

Highlights of the UBCM Executive Meeting held December 4 - 5, 2008

The December Executive meeting is the first full meeting of the newly constituted Executive. Since Convention, there have been some additional changes to the composition of the Executive as a result of local government elections. At the end of this release, a list of the current 2008-09 Executive and the relevant committees are provided for your information.

The focus of this meeting was “confirming the directions” set out in the work plan and budget as adopted in July 2008 and reviewing the policy directions endorsed by the membership at the 2008 Convention.

As well, inaugural meetings were held for eight committees/task forces; a meeting of Area Association representatives; an orientation session for Executive members; an update on current program activities and priorities; and new this year, a ‘speaking to the media’ training session. Executive members also met with the Minister of Community Development, the Honourable Blair Lekstrom, as part of their Friday Executive meeting agenda.

General Executive decisions:

- as provided for within the bylaws, appointed two Acting Directors at Large to replace the two vacancies left on the Executive as a result of local government elections. The Executive welcomes **Mayor Christopher Causton**, District of Oak Bay and **Mayor Malcolm Brodie**, City of Richmond as Acting Directors at Large. As well the Executive is pleased to welcome **Councillor Kerry Jang** as the City of Vancouver’s appointment; **Councillor Kevin Flynn**, City of Salmon Arm as the SILGA representative; **Director Heath Slee**, East Kootenay RD as the AKBLG representative. UBCM is awaiting the appointment of the Metro Vancouver representative. A listing of Executive members is attached.
- rescinded an earlier decision to increase member

dues; therefore **dues will be maintained at 2008 levels** and 2008 population statistics will be used to calculate the 2009 dues.

- considered **25 resolutions referred by the 2008 Convention** and an additional seven resolutions from the NCMA Executive. The Executive’s direction on the referred resolutions is noted in a separate sidebar.
 - approved conveyance of the 2008 resolutions to provincial and federal governments as well as other relevant agencies and organizations.
 - approved legal assistance funding to the **City of Victoria** in its appeal of the **BC Supreme Court decision** that found the city’s bylaw related to no overnight camping in public parks to be declared unconstitutional. The Executive also confirmed that it would request intervenor status in the appeal.
 - confirmed plans for the following UBCM sponsored **conferences** in 2009 including:
 - Newly Elected/Returning Elected Training – 6 sessions through January – February.
 - Environment Conference
 - Province-wide Community to Community Forum
 - Members Benefit Conference
 - RCMP contract negotiations.
- Further information will follow as to dates and locations for the above referenced conferences.
- received a status report on Victoria Operations including a status on the current provincially funded programs administered by UBCM under the **Local**

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

Government Program Services and the Gas Tax / Public Transit Programs.

- advised that construction of the new Municipal House is on schedule for completion in the spring of 2009.
- advised that UBCM had submitted a brief to the CRTC with respect to the **National Do Not Call List** as directed by the UBCM membership at the 2008 Convention.
- continue to work with the Building and Safety Policy Branch to address some of the ongoing concerns identified in the implementation of **six storey wood** buildings.
- monitor the implementation of the provincial regulation to support community awareness and education programs related to energy efficiency and conservation.
- received a report on the actions taken by the Presidents Committee in response to the new **assessment freeze** legislation. UBCM will be continue to monitor the matter and will be working with the provincial staff in order to ensure adequate communications occur with the public as to the role of local government in setting tax rates independent

of assessment levels.

- confirmed **committee appointments** for the coming year. Some of the specific appointments of interest include:

- **Local Government Leadership Academy**
Director Susan Gimse (2008-2009) Chair
Chair Robert Hobson (2009-2010)

- **Land Title Survey Authority**

Chris Nation, Municipal Lawyer, District of Saanich

The President will fill remaining committee appointments once the Executive complement is complete.

- received a report on the extensive media coverage obtained at the 2008 UBCM Convention.
- requested a meeting with members of the **Farm Assessment Review Panel** at the March Executive meeting.
- requested that funding for the **Community Tourism Program** be continued and a meeting with the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts will be requested to discuss future community tourism funding possibilities.

COMMITTEES

Presidents

The Presidents Committee confirmed its Terms of Reference for the coming year; received feedback from the 2008 member visits; confirmed the annual work plan for the 2009 Excellence Awards program; received reports on the status of the member services program and in particular the Group Benefits Plan. The Committee also received a delegation from the BC Law Courts Education Society on work underway to promote civics education within the school curriculum. The Committee recommended the following actions:

- indicate support for the work by the BC Law Courts Education Society with respect to promoting civics education within the school curriculum;
- undertake a review of the new Fire Services model project and report back on its implications to local government; and

- consider holding the spring 2010 Executive meeting in conjunction with the AKBLG conference as part of the Executive's outreach to the membership.

Convention

The Convention Committee discussed preliminary results of the 2008 Convention review, including details on attendance, staff comments, media relations, finances and events. A complete evaluation of the 2008 Convention will be done at the March 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 2009 Convention planning. A number of actions were endorsed to continue the improvement of the Convention agenda and to respond to catering issues experienced in Penticton.

Environment

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approve the 2009 UBCM Environment Conference framework;
- endorse the Committee's priorities for the coming year, which include:
 - implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on the Sewerage System Regulation;
 - establishing a UBCM Small Water Systems working group;
 - monitoring the development of the proposed Landfill Gas Capture Regulation;
 - advising on the development of the British Columbia Brownfields Renewal Strategy;
 - advocating changes to the proposed interim site profile process for contaminated sites;
 - advising on the development of any new provincial product stewardship program;
 - working with the Province on approaches for regulating and/or prohibiting the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides; and
 - raising local government concerns regarding air quality.

First Nation Relations

The Committee received a delegation from Mike Furey, ADM, Ministry of Community Development who discussed the Guide to First Nations Engagement on Local Government Statutory Approvals that is being developed by the Ministry. The intention of the guide is to facilitate the timely processing of requests from local governments. The Committee provided input and requested clarification about application of the Guide to local government activities.

The Committee made recommendations, which included:

- confirming priorities for 2008/2009 and its amended Terms of Reference;
- write the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation requesting an opportunity for UBCM to participate and comment on any changes to the provincial mandate that are under consideration as part of the Common Table treaty discussions;
- seek an update from the Ministry of Aboriginal

Relations and Reconciliation on the development of the treaty adjustment funding program; and

- pursue funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to support the Province-wide Community to Community Forum and staff begin organizing the forum.

Community Economic Development

The following Committee recommendations were endorsed by the Executive:

- confirmed the Committee's terms of reference and work plan for the coming year;
- provide feedback to the RV Park Development working group with respect to enhancing opportunities for RV park development ;
- provide a response to the Province's draft trails strategy; and
- continuing to monitor implementation of the mobile business licence pilot project in the Okanagan.

Healthy Communities

The Committee made recommendations to:

- approve the Healthy Communities Committee 2009 priorities and workplan;
- pursue the renewal of the consultation agreement for the Public Health Bylaws Regulation between MoHS, MoCD and UBCM from 2004;
- create a Healthy Communities webpage to provide members with information on current policy work and activities, grants available to local governments for healthy community initiatives, upcoming lectures and/or events, etc.;
- develop a presentation on healthy communities for consideration and inclusion at the various Area Associations; and
- pursue next steps for the resource guide on food security for local governments.

Community Safety

The Committee reviewed its mandate and the following priorities were endorsed:

- Member Meeting on RCMP Contract – June 2009;
- RCMP Contract Renewal;

- Crime Prevention Strategies;
- Police Act Amendments; and
- Metal theft.

Regional District Task Force

The Task Force welcomed two new members – Mayor Frank Leonard, District of Saanich and Director Hans Cunningham, Central Kootenay RD. Both elected officials are UBCM Past Presidents and bring extensive local government experience to the initiative. The Task Force met to develop a work plan and consultation process around the three issues

outlined at the UBCM Convention – Electoral Area Governance; Fringe Area Planning and Serving Issues; and Crown Land/Regional District Interface.

The Regional District Task Force is comprised of the following individuals:

Chair Robert Hobson, Chair
 Director Susie Gimse
 Director Al Richmond
 Director Rhona Martin
 Mayor Sharon Gaetz
 Mayor Frank Leonard
 Director Hans Cunningham

Disposition of 2008 Referred Resolutions to the Executive

Section B – Part II

B68 CANADIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM
 Not Endorse

B101 TAX BENEFITS FOR AGRICULTURAL USE OF LAND
 Not Endorse

B119 LOTTERY CORPORATION REVENUE SHARING
 Endorse

B120 MUNICIPAL PENSION RETIREES GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS
 Not Endorse

B121 MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION
 Refer to Municipal Insurance Association

B126 NEW TAX CLASSIFICATION
 Not Endorse

B129 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
 Refer to Healthy Communities Committee

B130 TEN YEAR FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR BC HOSPITAL FACILITIES
 Refer to Healthy Communities Committee

B131 PHASED OUT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICTS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
 Refer to Healthy Communities Committee

B132 HEALTH CAPITAL FUNDING
 Refer to Healthy Communities Committee

B133 REGIONAL DISTRICT POWERS
 Refer to Regional District Task Force

B134 MINISTER OF STATE FOR REGIONAL DISTRICTS
 Refer to Regional District Task Force

B137 PRIORITIZING AND TRACKING RESOLUTIONS
 Refer to staff to develop a policy paper for circulation to Area Associations

Section B – Part III (Automatic Referral)

B150 REGULATORY CONTROL FOR GAS PRICING
 Refer back to sponsor for clarification

B154 HUMANE EGG PRODUCTION PRACTICES
 Not Endorse

B155 FAMILY DAY
 Not Endorse

B156 LINKING OF LITERACY VOLUNTEER WORK TO FORGIVENESS OR REDUCTION OF GRADUATE DEBT LOAD
 Not Endorse

Resolutions Received After the Deadline

LRI LACK OF FUNDING FOR SERVICES MUNICIPALITIES PROVIDE
 Refer to Achieving Fiscal Balance discussions

Endorsed Resolutions Requesting UBCM Action

B8 NUISANCE BOATS
 Seek support from the three organizations noted in the resolution

B19 REGIONAL DISTRICT COMPENSATION FOR HYDRO TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LINES
 Refer to Achieving Fiscal Balance discussions

B41 OCEAN ENERGY STRATEGY
 Refer to Community Economic Development Committee

B55 YOUTH CENTRES AND YOUTH SERVICES

Refer to staff to work with Criminal Justice Reform Secretariat

B84 TWINE AND AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS RECYCLING

Refer to staff to work with BC Product Stewardship Council

B85 RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS IN PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

Refer to staff to consult with Recycling Council of BC and BC Product Stewardship Council

B128 SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION FUND (CHPF) PROJECTS

Refer to staff to manage the Community Health Promotion Fund, prepare final report and work with the Ministry of Health Services to determine additional funding opportunities

Resolutions from the NCMA Executive**A-1 ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION**

Endorse

A-2 ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

Endorse

A-3 INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR ACCESSIBILITY

Endorse

A-4 CENSUS STATISTICS FROM INCOME TAX

Not Endorse

A-5 RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY

Refer back to the NCMA for clarification on whether the concerns expressed in the resolution are addressed by the Ministry of Community Development portfolio

A-6 PRIMARY CARE

Endorse

A-7 WATER WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION

Endorse

Meeting with Hon. Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Community Development

The UBCM Executive met with Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Community Development; Dale Wall, Deputy Minister of Community Development and Mike Furey, Assistant Deputy Minister of Community Development. The following issues were discussed during the meeting:

Regional District Task Force - Minister reiterated his Ministry's support for the work being undertaken by the Task Force and indicated that he looked forward to reviewing the results of their deliberations.

Provincial Grant Programs - Minister outlined the work undertaken to streamline provincial grant program processes (ie. application form 2 pages and 60 day turn around times) and advised that the Towns for Tomorrow program had been expanded to include regional districts and that funding had been extended for another three years.

State of the Economy - Assessment Freeze; Recent Provincial School Tax Cuts and the Property Tax Deferral Program - President raised concerns about the level of consultation prior to the announcement of the assessment freeze by the Province. The Minister acknowledged the concerns raised and indicated that his Ministry was willing to work with UBCM to develop an information piece around the implications of the assessment freeze and the role of local governments in setting tax rates.

Fiscal Balance - President raised the ongoing local government concern about the fiscal imbalance between local government and the other levels of government. The Minister responded by stating that the Province had made some positive shifts with grant programs for local governments over the past

few years and indicated that with the present economic climate, the Province was not in a position to commit additional revenue streams to local governments at this time.

First Nations Consultations - Minister was apprised of UBCM feedback on the development of a guide to First Nations engagement.

Rural Resource Roads - Minister advised that he would be chairing a Rural Resource Roads task force and that \$20 million had been allocated towards improving resource roads. Issues to be addressed include: management, liability and maintenance of these roads. President Hobson advised that the UBCM's Presidents Committee had been designated as the UBCM representatives to the task force .

Rural BC Secretariat - Executive were advised that a new website had been launched to provide information on resources and program funding to assist rural BC (www.ruralbc.gov.bc.ca).

2008-2009 UBCM EXECUTIVE

President	Chair Robert Hobson	Central Okanagan RD/Kelowna
First Vice-President	Director Harry Nyce	Kitimat-Stikine RD
Past President	Director Susan Gimse	Squamish-Lillooet RD
Vancouver Representative	Councillor Kerry Jang	Vancouver
Metro Vancouver Rep.	to be confirmed	
Small Community Rep.	Mayor Roland Stanke	Clinton
Electoral Area Rep.	Director Al Richmond	Cariboo RD
AKBLG	Director Heath Slee	East Kootenay RD
LMLGA	Councillor Corinne Lonsdale	Squamish
NCMA	Councillor Murry Krause	Prince George
SILGA	Councillor Kevin Flynn	Salmon Arm
AVICC	Mayor Barry Janyk	Gibsons
Directors at Large (5)	Mayor Sharon Gaetz	Chilliwack
	Councillor Wesly Graham	Creston
	Councillor Noreen Guenther	Lake Country
	Director Rhona Martin	Columbia Shuswap RD
	Mayor Mary Sjostrom	Quesnel
*Acting Directors At Large (2)	Mayor Malcolm Brodie	Richmond
	Mayor Christopher Causton	Oak Bay

* UBCM bylaws provide for the appointment of Acting Directors at Large equivalent to the number of Table Officer vacancies.