

Highlights of the UBCM Executive Meeting held on November 29 - 30, 2007

The November Executive meeting is the first full meeting of the newly constituted Executive since the Convention. The focus of this meeting is on "confirming the directions" set out in the work plan and budget as adopted in July 2007 and reviewing the policy directions endorsed by the membership at the 2007 Convention.

As well, inaugural meetings were held for seven standing committees, an orientation session for Executive members was conducted and the full Executive engaged in a priorities and planning session. Executive members also met with Minister of Community Services, the Honourable Ida Chong as part of their Friday Executive meeting agenda.

General Executive decisions:

- reviewed an update on work to establish a **Green Building Code**, which will add energy efficiency and water efficiency standards to the BC Building Code for new buildings. The Province is currently undertaking a web based consultation on the new measures; the consultation process will close on December 21, 2007.
- considered **14 resolutions referred by the 2007 Convention** as well as six resolutions endorsed by the Convention and requesting UBCM action. (See the sidebar for a summary of Executive decisions on these resolutions).
- will advise Industry Canada that we will monitor implementation of the new **antenna siting** and approval procedures and encourage members to establish local consultation processes for Land Use Authorities if these are not already in place.
- will monitor implementation of an new emergency planning program for mass **livestock carcass disposal**.
- monitor impact of new federal regulation to require local drivers (carriers) to keep more detailed driving records.
- received a report on **TILMA** indicating that discussions have begun on issues of specific interest identified by members at Convention, including procurement thresholds, standards and regulations and the dispute resolution process.
- confirmed plans for the following UBCM sponsored **conferences** in 2008 including:
 - Local Government Leadership Academy: February 12-14, 2008
 - Crime Prevention Conference February 28-29, 2008
 - Regional District CAO/CEO Forum: March 25, 2008
 - Electoral Area Directors Forum: Date to be confirmed
- reviewed and approved UBCM comments with respect to consultation on the new draft **Public Health Act**.
- with respect to the **Climate Action Plans**, advised that Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director and Richard Taylor, General Manager of Victoria Operations were appointed as UBCM representatives to the Green Communities Committee, and that an inaugural meeting has been held.
- received a status report on the current provincially funded programs administered by UBCM under the **Local Government Program Services**. Funding has been received for new grants programs - for healthy eating in recreation facilities and local government buildings and active transportation /built environment planning. These will be launched in the New Year.
- advised that Infrastructure Canada was impressed by and has accepted the 2007 **Gas Tax** Annual expenditure report. A second intake for General Strategic Priorities Fund and Innovation Fund projects will be called by the end of the year.
- reviewed materials on the new federal **Building**

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Canada Plan and decided to develop suggested target allowances within Major Infrastructure Component; secure participation on negotiations for Community Component Agreement; request involvement in the development of BC Infrastructure Plan; secure an amendment to the Gas Tax allocations for 2011 to 2014; seek a meeting with the provincial Transportation Minister, Kevin Falcon; and seek clarification on the role of private industry in the new program. (see In the House of November 8, 2007 for more details on the Building Canada Plan).

- received a report on recent provincial legislation, including the status of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act, the Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement Act, the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Amendment Act, the

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act and the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement Act.

- endorsed a two-level certification system as part of the **Local Government Leadership Academy**, which would include a Certificate in Local Government Leadership and an Advanced Certificate in Local Government Leadership.
- directed that the UBCM Code of **Ethical Standards** for Elected Officials be maintained and augmented with related legislation that has been introduced since it was adopted in 1981 – this to be posted on Civicnet along with UBCM Code of Conduct for Directors and staff. Links will also be provided to other modern ethical standards materials.
- received a report on the Convention

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

RESOLUTIONS

Councillor Sharon Gaetz, Chair
 Mayor Herb Pond, Vice Chair
 Councillor Mary Sjostrom
 Mayor Terry Lake
 Chair Robert Hobson (VP Liaison)

NOMINATING

- to be established for 2007-2008

CONVENTION

Councillor Kim Capri, Chair
 Councillor Mary Sjostrom, Vice Chair
 Councillor Barbara Steele
 Director Heath Slee
 Councillor Bob Long

PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE

Director Susan Gimse, President
 Chair Robert Hobson, First Vice President
 Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Second Vice President
 Mayor Terry Lake, Third Vice President
 Councillor Brenda Binnie, Past President

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mayor Terry Lake, Chair (VP Liaison)
 Mayor Joe Snopek, Vice Chair
 Councillor Barbara Steele
 Director Terry Raymond
 Councillor Kim Capri
 Director Eileen Benedict

ENVIRONMENT

Mayor Herb Pond, Chair
 Director Rhona Martin, Vice Chair
 Director Harry Nyce
 Director Heath Slee
 Councillor Sharon Gaetz
 Mayor Joe Snopek

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Mayor Ella Brown, Chair
 Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Vice Chair
 Director Rhona Martin
 Director Eileen Benedict
 Councillor Brenda Binnie (VP Liaison)

FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS

Director Terry Raymond, Chair
 Director Harry Nyce, Vice Chair
 Mayor Herb Pond
 Director Rod Sherrell
 Chair Robert Hobson
 Councillor Brenda Binnie (VP Liaison)

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Mary Sjostrom, Chair
 Director Rod Sherrell, Vice Chair
 Mayor Ella Brown
 Councillor Bob Long
 Mayor Sharon Hartwell (VP Liaison)

announcement of a \$10 million annual investment in provincial funding for **flood hazard mitigation** for the next 10 years. Funding under this program is expected to begin in 2007 and will be directed at projects identified in response to the 2007 flood season.

- endorsed resolutions from the City of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver which identified a need to address the growing **fiscal imbalance** faced by local governments and directed that correspondence be sent to the Minister of Finance. Also identified this issue as a priority for the coming year and instructed Presidents Committee to lead this policy direction.
- directed that a Task Force be established to engage the Province in a review of **regional districts**. This review would concentrate on powers which are currently lacking in the regional district structure and solutions to address these gaps.
- confirmed **committee appointments** for the coming year. Some of the specific appointments of interest include:

Local Government Leadership Academy Board of Directors

- Director Susie Gimse , Chair (2 year apt.)
- Mayor Sharon Hartwell (1 year apt.)

Single Business Licence Advisory Committee

- Mayor Terry Lake
- Mayor Ella Brown

TILMA – UBCM Reps to Negotiating Team

- Gary Maclsaac
- Marie Crawford

Provincial Age-Friendly Leadership Network

- Mayor Ella Brown
- Director Susie Gimse (alternate)

British Columbia Conservation Lands Forum

- Councillor Sharon Gaetz

Partnership Committee - Gas Tax Agreement/Public Trust Agreement

- Director Susan Gimse
- Gary Maclsaac

Executive Decisions on Referred Resolutions and endorsed Resolutions Requesting UBCM Action

SECTION B – PART II

B64 PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Endorsed with Proposed Amendment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government develop explanatory materials and guidelines to complement Section 117 of the Community Charter (and parallel section(s) of the Vancouver Charter), in the interest of providing elected officials with a better understanding of the duty to respect confidentiality;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that additional penalties (aside from those set out in Section 117 of the Charter) be considered for deliberate breach of confidentiality, including potential disqualification from office.

B86 POLICING COSTS

Referred to Community Safety Committee

BI42 PROVINCIAL SINGLE BUSINESS LICENCE INITIATIVE

Referred to Community Economic Development Committee

SECTION B – PART III

BI78 ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Referred to Community Economic Development Committee

BI90 DENTAL CARE FOR CITIZENS OF BC

Referred to 2008 Convention

SECTION B – PART III (Automatic Referral)

BI91 HOME SUPPORT

Endorsed

BI92 LABELLING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

Referred to Healthy Communities Committee

BI96 ACCOMMODATION FOR SEASONAL FARM LABOUR

Endorsed

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UBCM Sewerage System Regulation Working Group

- Director Terry Raymond
- Director John Kettle

Committees

Presidents

The Committee received a number of reports including the status of the new Municipal House building. A building permit application has been made and a permit is expected shortly. It was also agreed that UBCM would proceed with a contractual arrangement with Knowledge Network to build the Picture B.C. website.

Environment

The Committee reviewed its terms of reference and established the following priorities for the 2007/08 year:

- working with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community Services on implementing the recommendations contained in the UBCM Sewerage System Regulation working group action plan;
- engaging in consultation with the Ministry of Environment to address outstanding local government concerns with the proposed interim site profile process and work with the Municipal Insurance Association to assess liability exposure under the new process;
- monitoring the development of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment municipal wastewater strategy to ensure that local government concerns are addressed;
- advising on the development of any new provincial product stewardship programs to ensure that it adopts a fully industry-funded framework which maximizes the recovery rate and provides the broadest choice of options for consumers;
- providing advisory support to the implementation of the Climate Action Charter where requested and appropriate;
- monitoring and respond to ongoing and emerging environmental policy, legislative, and regulatory issues that affect local government; and
- enhancing government relations with the Ministry of Environment through ministerial meetings.

The Committee also approved renewal of the Protocol on Principles for Sharing Environmental Responsibilities following review of the proposed housekeeping changes to the agreement.

Community Economic Development

The Committee reviewed and affirmed its terms of reference, work plan and priorities for the coming year. The following Committee recommendations were approved by the Executive:

- continue to provide input into the development of a coordinated approach for addressing energy conservation and efficiency initiatives;
- work with AVICC in monitoring the impact of the Coastal Forest Action Plan and its impact on communities ;
- continue to monitor the Single Business Licence (SBL) Initiative, including the Okanagan pilot project; and
- confirmed that the CED Committee will serve as the contact point for the Province's quarterly reports on the SBL pilot project.

Healthy Communities

The Committee reviewed its terms of reference and priorities for the coming year, including the rewrite of the Public Health Act. The Executive approved Committee recommendations that included:

- establishing a Steering Committee to update the 2008 Cost Sharing Review of capital funding with the Ministry of Health;
- requesting preliminary work on issues regarding Home Support Services; and
- communicating concerns around community mental health service delivery.

Convention

The Committee reviewed the preliminary evaluations of the 2007 Convention and laid out plans for the 2008 program. Full evaluations will be reviewed at the January 2008 meeting. The Committee indicated it would be continuing with the very popular speaker gift program for 2008 and suggestions for the three target areas covering

local, provincial and international charities will be reviewed in January.

Community Safety

The Committee reviewed its work plan and established the following priorities for the upcoming year:

- 2008 Crime Prevention Conference - February 28 – 29 - invitations to participate have been extended to Attorney General Wally Oppal and the federal Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, the Honourable Stockwell Day;
- RCMP Contract Renewal – development of RCMP contract mandate from a local government

perspective in preparation for future contract discussions;

- Crime Prevention and Crime Reduction Plan – development of provincial measures around crime prevention;
- Sharing Proceeds of Crime – Forfeited Crime Proceeds Fund;
- Homelessness; and
- Flood Hazard Management – development and implementation of new flood hazard mitigation program.

First Nations Relations

The First Nations Relations Committee discussed several emerging policy and funding issues,

Disposition of Resolutions ~ Con't. . .

RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE

LR₄ AGRICULTURAL BOILER EMISSION STANDARDS

Endorsed with Proposed Amendment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to reconsider its proposed standard of 50 mg/m³, as presented in the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation - Wood Fired Boilers Policy Intentions Paper, and replace it with the higher standard, that will protect clean air and public health, of 20 mg/m³ for all boilers regardless of size, or re-post an intentions paper with the higher standard for boilers regardless of size for review by all stakeholders;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province be requested to substantially increase monitoring and enforcement of air emissions throughout British Columbia.

LR₇ SINGLE BUSINESS LICENCE

Referred to Community Economic Development Committee

LR₈ RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHILDCARE FUNDING

Endorsed

LR₉ INCLUDE REGIONAL DISTRICTS IN COMMUNITY CHARTER

Endorsed

LR₁₀ METAL THEFT AND REGULATION OF THE SCRAP METAL INDUSTRY

Endorsed

LR₁₁ DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES

Endorsed

ENDORSED RESOLUTIONS REQUESTING UBCM ACTION

A₈ PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING RESOLUTIONS

Staff to update Rule 27(i) of the UBCM Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions.

BI₁₇ GAS TAX TRANSFER FUNDS

Referred to Gas Tax/Public Transit Management Services

BI₄₃ SMALL BUSINESS LENS

Referred to staff for further study and report.

BI₅₈ UBCM SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP VENUES

Staff to contact the sponsor and advise of UBCM's existing regional educational initiatives and note the Local Government Leadership Academy's interest in holding sessions at each of the five Area Association Conventions as part of its ongoing educational curriculum; resolution to be forwarded to the LGLA Program Coordinator for information.

BI₈₇ BLOOD SAMPLES ACT

Further action to be considered upon receipt of provincial response to resolution B187.

BI₉₄ CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN

Conveyed to Governor General, Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence.

including local governments' role in the New Relationship between the Province and BC First Nations, funding for local governments in the treaty process, and the \$300,000 grant from MARR for information sharing relating to the final agreements and relationship building activities. The Committee passed recommendations on a number of matters, including:

- approval of Committee priorities and terms of reference;
- will seek permission from TACs/local governments for UBCM to share their information on local

government expenses in treaty negotiations with MARR;

- write to the MARR Minister on UBCM's interest in being part of the Ministry's discussion with the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee in providing the Province with feedback on any initiatives under the New Relationship;
- amend the workplan on information sharing and relationship building activities to include staff costs in the budget and forwarding the plan to MARR for comment before implementation; and
- write to the MARR Minister requesting information on treaty adjustment funding.

Meeting between Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services and UBCM Executive

Minister Chong attended the regular meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister, Dale Wall. The Minister indicated that the Province is very committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advised that this will be reflected in the existing provincial grant programs this year. The Minister also discussed the new Build Canada program and status of the MRIF program.

The Executive discussed resolution SR1 endorsed at Convention, requesting an amendment to the Community Charter to provide local governments with the ability to effectively regulate pawnshops and second hand dealers. The Minister advised that the Solicitor General was reviewing the matter and would be responding to UBCM directly. The Executive agreed to immediately

request a meeting with Minister Les and seek legislative amendments to the Community Charter in the spring session.

The Executive also discussed undertaking a joint regional district review with the Province. Minister Chong agreed to participate in a process for identifying issues and finding solutions that would assist regional districts.

With respect to the UBCM appointments to the Green Communities Committee the Executive expressed an interest in having this Committee occasionally meet with the Minister and the Province's Climate Change Cabinet Committee so UBCM would have an opportunity to discuss policy issues related to greenhouse gas reductions.

Please visit www.civicnet.bc.ca to download an electronic copy of the Executive Release.