

The following is a summary of the resolutions and positions adopted at the 2003 convention. The full and exact wording of any amendment will be posted to UBCM's website post-conference and will be distributed to all members (and also in Convention Minutes).

B51 RECALL FOR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL

Not endorsed

B52 CHOICE IN LOCAL ELECTION TERMS

Not endorsed

B53 RESTORATION OF THE CORPORATE VOTE

Not endorsed

B54 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT – ELECTION OFFENCES

Endorsed

B55 ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCING

Not endorsed

B56 TAX RECEIPTS FOR LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Endorsed

B57 DISQUALIFICATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Endorsed

B58 FUNDING FOR NORTHERN ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE

Not endorsed

B59 INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

Endorsed

B60 FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF PROVINCIAL FUEL TAX

Endorsed as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that funds collected from this tax increase be fairly assessed and distributed throughout all communities to improve all aspects of transportation infrastructure.

B61 PRIVATIZING OF THE COQUIHALLA HIGHWAY

Withdrawn

B62 BC RAIL SERVICE

Endorsed as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities recommend that whether service is provided by BC Rail, a Provincial Crown Corporation, or a private enterprise, the existing north-south service and the integrity of the rail line be assured by the operator or operators of the system;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities recommend that the provincial government formulate a long-term rail transportation strategy that includes the reintroduction of passenger service;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government be advised that the UBCM sets a high priority on the protection of jobs; minimizing any potential negative impacts on communities; and the necessity for having broad consultation, which includes but is not limited

to customers, employees and communities, prior to any contractual commitment being made.

B63 TAXI SERVICE FOR PERSONS WITH GUIDE/ ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

Referred to UBCM Executive

B64 REGULATION FOR THE "SEGWAY HUMAN TRANSPORTER"

Endorsed

B65 SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE MODELS

Endorsed

B66 REGIONAL DISTRICT TAX COLLECTION

Endorsed

B67 PROVINCIAL GAS TAX

Endorsed

B68 CLASS 6 PROPERTIES

Endorsed

B69 COMMUNITY BOND INTEREST TAX EXEMPTION

Endorsed and referred to FCM

B70 TAX RATES FOR OTHER AUTHORITIES (PORTS)

Endorsed

B71 FOREST FARMING ON AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE

Endorsed

Resolution Admitted Off the Floor: VICTIMS SERVICES PROGRAMS

WHEREAS Victims Services programs provide an important service in rural communities by providing emotional support and practical assistance to people that are victims of crime, their family members, witnesses and those who suffer other traumas;

AND WHEREAS funding for these programs has been reduced, thereby resulting in severe cuts to the number of programs, such as the 24/7 Crisis Intervention Centre and the Crown Victim Service, but the need for these services has not declined;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government re-institute equity in funding for Victims Services, and make a commitment to the maintenance of that funding.

B72 HOTEL TAX

Endorsed as amended

B73 CROWN LAND AVAILABILITY AND COST

Endorsed

B74 REVENUE TOOLS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GAMING)

Not endorsed

B75 SOURCES OF REVENUE GENERATION

Endorsed as amended

B76 REMUNERATION FOR COMMUNITY BOARDS

Endorsed

B77 PROPOSED LIQUOR TAX

Not endorsed

B78 FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL FOR CROWN LAND

Not endorsed

B79 STRATA VS. FEE SIMPLE RESIDENTIAL TAX RATES

Not endorsed

B80 CPR WEED CONTROL

Endorsed

B81 INVASIVE PLANT STRATEGY

Endorsed

B82 FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Endorsed as amended

B83 EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON RURAL COMMUNITIES

Endorsed

B84 WEED CONTROL: RAILWAY RIGHTS OF WAY

Endorsed as amended and referred to FCM

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Canadian National Railway implement an Integrated Pest Management program (IPM) to control noxious weed growth along its rights-of-way and further, that the support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be solicited.

B85 WEED CONTROL: TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

Endorsed as amended and referred to FCM

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Trans-Canada Highway operators implement an Integrated Pest Management program (IPM) to control noxious weed growth along the highway corridor and further, that the support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be solicited.

B86 CONTAMINATED SOIL

Referred to Review of Environmental Legislation

B87 DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: ALKALINE BATTERIES

Endorsed

B88 LOCAL CONSULTATION ON AQUACULTURE

Endorsed

B89 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS: ENFORCEMENT

Endorsed

B90 SUBDIVISION PLAN – UTILITY RIGHTS OF WAY

Endorsed

B91 DUE DILIGENCE FOR LAND AND WATER LICENSEES

Referred to UBCM Executive as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that LWBC ensure that all applicants have undertaken a due diligence process that would include proper consultation with federal, provincial and First Nation Groups and local governments prior to issuing or renewing a water or land licence.

B92 SCHOOL SITE DESIGNATION AND CAPITAL FUNDING

Endorsed

B93 FOREST POLICY REFORM IN COMMUNITIES' INTEREST

Endorsed as amended

B94 FOREST SERVICE RECREATION SITES

Endorsed

B95 MEASURABLE CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS

Endorsed as amended

B96 BC UTILITY COMMISSION: OVERSIGHT OF INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS

Endorsed

B97 WEIGHTED VOTES

Referred to future Community Charter discussions

B98 REGIONAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION COSTS

Not endorsed

B99 HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Endorsed as amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the benefits to be derived by British Columbia from the "Health Care Renewal Accord 2003" be largely targeted to the rural communities of British Columbia;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those benefits be specifically targeted to the communities that face imposing travel distances in order to access specialized medical care.

B100 WORKERS COMPENSATION REGULATIONS AND HEALTH CUTS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

Referred to UBCM Executive

B101 LOCAL CONSULTATION ON HEALTH CARE

Endorsed ■

Building green for the future

A CLINIC HELD ON WEDNESDAY morning explored the advantages of building green, touching on benefits that come from the more efficient use of resources, reduced environmental impacts, and lower maintenance and operating costs but also highlighting benefits in terms of the increased wellbeing of and productivity from the occupants of green buildings. Typically, green buildings that meet the LEED rating standards cost from 1% to 3% more to construct. When it comes to operating costs, however, green buildings use up to 70% less energy, 30% less potable water, reduce wastewater flows and can reduce absenteeism up to 40%.

Thomas Mueller, team leader of DSM Business Services, Policy and Planning, GVRD, spoke of the adaptation and implementation of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) point system that was developed in the United States as a framework for rating new and existing structures for their "greenness." Currently, he informed the clinic, British Columbia has the highest number of green buildings in Canada that are registered with LEED. All new buildings built for the Olympics will be to LEED specifications. Information on LEED can be found at www.usgbc.org and at the Canada Green Building Council's website at www.cagbc.org.

Joe Van Bellegham, President, BuildGreen Developments, illustrated green practices that were used in his redevelopment of a building in the District of Saanich. He recommended a book, *Natural Capitalism*, Hauken, A. Lovins, H. Lovins, which stresses the importance of integrated design and whole system costing. All people involved in the design, construction and maintenance of the building should be on hand to determine the impacts of design decisions. An element that may have a higher cost of installation may save money when it comes to maintenance or other system considerations. For example, installing cheaper lighting that generates more heat may result in having to install a more expensive cooling and ventilation system. ■

Community Charter heralds new era

THE TOOLS AND REGULATORY powers that are embedded in the new Community Charter will allow for fundamental changes in the status of local governments, stated **Ted Nebbeling**, Minister of State for Community Charter, at a Thursday afternoon session. The Charter, he observed, has given local government the power to shape their own future. Communities now have the power to enter into contracts, make agreements and even delegate responsibilities. Local governments will have the flexibility for granting tax exemptions to foster new developments and encourage neighbourhood and commercial restorations, and tools for financing new facilities, including a streamlined ability to enter into partnership agreements.

Minister Nebbeling stated that the Annual Report seemed to be of concern to some communities, and a best practices guide will be coming out shortly on this requirement. He added that the Annual Report will be a tool that can stimulate a valuable dialogue within the community, creating an opportunity to identify common objectives and helping to build a community vision for the future. ■

Patricia Wallace is UBCM's newest Life Member.