



Highlights of the February 2-3 Executive Meeting

The February meeting is the second meeting of the term for Executive members.

As a result of Executive vacancies due to local government elections, the Executive undertook a process last December to fill the positions of Director at Large and Vancouver Metro Area Representative. The two positions were filled after an open call for nominations to the membership. As a result Mayor Peter Fassbender, City of Langley was appointed as Vancouver Metro Area Representative and Councillor Claire Moglove, Campbell River was appointed to the Director at Large position. Executive members also welcomed the City of Vancouver's new appointment, Councillor Kerry Jang.

In addition to the quarterly board meeting, eight committees met over the two-day period. Executive members met with the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, the Honourable Ida Chong; Deputy Minister, Don Fast and Assistant Deputy Minister, Julian Paine.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE DECISIONS:

- in response to 2011 resolution B142, staff will research recent committee appointments made by UBCM; develop **reimbursement policy** options for local government staff appointed to committees; compare the potential costs of different reimbursement policy options; and provide a summary report to Executive at the July 2012 meeting.
- in response to 2011 resolution B147, staff

will draft an **Extraordinary Resolution** requesting amendments to the *UBCM Act* and UBCM Bylaws, to change the name of the organization to Union of British Columbia Local Governments and replace the term "municipal government" with "local government" throughout the Act and Bylaws. This resolution will be brought forward to the 2012 UBCM Convention for member consideration and will require support from three-fifths of voting delegates for endorsement.

- appointed the following individuals to the **Packaging and Printed Paper Local Government** Working Group:
 - Kevin Paterson, Environmental Services Manager, Regional District of East Kootenay
 - John Craveiro, Manager of Policy & Planning for Environmental Resource Management, Capital Regional District
 - Stacey Barker, Manager of Environmental Services, Fraser Valley Regional District
 - Andrew Doi, Environmental Planner, Metro Vancouver
 - Petra Wildauer, General Manager of Environmental Services, Fraser-Fort George Regional District
 - Ben Van Nostrand, Waste Management Coordinator, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
- appointed the following to fill two vacancies on the **Small Water Systems** Working Group:
 - Director Wayne McIntyre (Salt Spring Island EA), Capital Regional District
 - Director Mark Pendergraft, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
- authorized staff to continue to engage in

discussions with provincial officials on the proposed **Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement** between Canada and the European Union in an effort to ensure that the interests of local government are made known to the Province.

- received a report on the recommendations of the BC Ferries Commission on the **Coastal Ferry Act** and proposed that UBCM coordinate efforts with the coastal regional district chairs group in responding to recommendations of specific interest to local governments.
- authorized the President to recommend two individuals to Minister Chong for **audit council** membership, advise the UBCM membership of the nominations process for audit council appointments; and request that the Executive Director be included in the candidate review panel for applicants for the audit council appointments.
- write to Minister Chong in response to the lack of local government representation on the **Expert Panel on Tax** and seek to have the Province undertake the local government revenue review collaboratively with UBCM.
- confirmed Executive committee appointments and other external appointments as a result of the vacancies filled on the UBCM Executive. A full listing of Executive members and

Committees is noted at the end of this circular.

- received a report on a variety of policy matters including:
 - work with the Province on the development and implementation of changes to the **farm assessment** process.
 - 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.
 - meet with staff from the Agricultural Land Commission to discuss the business plan being developed.
 - provide Transport Canada with a copy of the UBCM survey results and continue to participate in the working group on **Derelict Vessels**.
 - monitor the implementation of the new **Land Title Survey Authority's** e-filing process.
 - monitor the Ministry of Health's response to the **Indoor Tanning** Working Group report and advise on the outcomes.
- 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 a report from staff on activities since the last meeting as well as November and December 2011 financial statements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENTS

The Committee reported on its activities including an overview of the issues discussed at the meeting. The Committee received updates on a number of matters including the member services and group benefits programs; received a delegation from the AKBLG President to discuss elected official training seminars; received proposed 2012 member visits schedule; and

discussed the status of the Auditor General for Local Governments and the recently announced Municipal Taxation Review. Both of these matters were discussed in further detail as part of the Minister's meeting with the Executive.

CONVENTION

The Committee reviewed the final sponsorship report for the 2011 Convention and also

reviewed the preliminary budget, fees and sponsorship goals for 2012. Planning for the 2012 event is well underway, with the Committee approving the draft Long Program. Other program items, such as site allocations, the catering plan, theme, and keynote speaker were also discussed.

The following recommended actions were endorsed:

- to include four forums on Tuesday – Small Talk, Mid-Size, Large Urban and Electoral Area;
- to approve the draft Long Program;
- 2012 Convention Theme : “In Conversation”; and
- registration fees and sponsorship goals be confirmed as follows:
 - member registration fee: \$455
 - non-member registration fee: \$570
 - provincial government meeting support fee: \$100
 - sponsorship goal: \$150,000.

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee reported on its activities, noting that it had received a delegation and presentation from Canada’s National Brewers on the public review of Schedule 1 of the Recycling Regulation (beverage containers) and Schedule 5 (packaging and printed paper) and their implications for local governments. The Committee also discussed the Species at Risk Local Government Working Group paper; the creation of the Packaging and Printed Paper Working Group; and climate action.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- endorse the recommendations contained within the Species at Risk Local Government Working Group paper entitled *Working Together To Protect Species at Risk*;

- convey to the Province the need for provincial leadership in both enacting strong species at risk protection legislation and providing the necessary resources for addressing species at risk protection; and
- convey to the Province the need for provincial monitoring of the cost incurred by local governments in implementing any of the strategies contained with the species at risk discussion paper, should local governments choose to implement said strategies.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Committee reviewed the current status of the RCMP Contract Negotiations and the technical briefings that have been held for local governments. It is expected that local governments, will receive a copy of the Municipal Police Unit Agreement once the negotiations with the federal government are completed and the Provincial cabinet has approved the new agreement.

The Committee received reports on the different strategies that Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia are using to deal with marijuana grow-ops; an update on the flood hazard management policy related to sea level rise; and on a new BC Road Safety Strategy that is being developed by the Province. In addition, the Committee discussed a report on the effectiveness of the Vancouver Drug Treatment Court and highlighted the need for these types of measures to be expanded to other communities in the province.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Committee provided an overview of the issues discussed at the meeting. The Committee received reports on resource policy matters; discussed two project proposals requesting UBCM involvement; discussed potential Minister

meetings in conjunction with the May meeting in Victoria; expressed its thanks for the work undertaken by Noreen Guenther on behalf of local governments with the BC Hydro Energy Conservation and Efficiency Task Force; received an update on discussions between AVICC, the Province and Department of Fisheries and Oceans on aquaculture management; and received correspondence from Peace River RD on the Clean Energy Act.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- monitor the consultation process between AVICC, the Province and the federal government as key elements of the new BC Aquaculture Regulatory Program unfold in the coming months;
- seek meetings with the Ministers of Agriculture; Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; and Jobs, Tourism and Innovation as part of the May 2012 Executive meeting in Victoria; and
- report back on referred 2011 resolutions B100 and B166 at the May meeting.

FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS

The Committee provided an overview of the matters discussed. The Committee received reports on research work undertaken on local government experience with non-treaty agreements as well as renewal of the 2008 MOU on the New Relationship with the Province. In addition the Committee received a draft paper by the First Nations Tax Commission on service delivery and taxation issues; discussed the status of the federal government's addition to reserve policy; discussed the status of the Lower Mainland TAC; and proposed meeting with the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, the Honourable Mary Polak.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- undertake consultations with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation on renewing the 2008 MOU on the New Relationship;
- provide feedback to the First Nations Tax Commission on its work regarding service delivery and taxation issues;
- write the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation advising that a number of local governments have raised concerns about the absence of regulatory authority over reserve lands within local government boundaries; and
- write the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable John Duncan to determine the status of the addition to reserve policy.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The Committee provided an overview of the issues discussed. A delegation was received from the Ministry of Children and Family Development to discuss the regional community poverty reduction strategy. The Committee also considered referred resolutions 2011-B101 on Urban Farms, 2011-B175 on Provincial Income Assistance Rates, and a resolution from the Small Talk Forum at the 2011 Convention on declining medical services.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- appoint Councillor Murry Krause to the Project Steering Committee for the Ministry of Children and Family Development's Regional Community Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- write a letter to the Ministry of Children and Family Development in support of the Regional Community Poverty Reduction Strategy and seek a meeting with the Minister in May.

- in response to resolution 2011-B101, encourage local governments to conduct inventories of public land for urban agriculture by sharing examples from other jurisdictions that have undertaken similar inventories.
- in response to resolution 2011-B101, encourage local governments to review procurement and business licensing policies for the purposes of urban agriculture by sharing the resource guide, *Promoting Healthy Eating and Sustainable Local Food in BC: An Action Framework for Public Institutions - Health Authorities, Educational Institutions, Childcare Facilities, and Local Governments*, with BC local governments.
- endorse resolution 2011-B175 on Provincial Income Assistance Rates.
- in response to a resolution from the 2011 Small Talk Forum, write a letter to the Minister of Health regarding concerns about the declining medical services in small communities; and request a meeting with the Minister in May.

RESOLUTIONS

The Committee met and discussed its Terms of Reference and the timeline for the 2012 resolutions process, as well as delegate feedback and Committee experiences from the 2011 policy sessions at Convention, and suggested improvements for 2012.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- request that Convention Committee allot at least 6.5 hours for policy sessions at the 2012 Convention, and schedule uninterrupted blocks of time for debate of resolutions
- consider selected B2 and B3 resolutions as part of a block during the policy sessions at the 2012 Convention
- continue to use the electronic voting system for close votes or at the discretion of the Chair
- advise Convention Committee of delegate feedback expressing confusion about where and when to return electronic voting keypads, and request additional signage to address this

DELEGATION – THE HONOURABLE IDA CHONG, MINISTER OF COMMUNITY, SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Minister, along with senior Ministry staff attended the meeting and discussed the following matters.

Auditor General for Local Government - Update

The Minister indicated that the Province expected to pass legislation establishing an Auditor General for Local Government in the legislative session beginning in February, and as such, were beginning preparations to set up the Office and establish the Audit Council. *For further information about the appointment process, please see UBCM's Member Release of February 8, 2012.*

Families Agenda

Expert Panel on Tax

The Minister advised that in January, the Honourable Kevin Falcon, Minister of Finance announced the appointment of an Expert Panel on Tax to provide analysis and recommendations to the Province on business tax competitiveness, including municipal property taxes on business.

• **Internal Ministry Review of Property Taxes**

Minister Chong also advised Executive of a review of local government revenues currently underway by her Ministry. The review will encompass all municipal and regional district revenues, including taxes, fees, grants and transfers.

For further information about these two initiatives, please refer to UBCM's Member Release of February 10, 2012.

Community Recreation Program

The Minister advised that the \$30 million Community Recreation Program, announced at the 2011 UBCM Convention was very popular with local governments, with about 219 applications, representing a total funding request of \$110 million, being received. She noted that funding decisions are nearing completion.

Response to UBCM Resolutions

The Minister took the opportunity to hand deliver the provincial government's responses to the 2011 Convention endorsed resolutions. President Slee thanked the Minister.

2011-2012 EXECUTIVE LIST

President	Director Heath Slee	East Kootenay RD
First Vice-President	Mayor Mary Sjostrom	Quesnel
Second Vice-President	Director Rhona Martin	Columbia Shuswap RD
Third Vice-President	Vacant	
Past President	Councillor Barbara Steele	Surrey
Vancouver Representative	Councillor Kerry Jang	Vancouver
GVRD (Metro) Representative	Chair Greg Moore	GVRD/Port Coquitlam
Small Community Rep.	Mayor Galina Durant	Stewart
Electoral Area Rep.	Chair Al Richmond	Cariboo RD
Vancouver Metro Area Representatives	Councillor Sav Dhaliwal Mayor Peter Fassbender	Burnaby Langley City
AKBLG	Councillor Wesly Graham	Creston
LMLGA	Councillor Lorrie Williams	New Westminster
NCLGA	Chair Art Kaehn	Fraser-Fort George RD
SILGA	Councillor Harry Kroeker	Merritt
AVICC	Chair Joe Stanhope	Nanaimo RD
Directors at Large	Chair Sharon Gaetz Councillor Murry Krause Councillor Claire Moglove Mayor Dave Pernarowski Director Jerrilyn Schembri	Fraser Valley RD/Chilliwack Prince George Campbell River Terrace Peace River RD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

RESOLUTIONS

Chair Sharon Gaetz, Chair
Chair Greg Moore
Councillor Sav Dhaliwal
Chair Joe Stanhope

CONVENTION

Mayor Mary Sjostrom, Chair
Councillor Wesly Graham
Director Jerrilyn Schembri
Chair Art Kaehn
Councillor Harry Kroeker

PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE

Director Heath Slee, President
Mayor Mary Sjostrom, 1st VP
Director Rhona Martin, 2nd VP
Chair Greg Moore, GVRD Rep.
Councillor Barbara Steele, Past President
Chair Al Richmond, Acting Member at Large

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Councillor Barbara Steele, Chair
Councillor Sav Dhaliwal
Director Jerrilyn Schembri
Mayor Peter Fassbender
Councillor Claire Moglove

ENVIRONMENT

Director Rhona Martin, Chair
Chair Sharon Gaetz
Chair Joe Stanhope
Chair Al Richmond
Councillor Lorrie Williams

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Chair Al Richmond, Chair
Mayor Galina Durant
Councillor Murry Krause
Councillor Lorrie Williams
Councillor Wesly Graham
Councillor Kerry Jang

FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS

Councillor Murry Krause, Chair
Mayor Dave Pernarowski
Councillor Claire Moglove
Mayor Peter Fassbender
Councillor Kerry Jang

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Mary Sjostrom
Chair Art Kaehn
Mayor Dave Pernarowski
Councillor Harry Kroeker
Mayor Galina Durant