
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2010CD0019-000528
May 6, 2010

Ministry of Community and Rural Development

B.C. PROCLAIMS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARENESS WEEK

VICTORIA -- Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development, joined with Harry Nyce, president of the Union of BC Municipalities to announce that May 16 to 22, 2010 has been proclaimed Local Government Awareness Week in British Columbia.

“Local governments are the grassroots of the democratic process, and awareness is growing about the many matters affecting citizens directly that are determined at that level,” said Bennett. “This week allows us to amplify that awareness, while encouraging people to become more involved in their communities.”

A resolution at last year’s UBCM convention called for restoration of Local Government Awareness Week. The week provides a forum to raise awareness about the roles and responsibilities of local government and encourage public participation in its processes.

“Much of the work of local governments goes unheralded,” said Nyce. “Local Government Awareness Week provides an opportunity for municipalities and regional districts to showcase programs and services that are integral to the daily life of every person in B.C.”

In support of this year’s activities, UBCM and the Province have worked with the Local Government Management Association and CivicInfo to launch a new website providing local governments with information (www.lgaw.bc.ca). Work is also underway with the Province to identify opportunities to include more information about local governments in the school curriculum. UBCM has also introduced a new category for its Community Excellence Awards to acknowledge excellence in civic engagement.

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