

## Executive Meeting Highlights: November 4 - 5, 2004

The first full meeting of the new UBCM Executive included inaugural meetings of the new committees. Some committees have had modification to mandate and titles.

President Dinwoodie welcomed the following new Executive members:

- Councillor Bev Bellina, Sparwood, Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments representative.
- Mayor Colin Mayes, Salmon Arm, Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association representative
- Councillor Dan Rogers, Prince George, Director at Large
- Councillor Mary Sjostrom, Quesnel, North Central Municipal Association representative
- Councillor Terry Smith, Langley City, Lower Mainland Municipal Association representative

In their regular meeting, the Executive:

- made recommendations on all **resolutions** referred to the Executive – see below; (sponsors will be notified).
- dealt with resolutions that need to be referred to the federal government or FCM.
- reviewed the implementation of various policy documents adopted at the 2004 Convention.
- confirmed support for the **Team BC: Small Communities Setting the Pace** initiative.

- noted that the newly established **Regional District Task Force** would consider the responses from regional districts to the Working Group's Action Plan and Tool Kit proposal as well as next steps.
- reviewed new **Bills** tabled during the Fall legislative session – few pertain directly to local government (see In The House dated October 29<sup>th</sup>).
- reviewed a report on the calculation of 2004 **Traffic Fine Revenue** and approved a form for provincial accounting of revenues paid to policing municipalities.
- reviewed status of the **New Deal for Cities and Communities** and confirmed UBCM readiness to engage in negotiations. Based on update on discussions on the New Deal, will continue to push for an agreement before the end of the year.
- reviewed **Committees appointments and approved appointments to external Committees and agencies** (Committee appointments will appear in the December UBCM News or consult Civicnet).
- were advised that there is only a small amount remaining in the current **Infrastructure program** – 300 projects totaling over \$830 million have been supported by this program. Reviewed the status of negotiations on the next tripartite infrastructure program.
- reviewed a status report on the administration of **provincially funded programs**.
- were advised that WCB would be releasing a report on **Cancer Presumptions** in Firefighters.

### COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

#### PRESIDENTS

Recommended appointments for a primary and alternate trustee for the **Municipal Pension Plan** and for the primary trustee for the “excluded” staff position. Advised of planning underway for the 100th anniversary on September 27, 2005 of the founding of UBCM.

#### CONVENTION

The Convention Committee reviewed preliminary evaluations of the 2004 Convention including, but not limited to, attendance numbers, staff comments and media coverage. The planning cycle for 2005 was discussed and it was agreed:

- that prior to the 2005 Municipal Marketplace, there be a full review of the roles and responsibilities for marketing the booth sales.

#### ENVIRONMENT

The Environment Committee recommended the following measures:

- with respect to priorities for 2004 - 2005, Committee will develop an integrated management approach to contaminated sites; integrated pest management, flood hazard management and product stewardship; establish better communication with both Environment Canada and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; expand work on developing an integrated environmental management approach by undertaking an Environment Conference in early 2005 on the issue and a membership survey on local challenges in environmental management.
- requested additional resources from the provincial government for, conservation officers to address human-wildlife conflicts in local

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communities; new funding for a flood hazard protection program and to provide technical assistance on flood hazard issues; and ongoing funding to address West Nile virus issues.

- will be seeking a meeting with the federal Minister of Environment to discuss the approach of the federal government to implementing its species-at-risk policy and to integrated environment management.
- request that the Ministry of Health Services hold additional consultation sessions with local government representatives on drinking water.

## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Committee, with origins in the Communities and Resources Committee, discussed a variety of issues including:

- its revised Terms of Reference to address the new economic development focus but noted that it would continue to address resource policy matters.
- noted the following new and **emerging priorities** for the Committee:
  - promotion and enhancement of tourism opportunities for communities.
  - identifying the important role that infrastructure, specifically transportation infrastructure, plays in ensuring the efficient movement of people and goods and services.
  - identifying community success stories or best practices with respect to community economic development and promoting these to the membership.
- identified the following **ongoing priorities** for the Committee:
  - enhancing communications about the role of the Committee to UBCM members and the provincial government.
  - promotion of a resource revenue sharing program with the provincial government, following the endorsement of the UBCM policy paper at the 2004 Convention
  - continuing to represent local government interests on a variety of forestry matters including: provincial forest policy changes, community forest opportunities, softwood lumber and the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
  - ensuring local government interests are represented in IPP development and other discussions related to alternative energy options.
  - determine status of an angling guide management plan and impact on recreational tourism opportunities.
- will be seeking delegations from the Forest Revitalization Trust and the provincial Offshore Oil and Gas Team.

## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The Committee, previously known as the Health Committee, discussed a variety of issues including:

- revised its Terms of Reference to include a dual focus on health promotion and disease prevention initiatives and addressing ongoing priority issues including: health care funding, rural doctors, coordination with Regional Health Authorities, ambulance service, etc.

- priorities for 2004/05 – with respect to priorities for healthy communities, develop and implement a **three-year action plan** resulting in tangible products and with respect to other priorities, focus on current health issues raised by our members including through resolutions at the 2004 Convention.
- completion and sign-off of the **Consultation Agreement** between UBCM, Ministry of Health Services and MCAWS pursuant to the *Community Charter*.
- seeking delegations from the Minister of Health Services and Minister of State for Mental Health and Addiction Services
- developing a stronger working relationship with Ministry of Health Services, including discussion on changes to health related legislation of interest to local government.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Community Safety Committee with origins in Justice & Protective Services Committee discussed the following issues:

- with respect to priorities for 2004 - 2005, expand the new bylaw notice dispute adjudication process to other local governments;
  - develop a consultation agreements on Keep of Prisoners and liquor policy; develop an integrated approach on community safety issues;
  - facilitate consultation between small communities and rural areas and RCMP; establish a communication vehicle(s) with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the RCMP;
  - explore interest in facilitating a meeting between larger urban centres and RCMP to discuss policing issues;
  - arrange meetings with the Solicitor General and the Commander of 'E' Division.
- identified the need to involve the federal and provincial government in addressing **local crime prevention initiatives** and the importance of local government participation in the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Conference on youth issues to be held on November 24 and 25 in Richmond as an important step in this process.
- proposed review by the **Liquor Control** and Licensing Branch into local government's role in the liquor licensing process.
- will consult with local government staff, the police and others on the implementation of the new **Safe Streets Act**, and respond to a request from the Ministry of Attorney General for feedback on how the Safe Streets Act should be implemented.
- agreed to review the issue of acquiring **search warrants** in an expeditious manner and report back to at the next meeting of the Committee.

## FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS

The Committee, previously known as the Aboriginal Affairs Committee advanced a number of actions, including:

- changing the name of the Aboriginal Committee to the First Nations Relations Committee and expanding the Terms of Reference to better reflect the Committee's role, which includes relationship building between First Nation and local governments.

- proceeding with planning of the **Joint TAC Summit** on November 18, 2004 to discuss and set direction on local government priority issues arising out of final treaty negotiations and inviting Minister Plant and Minister Coell to attend.
- conveying the report of the **UBCM Governance Technical Team** to the provincial and federal treaty negotiation offices.
- writing to provincial and federal ministers that are responsible for treaty negotiations on a number of priority issues, including: local government key interests and concerns related to **First Nations governance; adequate funding** for local governments to work with First Nations governments on issues related to their post-treaty relationship; and UBCM's support for a consistent approach to the process for **adding land to Treaty Settlement Lands** post-treaty.
- approving four new applications and two revised applications for **Community to Community Forum** funding.
- pursuing the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the province on the issue of **treaty related transition funding** for local governments.

## REGIONAL DISTRICT TASK FORCE

This was the first meeting of the newly established Task Force. Members discussed the following issues:

- Terms of Reference – *The Task Force will carry forward the implementation of the recommendations of the Regional District Working Group that were endorsed by the Executive in September 2004. The Task Force will partner with the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services in particular, in order to combine resources for any outreach activities to members, including presentations at the five Area Associations as well as the UBCM's newly elected seminars.*
- Priorities for 2004/05 – Implementation of a five-phase Work Plan for preparation of the **Regional District Toolkit** and implementation of the Action Plan, starting with obtaining support from UBCM members.
- The Regional District Toolkit which could include: 10-15 best practices guides; 10-15 fact sheets; 5-8 discussion guides; 1 powerpoint presentation and 1 booklet and possible video.
- Presentations at the five Area Association annual meetings in 2005.

## RESOLUTIONS

### DISPOSITION OF RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE

The UBCM Executive considered ten resolutions referred by the Convention. Included in this count were three resolutions directly referred to the Executive by delegates and seven resolutions automatically referred to the Executive through the block passage of much of Section B – Part III. The latter resolutions were those for which there were no Resolutions Committee recommendations noted prior to Convention. The following is a summary of the Executive's decisions.

### Resolutions directly referred to the Executive:

#### B39 BILL 75 – SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS STREAMLINING ACT

The sponsor will be advised that the Executive prefers to avoid the use of Bill 75 until such time as the legislation can be amended. The UBCM will not develop a fund or attempt to levy contributions in anticipation of a legal challenge on behalf of local government unless such a challenge becomes necessary in the future.

#### B40 FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS

The Executive resolved to convey this resolution to the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services for a formal response on the issue in question.

#### B115 OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION

The Executive directed staff to advise the sponsor that although UBCM supports the lifting of the moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration (2004-B114), it will work to encourage consultation with local government on *how* such exploration should proceed if the moratorium is lifted.

### Resolutions automatically referred to the Executive:

#### B120 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HEALTH AUTHORITY BOARDS

The Executive referred this resolution to the Healthy Communities Committee for further consideration.

#### B122 HEALTH AUTHORITY STRUCTURE

The Executive referred this resolution to the Healthy Communities Committee for further consideration.

#### B124 ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE IN CANADA

The Executive did not endorse this resolution.

#### B127 FUNDING FOR AFFILIATED CARE HOMES

The Executive referred this resolution to the Healthy Communities Committee for further consideration.

#### B134 PROVINCIAL WELFARE POLICY

The Executive endorsed this resolution and directed staff to research the terms of reference for the recently announced provincial task force on mental illness, homelessness and addictions with the intention of conveying the resolution directly to the task force if deemed appropriate.

#### B137 EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

The Executive resolved to convey resolution 2001-B98 to the provincial government as a restatement of UBCM policy on the issue of early childhood development and care and directed staff to advise the sponsors of 2004-B137, C30, C31, C32 and C33 of this action.

#### B139 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Executive endorsed this resolution and directed staff to convey it to the provincial government for comment.