

## Highlights of the November 24-25 Executive Meeting

The November Executive meeting is the first full meeting of the newly constituted Executive. Since Convention, there will be some additional changes to the composition of the Executive as a result of local government elections. A process was approved by the Executive for filling these vacancies and members have been notified through a call for expressions of interest for the positions of Director at Large and Vancouver Metro Area Representative.

As well, inaugural meetings were held for seven committees; an orientation session was conducted for Executive members; and an update on current program activities were received and priorities were set for the coming year. Executive members also met with two delegations: the Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development; and Mayor Peter Fassbender, UBCM representative to the Provincial RCMP Contract Negotiating Team, as part of their Friday Executive meeting agenda.

### General Executive decisions:

- as provided for within the bylaws and policies, Executive have notified the membership that there are **two vacancies** which it has decided to fill as a result of the local government elections – **Director at Large** and **Vancouver Metro Area Representative**. A separate notification memo on the process was circulated on December 1, 2011 to the membership. Deadline for applicants is January 9, 2012. The Executive welcomed the new **SILGA representative, Councillor Harry Kroeker** of Merritt.

- received a report on policy and funding announcements made at the 2011 Convention and decided to refer the resolution on health care coming out of the Small Talk session to the Healthy Communities Committee for their consideration.
- considered 5 **resolutions referred directly by the 2011 Convention**; 9 resolutions referred automatically from the B3-b block; and 5 additional resolutions endorsed at Convention that request UBCM action. The Executive's direction on the referred resolutions is noted in a separate sidebar.
- approved conveyance of the 2011 resolutions to provincial and federal governments as well as other relevant agencies and organizations.
- approved legal assistance funding to the **District of North Cowichan**.
- confirmed plans for assisting the LGLA with the series of newly elected official training seminars over January and February. Dates and locations for the above referenced conferences are found at the end of this circular.
- 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 a variety of policy matters including:
  - 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.

- will continue to participate in the working group on **Derelict Vessels** and support the development of program and funding to manage the removal of vessels.
- will continue to monitor the implementation of the new **Land Title Survey Authority's** e-filing process.
- will continue to participate in the working group on **Indoor Tanning** and provide a final copy of the report to the Executive once it is completed.
- considered the report on announcements made in the October 3, 2011 Throne Speech of interest to local governments.
- received a report on the provincial discussion paper entitled **“Natural Resource Road Act Project”** and indicated its support for the general objectives (one-window approach to approvals, consideration of environmental impacts, ensure public access, limited third party liability); requested provincial funding for the operation and management of resource roads classified as High Public Use Roads; expressed concern over the potential downloading of resource roads on to local government as a result provincial requirements that a “designated maintainer” be established to keep a resource road open for public use.
- indicated support in principle for the Province renewing the **RCMP contract** with the federal government for police services and requested that UBCM staff undertake a full analysis of the RCMP agreement when it is released and distribute this information to the members.
- received a report on proposed changes to the **Agricultural Land Commission** (ALC) that the Province intends to implement – 5 year moratorium on applications that have previously been considered by the ALC; ability of the ALC to review panel decisions to ensure fairness, transparency and consistency; authority for the ALC to charge service fees when reviewing applications.
- received a report on a review of the **“municipal**

**taxation formula”** committed to by Premier Clark, which recommended that the Executive should indicate that the work on municipal taxation be undertaken at the same time as Premier Clark’s commitment to ensure that local governments are properly funded.

- received an overview of recently introduced provincial legislation including:
  - Bill 2, Flathead Watershed Area Conservation Act;
  - Bill 3, Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Amendment Act;
  - Bill 8, Community, Sport & Cultural Development Statutes Amendment Act;
  - Bill 11, Greater Vancouver Transit Enhancement Act;
  - Bill 13, Metal Dealers & Recyclers Act; and
  - Bill 20, Auditor General for Local Government Act.
- received an update from staff on the **industrial tax study**.
- in regard to **CETA** negotiations between Canada and the European Union, recommended that UBCM reiterate to the Province the UBCM membership’s policy position on CETA which is to request that local governments be provided with a clear and permanent exemption from the agreement.
- confirmed **committee appointments** for the coming year but as a result of vacancies from the local government elections, the President will fill remaining committee appointments once the Executive complement is complete.
- approved UBCM participation, through the Executive Director, in an independent provincial review of **BC Transit**.
- received a report from staff on activities since the last meeting including various Convention follow up activities.

## Committee Reports

### Presidents

The Committee confirmed its Terms of Reference for the coming year; confirmed the annual work plan for the 2012 Excellence Awards program; received reports on the status of the member services program and in particular the Group Benefits Plan. The Committee reviewed the latest CFIB Municipal Spending Watch report and discussed the implications of future local government election dates on the UBCM Convention. The Committee recommended the following actions:

- bring forward recommendations to the next meeting regarding potential options for dates and locations of future Conventions in light of the revised requirements for Convention host communities and due to the fact that future local government elections will fall in October, not November.
- continue communication efforts to effectively respond to reports issued by other associations in regard to municipal spending.

### Convention

The Committee conducted a review of its annual staff work plan indicated that 2012 Convention program planning will begin in February and undertook a thorough evaluation of the 2011 Convention. Items discussed included: event attendance, media relations, finances, catering and audio-visual services. Findings of the 2011 Delegate Evaluations were also reviewed – details of which will be printed in the December issue of the UBCM News.

It was noted that attendance was above budget at 1,956 people and the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the 2011 Convention shows a surplus. Once again, media coverage of the event was high with over 29 media outlets in attendance, representing print, television, radio and online mediums.

### Environment

The Committee conducted a review of its terms of reference and priorities for the coming year. The Committee put forward the recommendation to approve its 2011/2012 priorities.

### First Nations Relations

The Committee conducted a review of its terms of reference and priorities for the coming year. The Committee made the following recommendations:

- endorsed in principle the draft paper on local government experiences with non-treaty issues; and subject to final amendments; that the Committee share the findings with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation as well as the membership.
- write to Minister Duncan seeking an update as to when the federal government will be reporting out on federal additions to reserve policy.

### Community Economic Development

The Committee conducted a review of its terms of reference and work plan, both of which were adopted by the Committee. The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approved its work plan and goals and priorities for the year ahead; and
- confirmed it would support further consultations between AVICC members, DFO and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to ensure that the review, referral and approval process for finfish and shellfish applications is coordinated with local governments as part of the new aquaculture management program.

### Healthy Communities

The Committee members reviewed the mandate of the Committee, and discussed the status of key files and potential priorities for the coming year. The Committee also received a delegation from

Honourable Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development and staff from the Ministry of Children and Family Development to discuss the proposed Provincial Approach to Local Poverty Planning. The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approve the 2011-2012 Healthy Communities Committee Terms of Reference and work plan.
- offer early public support for the Ministry of Children and Family Development's Poverty Planning Strategy.

- provide assistance, where appropriate, in the implementation of the Poverty Planning Strategy.

## Community Safety

The Committee conducted a review of its terms of reference and work plan, both of which were adopted by the Committee. The Committee put forward the recommendation to approve its work plan and goals and priorities for the year ahead.

## Disposition of 2011 Referred Resolutions to the Executive

Executive decisions on the resolutions are noted below. Where necessary, some resolutions have been referred to Executive committees or other working groups for further research or consideration.

Resolution	Action
SR1 Medical Marihuana	Referred to Community Safety Committee
B100 Consultation with Local Government Regarding Resource Management	Referred to Community Economic Development Committee
B101 Urban Farms	Referred to Healthy Communities Committee
B115 Improvement of Accountability Measures	Referred to President's Committee
B128 Riparian Area Regulation Variance Protocol Update	Referred to Environment Committee
B131 Carbon Neutral Obligations	Referred to Environment Committee
B139 Fuel Management Prescription Program	Referred to Provincial Fuel Management Working Group
B142 Travel Expense for Participating in UBCM Committee Meetings	Referred to February 2012 Executive Meeting
B147 UBCM Name Change	Referred to February 2012 Executive Meeting
B148 School District Board Transparency	Referred to BCSTA-UBCM MOU Working Group
B166 Allocation of Pacific Halibut to Sport Fishing Sector	Referred to Community Economic Development Committee
B167 Public Commission on Forests	Endorsed
B169 Incandescent Light Bulb Ban	Referred to Environment Committee
B170 Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs	Referred to Environment Committee
B171 Trapping Regulations	Referred to Environment Committee
B172 Carbon Taxing of the Coal Industry	Referred to Environment Committee
B173 Tuition Fees	Referred Back to Sponsor
B175 Provincial Income Assistance Rates	Referred to Healthy Communities Committee
B176 Cuts to Family Reunification Program	No Action Required

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

The Minister, along with senior Ministry staff, updated the Executive on the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) file. The Minister advised that legislation for the AGLG had been introduced at the November 24th sitting of the Legislature and would be debated when the Legislature reconvenes in February 2012. The Minister indicated that the Office of the AGLG would be located in the City of Surrey. The Minister also provided details on the Audit Council, including the membership, the budget and the scope.

The Minister noted that, as part of the Family First Agenda, there was a commitment to review the municipal taxation formula. In response to questions she informed the Executive that she was interested in UBCM views on scope of a review and she felt the review could include a review of provincial grants, property taxes and licenses and fees; that the terms of reference for the review were still being defined; and that the Province wanted to begin discussions early in the new year.

With respect to infrastructure funding, the Minister stated that the federal government was assessing how effective the current programs have been. The next step was to look at the criteria for funding and the development of funding programs. She also suggested that the Province was looking at identifying its own infrastructure needs in regards to the federal infrastructure program and she recommended that the UBCM provide her with their priorities for a program.

The Minister discussed economic development and linkages to the BC Jobs Plan. She indicated that the Province wanted local governments to identify the barriers they are facing in undertak-

ing economic development; and that the Province would be undertaking a number of pilot projects to determine what barriers needed to be removed to further enhance economic opportunities.

The Minister advised that the issue of affordable housing continues to be a priority for their government. She indicated that the Province is interested in continuing to work with local governments to find ways to make housing more affordable, and that more discussion on this topic would take place at the February Executive meeting.

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

Mayor Fassbender updated the Executive on the RCMP Contract negotiations. He reported that the federal government and the provinces/territories had re-started negotiations. A meeting of federal/provincial/territorial Deputy Ministers was held on November 21st and 22nd to discuss a number of key issues in moving toward the renewal of the RCMP Contract.

Mayor Fassbender indicated that under the new RCMP agreement there would be no changes in the cost-sharing formula (70/30 for municipalities between 5,000 and 15,000 population; 90/10 for municipalities over 15,000 population) and that the integrated policing units would be funded under the 70/30 cost-sharing formula. The agreement would be for 20 years and there would be an opportunity to review the agreement every five years.

Mayor Fassbender outlined the next steps in the process. He indicated that the federal and provincial cabinets will need to approve the new

RCMP agreement and then municipalities over 5,000 population would be given until March 31, 2012 to determine whether or not they wished to sign a Municipal Police Unit Agreement with the Province for RCMP services. He pointed out that the Province

is developing a Companion Document to go with the new RCMP agreement and intends to hold a technical briefing on the new RCMP agreement for local governments.

## **2012 Elected Officials Seminars**

**For more info please go to: [www.lgla.ca](http://www.lgla.ca)**

### **Elected Officials Seminar for Small Communities**

January 11 – 13, 2012

Richmond

(for Small Communities - population < 10,000)

### **Elected Officials Seminar for South Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) Members**

January 18 – 20, 2012

Kelowna

### **Elected Officials Seminar for Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Community (AVICC) Members**

January 24 – 26, 2012 (Group 1)

January 25 - 27, 2012 (Group 2)

Parksville

### **Elected Officials Seminar for Electoral Area Directors**

February 8 – 10, 2012

Richmond

(for Electoral Area Directors)

### **Elected Officials Seminar for Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG) Members**

February 15 – 17, 2012

Nelson

### **Elected Officials Seminar for Large Communities**

February 22 – 24, 2012

Richmond

(for Large Communities - population > 10,000)

### **Elected Officials Seminar for North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Members**

February 28 – March 1, 2012

Prince George