

Highlights of the UBCM Executive Meeting held July 16 ~ 18, 2008

The July Executive meeting is always significant. Built around the theme of "accountability", the Executive approves the work plan and preliminary budget for the year ahead and considers the Annual Report and audited financial statements. The Executive also reviewed 221 resolutions, reports from 10 committees and for the first time the full Executive met with the new Minister of Community Development, the Honourable Blair Lekstrom.

EXECUTIVE DECIDES

- received a report on the **Building Canada Fund** – now moving to implementation phase of the Communities Component – next steps will be monitoring details related to the Flood Program, the Major Infrastructure Component carve-out and the establishment of the Infrastructure Framework Committee.
- directed staff to review and provide comments on the **landfill gas capture regulation**.
- monitor negotiations with respect to energy issues under the Agreement on Internal Trade.
- reviewed a Coroner's report on **landslide hazard assessments** and will be working with MIA to assist local governments on landslide issues and develop best practices.
- advised of discussions with the Province to consider changes to the way **vacant and unused land** is classified.
- discussed potential Building Code changes with respect to permitting the building of six-storey wood framed construction.
- confirmed that UBCM would make a presentation to the Farm Assessment Review Panel.
- reviewed Ministry response to the 2007 UBCM Climate Change policy paper which indicated that elements of 11 recommendations can presently be undertaken by local governments.
- received a report on new **Cabinet** appointments and a summary of provincial legislation.
- considered a report on the **Electoral Area Forum** in June and will be arranging a meeting with the Minister of Healthy Living and Sports to discuss action on the septic sewerage regulation and small community water systems.
- received a status report on the current provincially funded programs administered by UBCM under the **Local Government Program Services** and the federally funded **Gas Tax/Public Transit Management Services**, also administered by UBCM's Victoria Operations.
- received an update on **TILMA** discussions between UBCM, the Province, legal counsel and the two Alberta municipal associations.
- advised of the status of work on the **Green Communities Committee** working groups.
- approved preparation of four policy papers for consideration at the 2008 Convention.
- received an update from the Nominating Committee on the 2008 Executive **nominations process** - July 31, 2008 being the deadline for nominations.
- approved the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2008 which showed a modest surplus.
- adopted the 2008-2009 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.
- approved the amended MOU between FCM, UBCM and the League of Municipalities and League of Cities of the Philippines.

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- approved the draft MOU with the BC Recreation and Parks Association for membership consideration.
- advised that staff visited **36 members** outside GVRD and Capital RD.
- updated on approved legal assistance cases.
- advised of the Jeff McKelvey scholarships approved for 2007/2008 and approved \$5,000 be made available for scholarships in 2008/2009.
- approved the following committee appointments:
 - **Homeowner Protection Office Advisory Committee**
Refer to Presidents Committee for recommendation
 - **RCMP Contract Local Government Working Group**
Andy Laidlaw, General Manager, Community

- Services, City of Nanaimo
- **BCTC - Transmission Expansion Policy (TEP) Technical Advisory Committee**
Marie Crawford
- considered two Executive resolutions to go to Convention and requested a week for further review in order to provide feedback to staff.
- considered a report on recent provincial legislation of interest to local governments, including Bill 27: *Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act*; Bill 36: *Motor Vehicle (Banning Smoking When Children Present) Amendment Act*; Bill 37: *Carbon Tax Act*; Bill 41: *Patient Care Quality Review Board Act*; and Bill 43: *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2)*.

COMMITTEES

Presidents

The Presidents Committee reviewed a wide range of matters including:

- recommended development of an additional policy paper for Convention on **Affordable Housing and Homelessness** that would identify the roles and responsibilities of local government in implementing a strategy at the local level based on general principles and its expectations of other partners in the process – funding requirements and services required to address health issues related to the homeless.
- received reports on UBCM website redesign; 2008 member visits; Excellence Awards program; Member Services and Group Benefits programs.

The Committee sat as the UBCM **Audit Committee** and reviewed the UBCM Financial Statements and Management Letter and recommended approval to the Executive. The Committee also discussed the 2008-09 operating budget and developed a recommendation regarding annual dues and strategic direction for reserves.

Environment

The Committee made recommendations to:

- consult with local government solid waste managers

and provide a formal submission to the Ministry of Environment on the provincial intentions paper to develop a **Landfill Methane Gas Capture Regulation**.

- develop the terms of reference and suggested composition of a working group that will identify concerns for discussion with the Ministry of Health (MOH) regarding **small water systems** and MOH standards.
- support in principle Ministry of Environment's proposal to place Youth Climate Leadership Alliance members in local government offices to facilitate **climate action activities**.

Healthy Communities

The Committee made recommendations to:

- finalize development of the **Home Support policy paper** for presentation and consideration at the 2008 Convention.
- review a proposal by the Ministry of Health to develop better planning and coordination between local governments / health authorities to address **mental health and substance abuse issues**.
- support the redirection of the Seniors' Housing & Support Initiative to provide grants for the revision of local government planning tools.

- support advocacy work of the BC Healthy Living Alliance, including involvement at the October 2008 Dialogue forum.

Community Economic Development

The Committee received updates on the mobile business licencing pilot project; status of Site C consultations; energy conservation and efficiency initiatives; working group on Offshore oil and gas and transmission expansion policy. The Committee also received two delegations – the first to discuss implementation of the RV Park Development Report and the second on the new Oil and Gas Activities Act and proposed regulations to accompany the Act.

The Committee made recommendations to:

- provide input and feedback as implementation of the **RV Park Development** Report continues.
- participate on the working group related to **energy conservation and efficiency** in the buildings sector and receive further information in regard to the broader BC Partnership for Energy Conservation and Efficiency Steering Committee.
- follow up with the new Minister of Agriculture and Lands on issues raised by the Committee at their April meeting.

Convention

The Convention Committee has finalized much of the 2008 Convention agenda, including banquet entertainment, keynote speaker choice and various planning details. Political satirist **Glen Foster** will provide the banquet entertainment and a dance will follow for folks interested in extending the evening. The Friday speaker line-up is sure to be well-attended with Olympian **Marnie McBean** giving the keynote address and **Premier Gordon Campbell** closing the Convention.

The workshops, Tuesday sessions and early morning clinics were approved. **Look for the UBCM News scheduled to go out at the end of August for a special pullout section providing further Convention details.** Also, more information will be added onto CivicNet in the weeks ahead.

Various steps to maintain a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach are being taken in all

aspects of Convention planning. As an example, locally sourced food such as BC beef and free-range chickens will be served and speaker gifts will again have a charitable aspect with donations to **Canadian Feed the Children**, **Habitat for Humanity** or the **Community Foundation of the South Okanagan** on behalf of speakers.

Community Safety

The Committee made recommendations to:

- organize the next **Crime Prevention Conference** in 2010.
- write the Province and request that action be taken on the following issues:
 - expansion of **community court system** to other local governments;
 - expansion of the **prolific offender program** to all communities once the pilots are complete;
 - increased utilization of **restorative justice programs** by the police;
 - further measures be developed to address **gang and domestic violence** issues.
- write the provincial government and request that the **provincial community safety strategy** currently being developed have an integrated and comprehensive approach with local government input.

First Nations Relations

The Committee made recommendations to:

- continue to finalize the MOU with the Province on a role of local governments in the **New Relationship**.
- finalize and distribute the Case Studies Handbook on Local Governments Experience in Treaty Negotiations to the membership and follow-up with the Province on relevant recommendations.
- organize a TAC Committee Chairs breakfast during Convention.

Resolutions

The Committee approved the recommendations for follow-up to the 2007 provincial responses to resolutions. In addition, the Committee received reports on the

following matters:

- **Gold Star** Resolutions criteria and selection process;
- resolutions Committee terms of reference;
- report and update on **2008 resolutions**; and
- overview of two Executive resolutions for consideration at convention.

The Resolutions Committee reviewed all resolutions submitted for consideration at Convention and noted that in 2008, 41 fewer resolutions were submitted than in 2007. Upon review, the Committee made recommendations on the disposition, amendment (where

appropriate), and placement of each resolution in the Resolutions Book.

Regional District Task Force

The Task Force reported on the proposed timeline and a process to engage a consulting team to proceed with a targeted review of regional district issues. Work will begin in the fall of this year and continue through 2009.

A report on Task Force activities to date will be made at Convention.

DELEGATION

MEETING BETWEEN HONOURABLE BLAIR LEKSTROM, MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND UBCM EXECUTIVE

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:

- **Overview of Changes at Ministry** - received a brief overview of the ministry's new responsibilities which include regional and rural economic development as well as mountain pine beetle, in recognition of the impact that the latter has had on local communities.
- **Building Canada - Communities Component** - request was put forward for UBCM participation in ongoing decision-making regarding the Communities Component of the Building Canada Fund.
- **Regional District Task Force** - discussed ongoing Ministry support for the Regional District Task force initiative. The Minister indicated that he supported the process.
- **Fiscal Imbalance** - addressed local government concerns about the fiscal imbalance between local government and the other levels of government. The Minister suggested that while he did not necessarily share the concept of a fiscal imbalance, he was willing to look at ways to improve fiscal relations and was willing to discuss the issue with UBCM.

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