



# **ANNUAL REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS**

TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE UBCM ANNUAL CONVENTION  
VICTORIA, B.C.

OCTOBER 24 - 27, 2006

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU

# 2005-2006 UBCM EXECUTIVE



COUNCILLOR MARVIN HUNT  
PRESIDENT



COUNCILLOR BRENDA BINNIE  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT



DIRECTOR SUSAN GIMSE  
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT



DIRECTOR AARON DINWOODIE  
PAST PRESIDENT



COUNCILLOR KIM CAPRI  
VANCOUVER REPRESENTATIVE



MAYOR DON MACLEAN  
GVRD REPRESENTATIVE



MAYOR SHARON HARIWELL  
SMALL COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE



DIRECTOR TERRY RAYMOND  
ELECTORAL AREA REPRESENTATIVE



COUNCILLOR JANIS DAHLEN  
ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY &  
BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



COUNCILLOR SHARON GAETZ  
LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION



COUNCILLOR MARY SJOSTROM  
NORTH CENTRAL MUNICIPAL  
ASSOCIATION



COUNCILLOR PATRICIA WALLACE  
OKANAGAN MAINLINE  
MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION



COUNCILLOR BEA HOLLAND  
ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND &  
COASTAL COMMUNITIES



CHAIR ROBERT HOBSON  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE



MAYOR TERRY LAKE  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE



DIRECTOR HARRY NYCE  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE



MAYOR HERB POND  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE

UNION OF  
BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
MUNICIPALITIES



# ANNUAL REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE 2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

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**DATES:**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2006  
to  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2006

**LOCATION:**

VICTORIA CONFERENCE CENTRE  
VICTORIA, B.C.

**REGISTRATION:**

COMMENCES MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
CONTINUES TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 7:00 a.m.

**FORUMS FOR:**

- ELECTORAL AREAS
- SMALL TALK
- MID-SIZED COMMUNITIES
- LARGE URBAN COMMUNITIES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2006  
COMMENCES at 9:00 a.m.

**OPENING RECEPTION:**

COMMENCES TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 7:30 p.m.  
AT VICTORIA CONFERENCE CENTRE

**BUSINESS SESSIONS:**

COMMENCES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 8:30 a.m.  
VICTORIA CONFERENCE CENTRE

# UBCM ANNUAL REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS BOOK

for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

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# LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL TO UBCM MEMBERS

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On September 29, 2005, during our annual Convention, UBCM celebrated its 100th anniversary - a century of advocacy and serving the common needs of local governments in British Columbia.

It was a year to celebrate and mark the achievements of UBCM. At the Convention, special historical displays, a new corporate video and historical re-enactments were included to commemorate our Centennial. We were privileged with the presence of the Chief Herald, who presented UBCM with our Official Flag and Badge in honour of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Members also had an opportunity to preview UBCM: The First Century, a publication that profiles the organization's history, personalities, struggles and achievements.

We also celebrated some significant funding agreements. In advance of the Convention, we concluded the \$635 million federal gas tax transfer agreement. In March 2006, we concluded a \$52 million Public Transit Agreement. But more importantly, was the distribution of funding to members after concluding 157 Community Works Funds agreements totaling about \$23 million and transferring \$36 million to the GVTA for transit investments. We also concluded a new \$102 million federal/provincial infrastructure program (Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program).

It was also a busy year for provincially funded programs. New programs for crystal methamphetamine prevention and operational fuel management were launched, and additional funds were provided in support of 2006 emergency planning, wildfire protection planning and West Nile Virus prevention activities. Provincial funding is also assisting UBCM to provide staff support to the BC Health Communities Initiative.

Against this positive background, UBCM Executive and its members have faced some challenges, such as Bill 30, police costs and industrial taxation. To address those challenges, we sought your direction and guidance by holding three member consultation sessions. This feedback provided your Executive with the input they require to continue to effectively represent your interests to the provincial government.

This was also the year we welcomed hundreds of newly elected officials into the greater family of local government. UBCM organized six seminars. In addition to holding sessions on the Island, Lower Mainland and the Okanagan, we included for the first time a session in the Kootenays, which was well-received by delegates. These sessions will be the foundation for the new Local Government Leadership Academy, generously funded by members, partner organizations and a \$1 million endowment from the provincial government.

There are a host of other accomplishments that are set out in the following Accomplishments in Brief, Committee reports and reports on provincially funded Local Government Program Services and the New Deal Management Services.

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CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY.  
CHARTING OUR FUTURE





#### UBCM STAFF

##### BACK ROW (left to right):

Susan Paton, LGPS Administrative Assistant (Victoria); Ted Willmer, Mgr. Finance & Operations; Joanne Gauci, Policy Analyst; Peter Larose, Policy Analyst (no longer with UBCM); Tam Lundy, Program & Education Coordinator (Victoria); Brenda Gibson, Gen. Mgr., Federal Gas Tax/Public Transit Management Services (Victoria); Eydie Fraser, Executive Coordinator, Municipal House (Victoria); Richard Taylor, Executive Director; Harmony Folz, Policy Analyst; Jared Wright, Policy Analyst; Pamela Lewis, Convention Coordinator; Ken Vance, Senior Policy Advisor; Errin Armstrong, Information & Resolutions Coordinator; Erik Kowalski, Director, Healthy Communities Initiative (Victoria); Alison McNeil, Senior Associate, Policy & Programs.

##### FRONT ROW (seated left to right):

Susie Koivu, Financial Services Officer; Joslyn Young, Executive Coordinator; Sue Clark, Programs Officer (Victoria); Anna-Maria Wijesinghe, Mgr., Member & Association Services; Jessica Brandt, Office Services (resigned); Shannon McAvella, Member & Association Services Asst; Marie Crawford, Associate Executive Director.

NOT PRESENT: Raelene Adamson, e-Office Services; Rose Hayes, Office Services.



## UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES ACT OF INCORPORATION

Union of BC Municipalities was incorporated by an Act of the provincial legislature in 1959. The “objects” of the UBCM set out in the legislation include: securing united action by members on issues of common interest; representing members on issues affecting them or their citizens; cooperating with other groups on matters under federal jurisdiction; cooperating with government ministries on the development of legislation; discussing and dealing with municipal issues; representing and assisting members in maintaining municipal autonomy; distributing information; holding meetings and fostering a “fraternal spirit among those engaged in municipal work”; and encouraging and promoting local associations.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The **values** we want associated with UBCM as an organization are:

- Credibility and accuracy in what we do.
- Timely and effective in how we respond.
- Valuing teamwork and respecting diversity in everything we do.
- Being non-partisan and objective in how we present ourselves.

Our **vision** is to most effectively represent and serve all local governments in BC.

Guided by our values and to achieve our vision the purpose of UBCM is:

To **represent and serve** all local governments in BC by:

- Being the recognized advocate for their common interests.
- Meeting the members’ common needs.

We will be the recognized **advocate** for local government in BC in:

- Policy development and implementation
- Government relations
- Communications externally
- Liaison with other groups

Our priorities for meeting the **members’ common needs** are through:

- Communication to members
- Advice and training for local government officials
- Convention
- Information sharing

We strive for **continuous improvement** in all that we do.

ADOPTED BY UBCM EXECUTIVE 2003

# 2005-2006 UBCM ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN BRIEF<sup>1</sup>

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## TOP ACTIVITIES OR INVOLVEMENTS

- “made in BC” New Deal for Cities and Communities, signed September 19, 2005 with delivery of \$635 million over 5 years in federal gas tax sharing – notable in that UBCM is administering the program and is a signatory to the Agreement;
- provincial funding for Local Government Program Services expands to 12 programs with an additional \$16.2 million this fiscal year – including \$2 million funding for crystal meth prevention programs and \$10 million for forest fuel management;
- signed a \$52 million federally funded Public Transit Agreement;
- concluded the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Agreement which will bring \$102 million in federal and provincial funding.

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- 100% membership maintained for the 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive year;
- highest rated Convention on record;
- small community and regional district grants to be doubled over four years starting in 2006;
- won Supreme Court of Canada intervention on the status of municipal employees in RCMP detachments;
- expansion of bylaw adjudication process to 12 more local governments.

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Projects

- history book - published and distributed to all members;
- corporate display and video - completed and delivered at 2005 Convention;
- special historical display at 2005 Convention;
- special history pages on CivicNet website;
- UBCM flag and badge presented by Chief Herald during Convention, historical re-enactment of first UBCM meeting and presentation of historical vignettes related to resolutions and elections;
- 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative plaques (made from beetle wood) presented to members at Convention;
- statute revision of UBCM Act complete;
- established Local Government Leadership Academy including \$1 million contribution from the Province of BC;
- Province commits to providing a site for a new UBCM office in Victoria.

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## ADVOCACY

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### Policy Development and Implementation

A top priority is to advocate on behalf of BC local governments for the development of policies that support their needs and to see them implemented in legislation, regulations, programs or policies. UBCM participates in policy development in a number of ways: independent initiatives and making representations directly; participating in Ministry-UBCM or multi-party policy development processes. The issues are many and varied and some have required sustained involvement while others may have only required limited intervention.

### Policy Development

#### PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

Some of the issues UBCM was consulted on or involved with in the past year as provincial policies included:

#### *Statutory framework for local government*

- working group on (fire) upgrading of existing buildings;
- UBCM funds successful appeal of post-public hearing rules.

#### *Justice/Community Safety*

- Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan – Implementation Advisory Committee;
- Liquor policy;
- expansion of bylaw adjudication process;
- BC211 initiative.

#### *Finance*

- New Deal for Cities and Communities;
- traffic fine revenue sharing reports to provincial government;
- increase to Home Owner Grant ;
- participate in Home Owner Grant Provincial-Municipal Forum with GFOABC;
- four year expansion of small community and regional district grants.

#### *Assessment*

- respond to consultation by Province on a number of assessment changes;
- review terms of reference for review of *Assessment Act* and *Assessment Authority Act* and request early and on-going consultation by Province.

### **Health**

- continuing input to Ministry of Health on *Public Health Act* re-write;
- survey of local governments, Regional Hospital Districts and Health Authorities interactions;
- participation in Knowledge Centre on Health and Learning.

### **Environment**

- Riparian Areas Regulation;
- West Nile Regulation (indemnity agreement);
- Recycling Regulation (Tires and Electronic Waste);
- implementation of the Sewerage System Regulation;
- *Environmental Management Act* Codes of Practice.

### **Trade**

- softwood lumber negotiations continue;
- enhanced Agreement in Internal Trade (BC and Alberta).

### **Economic Development**

- sought coordinated provincial and federal funding and assistance to combat Mountain Pine Beetle and Western Pine Beetle infestation;
- support for increased funding to Regional Film Commissions;
- input into the Community Forests program review;
- discussions on development of BC Agricultural Plan;
- respond to Competition Council reports.

### **Infrastructure**

- \$52 million Public Transit Agreement with a further \$119 for transit funding announced in the federal budget;
- MRIF - participated in negotiations to conclude the \$102 million program (federal/provincial share) and set stage for a further \$250 million in federal funding over next five years.

### **Energy Policy**

- MOU working group on Independent Power Production;
- BC Energy Plan Renewal;
- BC Hydro Integrated Electricity Plan;
- MOU working group on offshore oil and gas;
- Bill 30 amendment to Utilities Commission Act re: IPPs;
- BC Progress Board report on Energy;
- Oil and Gas Regulatory Improvement Initiative.

### **Aboriginal**

- jointly commissioned study on Fiscal Impacts of

- Treaty Settlement Land on Local Governments;
- advocated for treaty adjustment funding program for local governments;
- analysis of concluded Agreements in Principle and draft final agreement chapters.

#### **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:**

- Wild Salmon Policy Implementation Plan;
- resolution of Softwood Lumber Dispute;
- Pine Beetle Funding to eradicate infestation;
- Citizenship and Immigration – new immigrants integration into communities;
- intervention before the Supreme Court of Canada concerning Federal Court of Appeal decision on RCMP support staff;
- Canadian *Environmental Protection Act* – strategy for municipal wastewater;
- NAV Canada regulatory changes;
- 2005 Resolutions conveyed to new federal government.

#### **MEMBER INITIATIVES: RESOLUTIONS**

UBCM's policy initiatives are primarily derived from resolutions submitted by members. During 2006, UBCM reviewed 226 resolutions in the course of preparing the Annual Report and Resolutions Book. All Area Associations submitted their resolutions for UBCM comment prior to their annual meetings and subsequently conveyed endorsed resolutions to UBCM for consideration at the 2006 Convention.

#### **Policy Implementation**

Policy work over the last year which involved UBCM included:

#### **LEGISLATION (IN ORDER OF DEGREE OF UBCM INVOLVEMENT)**

Among the legislation reviewed by UBCM:

- *Community Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2006* – amends the *Local Government Act* so that municipal commercial vehicle licences will be based on the calendar year in line with the municipal fiscal year;
- *Safety Standards Amendment Act, 2006* – assists local government in shutting down marijuana grow operations;
- *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2006* – UBCM provided input on section 56 of this Act (Bill 30), which amends the *Utilities Commission Act*;
- *Local Government Act* statute revision;
- *Forests and Range Statutes Amendment Act*;
- *Resort Timber Administration Act*;
- *UBCM Incorporation Act* update.

## REGULATIONS (IN ORDER OF DEGREE OF UBCM INVOLVEMENT)

UBCM contributed to the development of many regulations including:

- Riparian Areas Regulation (regulatory amendments);
- Recycling Regulation (addition of a tire and electronic waste schedule);
- West Nile Virus Regulation (development of an indemnity agreement);
- Liquor regulations.

## UBCM RESOLUTIONS RESPONSES

A total of 155 resolutions were forwarded to the provincial government for consideration following the 2005 UBCM Convention. In addition, 57 resolutions were conveyed to the new federal government and nine were conveyed to the FCM. Responses have been conveyed to the resolution sponsors.

The Province has indicated that 63 issues raised in the 2005 resolutions have already been addressed in whole or in part by provincial initiatives and noted that it was not willing to consider changes proposed in 36 of the resolutions. Further review and/or action will be undertaken on the changes suggested in 16 resolutions. As well, UBCM is already working with the Province on three resolutions, and will monitor provincial action in several other policy areas.

## UBCM PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

### *Health Programs*

- Community Health Promotion Fund – 30 pilot projects funded and underway;
- Participation in BC Healthy Living Alliance including *Call to Action* conference and planning related to \$25 million provincial grant;
- Active Civic Employees website launch in partnership with 2010 Legacies Now and phase 2 of Local Government Employee Health Promotion Project.

### *First Nations*

- 2006 Province-wide Community to Community Forum;
- 30 Community to Community Forums completed across the province through regional program;
- Treaty Advisory Committee support including joint meetings and policy advice.

### *Gas Tax*

- Community Works Funds Agreements concluded with all local governments outside GVRD and \$23 million funding provided;
- concluded a Strategic Priority Fund agreement

with GVRD and GVTA and flowed \$38 million for public transit;

- developed the funding agreement for the \$52 million Public Transit Agreement;
- also see final Annual Report.

### *Local Government Program Services*

- launched Community Tourism Program phase 1;
- provided funding to Canada-BC House in Torino;
- six traffic safety pilots launched;
- \$4 million funding renewed for West Nile programs;
- launch of operational fuel management funding with base of nearly \$10 million;
- \$2 million in Crystal Meth prevention program funding distributed;
- also see final Annual Report.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND LIAISON WITH OTHER GROUPS

Government relations is much more than dealing with policy issues reviewed in earlier sections – it is UBCM acting as a contact point on any number of issues. It extends to UBCM's role in communicating local government's messages and liaising with other groups.

Our contacts in the past year include:

- provincial Premier, ministers, ministry and agency staff at federal and provincial levels;
- BC Treaty Commission and the First Nations Summit;
- health authorities;
- BC School Trustees Association;
- Canada-BC Infrastructure Program – Management Committee and Joint Secretariat;
- Development Finance Review Committee;
- provincial associations like the BC Chamber of Commerce, BC Business Council, Smart Growth BC;
- presentation of local government issues to groups such as foreign delegations (Philippine associations);
- Fraser Basin Council;
- BC Progress Board;
- other local government associations – all five Area Associations visited; represented on the FCM board; and maintain relations with neighbouring groups like the Association of Washington Cities;
- professional groups such as LGMA, GFOA, PIBC, BOABC, MIA, AIBC, professional engineers; consulting engineers;
- regularly sought out by media;
- Land Title and Survey Authority Board and Stakeholders Committee;
- CivicInfo;

- Community Energy Association;
- BC Healthy Living Alliance;
- BC Healthy Communities Initiative;
- SPARC BC;
- BC Transmission Corporation;
- BC Hydro; BC Hydro Working Group on IPPs;
- 2010 Legacies Now;
- Tourism BC;
- Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off Road Vehicles;
- RCMP;
- National Crime Prevention Centre;
- BC Conservation Lands Forum;
- Council of Tourism Associations;
- Communities In Bloom;
- Economic Development Association of BC;
- BC Rural Partnership;
- BC Recreation and Parks Association;
- National Forest Accord – BC Coalition;
- Environment Conference on Integrated Environmental Management;
- Electronic Products Stewardship Canada;
- BC Underground Safety Project;
- BC Transit;
- BC Transmission Corporation Advisory Committee;
- One Window working Group on IPP development.

Some relationships are set out in agreements:

- MOU with Philippine Leagues and first mission completed;
- UBCM BCSTA protocol renewed;
- MOU with Province on Offshore Oil and Gas;
- renewal of MOU with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and First Nations Summit for an additional two year term;
- reviewed all MOUs and Agreements as part of annual procedures;
- BC Conservation Lands Forum Agreement.

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## MEMBER SERVICES

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UBCM makes a distinction between the member services that all members receive and those optional services that are available on a “user pay” basis.

### MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

#### *Publications*

- Thousands of copies of publications printed and distributed – for example: 1,600 Annual Report & Resolutions books, 550 Convention Minutes books, and over 1,200 Net•work•books distributed and sold;
- Updated and published 2,000 copies of Local

- Government in BC: A community effort booklet;
- UBCM releases report on Local Government Roles in Economic Development;
- numerous membership circulars and fax broadcasts distributed throughout the year;
- four issues of UBCM News – totaling 100 pages including the largest ever issue at 32 pages (Dec);
- updated UBCM Guide to Information Services;
- 2006 date planners and wall calendars produced;
- Net•work•book distributed; increased Professional Directory listings to 97;
- Aboriginal Affairs Update sent to Treaty Advisory Committees;
- updated 30 Fact Sheets on Local Government;
- two pilot issues of C2C Connect newsletter and secured funding for three additional issues.

#### *Other media*

- Continue to expand CivicNet (UBCM website).

### ADVICE, TRAINING AND INFORMATION SHARING

UBCM hosted or participated in a number of training events:

- Municipal Administration Training Institute; Capilano College local government administration course;
- 2006/2007 Community to Community Forum program (\$100,000 in federal and provincial funding);
- two day forum for CEOs (Mayors and Chairs);
- 2006 newly elected officials seminars – six seminars held, additional new session held in Nelson;
- commit to publish the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Local Government in BC;
- supported the annual regional district Chairs and CAOs meeting;
- Joint Treaty Advisory Committee Summit and workshops;
- meeting on the delivery of police services with representatives from rural areas and communities under 5,000 population;
- jointly held three Riparian Areas Regulation local government training sessions;
- Economic Development Conference;
- Local Government Leadership Academy groundwork laid;
- jointly supported six Healthy Planning Seminars held across BC.

Report and Conference on local government role in economic development.

#### *Member Liaison*

- 31 special appointments to visit members outside of the Greater Vancouver / Greater Victoria area plus the many trips to member communities in conjunction with other UBCM business.

## CONVENTION

UBCM Convention is the major member involvement for each year that involves policy development, training, networking and provincial government liaison. Some of the special events at the 2005 Convention were:

- highest rated Convention on record;
- new Community Excellence Awards Program Partner for 2006;
- Regional District Task Force reports out to 2005 Convention, with new Regional District Tool kit;
- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention had many special features;
- Long Service (25 year) awards given to:
  1. Cllr. Joanne Monaghan, District of Kitimat
  2. EA Director, John N. Voykin, RD of Central Kootenay
  3. Cllr. Anton Kruyt, Town of Qualicum Beach
  4. Mayor Jacob (Jack) Talstra, City of Terrace
  5. Mayor Lois E. Jackson, Corporation of Delta
- Life Membership awarded to:
  1. Hon. Murray Coell, Minister of MCAWS
  2. Gerry Armstrong, Deputy Minister MCAWS
  3. Director Aaron Dinwoodie, UBCM Past President
  4. Frank Storey, Long Serving UBCM Staff Member

## OPTIONAL MEMBER SERVICES

There are some services to members that are offered on an optional, pay-as-you-go basis but they are a significant portion of UBCM's activities:

- Group Benefit Association Plan in 24th year of operation with approximately \$9.8 million in annual premiums;
- group benefit plan successfully marketed;
- members buy dog tags through UBCM;
- Lists of Electors (provincial extracts) produced for 93 members;
- \$780,000 distributed to 102 members participating in the Commercial Vehicle Licensing program in 2005 (request for CVL legislative change to year-end was made).

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

UBCM Executive and staff continue to look for ways to be more effective and in the past year this has included:

- new plans for Municipal House;
- computer upgrade;
- history publication;
- history displays;
- updated corporate video;
- improving the functionality of online financial surveys and an expanded compensation survey;
- new, updated resolutions database online and accessible to members;

- archive established for UBCM historical publications and materials;
- information audit/UBCM library and library database clean-up.

## KEY INDICATORS – ACTIVITY BASED

- six Executive meetings;
- 34 UBCM Executive committee meetings held;
- 100% (185 out of 185) local governments have membership in UBCM - welcomed Queen Charlotte Village;
- over the year numerous meetings with Ministry of Community Services Minister and delegations from Minister of as part of our quarterly Executive meetings. As well, met with Senior BC Minister for the federal government, the Honourable Chuck Strahl.

## EXECUTIVE AND SECRETARIAT

- provide administrative oversight over delivery of Local Government Program Services;
- staffing: added or replaced the Manager of Member and Association Services, General Manager of New Deal Management Services, three Healthy Communities Staff; an LGPS Administrative Assistant, Office Services, a Policy Analyst and a summer student.

## ASSOCIATION SERVICES

UBCM provides services to:

- Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities;
- Lower Mainland Local Government Association;
- Building Officials' Association of British Columbia;
- Community Energy Association;
- Start-up of BC Healthy Communities initiative. UBCM is providing the secretariat support including staffing and offices under a contribution agreement with the Ministry of Health.

## *Finance*

- The year-end audited financial statements indicate a modest surplus;
- 2% dues increase.

## **(footnote)**

The format for Accomplishments in Brief reflects the Executive's Mission Statement. It is intended to connect accountability for outcomes with the objectives of UBCM.



# CELEBRATING OUR PAST, CHARTING OUR FUTURE

While UBCM is always looking forward, the occasion of our Centennial in 2005 gave us the impetus to look back and reflect on our journey over the past 100 years. In honour of the occasion we completed several projects looking back over that history and made the 2005 Convention a Centennial Celebration to remember.

## Centennial Projects

One project in particular stands out as a lasting reminder of the last 100 years: the new book on UBCM's history entitled: *UBCM: The First Century*. This hardcover book contains 272 pages full of attractive graphics, fascinating side-bars and a very readable narrative history of UBCM and local government in BC.



It details what local governments have achieved by working together through UBCM but it is more than a history of UBCM – it is a slice of local-provincial relations, a perspective on the evolution of local government in BC, and a unique perspective on some of the personalities that have affected the evolution of community and regional governance that has ultimately influenced the quality of life in the communities British Columbians

call home. In the words of reviewers, including Mark Forsythe of CBC and noted historian Jean Barr, the book is “impressive and rewarding,” “extremely well crafted” “highly readable and accessible,” “well-written, fair and accurate,” and most importantly, “a good read.”

New historical display panels were completed for display at Convention and other events. These visually appealing panels cover both the present, with panels looking at resolutions and policy, conventions, UBCM structure, and the past, with panels showing UBCM's history, achievements and a few of the people from around the province who have contributed to both the history and achievements.

Each of the four newsletters in 2005 featured a two-page spread covering different aspects of the organization's history. In March we saw an overview of the events in each decade. In June there was an overview of how UBCM takes action and some of its achievements, not to mention a list of some notable resolutions. In August we focused on conventions in UBCM's history, where they were, attendance, some interesting ones and some ideas of what people might have worn to the banquets. Finally, in November we looked at the history of the relationship between UBCM and the Province, tracing it through the ups and downs of the last 100 years. Each newsletter also featured a historical quiz.

The Centennial was marked on CivicNet with a history in words and pictures. This decade-by-decade look at UBCM joined the previously

available timeline, lists of Past Presidents, Long Service Awards, Life Members and Conventions and UBCM's Mission Statement and Act of Incorporation in a new Centennial Section. A photo bar of historical images and the Centennial logo were also added to the site.

Attendees at each Area Association conference received a handout showing how their area had been involved with UBCM throughout its history: conventions, presidents, long-service award recipients and interesting historical facts.

Publicly, UBCM's Centennial was marked with a resolution in the Provincial legislature recognizing the contributions of UBCM. Tributes were also received from the Governor General, the Prime Minister, and the Premier as well as the Municipal Insurance Association, the Municipal Finance Authority, BC Assessment and the Local Government Management Association.

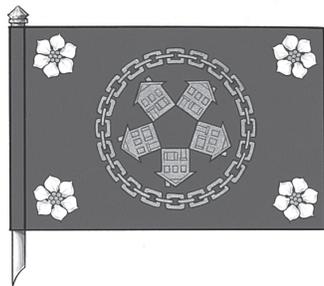
The UBCM corporate video was updated prior to Convention and shown to delegates there. It featured new footage, a new voiceover and new music, as well as some new materials for a more modern look.

Finally, a centennial logo was developed and a centennial overprint added to letterhead used in 2005.

## Centennial Convention

On Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005, delegates at Convention were taken back to UBCM's founding exactly 100 years previous. The morning opened with a historical presentation starting with part of UBCM's new video, followed closely by His Honour W.H. Keary, Mayor of New

Westminster in 1905, welcoming delegates to the new organization and speaking to how and why it was formed. He was followed by Past President Frank Leonard, who introduced a Special Resolution commemorating our Centennial. Then we saw a special multimedia presentation on the last 100 years presented by former CBC reporter Wendy Bancroft, who worked on the history book. Finally, the Chief Herald of Canada, Robert Watt, presented UBCM with an official flag and badge and 12 of the new flags were paraded across the stage by members of the Executive. The badge has now been added to a special UBCM mug and a pin for those who have served UBCM.



Later in the morning, Life Members took part in a special coffee party and had a group picture taken. The Lieutenant-Governor of BC was in attendance at the Delegates Lunch and brought brief greetings. The day

finished with the Annual Banquet, which was made even more festive with the addition of delegates and staff in historical finery.

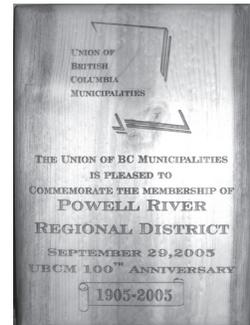
Centennial events were not limited to the Thursday of Convention. The week was proclaimed Union of British Columbia Municipalities Week by the Province. The opening reception took place among the historical displays at Storyeum. One hundred and forty-three members took part in the flag parade marking the opening on Wednesday morning and all delegates were invited to be part of a group photograph later in the day. On Friday morning the Prime Minister addressed Convention, only the second time that a sitting Prime Minister has done so. And throughout the Convention brief historical presentations and information were

presented, along with a few historical resolutions.

There was also a historical display in the lobby which contained the three new historical panels, the new video and a selection of memorabilia and photographs. In that display were proof copies of our new history book.

A second display showed tributes to UBCM and proclamations from 73 members and nine others.

Members also went home with some unique gifts. All delegates received a special binder and shoulder bag with the Centennial logo. The Minister of Community Services produced a special “elected officials” only pin that was presented after delegates signed an official registry. The final registry will be presented to UBCM. And each local government received a unique and significant plaque made out of pine beetle wood to recognize their membership in our centennial year.



In keeping with the Convention theme of “Celebrating our Past, Charting our Future”, delegates were asked to complete a “Looking Ahead” survey, which was used to develop a report on the priority issues that will form the agenda for the initial years of the second century.



# FOCUS ON FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS AND TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

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## FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Director Terry Raymond, Chair

Director Martin Cullen, Vice-Chair

Mayor Don MacLean

Director Aaron Dinwoodie, VP Liaison

Mayor Ralph Drew, LMTAC

## PRIORITIES

- Treaty related policy development
- *First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act*
- Treaty Advisory Committee support
- Community to Community Forum program
- Monitoring important legal decisions

UBCM's First Nations Relations Committee focus this year continues to be providing information and policy support to local governments with respect to treaty negotiations and strengthening local government-First Nations relations.

There are 46 sets of treaty negotiations in BC currently. Of these, there are 41 First Nations in Agreement in Principle (AIP) negotiations and six First Nations in Final Agreement negotiations. UBCM continues to support local governments involved in negotiations and their Treaty Advisory Committees (TACs). This has been accomplished through providing: advice and policy analysis; regular joint TAC meetings; a meeting between TACs and provincial and federal negotiators last September; regular electronic information updates through TAC website; and new TAC member orientation kits. With respect to policy analysis, this year UBCM has reviewed recently concluded Agreements in Principle at the Yale and Yekooche tables, and is developing an analysis of draft final agreement chapters from lead tables that are of key importance to local government.

Over the past year, in collaboration with the provincial and federal governments, UBCM commissioned an independent study called Treaty Settlement Land: The Fiscal Impacts on Local Governments. This report was sent to UBCM members for review and feedback in November 2005. Since then in response to the report, UBCM has written to the provincial Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to advocate for a broad and inclusive adjustment funding program for local governments that meets pre-treaty and post-treaty.

UBCM has also been very active in supporting local government - First Nations Relations, over the course of the year. Many of our activities in this area result from our formal agreements with the First Nations Summit and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada respectively, both of which were renewed in September 2005 for another two-year term.

In collaboration with the First Nations Summit, UBCM completed two pilot editions of Community to Community Connect – a newsletter on local government-First Nations relations. Based on the initial success, UBCM has secured funding to complete three more editions, which are currently underway. Also with the First Nations Summit, UBCM jointly organized the fourth and largest province-wide Community to Community Forum held on March 20, 2006 in Vancouver. Over 200 local government and First Nations representatives came together to discuss how to move the relationship building process from dialogue to partnership. Finally, through UBCM's Regional Community to Community Forum Program (now in its seventh year), over 30 successful local events were held across the province.

At the 2005 UBCM Convention, UBCM also organized one of the first public presentations by the First Nations Leadership Council and the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation on the New Relationship. The First Nations Leadership Council is comprised of the political executives of the First Nations Summit, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the Assembly of First Nations, and was created through a Leadership Accord signed on March 25, 2005.

# SURVEY PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES



This past year the Community Economic Development Committee has concentrated on solidifying its new mandate with respect to economic development. Building on the excellent response from members to the economic development survey in March 2005, the Committee determined that there would be great benefit in sharing the survey information with the membership. The Committee approached the Minister of Economic Development, the Honourable Colin Hansen with a proposal to hold a conference and to develop a report that would highlight the survey results, share best practices and assist communities in identifying what their options and opportunities are in economic development. The Minister confirmed funding assistance and both projects, the conference and report, moved forward this past year.

The conference was held on March 30-31, 2006 with over 170 delegates attending. In addition to formal presentations, discussion groups and keynotes, a mini-tradeshow marketplace was held to connect delegates with a variety of economic development partners. Based on the excellent evaluations (overall rating 4.1 / 5) the conference was a success with many delegates requesting that it be held annually and others indicating that they valued the networking opportunities most of all. The final conference summary will be included in the Economic Development Report that is presently being finalized and will be distributed to all members this summer.

Committee members have continued to respond to a variety of resource policy matters over the past year. In the area of forestry, the Committee has continued to pressure both the provincial and federal governments to address the mountain pine

beetle epidemic as well as the emerging problem with the western pine beetle. Also on the forestry file, the Committee has continued to monitor developments on the softwood lumber dispute and recent efforts by the federal government to reach an agreement to the long-standing dispute. As well, input has been provided on the provincial government's review of the community forests program, the results of which will be known later this year.

Energy continues to dominate much of the Committee's focus. With news of an update to the BC Energy Plan, the Committee is developing a member response on a variety of energy issues including electricity, alternative energy, conservation, oil and gas and transportation. As well, the Committee responded to the provincial Oil and Gas Regulatory Review Initiative earlier this year and monitors the work of a variety of working groups dealing with energy efficiency, conservation and community energy planning matters. A new MOU working group on Offshore Oil and Gas was established and has met twice this year. Representatives include local elected officials from the potentially affected regions of the province as well as the CED Committee Chair, Mayor Sharon Hartwell. The Working Group is in the process of identifying local government interests with respect to offshore oil and gas, so that if the decision is made to lift the moratorium, local governments are prepared to respond.

UBCM efforts to restore and enhance funding to the Regional Film Commissions paid off as the Province confirmed that funding has been maintained or increased and will now be guaranteed for three years. On the federal front, the Committee continues to monitor the implementation of the new Wild Salmon Policy and its implications for coastal communities.

## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Chair

Mayor Terry Lake

Councillor Bea Holland

Councillor Sharon Gaetz

Director Susan Gimse, VP Liaison

## Priorities

- Continue to seek provincial and federal government assistance to address the mountain and western pine beetle
- Complete and distribute to members the community economic development report
- Respond to the Province's energy plan renewal process
- Continue to participate in the MOU working group on offshore oil and gas
- Monitor the implementation of the new wild salmon policy
- Continue to monitor developments in the softwood lumber file
- Provide input into the review of community forests and monitor the invitations offered for new community forest licenses
- Monitor developments in mining and agriculture policy, including the Province's plan to develop a BC Agriculture Plan



# FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Mayor Herb Pond, Chair

Director Harry Nyce, Vice-Chair

Director Martin Cullen

Councillor Patricia Wallace

Director Aaron Dinwoodie, VP Liaison

## PRIORITIES

- Continue working to ensure both the timely completion of the implementation tools for the Riparian Areas Regulation and the incorporation of local government concerns within the Regulation and associated policy directives
- Engage in consultation with the Ministry of Environment to address local government concerns regarding the regulatory and policy changes to the Contaminated Sites Regulation
- Work with the Ministry of Health and the British Columbia On-Site Sewage Association to address local government concerns arising from the implementation of the new Sewerage Regulation
- Monitor and respond to ongoing and emerging environmental policy, legislative, and regulatory issues that affect local government
- Enhance communication with the Ministry of Environment and the Environment Canada
- Investigate the possibility of creating a sustainable community planning guide that incorporates both integrated environmental management perspectives and potential funding sources for sustainability planning

Over the past year, the Environment Committee has been actively monitoring and advising on a number of key environmental regulations which impact the sustainability and well being of local communities. From riparian areas protection, to sewage systems, to product stewardship, the Committee has voiced local government concerns and recommendations on regulations either being introduced, amended, or undergoing a “growing pain” phase of implementation.

The implementation of the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) dominated the Environment Committee’s agenda this year. The Committee worked diligently with the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to ensure that local governments had both the information and tools required to effectively understand and implement the RAR. Based on an assessment of local government readiness to implement the Regulation, the Environment Committee secured an additional implementation extension until March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 from the Minister in June. The Committee also jointly commissioned a liability review with MOE to determine liability implications for local governments, and collaborated with the senior agencies on conducting local government training sessions. It also advised on regulatory amendments that clarified the scope and application of the Regulation as well as reduced local government liability. The Riparian Areas Regulation took effect on April 1st, 2006.

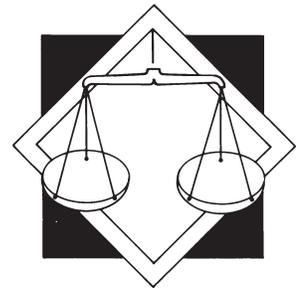
The Committee has also been active in addressing local government concerns with the implementation of the Sewerage System Regulation (SSR). The Regulation governs the disposal of domestic sewage by requiring that registered professionals be responsible for installing and maintaining domestic sewerage systems with a daily sewerage flow of less than 22,700 litres. Since

the Regulation took effect on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, the Environment Committee has articulated local government concerns over the increased cost to homeowners, the inadequate number of certified professionals in several areas, and the lack of flexibility in installation options for homeowners. It has actively worked with the British Columbia On-Site Sewerage Association, the Ministry of Health, and the new Sewerage System Leadership Council to facilitate the implementation of the SSR in a manner that protects the health and environment of local communities.

In accordance with the product stewardship framework adopted in the 2003 Environment Action Plan, the Committee supported the development of extended producer responsibility programs for both tires and electronic waste. In Spring 2006, the Minister of Environment added a schedule to the Recycling Regulation for both electronic waste and tires, which requires that industry create product stewardship plans for the end of life management of these products. The Committee provided comments on the Ministry’s intentions papers for adding these two schedules, advised on the Recycling Regulation guidebook, and has staff representation on the BC Electronic Waste Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Council.

In addition, the Committee continued to work with the Ministry of Health in addressing the application of the West Nile Virus Regulation. Discussions have been held with the Ministry over the proposed indemnity agreement, and the Committee continues to seek revisions to the agreement to address outstanding local government liability concerns. Overall, the Environment Committee has sought to work with the senior agencies where possible in identifying solutions arising from the implementation of these regulations that meet the needs of local governments.

# FOCUS ON Collaboration



The Community Safety Committee in the past year worked on a number of collaborative initiatives with the province. The Committee helped facilitate the expansion of the bylaw dispute adjudication system to other communities. The Committee also met with the BC211 working group, which is developing an easy to remember telephone number that will become a single access point for citizens looking for information about human services and resources in the community, and provided input into the process. The Committee facilitated a meeting with the provincial liquor policy staff and local government staff to discuss community issues related to liquor policy.

A total of 15 local governments have received authorization from the provincial government to establish a bylaw dispute adjudication system. The new bylaw dispute system is now being used in the following areas North Shore municipalities (West Vancouver District, North Vancouver District and North Vancouver City, Lions Bay and Bowen Island), the Chilliwack area (Chilliwack, Kent, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope and Fraser Valley RD) and Coquitlam. The communities of Surrey, Richmond, Pitt Meadows and Duncan are at various

stages in the implementation process. The Committee is working with the province to encourage expansion to other communities where this new system is appropriate.

Discussions have taken place at the staff level on the future direction of liquor policy and the role of local government in this process. These are ongoing consultations to clarify the direction that the province is looking at and what it might mean to local communities. The Community Safety Committee is promoting this dialogue to ensure a better understanding and working relationship between the province and local government in this area.

The Committee has not been successful in getting the federal or provincial government to share the revenues they obtain through the proceeds of crime with local government. Local communities are looking to be treated fairly and at a minimum be ensured that the costs it may incur when assisting federal provincial agencies in a major crime investigations are recovered from these proceeds. This is a long standing concern of local government and the Committee will continue to pursue it.

The pilot project initiated to implement the first bylaw adjudication process was a finalist for the 2006 Premier's Award in the Partnership Category. The organizations that supported the pilot project were the Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry of Community Services, North Vancouver District, North Vancouver City, West Vancouver District, Local Government Management Association and Union of British Columbia Municipalities.



## COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Councillor Mary Sjostrom,  
Chair

Mayor Don MacLean, Vice-  
Chair

Councillor Kim Capri

Councillor Sharon Gaetz

Peter Webster, BC Assoc. of  
Police Boards

Councillor Brenda Binnie, VP  
Liaison

## PRIORITIES

- Assist in implementation and expansion of new bylaw notice dispute adjudication process to other local governments
- Facilitate increased consultation with local government on liquor policy
- Explore opportunities for sharing proceeds of crime revenue with local government
- Assist in the implementation of the crystal meth program
- Review the coordination of crime prevention initiatives (seniors, women etc.)
- Review new provincial model for financing policing costs in 2007 for small communities and rural areas



# STANDING COMMITTEES REPORT NEW INITIATIVES

## **PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE**

Councillor Marvin Hunt,  
President

Councillor Brenda Binnie, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Vice-President

Director Susan Gimse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-  
President

Director Aaron Dinwoodie,  
Past President

## **CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

Director Susan Gimse, Chair/  
VP Liaison

Councillor Bea Holland, Vice  
Chair

Councillor Mary Sjostrom  
Mayor Terry Lake

Councillor Patricia Wallace

## **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Councillor Brenda Binnie, Chair  
(VP Liaison)

Chair Robert Hobson, Vice  
Chair

Director Harry Nyce  
Mayor Herb Pond

It has been a year of reflection and preparation.

To commemorate the UBCM's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, special projects were brought to fruition this past year, many of which were profiled at the Convention including the UBCM history publication, video as well as historical and corporate displays. This past year has provided the Presidents Committee with an opportunity to reflect on the many achievements of the organization.

And, with an eye to the future much of the Committee's focus has been on preparing UBCM for the next century. Recognizing the training and educational needs of our local elected officials, plans for the Local Government Leadership Academy took shape in 2005. With the Premier's announcement of \$1 million to assist in the establishment of the Academy and funding support from the membership and other key partners, the groundwork has been laid for its governance, structure and program offerings.

As well, plans for a new Municipal House or Local Government House (as it may be) are beginning to come together. With the location of a potential site, planning has begun on building design and layout. We have taken up the challenge and are using the LEED standard to make this building a showcase.

With respect to the ongoing organizational activities the Committee continues to be the lead body for the federal gas tax funds, transit funding and the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. As well, we continue to work with our partners at LGMA and CivicInfo to develop a joint survey website and grants information site for local governments. We delivered a total of six newly elected training programs in 2006 with a new session added in the Kootenays for the first time.

In regard to member services, we surveyed

members as to their level of satisfaction with the group benefit plan and used that information to guide our marketing of the plan to a variety of carriers. We have successfully negotiated a contract with Pacific Blue Cross to become our sole benefit carrier. We also continued with our annual production of planners and wall calendars; Net•work•book and maintained our regular member visit schedule.

## **Convention Recognizes 100 years**

In 2005, UBCM celebrated its centennial year. Many special projects and events were prepared in honour of the special occasion, such as a historical presentation in the plenary by members of the Executive, and visits by both the Prime Minister and the Lieutenant Governor of BC. We were also fortunate to have the Chief Herald present UBCM with its official badge and flag to commemorate our 100 years of advocacy on behalf of local governments.

Delegates gathered for a group photo outside the Vancouver Convention Centre and even celebrated the centennial by wearing costumes inspired by the last 100 years to the Annual Banquet. Over 1800 delegates attended the Convention and rated it at 4.3 out of 5 – the highest rating ever given.

## **Resolutions**

The annual resolutions process forms the foundation of UBCM's ongoing advocacy work on behalf of British Columbia's local governments. Resolutions are a means of speaking with one voice to express the needs and concerns of BC communities and often result in positive change for municipalities and regional districts throughout the province.

Several of last year's resolutions provide examples of the kinds of success that can be achieved through this process:

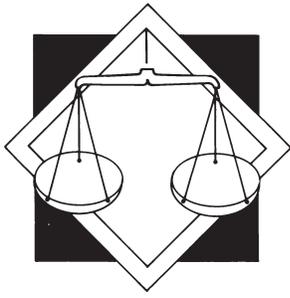
- resolution A2 requested provincial help in eliminating residential marijuana grow operations and the Province responded with amendments to the Safety Standards Act that allow local governments to obtain electricity consumption information and to share this with local fire and safety inspectors and police;
- resolution B53 encouraged Canada Post to retain the current Library Book Rate for the transport of library books and UBCM has been advised that this rate will continue to July 2007;
- resolution B149 requested that the Province extend Presumptive Cancer Regulation protection to volunteer firefighters and, with recent amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act, this was achieved.

These are some of last year's quick success stories. There are other resolutions from 2005 and years past that may not have achieved immediate results but have nevertheless resulted in local government issues being brought to the attention of the provincial and federal governments. Close to 100% of UBCM resolutions have received direct responses from provincial and federal ministries over the past several years – indicating that, if change is not always achieved, UBCM is at least making its collective voice heard and leaving an impression.

In 2006, members are once again proposing a broad variety of resolutions on topics of importance to local governments throughout BC. Resolutions related to local government elections are prominent

in this post-election year and there is an increased focus on natural hazard mitigation and community safety issues. In addition, the need for provincial and federal government investment in local government infrastructure continues to be a priority for UBCM members.

And finally, a key change to the 2006 resolutions process should be noted. In response to a desire expressed by delegates to the 2005 Convention, the UBCM Executive has put forth a special resolution that (upon endorsement) will enable any UBCM delegate to move that a resolution be pulled from the B1 block for debate, regardless of whether or not the delegate is from the sponsoring local government. It is hoped that this change will provide all delegates with an equal opportunity to address B1 resolutions on an individual basis where this is desired.



# POLICE FINANCING: SMALL COMMUNITIES & ELECTORAL AREAS

## **POLICE FINANCING TASK FORCE**

Director Susan Gimse, Chair

Director Terry Raymond

Mayor Sharon Hartwell

Director Aaron Dinwoodie

Councillor Mary Sjoström

Mayor Ralph Drew

## **PRIORITIES**

- ♦ Overseeing collection of information on provincial government proposal
- ♦ Establish a set of principles that should underlie the financing proposal
- ♦ Review the proposal and report on its evaluation
- ♦ Develop work plan and schedule
- ♦ Determine the level and method of member consultation
- ♦ Ensure that related issues are considered

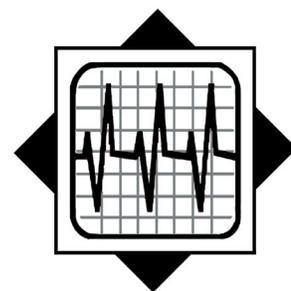
Once UBCM received confirmation, in the fall of 2005, that the Province intended to establish a new police financing model in 2007 that would require small communities and rural areas to pay for policing costs it established the Police Financing Task Force to address the issue. The purpose of the Task Force was to collect information about the new police financing model, evaluate the information and consult with the members on what action to take.

Representatives of the Police Financing Task Force members met with the Honourable John Les, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and staff to discuss the province's intentions with the new model and to outline some of the general concerns that local government had with the process. The Task Force was instrumental in getting the provincial report entitled "Police Financing in British Columbia: A New Police Financing Model in Small Communities and Rural Areas" released. The report outlined the model being proposed by the province and the

financial cost to each small community and electoral area. This information was essential to local government understanding the impact of the proposed changes on it.

A province wide consultation session was organized on May 26, 2007, it was attended by over 125 local government representatives. The session provided an opportunity for local government to discuss the implementation of the new police financing model with staff from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the intent of the process with Minister Les. Local government representatives identified a number of concerns, such as the fairness and equity of the model, accountability to local communities in delivery of police services and the need for some certainty over police costs in the future to name a few. The Task Force will be following up on the issues raised by the members with the Minister and will be establishing a local government staff working group to assist in the evaluation of a number of the issues.

# SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION PRIORITIES



Over the past year, the UBCM Executive's Healthy Communities Committee (not to be confused with the BC Healthy Communities Initiative – see below) has continued to focus on supporting communities to take action on their health priorities. This focus stems from a recognition that what local governments do – whether its providing water or recreation services, trying to grapple with complex issues like homelessness or planning for walkable neighbourhoods – has an impact on health.

A good example of supporting local governments to take action is UBCM's Community Health Promotion Fund. UBCM received a \$5 million grant from the Ministry of Health in April 2005. A call for Expressions of Interest was sent to all UBCM members in August and by November 2005 thirty pilot projects were approved in principle. These pilot projects, all involving collaboration between local governments and other community partners, are seeking to address a wide variety of health promotion priorities such as reducing chronic disease risk factors (overweight, physical inactivity and smoking) to other factors affecting health including transportation and substance abuse. All pilot projects are underway and will help to shape future phases of the program as well as contribute to best practices and innovation.

Together with the Planning Institute of BC and the Ministry of Health, over the past year UBCM also supported six "Healthy Planning Seminars" across the province. The seminars were attended by a total of 325 people including local elected officials, community planners, health authority representatives and others and focused on practical ways they can work together to enable environments that support health. Current research focusing on the link between community planning and health outcomes was presented at each event. UBCM hopes to participate

in follow-up activities that capitalize on the interest in health impact assessment tools.

Such follow-up activities may be undertaken by BC Healthy Communities (BCHC), which was established this year. UBCM assisted with the start-up of this initiative by hiring central secretariat staff housed in our Victoria offices, overseeing development of a strategic plan, administering funds from Ministry of Health and by participating on the Steering Committee. BCHC's mission is to act as a catalyst to strengthen the capacity of BC communities to enhance health and well-being through building their social, environmental and economic assets. Work is underway to inform local governments about how they can become actively involved.

UBCM remains an active member of the BC Healthy Living Alliance (BCHLA). A key development for the BCHLA in 2005-06 was a \$25 million grant received from the provincial government to support The Winning Legacy, BCHLA's plan for reaching health improvement targets in BC by 2010. UBCM has also supported a second phase of the local government employee health promotion project, designed to provide interested members with information and access to on-line "ACE" or Active Civic Employees Network (see [www.civicnet.bc.ca](http://www.civicnet.bc.ca) under programs and services).

UBCM continues to provide input to the province on the re-writing of the public Health Act, which will update local government's role in essential public health functions.

Finally, this year UBCM has conducted a survey of local governments, regional hospital districts and Health Authorities to gain current information on effectiveness of communications, consultations and joint initiatives. Results of the survey will be reported at the 2006 UBCM Convention.

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chair Robert Hobson, Chair  
Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Vice  
Chair  
Councillor Kim Capri  
Director Terry Raymond  
Councillor Brenda Binnie, VP  
Liaison

## PRIORITY ISSUES

- Supporting community health promotion
- Continuing participation in the BC Healthy Living Alliance
- Continuing to provide input on Public Health Act re-write
- Survey of local governments, Regional Hospital Districts and Health Authorities



UNION OF  
BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
MUNICIPALITIES

Administration provided  
by UBCM

Funding provided by:  
Province of B.C.



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[www.civicnet.bc.ca](http://www.civicnet.bc.ca)  
under

Services & Surveys  
Local Government Program Services

# Local Government Program Services

...programs to address provincial-local government shared priorities

**U**BCM has been delivering a number of provincially funded programs since 2004. Building on the successes of 2004 and 2005, we received an additional \$16.2 million in support of new or expanded community programming. These funds included:

Crystal Methamphetamine Response: \$2 million

West Nile Virus Prevention: \$4 million

Fuel Management Initiatives: \$10.2 million

This is the second annual report to members on those programs. Regular programming updates are also provided by way of the UBCM Newsletter. Included in this year's Financial Statements are audited accounts for funds received, amounts disbursed and fund balances. More detailed expenditures and our accounting policies are available on the Civicnet website. It is important to recognize that these funds are completely separate from UBCM regular accounts.

The following is not an exhaustive report, but more illustrative of the types of activities that have been undertaken by UBCM directly, or by members using the funding provided.

## Community Structural Protection Units

Funded by Ministry of Community Services (then MCAWS) - \$1 million/2004

In 2004 three mobile structural protection units and a full set of inventory were developed for wildfire protection in the interface. This equipment is owned by the UBCM, and made available to the Ministry of Forests and Range for deployment during fire season. Off-season, the UBCM works cooperatively with the Office of the Fire Commissioner to make this equipment available for educational and training activities.

## Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiatives:

Funded by Ministry of Forests and Range - \$13.3 million/multi-year

- **Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)**

A CWPP is the first step for communities wishing to embark on wildfire prevention activities. During this fiscal year, twenty five communities made successful application to the program, for a total of 80 local governments with a CWPP completed or underway.

- **Fuel Management Pilot Projects**

Pilot projects are intended to build on the completed CWPP and provide an opportunity to assess potential fuel management methodologies and associated costs. To date, 13 pilot projects are completed or underway.

- **Operational Fuel Management**

Funding for larger scale operational fuel management is now available for those who have completed a CWPP and pilot project. Separate funding is available for those affected by Mountain Pine Beetle.

## Emergency Planning

Funded by Provincial Emergency Program - \$2.5 million/multi-year

This program is intended to provide local governments with resources to support emergency planning activities, including plan upgrading, exercising and training. 53 local governments have taken advantage of program funding in 2006.

## Seniors Housing and Support Services Initiative:

Funded by Ministry of Community Services (then MCAWS) - \$2 million/2004

2005 activities have built on previous years successes with continued information sharing resources such as the Seniors in Communities website, and various workshops. Seniors in Community Dialogue funding was extended until June 2006, and various “Seniors in Communities” pilots are currently underway. A province-wide conference is planned for September 2006.

### **Community Tourism:**

Funded by the Province of British Columbia - \$25 million/2005

This program was designed to enhance local tourism development and fill gaps in sectors not being marketed or that have yet to develop their potential. To date, 79 local governments have made application to the program.

### **Regional Traffic Safety Initiative:**

Funded by Ministry of Community Services (then MCAWS) – \$100,000/2004

A series of pilot projects are being conducted around the province to explore innovative ways of encouraging traffic safety within communities. Successful pilots are being conducted with support from the BC Automobile Association Traffic Safety Foundation.

### **West Nile Prevention Initiative:**

Funded by Ministry of Health - \$5 million/2005 \$4 million/2006

This program was developed to provide financial assistance for the implementation of local mosquito control programs, with a goal of reducing mosquito populations and risk of occurrence of West Nile Virus. In 2005 we received 65 applications covering more than 130 local government and First Nations communities. Additionally, 12 applications were approved for treatment on crown lands.

### **School Community Connections:**

Funded by Ministry of Education to the BC School Trustees Association - \$10 million/2005

Designed to encourage partnerships between local governments and school districts, this program encourages better utilization of schools for locally determined community activities and services. This program is designed in three stages, Making the Connection; Developing the Connection; and Completing Connection. To date, 27 Making the Connection programs are underway and 3 have entered into the second phase of the program. UBCM does not hold the funding for this program but is a full partner in program design and provides all program administration.

### **Crystal Methamphetamine Response:**

Funded by Ministry of Solicitor General - 2 million/2005

This program was designed to encourage community-based initiatives to discourage the use and/or production of crystal methamphetamines. The May 31, 2006 deadline saw the program fully subscribed with applications representing 111 local government and 88 First Nations organizations. Successful applicants have one year from date of approval to complete activities funded under the program.

### **Community Health Promotion Fund**

Funded by Ministry of Health - \$5 million/2005

This program was developed to facilitate a series of pilot projects addressing a wide variety of health promotion priorities. 30 pilot projects, all involving collaboration between local governments and other community partners are currently underway. Results of these pilots will help to shape future phases of the program as well as contribute to best practices and innovation.

Details of each program are available on the UBCM website under Programs and Services/Local Government Program Services.



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Administration provided  
By UBCM

Funding provided by:  
Government of Canada

**Canada**

In partnership with:



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Phone: 250 356-5133  
Fax: 250 356-5119

Website:

[www.civicnet.bc.ca](http://www.civicnet.bc.ca)  
under  
Programs & Services

## Federal Gas Tax & Public Transit Funding Program

New Deal Management Services was formed in October 2005, to administer funding under the Canada – British Columbia – UBCM Agreement on the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues under the New Deal for Cities and Communities (the Gas Tax Agreement). The Gas Tax Agreement will deliver over \$635 million to BC local governments over a five-year period and UBCM plays a leadership role in implementation of the Agreement. The Government of Canada has delivered the first year's funding allocation of \$76.272 million to UBCM.

The Gas Tax Agreement provides funding for local government capacity building and public transit, community energy, water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure under three separate programs: Community Works Fund, Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) and Innovations Fund.

Funding under the Community Works Fund is delivered directly to eligible local governments, in accordance with a set distribution formula, once the local government enters into an agreement with UBCM. To date, just over \$23 million has been distributed under this program to local governments outside of the Greater Vancouver area.

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) requested that all funding for the regional district and its member municipalities be allocated to Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (GVTA) and used for transit capital projects identified in its Strategic Transportation Plan. In keeping with this request, a SPF for Greater Vancouver was established and in early 2006 a funding agreement under that SPF was signed by GVRD, GVTA and UBCM. UBCM has since delivered over \$38 million to GVTA, representing the first year's funding under that Agreement.

Development of the Innovations Fund and the SPF for the remainder of the province is continuing. It is expected that the first of this funding will be distributed to local governments later in 2006.

The Canada – British Columbia – UBCM Public Transit Agreement was signed on March 31, 2006. In early April, UBCM received the full \$52.5 million allocated under this Agreement from the Government of Canada. While the majority of the funding is to be distributed to existing public transit systems, an amount was reserved to support public transit in communities without existing systems. Funding will be distributed to public transit system partners, including local governments, BC Transit and GVTA throughout the upcoming fiscal year.

The accompanying financial statements set out receipts and disbursement of funds, including administration costs, under both the Gas Tax Agreement and the Public Transit Agreement. In both cases, costs to administer the programs are recovered from interest earned on the funds received from Canada.