



Union of BC Municipalities Welcomes Appointment Of Hon. Ben Stewart

Westside – Kelowna MLA Replaces Minister Bill Bennett

For Immediate Release
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June 11, 2010 (Victoria, BC) UBCM President Harry Nyce has spoken with the Honourable Ben Stewart to welcome him as the Minister of Community and Rural Development. Premier Gordon Campbell announced Mr. Stewart's appointment as part of a cabinet shuffle earlier today.

"Mr. Stewart has valued experience as an entrepreneur, community leader and Minister," said Mr. Nyce. "We look forward to working with Mr. Stewart to build upon the solid collaborative relationship that UBCM shares with the provincial Government."

Mr. Stewart was elected MLA for Westside-Kelowna in the 2009 election and appointed Minister of Citizens' Services and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism and the Public Affairs Bureau. Stewart founded and developed Quails Gate estate winery and has received the Queen's Jubilee Medal for Community Service. Stewart replaces Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett.

"UBCM has appreciated Bill's approach to local government matters," said Nyce. "His candour, commitment and practicality have helped us to move forward on key files such as the Elections Taskforce and the delivery of infrastructure funding. We wish Bill all the best in his new role as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources."

The Local Government Elections Taskforce recently delivered 31 recommendations to the Provincial Government to improve the elections process for local government. In September of 2009, the Province of British Columbia joined with Canada to announce over \$400 million in joint funding for local government infrastructure.