

Highlights of July 21-22, 2005 Executive Meeting

The UBCM Executive met on July 21-22, 2005 in one of its key meetings of the year to deal with events around the official year end. A full series of Committee meetings were also held in conjunction with the Executive meeting. The Executive met with the new Minister of Community Services, the Honourable Ida Chong and the Environment Committee met with new Environment Minister, the Honourable Barry Penner.

During its meeting the Executive:

- received an update on negotiations to conclude a **New Deal for Cities and Communities** that will begin transferring federal gas tax funding in 2005 and authorized the President to sign the agreement;
- provided direction on a range of New Deal implementation issues such as signing officers, investment policy, preparation of a business plan for UBCM administration and the development of a **Community Works Fund Agreement**, which local government will sign to trigger release of funds;
- authorized a number of member briefing sessions on how members will access funding under the New Deal;
- were advised that discussions had commenced on another federal-provincial-UBCM agreement that would see **\$105 million in federal funding** transferred to BC for transit as part of the federal budget amendment and contingent on a sufficient federal surplus being available. Recently, an AIP was signed in Ontario with funding to be allocated primarily based on ridership.
- were advised that negotiations will restart on the **Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF)**, which is a tri-partite federal-provincial-local infrastructure, cost sharing agreement;
- with respect to the BC Fire Chiefs' Association, agreed to support in principle the development of a new vision and plan for the **fire service** being developed by the Association;
- reviewed a report on use of the increase in traffic fine revenue and forwarded a copy of the information to the Premier and other ministers (while no formal link was made between the grants and community safety there was interest expressed in learning more about community safety related spending decisions of the municipalities affected);
- approved in principle an agreement between UBCM and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia to administer a \$1 million **emergency planning program for mass livestock carcass disposal**, subject to final review and approval by the Presidents Committee. Under the program, local governments would be provided with funds to amend their emergency plans to deal with situations such as the Avian Flu and BSE outbreaks, as well as address dead stock arising from natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes;
- appointed Director Susan Gimse to BC Hydro Multi-Party Working Group and the BC Transmission Planning Advisory Committee; Steven Olmstead (Planning Director, SLRD) to IPP One Window Approach; and Richard Taylor nominated as Chair BC Pension Corporation. A number of members have been invited to sit on the Offshore Oil and Gas Working Group (UBCM-Energy and Mines MOU);
- reviewed year-end **audited financial statements**, which reported a modest surplus;
- adopted a **2005/2006 preliminary budget** that contains a modest 2% dues increase;
- reviewed accomplishments for the 2004/2005 year that will be published in the Annual Report;
- conducted the annual review of Agreements with Ministries and other agencies;
- agreed to support in principle seeking **intervener status before the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of the Public Service Alliance of Canada vs. Canada** (union status of support workers in RCMP detachments) and requested staff to provide further information at its next meeting in September;
- received a report on member visits in which staff noted that they had **visited over 50 members in 2005**;
- made \$5,000 available for 2006 scholarships under **Jeff McKelvey Scholarship Fund** welcomed two **new staff members** to UBCM – Anna-Maria Wijesinghe as Manager, Member Services (replacing Barbara Ingamells) and Harmony Folz as Policy Analyst (but currently working on the UBCM history publication).

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Delegations

Minister of Community Services, Hon. Ida Chong

The Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services, reiterated BC's five goals of the golden decade (education and literacy, health, wellness, environmental stewardship, and job creation) and elaborated on how the Ministry will be working towards these goals. Minister Chong noted the need for work in the area of public health and harm reduction, as well as her continuing work in the area of seniors' and women's issues. She also reported out on the New Deal, the BC Community Water Improvement Project, and traffic fine revenue.

Committee Chairs provided an update on work being done within UBCM that might be related to Ministerial priorities. Minister

Chong answered questions from the Executive and emphasized that she looks forward to finding ways to partner with UBCM to move forward on the provincial government's five priority goals.

Minister of Environment, Hon. Barry Penner

The Environment Committee met with the new Minister of Environment, Barry Penner, and discussed a series of environmental and policy issues of concern to UBCM members. In particular, the Committee discussed the future directions and priorities of the new Minister, the Riparian Areas Regulation, the Contaminated Sites Regulation, and the prospect of an integrated sustainability planning guide. UBCM looks forward to working with the Minister in his new portfolio.

Committees

Presidents

Made recommendations on the policy and accounting framework for the provincially funded Local Government Program Services (first annual report and financial statements are posted on CivicNet).

The Committee also made recommendations with respect to:

- seeking a "statute revision" of the UBCM Act of Incorporation to clarify old statutory cross-references;
- proceeding with a proposal to establish a **Local Government Leadership Academy**; and
- approving a re-design of the **traffic safety program**.

In other business, the Committee discussed publication of the 4th edition of Local Government in BC, judging of the Community Excellence Awards, and the design of the School-Community Connection program being undertaken with BCSTA.

First Nations Relations

The First Nations Relations Committee reviewed a number of activities and policy issues with respect to treaty negotiations and local government – First Nation relations. The Committee

also received a delegation from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation on BC's approach to consultation with First Nations.

The Committee took the following priority actions:

- provided direction to staff with respect to a report being conducted with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Community Services entitled **Treaty Settlement Land: The Fiscal Impacts to Local Government**;
- directed staff to monitor treaty negotiations and **BC's new approach to consultation** with First Nations;
- authorized staff to pursue the renewal of UBCM's protocol with the First Nations Summit and MOU with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada;
- approved follow-up actions to UBCM's Workshop Regional District and First Nations Governments: Building Effective Relations;
- provided approval for 16 new **Community to Community Forum applications** for the 2005/2006 program year; and
- approved additional expenditures toward the UBCM-First Nations Summit newsletter project on local government - First Nation relations.

Community Economic Development

The Committee discussed numerous economic issues relevant to local governments. Some of the topics addressed included new community forests, the mountain pine beetle epidemic, new community tourism programs, local government economic development planning, and international trade issues such as BSE and the softwood lumber dispute.

The Committee also had the opportunity to meet with the BC Mining Association's President and CEO, Michael McPhie, who identified numerous issues and opportunities facing the BC mining industry that are of interest to local government.

The Executive approved the following directions and actions:

- seek a meeting with the new Minister of Economic Development, to identify issues of shared interest;
- establish a local government "Economic Development Resources" site on the UBCM homepage;
- seek additional funding partners to help develop a comprehensive report based on the initial CED Survey findings, and host a CED conference in 2006;
- determine the status of the **Mountain Pine Beetle Task Force**, formerly chaired by Roger Harris, and seek UBCM representation on this body;
- provide input to the Community Energy Association (CEA) to help identify local government priorities regarding community energy planning, in light of the CEA's new \$500,000 Community Energy Planning grant from Infrastructure Canada's Knowledge, Outreach and Awareness program; and
- continue to monitor implementation of the **Wild Salmon Policy** and identify any specific issues to the federal government on behalf of local governments as required.

Regional District Task Force

The Regional District Task Force reviewed progress on the development of the Regional District Tool Kit (RDTK), as well as a plan for its launch at Convention, education and training and evaluation. Input from the five Area Association conferences was also reviewed and will be used as advice in finalizing the Tool Kit materials.

The following actions were approved:

- proceed with launch, distribution, education/training and evaluation of the RDTK, which will include producing a web version and hard copy binders (sent to members and others), a

promotional brochure/pocket guide, training at convention and an annual survey;

- develop a strategy with MCS on opportunities for educating provincial elected officials and key ministries staff using the RDTK, as well as a possible "train the regional trainer" workshop;
- RDTK documents reviewed by the Task Force be approved-in-principle and finalized following receipt of all input from the LGMA and Ministry;
- continue to participate in the Ministry's **Electronic Meetings Working Group** and in the development of a model procedure bylaw with the Ministry; and
- explore the idea of creating an electronic message board/discussion forum on the UBCM website.

Environment

The Environment Committee had an opportunity to raise a number of local government priority concerns in a meeting with the Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of Environment. The Executive approved the following directions and actions:

- request the Minister of Environment re-assess the **Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR)** to address ongoing implementation issues;
- rescind the previous Executive decision to submit the RAR tripartite protocol agreement to the upcoming UBCM September Convention due to the need to re-assess the future direction of the Regulation with the Ministry of Environment;
- request a meeting with the Minister of Environment to discuss the next steps for the RAR;
- provide a written update on the RAR to the Municipal Environmental Managers Committee;
- consult 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 Environment on reviewing the current **waste management framework**; and
- send a letter to the Province expressing its support for maintaining existing funding levels for the provincial **hydrometric network**.

Convention Committee

The Convention Committee continued its planning for the 2005 Convention, including selecting clinics and workshops from

among the 75 proposals. The Welcome Reception at Storyeum in Gastown will be a fresh new venue and the Committee's confirmation of Banquet entertainment will have the "wow" factor appropriate for the 100th Anniversary. The Committee also reviewed other centennial events and recommended that fancy period-costume dress be the theme followed by the Executive and encouraged this for others at the Annual Banquet. The Municipal Marketplace – a welcome feature for many delegates – is sold-out and will be the largest ever.

Healthy Communities

The Healthy Communities Committee met with Andrew Hazlewood, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population Health and Wellness from the Ministry of Health and received an update on the ActNowBC agenda of the provincial government. They also considered implementation plans for current initiatives UBCM is delivering with provincial funding support, including the Healthy Communities Initiative and the Community Health Promotion Fund. The Committee took the following actions:

- proceed with implementation of the Healthy Communities Initiative, including establishment of the **BC Healthy Communities Coalition** with funds provided to UBCM by the Ministry of Health and request that the Ministry indicate their intention to continue funding the HCI in future years;
- delivery of the **Community Health Promotion Fund** proceed as outlined in the implementation plan and in the short term, send invitations out to members for expressions of interest in pilot projects and introduce plans for the fund at the Convention;
- continue support for the **Local Government Employee Health Promotion** project with 2010 LegaciesNow;
- participate in the review of the Health Act through advising the Ministry of Health of local government interests;
- as a continuing member of BC Healthy Living Alliance, support the new membership process and agree to formalizing our BCHLA membership; and
- provide a letter expressing our interest in the work of the Knowledge Centre on Health and Learning.

Community Safety

The Community Safety Committee met with Vera Lagasse, Director, National Crime Prevention Centre, Public Safety and Preparedness Canada and Susanne Dahlin, Executive Director,

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to discuss a new crime prevention program that the federal/provincial government intends to implement in the province. The Executive approved the following directions and actions:

- support in principle the expansion of the **comprehensive community safety initiative** being implemented by the federal government in British Columbia; and
- support participation on a National Crime Prevention Centre Steering Committee to provide direction on the comprehensive community safety initiative.

Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee reviewed the report on 2005 resolutions. Attention was drawn to the high number of resolutions received this year, which at 202 is only one resolution shy of the record 203 received in 2003. The Committee determined recommendations and placement of resolutions within the various categories and authorized staff to begin scanning for Gold Star and Honourable Mention candidates according to established criteria.

Nominating

Mayor Leonard, Chair of the Nominating Committee confirmed that the Committee had been constituted for 2005 as follows:

- Mayor Frank Leonard, Past President
- Councillor Mary Sjostrom, NCMA
- Mayor Colin Mayes, OMMA
- Director Martin Cullen, AKBLG
- Councillor Terry Smith, LMMA
- Councillor Bea Holland, AVICC

He also noted the appointment of Bill Lindsay and Elsie Lemke as Chief Scrutineer and Deputy Scrutineer, respectively, for the 2005 Convention. The Executive also endorsed an amendment to the Executive policies related to campaigning at Convention to prohibit the distribution of campaign flyers and brochures within the luncheon or banquet rooms.

Tourism Task Force

The Executive approved the recommendations of the Tourism Task Force and preparations are being made to distribute the program and access guides to all members.