

Highlights of the UBCM Executive Meeting held on November 30 - December 1, 2006

This was the first full meeting of the new Executive, which included the inaugural meetings of the standing committees, an Executive Session on priorities for the coming year and an orientation for new directors. Executive members also met with Minister of Community Services, the Honourable Ida Chong, who was joined by the new Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Kevin Krueger.

The Executive dealt with the following matters:

- considered 24 **resolutions referred by the 2006 Convention**. A summary of the Executive's decisions is noted in the sidebar on page 3.
- reviewed a report detailing the post-Convention conveyance of 141 resolutions of provincial relevance to the Minister of Community Services, 31 resolutions to various federal government ministries, five resolutions to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and 12 resolutions to various crown corporations and other agencies and organizations. Directed staff to monitor these conveyances and report back to sponsors, the Executive and the UBCM membership as responses to resolutions are received.
- invite the Minister of Transportation, Kevin Falcon to the February Executive meeting to discuss the **BC Transit Governance and Funding Review**.
- write the Premier indicating that UBCM wishes to see the consultation process expanded in regards to the review of the *Assessment Act* and the *Assessment Authority Act*.
- consult with the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue on opportunities for UBCM to provide input to the review of Short Term Overnight Commercial Accommodation Properties (**STOCAPS**).
- continue to participate on the various working groups as part of the Building Code **Modernization Strategy**.
- continue to press the Province to address changes made in the 2006 Building Code related to **slope stability**.
- monitor work in the area of **multi-phase developments** to ensure that it does not impose new restrictions or obligations on local governments.
- investigate other opportunities for enhancing communications between small communities beyond the Convention **Small Talk Forum**, such as chat rooms and Area Association meetings, to

- provide for ongoing dialogue throughout the year.
- undertake research and report to the Executive on the legislative and land use issues referred from the **Electoral Area Directors** session and determine opportunities for a special meeting for electoral area directors.
- in response to the issues raised during the sewerage system regulation session at Convention, the matter be referred to the Environment Committee for follow-up action.
- continue to seek details on early negotiations for additional **Municipal Rural Infrastructure Funding** and advocate for a simpler, more streamlined future program.
- confirmed Committee appointments for the coming year. The following are some specific appointments that were made:

Local Government Leadership Academy Board of Directors

- Councillor Brenda Binnie, Chair (2 year apt.)
- Director Susie Gimse (1 year apt.)

BC Used Oil Management Association

- Councillor Marvin Hunt

BC Fire Chiefs' Association

- Director Terry Raymond (alternate to Director Gimse)

Gas Tax Agreement/Public Trust Agreement Partnership Committee

- Councillor Brenda Binnie

(A full listing of Executive Committees is noted on a separate side bar.)

- reviewed various **initiatives flowing out of the Convention** and directed that work continue to:
 - review the implementation measures being undertaken with respect to **small community and electoral area policing**;
 - review **Community Opportunities Task Force** report for potential follow up priorities;
 - review the results of the survey undertaken at the **regional district** session;
 - monitor actions being taken on **BC211**.

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

The Executive will also be pursuing additional information on **programs announced by the Premier** at the Convention and agreed that the Executive accept a role for UBCM in dealing with the Premier's broader affordable housing and urban development diagnostic.

- advised that the **Gas Tax and Public Transit** program had reached a significant milestone in that all program components were developed and launched. Copies of the Annual Expenditure Report and audits were completed and have been distributed to members. A methodology for incrementality had been adopted. Two Public Transit Agreements had been completed (GVTA and Kamloops). A new office is being established, some staffing changes are being made (appointment of Paul Taylor as Relationships and Communication Advisor) and a new business plan has been submitted to the federal Minister for approval.
- received a status report on the current provincially funded programs administered by UBCM under the **Local Government Program Services**.

MEETING WITH MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

President Binnie welcomed Minister Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services, to the meeting. She also introduced Kevin Krueger, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Deputy Minister Sheila Wynn, Assistant Deputy Minister Dale Wall and Ministerial Assistant Ian MacLean. The Executive then introduced themselves and the Minister was invited to make opening remarks.

The Hon. Ida Chong Minister of Community Services advised that four programs under the Green Cities initiative would be managed by her Ministry. Mr. Kevin Krueger, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development would take the lead on the Towns for Tomorrow program. The Minister indicated that the Ministry is in the process of completing details on the programs and application process but was able to share some information.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

RESOLUTIONS

Chair Robert Hobson, Chair
 Director Harry Nyce, Vice-Chair
 Mayor Herb Pond
 Mayor Don MacLean
 Councillor Sharon Gaetz

NOMINATING

- to be established for 2006-2007
 Councillor Hunt and Area Association Representatives
 (Presidents or their designates)

CONVENTION

Councillor Mary Sjostrom, Chair
 Mayor Don MacLean, Vice-Chair
 Councillor Janis Dahlen
 Councillor Craig Caruso
 Director Susan Gimse, VP Liaison

PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE (as established in Executive policies)

Councillor Brenda Binnie, President
 Director Susan Gimse, First Vice-President
 Chair Robert Hobson, Second Vice-President
 Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Third Vice-President
 Councillor Marvin Hunt, Past President

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mayor Terry Lake, Chair
 Councillor Kim Capri, Vice-Chair
 Councillor Bea Holland
 Director Terry Raymond
 Councillor Mary Sjostrom
 Mayor Joe Snopek

ENVIRONMENT

Mayor Herb Pond, Chair
 Councillor Sharon Gaetz, Vice-Chair
 Chair Rhona Martin
 Councillor Kim Capri
 Councillor Marvin Hunt, VP Liaison

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Councillor Janis Dahlen, Chair
 Chair Rhona Martin, Vice-Chair
 Mayor Ella Brown
 Mayor Sharon Hartwell
 Chair Robert Hobson, VP Liaison

FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS

Director Terry Raymond, Chair
 Councillor Bea Holland, Vice-Chair
 Director Harry Nyce
 Councillor Marvin Hunt, VP Liaison

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Chair/ VP Liaison
 Mayor Joe Snopek, Vice-Chair
 Mayor Ella Brown
 Mayor Terry Lake
 Councillor Craig Caruso

COMMUNITY TOURISM PROGRAM TASK FORCE

Councillor Mary Sjostrom, Chair
 Mayor Terry Lake
 Director Susan Gimse
 Councillor Bea Holland
 Mayor Joe Snopek

Towns for Tomorrow is a \$7 million program over three years but the spending profile may be higher or lower in a particular year. There is an 80/20% provincial/local government funding for community infrastructure.

The **Local Motion** funding for bikeways, walkways and to enhance accessibility for persons with disabilities is a four-year \$40 million program with 50% provincial contributions up to \$1 million maximum.

Minister Chong said that government was anxious to see an early launch of the **Spirit Squares** program so that these would be available for events tied into the 2008 150th anniversary of the founding of BC.

The **Green Cities** award program will be cash awards of various amounts yet to be decided. Details will be announced in the New Year.

The Minister advised that government, through the Minister of Finance, had listened to the concerns of local government and had made a substantial (almost doubling) of **BC Hydro grants in lieu of taxes**.

The Minister advised that government had released \$50 million in **traffic fine revenues** for 2006. She noted that the recent increase in transfers had allowed local government to improve community safety, including hiring 400 new police officers in addition to the 200 officers hired by the Solicitor General.

In commenting on the **Community Opportunities Task Force** report, the Minister advised that she was looking for feedback. It was presented to UBCM members to see if there were any proposals of interest to be carried forward. She advised that if Area Associations were interested, staff from the Ministry would be made available for presentations and discussion. She added that Minister Rick Thorpe would be leading the common business license initiative.

The Minister advised that government was aware of UBCM's request for a portion of the \$119 million **Public Transit Trust** funding and hoped to have a response shortly.

The Minister briefed the Executive on the government's Resort Municipalities initiative.

She concluded by stating that the Ministry was committed to carrying on its role in the **resolutions referral and response** process.

During the question period, the Minister confirmed that the province would consult with UBCM on any changes to industrial taxation before taking any action.

Disposition of Resolutions Referred to the Executive

Executive members reviewed 24 resolutions referred by the 2006 Convention and came to the following decisions:

Referred Resolutions

B61 NEGOTIATING RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL POLICING AGREEMENT

Community Safety Committee to pursue the issue of participation in the upcoming negotiation of RCMP contract services.

B62 RCMP FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

Community Safety Committee to consider this resolution in development of a mandate for negotiation of a new RCMP agreement.

B69 MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS AND TESTING FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Sponsor's post-Convention request to withdraw this resolution honoured.

B70 FUEL MANAGEMENT AND WILDFIRE PLAN

President's Committee to pursue this matter with the provincial government as an issue related to the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative under the Local Government Program Services.

B73 MAIL BALLOTS

Endorsed with the following amendment:

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Local Government Act be amended to allow local governments the flexibility to provide local options for:

- additional opportunities to vote by mail ballot in elections or other voting opportunities; and/or
- alternative forms of voting."

B93 PROVINCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Staff to pursue discussions with BC Assessment, Ministry of Small Business and Revenue and Ministry of Community Services and report back to Executive.

B96 SMALL WATER SYSTEMS

Staff to prepare a report, with recommendations, for consideration at the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

B103 NEW SEWERAGE SYSTEM REGULATION

Referred to the Environment Committee for further consideration.

B104 ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL REGULATIONS

Referred to the Environment Committee for further consideration.

Con't on page 5 . . .

Committees

Presidents

The Executive approved the appointments of Chair Robert Hobson and Mayor Frank Leonard as primary Trustees on the Municipal Pension Plan Board and Richard Taylor as the alternate. They also approved replacement staff travel policy and procedures.

Convention

The Convention Committee discussed preliminary results of the 2006 Convention review, including details on attendance, staff comments, media relations, finances and events. A complete evaluation of the 2006 Convention will be done at the February executive meeting when all Delegate Evaluations have been received and recorded. In addition to the review, the Committee received the annual staff work plan for 2007 Convention planning. The following actions were approved by the Executive:

- review registration deadlines fees.
- review Delegate Evaluation results regarding the UBCM Daily News.
- ensure future voting cards are distinguishable to scrutineers via enhanced colour saturation and/or brightness of the cards.
- review the Delegate Evaluation for feedback on the Convention nametags.
- host an annual “pre-Delegates” luncheon coffee party for Life Members at Convention.
- make “faxing in” part of Office Services and discontinue the Message Centre.
- draft a policy on media accreditation to clearly define approved “media” allowed entrance to the Convention.
- develop a policy regarding external requests for meetings, time, space and organizational expertise of UBCM staff at Convention.

Environment

The Environment Committee reviewed the status of several current and emerging policy and regulatory issues, and identified priorities for action for the upcoming year. The following recommendations were approved:

- continue to monitor the implementation of the Riparian Areas Regulation and work with the Ministry of Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in assisting local government compliance with the Regulation.
- plan and host an environment conference.
- investigate the possibility of creating a sustainable community-planning guide that incorporates both integrated environmental management perspectives and potential funding sources for sustainability planning.

- forward the draft contaminated site profile process to the Municipal Insurance Association for an assessment of the magnitude of risk and liability exposure for local governments; engage in broader consultation on the impact of the site profile process with affected local governments; and engage in consultation with the Ministry of Environment to address outstanding local government concerns.
- conduct a survey of regional districts to identify specific issues and potential solutions for addressing the implementation issues of the Sewerage System Regulation; establish a working group of regional districts to review the implementation and identify concerns for discussion with the Ministry of Health, and other implementing agencies where appropriate.
- engage in broader consultation with local governments to identify potential concerns with the draft species at risk management framework, and forward those concerns on to the Ministry of Environment for consideration.

Community Economic Development

The Committee discussed its priorities for 2006-07, the status of a variety of resource issues, received updates on the MOU Working Group on Offshore Oil and Gas and the status of the Community Tourism Program. Members also received information on a provincial initiative to develop a recreation trails strategy for BC, discussed a proposal from the BC and Yukon Hotels Association to participate in a study of best practices in regards to the 2% hotel tax and received an update on the status of the oil and gas regulatory review initiative.

The following recommendations were endorsed by the Executive:

- adoption of the Committee’s 2006-2007 Work Plan and Priorities;
- in response to the new softwood agreement, write the Council of Forest Industries and the Coast Forest Products Association requesting that they encourage their industry members to establish community development funds from the returned duties; and
- support UBCM participation in a study lead by the BC & Yukon Hotel Association that will gather information related to the effective use of the 2% hotel tax, resulting in the development of a Best Practices guide.

Healthy Communities

The Healthy Communities Committee discussed its priorities for 2007 and the following actions were approved by the Executive:

- continue to support local government participation in health promotion, including through the Community Health Promotion

Fund and BC Healthy Communities initiative and support local government engagement.

- participate in the provincial Health Act re-write.
- take follow-up action on the UBCM member survey on Ambulance Service.
- pursue actions to support more effective local government relations with Health Authorities.
- consider how UBCM can support local governments in taking action on increasing accessibility to healthy foods, including through the development of a resource.
- monitor results of Province's Conversation on Health.
- continue to participate in the BC Healthy Living Alliance and the Health and Built Environment working group.
- seek more details on recent provincial government announcement regarding a ban on smoking in all indoor public places by 2008.

Community Safety

The Community Safety Committee discussed its priorities for 2007, the status of a proposed conference on crime prevention in 2007 and the following actions were approved by the Executive:

- facilitate meeting to discuss RCMP contract renewal and identify local government issues.
- arrange a meeting with Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to discuss the costs associated with the implementation of PRIME.
- assist in implementation and expansion of new bylaw notice dispute adjudication process to other local governments.
- facilitate development of Community Performance Plans to enhance RCMP accountability – write RCMP to request consultation on the plans and a timetable to implement them.
- facilitate discussion and development of integrated justice model.

Disposition of Resolutions ~ Con't. . .

BI34 AUDIBLE BIRD SCARE DEVICES

Staff to prepare a report, with recommendations, for consideration at a future meeting of the Executive.

BI44 PLASTAX ON PLASTIC BAGS FOR A "GREEN FUND"

Staff to prepare a report, with recommendations, for consideration at a future meeting of the Environment Committee.

BI57 HEALTH AUTHORITY FRAMEWORK REVIEW

Referred to the Healthy Communities Committee for follow-up.

BI60 BC 100% SMOKE FREE

Endorsed

BI67 SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION FUNDING

Endorsed

BI71 PROVINCIAL INCOME ASSISTANCE RATES

Tabled until the February 2007 meeting of the Executive. In the meantime, Executive to write to the provincial government expressing UBCM's general support for increases to assistance that meets the basic needs of individuals and families.

BI72 EARNINGS EXEMPTIONS

Endorsed

BI73 ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Staff to contact the sponsor for clarification and report back, with recommendations, to the next meeting of the Executive.

BI74 TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTING POLICY

Referred to the Community Economic Development Committee for further study and consideration.

LR3 IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIME – POLICY RECORDS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENT

Referred to the Community Safety Committee for further investigation and potential consultation with the Province.

LR4 PAY BEFORE YOU PUMP LEGISLATION

Endorsed and Executive to monitor implementation of this provincial policy.

Endorsed Resolutions Requesting UBCM Action:

A6 COMMUNITY METHAMPHETAMINE RESPONSE FUNDING PROGRAM

Executive to correspond with the provincial government, indicating its strong support for a re-investment in this program.

B85 FEDERAL GAS TAX TRANSFERS

Gas Tax Management Services to communicate with members regarding new opportunities to invest in projects that do not necessarily result in local government ownership.

B89 BC ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY PROPERTY VALUATIONS AND APPEAL PROCESS

Forward resolution to the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue for discussion as part of the current *Assessment Act* review.

SR1 SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 1982 SPECIAL RESOLUTION ON HANDLING OF RESOLUTIONS

Staff to update Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions, printed at the front of the annual Resolutions Book,

- promote development of new federal-provincial agreement on flood hazard management in British Columbia – write Honourable John Les, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General indicating support for the development of a federal-provincial agreement.
- arrange a meeting with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to discuss how local government may access funding under the *Civil Forfeiture Act*.
- encourage increased federal funding for policing – write Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety to request further information on federal funding for own-force police communities in British Columbia.
- postpone the conference on crime prevention until it is known whether or not the federal government is able to provide funding.
- establish a Task Force to look at homelessness and affordable housing.

First Nations Relations

The First Nations Relations Committee discussed its priorities for 2007 and the following key actions were approved by the Executive:

- affirmed Committee's priorities and terms of reference for 2006-2007.
- prepare a review of the Lheidli T'enneh final agreement for members.
- work with the Province and develop a plan for distributing \$100,000 additional funding for Treaty Advisory Committees/ local governments.
- obtain more information on the First Nations Summit proposal with respect to developing a training program for Band Administrators in partnership with UBCM and explore linkages with the Local Government Leadership Academy and the Local Government Management Association (LGMA).
- send a letter to the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation requesting confirmation that the Province will support local government involvement in treaty implementation.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

BY UBCM PRESIDENT BRENDA BINNIE

REGARDING THE UBCM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

UBCM Executive Director, Richard Taylor, recently approached me and confided that after his nearly 25 years of service to UBCM he wanted to discuss the opportunity to develop a new relationship with the organization over the course of the next couple of years. He felt the timing was right for himself and UBCM, especially given the number of significant things we had been able to achieve in the last few years.

We are taking the first steps in that new relationship. Richard plans to step down as Executive Director following the next Convention and, once a successor transition is complete, Richard has told me that he would like to be part of the opening of the new Municipal House in Victoria before he leaves the UBCM staff.

At the December 1, 2006 UBCM Executive meeting, the Presidents Committee was tasked to conclude the details of a succession plan with Mr. Taylor and to

also report back on a recruitment strategy at the next Executive meeting.

There are obviously many details and scheduling to be decided. But both myself, on behalf of the Executive, and Richard, talked about how long we should keep these discussions private, and we concluded that we should inform the full UBCM membership about these developments now.

It is with deep-heart felt emotion that I have been given the job of informing you that Richard has decided to take this new direction in his life, one that he has given much thought to. He sees this as an opportune time to make the change and hopes this will be an invigorating time for both himself and the UBCM as we move into a new phase of the organization.

I will update the UBCM membership after the next Executive meeting.