



MEMBER RELEASE

DECEMBER 5, 2002

Highlights of November 28-29, 2002 UBCM Executive Meeting

The UBCM (2002-2003) Executive held its first full meeting on November 28-29th. The meetings included a new director orientation, a goals and objectives session, the regular business meeting and organizational meetings for committees.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP

As a result of November elections, three vacancies were created on the UBCM Executive for the positions recently held by:

- Mayor Helen Sparkes, New Westminster, Second Vice-President
- Councillor Jim Thom, Kitimat, NCMA Representative
- Councillor Ann Claggett, Delta, LMMA Representative

Under the UBCM bylaws, Director Aaron Dinwoodie, who was elected Third Vice-President at the Convention in September, becomes Second Vice-President. The position of Third Vice-President remains vacant until the next convention. The new appointed representatives are:

- NCMA: Director Ted Armstrong, Cariboo RD
- LMMA: Councillor Marvin Hunt, Surrey
- City of Vancouver: Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

EXECUTIVE MEETING

During regular business the Executive:

- dealt with eight resolutions and

- one energy policy recommendation referred from convention (full detail in the December newsletter).
- established committees and the President made her committee appointments. A full list of the appointments is contained in the December UBCM newsletter.
- received a report on steps taken to implement all policy papers and resolutions considered at the 2002 convention.
- dealt with seven resolutions that were approved at the Small Talk and Electoral Area Directors Forum at the convention.
- reviewed new **gaming** regulations in relation to existing UBCM gaming policy.
- will call on the provincial government to develop an integrated **flood hazard** management program and to provide ongoing financial assistance to local communities for flood protection works beyond 2004.
- received a report on the **regional hospital district cost sharing** review now underway. Representing local government on the steering committee are: Director Al Richmond, Chair of the Cariboo Chilcotin RHD; Mayor Chris

Your 2002-2003 UBCM Executive

President	Councillor Patricia Wallace	Kamloops
First Vice-President	Mayor Frank Leonard	Saanich
Second Vice-President	Director Aaron Dinwoodie	Central Okanagan RD
Third Vice-President	Vacant	
Past President	Chair Hans Cunningham	Central Kootenay RD
Vancouver Representative	Councillor Ellen Woodsworth	Vancouver
GVRD Representative	Mayor Don MacLean	Pitt Meadows
Small Community Rep.	Mayor Sharon Hartwell	Telkwa
Electoral Area Rep.	Director Susan Gimse	Squamish-Lillooet RD
AKBM	Councillor Gord DeRosa	Trail
LMMA	Councillor Marvin Hunt	Surrey
NCMA	Director Ted Armstrong	Cariboo RD
OMMA	Councillor Ron Cannan	Kelowna
AVICC	Councillor Mary Ashley	Campbell River
Directors at Large	Councillor Brenda Binnie	Castlegar
	Mayor Wayne Dahlen	Dawson Creek
	Chair Robert Hobson	Central Okanagan RD
	Councillor Corinne Lonsdale	Squamish
	Councillor Ida Makaro	Cache Creek

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Causton, Chair of the Capital RHD; Councillor Rich McDaniel, Chair of the North West RHD; and Director Susan Gimse, Chair of UBCM's Health Committee.

- received a briefing on the **provincial energy plan**, augmented the UBCM energy policy to include a statement on support for development of transmission infrastructure that considers OCPs and where agreements with communities are in place, and directed an analysis of the provincial energy plan as it responds to UBCM policy.
- considered a variety of other policy files including:
 - seeking a joint approach with the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC on concerns respecting WCB regulations on **emergency transport vehicles**
 - pursuing concerns about **BC Rail** payments in lieu and continued rail service in communities
 - pursuing information about government review of Motor Carrier Commission regulations
- monitoring the development of Ministry of Energy and Mines 2003 legislative agenda
- pursuing Ministry of Management Services/Purchasing Commission intentions with respect to reforming **public sector procurement** in the province
- monitoring the development of a new regime for **managed forest land** to replace the Forest Land Reserve
- approved of the establishment of a "Virtual" Employer Pension Advisory Committee: to provide input to the **Municipal Pension Plan (MPP)** Trustees on MPP issues via email and conference calls; and to provide input on the appointment of the second alternate Trustee.
- received reports on 2002 Convention attendance and delegate evaluations; financial results and media coverage.
- were advised of **Community Charter Council** activities during the fall and the Charter Council's intention to complete its final report and revised Community Charter before year-end.
- were advised that the **Police Cost Task Force** is still waiting for responses to two letters to the Solicitor General regarding plans to begin charging under 5,000 population municipalities and rural areas for policing costs.
- will begin to address the issue of **forestry roads and other remote rural area roads** to ensure access to rural communities that are served by these roads is maintained.
- supported a request for WCB to establish training programs for **traffic control persons**.
- will call on the Minister of Transportation to re-evaluate and look at alternatives to the elimination of **highway right of way landscape maintenance**.
- advised of the efforts to automate the gathering of 2002 **local government election results**. Full results can be viewed at www.civicnet.bc.ca (under UBCM surveys).

COMMITTEES

All committees held organizational meetings to set their objectives and priorities.

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee reviewed a number of initiatives that the provincial government is considering on the following issues: riparian assessment regulation; product stewardship programs; drinking water protection; contaminated sites regulations; flood hazard management; amendments

to the **Waste Management Act**; strategy to reduce wildlife-human conflicts; climate change policy; and development of a living rivers strategy.

The Committee agreed to consider the **new pesticide legislation** under development and provide feedback on this issue to the Ministry of Water, Land and Protection before the December 20, 2002 deadline.

The Committee identified its priorities for the upcoming year as follows:

- Drinking Water Policy
- Riparian Assessment Regulation
- Product Stewardship
- Environment Assessment
- Contaminated Sites
- Flood Hazard Management
- Waste Management Act

COMMUNITIES AND RESOURCES

The Committee is proposing its terms of reference be revised to better reflect the breadth of issues of interest beyond specific resource and resource industry concerns; including matters that affect the viability of resource communities and industry such as road, transportation and freight infrastructure, and other issues that may arise not specific to a particular industry. The terms of reference now state:

The Communities and Resources Committee represents and is an advocate for BC's resource-based communities. It monitors, develops and makes recommendations on policy regarding fish, forests, energy, mining, agriculture and water (as a commodity) and related matters; that have the potential to impact the stability, viability and sustainability of BC resource communities.

The Committee identified issues of interest across the forest, fishing, mining and agriculture sectors, including monitoring the provincial LRMP processes now underway and keeping abreast of changes in BC Rail. Priority issues for the committee in the short term are identified as:

- monitoring the developments in the **softwood lumber dispute**, including provincial and federal activity, and remaining engaged as necessary (including the Chair as a member of the Softwood Advisory Council) and keeping abreast of forest policy developments.
- investigating the model for community support proposed in the federal softwood **community as-**

sistance package and encouraging additional support (including provincial support) for the program; advising members on the program.

- analyzing the **new energy plan**, with specific interest in provision for Independent Power Producers. UBCM members are invited to provide feedback to the committee on **IPP activity** in their areas, including on issues they are managing and policy developed to deal with the matter.
- remaining actively engaged as a stakeholder in monitoring changes to **BC Rail** as it effects freight and movement of resources.
- monitoring fisheries, both salt and fresh water, along with fish farming activity on the coast.

CONVENTION

The 2003 Convention will be the UBCM's **100th Annual General Meeting** and the Convention Committee has already started planning to make this a major celebration of UBCM history. At its organizational meeting the Committee agreed to explore:

- a resolution calling for a forum for medium-sized municipalities during the Tuesday sessions. The committee will consider this plus look at the whole day's purpose and structure.
- received delegate evaluations and will make adjustments based on them.
- will consider adding a continental breakfast for the Tuesday sessions.

- will consider revising the evaluation process by having daily and event evaluation forms available on site.
- will again make every effort to have the Premier's address returned to Friday.

The 2003 Convention is September 22-26th at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre. Details on **booking hotels** were recently sent to members. The Committee will also oversee the preliminary planning for the 2004 Convention in Kelowna – the first time in recent history UBCM will hold its convention in that city.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The Committee discussed a number of policy initiatives: implementation of bylaw courts; closure of court houses; keep of prisoners; federal and provincial crime prevention initiatives; new liquor policy; and a number of general policing issues.

The Committee identified its priorities for the upcoming year as follows:

- Implementation of **Bylaw Courts**; and;
- Implementation of **liquor policy** changes (compliance and enforcement, restaurant lounges etc.).

A separate Task Force is addressing the issue of police costs in the under 5,000 population municipalities and rural areas.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

The Aboriginal Affairs Committee met to review their terms of reference, survey current issues and identify priorities for the upcoming year. They confirmed the Committee's terms of reference as: *overseeing all policy development work related to aboriginal issues including treaty negotiations, self-government and taxation.*

Responding to the pace of negotiations at lead treaty negotiation tables was noted as a key challenge for UBCM and for Treaty Advisory Committees (TACs). Committee priorities for the coming year will focus on responding to this challenge in addition to continuing to support relationship-building activities.

The policy development priorities for the upcoming year are:

- Analysis of issues arising at "**break through**" tables (those targeting completion of an Agreement in Principle (AIP) within one year) and advising the provincial government of UBCM policy relating to these issues (e.g. additions to settlement lands post-treaty, certainty).
- Sharing information among TACs on approaches taken at individual tables to key issues and on TAC definition of local government interests.
- Development of UBCM "policy digest" consolidating existing UBCM policy on treaty issues (e.g. land selection), including considerations for local government interest definition.

Other Committee priorities relate to ongoing initiatives including:

- **TAC support** including development of new communication links to facilitate sharing of information from lead negotiations and local government responses.
- Development of a Dispute Resolution Guide.
- **Technical Workshop** for local government planners and First Nations land managers to assist in developing partnership and capacity building opportunities.
- **Community to Community Forum** March 14, 2003 and regional program.
- UBCM-FCM collaboration on Aboriginal issues including new federal legislation.
- Interim measures.

HEALTH

The Health Committee met to review their terms of reference, review current active issues and identify priorities for the upcoming year. The Committee clarified and formalized its terms of reference as:

The Health Committee oversees health-related policy development as it relates to local government interests.

Issues of current concern and current priority for the Health Committee include:

- **Regional Hospital District** cost sharing review.
- opening a formal line of communication and a building a stronger relationship with all health authorities.
- **Ambulance Service** review.
- monitoring issues related to **envi-**

ronmental tobacco smoke bylaws and enforcement of WCB regulations.

- Community Care and Assisted Living Act (Bill 73).
- Final report of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada (**Romanow Commission**).

The Committee also noted that UBCM had been given the **Award of Merit** by the Public Health Association of BC at its 2002 annual meeting in Victoria on October 25, 2002.

RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions Committee met briefly to discuss issues and provide direction to staff on means to improve on the resolutions procedures and forum for debate at Convention. Specific objectives include to improve and reduce the length of the procedural overview; to investigate methods to ensure all resolutions are debated at Convention, including a review of Section B policy; and investigating methods and logistics involved to support the resolutions amendments on-screen during the resolutions debate. The Committee will consider delegate comments regarding the resolutions and policy sessions at the next meeting; looking for further suggestions to improve the sessions. The committee has passed its concerns regarding mediocre attendance at the Friday resolutions sessions to the Convention Committee for consideration in programming.