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Provincial Cabinet Shuffle and Reorganization Announced

Six new faces have been appointed to the Cabinet table:

Ida Chong (Minister of State for Women's and Seniors Services); **Tom Christensen** (Education); **Pat Bell** (Minister of State for Mining); **Roger Harris** (Minister of State for Forestry Operations); **Susan Brice** (Minister of State for Mental Health and Addiction Services) and **John Les** (Small Business and Economic Development). Three of these have municipal government experience – Les, Brice and Chong. Minister Les has also served on the UBCM Executive and was President of the FCM. Nine of the 28 person Cabinet have local government experience. Overall there were 17 changes in Cabinet. **See page 2 for full Cabinet list.**

Major Ministry Changes

Several ministry changes were featured in the Cabinet appointments.

The Ministries of Health Planning and Competition, Science and Enterprise are eliminated, and a new Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development is created.

New Ministers of State for Immigration & Multicultural Services; Mining; Forestry Operations; and Resort Development have been appointed.

Responsibilities for Seniors has been added to the Minister of State for Women's Services and Addiction Services formally added to Mental Health.

Ministers of State for Community Charter; Deregulation; and Intermediate and Long Term Care are eliminated.

Further details on the government reorganization will follow in later circulars.

New Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services Appointed

Honourable Murray Coell has been appointed Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services to replace **George Abbott** who moves to Sustainable Resource Management. The Minister brings extensive previous local government experience on Saanich council as Councillor and Mayor. He also was Chair of the Capital Regional District and Deputy Chair of the Municipal Finance Authority. He was first elected MLA in 1996 and was appointed Minister of Human Resources in 2001.



Hon. Murray Coell

UBCM President Frank Leonard congratulated Minister Coell on his appointment and thanked **Minister Abbott and Ted Nebbeling** for their assistance since they were appointed in 2001.

More about the Minister ...

Murray Coell was appointed Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services on Jan. 26, 2004. He previously served as Minister of Human Resources. Mr. Coell also served as Official Opposition critic for environment, for children and families, and for social services. He sat on the Select Standing Committees on Public Accounts, and on Environment and Tourism, as well as the Official Opposition Caucus Committee for Children. He was first elected in 1996 to represent the riding of Saanich North and the Islands and was re-elected in 2001.

Before his election to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Coell was a social worker, specializing in alcohol and drug rehabilitation as well as in services to those with mental disabilities. He also owned and operated a small business.

He received his bachelor of arts in social welfare from the University of Victoria.

Mr. Coell sat on Saanich Municipal Council for 12 years, six of them as mayor. He also chaired the Capital Regional District, the Saanich Police board and the Capital Regional District hospital board, and was deputy chair of the Municipal Finance Authority.

He served as a volunteer for 10 years on the board of Silver Threads Meals on Wheels and for five years on the board of the Queen Alexandra Hospital for Children.

Murray and Corinne Coell live in Central Saanich.

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

The new Provincial Cabinet is structured as follows:

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier

Honourable Sindi Hawkins
Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations

Honourable Shirley Bond
Advanced Education

Honourable John van Dongen
Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Honourable Geoff Plant
*Attorney General and
Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations*

Honourable Christy Clark
Children and Family Development and Deputy Premier

Honourable Linda Reid
Minister of State for Early Childhood Development

Honourable Murray Coell
Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services

Honourable Gulzar Cheema
Minister of State for Immigration and Multicultural Services

Honourable Ida Chong
Minister of State for Women's and Seniors Services

Honourable Tom Christensen
Education

Honourable Richard Neufeld
Energy and Mines

Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of State for Mining

Honourable Gary Collins
Finance

Honourable Mike de Jong
Forests

Honourable Roger Harris
Minister of State for Forestry Operations

Honourable Colin Hansen
Health Services

Honourable Susan Brice
Minister of State for Mental Health and Addiction Services

Honourable Stan Hagen
Human Resources

Honourable Joyce Murray
Management Services

Honourable Rick Thorpe
Provincial Revenue

Honourable Rich Coleman
Public Safety and Solicitor General

Honourable Graham Bruce
Skills Development and Labour

Honourable John Les
Small Business and Economic Development

Honourable George Abbott
Sustainable Resource Management

Honourable Sandy Santori
Minister of State for Resort Development

Honourable Kevin Falcon
Transportation

Honourable Bill Barisoff
Water, Land and Air Protection