



## **UBCM MAKES HISTORY WITH ELECTION OF FIRST NATIONS PRESIDENT** *Hereditary Chieftain Harry Nyce to lead 2009-2010 Executive*

For Immediate Release (October 2, 2009):

**Vancouver, B.C.** – The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) membership has elected the Table Officers for its 2009-2010 Executive Board. Director Harry Nyce, a Nisga'a Hereditary Chieftan and Kitimat-Stikine Regional District Chair, is the incoming president of the organization representing the interests of local government. Nyce is the first First Nations President elected to the UBCM Executive.

*"I am extremely proud to be recognized and to have the membership's confidence as we move towards a time when our communities will be showcased to the world,"* Nyce said, citing goals for the year ahead that include carrying out stimulus funding issues and inciting more dialogue on taxation.

Nyce, who has served on the UBCM Executive since 2005, replaces Kelowna Councillor Robert Hobson who will now serve in the role of Past President.

### Also Elected:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Councillor Barbara Steele (Surrey)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Director Heath Slee (Regional District of East Kootenay)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President: Mayor Mary Sjostrom (Quesnel)  
Small Community Rep: Mayor Roland Stanke (Village of Clinton)  
Electoral Area Rep: Director Al Richmond (Regional District of Cariboo)

### Directors at Large:

Mayor Sharon Gaetz (Chilliwack)  
Councillor Wesley Graham (Creston)  
Mayor Barry Janyk (Gibsons)  
Councillor Murry Krause (Prince George)  
Director Rhona Martin (Regional District of Columbia Shuswap)

Nyce lives in Gitwinksihlwk, B.C. – the smallest of the Nisga'a communities. He is the current Director of the Fish and Wildlife Program for the Nisga'a Lisims Government and served on the James Samuel Gosnell Memorial Health Centre board. He sat on the Task Force for Northwest BC on Transportation, Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture, is co-chair for the Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park Committee, and chaired the Nisga'a Cultural Artifacts Committee. Nyce also served for 14 years as Gitwinksihlwk elected Chief Councillor and former band manager. As well, he chaired the Zaul Zap Industries board and sat on the Vancouver Indian Centre Board.

Nyce was Resources Negotiator for the settlement of the Nisga'a Land Question, worked as a lobbyist for the Nisga'a Tribal Council, and was appointed to the Pacific Salmon Commission's Northern Panel. He attended schools in BC and Alberta before completing his education at the UBC Faculty of Arts where he majored in Political Science.

The UBCM was formed in 1905 to provide a common voice for local governments and it continues to do so today, representing 189 municipalities and regional districts. The annual Convention provides local leaders the opportunity to debate issues that matter most to communities in British Columbia. More than 1,500 local leaders will participate in workshops and forums while setting policy direction for UBCM to follow over the next year.

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