



EXECUTIVE RELEASE

February 2, 2011

Highlights of the January 20-21 Executive Meeting

General Executive decisions:

- confirmed the following new appointments:
 - Jeff Mitton, Supervisor - Land Development, Deputy Approving Officer, Engineering, City of Victoria to the **Land Title Survey Authority Stakeholder Advisory Committee**
 - Councillor Barbara Steele, Mayor Barry Janyk, Mayor Christopher Causton, Mayor James Atebe and Director Tony Law (Coastal Ferries Advisory Committee) to the new **UBCM Ferry Fares Advisory Committee**.
- received an update on a proposed **industrial taxation** research study and directed continued work on such a study.
- received a status update on a report to be prepared by UBCM in collaboration with the LGMA and GFOA that defends **local government fiscal management**.
- directed that UBCM continue to work with the Province on the development and implementation of changes to the **farm assessment** process.
- agreed to continue to provide input into the development of the **Off Road Vehicle (ORV)** management framework through the two established working groups and report back to the Executive as required.
- agreed to continue to monitor the review of the **Agriculture Land Commission** and report out once the review report is available.
- received **financial reports** for the months ending November 30, and December 31, 2010.
- received a six-month status report on the 2010-2011 UBCM work program, as well as a report on other recent secretariat activities.
- 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**.
- received a report on FCM **international programs** and authorized continued UBCM involvement in the Vietnam component of the program; and following a debriefing from LGMA/FCM on their mission to Tanzania, will provide recommendations on possible UBCM involvement in Tanzania.
- received a presentation from the UBCM trustees to the **Municipal Pension Plan**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Presidents

The Presidents Committee meeting received updates on a number of matters including the member services and group benefits programs as well as the new bulk fuel purchasing program. The Committee put forward the following recommendations:

- write to all of the leadership candidates

(Liberal and NDP) and impress upon them the importance of moving forward with the local government elections legislation as a priority for a spring sitting of the legislature.

- approve the process for reviewing the UBCM News, which would include a survey of members and consideration of various design options.

Convention

The Committee reported that it had completed the review of the 2010 Convention with a look at the 2010 Sponsorship Final Report, and discussed the basic format and program development for this year's Convention. This included a review of convention details, such as the 2011 Convention theme, catering, audio-visual, preliminary budget, fees and sponsorship goals, and convention gift options. The Committee also considered the most recent correspondence with the Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa regarding 2010 Convention charges, and future Convention dates and locations. The Convention Committee also joined the Resolutions Committee for consideration of a report on electronic voting.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approve the draft Long Program.
- establish "**Rethink, Replace & Rejuvenate: The New 3 R's**" as 2011 Convention theme.
- approve David Foot as the keynote speaker for the 2011 Convention
- confirm registration fees and sponsorship goals for the coming year.

Environment

The Committee reported that it had heard three delegations from the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and Ministry of Natural Resource Operations. The first delegation was from MOE, in which Lynn Kriwoken, Director, Innovation and Planning Team and Ian Graeme, Manager, Watershed Sustainability, presented on proposed policy options for the modernization of the *Water Act*. The Committee also received a delegation from the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations, in which Tami Fur, Manager, Brownfield Implementation, presented on the BC Brownfield Renewal Strategy. Meghan McDermott, Legislative Advisor, Strategic Policy and Planning Division, MOE, also presented

on several changes to the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) which are being contemplated by the Province.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- draft a submission on the Province's proposed implementation plan for Zero Net Deforestation.
- draft a submission on the Province's *Water Act* Modernization policy proposal after consultation with local governments.
- distribute a memo to all local governments informing them of the extended deadline for submitting comments on the *Water Act* Modernization policy proposal.
- post the Regional District of North Okanagan's video, "A Disappearing Lifestyle: Small Scale Farming in BC," on the UBCM website.

First Nations Relations

The Committee reported that the issues discussed included local government participation in non-treaty agreements, commissioning a joint policy report with the First Nations Tax Commission on servicing agreements, and the *First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act*. The Committee also discussed planning of the Province-wide Community to Community Forum scheduled for March 1, 2011.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- implement a workplan for a report on local government experiences in non-treaty agreements between the Province and First Nations as presented to the Committee.
- determine UBCM interests with respect to commissioning a report on servicing agreements and develop draft terms of reference with the First Nations Tax Commission for such a report.
- write the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation requesting consultation

with UBCM on the implementation of the *First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act*.

Healthy Communities

The Committee reported that it considered the issue of child poverty; referred resolution 2010 B112 on Improved Training for Rural General Practitioners; and correspondence from Health Canada on genetically modified organisms. One delegation was received from Lauren Syverson, Seniors' Healthy Living Secretariat, Ministry of Health Services, who provided an update on the Age Friendly Communities Initiative.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- request a meeting in April with the Minister of Children and Family Development to discuss child poverty.
- request a meeting in April with the Minister of Health Services and the Parliamentary Secretary of Health Promotion to advocate for increased programs and policies to address mental health and addictions in BC.
- write to the University of Northern British Columbia's Northern Medical Program (NMP) to receive their suggestions on how UBCM can best support their program, which educates physicians in the north on remote, rural and aboriginal health issues.
- write a letter to the Prime Minister noting that Canadians have a right to know if their food is genetically modified, and that foods containing genetically modified organisms should be clearly labelled.

Community Economic Development

The Committee reported that it received updates on energy conservation and efficiency initiatives; softwood lumber; agreement between provincial and federal governments on aquaculture regulation; Net Zero Deforestation implementation plan; smart metering and were

advised of UBCM's participation in a CED webinar in collaboration with the BC Rural Secretariat.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- write to the Minister of Forests in support of his stand against US allegations with respect to the softwood lumber agreement and request that he continue provincial efforts to look at other markets for BC wood beyond the United States (e.g. Asia).
- provide comments on the proposed implementation plan for the Net Zero Deforestation Act, which acknowledges conditional support for the plan based on the absence of any new responsibilities for local governments.
- write to the relevant provincial and federal government ministers requesting them to identify what the impact and implications will be for local governments as a result of the new Agreement that has been reached with respect to the new aquaculture regulatory arrangement.

Community Safety

The Committee reported that it received updates on the new Alberta framework for the delivery of law enforcement services in that province; concerns about increasing delays in the court system and the resources needed to address the problem; and the crime rate in the province.

The Committee met with two delegations. The first meeting was with Doug Kiloh, Supt., RCMP, Chief Officer, Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, who updated the Committee on gang activity around the province and some of the challenges that the police face in addressing this problem. He provided an outline of the different types of gangs around the province, how they operate, and where they are located. He provided local examples of how the police are attempting to deal with the gang problems.

The second meeting was with Mayor Peter Fassbender, City of Langley and Murray Dinwoodie, City Manager, City of Surrey who updated the Committee on the current status of the RCMP Contract Negotiations. Mayor Fassbender indicated that the negotiations were moving forward and that there was some progress being made to address local government concerns around cost containment and accountability. The Committee had detailed discussions with the local government representatives on the complexity of the discussions, local government frustrations with the process, the impact of proposed changes on local government, and the potential outcomes of the current negotiations.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- undertake a survey of local governments who are responsible for jails and receive funding under the Keep of Prisoner (KOP) program, to find out the current status of the program and the extent to which the KOP payments cover the costs of operating local jails, and that discussions take place with the province once the information is collected.
- send out a memo to local governments updating them on the status of the RCMP contract negotiations.
- work with the provincial government to establish a Provincial RCMP Contract Management Committee.

Resolutions

The Committee reported that it reviewed its Terms of Reference and the timeline for the 2011 resolutions process. The Committee also considered resolution 2010-A4, which had been referred by the Executive to the Committee. The Committee reviewed delegate feedback on resolutions sessions at the 2010 Convention, including the implementation of new rules for handling resolutions and chairing

debate. Further to consideration of feedback, the Committee also considered suggestions for improvement for the 2011 Convention. Members of the Convention Committee joined the meeting to discuss a report on potential use of electronic voting technology during resolutions sessions.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- work with the sponsor of resolution 2010-A4, "Verification of Compliance with Medical Marihuana Access Regulations", to draft a new or amended resolution for consideration at the 2011 UBCM Convention.
- request an allotment of approximately 6.5 hours for resolutions at the 2011 Convention, with uninterrupted blocks of time scheduled for resolutions sessions.
- organize training with a parliamentarian at the July Committee meeting.
- continue to consider selected B2 and B3 resolutions as part of a block.
- continue the use of "pro" and "con" microphones during resolutions sessions.
- proceed with testing and possible purchase of an electronic voting system for resolutions sessions at Convention.

Ferry Fares Advisory Committee

The Committee reported that it was established by the Executive at the November meeting and will be assessing the impact of increasing ferry fares on communities. It was noted that the Committee needed to determine if there was an opportunity for UBCM to have input prior to the ferry fares being set for the 2012-2016 period. Following their deliberations the Committee needs to confirm what the timeline is for setting ferry fares; and depending on the outcome of this information, it will arrange meetings as necessary with the Ferries Commissioner and/or the Minister of Transportation and Highways.

Meeting with Honourable Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Honourable Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Community Sport and Cultural Development met with the UBCM Executive. Deputy Minister Grant Main and Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government, Mike Furey were also in attendance.

The following issues were discussed with the Minister.

Local Government Elections Legislation

The Minister advised that staff were continuing to move forward with drafting the new elections legislation with the goal of being ready for a spring legislative sitting. She noted with the present leadership race and pending new leader the timing for the legislation cannot be confirmed. The Minister indicated that as soon as she had information with respect to confirming government direction she would advise the UBCM. President Steele indicated the importance of the elections legislation to the UBCM membership and our need to know, well in advance, the details of the legislation (e.g. campaign expense limits) and how they will impact the membership.

Extension of Infrastructure Deadline

The President expressed UBCM's appreciation, on behalf of the membership, for provincial efforts in working with the federal government to secure an extension to the infrastructure deadline.

RCMP Contract Negotiations

Community Safety Committee Chair, Kevin Flynn provided the Minister with an update on the meetings to date with provincial and federal officials with respect to the RCMP Contract Negotiations. Councillor Flynn indicated that this is a priority issue for members and while UBCM was primarily communicating with Minister Coleman's ministry, he offered to meet with the Minister at any time if she felt a briefing was necessary. The Minister advised that her staff were in close contact with other ministry staff who are leading the file.

Electronic Voting

The Minister advised that she had received letters from a few UBCM members requesting that electronic voting be instituted for the 2011 local government elections. She indicated that while the ministry was looking into e-voting options, there were a number of challenges (ie. security, voter identification) that still needed to be worked out and as a result it was not something that could be ready for 2011. She also noted that beyond the technological challenges, there would also need to be legislative amendments made before electronic voting could be permitted.

Overview of Sports, Arts and Culture components of the new Ministry

The Minister provided an overview of the other components of her new ministry – sports, arts and culture. She summarized by saying that culture, arts and sport are what bring communities and people together so it was fitting that these elements have all been brought together within the one ministry. Following a number of questions from the Executive, the Minister expressed an interest in engaging the Executive, in the near future, about identifying the opportunities for linking these various elements together.