

**ADDRESS BY  
DIRECTOR AARON DINWOODIE, UBCM PRESIDENT**

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Thank you very much Delegates. I'd like to recognize my colleagues. It's an honour and a privilege to represent you over this next year at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. I'd also like to recognize and I'd like you to join me in recognizing your partners, your families and your volunteers in your communities. Without them you would not be able to serve in the way that you do. Let's recognize them. On a personal note I would like to recognize my Regional District Board and my alternates directors Len Novakowski and David Knowles who hold the fort at home when I'm out doing business for you. I'd also like to recognize my Mother, my sister and my wife Tracey with respect to giving me the support that I require to serve you.

You'll notice that the speech is very short in content but rich in sincerity because I noticed yesterday that you were applauding the amber light and that usually gives someone a hint.

We've got some key themes this year. We've got tremendous opportunity in this province. We're going to work on building on our successes in UBCM and we're also going to build strong intergovernmental relationships at all levels, with all levels of government as directed by you to achieve the objectives that we set forth within our policy at UBCM. To target on one example with that, when we look inward to what we can do in our communities with regards to health care. Communities can play a leading role in this country with regard to working together to make a better health care system and we can do that by building healthier citizens. When local governments work hand in hand with the education system, hand in hand with provincial and federal governments, the things that we can do with regard to environmental protection in our communities to create community health as well as recreational programs to build healthier citizens is key to getting ahead of the curve in health care and keeping our communities healthy. These will be some of the new directions that we take.

Other key points. We're working on the New Deal. Mayor Frank Leonard and the last years Executive on UBCM positioned us well. I believe that we have an opportunity to be first in Canada with regard to closing a New Deal. Let's do that.

Infrastructure is another one of our key themes. Infrastructure in British Columbia is important to all our communities. Let's work hard to ensure that we establish long-term sustainable funding for the Canada-BC Infrastructure Program.

Your UBCM Executive also looks forward to working with Premier Campbell and the British Columbia government with looking into meaningful discussions

on provincial revenue sharing with regard to local governments to ensure that we have the tools to deliver the responsibilities that we have in our communities.

One does not do this alone. The UBCM has a long tradition of working hand in hand with our policy staff. Richard Taylor and the policy staff at UBCM working in conjunction with your Executive, Table Officers, Area Association Presidents, Directors at Large, GVRD Rep and Vancouver Rep is how we get this job done. Let's give them all a hand.

To wrap on a note, I want to share a story that touched us all in the year of 2003. Let's think back to the summer of 2003 in British Columbia communities. We were facing fire storms. Immediately after these fire storms we were facing floods and in the face of adversity, I cannot think of a better example of the community spirit and the working together principles that we learn here at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities with regard to our communities facing these challenges. Champions is this particular theme. Community champions is the particular theme. Looking at community spirit, embracing community courage and looking at the resources that come into a municipality, such as the municipality of our host municipality. I'd like to share a little bit of a story with you. As a resident of the West side of Okanagan Lake I had a clear example of the power of what you, our members do, when communities in British Columbia are in crisis. I can tell you that our host city, one year out from putting this convention together was in crisis with regard to the British Columbia fire storms. What we saw in this community was fire equipment and human resources roll in from all over this province. They came from Vancouver Island, they came from the Kootenays, they came from the North and they came from the Lower Mainland. They came under the family of local government, pulling together in a time of community adversity. I am sure that this community felt shocked with regard to the challenges it faced at that time. But through your support, all around British Columbia, Kelowna pulled through and Kelowna has bounced back. I want to recognize them twice here. One let's put our hands together for what they have done, hosting us here in Kelowna at this convention. And you're sitting right here in an arena where what I call a community healing events took place, almost a year after those particular fire storms. As our Best Practices portfolio as spear headed by Mayor Frank Leonard, to get us looking at best practices in communities, we started developing community champions and recognizing community champions. You from all around the province have participated in that and I think we recognize ourselves in the field of community champions by also recognizing some champions that came out of this community that recognized and represented us on the national stage. With that I would UBCM delegates to join me in celebrating community champions, Memorial Cup champion winners, city of Kelowna - Kelowna Rockets. And one of your premier themes, our youth. If you can please rise for the children of Kelowna.

Once again, thank you to the city of Kelowna, thank you to the champion Kelowna Rockets, our RCMP and our youth, our future. Thank you.