

URGENT

TO: Mayor and Council
Chair and Regional Boards

CC: Chief Administrative Officers and Corporate Administrators

FROM: Brenda Binnie, UBCM President

DATE: September 6, 2007

RE: **THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER**

I am writing to provide you a briefing on discussions that we have had with the provincial government in the last eight weeks and opportunities to signal a joint local-provincial commitment to climate change and greenhouse gas reduction at the 2007 UBCM Convention.

The UBCM Executive met with the Premier in early July. He outlined the provincial government's commitments to address climate change and support development of green communities. He specifically stated the provincial government's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2010 and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33% by 2020.

I had the opportunity to outline some of the commitments or actions already made by local governments.

We discussed the opportunity to advance the climate change and green communities agenda by working together.

Out of that discussion emerged the concept of a joint Climate Action Charter.

We profiled this proposal on Page 1 of the August Newsletter.

UBCM POLICY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION

Your Executive took basic direction in developing the Climate Action Charter from the previous resolutions of UBCM Conventions. As early as 1991, UBCM has considered and endorsed resolutions that recognized the need to reduce greenhouse gases. We have prepared a synopsis of past resolutions and it and a full digest of resolutions is available on CivicNet at: www.civicnet.bc.ca/Featured Policy Topics/Climate Change. We will consider nine resolutions at the 2007 Convention specific to Climate Change.

In our presentation to the Premier, UBCM outlined the many initiatives that local government has undertaken to address climate change. Our digest can also be found on CivicNet.

CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER

We have completed jointly drafting with the Province The BC Climate Action Charter and have enclosed a copy for your consideration.

The parties are:

- Province of British Columbia
- UBCM
- Signatory Local Governments - those who advise us they would like to sign on

The UBCM Executive has reviewed it, and based on an already endorsed policy, the Executive has recommended support for UBCM signing the document.

In fact, we have already begun to pursue the opportunities in the Charter by suggesting to the provincial government some legislative changes that would support climate change. Earlier this month our Executive Director wrote to all the Chief Administrative Officers seeking any input on legislation changes.

The proposal at Convention is to provide the opportunity for all interested local governments to show their commitment to the goals and other aspects of the Charter by "signing on".

We envision Mayors and Chairs being invited to signal their council or board's acceptance of this Charter on behalf of their local governments. The format also allows you to include at your discretion an Addendum to the Charter that lists your accomplishments and additional undertakings. {note the sample Addendum is simply illustrative of what you could develop.}

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CONSIDERATION OF THE CHARTER

We acknowledge that the notice of the opportunity to consider and sign on to the Climate Action Charter is short.

However, the nature of the local government commitment has been structured so as to facilitate expeditious consideration by your council or board. For instance, this is not a legal agreement. Question and answer material is also available on CivicNet.

Some may ask about the other provincial commitments - such as funding and support. These have been discussed but responses are more likely to come in the form of responses to UBCM resolutions or in the form of announcements during the Convention.

We hope that you will have an opportunity to consider this matter and if you agree to "sign-on", please notify the office as soon as possible to arrange your participation at the Convention. If you have any questions please call Richard Taylor (604.270.8226 ext. 105) or Jared Wright (ext. 113) or rtaylor@civicnet.bc.ca.

Attachment: The BC Climate Action Charter

780:25:Climate Change Action Charters Memo