

HIGHLIGHTS OF UBCM EXECUTIVE MEETING July 19 - 20, 2001

This was perhaps one of the busiest recent Executive meetings as it involved:

- 8 committee meetings including the Resolutions Committee which reviewed 151 resolutions;
 - meetings with 5 cabinet ministers including Health Ministers Sindi Hawkins and Colin Hansen with the full Executive and two sessions spanning 2.5 hours with Ministers George Abbott and Ted Nebbeling and a meeting between the Protective Services Committee and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Rich Coleman (see more details below);
 - all the regular business plus year-end/year-ahead matters associated with UBCM fiscal year end (financial statements, new work programs, new budgets).
- This circular reports on the key elements of the Executive meeting.
- ### GENERAL MEETING
- The Executive:
- received a preliminary **financial year-end statement** that showed a surplus that could be applied to legal assistance and other reserves.
 - adopted a **preliminary budget** that contains a proposed 2% dues increase – the budget will be reviewed and finally adopted at the September Executive meeting. The effective dues increase will be 0.6% after eliminating the 2001 surcharge.
 - reviewed the status of initiatives to fix the loophole in the property classification regulations for “**urban farms**”.
 - received a report on recent activities of the Development Finance Review Committee, including a proposal to prepare an addendum to the DCC Best Practices Guide to cover the issue of **Agricultural DCCs**.
 - also considered a proposed regulatory approach to permit use of “**low speed vehicles**” on local roads.
 - will attempt to meet with **ICBC** chair on the future of their **traffic enforcement** and traffic engineering programs.
 - received a report on the status of the **infrastructure program**. Due to the untimely death of federal co-chair Keith Draper, the Management Committee meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled as soon as practical.
 - as per UBCM policy, the Executive and Committees reviewed some 15 Memorandums and Agreements that UBCM holds with provincial and federal government departments as well as other associations. Due to their nature, some Agreements will expire, but all others were reaffirmed. In keeping with the new Executive direction some MOUs will be renamed to Protocols on Consultation and Cooperation and the term MOU will be reserved for use with the provincial and federal governments.
 - discussed the proposed extraordinary resolution to amend the UBCM bylaws to rotate the Table Officer positions amongst the Area Associations.
 - the Executive reviewed its relationship with the **Airport Community Common Front** and its future direction.
 - agreed to provide **legal assistance** funding to support the District of Salmon Arm.
 - received report on **President's activities** which included attending the remaining four Area Association meetings, BC Library Association, installation of the new Cabinet, meeting with the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, meeting with the Minister of State for Community Charter, Order of BC Awards and a meeting between the Table Officers and Ministers on the Community Charter.
 - received provincial responses to **2000 resolutions** just prior to the provincial election and reported that these had been distributed to the relevant sponsors.
 - heard from Delta Mayor Lois Jackson on the recent imposition of the “**right to farm**” legislation on the municipality.
 - received a number of information reports including on Member Visits, Legal Assistance Status Report, McKelvey Scholarship program, Tax Notice Service, Local Government in BC - A community effort booklets, Airport Community Common Front activities and the Public Sector Governance Group.
 - received a 30 page Overview of International Trade Agreements and implications for local governments; and a report on the recent Cabinet decision to have the MASH sector entities (including local governments) in BC come under the procurement disciplines of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT).

Please make copies of this circular and distribute to Council/Board Members /Staff.

C O M M I T T E E S

Nominating

Advised that the nominations information package has been distributed to the membership and the closing date is July 31, 2001.

Resolutions

Committee members reviewed the resolutions submitted for consideration at the 2001 UBCM Convention. Of the 151 resolutions, the Committee designated 11 A resolutions, 34 B - Part I resolutions, 72 B - Part II resolutions, 33 C resolutions and one Extraordinary Resolution.

Health

In addition to discussing its own business, the Committee also met with members of the Health Association Executive Committee. Discussions included the language of a draft Protocol of Cooperation and Consultation, the likely ratification and signing process at the UBCM convention, the content of a health issues study session at the convention, and the messages being delivered in meetings with the Health Ministers.

The following Committee recommendations were ratified by the Executive:

- in principle support for a draft Protocol on Consultation and Cooperation with the Health Association of BC;
- circulating to members a primer prepared by the Health Association on where health care funds are spent; and
- support in principle for community health forums to be held jointly with the Health Association.

Protective Services

The Committee met and discussed policing cost issues, provincial policy on **arming of auxiliary police constables**, provincial **gaming policy** and the status of the pilot drug court to be established in Vancouver.

Aboriginal Affairs

The Committee discussed a variety of current issues and recommended on the following actions and directions:

- follow-up on the request for a meeting as soon as possible with the Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations, the Hon. Geoff Plant, to obtain further information about the government's plans for the referendum on treaty principles
- emphasize to the new government the need for a review of the province's approach to the inclusion of **private land in treaty settlements**
- advise the Hon. Geoff Plant of UBCM's continuing commitment to the Sub-Agreement to the Protocol of Recognition concerning on Aboriginal Issues affecting Local Government interests and suggest a review of the workplan to ensure that it captures current priorities
- write to the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations in support of their interests and request that the FBCWA provide information directly to TACs on this issue
- apply to federal and provincial governments for funds to allow UBCM to launch another phase of the regional **Community to Community Forum** program starting in late 2001
- provide support in principle for Lower Mainland TAC's "Urban Forum" contingent on UBCM receiving more funding to continue the Community to Community Forum program
- inform Minister Plant of local government concerns regarding the impact of roadblocks on communities and need for coordinated response.

Communities & Resources

The Committee discussed a wide range of issues and recommended actions on the following matters:

- agreed to participate in the Minister of Forests Lumber Summit to discuss the development of a common BC strategy to address the expiration of the **softwood lumber agreement**.

- will continue to pursue meetings with resource Ministers as needed prior to Convention.
- will monitor the **FRBC review** and determine if UBCM wishes to make a submission.
- support the inclusion of resource issues at the upcoming Convention, either by workshop or Resource Ministers Forum.

Convention

Advised the Executive that the **Convention Registration packages** had been distributed and included pre-convention study tours and sessions (including sessions on Inside the Community Charter), **Welcome Reception at the Vancouver Aquarium**, meal pricing and partners program. The Executive confirmed the Committee's recommendations on clinics and workshops. The basic thrust will be to focus on **Communities on Wednesday afternoon and the new government on Thursday afternoon**. The Thursday afternoon session would feature the **Premier's address followed by four panels**. Details on the panels and clinics will appear in the August newsletter. The Committee considered the impact of the **Community Charter on Convention**. Beside the Monday study sessions and Wednesday afternoon workshops, consideration is being given to focussing the Tuesday afternoon Forum sessions for small communities, electoral areas (regional districts) and large urban communities on these aspects of the Charter that particularly relate to these groups.

Environment

The Committee discussed a wide range of issues and recommended action on the following issues:

- Reviewed an **exit-from-retail protocol** and proposed that it be based on the following principles:
 - Maximizes the recovery rate of product from local landfills;
 - Ensures the consumer has the broadest choice of options;
 - Encourages competition in the collection of beverage containers;

- Ensures that decisions related to solid waste management are made with the agreement of the municipal and regional district governments in the area.
- Requested the province require all of the **beverage container stewards** to meet the 85% recovery rate established in the regulation;
- Agreed to participate in the new **Bear Smart Communities** program.
- Supported the development of guidance documents by the province for relocation of **contaminated soil**.

Member Services/Local Government Awareness

The Committee discussed a wide range of issues and recommended actions on the

following matters:

Municipal Pension Plan (MPP):

- the continuation of one UBCM staff appointment as Trustee on the Board of Trustees;
- a second UBCM staff appointment as alternate Trustee on the Board of Trustees;
- staff to recruit the second UBCM appointed trustee and alternate to the MPP Board of Trustees; and
- appointing Mr. Terrence Frizzell, Executive Director, Health Services, Nicola Valley Health Care as the Alternate Excluded Trustee to the MPP Board of Trustees.

Civic Info: a UBCM staff member participating on the Civic Info Society Board of Directors
2001 Local Government Awareness Awards:

Best Local Government Web Site Awards
-Small Community: City of Revelstoke
-Medium Sized Community: Nanaimo Regional District
-Large Community: City of Richmond City.
Month Long/Week Long Award: City of Chilliwack
Poster Awards: City of North Vancouver
Year Long Award: Town of Fort Nelson / Regional District of Northern Rockies
 The Committee also decided to add a new category to the web site competition for Regional Districts and discontinue the Essay and Poster Competition due to lack of participation.

The Executive also received reports from the **Joint Task Force on Building Inspection Liability** and the **Task Force on Senior Government Support for Public Transportation**.

Special Executive and/or Committee sessions with Ministers

Health Ministers

The full Executive met with the Honourable Sindi Hawkins, Health Planning Minister, and the Honourable Colin Hansen, Health Services Minister on July 19th. The discussion led by the Health Committee included such matters as possible community health forums, improving the health capital planning process, reinstating a form of healthy communities program, health board representation, implementing the new WCB environmental tobacco smoke regulations, recruitment and retention of health professionals, physician negotiations, water protection legislation, septic sewage regulation, drug treatment court facility pilot project in Vancouver, participation at convention, and ambulance response times.

Of specific interest to members is the current review of health board structure and governance, and the government's clear statement that there will be no totally or partially elected health boards.

Also of interest is the proposal being made by Minister Hawkins to expand the two-year residency program for family doctors and to regionalize the training they receive. The Ministry is working on some information materials, which will be circulated to communities shortly.

Communities Ministers — Hon. George Abbott & Hon. Ted Nebbeling

Minister Nebbeling presented an overview of the process that was envisioned for final development to the Community Charter. As confirmed by the Speech from the Throne, government intends to introduce a Community Charter Council Act at this legislative session. The Council would be responsible for delivering a report on a Community Charter by January 15, 2002. The Executive discussed a wide range of issues around the process and Charter Council. The legislation is expected to be introduced very shortly.

Public Safety and Solicitor General Rich Coleman

The Protective Services Committee met with the Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and discussed police financing, provincial policy on arming of auxiliary police constables, community safety programs, liquor policy and gaming policy. The Minister indicated that his Ministry is facing major budget constraints and that there would be no expansion of gaming facilities in the province.