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Community Charter Discussion Paper and draft Charter Released

Message from UBCM President Hans Cunningham

On May 28, 2002 the Honorable Ted Nebbeling, Minister of State for Community Charter tabled in the House today a Discussion Paper with a draft Community Charter.

The Discussion Paper was produced by the Provincial Government and includes the Charter vision and a part by part review of the Charter that also references ongoing work and issues for further discussion. Appended to the paper is a short interim report of the Community Charter Council that comprises its recommendations at this stage of the Charter's development.

Attached to the Paper is a draft Community Charter that was recommended as the basis for consultation by the Charter Council.

Information Now Available

You may access these documents through the UBCM web site (www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca). There you will find other information.

Consultation Opportunities

The release of this material provides an unprecedented opportunity for UBCM members to review and comment on new municipal legislation. This is the first time you have had the actual recommended legislation available for review.

You are encouraged to review and consider your comments. UBCM will be hosting a Community Charter Conference on June 19 and 20th. Preliminary information is available on our web site.

UBCM Involvement in Charter Development

I and four other members of the UBCM Executive have, as you know, participated in the development of the Community Charter. We agreed and supported many of the provisions. There are others that we agreed should be included and put forward for your consideration. I look forward to speaking with you and sharing my thoughts with you at our conference.

I would encourage you to obtain the materials that are now available. From an elected officials perspective if you want an overview of the Charter I would suggest you begin by reading the Government's Discussion Paper. You might then review the paper describing the "Process to develop the Community Charter" so you can understand what the approach & decisions were. (available on our web site).

I look forward to hearing your views and opinions.

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