

Executive Meeting Highlights: November 6 - 7, 2003

The UBCM Executive hit the ground running for their first meeting. With Committees established on September 26, 2003 a full complement of 9 Committee meetings were held. Executive members also met with the Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services; an orientation session was also held for new Executive members, in addition to the regular quarterly Executive meeting.

President Frank Leonard opened the meeting by welcoming the following new Executive members:

- Mayor Herb Pond, City of Prince Rupert, Director at Large
- Mayor Jack Peake, Town of Lake Cowichan, AVICC Representative
- Councillor Bob Fearnley, City of North Vancouver, LMMA Representative
- Director Bill Baird, Regional District of Kootenay-Boundary, AKBM Representative

A full list of Executive members is included in this circular.

During regular business the Executive:

- dealt with 17 resolutions referred the Executive from Convention (full details in the December newsletter).
- agreed to convey 23 resolutions of a federal nature to federal Ministers responsible and 13 to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (full details in the December newsletter).
- received a report on steps taken to implement priority policy matters from the Convention including civil liability, liquor policy and the UBCM response to new environmental legislation.

- considered a variety of ongoing policy matters including:

- status of appeal of CRTC Decision 2001-23 on Ledcor v. Vancouver (City) case.
- activities of the Development Finance Review Committee
- status of review of 1% in lieu of general municipal tax for linear utilities
- awaiting release of policy paper on review of *Fire Services Act*
- activities of the Community Energy Association
- monitoring the implementation of the new operational guideline on Emergency Transport Vehicles by the WCB and the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC

- considered UBCM input into an Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner investigation of municipal "surveillance bylaws".
- discussed plans for the Executive to travel to Kamloops in May to hold their spring board meeting in conjunction with the annual OMMA conference.
- received a status report on a number of bills presently in the Legislature as well as bills recently introduced of specific interest to local governments including Bill 75, Significant Projects Streamlining Act (see separate member release of November 7 on this matter) and Bill 88, Private Managed Forest Legislation. (see November 10 In The House circular for a full listing of other new bills)
- reviewed the BC Utilities Commission final report to the provincial government on the Inquiry into BC Hydro Heritage Contract, Stepped Rates and Access Principles. The Executive agreed to respond to the report with

correspondence advising the provincial government of UBCM's energy policy position, including the 2003 resolutions endorsed on the matters of BC Hydro and electricity policy and supporting the recommendations of the Commercial Electricity Customer joint action intervention, which represented UBCM interests at the hearings.

- while Executive Committees were established on September 26, 2003, a number of other external committee appointments were made at the November meeting. A full list of the Committee appointments will be contained in the December UBCM newsletter.
- despite concerns with Bill 48 – *Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Statutes Amendment Act*, UBCM will advise Minister van Dongen that UBCM will work with Ministry staff on the development of a protocol under which the circumstances for applying the legislation and the process to be followed in the case of bylaw review would be clearly outlined. UBCM has also proposed a couple of pilot projects to test the application of the provisions for farming areas, one in agriculture and one in aquaculture, to ensure that the issues unique to each of the circumstances is adequately addressed.
- received a report from staff on various Convention follow-up activities including the production of final 2003 Convention Minutes. Members are reminded to log in to the UBCM website for transcripts and materials from various speakers and sessions at the 2003 Convention.
- reviewed the compilation of media coverage from the 2003 Convention.
- reaffirmed the UBCM Mission Statement. (see page 5)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

All committees held their first meetings to set their direction and priorities for the coming year as well as deal with regular business.

PRESIDENTS

The Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference and specifically the roles of the Vice-Presidents in serving as liaisons to the various Executive Committees. Committee members were updated on a few outstanding issues from last year, including renewal of the protocol with the BCSTA. Chair Hunt and Councillor Patricia Wallace will be meeting with BCSTA to discuss renewal of the protocol.

Each of the Vice-Presidents reported on their various portfolios as follows:

Best Practices Portfolio

Director Dinwoodie advised of his participation on a Committee with representatives from MCAWS, UBCM, BC Business Summit and BC Chamber of Commerce to provide input to consultants on the development of a regulatory best practices guide.

Director Dinwoodie also updated the Committee on the new Excellence Awards program. He indicated that the purpose of the excellence program is to recognize 3 categories: leadership and innovation, partnerships and best practices. He noted that CH2M Hill has agreed to sponsor the leadership and innovation category, allowing UBCM to seek other co-sponsorship opportunities in the other two streams.

Member Services Portfolio

Mayor Dahlen updated the Committee on the various member services programs specifically the Network •book, Group Benefits and the Planner and Wall Calendar.

Finance and Audit Portfolio

Chair Hunt advised he would be would be the Vice-President responsible for presenting the financial reports to the Executive and for the annual UBCM audit.

The Committee reviewed the projects and activities undertaken in 2003 and outlined some priority areas of work for 2004 including: improvements to CivicNet, a member survey on "how UBCM is doing", updates to the UBCM history display and video as well as improvements to the library and on-line surveys.

CONVENTION

The Committee's first meeting focused on evaluation of specific aspects of the 2003 convention and lessons that might inform future conventions. The Committee reviewed reports on attendance (second largest in 10 years), preliminary delegates evaluations (a good 4.2 out of 5 overall), 2003 special initiatives (flag parade/group photo), sponsorships, Municipal Marketplace and financial statements.

A full report on delegate evaluations will be published plus responses to specific concerns or misunderstandings. Further information will be reported in the upcoming Newsletter.

Foundations for planning the 2004 convention will be launched at the next meeting.

COMMUNITIES & RESOURCES

The Committee reaffirmed its Terms of Reference and discussed priority areas and activities for the coming year.

With respect to forestry matters, the Committee received reports on the status of the working forest designation, recent softwood CEAI funding announcements, reviewed the Coast Forest Lumber Association's 10 point plan for coastal industry renewal as well as updates on the BC Initiative to link with the National Forest Strategy.

The Executive endorsed the following recommendations to:

- survey the membership to determine what impact forest policy changes have had on BC communities. (ie. layoffs, closures, etc.)
- continue participation in the National Forest Strategy: BC Initiative and send representation to the upcoming forum in Prince George on forest policy.
- continue to monitor the working forest policy initiative and provide status reports to the Committee as required on the development of land designations.
- write the Coast Forest Lumber Association advising that we would like further details about how their Vision Document will be implemented and how communities will be involved in the implementation process.
- write the Minister of Forests advising of concerns from the Interior about the new timber pricing system proposed for that area.
- prepare in cooperation with the Area Associations, a strategy paper on the issue of returning resource revenues to communities, as a priority for the coming year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENT

The Executive endorsed the Committee's 2003/04 priorities, and related activities as follows:

- Negotiation and implementation of **concurrent powers under the Community Charter** with Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Advancing this priority, the UBCM Executive will seek 1) Regulation outlining activities that local government may undertake; and 2) Consultation Agreement to provide an intergovernmental framework to implement the regulation and to consider future changes to the regulation; and endorsed the establishment of the Environment Protocol Committee as the consultation body.
- Improve information sharing and communication with Environment Canada and the Ministry of WLAP, including work on an **integrated environmental management** approach. Advancing this priority, the committee will 1) meet with the Environment Protocol Steering Committee for a full-day policy development workshop, 2) plan for additional policy development meetings between UBCM and WLAP, and 3) undertake discussions with the provincial ministries and the federal government on interest in hosting a spring 2004 environment conference for UBCM members.
- Monitor and respond to **senior environment policy, legislative and regulatory issues** affecting local government, including new environmental legislation; contaminated sites; integrated pest management, flood hazard management, wildlife-human interface, product stewardship, sewage regulation, and drinking water regulations.
- UBCM responded to the new **extended producer responsibility regulations** indicating support for the following measures:
 - development of product stewardship programs that is fully funded by the industry;
 - continuation of the return-to-retail system;
 - continuation of the deposit-refund system;
 UBCM indicated concern with the following measures:
 - reduction of the recovery rate from 85% to 75% and the determination of the rate through negotiations with the industry,
 - failure to include dairy products under the deposit-refund regulatory framework.

UBCM indicated the need for further local government participation in the development of the **Extended Producers Responsibility Guide** and the development of policies on the retail take-back requirements.

Other current policy initiatives include inviting the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, the Solicitor General's office, and the Provincial Emergency Program to discuss concerns about the new flood hazard management legislation; meeting with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to discuss the gravel dredging policy, and inviting the Provincial Emergency Program to consider hosting a workshop to address local government experience in the coordination and delivery of emergency services following the 2003 flood and fire incidents.

The committee also indicated as priorities: undertaking a membership survey on local challenges in environmental management; increasing the UBCM presence with agencies offering integrated environment management models; and responding to members' interest on sustainability and integrated environment management.

HEALTH

The Committee discussed: its terms of reference and workplan for the coming year; a post mortem on the various health related sessions and activities at the 2003 convention; and deliberated on referred resolution 2003-B105.

The Committee also received information reports on the status of the RHD review and legislative rewrite; that the ambulance service review has not yet been made public; the initiative to create a new BC Public Health Act and discussion of what should be the core Public Health functions of health authorities; update on the activities of the BC Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance; federal SARS/Public Health system report; and the increase in provincial Residential Care rates.

The Committee also dealt with six items of correspondence, including matters relating to meat inspection regulations and the Assisted Living Registry consultation.

The Executive endorsed the following recommendations:

- To have the Health Committee advocate to Health Authorities on the benefits of establishing local governance liaison committees using the model developed by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority;
- To not endorse referred resolution 2003-B105;
- To write to the Ministry of Health Planning to request an extension of meat inspection consultation period from December 1, 2003 to February 2, 2004; and
- To recommend to the Ministry of Health Planning several changes to the proposed framework for the new Public Health concurrent jurisdiction regulation under the *Community Charter*.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLUTIONS

The Committee reviewed its terms of reference and the coming year's resolutions timeline. A discussion of delegate feedback on the 2003 resolutions process followed and staff were directed to respond, en masse and individually in some cases, to procedural and other concerns raised by members. Staff were also directed to augment member communications on the importance of the resolutions process as a strategy for increasing attendance at resolutions sessions in future. The Committee suggested that the Convention Committee consider holding an early-morning session on the resolutions process and debate procedures for the benefit of delegates at next year's Convention.

JUSTICE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The Justice and Protective Services Committee reviewed their Terms of Reference and priorities for 2003-04. The Executive endorsed the following actions:

- thank the provincial government for the passage of the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* and indicate a willingness to work with the ministry in the implementation of the new dispute adjudication system.
- request that a review of the new bylaw court process be undertaken and a business case analysis be undertaken of the pilot projects established before it is made available province wide.
- arrange a meeting with staff from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and RCMP to discuss member concerns on the keep of prisoner issue, based on the comments received from local governments, after they have received the first quarter results and that a number of local governments be invited to the meeting.
- write the Attorney General and the Solicitor General indicating that the costs of delivering criminal documents is an ongoing concern of local government and that it will continue to pursue this matter.
- write the Attorney General to request a meeting to discuss the status of civil liability reform and determine what other strategic actions may be needed based on the outcome of the meeting.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

The Committee reviewed their mandate and their issues, goals and priorities for 2003-2004. They also reviewed progress at lead treaty tables and other new developments

in relation to First Nations issues. UBCM's analysis of the five 2003 Agreements in Principle with First Nations and next steps were discussed. The Committee met with BC Treaty Commissioner Mike Harcourt to explore common interests and potential joint initiatives.

The Committee recommended the following actions:

- Confirmed their terms of reference and established priorities for 2004 in relation to policy analysis and development, relationship building and Treaty Advisory Committee (TAC) support;
- In relation to the analysis of the recent Agreements in Principle (AIPs) and the degree of certainty and finality achieved, that UBCM endorse the recommendations in the report prepared by Singleton Urquhart and this report in finalized form be sent to the provincial and federal governments, First Nations Summit, BC Treaty Commission and TACs;
- In relation to UBCM's Cooperation Agreements with the First Nations Summit and federal Department of Indian Affairs, that work on the priorities identified for 2004 proceed including the review of the regional Community to Community Forum (RC2C) program, a second Technical Workshop and completion of the dispute resolution guide; and that
- In relation to the 2003-2004 RC2C program that three new applications for funding be approved: District of Lantzville, North Central Municipal Association and Thompson Nicola Regional District.

LIBRARY TASK FORCE

The Task Force met with Maureen Woods, Director of the Public Library Services Branch (MCAWS); Jim Looney, Manager, Technology and Information Services (PLSB); and Bert Zethof and Mary Colak of The Zethof Consulting Group Inc. Councillor Ron Cannan presented a brief overview of the main issues raised by local governments in their response to the Library Task Force member survey of July 2003, as well as delegate responses gathered at the Public Libraries Clinic at Convention. This was followed by an informal presentation by Maureen Woods of ideas and plans under consideration in the development of the PLSB strategic planning process for BC public libraries. It was decided that the PLSB would seek to hold workshops on public library issues at each of the five upcoming Area Association meetings and that UBCM staff would help to facilitate initial contact between the PLSB and the Area Associations.

MEETING WITH THE HONOURABLE GEORGE ABBOTT, MINISTER OF COMMUNITY, ABORIGINAL AND WOMEN'S SERVICES

The Executive met with Minister George Abbott, his new Executive Assistant, Jerry Muir, and Assistant Deputy Minister Dale Wall. Mayor Frank Leonard thanked the Minister for his participation in the 2003 Convention and for the significant provincial presence at the Convention, and the Minister congratulated the UBCM on a very successful event.

Discussion followed on:

- the conveyance of 2003 resolutions and policy matters – with particular attention paid to special resolutions on civil liability and liquor policy and provincial progress in these areas;
- the new environmental legislation policy paper and ongoing discussions between the UBCM and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection;
- Bill 48 and UBCM's willingness to work with the Ministry of Agriculture in developing a protocol that would clearly outline the circumstances under which the legislation would be applied and a process that would be followed prior to designating any Crown land as a "farming area" under the Right to Farm legislation; as well as UBCM support for both an agriculture and an aquaculture pilot project to ensure that issues unique to each of these operations is adequately addressed;
- the waste permit fee increases, which the Minister assured would be tied to the actual cost of service provision;
- the status of the 1% utility tax and the formation of a local government steering committee that will have input into talks on the impacts of structural and other changes in the utility sector on the tax base;
- the inclusion of land use and Regional District structure in Phase II *Community Charter* discussions; and
- the provincial government's continued intention to implement full taxation of Crown Corporations and the return of 75% of traffic fines to municipalities within its first term.

2003 - 2004 EXECUTIVE

President Mayor Frank Leonard, Saanich	Vancouver Representative Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, Vancouver	NCMA Chair Ted Armstrong, Cariboo RD
First Vice-President Director Aaron Dinwoodie, Central Okanagan RD	GVRD Representative Mayor Don MacLean, Pitt Meadows	OMMA Councillor Ron Cannan, Kelowna
Second Vice-President Chair Marvin Hunt, GVRD/Surrey	Small Community Rep. Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Telkwa	AVICC Mayor Jack Peake, Lake Cowichan
Third Vice-President Mayor Wayne Dahlen, Dawson Creek	Electoral Area Rep. Director Susan Gimse, Squamish-Lillooet RD	Directors at Large Councillor Brenda Binnie, Castlegar Chair Robert Hobson, Central Okanagan RD/ Kelowna
Past President Councillor Patricia Wallace, Kamloops	AKBM Director Bill Baird, Kootenay-Boundary RD	Councillor Corinne Lonsdale, Squamish Councillor Ida Makaro, Cache Creek Mayor Herbert Pond, Prince Rupert
	LMMA Councillor Bob Fearnley, N. Vancouver City	

UBCM MISSION STATEMENT

The **values** we want associated with UBCM as an organization are:

- credibility and accuracy in what we do
- timely and effective in how we respond
- valuing teamwork and respecting diversity in everything we do
- being non-partisan and objective in how we present ourselves

Our **vision** is to most effectively represent and serve all local governments in BC.

Guided by our values and to achieve our vision the purpose of UBCM is:

To **represent and serve** all local governments in BC by:

- being the recognized advocate for their common interests
- meeting the member's common needs

We will be the recognized **advocate** for local BC government in:

- Policy development and implementation
- Government relations
- Communications externally
- Liaison with other groups

Our priorities for meeting the **member's common needs** are through:

- communication to members
- advice and training for local government officials
- Convention
- Information sharing

We strive for **continuous improvement** in all that we do.