



IN THE HOUSE

June 20, 2001

REPORT ON UBCM'S GOVERNMENT TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

In advance of the provincial election, the Table Officers developed a transition plan which we are in the process of now implementing. This circular reports on two recent activities.

On Thursday, June 14 the UBCM Table Officers (Hans Cunningham, Pat Wallace, Frank Leonard and myself) met first with the Hon. Ted Nebbeling and then with the Hon. George Abbott, some of his staff and Mr. Nebbeling once again.

Both meetings were very cordial, productive and set the stage for an ongoing relationship. I expressed thanks to both Ministers for making themselves available so soon in their mandate and on such short notice.

Also attached please find a listing of the newly established government caucus and cabinet committees.

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Jim Abram
UBCM President

MEETING WITH HON. GEORGE ABBOTT, MINISTER OF COMMUNITY, ABORIGINAL AND WOMEN'S SERVICES

In opening comments Minister Abbott referred to his 17 year background in local government including 10 years as a regional district chair. We referenced the government's New Era priorities as they related particularly to local government and some of UBCM's priorities as set out in the BC Communities Agenda.

In speaking about the **Ministry reorganization** Minister Abbott mentioned, at the outset, the priority of "municipal affairs" within the new ministry and gave his assurance that "municipal affairs" would get the focus it deserved (he noted that the presence of a stand-alone Ministry in the past had not prevented the large grant cuts).

He indicated that an early priority would be the **Community Charter** and that Minister Nebbeling was the lead on the Charter.

UBCM raised as a priority the status of **the infrastructure program** funding announcements. We were advised that the sheer volume of applications, gaps in information in some submissions and audit requirements were slowing the evaluation process. With respect to "green" infrastructure (primarily sewer and water) a fast track process should yield an initial batch of decisions in the summer with more decisions later in the fall.

We discussed an early start on the **UBCM convention** preparations and were assured that the Ministry and government would have a strong presence. Minister Abbott mentioned he was already looking forward to his participation in the convention. He closed by stating that the BC Liberal government was committed to following through on their New Era platform.

MEETING WITH HON. TED NEBBELING, MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNITY CHARTER

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the **Community Charter** and related issues. Minister Nebbeling explained that the Charter would deal with municipalities and that there were no changes proposed at this time for **regional districts**. At a later date, a task force would be struck that would travel the province and consult on regional district issues and recommendations. Similarly, no changes were proposed for **regional growth strategies**. The Minister noted that regional growth strategies were an important concept but again that at some point government would be looking to address problems that would make the process work better.

The Community Charter is part of the **New Era 90 day** plan so it would be introduced in the summer legislative session that may be called toward the end of July. One of the options under consideration is introduction of the legislation, followed by a period for stakeholder review, with the Charter being finalized and coming into effect in March 2002. The Charter is being reviewed internally at this time. The Table Officers stressed that while several key elements and themes are known generally, UBCM should have an opportunity to examine the Charter early on, prior to being introduced in late July. We are working towards a joint meeting in late June.

Please make copies of this Circular and distribute them to Council/Board Members and Staff

NEW COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED

GOVERNMENT CAUCUS COMMITTEES

Government Caucus Committees review policies, programs and legislation and make recommendations to Cabinet. They monitor existing programs, services and legislation. Their deliberations will include policy advice to Cabinet, consideration of the budgetary implications of each proposal, and implementation strategies. As well, the Government Caucus Committees will provide input to the development of each ministry's annual budget and three-year service plans, and will have authority to hear public submissions.

Health	Natural Resources	Economy	Government Operations	Communities and Safety
Susan Brice (Chair) Sindi Hawkins (Vice-Chair) Val Anderson Elayne Brenzinger Gulzar Cheema Murray Coell Colin Hansen Gordon Hogg Reni Masi Wendy McMahon Paul Nettleton John Nuraney Linda Reid Katherine Whittred	Walter Cobb (Chair) Stan Hagen (Vice-Chair) Pat Bell Bill Belsey Bill Bennett Dave Chutter Mike de Jong Roger Harris Mike Hunter Dan Jarvis Joyce Murray Richard Neufeld Val Roddick Rod Sanderson Visser John van Dongen John Wilson	Ralph Sultan (Chair) Rick Thorpe (Vice-Chair) Harry Bloy Shirley Bond Graham Bruce Tom Christensen Kevin Falcon Brian Kerr Blair Lekstrom Brenda Locke Rob Nijjar Sheila Orr Judith Reid Richard Stewart Patrick Wong	Ida Chong (Chair) Bill Barisoff (Vice-Chair) Jeff Bray Gordon Campbell Gary Collins Greg Halsey-Brandt Dave Hayer Ken Johnston Kevin Krueger Richard Lee Harold Long Karn Manhas Sandy Santori Ken Stewart Gillian Trumper	Barry Penner (Chair) Rich Coleman (Vice-Chair) George Abbott Tony Bhullar Christy Clark Arnie Hamilton Randy Hawes John Les Dennis MacKay Lorne Mayencourt Ted Nebbeling Geoff Plant Patty Sahota Lynn Stephens Blair Suffredine

Under the new decision-making process, new government policy can be initiated by the public, interest groups, MLAs or ministries. Proposals are submitted by ministers to Cabinet's Agenda and Priorities Committee, which forwards these to one of the Government Caucus Committees for review. The committee makes a recommendation to Cabinet, which then makes a final decision.

CABINET COMMITTEES

Treasury Board	Agenda and Priorities	Legislative Review	Core Review and Deregulation Task Force
Gary Collins (Chair) Christy Clark (Vice-Chair) Bill Barisoff Graham Bruce Ida Chong Murray Coell Roger Harris Lynn Stephens Rick Thorpe	Agenda and Priorities, conducts a weekly review of all initiatives proceeding through Government Caucus Committees and Cabinet, to monitor progress and establish priorities for delivering the government agenda. Gordon Campbell (Chair) Rich Coleman Gary Collins Blair Lekstrom Geoff Plant Linda Reid Gillian Trumper	Legislative Review, reviews all proposed government legislation to ensure the government policy is incorporated into legislation. Geoff Plant (Chair) George Abbott Susan Brice Ida Chong Walter Cobb Sindi Hawkins Kevin Krueger Barry Penner Ralph Sultan	The Core Review and Deregulation Task Force is responsible for conducting a general review of government operations and Crown corporations, to help prepare ministry service plans. Val Roddick (Chair) Pat Bell Gordon Campbell Gary Collins Kevin Falcon Richard Neufeld Judith Reid Rick Thorpe Gillian Trumper
Environment Land Use			
Stan Hagen (Chair) Mike de Jong Joyce Murray Richard Neufeld John van Dongen			