Highlights of April 21-22, 2005
Executive Meeting

The UBCM Executive met on April 21-22, 2005. During the two days, eight Committee meetings were held in conjunction with the quarterly meeting. In keeping with the theme “Looking Ahead”, Executive members discussed Committee work plans and priorities and related budgetary implications in preparation for the July Executive meeting.

During its meeting the Executive:

- discussed next steps in follow up to the April 15 New Deal Agreement in Principle between UBCM and the federal and provincial governments, including a review of items that are subject to further investigation in completing a final Contribution Agreement, possible scheduling and on completion of that agreement, consideration of UBCM responsibilities under a final agreement. For more information go to www.civicnet.bc.ca and look under the News/Announcements tab;

- was advised that all 184 members have paid their membership in UBCM for the coming year, ensuring 100% membership in the association for the 26th consecutive year;

- was advised that negotiations with the federal government on the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund had been deferred in order to focus on the New Deal negotiations;

- confirmed direction that Municipal Rural Infrastructure funds be used to top up the existing infrastructure program;

- confirmed the following committee appointments:
  - Convention Committee - Counsellor Ellen Woodsworth, City of Vancouver
  - MCAWS Building Policy Advisory Committee - Patrick Shek, Assistant Chief Building Inspector, City of Burnaby
  - Homeowner Protection Office Advisory Committee - Percy Melville, Chief Building Official, City of North Vancouver
  - Municipal Pension Board of Trustees - Mayor Malcolm Brodie, City of Richmond
  - Tourism Task Force — the newly established Task Force will oversee the provincially funded program. Executive members appointed to the Task Force include: Mayor Wayne Dahlen (Chair); Counsellor Corinne Lonsdale (Vice-Chair); Director Aaron Dinwoodie; Counsellor Brenda Binnie; Counsellor Mary Sjostrum; Counsellor Terry Smith; and May or Jack Peake.
  - Grizzly Bear Management Committee - Mayor Jack Peake
  - British Columbia Conservation Lands Forum - Mayor Malcolm Brodie, City of Richmond; Paul Skydt, GVRD (alternate); Chair Robert Hobson, Central Okanagan RD; and Jared Wright, UBCM staff (alternate);

- was advised that the working groups established in response to the MOUs on Independent Power Production and Resort Development — Harmonized Planning were also up and running;

- renewed its participation in the Joint Action with the Commercial Energy Consumers to address local government interests in hearings regarding electricity rates;

- received an update on provincially funded programs including three new programs for West Nile Prevention Initiatives, Community Health Promotion and Community Use of Schools. For further details, please go to the UBCM website at www.civicnet.bc.ca/About UBCM/Programs/Provincially Funded Programs;

- welcomed two new staff members to UBCM:
  - Harmony Folz commenced in February 2005 to provide assistance with UBCM’s centennial projects, publications and training materials for Newly Elected Officials seminars and policy analyst work.
  - Jessica Brandt commenced in February 2005 as the new office services/receptionist;

- confirmed financial legal assistance (1/3 to a max. of $10,000) to the Town of Osoyoos for appeal of case v. Rattlesnake Canyon Family Entertainment Park;

- received reports on the 2005 Federal and Provincial Budgets as well as related Ministry Service Plans;

- received the final Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing 2005/06 Grant Payments Annual Calculation Report confirming the amount shared with policing municipalities; and

- received an update on bills introduced into the spring 2005 provincial legislative session.

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

Presidents

The Presidents Committee considered a variety of organizational and administrative matters as well as reports on member service activities, centenary activities and progress in developing the 2006 Newly Elected Seminar series.

The following recommendations were approved:

- confirm staff recognition;
- continue discussions with the provincial governments to secure a long term arrangement for Municipal House;
- proceed with the Partnerships Category for this year’s Excellence Awards Program with the BCSTA - the topic to be community use of schools;
- hold one of the 2006 Newly Elected sessions in the Kootenays;
- do not proceed at this time to establish a group purchasing arrangement for natural gas; and
- work with the authors and CivicInfo to produce a fourth edition of the Local Government in BC publication.

Convention

The Committee reviewed Convention program development and special projects for the centennial celebration. Convention planning is ongoing and immediate work ahead includes research of banquet entertainment options to mark the 100th anniversary, keynote speakers and pre-conference sessions.

The following recommendations were approved:

- secure Storyleum in Gastown as the venue for the 2005 Welcome Reception;
- confirm and start organization of chosen Partners’ Program selections;
- selection of the 2005 Convention centennial logo; and
- registration fees and sponsorship goals as follows:
  - member registration fee of $335;
  - non-member registration fee of $420;
  - sponsorship goal of $125,000;
  - banquet price of $75; and
  - delegates lunch price to reflect direct sponsorship and all other meals at cost recovery.

Environment

The following activities and priority directions were approved:

- request a meeting with the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP) after the provincial election to review progress on the implementation of the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR);
- request that WLAP staff arrange local government consultation sessions on the RAR after the provincial election;
- submit the RAR protocol agreement to the UBCM Convention;
- hold another Environment Conference in 2007;
- write the Ministry of Health Services and request the development of an indemnity agreement that provides liability protection to both partners when dealing with the West Nile Virus;
- forward the legal review from the Municipal Insurance Association on the management of a West Nile Virus outbreak to the Ministry of Health Services for consideration;
- investigate the creation of a sustainable community planning guide; and
- consider holding a clinic at the UBCM Convention on a model wetlands bylaw.

Community Economic Development

The following activities and directions were approved by the Executive:

- seek clarification on the role of the Community Forests Advisory Committee in response to the latest round of invitations to communities to apply for community forest licences;
- determine the possible impacts on local governments of the new “stepped rates” for industrial customers (Rate 1821 customers);
- invite a representative of the BC Mining Association to make a delegation to the Committee at a future meeting;
- identified potential initiatives and activities in the area of energy and additional work and products regarding the results of the community economic development member survey;
- write to the Minister of Small Business and Economic Development to determine the status of the review of the Regional Film Commission Association of BC and request that local governments and the regional film commissions be provided with ample time to review any of the proposed changes to funding or governance structure and request that funding for this fiscal year be provided to the regions; and
- write to CN Rail and CP Rail requesting that consultations be undertaken with those communities experiencing increased rail traffic as a result of an increase in mining activity.
Healthy Communities

The Healthy Communities Committee met with two delegations, the first from the Ministry of Health Services to discuss a review of the Public Health Act and the second from 2010 LegaciesNow to discuss a UBCM Local Government Employee Health Promotion project proposal.

The following directions were approved:
- develop a plan for multi-phase implementation of the Community Health Promotion Fund, taking into account other related initiatives;
- UBCM support the proposal for launching a Healthy Communities Initiative currently being considered by Ministry of Health Services;
- UBCM support the BC Healthy Living Alliance plan for achieving the healthy living targets which have been previously endorsed by UBCM;
- UBCM partner with 2010 LegaciesNow in the delivery of a Local Government Employee Health Promotion Project; and
- UBCM form a technical working group to provide input to the Ministry of Health on their Public Health Act review.

Regional District Task Force

Director Gimse noted that excitement is building across the province in anticipation of the Regional District Tool Kit completion and its anticipated impact on improving the understanding of regional districts.

The following priority directions were approved:
- continue with Tool Kit development;
- continue to solicit input to draft documents at Area Association meetings;
- seek technical review of drafts from MCAWS; and
- develop a launch and distribution plan for the Tool Kit.

First Nations Relations

The First Nations Relations Committee reviewed a number of activities and policy issues related to treaty negotiations and local government-First Nations relations.

The following priority actions were approved:
- reviewed and set direction on a number of key treaty-related policy areas including: additions to Treaty Settlement

Land, local government relations and First Nations governance, and Final Agreement settlement legislation;
- directed that staff investigate holding a one-day, treaty-related workshop on First Nations governance and regional districts;
- approved the commencement of the 2005/2006 Community to Community Forum program year;
- authorized funding toward a local government-First Nation relations newsletter project that is being pursued jointly by the First Nations Summit and UBCM, in partnership with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; and
- directed that UBCM pursue an award for local government-First Nation partnerships as part of the UBCM Excellence Awards program in future years.

Community Safety

The following directions were approved:
- support in principle the development of a province wide initiative to provide access to health and human service information and referral, subject to the development of a business plan and identification of the costs of implementing the program (United Way – BC 211 Initiative);
- write the provincial government and request that regulatory changes be considered to allow for a more effective and efficient way to adopt and use the bylaw adjudication process;
- write the Attorney General and request that the province reconsider its decision not to fund the bylaw adjudicators required to implement the new bylaw adjudication process;
- continue to review the Federal Court of Appeal decision on PSAC vs. RCMP and determine what future action to take once the Supreme Court of Canada has determined whether or not it will hear the appeal;
- write to the CRTC and request that a public alert emergency system be made a condition of all CRTC broadcasting licences;
- write the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and request that they also write the CRTC and request that a public alert emergency system be made a condition of all CRTC broadcasting licences; and
- organize a future conference on crime prevention in 2005/06.

Recognition of Frank Storey and Barbara Ingamells

Prior to the Executive Committee meeting, the Executive took time out to join with UBCM staff and family and associates of Frank Storey and Barbara Ingamells to mark the occasion of their retirements from UBCM. Frank served nearly 30 years and Barbara served 16 years.