

HIGHLIGHTS OF UBCM EXECUTIVE MEETING April 19 - 20, 2001

General Matters

The Executive considered a number of policy matters and has taken the following actions:

- The President, in conjunction with the Table Officers has been authorized to pursue new Memorandums of Understanding with three federal departments and six broadly based sector groups representing a wide range of interests. These would be considered by the Executive and at Convention for finalization.
- made a number of policy decisions including:
 - to request that the WCB review and update Regulation 7:10 (Members of Fire Brigades) to better reflect the activities that **volunteer fire departments** perform today.
 - to write to FCM again to request a response to the earlier inquiry about what involvement FCM has in the proposed federal **railway grade separation regulation**; and to also remind UBCM members to review the issue and to advise of any concerns they may have, if they have not already done so.
 - to solicit input from members with respect to implementing recommendations regarding smoke alarms which flow from a fatality review report from the **Children's Commission**.
 - authorized participation in any further discussions on the **Ports Competitiveness Review** to monitor for broad implications of any proposals that may be generated.
 - providing advice to the **Land Reserve Commission** on its regulatory reform

initiative including that in most cases, local government parks be an outright use in the ALR, and also that local governments be kept informed of progress on this initiative.

- noting that there was a minor amendment made on March 30th to the *Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation* under the *Assessment Act* which will provide some clarity in **how stratified hotel units are counted** for purposes of assessment classification; and also that unfortunately time ran out for legislation to be introduced to make this change retroactive for this local tax year.
- received a report on the implications for **municipal regulation of rights-of-way** that flow from the CRTC decision on the City of Vancouver/Ledcor case.
- received a report on recent activities of the **Energy Aware Committee**.
- received a report on 2001 Provincial Budget with particular reference to traffic fine revenue sharing since the inception of the program and the considerations that would be part of a new sharing program.
- heard a report on the progress being made toward remedying problems in the **property classification of "urban farms"** used for assessment purposes.
- to have staff develop an information bulletin for members that provides advice with respect to including appropriate information in remuneration bylaws to satisfy the requirements of the federal *Income Tax Act* with respect to **elected local government officials expense allowances**.
- supported release of the **draft guidelines** on Provincial Interests in Official Community Plan (OCP) Regional Growth

Strategy **Content** and OCP **Consultation** to local governments for a six month trial period, during which feedback from members on the draft be requested before finalization, followed by repeal of the current prescriptive content legislation.

- The Executive made some additional committee appointments:

Senior Government Support for Public Transportation

Mayor Colin Kinsley, BC Transit
Councillor Judy Brownoff, Greater Victoria Transit Commission
Councillor George Puil / Mayor Barbara Sharp (alternate), GVRD
Councillor Marvin Hunt, UBCM
Mayor Frank Leonard, UBCM

UBCM/MOA Joint Task Group on Building Regulation Liability

UBCM - Mayor Helen Sparkes and Richard Taylor
MIA - Councillor Janis Elkerton, Gord Howie, Ken Olive

Municipal Pension Board of Trustees

Richard Taylor - 3 year term
Barbara Ingamells - 1 year term

Municipal Pension Board Council of Partners

UBCM President and Chair of Member Services Committee

Building Envelope Research Consortium

Rick Bortolussi, Manager, Building Approvals Department, City of Richmond

With respect to internal matters (the Executive)

- Gave approval to renew the office lease within the current location.
- Received a report on **office data security** policies.

Among correspondence items the Executive:

- considered a letter from Delta expressing concerns about the price of **natural gas** and the need for an overall energy management strategy.
- will request the Sunshine Coast R.D. to submit a resolution for consideration at

the 2001 Convention to amend sec.920 (1) *Local Government Act* to include a reference to vegetation along with alteration to 'land'.

- decided not to take any action at this time on the inclusion of GST in **property value assessments**.
- received a report from Surrey on their work to streamline the **First Responder Program**.
- supported Vancouver's request to the federal government to revise Bill C-11, **The Immigration and Refugee Act** to ensure local governments are consulted on polices and compensated financially for providing services and relevant

programs to immigrants and refugees.

- directed staff to report back at the July meeting on a request by the **Federation of BC Woodlot Owners** to support their efforts to ensure that woodlots are not adversely impacted by treaty settlements.
- received for information correspondence from the **Council of Canadians** on their upcoming conference "Water for People and Nature".
- decided not to take any action at this time on a request from the Central Okanagan RD to survey the membership on the effect of a regulatory change by the **BC Gaming Commission** that prohibits community organizations from expending charity revenues on "capital projects."

C O M M I T T E E S

Health

The following recommendations were ratified by the Executive:

- indicate to the new government that UBCM would like to be part of any review of **health authority/board representation** that may be initiated;
- convene a meeting of **Regional Hospital Districts** to explore forming an association be agreed to in principle, subject to clarification as to what is expected of UBCM and what the expectations are for such a meeting in terms of timing, cost, location, program content and staff support;
- seek the cooperation of the HABC in approaching the government to seek funding to develop a program of "**Community-to-Community**" **Health Forums**, similar to the format used for Aboriginal issues. The purpose would be to begin a broad public discussion on the future of health care in BC and to facilitate the discussion of health issues and concerns in communities;
- consider participating as a co-sponsor in a proposed international conference next year on the **healthy communities** theme

subject to receiving further information; and

- authorize the Health Committee to attend the June Board meeting of the **Health Association of BC** in Vancouver.

Protective Services

The Committee discussed a broad range of issues, such as the upcoming changes in liquor policy and new policies that permit **liquor consumption in smoking rooms** in licensed establishments. The following recommendations were ratified by the Executive:

- write the Ministry of Attorney General and request further information on how the **Traffic Study Report** was to be implemented, in particular, how local traffic concerns would be integrated into the business plans developed by the police and how the costs of traffic enforcement would be paid for under the new program – overtime, training, equipment, manpower etc.; and
- write the Ministry of Children and Families and request more information on the **problem gambling program** and how the funds are allocated to local communities.

Aboriginal Affairs

The Committee reviewed progress on a wide range of on-going issues and decided on the following future directions:

- reiterate UBCM concerns to the province on **additions to Treaty Settlement Lands** after final treaty;
- provided province with local government interests concerning inclusion of **private land acquired on a willing buyer-willing seller** basis in treaty settlements and recommend that private land not be included as part of Treaty Settlement Land unless this occurs after treaty, under limited conditions;
- send update bulletins to members on current operating environment with respect to consultation with First Nations;
- advise the Federation of Canadian Municipalities of our support for the revised draft of the **federal additions to reserve policy**;
- meet with officials at the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to discuss federal policy on coordination and consultation in relation to **First Nations Land Management** and request that the Chiefs Lands Advisory Board work with us

to develop model language for Land Codes and agreements;

- propose to the First Nations Summit that the **Community to Community Forum** be held annually;
- conduct a full evaluation of the regional Community to Community Forum program; and
- invite Stephen Owen, M.P. who is acting as the Minister of Indian Affairs' representative at the Treaty Negotiations Advisory Committee, to meet with the Aboriginal Affairs Committee in July to discuss local government interests related to treaty and other Aboriginal issues.

Communities & Resources

The following recommendations were ratified by the Executive:

- continue to monitor the province's direction on the development of **working forest legislation** and revisit the issue at the July Executive meeting;
- write to federal trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew reiterating our concerns about the lack of action taken since the expiry of the **Softwood Lumber Agreement** and express the importance of the forest industry for BC communities;
- consideration be given to a proposal by BC Mining Association to conduct a workshop or clinic at the 2001 Convention outlining the challenges facing the mining industry and its economic importance and future economic potential to BC; and
- request the provincial government to ensure that:
 - accurate **socio-economic analysis** of the individual local governments involved in the land use planning area be provided to **LRMP** tables at the commencement of an LRMP and that prior to the conclusion of the LRMP an impact assessment be conducted.
 - accurate socio-economic impact analysis be done for those LRMPs in progress or nearing completion to ensure that the social and economic impacts for individual local governments represented at the LRMP table are

accurately determined and addressed prior to participants signing off on the Plan; and

- a mitigation strategy be put in place to assist communities severely impacted by LRMP decisions.

Convention

The Committee reported a modest surplus from the 2000 convention and reviewed letters from members. The Committee discussed the theme, provincial government participation, trade show status, partners program, budget, fee structure, catering pricing challenges, resolution time allotments and clinic/workshop ideas to date.

- convention theme will be "**Reflections & Visions**".
- UBCM seek immediate opportunities following the provincial election to discuss and determine the provincial government involvement in the UBCM convention.
- **registration fees** for the 2001 convention be confirmed as follows:
 - Members General Registration Fee: \$270
 - Non-Member General Registration Fee: \$340
 - Provincial Government Meeting Support: \$90
- 2001 budget was approved and **sponsorship** goals set.
- staff will pursue replacement of the aging and failing **message centre**.

Environment

The Executive agreed to undertake the following actions:

- recommend that the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks undertake a further review of the interim policy proposed for the **Streamside Protection Regulation** and consider measures that would promote cooperation between the three levels of government;
- appoint Ken Vance as the UBCM representation on the Local Government Stewardship Council;
- assist in the organization of an Environment Technology Conference;
- participate in the Annual Council of the Recycling Council of British Columbia; and

- support broad consultation on the development of regulations related to the Drinking Water Protection Act.

Member Services/Local Government Awareness

The Executive were advised that all of the 2000 Convention resolutions in the **Municipal Pension Plan (MPP) - Joint Trusteeship Report** have been implemented with the exception of the last resolution on Rate Reform. This item can only be implemented once there is sufficient surplus in the plan to meet the terms of the Transitional Funding Agreement outlined in the Joint Management Agreement.

BC Rail Task Force

The Executive received a report on the status of activities to update the BC Rail property list and valuation, which is used as the basis for the **payments in lieu program**. The Executive agreed to encourage the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to keep the updating process moving forward so that the momentum of work already underway isn't lost due to the removal of the urgency of needing an updated list in the immediate future.

Building Regulatory Liability

The Executive were advised that the MIA/UBCM joint task force had developed a six **point plan and priorities**. As well, they had identified considerations and sequencing to achieve the six point priorities.

Infrastructure

Received a report on the many policy and administrative issues considered at the Infrastructure Program Management Committee. The complexities in accounting for funding in different envelopes and the position on funding caps was reviewed. The Executive will provide the Management Committee with advice on the interaction of the green/non-green and local government versus nominated projects allocations.