

Highlights of the July 19 - 20 Executive Meeting

The July Executive meeting is the fourth meeting of the year and signals UBCM's year-end. At this meeting the Executive approves the work plan and preliminary budget for the year ahead and considers the audited financial statements and the Annual Report highlights and work program accomplishments from the past year. The Executive also reviewed 204 resolutions; considered reports from nine committees; and received a delegation from the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, the Honourable Ida Chong.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE DECISIONS:

- adopted the 2012-2013 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.
- approved an **Extraordinary Resolution** to change the name of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, for consideration by the UBCM membership at the 2012 Convention.
- agreed to draft a **Special Resolution** for the 2012 Convention to re-confirm that the membership wishes to increase dues by 3% annually to provide reimbursement for travel expenses for local government staff participating in UBCM Committee meetings.
- approved a **Special Resolution** on the regulatory gap that presently exists when local governments undertake service agreements with First Nations, for consideration by the UBCM membership at the 2012 Convention.
- approved the development of two policy papers for member consideration at the 2012

Convention: one on **packaging and printed paper** product stewardship; the other on the draft **Collaborative Governance Watershed Accord**.

- received a report on the Jeff McKelvey scholarships approved for 2011/12 and approved \$5,000 to be made available for scholarships in 2012/2013.
- received an update from the Nominating Committee on the 2012 Executive **nominations process** - July 31, 2012 being the deadline for nominations.
- approved the financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2012.
- approved the Terms of Reference for the UBCM **Select Committee on Local Government Finance**.
- approved the appointment of Mayor Peter Fassbender, City of Langley; Murray Dinwoodie, City of Surrey; and Paul Gill, District of Maple Ridge to the provincial team responsible for negotiating the accommodation of the Provincial Policy Force and Regional Integrated Teams into the new RMCP 'E' Division headquarters.
- received correspondence on a number of matters including:
 - the Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport & Cultural Development regarding the recent meeting of the BC Mayors' Caucus.
 - Village of Silverton and District of Peachland regarding the lack of local government representation on the Expert Panel on Business Taxation and the lack of local government involvement in the provincial review of local government revenue sources.

- Canadians for the Great Bear regarding opposition to the construction of the Northern Gateway pipeline.
- received a status report on Victoria Operations including provincially funded programs administered by UBCM under the Local Government Program Services and the federally funded programs administered by UBCM under the Gas Tax/Public Transit Programs.
- approved the continued consideration and use of **social media** tools for UBCM communications.
- received a report on the accomplishments achieved from the 2011-2012 work program and approved the 2012-2013 work program for the year ahead.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENTS

The Committee provided an overview of their discussions and noted that Committee members also serve as the Audit Committee when they met with UBCM's external auditors to review the 2011-2012 financial statements. The Committee also reviewed the proposed budget for 2012-2013. In addition, the Committee discussed a number of matters during the meeting including: 2012-2013 Preliminary Budget; 2012 Community Excellence Awards judging process; member service and group benefit programs; received reports on intergovernmental relations and a report on 2012 member visits program. The Committee also approved the appointments of Chair Robert Hobson as the Primary Trustee and Richard Taylor as an Alternate Trustee to the Municipal Pension Board of Trustees for a 3-year term, expiring December 31, 2015.

CONVENTION

The Committee provided an update on the plans for the 2012 Convention advising that decisions had been made with respect to clinics and workshops and indicated that catering choices, room allocations and audio-visual needs had been confirmed. Overall planning is on target and

it was reported that the budget goal of \$150,000 for sponsorships had been surpassed.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approve entertainment/music for the reception, dinner and banquet;
- approve the 2012 Gift Plan which will see funds donated to:
 - **National /Provincial:** CARE Canada
 - **Local:** "1000 X 5" Children's Book Recycling Project and The Victoria Foundation
- approve presentation of the Local Government Leadership Academy certificates at the Tuesday Forums.

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee provided an overview of the Committee discussions. It was noted that the Committee considered several referred resolutions, and reviewed the draft UBCM Packaging and Printed Paper (PPP) policy paper that identifies local governments issues and concerns with the proposed PPP program and makes recommendation to the producers for addressing local government issues. The Committee also reviewed the local government feedback on the draft Collaborative Watershed

Governance Accord, and received an update on the status of the provincial Joint Tsunami Debris Co-ordination Committee, and on the development of the draft management plan. The Committee also deliberated on a proposal to fund a small water system financial best management practice guidelines in support of addressing outstanding local government issues around small water systems.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- for Resolution B169, no further action required;
- for Resolution B170, no further action required;
- endorse Resolution B171 with a proposed amendment;
- approve in principle the recommendations contained in the Packaging and Printed Paper Product Stewardship policy paper, subject to final approval by the Environment Committee; and
- fund the development of a small water system financial best management practice guidelines in support of addressing outstanding local government issues around small water systems, subject to funding and UBCM administration of the project.

FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS

The Committee advised that it had considered and approved renewal of the MOU on the New Relationship; discussed the Special Resolution related to service agreements with First Nations; received the report and recommendations from Minister Duncan's Special Advisor, James Lornie on accelerating Common Table treaty issues; and discussed the jurisdictional challenges associated with reserve lands being federal lands.

The Committee also received two delegations from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR). The first delegation was from Charles Porter, ADM of Negotiations &

Regional Operations Division, who advised that the Ministry has de-centralized operations and instituted eight regional offices throughout BC to work with First Nations communities and to serve as a contact point for local governments on treaty and other negotiations.

The second delegation from MARR's Ken Armour Executive Director, Intergovernmental & Community Relations and Juanita Berkhout, Manager, Aboriginal Housing & Urban Relations, discussed the Province's Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan (ORAAP), which is designed to support off-reserve/urban aboriginals. Ministry staff indicated that five local governments would serve as pilot communities for the project.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approve the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding on Local Government Participation in the New Relationship with First Nations; and
- support SR1 – Service Agreements with First Nations and the Regulatory Gap moving forward to the 2012 Convention for consideration.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The Committee received a delegation 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 Emergency Medical Assistants Education Fund; the Ministry of Children and Family Development's Child Care Forum; the Provincial Health Services Authority Health Inequities Project; and the Local Government Program Services.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- continue to support and monitor the

implementation of the Regional Community Poverty Reduction Strategy;

- continue to support the development and implementation of the Healthy Families BC Communities initiative; and
- participate in the Provincial Health Services Authority's Health Inequities project.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Committee reported out on its activities. Committee members received a presentation on the crime prevention strategy that had been adopted and implemented by the City of Surrey.

The Committee reviewed information related to the RCMP contract, Marijuana Grow-op Working Group, the results of the online stakeholder that the Province undertook on changes to the building regulatory system, and liquor policy with respect to catering services and the proposed expansion of on-site sales and patron consumption opportunities for breweries and distilleries, similar to those currently afforded to wineries.

The following Committee recommendations were endorsed:

- agreed to participate in a working group with the License Inspectors and Bylaw Officers Association and the Local Government Management Association to review the report and identify measures that might assist in the delivery of bylaw enforcement services; and
- approved policy paper on "Modernizing Building Code Safety Regulations" for the 2012 UBCM Convention, subject to input from the members.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Gaetz presented the Resolutions Committee's comments and recommendations on the **204 resolutions** received by the June 30

deadline, as well as one Special Resolution and one Extraordinary Resolution.

The Executive approved the Resolution Committee's comments and recommendations on the resolutions submitted to UBCM for consideration at the 2012 Convention.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Committee reported out on the matters discussed at the Committee meeting. The Committee received a report on BC Hydro's draft Integrated Resource Plan; discussed plans for a Monday pre-conference session on energy; and received correspondence from the Commercial Energy Consumers on BC Hydro rate increases. The Committee also discussed the Ministry of Agriculture's Seafood Policy Review discussion paper and reviewed UBCM's response to the Special Committee on Timber Supply that is considering options for increasing mid-term timber supply.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- proceed to finalize the agenda and speakers for the Monday pre-conference session on energy at the 2012 Convention;
- write to the Ministry of Agriculture and provide comments on their Seafood Policy discussion paper; and
- finalize and convey UBCM's submission to the Special Committee on Timber Supply which will include an overview of UBCM policy positions related to mountain pine beetle and other endorsed policy relevant to the scope of work being undertaken by the Special Committee.

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

Honourable Ida Chong, along with senior staff from the Ministry, met with the Executive and discussed the following matters.

INTERNAL MINISTRY REVIEW OF REVENUE SOURCES

Minister Chong advised that the internal ministry review of revenue sources was underway with a target completion date of July 31st. She indicated that the focus of the review was to look at different sized communities and how they finance themselves. She noted that some of her ministry's work would be relevant to the Expert Panel on Tax, but not all, and that the results of the review would be shared with UBCM.

ELECTION LEGISLATION UPDATE

The Minister reported that work is underway in preparing legislation to address the recommendations coming forward from the Local Government Elections Task Force. She indicated ministry staff is in the process of reviewing candidate spending from the 2011 election to inform the establishment of spending limits within the new legislation. The Minister noted that she would be seeking to consult with UBCM representatives on the proposed legislation. With respect to on-line voting, the Minister advised that Elections BC is exploring the possibility of instituting on-line voting for BC elections.

AUDITOR GENERAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT – UPDATE

The Minister advised that the Audit Council is in place, but indicated that an Auditor General has yet to be appointed.

ELECTRONIC NOTICES

At the May Executive meeting, the Minister advised that her staff were reviewing the barriers that presently exist preventing local governments from using e-communication methods. The Minister indicated that legislative amendments to both the Vancouver and Community charters would be required to provide for electronic methods of communication. The focus in the short term will be enabling annual property tax notices to be sent out electronically. A survey has been sent out by the ministry to all municipalities to test interest and readiness.

IMPLEMENTATION OF MOUNTAIN RESORT MUNICIPALITIES LEGISLATION

The Minister indicated that the recent amendments to the mountain resort municipalities legislation are intended to provide clarity to the existing legislation with respect to the appointment of a mayor and council in the absence of residents living within the area. She noted that in order to ensure that master development agreements proceed, appointments need to be made to ensure that a body can oversee the implementation process.

2012 UBCM CONVENTION

The Minister indicated that she was looking forward to the upcoming Convention and offered her ministry's assistance in coordinating provincial involvement.