He January meeting is the second meeting of the year for Executive members. In addition to the quarterly board meeting, eight committees also met over the two-day period. Executive members also met with the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister of Ministry of Community and Rural Development to discuss a number of provincial matters.

General Executive decisions:

• received a report from UBCM members appointed to the Local Government Elections Task Force on the terms of reference, proposed engagement strategy and topics to be covered by the Task Force. The Executive indicated support for holding a March 12th member consultation session in Richmond and directed that information be circulated as soon as possible to local governments about the Task Force and opportunities for providing input.

• appointed Director Rhona Martin to the Collaborative Water Governance Initiative Steering Committee.

• advanced work on reviewing the UBCM resolutions process.

• received a report on the status of the Industrial Taxation Steering Committee.

• considered the resolutions referred to the Executive from the 2009 Convention that were not dealt with at the November meeting. The disposition of those resolutions following Executive consideration is included in this release. Endorsed resolutions by Executive will now be conveyed to provincial and federal government as appropriate.

• received a report on recent provincial legislation.

• received a status report on Victoria Operations including a status on the current provincially funded programs administered by UBCM under the Local Government Program Services and the Gas Tax / Public Transit Programs.

• reviewed the report and recommendations of the Ranching Task Force and will be providing feedback and comments on behalf of local governments.

• agreed to continue to work with the Province on the development and implementation of changes to the farm assessment process.

• will continue to gather feedback from the membership on the new management framework for ORVs in order to prepare for further consultations with the Province and continue to monitor new developments.

• agreed to advise Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts (TCA) of UBCM support for the continued inclusion of local government in the Additional Hotel Room Tax (AHRT) process as well as indicating that we are unable to support the direction of TCA at this time and that additional consultation is required before legislative changes should be considered.

• will work with Wood First BC and Ministry of Forests’ staff in the development of a strategy around the use of wood in local construction projects that receive provincial funding.

• agreed to work with the Province in reviewing the Fire Services Liaison Group’s report entitled Public Safety in British Columbia: Transforming the Fire Rescue Service and implementation of any of the recommendations.

• will continue to monitor the effect of the Health Care Costs Recovery Act for all local governments, particularly those who are not MIA members, who self-insure or use another insurance agency other than the MIA.

• continue to work with the Building and Safety Policy Branch to address some of the ongoing concerns identified in the implementation of 6-storey wood buildings.

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

Presidents

The President highlighted the following actions taken by the Presidents Committee:

- undertake the 2010 Member Satisfaction Survey in February.
- work with the Province, LGMA and other related organizations in the development of the Local Government Awareness Week program in response to UBCM endorsed resolution, A2.
- considered five referred resolutions from 2009 Convention. The following recommendations were endorsed by Executive:
  - A2 BC Local Government Week - no action required.
  - B71 Benefit Plan for Volunteer Firefighters - staff undertake further research work and report back to the April meeting.
  - B77 Proposed Tax Authority Restrictions - no action required.
    - B06 Amendments to the Community Charter - staff determine the financial implications of the proposed amendments and report back to the April meeting.
  - B168 Communications Strategy on Infrastructure Funding Gap - not endorse
- in response to a request from Metro Vancouver to seek additional representation on the UBCM Executive, a Structure Review Committee will be established to review the composition of the current UBCM Executive to ensure that it effectively reflects all regions of the province. The Structure Review Committee composed of active Past Presidents, Area Association representatives and a Metro Vancouver representative will report back to the UBCM Executive upon completion of its review.

Convention

Committee Chair Robert Hobson advised that following a joint meeting of the Convention and Resolutions committees, the Committee had completed the review of the 2009 Convention with a look at the 2009 Sponsorship Final Report, and the basic format and program development for this year's Convention were discussed. This included a review of the Resolutions Committee recommendations, and programming challenges, such as function space and cabinet panel format. Convention details, such as the 2010 Convention theme, catering, audio-visual and the preliminary budget, fees and sponsorship goals, were also discussed. The following recommendations were presented and endorsed by the Executive:

- develop a report to consider the implications of moving the Convention Opening to Tuesday.
- registration fees and sponsorship goals should be confirmed as follows: Member registration fee be $415, Non member registration fee be $520, Provincial Government meeting support fee at $100, sponsorship goal of $140,000.

Resolutions

Committee Chair Mayor Sharon Gaetz presented the Committee report to the Executive, noting that they had discussed a variety of issues including the Committee's Terms of Reference and timeline for 2010 resolutions process; 2009 delegate feedback on resolutions process and policy sessions, and suggestions for improvements in 2010; and a status report on the Resolutions Process Review and next steps in the process. She presented the following Committee recommendations

Hobson Appointed as Elections Task Force Alternate

Chair Robert Hobson, UBCM Past President has been appointed by the President to serve as an Alternate to the Local Government Elections Task Force. Past President Hobson joins UBCM President, Chair Harry Nyce and Vice Presidents, Councillor Barbara Steele and Mayor Mary Sjostrom as the other UBCM appointments to the Task Force.
to the Executive:

- Resolutions Committee meet as required to keep the Resolutions Process Review on track.
- research and report on other options for categorization of resolutions in the Resolutions Book.
- develop a discussion paper and presentation format for the presentation to Area Association conferences.
- advance recommendations on changes to the resolutions process and procedures, including exploration of timelines for bylaw revision, if required.
- research and report on options for electronic voting at future conventions, including detailed information on cost, system purchase vs. rental, and personnel and technological requirements.

**Environment**

Chair Rhona Martin provided an overview of the delegations received and the policy issues discussed. It was noted that the Committee received a teleconference delegation from James Quayle, Manager, Conservation Planning, and Lynn Campbell, Species at Risk Biologist, from the Ministry of Environment on a proposed provincial approach to protecting species at risk on private lands. The following recommendations were endorsed by the Executive:

- work with the Ministry of Community and Rural Development on developing an inter-ministry structure and framework for addressing local government small water system issues.
- call for the creation of a provincial drinking water working group that would address water quality and infrastructure issues for communities of all sizes.
- postpone indefinitely the proposed 2010 UBCM Environment conference; and explore the option of having a full day environment workshop at the 2010 UBCM Convention.
- identify the issue of drinking water guidelines outlined in Resolution B152 as an issue for action and discussion in the proposed provincial drinking water working group.
- endorse Resolution B153 on removing the regulation exemption for strata developments from the Drinking Water Protection Regulation.
- endorse Resolution B112 with the proposed amendment:

**First Nations Relations**

Committee Chair, Councillor Murry Krause, reported that the Committee met with Mike Furey (ADM) and Cathy Watson (Director, Local Government-First Nation Relations), Ministry of Community and Rural Development on the issue of local government consultation with First Nations. Councillor Krause presented the Committee report and the following recommendations:

- invite the Integrated Land Management Bureau to meet with the First Nations Relations Committee on their integrated First Nations consultation initiative.
- develop options for a communication piece to UBCM members on the issue of consultation fees.

**Healthy Communities**

Vice-Chair, Mayor Roland Stanke provided an overview of the Committee’s meeting including correspondence from UBCM members requesting that UBCM set up a committee on medical marijuana. Relevant responses from Health Canada and the Health Officers Council of BC were received outlining the process for issuing and following up on these types of licences. He presented the report and recommendations of the Committee:

- agreed to the Health Officers Council of BC’s request for a delegation at the next meeting.
- on referred resolution B182 Provincial Connectivity Software Systems – agreed to endorse with the following proposed amendment:

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the provincial government continue to prioritize and develop a province-wide software system, such as eHealth, to provide access to patient information among healthcare professionals, which would result in an increased level of health care being provided to patients.
Community Economic Development

Committee Chair Mayor Mary Sjostrom advised that the Committee had received delegations from the Business Improvement Areas of BC (BIABC) and the BC Rural Secretariat. She presented the report and recommendations of the Committee:

- Agreed to notify local governments of an annual report on police resources prepared by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General that is available on their website: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/police_services/publications/index.htm.
- Agreed to write the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General requesting a year delay in the introduction of a new levy until a business case and justification for the cost increase is provided to local government.

Regional District Task Force

Chair Robert Hobson presented the final report and recommendations of the Regional District Task Force to the UBCM Executive. The Executive approved the final report and thanked the members of the RD Task Force for their work.

A copy of the final report will be released by the UBCM and the Ministry of Community and Rural Development in the near future.

Community Safety

The Committee met with Murray Dinwoodie, Administrator, Surrey (UBCM Local Government Representative to the RCMP Contract Negotiations) and Mayor Peter Fassbender, City of Langley (Chair to the RCMP Lower Mainland District Mayors’ Forum) to discuss the outcome of a meeting organized by the UBCM on January 20, 2010 for municipalities with Municipal Police Unit Agreements (MPUA) to discuss the RCMP contract. Mr. Dinwoodie updated the Committee on the current status of the RCMP contract renewal negotiations and discussed the next steps needed in the process. The following recommendations were presented and the UBCM Executive:

- Authorized the President to appoint a political committee to act as a sounding board for the UBCM representative involved in the RCMP contract renewal negotiations.

Rural Resource Roads

This Committee was struck at the November 2009 Executive meeting and met for the first time in January. The purpose of the first meeting was to receive an introductory briefing from staff at the Ministry of Community and Rural Development and other Ministries involved with this file. This briefing was led by Mr. Ray Schultz, Assistant Deputy Minister, Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic Response. Other ministries participating were the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

UBCM’s role is to provide community and local government input into the process. Public access to rural resource roads is desired and in many instances taken for granted by the public. The committee is supportive of efforts to improve public access to this road network.

Minister Bill Bennett will be in attendance at future meetings of the Committee. The Committee will meet several times throughout this year leading to a report to Convention in the fall.
Decisions on Resolutions Referred to Executive

The Executive made decisions on the resolutions that were referred to the Executive in 2009:

**Endorsed**

- B02 Towns for Tomorrow Program Funding
- B03 Supportive Housing Assessment Class
- B04 Farm Classification – Horse Boarding, Horse Stud and Horse Semen Collection Services
- B05 Incentive Programs for Solar Power Generation Systems
- B06 Legislative Prohibition of Open Loop Thermal Heat Pumps in Groundwater Purveyor Jurisdictions
- B07 Need for Integrated Sustainable Energy Planning Process
- B08 Local Administration and Investment of Carbon Off-set Funds
- B09 Landfill Gas Reduction Projects
- B10 British Columbia and Canada Recycling Capacity
- B11 Inadequacies of the BC Product Stewardship Recycling Program
- B12 One Stop Industry Stewardship Recycling Depots
- B13 Province-wide Refrigeration Appliance Fee
- B14 Environmental Handling Fees on Sale of New Electronics
- B15 Review of Beverage Container Return System
- B16 Post-certification Monitoring Under the BC Environmental Assessment Act
- B17 Saving Wild Salmon
- B18 Disposal of Waste in Provincial Watersheds
- B19 Continuation of UBCM Community Tourism Funding Program
- B20 Mountain Pine Beetle Recovery Pilot Project
- B21 Meat Regulations
- B22 Ship to Shore Power at Container Ports
- B23 Sale of Crown Lands
- B24 Private Moorage Wharf Tenure
- B25 Regulation and Protection of Use of Waterways
- B26 Strategic Engagement Agreements
- B27 Food Security and Education
- B28 Measuring Up the North Funding
- B29 International Medical Graduate Program
- B30 Strata Water Quality Regulation
- B31 Rail Line Protocol USA and Canada
- B32 A Minor Routes Strategy for Coastal Ferry Service
- B33 Electronic Stability Control
- B34 Highways Maintenance Standards
- B35 Funding and Regulation of Community Airports
- B36 Development of Home Renovation Checklist
- B37 Manufactured Home Registry
- B38 Alternative Energy Installations
- B39 Measuring Up the North – Accessibility Standards
- B40 Maintenance of Utility Equipment and Property
- B41 Access for People with Developmental Disabilities
- B42 Establishment of a Paleontological Research Facility
- B43 Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing

**Endorsed as Amended**

- B111 Climate Action Services

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province establish a service for the purpose of advising local governments on matters related to carbon tax, quotas, and opportunities for carbon tax credit rebates and other allied matters.

- B117 EPR Legislation – Ozone Depleting Substances

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government, in consultation with the BC Product Stewardship Council, to place all ODS under the BC Extended Producer Responsibility legislation.

- B122 BC Recycling Regulation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the Ministry of Environment for the addition of milk containers to the Recycling Regulation.

- B132 Local Food Systems Planning

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide resources to enable all local governments to create and implement solutions for supporting local food resilience and supply through food systems planning.

- B137 Independent Power Projects

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province take a leadership role when granting environmental permits and land tenures within British Columbia relating to the development of independent power projects by:

1. Developing, in consultation with local government, First Nations, industry, the public and regulatory stakeholders, clear and measurable criteria by which to evaluate independent power production projects against community social, land use and environmental values and an agreed upon “green energy” standard for both the generation and power line components of the projects;

2. Establishing standards for transmission line development that require optimization of existing power lines infrastructure and shared use of lines as a
condition of right-of-way agreements and provide regulatory authority to require shared use as a condition of licensing and recognizing and protecting scenic value zones in areas of high tourism activity;
3. Establishing an independent monitoring function to ensure accountability and enforcement of conditions and standards applied to independent power production projects.

B138 Mining Regulatory Process
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to conduct a review of the regulatory process for the approval of mine development within the province of British Columbia in order to streamline and expedite the approval process similar to the process in other Canadian provinces;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all existing environmental standards and regulations as well as community consultation processes remain in place as part of a streamlined process.

B149 Tightening Facility Planning Timelines
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province replace facilities in a timely manner, with the goal of a 4-year length of time from initial approval of hospital replacement to construction where feasible.

B154 Hospice Care – Northern Cancer Strategy
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province of BC to develop a model of collaboration between hospice palliative care programs, facilities and societies, and regional cancer clinics, to ensure a new standard of excellence in end of life care in British Columbia.

Endorsed as Amended and Referred to FCM
B173 Keeping Waterways Clear of Unsafe and Undesirable Structures / Boats / Houses
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that other orders of government be urged to maintain the waterways within local government boundaries in a timely fashion by removing structures, boats, houses, etc. that have become unsightly or hazardous to the environment, or provide local governments the authority to enforce the removal of such structures as they appear in their communities.

Not Endorsed
B95 Business Class Exemption
B100 Local Government Election Date *
B101 Corporate Voting Powers *
B108 Single Transferable License Plate

B123 Sale of Bottled Water in Public Buildings
B124 Plastic Bag Reduction Initiative
B130 Regional Hospital District Funding
B131 Mandatory Food Labelling for Genetically Modified Foods
B157 Railway Crossings
B158 Mandatory Snow Tires
B170 Independent Seniors Advocate
B171 Consumer Protection from Power Outages
B175 Spirit of BC Day
B179 Segway Personal Transportation Alternative
B180 Taxation to Support SPCA
B181 Bank of Canada Lending
* consistent with previous policy; advise Elections Task Force

No Action Required

Refer to April 2010 Executive Meeting
B136 Community Watersheds
Staff have contacted sponsor and await clarification of this resolution.

B147 For-profit Clinics
Staff to conduct further research and report findings.

B165 Exempt Heritage Buildings from Provisions of the Homeowner Protection Act
Staff to consult with the Province and the Planning Institute of British Columbia and report findings.

Other Actions
A8 Disposal of School Properties
That the Executive support the establishment of a joint UBCM-BCSTA-Ministry working group to address the issue of disposal of school properties.

B152 Drinking Water Quality Guidelines
That UBCM identify the issue of drinking water guidelines outlined in Resolution B152 as an issue for action and discussion in the proposed provincial drinking water working group.
Meeting with Dale Wall, Deputy Minister and Mike Furey, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Community and Rural Development

The Executive discussed the following issues with Ministry staff:

Regional District Task Force
Deputy Minister Wall thanked UBCM on behalf of the Province for the work done by the Regional District Task Force. He noted that the Province might contemplate modest and targeted legislative changes, but indicated that any changes would be done in consultation with UBCM and be informed by local government pilot projects.

Additional Hotel Room Tax (AHRT)
Deputy Minister Wall advised that the current discussions around a new model for the Additional Hotel Room Tax (AHRT) and the Resort Municipalities Tax Transfer Program arose from the introduction of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). With the HST the Provincial Sales Tax will be eliminated. This in turn necessitates a restructuring of the AHRT and Resort Municipalities Tax. Executive reiterated the submission that had previously been made to the Province regarding AHRT and requested support from the Ministry of Community and Rural Development for this position.

Elections Task Force
The Executive discussed the short timeline for the Elections Task Force (report out by May 31, 2010) and briefly addressed some of the specific issues being discussed including corporate vote, engagement and consultation with members, campaign financing and related disclosure and enforcement provisions. Despite the aggressive time line the Deputy Minister noted that there are expectations that some changes will occur prior to the next local government elections. The Executive advised that they would be pursuing a March 12th consultation session with UBCM members in order to seek feedback and direction on the issues under discussion.

Small Water Systems
Deputy Minister Wall emphasized the Province’s desire to work with the UBCM membership on identifying appropriate solutions to local government concerns around small water systems. He proposed the formation of a joint working group that would meet the interests of both UBCM and the Province.

Local Government Elections Task Force
UBCM Member Consultation

Friday March 12, 2010
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, 3500 Cessna Drive, Richmond, BC

To book hotel rooms contact the Delta at: 1-800-268-1133
or on line at: dvareservations@deltahotels.com

Please advise the hotel that you are part of the “UBCM” block booking.

For further information about the Task Force, and the issues under consideration please go to:
www.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca

Further registration details and information about the session will be sent to members in the next week.