

HIGHLIGHTS OF UBCM EXECUTIVE MEETING November 23 – 24, 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This marked the first meeting of the new UBCM Executive since the Annual Convention. It was a very productive session. We established our Committees and many of them met to establish their work plans and immediate priorities for their next meetings in January. We welcomed new members and provided a grounding that should allow the new Executive to work as a team. We attended to business arising from the Convention and other matters that have arisen in the past four weeks since the Convention. We established a process to articulate our priorities for the new year ahead and will present our "vision" for the upcoming year at the next Executive meeting in January. We also had an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Jim Doyle. All in all, I can report that your new Executive is up and running with the mandates given to us by the membership.

I look forward to hearing your concerns in the coming months and to meeting members at the five Area Association meetings in the spring.

Best of the Season to each of you,

Director Jim Abram
President, UBCM

GENERAL BUSINESS: EXECUTIVE DECIDES

- established priorities and objectives for the coming year.
- agreed to reconstitute the Joint Council to provide for a parallel process of consultation on local government matters with both the Government and the Opposition.
- considered resolutions referred to the Executive from the 2000 Convention. (see separate article on resolutions disposition)
- approved resolutions to be forwarded to the Federal Government.
- addressed a number of policy matters including:

- endorsed an approach to changing the way short term accommodation properties are classified for assessment purposes so that these properties are defined in the same manner as are accommodations in the Hotel Room Tax Act and would therefore be subject to Business classification, as are other similar accommodation properties;

- in response to a recent Property Assessment Appeal Board decision which awarded an exemption for a dust and particulate matter eliminator at a cement plant in Kamloops, the Executive would write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to request that at the next possible legislative window, that s. 339(1)(p) of the Local Government Act be repealed in keeping with other similar changes that were made in 1997, pursuant to statements of intent that were made in that year's provincial Budget;

- the Executive will write to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to reinforce UBCM's interest in participating in the provincial review of the distribution formula for BC Rail payments in lieu, which would affect payments for 2001 and beyond;

- staff is participating on a committee which is addressing the issue of WCB coverage for volunteers and employees doing public education and other related duties outside of normal working hours;

- heard a report on the work of the Aggregate Industry Review Panel, and agreed to assist in the organization of a workshop for UBCM members if required, depending on the Panel's recommendations;

- authorized staff to open discussions with the Ombudsman's Office with respect to developing a protocol regarding the exercise of Ombudsman jurisdiction as it involves local government;

- indicated its support for an initiative on Snowmobile Trail Use and Management and will continue to monitor progress to ensure that there are no financial implications for local government;

- in responding to correspondence from the Ministry of Social Development and Economic

Security, UBCM will indicate that it has received legal advice to the effect that local governments do not have the authority to impose requirements to ensure that residential building permits issued prior to July 1, 1999 have a new home warranty.

- approved Executive committees and persons to represent UBCM externally.

- received report on media coverage of the 2000 UBCM Convention.

- received a report outlining possible legal action by the Airport Community Common Front if the federal government did not change the Crash/Fire regulation and a summary of a report by the Council of Tourism Association of British Columbia on changes needed in the airline industry to increase tourism.

- received a briefing on traffic fine revenue sharing program that confirmed the formula for establishing the amount of fine revenue to be distributed. That briefing highlighted some uncertainties about future revenues. The immedi-

WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

The following new members were welcomed to the Executive:

Mayor Alice Maitland, Small Community Representative, Village of Hazelton

Councillor Bruce Strachan, Director At Large, City of Prince George

Councillor Bert Banks, AKBM Representative, City of Kimberley

Councillor Marvin Hunt, LMMA Representative, City of Surrey

Councillor Dan Rogers, NCMA Representative, City of Prince George

Councillor Ida Makaro, OMMA Representative, Village of Cache Creek

Mayor Pearl Myhres, AVICC Representative, Village of Zeballos

A full listing of the Executive is attached for reference.

Please make copies of this Circular and distribute them to Council/Board Members and Staff

2000-2001 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

This year the Health Committee has been reconstituted; the Gaming Committee has merged with Justice and Protective Services; and the Local Government Awareness program will now be the responsibility of the Member Services Committee. The Committees are constituted as follows:

Resolutions

Chair Hans Cunningham, Chair
Councillor Pat Wallace
Mayor Frank Leonard
Mayor Barbara Sharp

Convention

Mayor Helen Sparkes, Chair
Chair Hans Cunningham
Councillor Bert Banks

Member Services / Local Government Awareness

Mayor Frank Leonard, Chair
Chair Hans Cunningham
Councillor Bert Banks
Councillor Bruce Strachan

Justice and Protective Services Committee / Gaming

Councillor Lynne Kennedy, Chair
Councillor Pat Wallace
Chair Susan Gimse
Councillor Marvin Hunt
Mayor Helen Sparkes
Councillor Dan Rogers

Environment

Chair Robert Hobson, Chair
Councillor Lynne Kennedy
Councillor Pat Wallace
Councillor Bruce Strachan
Mayor Alice Maitland

Aboriginal Affairs

Director Aaron Dinwoodie, Chair
Mayor Alice Maitland
Mayor Pearl Myhres
Mayor Corinne Lonsdale
Mayor Don Bell, LMTAC Rep.

Communities and Resources

Mayor Corinne Lonsdale, Chair
Mayor Barbara Sharp
Mayor Steve Thorlakson
Councillor Dan Rogers
Mayor Pearl Myhres
Director Aaron Dinwoodie

Health

Chair Susan Gimse, Chair
Mayor Helen Sparkes
Councillor Marvin Hunt
Councillor Ida Makaro
Chair Robert Hobson
Mayor Steve Thorlakson

Arts, Culture, Heritage and Tourism

Mayor Barbara Sharp, Chair
Councillor Lynne Kennedy
Councillor Ida Makaro
Mayor Alice Maitland

ate priority of the Executive is to establish a date with the Minister of Municipal Affairs to discuss all 2001 grants as is required by the Local Government Grants Act. This is anticipated to happen in December.

- agreed to participate in a study looking at increased water quality standards and new measures to allow local communities to protect their drinking water source. The Executive agreed to establish a Committee, seek guidance from the membership as new water policy issues emerge and to inform the members about participation in possible pilot projects.

- endorsed a number of recommendations respecting UBCM participation in the Ports Competitiveness Review Committee. UBCM is concerned about the composition of the Committee and how that has influenced the focus of the Committee on to taxation and land use practices of municipalities within the Port of Vancouver

MINISTER DOYLE MEETS WITH UBCM EXECUTIVE

Executive members had an opportunity to meet and welcome back the Honourable Jim Doyle to the Municipal Affairs portfolio. Minister Doyle began his remarks by expressing his delight at being the Minister of Municipal Affairs once again and renewed his commitment to listening to local government concerns, expressing his preference for cooperative relationships, and to being local government's advocate at the Cabinet table.

He highlighted various issues of concern and current activities in the Ministry:

- budgets are being worked on now at the provincial and local levels. Noted the request from the Minister of Finance for input into the provincial budget process and recognizes the requirement to consult with local government with respect to grants. This will take place during the first two weeks of December.
- implementation of the new *Local Government Act* is ongoing, as are efforts at further legislative revision where commitments have been made to do so.
- with respect to infrastructure grants, it is important for local government to be at the table. Grant applications will hopefully be available by the end of the year. The Minister acknowledged that there will be tough decisions to be made with respect to allocations.
- the ports competitiveness review is ongoing.
- aggregate review – expect recommendations by the end of the year.

Members of the Executive spoke on various matters of concern, including:

- the Ministry of Finance paper on reducing vehicle emissions, and how the paper is sending up red flags in resource communities.
- wanted the Minister to advocate for payments-in lieu equivalent to full taxation to be made by BC Rail.
- would like to see some of the provincial windfall in oil and gas revenue returned to local government and the people in communities.
- raised the issue of a vehicle levy vs. additional gas tax, and which was truly "user pay". Additional money from these sources is needed to pay for transportation infrastructure in the lower mainland.
- queried whether the Province was interested in reconstituting the Joint Council. The Minister indicated that he would be very interested in expanding avenues for discussion with local government, and the Joint Council was worth another look.

The Minister concluded his remarks by noting that he encourages members to continue to call his office directly when concerns arise — "we shouldn't let little issues become big issues."

rather than a coast wide perspective. The Executive recommended direct engagement of affected municipalities, an extension of the Committee's timeframe and the need for independent tax and assessment analysis. UBCM intends to now take a "secondary" level of involvement so as to allow the affected municipalities to become "primarily" involved.

➤ confirmed that UBCM would sponsor a Community to Community forum in March 2001, a Legislative Symposium focussing on implementation of the Local Government Act and opportunities for a third conference are under consideration based on the priorities identified by UBCM Committees.

COMMITTEES REPORT

Six committees met during the Executive meeting. The following provides an overview of their discussions.

Health

Committee members established their Terms of Reference for the renewed committee and met with a delegation from the Health Association of BC (HABC). The following recommendations were put forward by the Committee and endorsed by the Executive:

- that the Health Committee maintain ongoing discussions with HABC on common health issues and promote increased communications at the association level and at the local government level;
- UBCM approve in principle holding a Joint Symposium in 2001 with HABC to deal with health issues of mutual concern, and that staff will report back to the January Executive meeting on any resource issues that should be addressed; and
- that the Health Committee Chair be authorized to attend the National Health Summit in Prince George in January, 2001.

Communities and Resources

Committee members met and reaffirmed their Terms of Reference for the coming year and identified community sustainability as the overarching goal. The following recommendations were put forward by the Committee and endorsed by the Executive:

- determine the status of talks on the Softwood Lumber Agreement in follow up to the endorsement of resolution A17 at the Convention.
- work jointly with the Environment Committee in reviewing the provincial government discussion paper on "Options to Reduce Light Duty Vehicle Emissions in British Columbia."
- seek input from the membership on the issue of forest certification and the role local governments should play in that discussion.
- disband the CFCI Task Force and refer all CFCI matters to the Chairs of the Environment Committee and the Communities and Resources Committee to deal with as required, including the two recommendations from the CFCI Task Force report that were referred to the UBCM Executive by Convention delegates.
- seek a meeting with the Mining Association to receive a status report on the state of mining in BC.
- identify opportunities to address and represent agricultural interests in the coming year.

Justice and Protective Services/Gaming

The Committee met and requested that the Terms of Reference and the name of the Committee be reviewed further. The Committee identified the following issues as its key objectives in the upcoming year:

- Expansion of Bylaw Courts;
- Implementation of liquor policy changes;
- Police financing issues;
- Gaming legislation.

Aboriginal Affairs

The Committee reaffirmed its Terms of Reference for the coming year. The Committee members reviewed the list of ongoing issues under consideration and established the following goals and priorities for policy development and other activities in the coming year:

Policy Development – priority focus on issues surrounding the development of post-treaty arrangements between local government and First Nations; continued joint work with Province on issues of concern to local government; response to federal policy initiatives

Community to Community Forum program – continuation and evaluation

TAC support – continued joint meetings, advocacy on TAC issues and involvement in treaty process.

The committee discussed some immediate priorities for reports/action at the January 2001 meeting involving: convention follow-up; input to provincial policy development on local government – First Nations relations; implementation of the Protocol on Local Government Role in the Negotiation of Interim Measures including Treaty Related Measures; planning for March 2001 Community to Community Joint Forum with the First Nations Summit and a possible joint TAC meeting.

Environment

The Committee reaffirmed its Terms of Reference and goals for the upcoming year. The priorities include development and implementation of the fish protection directive, implementation of a new governance measures for product stewardship programs, development and implementation of new measures to protect drinking water and the development of new septic sewage regulations.

The Environment Committee also reviewed a draft of the Streamside Protection Regulation and put forward the following recommendations which were endorsed by the Executive:

- UBCM work with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks to create a Local Government Task Force to advise it on the operation, development and implementation of new/existing stewardship programs;
- UBCM review the new septic sewage regulation developed by the Ministry of Health and provide comments on it by mid-December;

Arts, Culture, Heritage and Tourism

The Arts, Culture, Heritage and Tourism committee reaffirmed its Terms of Reference and goals for the coming year. Priorities identified included:

- Identifying the needs of the membership as background to lobbying the provincial government and federal for support.
- Reviewing past policy and studies related to Arts, Culture, Heritage and Tourism (ie. *Creative Connections* and *Strategic Directions for Culture and Heritage Tourism in British Columbia*)

RESOLUTIONS DISPOSITION FROM EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Executive considered 45 resolutions at the November meeting. The Executive actions are as follows:

Resolutions with a Recommendation by Resolutions Committee

B72 UBCM AIRPORT COMMON FRONT REGIONAL AIRPORTS

Endorsed

B73 PROVINCIAL SALES TAX

Not Endorsed

B74 TAXATION OF FOREIGN-BASED ACTORS/FOREIGN FILM TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Endorsed and referred to FCM

B75 BUSINESS CLASS TAX EXEMPTION

Not Endorsed

B77 DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGE FOR REPLACEMENT HOUSING

Endorsed

B78 PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Not Endorsed

B79 DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES FOR SOLID WASTE FACILITIES

Endorsed

B80 FUEL PRICES

Endorsed and Referred to FCM

B82 7% TAX ON VESSELS AND RVS LEFT FOR STORAGE IN BC

Referred to January 2001 Executive meeting

B83 DISPOSAL OF USED ANTIFREEZE

Endorsed

B84 PRODUCT LABELING AT THE GASOLINE PUMP

Endorsed and Referred to FCM

B85 PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

Endorsed

B86 PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Endorsed

B87 STREAMSIDE DIRECTIVES

Endorsed

B88 BC LAND COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN

Endorsed as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Reserve Commission ensure that its Strategic Plan includes the requirement for extensive consultations with local governments and other provincial government ministries that could be impacted by its decisions.

B90 CRANBERRY OPERATIONS

Endorsed

B92 ENDANGERED SPECIES – COMPENSATION

Endorsed

B94 LOSS OF PAY PROVISIONS FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS WHILE ON TRAINING SEMINARS

Endorsed

B95 FUNDING OF INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES

Endorsed

B97 DOBBIN REPORT

Endorsed

B99 PROPOSED CHILD SERVICES EQUALITY ACT

Endorsed as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM support the principles outlined in the proposed legislation and urge the Province to introduce legislation to that effect.

B100 PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICE

Not Endorsed

B101 SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN FARMERS

Endorsed and referred to FCM

B102 IMPACT OF TRANSFERS OF TIMBER HARVESTING RIGHTS

Endorsed

B104 PROTECTION OF STREAMSIDE HABITATS VIA DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Endorsed

B105 REGIONAL SERVICES

No Action Required

B106 BC ASSESSMENT APPEAL PROCESS

Not Endorsed

B107 DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Endorsed

B108 ARTS AND CULTURAL SERVICES

Endorsed

B109 PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Endorsed as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Education and the BC School Trustees Association encourage school districts to enter into negotiations with the affected local governments to expand the role and use of rural schools to their full potential for the benefits of citizens and communities, and thereby ensure the long-term viability of these essential assets.

B110 LIBRARY SERVICES TO FIRST NATIONS

Endorsed

B111 COMMUNITY YOUTH ASSET DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Endorsed

B112 CIVIC YOUTH COUNCILS

No Action Required

B113 DISABLED HOMEOWNER GRANT

Endorsed as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *Home Owner Grant Act* be amended to provide that the Province issue the claimant with a certificate that establishes the claimant's eligibility for the additional Home Owner Grant for persons with disabilities.

B114 HIGHER GLASS IN ARENAS

Endorsed

B115 SNOWMOBILE/TOURISM INDUSTRY

Endorsed

B116 PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL REFORM

Not Endorsed

B117 WORKER'S COMPENSATION BOARD DISCUSSION PAPER - CLAIMS AVOIDANCE

Endorsed

Report on Resolutions Referred to Executive by Convention

B56 PROTECTION OF YOUTH INVOLVED IN PROSTITUTION

Referred to Justice and Protective Services Committee

Report on Resolutions with No Recommendations

B76 REDEMPTION OF PROPERTY SOLD

Endorsed as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the existing legislation with respect to the time limit for making a redemption of property sold at tax sale be shortened as a measure to persuade owners to redeem their properties.

B81 AVIATION FUEL TAX EXEMPTIONS

Referred to Airport Common Front

B89 FUNDING LEVELS FOR FOREST SERVICE RECREATION

Not Endorsed

B91 COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF SEALS AND SEA LIONS

Deferred action until a response is received from the Federal Government on the FCM resolution.

B93 STAND-BY PAY FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS

Referred to Health Committee

B96 SUPPORT FOR UNBC HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Referred to Health Committee

B98 PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR MULTILEVEL CARE FACILITIES

Referred to Health Committee



2000-2001 EXECUTIVE

President	Director Jim Abram	Comox-Strathcona RD
First Vice-President	Chair Hans Cunningham	Central Kootenay RD
Second Vice-President	Councillor Patricia Wallace	Kamloops
Third Vice-President	Mayor Frank Leonard	Saanich
Past President	Mayor Steve Thorlakson	Fort St. John
Vancouver Representative	Councillor Lynne Kennedy	Vancouver
GVRD Representative	Mayor Helen Sparkes	New Westminster
Small Community Rep.	Mayor Alice Maitland	Hazelton
Electoral Area Rep.	Chair Susan Gimse	Squamish-Lillooet RD
AKBM	Councillor Bert Banks	Kimberley
LMMA	Councillor Marvin Hunt	Surrey
NCMA	Councillor Dan Rogers	Prince George
OMMA	Councillor Ida Makaro	Cache Creek
AVICC	Mayor Pearl Myhres	Zeballos
Directors at Large	Director Aaron Dinwoodie	Central Okanagan RD
	Councillor Robert Hobson	Kelowna
	Mayor Corinne Lonsdale	Squamish
	Mayor Barbara Sharp	North Vancouver City
	Councillor Bruce Strachan	Prince George

*Happy
Holidays!*

*From the
UBCM
Executive
and Staff*

