

Executive Meeting Highlights: July 15 - 16, 2004

This is a pivotal meeting in the UBCM calendar with the review of year-end (June 30th) financial statements, budget for the year ahead, review of resolutions and programming for the annual convention. Eight committees met and the Executive met with Ministers Santori, Coell and Abbott during the day and a half sessions.

During regular business the Executive:

- will prepare policy papers for the convention including an updated BC Communities Agenda; Environment Action Plan; Resource Revenue Sharing; and options for the federal New Deal for Cities and Communities.
- Executive members approved a number of policy directions including:
 - investigating the status of the BC Ports Strategy initiative
 - monitoring developments in the regional fire services pilot program
 - clarifying its position on assessment of short-term overnight accommodations
 - providing input to the development of *Private Managed Forest Land Act* regulations
 - input to Ministry of Transportation working group on rural subdivision
 - monitoring development of regulation pursuant to *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act* and watching for any impacts on local governments, including any new fees which may come about
- monitoring implementation of *Community Charter* Concurrent Authority Regulation on Buildings and Other Structures and concerns that may be arising from potential inconsistencies with the Municipal Insurance Association's Core Building Bylaw
- authorized development of a presentation on the Action Plan and "tool kit" of materials aimed at improving the **understanding of regional districts** and roles of directors, to be made at the joint municipal/electoral area portion of RD day at the convention.
- briefed on initial tripartite discussions on the new **Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF)** and recommended to maintain the current green/non-green split of the current program in the new MRIF program; explore the potential to the one-third local contribution for local governments that have reduced financial capacity; and to minimize the application process administrative burden.
- MCAWS/UBCM staff made a presentation on the Joint Advisory Committee preparations for **New Deal for Cities and Communities** discussions with the federal government. Consultations with UBCM members will be included in the convention agenda.
- will support a levy being placed on cell/wireless services to fund all costs associated with the delivery of **911 emergency service**; support the BC911 Service Providers Association in their actions; and request legislation/regulations from the provincial government, in agreement with the industry, that would allow a levy to be placed on cell/wireless services province wide that could be used to fund all costs associated with the delivery of 911 emergency services.
- received year-end financial statements which showed a break-even position.
- adopted the 2004/05 work program and a preliminary budget with a 2% dues increase.
- conducted the annual review of the status, activities and effectiveness of MOUs, consultation agreements and other arrangements between UBCM and government or other groups.
- were advised that staff made a record of 42 visits to members in the past year.
- received the **provincial government responses to 2003 resolutions** and were advised that copies had been provided to sponsors and posted on the web.
- were advised that the funding for the current **infrastructure program** is just about exhausted.
- received the Inter-agency Working Group Report on provincial Reimbursement Rates for **fire applications and personnel** when responding to a provincial emergency.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOMINATING

Councillor Wallace advised that the Nominating Committee had been duly constituted with the following members:

- Councillor Patricia Wallace, Past President, Chair
- Councillor Ken Buchanan, NCMA
- Mayor Colin Mayes, OMMA
- Councillor Bev Bellina, AKBLG
- Councillor Terry Smith, LMMA
- Mayor Jack Peake, AVICC

She also noted that the Committee has distributed the call for nominations with a deadline of July 30, 2004 for receipt of nominations.

PRESIDENTS

The President's Committee has been very busy and met twice in June by conference call and in advance of the last Executive meeting. It has been:

- approving the application guidelines for various of the provincially funded programs (emergency planning; traffic commissions; community sprinklers; community wildfire hazard plans)
- approved a service agreement with the LMMA
- dealt with nominations to the Invasive Plant Council and ICIS
- continued work on class 4 major industrial assessment and taxation
- further work on UBCM History in time for 2005 100th anniversary
- reviewing the results of the member satisfaction survey
- quarterbacking the judging of the Community Excellence Awards

RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions Committee reviewed the report on 2004 resolutions. Attention was drawn to the number of resolutions received, which at 193 was down slightly from 2003 but still high in comparison with previous years. The Committee made several suggestions for amendments to resolutions, made recommendations and will begin selecting a Gold Star and Honourable Mention candidates according to established criteria.

HEALTH

The Committee provided the Executive with an overview of the issues addressed by the Committee and noted the presentations on health promotion and wellness made by the delegation, Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer.

The following recommendations were endorsed by the Executive:

- advise the Ministry of Health Services that the most recent version of the draft **Public Health consultation agreement** is acceptable as amended by legal counsel, and that signing should be pursued as soon as possible;
- write to the appropriate authorities to advocate the reinstatement of **mobile blood donor clinics** in rural and remote communities in BC; and
- seek opportunities to raise awareness of the need for blood donations generally.

JUSTICE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The Justice and Protective Services met with RCMP staff and discussed some of the major issues facing the RCMP in the upcoming year. The Committee also met with Ministry of Attorney General staff and discussed the implementation of the new bylaw adjudication process.

The following actions were endorsed by the Executive:

- request that the **Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act** be amended to allow for more efficient use of electronic hearings (telephone, etc.).
- request that the ministry provide ongoing financial assistance to train local government **bylaw officers and adjudicators** in the implementation of the bylaw adjudication process.
- support the recommendations in the Canadian Association of Police Boards' report on **marijuana grow operations**.
- request that the province develop a broad-based and coordinated strategy to tackle the use of crystal meth among children and young adults.
- organize a meeting with MIA and municipal solicitors to determine the steps that regional districts and municipalities should take to protect themselves against legal action by insurance underwriters as a consequence of **wildfires**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS....

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

The Aboriginal Affairs Committee discussed policy issues and recent activities related to First Nations governance post-treaty, including government to government relationships between First Nations and regional districts. The Committee took the following actions:

- directed that a discussion paper on **treaty-related governance** issues be developed and presented to Treaty Advisory Committees (TACs) at a joint meeting at Convention and that at that meeting, TACs be requested to report on progress at active treaty tables and any issues arising related to TAC funding or local government representation;
- proposed a resolution for consideration by members at Convention on **consultation with regional districts** on additions to Treaty Settlement Lands, which the Executive endorsed;
- selected March 2005 as a tentative date for the next province-wide **Community to Community Forum**

and planned meetings with officials at the federal Department of Indian Affairs and with the First Nations Summit to set priorities for the final year of our respective agreements with them;

- approved 24 new applications for regional Community to Community Forum funding and approved a funding advance for the program to meet this year's high demand, based on the commitment in principle by federal and provincial governments to funding in 2005;
- received a report on the ten **Community Excellence Awards** submissions for the Partnership category which featured local government partnerships with First Nations; and
- received an update on the work of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group at the **Tsawwassen treaty table** from the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee chair.

CONVENTION

The Committee met to review Convention programming items such as clinic and workshop proposals, timelines, host city responsibilities, an update on sponsorships and the status of other planning initiatives. The following items were determined and approved:

- clinic and workshop choices;
- cabinet panels;
- speaker choices;
- policy paper and resolutions schedule; and
- the overall convention program.



COMMUNITIES & RESOURCES

The Committee provided an overview of the issues discussed at the Committee meeting related to forestry, energy and fisheries policy.

The following recommendations were endorsed by the Executive:

- convey UBCM's comments to Land and Water BC on their draft **wind power policy**.
- determine the status of the **Forest Revitalization Trust** and how funds will be distributed to displaced forestry workers.
- provide input into the **Oil and Gas Commission's** review of its licensing and permitting process.
- write the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans encouraging consultation with coastal communities on any potential changes to the structure of the coastal fishery and UBCM policy position which **supports on shore processing** as a first priority, not factory vessel processing.
- approve development of a **resource revenue sharing** policy paper for member consideration at the 2004 Convention.

COMMITTEE REPORTS....

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee provided an overview of the issues addressed by the Committee and the delegation on the BC Wetland Stewardship Partnership.

The following recommendations were endorsed by the Executive:

- request that local governments be given an opportunity to review and discuss the details of the proposed **Riparian Area Regulation** approach over the next three months and that any changes necessary to ensure effective implementation of the regulation be brought forward to Cabinet. Also that a related workshop be held at the UBCM convention in September and that there be a joint review of the status and preparedness for implementation on October 15, 2004 and December 15, 2004 prior to the March 31, 2005 implementation date,
- the Committee Chair will make a presentation to the Health Leadership Council regarding local

government interests in implementation of the **Drinking Water Protection policy**,

- write the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, and the Solicitor General urging the commitment of ongoing funding to the management of dikes and dike maintenance, and the reinstatement of the **Flood Protection Assistance Fund** and continue to monitor the progress on the **Flood Plain Development Guideline**,
- correspond with the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection on local government concerns regarding **Species at Risk and habitat protection** responsibilities,
- indicate to the Minister of Health that local government is not accepting responsibility for control of **West Nile Virus** on Crown lands, in provincial or federal parks,
- reconfirm support for the **Protocol on Principles for Sharing Environmental Responsibilities** between UBCM and the Ministries of Water, Land and Air Protection; Sustainable Resource Management; and Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.

DELEGATIONS

MINISTER OF COMMUNITY, ABORIGINAL AND WOMEN'S SERVICES,
HON. MURRAY COELL

The Minister was on hand for the prior discussion on resort development and for a presentation of the observations of a local-provincial Joint Advisory Committee on a made in BC approval to a federal **New Deal for Cities and Communities**.

Advisory Committee co-chair, MCAWS Deputy Minister Gerry Armstrong, made the presentation; and together with co-chair Richard Taylor, both responded to questions.

Later in the meeting, the Executive directed that UBCM continue discussions with the provincial government (following a hiatus during the federal election); that UBCM members be updated and surveyed on aspects of a potential New Deal; and that a policy paper be prepared for the upcoming convention.

MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT,
HON. GEORGE ABBOTT

Minister Abbott and Agriculture Land Commission (ALC) Chair/CEO Kirk Miller outlined draft amendments to the ALR Use, Subdivision and Procedure regulation that will provide further details on changes to the ALC Act passed this spring. These amendments will allow First Nations that have negotiated Agreement in Principle as part of treaty negotiations (currently there are four) to apply to the ALC for potential **exclusion of ALR lands**.

Executive discussed measures for ensuring openness in the exclusion application process, including consultation with adjacent local governments and public involvement.

DELEGATIONS....

PARTNERSHIPS BC

Partnerships BC: Larry Blain, CEO and Suromitra Sanatani, VP, Corporate and Government Relations

The following is an overview of the issues discussed at the meeting with Partnerships BC. During the meeting Mr. Blain:

- provided **background** information on Partnerships BC – a company created by the provincial government to negotiate P3 projects;
- highlighted nine major public partnership **projects** currently underway in BC;
- discussed the issue of **transparency** in the P3 process and advised that Partnerships BC makes as much information as possible available in “disclosure statements” and on its website;
- mentioned that **health** and **education** are key sectors for P3 opportunities, as are water and wastewater projects and many other types of developments;
- indicated an interest on behalf of Partnerships BC in pursuing more work with **local government**; and
- discussed concerns around project **financing** by the public and private sectors and Partnerships BC’s role as an intermediary with regard to generating partnerships and facilitating project financing arrangements.

Other issues raised with Mr. Blain included public as opposed to private financing of P3 projects due to better credit ratings for the public sector, the potential for private investors backing out if P3 projects run into difficulties and the potential for pension investments in P3s.

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RESORT DEVELOPMENT,
HON. SANDY SANTORI

The Minister made a presentation on the BC Resort Task Force and related work. Following the presentation the Executive agreed to conclude a MOU with the Minister and MCAWS. The MOU will see UBCM involved in three projects:

- **Sequencing Project** - will address planning, servicing and governance issues associated with transition to resort community;
- **Best Practices Guide** - tools to enable resort communities meet their goals; and
- **Municipal Crown Land Linkage Project** - harmonization of provincial and local government major resort project review mechanisms, including planning and zoning processes.

MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

MIA Chair Janis Elkerton attended the meeting to reflect on the disappointing news that the Attorney General had ended the **Civil Liability Review** without any action. She and the Executive had a wide-ranging discussion about effectiveness of strategies and tactics, reasons for the lack of action and the degree of support or lack of support in different sectors.

In follow-up discussion, the Executive resolved to prepare an options paper prior to Convention.