

Highlights of the July 21 - 22 Executive Meeting

The July meeting is the fourth meeting of the year and signals the year-end for the association. At this meeting the Executive approves the work plan and preliminary budget for the year ahead and considers the Annual Report highlights and audited financial statements. The Executive also reviewed 219 resolutions; considered reports from 10 committees; and the full Executive received two delegations. The first delegation was from Mayor Peter Fassbender, UBCM's representative to the RCMP Contract Provincial Negotiating Team. The Executive also met with the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, the Honourable Ida Chong.

General Executive decisions:

- adopted the 2011-2012 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.
 - will continue to work with the Province on the development and implementation of changes to the **farm assessment** process.
 - continue to provide input into the development of the **Off Road Vehicle** management framework through the two established working groups and report back to the Executive as required.
 - monitor the **Agricultural Land Commission** review process and report further once the review report is available.
 - will continue to monitor the **Land Title**
- **Survey Authority's** move to e-filing and assist in coordinating consultations with member local governments prior to implementation.
 - monitor implementation of the **asbestos regulations** in the demolition or renovation of homes to determine what impact it may have on local government.
 - undertake the study contemplated in the RFP related to **industrial taxation**.
 - participate in the working group and support the development of a program and funding sources to manage the removal of **derelict vessels**.
 - consult with local governments regarding the **landfill gas capture** regulation and inform the Executive of any local government concerns.
 - meet with the Ministry and continue to advocate for the role of local governments in the decision-making and delivery of **local tourism marketing**.
 - 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 consult with local governments on the impact of the proposed Net Zero Deforestation Act on British Columbia's communities, and work with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and the Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands to explore and identify opportunities related to the Act.

- received a report on the Jeff McKelvey scholarships approved for 2010/2011 and approved \$5,000 be made available for scholarships in 2011/2012.
- received a report on new provincial legislation of interest to local governments.
- received a report on feedback received in response to UBCM's Comment on Fiscal Management in British Columbia's Municipalities.
- received a report on the survey results from the major federal parties, prior to the federal election, with respect to their party positions on **RCMP Contract Renewal and Infrastructure**.
- received a report on recent and planned activities with respect to the FCM **International Program**.
- received an update from the Nominating Committee on the 2011 Executive **nominations process** - July 29, 2011 being the deadline for nominations.
- approved the financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2011.
- approved the appointment of Councillor Noreen Guenther, Lake Country as UBCM's representative to **FortisBC's** Resource Planning Advisory Group.
- received a status report on Victoria Operations including the current provincially funded programs administered by UBCM under the **Local Government Program Services** and the **Gas Tax / Public Transit Programs**.
- received correspondence on a number of matters including: MSP premiums for seniors; internet voting for local government elections; urban deer issue; derelict vehicles; Gas Tax Innovation Fund; 2011 Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative and Metro Vancouver's Sustainable Regional Initiative.
- received a report from the UBCM's **Ferry Fares Advisory Committee** on its activities to date including a meeting with Minister of Transportation Blair Lekstrom and a submission to the new BC Ferry Commissioner Gordon Macatee outlining local government concerns and interests with respect to ferries and encouraging the Commissioner to consult with communities as part of his review of the Coastal Ferry Act.
- received a report from the LGLA advising of the plans for delivering the **2012 Newly Elected Officials program**.

Committee Reports

Presidents

The Committee provided an overview of their discussions and noted that Committee members also serve as the Audit Committee and they met with UBCM's external auditors to review the 2010-2011 financial statements. The Committee also reviewed the proposed budget for 2011-2012. In addition, the Committee discussed a number of matters during the meeting including: 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget; 2011 Community Excellence Awards judging process; member service and group benefit programs; decided against adding new UBCM membership categories; confirmed that the Metro Vancouver representative on the Presidents Committee would be permanent; and received reports on intergovernmental relations from the President and a report on 2011 member visits from the Executive Director.

Convention

The Committee provided an overview of Convention planning items currently underway, such as catering details and room allocations. Updates were provided on banquet

entertainment, which will be provided by comic juggler Robin Chestnut, to be followed by a dance with music from The Pids, including special performances by some UBCM executive board members and delegates.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approve the suggested clinics and workshops; including a session on the Municipal Auditor General;
- provide piano music during the banquet reception; and,
- provide a donation to the Canadian Red Cross and the UBC Farm's Inter-Generational Landed Learning Project in place of traditional speaker gifts.

Environment

The Committee reported out on its activities noting that it had received a report on the addition of packaging and printer paper to the BC Recycling Regulation. The Committee also discussed cosmetic pesticide use; the Q.U.E.S.T initiative; residential land use standards in the Agricultural Land Reserve; and the climate action charter.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- consult with local governments on the impact of the addition of packaging to the Recycling Regulation, and advise the Province and the product steward of local government issues and concerns;
- work with the Province and the packaging product stewards in developing a survey, to be distributed by the Province, on existing local government blue box programs that would inform the scope and content of a packaging product stewardship plan;

- request a seat on the stewardship council or steering committee tasked with developing and implementing the packaging extended producer responsibility program to ensure local government interests are represented;
- write to the Province regarding the proposed packaging product stewardship program, which indicates UBCM's support for the program as well as identifies local government concerns with the scope and implementation of the plan;
- write the provincial bi-partisan committee on cosmetic pesticide use outlining support for a provincial ban on the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides province-wide, as per UBCM official policy;
- write to the Chair of the Quality Energy Systems of Tomorrow (QUEST) Initiative acknowledging UBCM's support for the Initiative;
- appoint a representative to sit on the Steering Committee of the British Columbia Chapter of the Quality Energy Systems of Tomorrow (QUEST) Initiative to promote local government interests; and
- write to the Province outlining local government concerns with the proposed carbon neutral framework.

First Nations Relations

The Committee reported out on its discussions including the proposed work plan for researching local governments' experience with non-treaty agreements and incorporating these findings into discussions around the renewal of the 2008 MOU on the New Relationship with the Province. The Committee considered four discussion papers from LMTAC; discussed the Monday pre-conference session on First Nations relations; received correspondence from Minister Polak in follow up to their April 2011

meeting; and received a number of information items related to local government-First Nation relations.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- undertake research work that would identify local governments' experience in non-treaty agreements; the results of which would inform the MOU renewal process with the Province;
- write the federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan asking that he share a copy of the report on the possibility of accelerating the conclusion of treaties with Common Table First Nations that are in the BC Treaty Process; and
- indicate support in principle for the issues identified by LMTAC as matters of local government interest that need to be addressed by provincial and federal governments when undertaking treaty/non-treaty negotiations.

Healthy Communities

The Committee reported out on its meeting, which included two delegations. The first was from Matt Herman, Executive Director, Injury Prevention and Healthy Built Environments, Ministry of Health to discuss the Healthy Families BC Communities Initiative and proposed consultation plan. The second delegation was received from Honourable Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development to discuss provincial initiatives to address child poverty. The Committee also discussed the results of the survey on the Public Health Act and the relationships between local governments and health authorities; and the renewal of the MoU with BC Parks and Recreation Association.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- work with Ministry of Health and the regional Area Associations to develop a comprehensive consultation plan for the Healthy Families BC Communities Initiative;
- write Minister McNeil to express an interest in receiving updates on their Strategy to address child poverty; and
- renew the Memorandum of Understanding with BC Parks and Recreation Association.

Community Economic Development

The Committee reported out on the matters discussed including policy related to energy, forestry and aquaculture. The Committee also received an update on the Off Road Vehicle Management Framework initiative, received correspondence from Port Alberni on the Province's analysis of log export policy options and received a delegation from David Craig, an energy policy consultant.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- write to the Minister of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations enquiring about the lack of representation on the Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council from the recreation and environmental stewardship sectors;
- write a letter to the Minister of Forests in response the Ministry of Forests Analysis of Log Export Policy Options advising of:
 - UBCM interest in the Analysis of Log Export Policy Options;
 - encourage the Minister to engage communities in this analysis;
 - convey to the Ministry UBCM's policy with respect to log exports; and
 - advise the AVICC and Port Alberni of our actions;

- write to the federal fisheries minister to enquire about the proposed consultations with local governments in the development of integrated management plans for aquaculture; and
- write to the ADM of Agriculture to seek clarity on jurisdiction with respect to aquaculture matters.

Community Safety

The Committee reported out on a number of files including:

- a detailed discussion on the input from local governments on the Terms of Reference for the RCMP Contract Management Committee and that the creation of an RCMP Contract Management Committee was seen as a positive step by local governments.
- discussed information provided by the Alberta Urban Municipal Association (AUMA) to its members on the new RCMP contract. The Alberta government has indicated to the federal government that it is prepared to sign a new RCMP agreement. However, the federal government has not agreed to sign-off on the Alberta proposal for a new RCMP agreement at this time.
- reviewed a report on the potential impact of climate change on community land use planning in coastal communities and the impact on local diking systems. The report suggested that local governments could see ocean levels rise 1 metre or more and also see an increase in storm surge activity along coastal communities.
- discussed the new regulations being proposed by Health Canada around the Marihuana Medical Access Program. The federal government is proposing to change the rules so that under the new program personal-use and designated-person

production licences would be phased out and individuals would no longer be able to grow marihuana for medical purposes in their own homes and communities, which would appear to address a number of local government concerns related to the current program.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approve the Terms of Reference for the British Columbia Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee and direction to work with the provincial government in establishing the Committee; and
- authorize the UBCM President to appoint the local government representatives to the British Columbia Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee.

Resolutions

Mayor Gaetz presented the Resolutions Committee's comments and recommendations on the 217 resolutions received by the June 30 deadline, as well as one special resolution and one extraordinary resolution. In addition, she advised that the Committee had discussed feedback from the SILGA Executive about the resolutions process at the 2010 UBCM Convention; criteria and procedures for deployment of an electronic voting system; an Extraordinary Resolution to amend the UBCM Bylaws to allow for electronic voting on resolutions at Convention; and a Special Resolution on the Marihuana Medical Access Program.

The Resolutions Committee made the following recommendations:

- use the electronic voting system in place of standing votes, with the Chair able to decide whether or not to deploy the

electronic voting system, but only once the membership has first voted on a resolution by a show of voting cards;

- in accordance with the current practice for standing votes, once the decision on an electronic vote has been announced, UBCM will not retain information on the number of votes for or against a resolution;
- finalize wording of the Extraordinary Resolution to go forward to Convention, to amend the UBCM Bylaws to allow for electronic voting;
- approve wording of Special Resolution SR1, Medical Marihuana, as recommended by the Resolutions Committee; and
- approve the Resolutions Committee recommendations on the resolutions submitted to UBCM for consideration at the 2011 Convention.

Meeting with Mayor Peter Fassbender, UBCM Representative to the RCMP Contract Provincial Negotiating Team

Mayor Fassbender updated the Executive on the RCMP Contract negotiations. He stated that the Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General had met with the federal Solicitor General Vic Toews to discuss the current status of the RCMP contract on June 24, 2011. Minister Bond had written the federal Solicitor General outlining the province's views on the negotiations. The Minister highlighted the need to establish a governance framework that will support a new era of partnership and the need for better operation and financial accountability in order to ensure taxpayers that they are getting the most effective and efficient police service possible. The Province also highlighted the need

for cost containment measures, particularly as it relates to the transfer of additional costs onto the contract jurisdictions.

He reported that a meeting of provincial/territorial Assistant Deputy Ministers was held on May 17th to 19th to discuss the direction and strategy of the RCMP Contract renewal negotiations going forward, particularly in view of the recent announcement by Alberta that it has endorsed a new contract for RCMP services. A meeting of provincial/territorial Deputy Ministers was held on June 23rd and 24th to finalize the strategy before further negotiations are held with the federal government on the RCMP Contract. A common letter would be sent from each of the provincial/territorial governments, still involved in negotiating further changes to the RCMP contract, to the federal government outlining the key issues that still need to be addressed. The provincial/territorial governments intended to table a new proposal with the federal government in the near future.

Mayor Fassbender indicated that the negotiations process was put on hold during the recent federal election. No date has been set for the resumption of RCMP contract negotiations between the Federal government and the Provincial/Territorial governments.

A discussion on the RCMP contract took place between the UBCM Executive and Mayor Fassbender. The Executive discussed the alternatives to signing a new RCMP agreement. The Executive members discussed the current status of the negotiations and indicated their support for the letter that Minister Bond had sent to the federal government. The UBCM Executive highlighted concerns over the cost of the current contract (i.e. health benefits, training, equipment etc.) and the need for increased accountability by the RCMP to the community in the police services that it delivers.

Meeting with Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Honourable Ida Chong, along with senior staff from the Ministry, updated the Executive on the Municipal Auditor General (MAG) file. The Minister indicated that she was responsible for implementing the Premier's MAG commitment and that she wanted to seek input from local governments to help with the design of the Office of the MAG. The Minister stated that a MAG was not intended to question local government accountability to the public, but rather to find best practices that could be highlighted.

Following opening comments by President Steele and Minister Chong, Mr. Don Fast, Deputy Minister, provided a brief overview of the Ministry's findings to date. During the presentation, Mr. Fast indicated that the Minister

intended to survey all local governments prior to Convention, in order for the results of the survey to inform the design of a Convention session on MAG requested by the Minister. The meeting then continued with a discussion between the Executive and the Minister.

The Executive decided to:

- provide a briefing document to the membership as soon as possible, in order to provide context to the proposed MAG survey from the Minister; and
- continue work on a Policy Paper on MAG to seek specific policy direction on a MAG from the membership at Convention.

On July 28, UBCM distributed a Member Release and the Municipal Auditor General Context Paper to all local governments. Both provided additional background and discussion related to the meeting between Minister Chong and Executive, along with UBCM research to date.

Convention Registration Reminder

Please note the early bird registration is fast approaching -
August 12, 2011

go online to:
www.ubcm.ca

to register for the
2011 UBCM Convention
September 26 - 30, 2011