

Highlights of the UBCM Executive Meeting held on November 24 - 25, 2005

This was the first meeting of the new UBCM Executive, which included the inaugural meeting of seven of the standing committees, an Executive session on priorities for the coming year and an orientation session for new directors. The Executive also dealt with appointments to vacancies created as a result of the recent elections.

The Executive dealt with the following matters:

- confirmed that the requested extension of the Canada-BC Infrastructure Program had been granted and instructed staff to continue to be vigilant in monitoring the "project watch list" so the funding was not lost over projects that did not commence construction
- requested that the strategy with respect to business property taxation be broadened to include discussion with the Competition Council
- directed staff to continue to contribute to the Local Government Act statutes revision and assessment exception legislative issues
- will continue to work with the Ministry of Health in identifying the steps local government need to take to be prepared for a pandemic event
- continue participation in a working group reviewing local government authority to require upgrading of existing buildings to meet current fire/building codes
- engage in discussions with the Ministry of Community Services on the announced doubling of Small Community and Regional District grants over four years
- announced Committee appointments for the coming year. (A full listing of standing committees will be provided after the February meeting once vacancies are filled.) As well, the following new, specific appointments were approved:
 - Environment Protocol – Mayor Herb Pond, Environment Committee Chair
 - Province-Wide Treaty Advisory Group – Chair Terry Raymond, Chair, First Nations Relations Committee
 - BC Fire Chiefs Association – Director Susan Gimse
 - BCSTA-UBCM Protocol Working Group – Chair Marvin Hunt
 - Foreign Animal Disease Eradication Support Planning Committee - Jared Wright, UBCM staff
 - BC Used Oil Management Association – Director Aaron Dinwoodie

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

As a result of local elections, 5 of 19 members of the Executive were not re-elected including the First Vice-President. Of these, three will be replaced through appointments by the City of Vancouver, Lower Mainland Municipal Association and the Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association. The Executive has decided not to make appointments to replace a vacant Director at Large position or to appoint an acting Director at Large position with respect to the vacant Third Vice President position.

Councillor Brenda Binnie has assumed the position of First Vice President and Director Susan Gimse is now Second Vice President.

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

- Offshore Oil and Gas MOU Working Group – Mayor Sharon Hartwell, CED Committee representative.

- New Deal Management Committee – Brenda Gibson (UBCM) and Johnny Carline (GVRD)

- New Deal Partnership Committee – Mayor Frank Leonard (to Dec. 31, 2005) and Chair Marvin Hunt (after Jan. 1, 2006)

- Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative Management Committee – Allan Madrigga, EDO, Williams Lake / Jared Wright, UBCM staff

- considered 13 resolutions referred by the 2005 Convention. A summary of the Executive's decisions are noted in the sidebar

- reviewed a report detailing the post-Convention conveyance of 134 resolutions of provincial relevance to the Minister of Community Services, 43 resolutions to various federal government ministries, nine resolutions to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and 21 resolutions to crown corporations and other agencies and organizations

- reviewed a number of announcements made at the 2005 Convention, primarily from the Premier, and assigned responsibility for UBCM involvements in the 211 call number proposal to the Community Safety Committee

- in response to policy issues raised at the Small Talk Forum and the Electoral Area Directors Forum the Executive will:

- ensure small community concerns related to funding police services are taken into consideration when discussion with the province commences;

- concerns related to road maintenance be referred to staff and, pending receipt of a provincial response to a resolution on the same issue, determine next steps as required;

- convey electoral area directors' concerns related to the need to find more funding for regional district emergency planning for areas with low capacity;

- reiterate the position related to municipal boundary extensions in resolution A14/2003 and follow-up with the Ministry.

- reviewed the first report on results of a "Looking Ahead" survey of UBCM member issues and priorities and asked for a full report at the next meeting including how the results might inform Executive priority actions

- received an update on discussions related to the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund and directed that the UBCM President

Disposition of Resolutions Referred to the Executive

The following is a summary of the Executive's decisions:

Resolutions Referred Directly from Section B – Part II

B91 PROPERTY TAX PENALTY

That the Executive and/or staff pursue the issue during discussions with the Ministry of Community Services on new tax sale legislation.

B93 COMPENSATION TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR PROPERTY TAXES OWED

That staff monitor developments and take appropriate action on the issue of property taxes owed in light of unique circumstances.

B99 ELIMINATION OF GST AND EXCISE TAXES ON FUEL USED IN RCMP VEHICLES

That staff prepare a report on this issue for the next Executive meeting.

B100 NEW DEAL AGREEMENT

That no action be taken on this resolution since the agreement in question had been concluded.

B105 UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

That the resolution be endorsed with the following amendment:

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM work with the Government of British Columbia to develop a long-term program of unconditional grants for local governments funded from income, consumption, and resource taxation sources."

B116 INVASIVE PLANTS

That staff make information available that will allow members to assess the benefits of membership in the Invasive Plant Council.

B133 UBCM CONVENTION DAYS

That staff survey the UBCM membership on whether or not a change in Convention scheduling is desired.

B135 UBCM TABLE OFFICERS ATTENDANCE AT FCM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

That the Executive not endorse this resolution as this matter was indirectly dealt with at the July 2005 Executive meeting.

Con't...

write to federal Ministers identifying current efforts, issues and opportunities with MRIF negotiations and urge that he take action to close the deal in BC and copy the affected provincial Ministers on the letter.

- discussed the New Deal Transit Funding in particular, with respect to the potential additional \$100 million that might flow to BC for transit (on top of the New Deal gas tax funding) and discussed making some of that available to fund new small systems, in accordance with a resolution endorsed at the 2005 Convention. Staff was directed to bring back a negotiating mandate once the federal proposal is received and reviewed. In a related matter, the Executive approved establishing a Task Force to coordinate municipal responses to the review of BC Transit governance and funding.
- reviewed new Bills tabled in the Fall Legislative session. (See separate In the House and Fall Legislative Highlights under New Documents on www.civicnet.bc.ca)
- confirmed that, in addition to six newly elected seminar

sessions, the following conferences are planned for the coming year:

- Province-wide Community to Community Forum
- Community Economic Development
- Seniors Conference

- approved in principle a draft Charter and Terms of Reference to advance the Local Government Leadership Academy to ensure ongoing training opportunities for local elected officials. In addition to the Premier's commitment of \$1 million, the Executive is now calling on member municipalities and regional districts to show their support. A member circular has been distributed and is posted on www.civicnet.bc.ca under [News/Announcements](#).

- agreed to provide \$100,000 in funding support to the BC Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Secretariat for community promotion in Torino of BC-Canada Place. Funds will be taken from the interest earned portion of the tourism funds.

Disposition of Resolutions ~ Con't. . .

Resolutions Automatically Referred from Section B – Part III

B147 HEALTH AUTHORITY STRUCTURE

That the Executive not endorse this resolution and advise the sponsor that the matter of researching current local government satisfaction with RHA communication, consultation and responsiveness will be referred to the Healthy Communities Committee.

B164 EXPANDED GAMBLING IN BC

That the Executive not endorse this resolution.

Resolutions Referred from the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline

LR6 MINERAL LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS

That staff monitor the issue and ensure that the new referral process to local governments for coal is being followed and that the Ministry is being encouraged to include early referrals to local governments for all other mineral applications.

LR7 TECK COMINCO SURPLUS POWER

That this resolution be referred to staff to determine what other follow up action may be required in light of information received from Teck Cominco.

LR8 NEW SEWERAGE SYSTEM REGULATION

That this resolution be referred to the Environment Committee and that the Committee pursue the issue with the Ministry of Health and the BC Onsite Sewage Association if necessary.

Endorsed Resolutions Requesting UBCM Action

B59 ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS

That the Executive approach the Ministry of Community Services to discuss various issues around the Alternative Approval Process, including an amendment that would address the issue of voter eligibility.

B67 SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM BYLAW

That staff communicate to the UBCM membership the availability of a model Security System Alarm Bylaw developed by the City of Vancouver.

B134 VIDEOCONFERENCING

That staff investigate the possibility of using videoconferencing and other distance-participation technologies to provide the UBCM membership with increased access to UBCM workshops, seminars and other sessions in the future.

LR1 NEW DEAL 2

That the Executive pursue this issue with the federal government in future negotiations.

- designated the Presidents Committee with the responsibility to manage UBCM interests in the development of a "new" Municipal House. The Premier announced a new site would be provided to UBCM to construct a permanent local government presence in Victoria. The first step is a rezoning application at the proposed site - 509 Government Street, Victoria.
- reviewed the summary report of the numerous provincially funded grant programs being administered by UBCM. In accordance with Executive policies the financial statements are available on CivicNet.
- approved the Business Plan for the New Deal Management Services (the arm of UBCM responsible for implementing the five-year, \$635 million federal transfer of gas tax revenues) needed to obtain federal funding for the UBCM administration costs and plans to develop the terms of reference for the remaining application based programs. (See separate article for more New Deal news.)
- supported development of a work plan to support the implementation of the objectives of the Philippines Memorandum of Understanding adopted at the 2005 Convention between UBCM, FCM and the League of Cities of the Philippines and League of Municipalities of the Philippines.
- received a letter from the Honourable John Les, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Safety confirming Government's decision to implement a new police finance model in 2007 for small communities and rural areas. A Task Force will be established to oversee the review of the Government's proposal. (UBCM has established a website for information on

this initiative and the full text of the Solicitor General's letter is posted under Featured Policy topics on CivicNet.)

- welcomed the following new staff to the UBCM:
 - Brenda Gibson, Manager, New Deal
 - Erik Kowalski, Director, Healthy Communities Initiative
 - Tam Lundy, Program and Education Coordinator, Healthy Communities Initiative
 - Susan Paton, Administrative Assistant, Local Government Program Services
- received a report on the successful launch of the Regional District Tool Kit and strong member interest. Directed that staff meet with interested Executive members, as needed, to keep them apprised of ongoing member response to the Tool Kit and any necessary follow up action.
- reviewed the Centennial Celebration activities undertaken, including completion of the history book by end of this year, UBCM corporate video and history panels updated and a variety of Convention related initiatives such as:
 - Address by Prime Minister (only second in UBCM history)
 - Lieutenant-Governor at Delegates Lunch.
 - Flag parade with 143 participants at opening.
 - The Chief Herald of Canada presented a new official flag and badge.
 - Each member received a commemorative plaque made from pine beetle wood.
 - Ministry of Community Services produced special "elected officials only" pin and signed registry.

Committees

Presidents

The Presidents Committee considered a variety of organizational and administrative matters including a report on member services, set directions for the 2006 Excellence Awards Program and took specific action on the following:

- consider a report at the next meeting on options for local government participation in the proposed BC Underground Safety Project;
- undertake a survey regarding member interest in a BC Local Government Internship Program and determine the level of member interest in financing such a program; and

- gather background information on the status of liability reform.

Convention

The Convention Committee met to review the 2005 Delegate Evaluation results and to discuss planning for the 2006 Convention. Scores from the Delegate Evaluations can be seen in the December issue of the UBCM newsletter. The Committee discussed the successes, as well as areas in need of improvement that have been revealed thus far. Items still to be reviewed are the Municipal Marketplace and Delegate Comments.

Overall, the Delegate Evaluations revealed that the 2005 event is the most highly rated Convention in UBCM history at 4.3 out of 5.0. Chair Gimse concluded the meeting by thanking the UBCM staff for all their hard work and for making the 2005 Convention such a success.

Environment

The Environment Committee reviewed the status of several policy and regulatory issues, and identified priorities for action for the 2005/06 year. The following activities and priority directions were approved:

- work to ensure the timely completion of the implementation tools for the Riparian Areas Regulation and the incorporation of local government concerns within the Regulation and policy directives;
- engage in consultation with the Ministry of Environment to address local government concerns regarding the regulatory and policy changes to the Contaminated Sites Regulation;
- work with the Ministry of Health and the British Columbia On-Site Sewage Association to address local government concerns arising from the implementation of the new Sewerage Regulation;
- work to ensure the inclusion of electronic waste and tires within the Recycling Regulation's schedules;
- enhance communication with the Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada; and
- investigate the possibility of creating a sustainable community planning guide.

Community Economic Development

In addition to confirming its Terms of Reference and approving its work plan for the coming year, the Committee took action in the following areas:

- continue planning for the CED spring conference and report launch;
- continue to work with the federal and provincial governments and advocate a coordinated approach to address the mountain pine beetle epidemic and request assistance to address the western pine beetle as well as mountain pine beetle;
- provide input prior to the redrafting of the 2006 BC Energy Plan and at the appropriate time request a meeting with BC Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources;
- respond to the BC Progress Board Report on the BC energy sector; and
- commend the provincial and federal governments on their litigation successes on softwood lumber and request that communities be considered if and when funds are remitted back to BC.

Healthy Communities

The Committee discussed their goals and priorities for the next year as part of a three year Action Plan and confirmed their Terms of Reference. They discussed the need for more provincial government action on ensuring there are healthy foods in schools. They also reviewed the current status of the Community Health Promotion Fund including the 30 projects assessed and selected as pilots.

The actions taken by the Committee included:

- conduct a survey of UBCM members to determine joint activities with Regional Health Authorities, consultation methods and improvements needed, bringing results to the 2006 UBCM Convention for discussion;
- write the Minister of Health to urge the provincial government to pursue the goal of removing unhealthy foods from schools more aggressively than the current target;
- write to the Deputy Minister of Health and express our concerns about recent additions to plans for legislative amendments to the Health Act;
- with respect to the Community Health Promotion Fund, requesting that staff provide: an in-depth analysis of the 151 Expressions of Interest received to provide more information on current member needs and priorities; an update on pilot projects proceeding; and next steps for the program; and
- request that staff bring the funding agreement with the

CRYSTAL METH FUNDING

UBCM and the provincial government have signed an MOU for \$2 million in seed funding for crystal meth response programs. Go to www.civicnet.bc.ca and look under News/Announcements for further details.

Knowledge Centre on Health and Learning to the Committee for their consideration and approval.

Community Safety

The Community Safety Committee discussed its priorities for 2006 and the following actions were approved:

- assist in implementation and expansion of new bylaw notice dispute adjudication process to other local governments;
- facilitate increased consultation with local government on liquor policy;
- explore opportunities for sharing proceeds of crime revenue with local government;
- assist in the implementation of the crystal meth program;
- review the coordination of crime prevention initiatives (seniors, women, homelessness etc.);
- review new provincial model for financing policing costs in 2007 for small communities and rural areas; and
- explore federal/provincial interest in organizing a Crime Prevention Conference in 2006.

First Nations Relations

The First Nations Relations Committee reviewed current issues and identified priority responsibilities for the upcoming year in the areas of treaty negotiations, First Nations governance

reform and consultation, and local government-First Nations relationship building.

Among the items received for information was the summary report from the workshop entitled, Regional District and First Nations Governments: Building Effective Relations, as well as the first pilot edition of C2C Connect – a newsletter on local government-First Nations relations. The following activities and priority directions were approved:

- monitor the development of the provincial “New Relationship” initiative with the First Nations Leadership Council and invite the Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to the February meeting to provide an update on this initiative and other important files;
- organize a conference call to elicit feedback from the Treaty Advisory Committee on the newly released report, Treaty Settlement Land: The Fiscal Impacts to Local Government and prepare a report;
- monitor the proposed First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act and circulate background material to Treaty Advisory Committees;
- undertake a series of follow-up meetings with respect to UBCM’s Protocol with the First Nations Summit and MOU with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; and
- approve follow-up actions with respect to the regional and province-wide Community to Community Forum Program.

NEW DEAL

Community Works Fund Agreements being Completed and Funds Following

UBCM has signed 63 of 162 Tier 1 and 2 local government Community Works Fund Agreements. The finalized agreements are being returned to local governments along with over \$7 million in CWF payments for this year.

The New Deal for Cities and Communities provides for a transfer of federal gas tax revenues. These funds flow to UBCM and UBCM enters into CFWAs for Tier 1 -2 local governments (outside GVRD) to receive annual funding. The first agreements were distributed on October 26 for councils’ and boards’ consideration. As soon as Agreements are returned to UBCM, we will review the documentation and issue payments. We want to complete this process by year-end for all agreements

received. The next “batch” of approvals and cheques will be on December 8th.

Within the GVRD, a Strategic Priorities Fund Agreement is being completed that will deliver approximately \$36 million this year in funding for transit improvements.

Since signing, the New Deal Agreement with Minister Godfrey in September, UBCM’s priority is to complete all agreements to flow the funding.

For further information, please call Brenda Gibson, General Manager, New Deal Management Services (250.356.0862 or bgibson@civicnet.bc.ca).