



Highlights of the May 16 - 18 Executive Meeting

The spring meeting is the third meeting of the year for Executive members. The meeting was held in Victoria and Executive members had an opportunity to undertake provincial government outreach efforts. Executive members met with the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, the Honourable Ida Chong and Committee members also met with several cabinet ministers including the Minister of Environment, Hon. Terry Lake; Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Hon. Shirley Bond; Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Hon. Steve Thomson; Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation, Hon. Pat Bell; Minister of Children and Family Development, Hon. Mary McNeil; and the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Hon. Mary Polak.

In conjunction with the quarterly board meeting and cabinet minister meetings, seven committees also met over the two-day period. As well, the Executive had an opportunity to meet with Dale Wall in his capacity as an adjunct member to the provincial government's Expert Panel on Taxation.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE DECISIONS:

- received several reports on local government

finance, revenue and taxation, including an update on the **Industrial Taxation Review**, Minister Falcon's **Expert Panel on Tax**, and the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development's **internal review of local government revenues**; as well as a staff review of the current literature in relation to local government finance and tax. In response to these reports, Executive endorsed a number of recommendations which:

- provided direction on a presentation to the Expert Panel on Tax;
 - provided direction on the rollout of an independent study of the effect municipal taxation of industrial properties has on significant business decisions of these enterprises; and
 - formed a Local Government Finance Committee.
- confirmed assistance in the **legal appeal** of the Neskonlith Indian Band v. Salmon Arm.
 - appointed **Councillor Sav Dhaliwal** to the BC Hydro Energy Conservation and Efficiency Advisory Committee; **Mayor John Dooley** to Fortis BC's Resource Planning Advisory Group; **Mayor Mike Bernier** to the PRIME BC board of directors; and confirmed the appointment of the Chief Administrative Officer of the Greater Vancouver RD to the Gas Tax Management Committee.

WELCOME TO UBCM'S NEWEST MEMBER!

The Executive is pleased to welcome the Uchucklesaht Government to the UBCM. The Uchucklesaht is one of the members of the Maa-Nulth First Nation. We wish to welcome Chief Councillor Charlie Cootes and fellow councillors to the UBCM.

- declined a funding request from RD North Okanagan to support its annexation studies as UBCM does not have a funding program to support such requests.
- received correspondence from the Minister of Justice seeking UBCM input on the Province's work to develop a strategic plan for policing in BC (*see recommendation from Community Safety Committee*).
- received reports on the highlights of the February 21, 2012 provincial budget and March 29, 2012 federal budget.
- received a report on new provincial legislation of interest to local governments.
- received a report confirming receipt of all **provincial responses** to UBCM's 2011 resolutions, with a detailed analysis of the provincial responses proposing direction and action in follow up to the responses. All responses have been posted to the UBCM website at ubcm.ca under Resolutions & Policy > Resolutions > Resolutions & Responses.
- received a report on a variety of policy matters and resolved 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.
 - continue to participate in the Strategic Advisory Group and work on the development of the **Natural Resource Roads Act**.
 - 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 implementation of the regulatory ban on **Indoor Tanning** salons.
 - monitor the implementation of the **Auditor General for Local Government**.
- 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 the financial statements to end of April 2012.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENTS

The Committee provided an overview of the issues discussed at the meeting including: updates on the member services program and group benefits program; discussed options for redesigning the UBCM newsletter; welcoming of new staff member Kathleen Spalek, Manager of Finance and Corporate Operations and returning staff member, Angela Turner, Policy Analyst and Convention Coordinator. The Committee also confirmed the 2012 Excellence Awards Program;

discussed a request from Metro Vancouver to appoint a member of their Aboriginal Relations Committee to the UBCM's First Nations Relations Committee; and considered the President's report on intergovernmental relations.

The following recommendations were presented and endorsed by the Executive:

- support development of an electronic newsletter to replace the existing paper-based quarterly distribution.

- confirm the 2012 Partnerships Category for the 2012 Excellence Awards Program and support the request by the UBCM/Provincial Green Communities Committee to add and sponsor a sub-category for the Leadership and Innovation Category recognizing climate action success stories.
- approve the appointment of the Chair or Vice-Chair of Metro Vancouver's Aboriginal Relations Committee to the UBCM First Nations Relations Committee.

CONVENTION

The Committee reported out on a variety of Convention details, such as banquet entertainment and keynote speaker options, catering plans and accommodations. The following recommendations were endorsed by the UBCM Executive:

- hire a classical group to provide background music at the banquet.
- invite Anna Maria Tremonti, Host of CBC Radio One's *The Current*, to provide the keynote presentation.
- invite Steve Patterson, host of CBC Radio One's *The Debaters*, to provide banquet entertainment.
- make available wireless internet on a fee-for-service basis to Convention delegates who wish to order it independently.

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee presented its report to the Executive. The Committee met with the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment and discussed the *Water Act* Modernization process; the federal C-38 Budget Implementation Bill; climate action; and packaging and printed paper product stewardship.

A delegation was also received from the Ministry of Environment on the Status of the *Water Act* Modernization process. The Committee also received reports on the Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord, referred resolutions from the 2011 Annual Convention, and the status of the UBCM Packaging and Printed Paper Working Group.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- for referred resolutions, take no further action on resolutions 2011-B128 and 2011-B131, and for resolution 2011-B172, UBCM consult with the Province on whether the coal industry will be captured under the proposed cap and trade system.
- submit the draft Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord for BC to the UBCM membership for review prior to, and consideration at, the next UBCM Convention.

FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS

The Committee reported that it met with the Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR). Members discussed renewal of the 2008 MOU on the New Relationship, local government concerns with the Additions to Reserve Policy, the status of the report by Special Advisor Jim Lornie regarding BC treaty negotiations, impacts of Bill 43 – FNCIDA Implementation Act, and challenges regarding limited TAC funding. Correspondence was also received from Metro Vancouver's Aboriginal Relations Committee with respect to their new structure and appointments as well as endorsement and confirmation of a number of policy papers previously presented by LMTAC. The Committee also discussed the request from Metro Vancouver to appoint a member of their Committee to the UBCM First Nations Relations Committee.

The Committee made the following recommendations which were endorsed by the Executive:

- continue to work with MARR staff on completing amendments to the 2008 MOU with the goal of finalizing and signing the renewed MOU at Convention.
- continue to monitor the progress of the FNCIDA legislation.

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 received reports on the Healthy Families BC Communities Initiative; the Health Officers Council meeting; the Emergency Medical Assistants Education Fund; activities of the BC Healthy Living Alliance; and the Local Government Program Services.

The Committee made the following recommendations which were endorsed by the Executive:

- continue to support the development and implementation of the Regional Community Poverty Reduction Strategy through participation on the Provincial Steering Committee.
- continue to work with the Ministry of Health on the development and implementation of the Healthy Families BC Communities initiative.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Committee provided an overview of its meetings with the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation. A meeting was

held with both ministers to discuss the recently established Special Committee of Timber Supply in Areas Impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle which will make recommendations with respect to mid-term timber supply. The Committee also discussed the Off Road Vehicle Management Framework; Natural Resource Roads Act; resource revenue sharing and aquaculture with Minister Thomson; and with Minister Bell addressed tourism, CETA and economic development initiatives of interest to local governments.

The Committee also considered reports on changes to federal *Fisheries Act*; 2011 referred resolutions; responses to CED related 2011 resolutions and various information matters.

The Committee put forward recommendations which were endorsed by the Executive, on two referred resolutions:

2011-B166 Allocation of Pacific Halibut to Sport Fishing Sector

Endorse the proposed amendment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to support both the commercial fishing industry and the sports fishing industry equitably as they are both critical economic generators for residents within the province;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DFO undertake further research and analysis on the pacific halibut fishery with a view to ensuring that the right balance between the sectors is achieved while maintaining the sustainability of the fishery.

2011-B100 - Consultation with Local Government on Resource Management

That UBCM continue to monitor the developments related to the Coastal Community Network (CCN) and until it is clear what the

mandate and membership will be for the association, UBCM is not willing to undertake any specific obligations or commitments.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Committee provided an overview of the issues discussed. The Committee met with the Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General and discussed the new *Limitation Act*, which reduced local government liability; the status of the RCMP contract; the review of the justice system; and the commencement of the BC Policing Plan roundtables. The Committee also met with Clayton Pecknold, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and Trudy Rotgans, Executive Director, Building and Safety Standards Branch, Office of Housing and Construction Standards, Ministry of Energy and Mines and Minister Responsible for Housing.

The Committee discussed the changes to the building regulatory system proposed by the Province and the impact that the changes may have in the following areas:

- local autonomy – one size fits all approach: concern that the proposed changes undermine local government efforts to respond to community needs;
- third party audits – mandatory bylaw inspection: concern as to the intent of the audit process;
- liability – need to address local government concerns regarding “joint and several liability”;
- mandatory building inspection standards – training costs to local government of meeting mandatory standards;
- financial costs - concern about the impact of the new “Provincial building tax” levy on development and the cost of reviewing local government bylaws to ensure that they do

not contain “technical building standards” which would be in contravention of the new provincial mandate.

The Committee reviewed information related to the RCMP contract, justice reform study, BC Policing plan, decriminalization/legalization of marijuana, diking policy and liquor policy.

The following Committee recommendations were endorsed:

- request a delay in introducing the legislation required to undertake the measures outlined in the modernization of the building code, particularly as it relates to changes to the Community Charter, until we have had an opportunity to consult with local government at the 2012 UBCM Convention.
- seek member input and prepare a policy paper on Modernizing the Building Regulatory Process for the 2012 UBCM Convention for consideration by the membership.
- request that a workshop on Modernizing the Building Regulatory Process be considered for the 2012 UBCM Convention to discuss the implications of the policy changes being proposed by the Province.
- request that a panel discussion regarding the decriminalization/legalization of marijuana be considered for the 2012 UBCM Convention.
- request that the Province continue to work with Central Kootenay Regional District to address the issues it faces with orphan dikes.
- write the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations indicating interest in creating a committee to explore solutions to the diking issues facing local governments, provided resources can be identified to address some of the ongoing problems.
- request that a workshop be considered for the 2012 UBCM Convention to provide local government input into the BC Policing Plan.

MEETING WITH HON. IDA CHONG, MINISTER OF COMMUNITY, SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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

INTERNAL MINISTRY REVIEW ON REVENUE SOURCES/EXPERT PANEL ON TAXATION

The Minister provided an update on the internal review that is being undertaken by her ministry on revenue sources received by local governments (i.e. grants, funding programs). She indicated that this review would be complete by the end of June, and that the results would be conveyed to the Expert Panel on Taxation.

She advised that much of the focus of the Expert Panel to date has been on the transition back to the PST from the HST.

E BUSINESS INITIATIVE

The Minister advised that provincial staff are undertaking a review of existing legal requirements that might be amended to permit local governments to move to an electronic business format. It was noted that moving to an e-business format would save local governments' costs (ie mailing). The Minister advised that she would report back to the Executive on this initiative.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Minister provided an update on key pieces of legislation that have been introduced into the House:

- *Bill 50-Athletic Commission Act* - establishes a provincial athletic commission that will provide oversight and regulatory authority over specific types of athletic events.
- *Bill 41 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*
 - proposes amendments to a number of pieces of legislation to provide for: permitting Tsawassen First Nation membership in the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District; provisions for incorporation of new mountain resort municipalities; as well as sale and serving of liquor at catered and residential events.
- *Bill 25 – Regional District Amendments* - permits a regional district board with the authority to appoint an alternate electoral area director if an electoral area director declines to appoint an alternate.

2012 UBCM CONVENTION

The Minister noted the upcoming Convention and offered her Ministry's assistance in coordinating sessions and other elements where the Province would have a role to play.