

Highlights of the July 20, 2007 UBCM Executive Meeting

The July Executive meeting is always significant. It is built around the theme of "accountability". The Executive considered the Annual Report and audited financial statements and approved the work plan and budget for 2007-2008. The Executive also reviewed a record 261 resolutions, reports from 10 committees and met with Minister Chong to follow-up from the July 3rd meeting between the Premier and the Executive.

Executive Decides:

- received a report on **TILMA** indicating that work continues on development of a Consultation Agreement between UBCM and the Province and on the preliminary list of issues that will form the basis of discussions and negotiations.
- will review and revise (as appropriate) the elements of a new funding program prior to UBCM securing a funding agreement with the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC to administer an **emergency planning program** for mass livestock carcass disposal.
- work with Community Services staff on development of a **Twinning Toolkit** to support communities that wish to engage in a twinning arrangement.
- continue to monitor the implementation of the **new police tax**.
- monitor the assessment classification changes to **STOCAPs** and determine tax losses and whether these losses are offset with new taxes.
- monitor proposed amendments to the **Federal Hours of Regulation** that would require carriers to keep more detailed records of local drivers hours that operate within 160km radius, potentially creating a significant burden on school bus drivers and companies.
- continue to participate in the Local Government statute revision.
- monitor and support the direction by the **Off Road Vehicle Coalition** to regulate and licence off-road vehicles.
- received a report on 2007 provincial legislation.
- reviewed an update on the modernization process for **building code enforcement**. Eight regional consultations have now been held.
- approved preparation of four potential policy papers for consideration at the 2007 Convention.

- received an update from the **Nominating Committee** on the 2007 Executive **nominations process** - July 31, 2007 being the deadline for nominations.
- approved the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2007 which showed a small surplus.
- adopted the 2007-2008 work plan for special projects and the preliminary budget.
- received the annual report on UBCM's compliance with statutory requirements and the annual review of the MOU's, protocols and other agreements.
- received reports on a number of successful conferences - a **record five conferences** held over the May-June period.
- were advised of the successful launch of the Local Government Leadership Academy.
- provided support for pursuing an MOU on Inter-Agency Collaboration and Coordination on Implementation of **Age-Friendly Community Guides** between UBCM, Ministry of Health, BC Recreation and Parks Association and 2010 LegaciesNow.
- supported the LGMA's **Africa Project**; directed that staff prepare analysis of a proposal by the Minister of Small Business and Revenue for mandatory **assessment averaging**; and that the Healthy Communities Committee consider a request to prepare a policy paper on **Home Support**.
- were advised that staff were able to visit 35 members outside GVRD and Capital RD.
- were updated on approved **legal assistance** cases and approved \$30,000 be added to the fund.
- were advised of the Jeff McKelvey scholarships approved for 2006/2007 and approved \$5,000 be made available for scholarships in 2007/2008.

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- approved the following committee appointments:

FCM BOARD

- Director Susie Gimse (effective immediately)

MOE WORKING GROUP ON SITE PROFILE PROCESSING PROCEDURE

- Carrie Baron, Drainage and Environment Manager, City of Surrey
- Dipak Dattani, Manager of Environmental Engineering, City of Burnaby

MOE WORKING GROUP ON PROTOCOL 12 FOR CONTAMINATED SITES – CLASSIFYING SITE RISK LEVELS

- Saleh Haidar, Environmental Engineering Officer, City of Burnaby

PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE

- Richard Taylor

Director Terry Raymond reported on the successful **Electoral Area Director Workshop** held June 12-13, 2007. The Executive approved for immediate implementation the development of an Electoral Area contact database and for UBCM to organize a two day Electoral Area Directors Forum.

COMMITTEES

Presidents

The Presidents Committee reviewed a wide range of matters and made recommendations to:

- issue tenders for the **Municipal House** office project
- reappoint Mayor Frank Leonard as a primary trustee on the Municipal Pension Plan Board
- seek comments on a draft **Code of Conduct** for Directors and Staff
- reappoint Robert Hobson to the **BC Healthy Communities Initiative**

The Committee also convened as the Audit Committee and reviewed with KPMG the results of the 2006/2007 financial statements. These showed a very small surplus. The Audited financial statements were approved and will be circulated to

Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee provided an overview of the number of resolutions received for the 2007 Convention, their categorization and implications for the Convention program. 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.

The Executive approved the Resolutions Committee recommendations on 2007 resolutions.

Environment

The Environment Committee reviewed the status of UBCM's advocacy on several regulations either being implemented or amended, including the **Sewerage System Regulation**, **Contaminated Sites Regulation**, and the **Subdivision Regulation**. It discussed the preliminary post-mortem report on the June 27/28th "Local Government and the Environment Conference," acknowledging that the goals of the conference were achieved. The Committee also spent a significant amount of time reviewing the Province's **climate change initiatives**, and discussing the UBCM Executive's meeting with the Premier on climate change, and its implications for local governments. The Committee approved several actions including:

- writing the City of Abbotsford with its decision to urge the Province to develop alternative programs that will eliminate the need for **audible bird scare devices** (ABSs) as soon as possible rather than endorse Resolution B134 on audible bird scare devices;
- identifying measures for achieving the Province's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, through membership surveys, a review of existing and forthcoming resolutions, and canvassing UBCM members that have taken a leadership role in implementing **climate change** initiatives; and
- working with the Province on developing a joint local government-provincial government action plan for addressing climate change in British Columbia.

Healthy Communities

The Healthy Communities Committee discussed several emerging policy and funding issues, including the provision of **First Response** services, **Tobacco Control** regulations, the *Public Health Act* consultations, and the status of two programs, the **Seniors Housing & Support Initiative** and the **Community Health Promotion Fund**. The Committee approved the following directions:

- Write the Minister of Health, expressing support for the recommendations of the **Cameron Report** on **First Responders** and request further consultations and consideration be given to the role of pre-hospital care, including Search and Rescue operations, and the implications for local governments.
- Write the Minister of Health and the Tobacco Control Director, to express our support for the proposed Tobacco Control Regulations while urging the Province to continue to pursue 100% smoke free environments, including the prohibition of smoking on public patios.
- Work with the Ministry of Health and 2010 Legacies Now to incorporate the principles of ‘**Age Friendly**’ and/or ‘Measuring Up’ into the Seniors Housing and Support Initiative and explore the potential of adding an ‘Age Friendly’ stream to the funding categories of the Community Health Promotion Fund.
- Issue a call for a new round of **Community Health Promotion Fund** pilot projects at the 2007 Convention.
- Continue to participate in the Public Health Act project by the Ministry of Health and request further consultation be done on issues of concern to local governments. The Committee noted the need for continued consultation and discussions with the Ministry of Health as this project continues.
- Staff to proceed with planning a session at the 2007 Convention to discuss Local Government and Health Authority relations and methods to improve accountability, consultation and communication.

The Committee accepted an opportunity from the Ministry of Health, Healthy Children, Women and Seniors, to incorporate an Age-Friendly Implementation Grant into the Seniors Housing and Support Initiative and will develop a program in partnership with the Ministry to administer the \$500,000 grant.

Community Safety

The Community Safety Committee met with Chief Superintendent Bud Mercer, RCMP ‘E’ Division and discussed the **RCMP policing services** provided in the province, the new Community Safety Officer program that the RCMP will be piloting in the fall and the implementation of Community Performance Plans to enhance RCMP accountability at the community level.

The Committee discussed a number of issues and recommended the following actions:

- circulation of information provided by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General on the costs of **PRIME** (Police Records Information Management Environment).
- development of a mandate around the renewal of the RCMP contract and terms of reference for a Local Government Working Group.
- submission to the **Railway Safety Act Review**, outlining various issues raised by local government regarding railway operations.
- undertaking of a **crime prevention conference** in Richmond on October 31, 2007 and November 1, 2007 entitled “Building A Safer Community: Gang, Drug & Domestic Violence Issues”.

Convention

The Convention Committee advised that planning for the Convention is well underway. The Premier and Leader of the Official Opposition are both confirmed. The **Municipal Marketplace is sold out** - thus promising to be a great show.

The workshops, Tuesday sessions and early morning clinics were approved. There is a revised copy of the overall program available on CivicNet and more information will be added in the weeks ahead. Also look for the August Newsletter for more updates.

The Committee is also looking ahead and met with Penticton Convention planning representatives on the 2008 Convention. Dates of other upcoming Conventions are to be confirmed with host municipalities and the host-bid process will be launched in 2009 for the dates when a location hasn’t be determined.

First Nations Relations

The First Nations Committee discussed various issues including:

- Waiting to pursue a funding formula with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) for local governments involved in **treaty negotiations** until after the final agreement ratification votes for Tsawwassen and Maa-nulth. However, following a positive ratification vote by Tsawwassen, UBCM will then write a letter to the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation seeking predictable funding for treaty advisory committees.
- A resolution referred to the Committee calling for **First Nations** participation in UBCM. The Committee made the recommendation that UBCM advise AVICC that it is satisfied that we have the applicable consultative mechanisms in place.
- A draft discussion document for **treaty local government chapters** developed by Ministry of Community Services (MCS). Before the Committee provides their feedback on the document it would like to review the comments received by MCS from other treaty advisory committees/local governments.
- UBCM staff developed a proposal for the Committee's consideration on spending the \$300,000 from MARR for **information sharing and relationship building** activities relating to the final agreements. The Committee asked staff to incorporate their comments into the proposal.
- Writing the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to establish a broadened role for local government in the context of the **New Relationship**.

Community Economic Development

The CED Committee met and discussed a number of matters:

- write BC Hydro and seek assurances that the proposed **Standing Offer for IPPs** under 10MW will include community consultation as part of the conditions as well as ensuring that appropriate zoning is in place.
- respond to the **Forest Strategy** discussion paper released by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers.
- write to the Honourable Chuck Strahl reiterating our concerns about the new federal regulation with respect to **slaughterhouse disposal practices** and seek a moratorium on enforcement until appropriate funding and facilities are in place and methodologies have been clarified.
- received a delegation from Rupert Downing, Executive Director of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network.
- discussed plans for the Monday pre-conference session on **beetles**.

Tourism Task Force

The Task Force confirmed the launch of the **\$12.5 million phase 2 of the Community Tourism Fund**. It replicates the successful entitlement based approach of Phase 1. Program guides and funding allocations have been distributed to all members and the first "applications" for release of funds have already been received.

REMINDER:

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE UBCM EXECUTIVE IS JULY 31, 2007.

DELEGATIONS

MEETING BETWEEN PREMIER GORDON CAMPBELL AND UBCM EXECUTIVE - JULY 3, 2007

The full Executive met with Premier Campbell and Minister Chong to discuss the provincial government's **climate change** and **Green Communities initiatives** and the involvement and implications for local governments.

The Premier spoke of the Province's commitment to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions **33%** below current levels by **2020** and that the BC government would be carbon neutral by 2010. He stressed that the government was very committed to reaching these goals but they couldn't do it alone and would need to work in partnership with others. He would like to see local governments also establish targets. He discussed a number of specific initiatives such as the green building code, smart planning, a climate change registry, reduction of landfill emissions, realigning grant programs to assist projects that reduce Greenhouse Gases, and denser more compact development.

UBCM President Brenda Binnie outlined:

- past resolutions from UBCM members on climate change
- some examples of what local governments have been doing to address climate change
- examples of how local governments are using UBCM administered funds to address climate change

A wide ranging discussion ensued during which a number of suggestions were made about the approach to deal with climate change and ways the Province could assist local government.

It was agreed that the upcoming quarterly meeting with the Minister would discuss follow up actions including the **Climate Change Charter** proposal of the Premier.

Meeting between Minister Ida Chong and UBCM Executive - July 20, 2007

Minister Chong attended the regular meeting. The Minister and staff recapped the number of initiatives that the Premier and government have undertaken including:

- development of a Climate Action Strategy;
- Energy Plan;
- air quality initiatives; and
- Green Communities project.

Also discussed was a Greenhouse Gas focus for infrastructure cost sharing and the **Green City Awards** program to recognize local government efforts.

There have been a number of specific announcements regarding both climate change and sustainable communities such as reforming zoning; fast tracking "green development"; increased density around transit corridors; support for com-

munity gardens and urban forestry; and DCC incentives for small unit supportive housing.

The Minister and Executive considered a working draft **Climate Action Charter** that could be entered into between the Province of BC and UBCM. The Charter would emphasize the common goals of Greenhouse Gas reduction. It would also be a document that individual local governments could sign on to and make their specific commitments.

The Charter also would establish a joint Provincial - UBCM Green Community Secretariat and Green Communities Working Groups. The Minister and Executive reviewed proposals for a terms of reference for the Secretariat and a "capacity building" and a "pilot projects" working group.

It was agreed that work would continue on the development of a Charter for eventual presentation to the members.