

CENTENNIAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT WERE MADE DURING UBCM CONVENTION; PARTICULARLY AS THEY DIRECTLY AFFECT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

MINISTER OF HEALTH

Minister George Abbott announced that through the government's ActNow BC platform, BC communities will benefit from over \$4.2 million in funding aimed at providing them with information, resources and support for healthy lifestyles. This includes \$285,000 for the Healthy Communities Initiative and Healthy Planning Seminars, in which UBCM is an active partner. These programs are intended to support communities in developing healthy public policy and encourage leaders to talk about healthy planning in their communities. The funds announced will also support Action Schools! - BC Healthy Eating Module, Dial-a-Dietitian database, the Community Food Action Initiative and the Active Communities program. See the Ministry of Health website for more details (go to www.gov.bc.ca and follow the links to the Ministry).

UBCM COMMUNITY TOURISM PROGRAM

An additional \$4 million was released as part of the "tourism activity" component of the Community Tourism Program. This funding recognizes the need for additional resources to be provided to areas that have lower relative current tourism activity. It has been added to the July 2005 allocations and the criteria for the program remains unchanged. All local governments will benefit. Notice will be sent to all members soon and details posted on CivicNet, including the methodology.

BYLAW TRIBUNALS EXPANDED

Attorney General Wally Oppal announced the expansion of the bylaw dispute system to six new communities - Surrey, Richmond, Coquitlam, Chilliwack, Kent and Hope. The original pilot project established in May 2004 involved the communities of North Vancouver City, North Vancouver District and West Vancouver District.

The Attorney General also announced the results of an evaluation report on the bylaw dispute system in the three North

Shore communities and a municipal toolkit to assist other local governments interested in starting their own municipal bylaw program. The evaluation report can found at www.ag.gov.bc.ca/courts/index.htm and the municipal toolkit can found at CivicInfo BC under Find Documents (Local Government Bylaw Dispute Adjudication Toolkit).

NEW DEAL FOR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The final agreement has been signed and the first installment of federal funding was received on September 28th.

The Partnership Committee has approved the Community Works Fund agreement template that will allow funding to flow to Tier 1 and Tier 2 local governments. Discussions are under way on an agreement that will provide 100% of Tier 3 (GVRD) to flow as requested by the Board of Directors of the GVRD to GVTA for public transportation.

SCHOOLS COMMUNITIES CONNECTION PROGRAM

Details of how to access \$10 million in funding to foster community use of school facilities was jointly announced by BCSTA and UBCM. This three phase program will provide support for initial planning and program exploration; development planning; and finally leveraged funding for program implementation. Go to www.schoolconnections.ca for further information.

PREMIER CAMPBELL

During his featured address, the Premier made a variety of announcements:

- \$7 million to fight crystal meth, including \$2 million to UBCM to start local community awareness programs, \$2

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million for new treatment programs, and \$3 million for a public awareness campaign.

- Establishing a plan to make B.C. the first province to have a province-wide 211 service to provide one-number access to a wide range of community and social services, including things like government medical information lines, information on employment supports, and child care, early learning literacy, support programs for woman and children, skills training and transportation assistance.
- Doubling, over the next four years, unconditional local grants for small communities and regional districts from the current \$27 million to \$54 million a year.
- The donation of land, near the Legislature, for the UBCM to replace its current Municipal House with a new heritage-style building. UBCM is encouraged to show off B.C.'s ingenuity and resources by building the new offices from "pine-beetle-enhanced" wood.
- \$1 million start-up grant for the UBCM's Local Government Leadership Academy to enhance local government and First Nations leadership across British Columbia.

RENEWAL OF EXISTING TRIPARTITE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

As UBCM's President, Aaron Dinwoodie made a special effort leading into the 2005 Convention to ensure that funding like the "New Deal" was indeed new funding and wouldn't replace the existing programs.

On Wednesday, UBCM Convention delegates approved a Special Resolution:

SR1 CONTINUE TRIPARTITE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING UBCM EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS the Canada BC Infrastructure Program has been fully committed to delivering over 300 projects valued at over \$800 million, plus additional local government contributions;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has provided a full GST rebate to local government and has embarked on a new partnership with local government in terms of a New Deal for Cities and Communities, which includes transfer to BC local governments of \$635 million in gas tax revenues;

AND WHEREAS the Government of BC's new Community Water Improvement Program is over-subscribed;

AND WHEREAS despite these programs there remains a need for infrastructure investments to provide cleaner water, cleaner air, environmental protection and other community benefits that will enhance the quality of life in BC communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM call on the provincial and federal governments to implement the commitment to no reduction of current infrastructure program funding by committing to a long-term successor tripartite infrastructure program along the lines of the Canada-BC Local Government Infrastructure Program.

On Thursday, Premier Campbell stated:

In this year, centennial year, we should commit ourselves to renewing a program with new funding and purpose. If there is a will to do this at all levels of government, local, provincial, and federal, I'm prepared to go to our Treasury Board and say to our Treasury Board; think long-term. Imagine where we can go when we work together, and let's commit to a new infrastructure program that will help build communities across British Columbia.

On Friday, the Prime Minister advised that John Godfrey had asked:

...when you are out there, will you please tell the assembled throng... the federal government is prepared to sit down with the provincial government and UBCM to work on the next step in terms of a new BC infrastructure agreement...and the answer is yes.

It was a very busy week at UBCM that also involved:

- announcement of Excellence Award winners
- signing of an MOU on Cooperation and Capacity Building between UBCM, FCM and the Philippine League of Cities and League of Municipalities
- granting of an official flag and badge by Chief Herald of Canada to UBCM
- extensive display of UBCM's historical memorabilia and new display panels
- presentation of pine beetle wood plaques to all UBCM members as part of the Opening Flag Parade

LOOKING FORWARD QUESTIONNAIRE – UBCM'S SECOND CENTURY

The UBCM Executive wants to prepare for the Second Century – reflecting in part the conference theme – "Charting Our Future". The Executive wants a clear understanding of issues and priorities of the membership. A questionnaire was distributed at the convention but we would like to gather more responses. Please go to CivicNet (www.civicnet.bc.ca under New Documents) and print a copy and return to UBCM. Your responses will form the basis for reviewing our overall strategic directions.