

APPENDIX I

TO: UBCM Members

FROM: **Community and Resources Committee**
Mayor Steve Thorlakson, Chair
Mayor Lela Irvine
Mayor Al Kemp
Councillor Doug Munroe

DATE: October 2, 1995

RE: **COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE REPORT**

ITEM #5(b)

October 4, 1995

B.C. COMMUNITIES AGENDA

1. DECISION REQUEST

That the UBCM membership consider the provincial government's response to the 1995 Communities and Resources Conference recommendations, the policy papers of 1994 and consider the recommended follow-up action.

2. BACKGROUND

In 1993, delegates attending the UBCM Convention approved the *Towards a Communities and Resource Strategy* paper. The paper was prepared in response to the record number of resolutions that were received that year on communities and resource issues. The policy paper proved to be a convenient vehicle for amalgamating all of these common concerns into one comprehensive strategy document. This paper also discussed the importance of the natural resources sector to the overall financial health and welfare of the province and it outlined a number of basic elements for the development of a community and resources strategy. One of the key recommendations of the document called upon the UBCM to establish a Committee of the Executive to specifically address resource issues. In that same year, the Community and Resources Committee was created.

In 1994 the Committee prepared an addendum to the 1993 paper that specifically addressed community concerns about the numerous consultation processes underway pertaining the land use and resource allocation. This paper was endorsed by the UBCM membership at the 1994 Convention and, as with its predecessor, it was forwarded to the provincial government. Its key recommendations were:

That s. 3.6 (Provincial Planning Process) of the "Towards a Communities and Resource Strategy" paper be amended to add that the provincial government:

- *develop a strategy for dovetailing the many consultative processes which clearly identifies the linkages and outlines an overall land and resource strategy for the province.*
- *ensure all new land use planning processes clearly identify how they will fit into the overall land and resource strategy for the province.*
- *recognize local governments as more than another sector or stakeholder to be consulted but as an order of government, elected by the people and accountable to their communities.*¹

¹ A separate policy paper has been put forward for discussion on this issue entitled: Local Government: An Order of Government as part of the BC Communities Agenda.

- *recognize that UBCM is the voice for all local governments, especially those smaller resource-based communities who possess limited staff resources to respond.*

Since its creation, the UBCM's Community and Resources Committee has been working to represent the interests of resource-based communities and carry out the recommendations of both the 1993 and 1994 reports. One of the goals of the Committee is to continue to inform the public about the importance of the natural resource sector to the overall health and welfare of the province.

The purpose of this paper is to provide the membership with an update on the Committee's activities and outline the recent provincial government response we have received to our 1994 policy paper and conference recommendations. The paper also proposes a course of action, in light of this provincial response.

3. RECENT EVENTS

The Community and Resources Committee has undertaken a number of activities over the past year to promote the interests of resource-based communities. Some of these include:

- provided support to the Mining Association's awareness campaign to promote Mining Week in BC.
- continued to participate on the Minister's Advisory Committee on Mining.
- conveyed resource community concerns to Ministers Petter and Sihota on the proposed Forest Practices Code, specifically the new riparian management standards.
- reviewed and provided comment on the proposed legislation "Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act."
- sponsored a conference on communities and resource issues.

The latter event was the most significant activity undertaken by the Committee this past year. The conference was held from January 5-7, 1995 in Vancouver and was attended by over 170 delegates including local elected officials, provincial government staff and MLA's as well as representatives from the key resource sectors and local community organizations. Its purpose was to:

- share information and experiences.
- review the impact of various consultative processes on present resource allocations and land use.
- develop a strategy that will ensure a sustainable resource sector and the survival of BC's resource-based communities.

The Conference proved to be a valuable opportunity for delegates. Through their round table discussions delegates were able to identify key actions which were then used to formulate the following three-part statement. This statement conveyed the direction that delegates wished to pursue in order to achieve their objectives and was unanimously supported by the delegates:

- 1. Build a broader constituency for resource community issues - especially within the largest resource-dependent community in BC - the Greater Vancouver Regional District. This will involve education and public awareness.*
- 2. Call on the provincial government to immediately re-design their planning processes to respect the principles and criteria discussed at this meeting. Defer further CORE processes until this is done.*
- 3. Call on the provincial government to immediately determine the cumulative socio-economic impacts of resource and environmental planning and management processes before any further decisions on implementation are made.*

The Committee carried this recommendation forward to the provincial government and has continued to press them for a consolidated response.

4. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

In the last year the Community and Resources Committee has received a formal response from the provincial government to its Addendum and its recent conference statement. In late December, the Honourable Darlene Marzari responded to the Addendum and more recently, the provincial government has responded more fully to the Addendum and the conference recommendations. The following chart outlines our categorization of the government's response to the recommendations put forward in these two documents. Where quotations are used, this is a direct statement taken from the Minister's letter or the provincial response. The full responses can be found in Appendix A. Also appended is a summary of the recommendations in the Towards a Communities and Resource Strategy with the relevant provincial response. (Appendix B) The Committee comments listed provide a brief analysis to lead into the summary in the next section of the report.

A. ADDENDUM ON CONSULTATION (1994 PAPER)

Recommendation

1. Develop a strategy for dovetailing the many consultative processes which clearly outlines the linkages and outlines an overall land and resource strategy for the province.

Prov Gov't Response

• "I share your concern with the consistency between the variety of processes underway. Consistency is an important objective but it is often the case that each of these processes has a difference timeframe in terms of initiation and completion. Nonetheless, I am confident that at an appropriate point in time all of these threads can be brought together in comprehensive, consistent and integrated packages of policy and program measures."
(Minister Marzari)

• see item 3.6 in App. B also

Committee Comments

The Committee would encourage integration of the various processes as quickly as possible in order to maintain community security and stability.

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| <p>2. Ensure that all new land use planning consultation processes clearly identify how they will fit into the overall land and resource strategy for the province.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I am especially excited by the prospects of achieving this integration at the regional and community levels. For example, the recently announced Vancouver Island Land Use Plan integrates a number of provincial initiatives: environmental protection (Protected Areas Strategy) , skills training (Skills Now), enhancement of the forest resource and economy (Forest Renewal Strategy) and protection of the forest land base (Forest Land Reserve) . As you know this kind of integration is not easy to achieve but is essential for the continued sustainability of the environment, economy and communities and regions. (Minister Marzari) • see item 3.6 in App. B also | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as indicated above |
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| <p>3. Recognize local government as more than another sector or stakeholder to be consulted but as an order of government, elected by the people and accountable to their communities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “local government is more than an ordinary stakeholder; it is a full-fledged, democratically-elected level of government and that in many situations is must have a special place at the table befitting its status as a government.” | <p>The Committee is encouraged by these comments and will continue to support the UBCM membership in its call for local government recognition as an order of government in a legal (constitutional) manner.</p> |
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| <p>4. Recognize that UBCM is the voice for all local governments, especially those smaller resource-based communities that possess limited staff resources to respond.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “You (UBCM) are accepted by the province and local governments as the voice of communities and regions in this province.” (Minister Marzari) • “every local government need not be involved in every issue. • • “all local governments have to be strategic and choose carefully where they place scarce resources” and “UBCM plays an essential role in disseminating information and developing common policy positions....” | <p>The Committee welcomes the recognition given by the Minister and the province regarding the important role UBCM plays in representing the interests of its members.</p> |
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B. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Prov Gov’t Response	Committee Comments
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1. Build a broader constituency for resource community issues - especially within the largest resource-dependent community in BC - the Greater Vancouver Regional District. This will involve education and public awareness.

A provincial government response was not expected to this item since this was an internal direction given to the UBCM's Communities and Resources Committee.

2. Call on the provincial government to immediately re-design their planning processes to respect the principles and criteria discussed at this meeting. Defer further CORE processes until this is done.

- "CORE's focus will shift away from regional land use planning. Instead, land use plans will be carried out through the Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) process, in a manner consistent with the above principles."
- "We also recognize and appreciate the concerns you have raised about this process. We believe we have made changes to the land use process which will help create a stronger relationship between the provincial government and local government in this regard. And we believe this work is vital to ensure stable communities and land use certainty throughout the province."
- "Work with UBCM to develop a new operational approach with UBCM and local governments concerning all elements of land use planning."

The Committee appreciates these comments and is pleased to see an end to the previous CORE processes. UBCM members welcome the opportunity for local governments to be involved in the design stages of the LRMP process to ensure that the interests of the communities are represented.

3. Call on the provincial government to immediately determine the cumulative socio-economic impacts of resource and environmental planning and management processes before any further decisions on implementation are made.

- "provide better and more understandable information on socio-economic impacts."

The provincial government has not provided sufficient information to the UBCM or its local government members on the socio-economic impacts of their various land use decisions.

5. ANALYSIS OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Upon review of the responses, the Community and Resources Committee notes that progress has been in some areas but there are still issues that remain of key concern.

The Committee is encouraged by the provincial governments recognition that:

- local elected officials are more than stakeholders and in many instances it needs to have a special place at the table befitting its status as a government.
- local governments need to be involved at the beginning of these processes to ensure that local concerns are addressed at the outset.
- this issue is a "priority" and that a senior staff person will be assigned to work with UBCM to ensure these matters are followed-up by year end.

UBCM, the Committee and local governments need to consult further with the provincial government on developing the LRMP process to ensure that local governments are given an opportunity to participate and have involvement during the design stage of the process.

However, the Committee remains concerned about the lack of information on the socio-economic impacts and information on cumulative impacts of all of these provincial processes. The Committee has asked the provincial government what the overall impact will be for resource-dependent communities but the province has not provided any estimates about what the possible job losses will be or what the other secondary economic impacts will be for the relevant communities. Without this information, communities will continue to remain uncertain about the future of their residents and their community as a whole.

6. ACTION PLAN FOR 1995

In light of the provincial government's response the Committee has reviewed its work plan and has identified the following action items for the coming year.

1. Accept the invitation of the provincial government to work with them:
 - to include local governments in the design stages of any further LRMP or land use plans, including a review of the methodology for analysis and information sharing;
 - to develop a new operational approach with the UBCM and local governments concerning all elements of land use planning;
 - to provide better and more understandable information on socio-economic impacts;
 - to define relative roles of local government representatives and MLAs, recognizing their unique status as elected representatives to ensure understanding of each others involvement in the process; and
 - to improve the coordination between provincial government initiatives and communicate better with UBCM and local governments.And ensure:
 - that local concerns of the area under review are addressed;
 - that the goals, rules and meaning of consensus are clearly defined at the outset;
 - that the role of interest groups be clearly outlined;
 - that the terms of reference and boundaries are established prior to the start of consultations;
 - that the best information be made available;
 - that the role of the bureaucracy is specified.
2. Continue to participate in education, communication and awareness opportunities that promote the importance of natural resources to the overall health and welfare of the provincial economy, such as Mining Week in BC and work to build a broader constituency for resource community issues. This will involve education and public awareness.

3. Reiterate the need for an assessment of the cumulative socio-economic impacts of the all resource and environmental planning and management processes and that this become a formal part of a new Strategy element entitled 3.9.
4. The Committee has reviewed the four 1995 resolutions (C19-C22) referred to the Community and Resources Committee and considers C19 to be reflected in existing policy 3.6 and that C20-C22 relate to the Community and Resource conference recommendations. (see pages 100-102 in Resolutions Book) The resolutions are reflected in the current approach to the Communities and Resources Strategy and no specific action is needed.