This year’s Bill 14 delivered the substantial conclusion to the Municipal Act Reform process which has culminated in a new Local Government Act. Bill 14 was the latest chapter in the three year Municipal Act Reform process, but more importantly, it should be viewed as the culmination of a decade of advocacy.

Infrastructure Agreement Near to Completion

An agreement between B.C. and Canada on the framework for a new infrastructure deal could be finalized as soon as this October. The First Ministers meeting in early September. UBCM, FCCM and local governments had been calling for a new infrastructure program. In response to interest from BC local governments the provinces the provincial government also indicated its support for renewal of federal infrastructure funding. The federal government has indicated, and UBCM has adopted an infrastructure program for the federal-provincial and the 1997-2000 “breadth” theme of Municipal Act reform. The 1991 “Local Government and Native Land Claims” and 1992 “Delegation of Environmental Responsibilities” policy papers are significant in that they were critical thresholds to the incremental and ultimately successful.

Cabinet Ministers, and other Keynote Speakers at Convention

In this issue of the News is a special seven-page insert with details of the 2000 UBCM Convention. It is intended to provide delegates with the opportunity to identify the sessions of interest and schedule their time. The Convention is about choices – choices of workshops, with the following Ministers: Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Environment, Lands & Parks, Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

Continued on page 2
Summer isn’t a slow time anymore: UBCM staff told me recently that in the “old days” (early 1980’s), UBCM mirrored provincial and local government schedules and even closed the office for one week every July. That came to a halt the first time legislation extended a full July sitting and life has been different ever since. We now see a constant pace of activity throughout the summer – I’m not saying that’s good or bad, but trying to maintain an even business flow in summer season has become a real challenge, especially when you are working with multi-party projects.

That said I am pleased to report that UBCM has kept up a busy schedule since I last wrote you in the June 2000 newsletter.

We held our regular July Committee and Executive meeting which we reported on earlier.

Since that time Mayor Jon Kingsbury has been appointed to the gravel task force (see page 2). UBCM has also nominated three appointees to the Port Competitiveness Committee (see page 2).

Our staff have been involved in the federal-provincial discussions on the infrastructure program plus many more policy discussions in advance of the Convention, such topics as gaming, pension joint trusteeship, streamside policy directives, liquor policy and the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative.

We are in active Convention planning and production mode. We feel a sense of accomplishment having already distributed the Annual Report and Rates Book and the Nominations Report a month earlier than usual. I commend them to you for review in preparation of the convention.

This newsletter is designed to get into your hands six weeks prior to the Convention. Please review the special section on convention activities.

UBCM Convention is a “big week”. This year the program offers 12 pre-conference study sessions or study tours in addition to the general Tuesday Forums – for large urban communities, for small communities and for electoral area directors. The main convention provides over seven hours for policy and resolution discussion, twelve early morning clinics, eighteen workshops or tours plus the featured addresses by Minister of Municipal Affairs, Leader of the Official Opposition, Premier, and federal Minister of Environment. As usual there will be appointments for councils and boards to meet Cabinet Ministers or ministry officials to discuss their own issues and concerns. The social side is a great opportunity for networking – the City of Victoria’s Welcome Reception at the Royal BC Museum, the reception at Government House arranged by the Minister of Municipal Affairs or the receptions hosted again this year by the BC Liberals and BC Hyde.

On top of this will be all sorts of “shoulder events” such as TAC meetings, opportunities to talk to sponsors/exhibitors and the chance to see Ral Mair broadcasting live on Thursday morning.

UBCM Convention has grown to the point where it is one of the major “political” events in BC each year. It is certainly the focus of local-provincial relations. Former delegates would encourage you to come out to the New Delegates Orientation late Tuesday afternoon. For all delegates I feel safe in saying this will be a “big week” – an action packed week – again this year.

I look forward to seeing you there when it will be my pleasure to call the 97th Annual Convention of the Union of BC Municipalities to order.

President

Murray Thorkelson

Summer Isn’t – Fall Is

Each year the UBCM publishes a set of Annual Surveys consisting of approximately 80 pages in total. These surveys are circulated on a confidential basis to all 181 members. These surveys will be published and circulated in September.

The surveys are:

- Municipal Council Indemnity and Travel Expenses; Senior and Exempt Staff Salaries,
- Remuneration for Volunteer Firefighters;
- Wage Rates and Benefits for Non-Union Municipalities and Regional Districts;
- Regional Board Indemnities and Expenses; and
- Salaries for Regional District Senior Exempt Personnel.

Again, this year the UBCM and Ministry of Municipal Affairs have worked together to collect the information on “Tax Rates and Levies”. Previously we had both been collecting the same information at the same time. This survey will be distributed by the Ministry in early September. On August 29th UBCM distributed to its members an update of the triennial survey “Planning Fees and Charges”. UBCM would like to thank its members for taking the time to respond to this survey.

Executive Approves Proposed 2000 UBCM Budget

At its July meeting, the Executive approved the preliminary budget for the year 2000–2001 UBCM budget. The budget contains a two percent increase in dues for the coming year.

The graph below indicates that in 11 of the last 18 years there has been no dues increase.

Historically our dues increases are below inflation. The preliminary budget will be presented to the 2000 Convention.

Appointments

Don Fast as BC Regional Director General, federal Environment Department of Environment (previously Assistant Deputy Minister, provincial Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks).

Towers Perrin

UBCM Annual Surveys

UBCM to Present at International Trade Symposium

Local governments in BC have been vocal in their concerns about the potential impacts that the current round of international trade negotiations could have on their ability to regulate and on the nature of their operations. Together with many other individuals and organization, the local government demand for consultation has been heard.

The BC Ministry of Employment and Investment is hosting a symposium on the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on services (General Agreement on Trade in Services or GATS) on September 7th in Vancouver.

Mr. Abdel-Hamid Mamdouh, Senior Counsel with the WTO’s Services Division, will be in attendance to provide an overview of the current GATS agreement and the services negotiations which began in Geneva at the end of February. Representatives from Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) will be providing the Federal Government perspective. Harriet Hurst of UBCM’s staff will be presenting the concerns of the local government sector.

Other presenters will represent the interests of business, professional services and labour, environment and education, and culture, and health. Presenters and participants will have the opportunity to pose specific questions and discuss related issues with the officials from the WTO and federal Foreign Affairs officials involved in the international services negotiations.

The symposium is intended to facilitate learning and to be the first step in starting a dialogue in British Columbia concerning these very important issues.

The symposium will be opened by the Honourable Gordon Wilson, Minister of Employment and Investment, and will be chaired by Stephen McBride, Chair of Simon Fraser University’s Political Science Department.

UBCM's staff will be providing an overview of the existing GATS agreement and an overview of the working groups meeting which began in Geneva at the end of February. Representatives from Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) will be providing the Federal Government perspective.

UBCM’s staff will be presenting the concerns of the local government sector. Other presenters will represent the interests of business, professional services and labour, environment and education, and culture, and health.
Earlier this spring, the BC Ports Competitiveness Committee, an informal group of port and terminal operators, approached the provincial government with a number of recommendations that they believe will improve their competitive position vis-à-vis US west coast ports. Members of this group have been in contact with a number of their host municipalities in the past few months to discuss their report.

The provincial government has reviewed the report and agreed that ports competitiveness factors merit further review and study so that a fuller understanding of their implications can be determined.

Terms of reference for a port competitiveness review group with representatives from all three levels of government and other stakeholders has been established. It is envisaged that this group will begin Sunday opening in 8 locations in 6 municipalities. The driving force is availability for tourists.

UBCM Justice & Protective Services Committee Chair, Councillor Lynne Kennedy advised the Liquor Distribution Branch that any expanded openings should be discussed with the affected communities. She followed up with a written request on this point plus a request on the topic as well as a report by local-provincial officials produced in the mid-1990's. The Panel is also accepting submissions from interested parties, and will hold a regional meeting and attend the UBCM Convention.

UBCM has had many past resolutions on the topic as well as a report by local-provincial officials produced in the mid-1990's. The Panel is also accepting submissions from interested parties, and will hold a regional meeting and attend the UBCM Convention.

On July 19, 2000 Energy and Mines Minister Dan Miller announced a six-month review of the framework governing the planning, review, approval and management processes for sand and gravel pits and rock quarries. Appointed to represent local government was UBCM Executive member Mayor Jon Kingsbury. Also on the panel led by former MLA Graham Lea are Laurie Carlson, aggregate producers and Ben Harr, who is a former Deputy Minister and GVRD Regional Manager. The panel will review and make recommendations about issues relevant to the development of the province's sand, rock and gravel resources on both private and Crown land.

The advisory panel will also make recommendations on:

• The provincial and local government’s roles and responsibilities in a range of aggregate-related issues, including identifying and protecting aggregate resources to meet future needs.
• Factors and criteria to be taken into account when reviewing and approving aggregate operations, and the respective authorities for considering these factors.
• Improvements and amendments to the permitting processes so decisions are more timely, efficient and less contentious.
• Policy and statutory changes necessary for any of the foregoing issues.

UBCM has had many past resolutions on the topic as well as a report by local-provincial officials produced in the mid-1990's. The Panel is also accepting submissions from interested parties, and will hold a regional meeting and attend the UBCM Convention.

Minister Releases Proposed Safety Standards Regulation Act

Municipal Affairs Minister Cathy McGregor released an information paper and draft of the proposed Safety Standards Regulation Act to solicit comment on the proposed legislative changes.

The paper requests feedback on some of the key features of the proposed Act, including the role of local government in regulating electrical and gas safety, strengthening of compliance and enforcement provisions, and the introduction of a central registry of licensed contractors within the ministry’s safety disciplines. The deadline for submissions on the paper is October 18.

Over the past two years, following the Safety Systems Review, consultations have taken place with industry, safety organizations, local governments and labour organizations to draft the legislation. The proposed legislation consolidates a number of pieces of legislation into one and sets the stage to reduce red tape and government intervention for responsible operators in the safety system. Compliance and enforcement tools are strengthened and when the legislation is implemented, the roles and responsibilities of participants in the safety system will be more clearly defined.

The paper is available on the Ministry of Municipal Affairs Web site at http://www.marh.gov.bc.ca/SES/SRR.

GARY WILLIAMS and ASSOCIATES

Comprehensive Development Plans
Strategic Financial Plans
Tax Policy/Fiscal Policy
Retreat Facilitator

Service Contract Negotiation
Project Management
Restructure Studies
Interim Management

P.O. Box 786, Nelson B.C., V1L 5S9
Phone: (250) 825-9586 Fax: (250) 825-9615
email: garyw@netidea.com

MURDY & McALLISTER
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

31st Floor, Four Bentall Centre, 1055 Dunsmuir Street
P.O. Box 49059
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1C4
Fax: (604) 689-9029 Tel: (604) 689-5263

Since 1980 our firm has restricted its practice to acting for local government and providing advice concerning municipal law to other clients.

UBCM NEWS SEPTEMBER 2000

Around the Province

Provincial Launches Ports Competitiveness Review

Gravel Review Underway

On July 19, 2000 Energy and Mines Minister Dan Miller announced a six-month review of the framework governing the planning, review, approval and management processes for sand and gravel pits and rock quarries. Appointed to represent local government was UBCM Executive member Mayor Jon Kingsbury. Also on the panel led by former MLA Graham Lea are Laurie Carlson, aggregate producers and Ben Harr, who is a former Deputy Minister and GVRD Regional Manager.

The panel will review and make recommendations about issues relevant to the development of the province’s sand, rock and gravel resources on both private and Crown land. The advisory panel will also make recommendations on:

• The provincial and local government’s roles and responsibilities in a range of aggregate-related issues, including identifying and protecting aggregate resources to meet future needs.
• Factors and criteria to be taken into account when reviewing and approving aggregate operations, and the respective authorities for considering these factors.
• Improvements and amendments to the permitting processes so decisions are more timely, efficient and less contentious.
• Policy and statutory changes necessary for any of the foregoing issues.

UBCM has had many past resolutions on the topic as well as a report by local-provincial officials produced in the mid-1990’s. The Panel is also accepting submissions from interested parties, and will hold a regional meeting and attend the UBCM Convention.

Sunday Liquor Store Openings

The Liquor Distribution Branch has indicated it will begin Sunday opening in 8 locations in 6 municipalities. The driving force is availability for tourists.

UBCM Justice & Protective Services Committee Chair, Councillor Lynne Kennedy advised the Liquor Distribution Branch that any expanded openings should be discussed with the affected communities. She followed up with a written request on this point plus a request on the topic as well as a report by local-provincial officials produced in the mid-1990’s. The Panel is also accepting submissions from interested parties, and will hold a regional meeting and attend the UBCM Convention.
Community Airports Face Problems on Two Fronts

Community airports are facing major problems today as a result of airline re-structuring and new regulations.

A recent report prepared for the provincial government suggests that the overall economic status of the community airports is not good. The report makes the following observations:

- The survey revealed that many community airports are barely breaking even in terms of operations. Moreover, most indicated that there were few resources left for major maintenance and capital improvements.
- It is apparent that British Columbia’s airports require additional funding. Even before airline restructuring, many airports were financially vulnerable. Most have balanced operating budgets at best and few have the funds needed for capital investment programs.
- The balance in the McKelvey Fund stands at $87,262.

The Board of Examiners announced two recipients of the Jeff McKelvey Scholarships for 1999/2000. Receiving awards were: Vera Bey, City of White Rock, Colleen Singleton-Plain, Capital Regional District.

Two McKelvey Scholarships Awarded

The Board of Examiners announced two recipients of the Jeff McKelvey Scholarships for 1999/2000. Receiving awards were: Vera Bey, City of White Rock, Colleen Singleton-Plain, Capital Regional District.

The Jeff McKelvey Scholarship was established by UBCM members and others in honour of the late Jeff McKelvey and became operational in the spring of 1986. In particular, the fund assists individuals who may qualify for a UBCM Commemorative Scholarship. The purpose of the program is to assist any local government employee in pursuing educational and training objectives.

The balance in the McKelvey Fund stands at $87,262. It was enhanced this year by a generous donation of $6,051.63 by some former Municipal Officers and $5,000 has been set aside for scholarships in the coming year.

For further information on the scholarship program and applications, contact: Ms. Mary Harkness, Administrator to the Board of Examiners, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, PO Box 9490, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC, V8W 9N7.

Ports Competitiveness

Continued from page 3

would meet about three times, starting in early September, and report out in December.

UBCM has appointed Mayor Helen Sparkes, New Westminster and Mayor Don Scott, Prince Rupert to the Committee. They will be supported by UBCM Executive Director, Richard Taylor. The UBCM representatives will report and seek guidance from other port communities.

but are not designated as requiring aircraft firefighting services under the Canadian Aviation Regulations 305.

The proposed standards define two categories of aircraft emergency intervention services which are established based on the number of aircraft movements handled by the airport, and the type of operation. Category A airports which deals with small passenger airplanes (e.g. Dash 8-100) will be required to have an alerting system, and either a complete category B on-site service (trained emergency responders, 650-litre capacity vehicle and equipment), or a category A on-site service and a community-based fire response that could arrive within 20 minutes. Category B airports which deal with larger airplanes (e.g. Boeing 737) will require to have an alerting system, along with either a complete category B on-site service (trained emergency responder, 2,400-litre capacity vehicle and equipment), or a category A on-site service and a community-based fire response that could arrive within 20 minutes. The effect of this regulation will be to further increase the costs of small community airports around the province, while providing no significant increase in passenger safety.

Continued on page 18

The Forest Alliance is a citizens coalition with 10,000 community members working to provide a balance between ecological, environmental and social needs of our forests, for today and tomorrow.

Join us today by calling 1-800-567-TREE, or visit our website www.ForestAlliance.org.

You’ll be adding your community’s voice to the thousands of British Columbians who are helping promote BC’s forest sustainability across the province and around the world.
Policy Updates

Gaming Control Act Introduced

On July 4th, the Honourable Joy MacPhail, Minister responsible for Gaming, introduced Bill 30, the Gaming Control Act. The Minister indicated that the Bill would not be debated in the Legislature until the next sitting to provide interested parties and the general public an opportunity to fully comment.

As required under the Memorandum of Agreement signed with the province in June 1999, the UBCM received a briefing on the Bill prior to its introduction into the Legislature. The Committee had an opportunity to review the Bill at its July Committee meeting and directed that a formal UBCM response be prepared for member consideration. Key highlights of the Bill include:

- creation of the BC Gaming Control Authority, an independent office to oversee all major decisions in gaming and protect the public interest.
- The role of the Gaming Audit and Investigation Office is enhanced.
- confirms the roles and responsibilities of the BC Charitable Gaming Commission, the BC Lottery and Casino Corporation, and the BC Racing Commission;
- incorporates recommendations from the 1999 White Paper on Gaming, a range of reviews and studies during recent years, and input from stakeholders and the public;
- recognizes commitments to municipalities and charities concerning decision making and revenue sharing;
- recognizes the government’s commitment to gaming addiction treatment.

The Committee hoped to discuss the UBCM Response with members at the 2000 UBCM Convention workshop in October. However, correspondence from Minister Joy MacPhail indicated that the province wished to receive feedback by September 15, 2000.

Based on this information, the UBCM revised its response to discuss the UBCM Resolution on Gaming, introduced Bill 30 as planned on Thursday October 26 at 10:30 a.m. The format for the session will depend on the status of the Bill.

Now that this long-awaited legislation has finally been introduced, we would encourage all local governments to make their views known. If you have not seen the Bill it can be viewed on the Ministry website at: www.labour.gov.bc.ca/gaming. Copies of the Bill can also be obtained by contacting the Gaming Policy Secretariat at 250-387-0757.

Provincial Responses to 1999 UBCM Resolutions

A total of 105 resolutions were forwarded to the provincial government for consideration. Of these, 11 resolutions were strictly of a federal nature or were sent to the province for its information only. Therefore, 94 resolutions were commented on by the Province.

The provincial government indicated that it was willing to consider changes proposed in 46 of the resolutions and that it was not willing to consider changes in 45 of the resolutions. In some cases the province may have indicated support for one enactment clause but not support for the second. Consequently, some resolutions have both responses recorded in the results.

The province indicated that 7 issues have already been addressed or at least partially addressed as indicated by a willingness to undertake a further review of issues identified in 7 resolutions.

Sponsors have been sent copies of the responses to their resolutions. Copies of the full report are available from the UBCM office upon request.

Low Speed Vehicles

At the instigation of the neighbourhood electric vehicle (NEV) industry, Transport Canada is undertaking a fast-track process to attend the Motor Vehicle Safety regulations to include a new category of vehicle called a Low Speed Vehicle (LSV). Transport Canada will review Canadian regulations to see if they can be harmonized with recent changes to U.S. regulations. The federal government can regulate the standards applied to SLVs (safety consumer warnings, etc.), leaving the control over the ‘in-use’ conditions to the provincial and local governments.

The UBCM Executive approved proceeding with that change at its last meeting. A recent meeting of stakeholders pointed to a number of operational and liability concerns if the municipality determines the road is safe for Low Speed Vehicles use. ICBC is reworking the proposal.

Provincial Responses to 1999 UBCM Resolutions

A total of 105 resolutions were forwarded to the provincial government for consideration. Of these: 11 resolutions were strictly of a federal nature or were sent to the province for its information only. Therefore, 94 resolutions were commented on by the Province.

The provincial government indicated that it was willing to consider changes proposed in 46 of the resolutions, and that it was not willing to consider changes in 45 of the resolutions. In some cases, the province may have indicated support for one enactment clause but not support for the second. Consequently, some resolutions have both responses recorded in the results.

The province indicated that 7 issues have already been addressed or at least partially addressed as indicated by a willingness to undertake a further review of issues identified in 7 resolutions.

Sponsors have been sent copies of the responses to their resolutions. Copies of the full report are available from the UBCM office upon request.

Industrial Assessment Appeals

There are several major industrial assessment appeals ongoing in various communities including Taylor, Houston, and Hudson’s Hope. Concerns are for the fiscal uncertainties caused by the long delays in finalizing the appeals and in the communities’ ability to fund any interest costs and taxation refunds that may result.

In response to urging from UBCM, the BC Assessment Authority has prepared a study that reviews the stability of the assessment rolls and the tax impacts of the appeals process and the changes that result from making corrections to the rolls (supplementary assessments). A workshop will be held at the upcoming UBCM convention which will examine the process of assessment appeals generally, and will include a presentation on the Authority’s conclusions with respect to this study. UBCM is working with the Assessment Authority to develop a policy paper on this subject which will be distributed to members prior to the convention.

UBCM continues to advocate strongly for the Ministry’s involvement in devising a more appropriate and timely process for dealing particularly with the large industrial assessment appeals and their financial consequences for the communities affected.

Assessment of Short Term Accommodation Properties

A major review of the classification of stratified hotels was undertaken in 1994, as a result of major assessment appeals. The problem was most prominent in Whistler, but also affected a number of other communities including Vancouver, Victoria, Parksville, Tofino, Invermere, Kimberley, and others. Traditional properties were being classed as Business & Other, while hotels were being classed as Business & Other, with high personal property assessments. The classification of stratified hotels was undertaken in 1999 as Business & Other, while hotels were being classed as Business & Other, with high personal property assessments.

A major review of the classification of stratified hotels was undertaken in 1994, as a result of major assessment appeals. The problem was most prominent in Whistler, but also affected a number of other communities including Vancouver, Victoria, Parksville, Tofino, Invermere, Kimberley, and others. Traditional hotels were being classed as Business & Other, while hotels were being classed as Business & Other, with high personal property assessments.

UBCM continues to advocate strongly for the Ministry’s involvement in devising a more appropriate and timely process for dealing particularly with the large industrial assessment appeals and their financial consequences for the communities affected.

Policy Shorts

Low Speed Vehicles

At the instigation of the neighbourhood electric vehicle (NEV) industry, Transport Canada is undertaking a fast-track process to attend the Motor Vehicle Safety regulations to include a new category of vehicle called a Low Speed Vehicle (LSV). Transport Canada will review Canadian regulations to see if they can be harmonized with recent changes to U.S. regulations. The federal government can regulate the standards applied to SLVs (safety consumer warnings, etc.), leaving the control over the ‘in-use’ conditions to the provincial and local governments.

The UBCM Executive approved proceeding with that change at its last meeting. A recent meeting of stakeholders pointed to a number of operational and liability concerns if the municipality determines the road is safe for Low Speed Vehicle use. ICBC is reworking the proposal.

Policy Shorts

Low Speed Vehicles

At the instigation of the neighbourhood electric vehicle (NEV) industry, Transport Canada is undertaking a fast-track process to attend the Motor Vehicle Safety regulations to include a new category of vehicle called a Low Speed Vehicle (LSV). Transport Canada will review Canadian regulations to see if they can be harmonized with recent changes to U.S. regulations. The federal government can regulate the standards applied to SLVs (safety consumer warnings, etc.), leaving the control over the ‘in-use’ conditions to the provincial and local governments.

The UBCM Executive approved proceeding with that change at its last meeting. A recent meeting of stakeholders pointed to a number of operational and liability concerns if the municipality determines the road is safe for Low Speed Vehicle use. ICBC is reworking the proposal.

A major review of the classification of stratified hotels was undertaken in 1994, as a result of major assessment appeals. The problem was most prominent in Whistler, but also affected a number of other communities including Vancouver, Victoria, Parksville, Tofino, Invermere, Kimberley, and others. Traditional hotels were being classed as Business & Other, while hotels were being classed as Business & Other, with high personal property assessments.

Assessment of Short Term Accommodation Properties

A major review of the classification of stratified hotels was undertaken in 1994, as a result of major assessment appeals. The problem was most prominent in Whistler, but also affected a number of other communities including Vancouver, Victoria, Parksville, Tofino, Invermere, Kimberley, and others. Traditional hotels were being classed as Business & Other, while hotels were being classed as Business & Other, with high personal property assessments.

UBCM continues to advocate strongly for the Ministry’s involvement in devising a more appropriate and timely process for dealing particularly with the large industrial assessment appeals and their financial consequences for the communities affected.

Assessment of Short Term Accommodation Properties

A major review of the classification of stratified hotels was undertaken in 1994, as a result of major assessment appeals. The problem was most prominent in Whistler, but also affected a number of other communities including Vancouver, Victoria, Parksville, Tofino, Invermere, Kimberley, and others. Traditional hotels were being classed as Business & Other, while hotels were being classed as Business & Other, with high personal property assessments.

UBCM continues to advocate strongly for the Ministry’s involvement in devising a more appropriate and timely process for dealing particularly with the large industrial assessment appeals and their financial consequences for the communities affected.

A Century of Solutions

Bull, Housier & Tupper is proud to serve local government in all major areas of law.

Municipal • Labour • Environmental Construction Contracts/Litigation Aboriginal • Land Development Law

Please contact any of the following members of our Public & Administrative practice group:

Brian Taylor 641-4856 btaylor@bitb.com
Sandra Carter 641-4917 scarter@bitb.com
Daniel Bennett 641-4882 dbennett@bitb.com
James Goulden 641-4934 jgoulden@bitb.com
John Haythorne 641-4898 jhaythorne@bitb.com

BULL, HOUSIER & TUPPER
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS
Former & Staff Work-Again
3000 Royal Centre - 1055 West Georgia Street - Vancouver - B.C. - Canada - V6C 3R3
TEL (604) 687-5575 FAX (604) 681-4494
WWW.BITB.COM
Anti-Fencing Code: Better Regulation of Pawnbrokers and Second Hand Dealers

In an effort to deal with concerns about property crime and the fencing of stolen property, the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs have been working with stakeholders to develop an Anti-Fencing Code. The stakeholders on the working group include UBCM, several local governments, the Vancouver Police, the RCMP, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, the Consumers Association of Canada, the BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre, as well as various potentially affected industry groups including pawnbrokers, auctioneers, and antique dealers. Other general business groups have also been involved including the Vancouver Board of Trade, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the BC Chamber of Commerce, and the BC Business Council.

The objective is to develop information that would be useful to local governments in updating business regulation bylaws and second hand dealer bylaws, and eventually to replace the outdated Pawnbrokers Act. Currently, there is a split legislative jurisdiction where the Province regulates pawnbrokers through its Act, and local governments are able to regulate second hand dealers and other business activities through the Local Government Act. However, the Local Government Act currently contains some legislated limitations that are considered barriers to effective regulation in this specific area.

The need for more effective regulatory authority for pawnbrokers and second hand dealers will be the subject of debate at the UBCM convention in October, and the Ministry of Attorney General will be coordinating a clinic at the convention on the development of an Anti-Fencing Code. The clinic will take place on Thursday, October 26th at 7:30 a.m.

Endangered Species: Compensation Measures for Local Communities?

Environment Canada has prepared a discussion paper on the compensation measures related to the implementation of the new Species-at-Risk legislation and requested that Dr. Peter Pearce prepare a report to be used as the basis for drafting compensation regulations. The discussion paper prepared by Environment Canada on compensation under the new legislation raises two issues: Who should be provided compensation (private land owners, resource users on crown land etc.)? and What should the compensation be based on (i.e. normal use of land or best use of land)? The report points out that “providing compensation for land use restrictions to protect critical habitat is vital”, but diversions on whether or not compensation should be provided “to individuals or companies operating on federal or provincial crown lands in the purpose of harvesting resources, such as timber, minerals, petroleum, natural gas and pasture.” The UBCM in responding to the report pointed out that 94% of the land base in British Columbia is crown land, and if the compensation measures being considered by Environment Canada are to have any value in British Columbia, the floor would need to include resource users on crown land in the discussion. It also noted that one of the biggest concerns local communities face when measures to protect endangered species are under consideration is the uncertainty that reduces access to the local land resource base would have on the future of the community. The UBCM suggested that this uncertainty could be minimized if clear financial measures were laid out before hand to address these concerns, prior to a crisis being created.

The UBCM requested that the federal government developing a regulatory measure on compensation ensure that there is an economic transition program for local communities built into the process. Environment Canada should be involved with local communities that it is prepared to address the economic and social impacts that its decision may have on them, by undertaking measures such as the following:

- Training programs
- Education
- Economic support
- Re-location support
- Compensation to local communities, workers and companies

Furthermore, that the federal government should indicate that it is willing to deal with some of the specific problems that a local government could be faced with, such as a reduction in tax capacity, the ability to maintain current operating expenditures, the ability to service long term debt for infrastructure, and the ability to deliver on the existing service functions as a result of decisions made by the federal government to limit access to the local resource base.

The UBCM requested that local government be directly involved in the design and implementation of any programs put in place. An example of this type of program is illustrated through the Pacific Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program (PFAR) which funds for community economic development provided by the federal program is delivered by the fish-dependent Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in the area in recognition that communities themselves know their needs and opportunities.

Financing Policing – New Approach in Seeking Creative Solutions

Local governments in British Columbia spend approximately $457 million for policing in British Columbia (Own Force $218 million, RCMP $239 million). This represents 68% of the $669 million spent on policing in the province. Policing costs today represent approximately 15% of a local government’s budget and is increasing rapidly, it is one of the largest single budget expenditures faced by a local community today.

At the 1999 UBCM Convention a workshop on police financing was held and there was a general consensus amongst the delegates that something needed to be done. There was no consensus however, on what action should be undertaken. The delegates could not reach a consensus on the alternative financing option that might be used to finance police services. The delegates agreed that the status quo was an option, but were equally divided between provincial, regional district or local financing as the ultimate solution to this issue, although regional district financing received the largest number of strongly pursue preferences.

The Justice and Protective Services Committee agreed to undertake the following four steps in an effort to broaden the discussion and to identify some creative solutions to the ongoing problems in this area:

1. Update Police Costs Paper

Update paper on policing costs and forward to local governments for comment to assess what specific changes in policing costs the members might support.

2. Brainstorming Session

Establish local government committee of staff and politicians to determine if a creative solution to this problem can be identified (Sept 2000).

3. Police Costs Committee

Re-constitute the joint UBCM/Provincial Police Costs Committee to consider perceptions to the current means of financing policing.

4. Models - Pilot Projects

Promote the undertaking of a number of different pilot projects to test different financing options. The UBCM is hoping that by using this approach that it will be able to identify some new measures and innovative solutions to the financing of policing in the province.

Local governments in British Columbia spend approximately $457 million for policing in British Columbia (Own Force $218 million, RCMP $239 million). This represents 68% of the $669 million spent on policing in the province. Policing costs today represent approximately 15% of a local government’s budget and is increasing rapidly, it is one of the largest single budget expenditures faced by a local community today.

At the 1999 UBCM Convention a workshop on police financing was held and there was a general consensus amongst the delegates that something needed to be done. There was no consensus however, on what action should be undertaken. The delegates could not reach a consensus on the alternative financing option that might be used to finance police services. The delegates agreed that the status quo was an option, but were equally divided between provincial, regional district or local financing as the ultimate solution to this issue, although regional district financing received the largest number of strongly pursue preferences.

The Justice and Protective Services Committee agreed to undertake the following four steps in an effort to broaden the discussion and to identify some creative solutions to the ongoing problems in this area:

1. Update Police Costs Paper

Update paper on policing costs and forward to local governments for comment to assess what specific changes in policing costs the members might support.

2. Brainstorming Session

Establish local government committee of staff and politicians to determine if a creative solution to this problem can be identified (Sept 2000).

3. Police Costs Committee

Re-constitute the joint UBCM/Provincial Police Costs Committee to consider perceptions to the current means of financing policing.

4. Models - Pilot Projects

Promote the undertaking of a number of different pilot projects to test different financing options. The UBCM is hoping that by using this approach that it will be able to identify some new measures and innovative solutions to the financing of policing in the province.

We provide a full range of legal services and administrative advice to local governments in British Columbia.

Visit our website for more information about our firm and lawyers and for recent issues of our newsletters, client bulletins and other news items.

Staples McDannold Stewart...

We provide a full range of legal services and administrative advice to local governments in British Columbia.

Visit our website for more information about our firm and lawyers and for recent issues of our newsletters, client bulletins and other news items.

Partners Lorena Staples, Q.C. Guy McDannold Colin Stewart

Associates Robert Macquisten Kathryn Stuart Andrew Bray Bruce Jordan Troy DeSouza

Staples McDannold Stewart

2nd Floor, 837 Burdett Avenue, Victoria, BC V8W 1B3 Phone: (250) 380-7744; Fax: (250) 380-3008 E-Mail: logodial@sms.bc.ca

http://www.sms.bc.ca

More Policy Updates

MORE POLICY UPDATES

will be coordinating a clinic at the convention on the regulation in this specific area. Policing costs today represent approximately $457 million; RCMP $239 million; Local governments in British Columbia (Own Force $218 million) spend approximately $457 million. Approximately 15% of a local govern- ment’s budget is increasing rapidly, it is one of the largest single budget expenditures faced by a local community today.

At the 1999 UBCM Convention a workshop on police financing was held and there was a general consensus amongst the delegates that something needed to be done. There was no consensus however, on what action should be undertaken. The delegates could not reach a consensus on the alternative financing option that might be used to finance police services. The delegates agreed that the status quo was an option, but were equally divided between provincial, regional district or local financing as the ultimate solution to this issue, although regional district financing received the largest number of strongly pursue preferences.

The Justice and Protective Services Committee agreed to undertake the following four steps in an effort to broaden the discussion and to identify some creative solutions to the ongoing problems in this area:

1. Update Police Costs Paper

Update paper on policing costs and forward to local governments for comment to assess what specific changes in policing costs the members might support.

2. Brainstorming Session

Establish local government committee of staff and politicians to determine if a creative solution to this problem can be identified (Sept 2000).

3. Police Costs Committee

Re-constitute the joint UBCM/Provincial Police Costs Committee to consider perceptions to the current means of financing policing.

4. Models - Pilot Projects

Promote the undertaking of a number of different pilot projects to test different financing options. The UBCM is hoping that by using this approach that it will be able to identify some new measures and innovative solutions to the financing of policing in the province.
The Basics of Joint Trusteeship

Under joint trusteeship representatives of both plan members and plan employers share the management of the pension plan. In a jointly trusted plan:
- Plan member and plan employer representatives share control of the plan (determination of rates, rules, plan benefits, etc.).
- Surpluses* are shared. Surpluses could be used to improve pension plan benefits, to reduce employer and plan member contributions, to strengthen indexing of pensions, to protect against future contribution increases or combinations thereof.
- Liabilities* are shared. If the plan has an unfunded liability*, plan employer and plan member contributions would be increased equally to pay it down over time.

From an employer perspective, there are some gains under joint trusteeship including, better employee relations, reduced risk exposure and rate stabilization and restructurings. Employers lose some entitlement to future surpluses but this loss is offset by sharing responsibility for future unfunded liabilities with plan members.

From an employee's perspective, there are also some gains including participation, legitimate claim on a share of future surpluses and protection from unilateral action. The cost to employees is the risk of employee contribution rate increases. If an unfunded liability emerges, plan employer and plan member contributions would be increased equally to pay it down over time.

The proposed Joint Management Agreement would create a new Municipal Pension plan trust that plan member and plan employer representatives would jointly control.

The new Municipal Pension Board of Trustees (the board) would have responsibility and authority for managing the pension plan and the pension fund. The board would, for example, decide on plan benefits and plan rules, establish investment policy and hear plan member appeals. The board could not change the plan if the change requires an increase in contributions or creates an unfunded liability.

As joint trusteeship is considered, you should know:
- The pension benefits, shared future surpluses, and protection against future contributions.
- Surpluses occur when there are more assets than liabilities.
- Unfunded liabilities occur when there are not enough assets to meet the liabilities.

Savings and Reduced funding.

We provide innovative solutions.

PLANNING SERVICES • PROJECT DEVELOPMENT • REAL ESTATE SERVICES • OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

FULTON & COMPANY
Full Service Law Firm
Servicing the Interior of British Columbia

Municipal Law Contacts:
Brian D. Ross  Frank R. Scordo

Main Office:
248 Second Avenue
Kamloops, B.C.
250-372-5482

Ashcroft
100 Mile House

Lillooet

Call 1-888-267-BC BC (2222)

Growing demands Reduced funding.
The changing public sector environment presents a wide range of challenges to every organization. At BCBC, we have the expertise and experience to identify the options, and we'll work with you to help implement the best-value solution to meet your needs.

We've learned a lot by working in all parts of BC, and our experts are available wherever you need them. And we know knowledgeable, friendly staff in 70 service centres throughout the province.

So if you're looking for innovative solutions in real estate and accommodation, the answer is close by. The answer is BCBC.
Legislation

Implementing the New Local Government Act
Contributed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The proclamation of Bill 14 on June 12, 2000, marks the substantial completion of the local government legislation reform project. Combined with Bill 31 and Bill 88 in 1998 and 1999, Bill 14 completes the reform of the core elements of the Municipal Act. These changes are not just a piecemeal update to legislation that has outlived its usefulness; the reforms clearly remake the Act into a new legislative framework for local government. Therefore, the Act has been renamed the Local Government Act in order to signify this significant change.

This legislative reform process has been based on extensive consultation and cooperation between the Ministry, the UBCM, and local government. That consultation and cooperation has led to a fundamental change in local government legislation, providing local governments with, among many other things:

- broad corporate powers;
- broad service powers;
- new finance powers and processes;
- authority to facilitate public-private partnerships; and
- more flexible business regulation and licensing powers.

Bill 14 has added further powers such as more flexible authority for regional district service arrangements, including a service dispute resolution process, and improved planning and land use provisions.

With a renewed legislative foundation, local government can now focus on finding ways to effectively incorporate the new legislative framework into the way business is conducted. The Ministry’s implementation plan is geared to assisting local governments with that task.

Since Bill 14 received Royal Assent, explanatory materials consisting of two circulars and 21 information bulletins have been distributed to local government. The bulletins are included in the resource guide, Using the New Local Government Act (formerly Using the Reformed Municipal Act). These new bulletins are also located electronically at: http://www.marh.gov.bc.ca/LGPOLICY/MAR/URMA/ and cover a wide range of topics including phased commencement of Bill 14; committees and commissions; counter-petition process; appointment of municipal directors to regional district boards; road closure and highway abandonment service powers; and electoral area planning. A full table of contents is available at: www.marh.gov.bc.ca/LGPOLICY/MAR/URMA/urmas4.html.

In the short term, the implementation plan will:

- phase the legislation in over the next six months in accordance with the com-
  mission plan provided in the bulletins;
- develop Cabinet regulations including implementing the new dispute resolution
  provisions and reducing regional district planning by-law approvals;
- continue to produce timely bulletins on all of the key changes;
- produce guides to the new legislation for elected officials;
- develop best practices guides for some of the more unique aspects of the legisla-
  tion, in particular for regional district service review and dispute resolution; and
- continue the practice of ministerial interven-tion in regional workshops and
  service review and with-
  draval.

On September 29th, a workshop, co-sponsored by the Ministry and UBCM, will offer an opportunity for Regional District Admin-

istration to learn about the implications of the new Regional District legislative changes in Bill 14. The workshop will provide ex-

planations and discussion opportunities on the new provisions.

The UBCM, the Local Government Management Association and various professional organizations including the Government Financial Officers’ Association, Planning the Institute of British Columbia and the Municipal Law Section, will assist the Ministry to develop explanatory guides, best practices, techn-

ological tools and other resources that administrators can use.

In addition, ministry staff will present study sessions on Local Government Act Im-

plementation at the UBCM convention in October.

The successful transformation of the use of the Municipal Act to the birth of the new Local Government Act has been possible be-

cause of the strong partnership between UBCM and the Ministry. This partnership will continue in implementation, to assist local governments in understanding, working with and seizing opportuni-

ties under the new legislation.

While reformed legislation is an essential component of an effective local government system, it is not in itself sufficient. The effectiveness of the new legis-

lation will be demonstrated by how well it ena-

bles local governments to meet the needs of their communities and citizens.

Wood WORKS Picking Up Steam

The build-with-wood momentum of Wood WORKS is growing across Canada thanks to the efforts of BC Communities thinking wood. More and more projects are emerging in wood. At the same time, however, wood is coming face to face with systemic barriers that continue to disadvantage its use in commercial construction.

Since its inception, Wood WORKS has inspired the use of wood in 21 BC projects valued at nearly $40 million and generating nearly $12 million in wood product sales.

Wood WORKS is working but still has a long way to go before BC can be proclamed as having a wood culture. Innovation and enthusiasm for wood still has room to grow—BC communities are demonstrating that potential by getting on board,” concludes Jim Engleson of CANFOR and Chair of the Wood WORKS Provincial Steering Committee.

Wood WORKS is running a regular full-page ad feature in this newsletter to showcase UBCM members building with wood. If your community has projects in wood to feature, please contact us at (250) 352-0577 or (250) 788-0706.

By Roseline Ferré
Wood WORKS BC Project Manager
Overview
Special Convention Newsletter

We know that advance information on the Convention is important to our delegates. That’s why we will continue publishing the Convention Bulletin series and why this year we have included this special pull-out section of the newsletter. We have tried to pack in some of the information that will assist you in making your plans.

CONVENTION ON-LINE

Visit the CivicNet web site http://www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca for “Important Information on the 2000 UBCM Convention”, including:
- General Information - on the main convention facility & registration, convention dates, registration desk hours and accommodations.
- Registration - a listing of optional events.
- General Convention Business - including information on resolutions, voting privileges, elections and provincial participation.
- Pre-Convention Sessions - an outline of study sessions and tours taking place Monday, October 23 and the three forums: Electoral Area Directors, Large Urban Communities and Small Talk, Tuesday October 24, 2000.
- Convention Workshops - information on nine workshops.
- Convention Clinic Series - provides information on four topic streams including the Environment, New Legislation, New Government Policy and Special Interest topics.
- Cabinet - a brief review on the Cabinet Ministers at the Convention this year.
- Networking Events - a review of the informal and social occasions during Convention.
- Partners Program - details on the Castle, City & Garden Tour, Chinatown Tour with Dim Sum, Nature Walk & Lunch at Goldstream Park, Vancouver Island Winery Tour & Tasting, Butchart Garden Tour and the Harbour Ferry & Microbrewery Pub Tour.
- Schedule - which includes the Convention Program in Brief.

Visit this convenient summary of information, to assist you with your planning for this year’s UBCM Convention.

Nominating Committee Report Out

The results of a call for nominations have been reviewed, published and circulated to all UBCM members. The report contains the names and biographical information on the 12 persons nominated for various Executive positions. As a result of bylaw changes at the 1994 Convention, the role of the Nominating Committee in the new process is to review credentials and prepare its report. It is not their role to recommend any one nomination. Further nominations can still be received during the Convention. This is particularly relevant for the position of Small Community Representative where no nomination was received in advance.

This year’s nominating committee members are:
- Mayor John Ranta, Immediate Past President
- Councillor Ida Makaro, Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association
- Councillor Marvin Hunt, Lower Mainland Municipal Association
- Councillor Dan Rogers, North Central Municipal Association
- Mayor Arno Hennig, Association of Kootenay and Boundary Municipalities
- Mayor Pearl Myers, Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

Further information please contact the Chair of the Committee.

Late and Emergency Resolutions

Late and emergency resolutions must be received at the UBCM office by Friday noon, October 20th to provide time for Executive consideration and late presentation to the 2000 Convention in the Report on Resolutions Received After Deadline. Delegates are reminded that only those issues that have arisen after the June 30th deadline will be recommenced by the Executive as appropriate for debate.

Delegates’ Check List

Before you leave for the UBCM Convention, be sure:

- you've registered for Convention!
- you've confirmed your accommodations
- you've preobooked meetings with Provincial Officials
- you've packed your Annual Report and Resolutions book
- you've left the Message Centre Phone/Fax with your office staff
- you've asked your e-mail provider for instructions on how to retrieve e-mail from a remote location
- you've packed your country clothes and jacket for UBCM Thursday evening “CHOMP” & “STOMP”

When you arrive be sure to:

- register and pick up your delegate's kit for Convention
- check that you have the correct number of meal tickets: “CHOMP” & “STOMP”, Forum Luncheons, Area Association Luncheons, Delegates’ Luncheon - no tickets needed for delegates for continental breakfasts
- familiarize yourself with the Convention venue and where your chosen functions are being held
- check at the delegates’ information desk to see if there are any updates on sessions
- check-in Partners at the Partners’ Desk
- make the most of your experience, and enjoy the company of your fellow members!
Convention Program

2000 UBCM CONVENTION PROGRAM

Monday, October 23
7:00 am – 4:30 pm Government Meetings
7:00 am – 4:30 pm Registration
7:30 am Breakfast and Registration
8:00 am Legislative Update (30 min)
9:30 am First Report of the Nominating Committee for Executive positions
9:30 am Report on Resolutions Received after the Convention closing.
9:45 am Next business
10:00 am Address by the Premier
11:30 am Break
12:00 pm John Ranta, Chair
12:15 pm Chair Hans Cunningham
12:30 pm Introduction of Life Members and Guests
1:00 pm Presentation of Long-Service Awards
1:15 pm Vice-President’s Chair
1:30 pm Welcome Reception
1:45 pm Afternoon sessions
2:00 pm Address by the Minister of Municipal Affairs
2:45 pm Afternoon session:
- CivicInfo BC
- Women’s Economic Strategy
- Gambling Crime in BC
- WCB Issues

Monday Study Tours and Study Sessions
Study sessions on health and new legislation and Aboriginal. The always popular all-day agriculture study tour is featured again this year but a highlight has to be the Day at Sea on the HMCS Huron. These sessions are listed on page 11 and pre-registration is required.

Tuesday, October 24
7:00 am – 4:30 pm Government Meetings
7:00 am – 4:30 pm Registration
7:30 am Breakfast and Registration
8:00 am Legislative Update (30 min)
9:30 am Address by the Premier
9:45 am Break
10:00 am John Ranta, Chair
10:15 am Chair Susan Gimse
10:30 am Introduction of Life Members and Guests
11:00 pm Address by the Minister of Municipal Affairs
11:45 pm Afternoon session:
- Downtown Neighbourhood Revitalization Program
- Parliament Buildings – Behind the Scenes
- Downtown Neighbourhood Revitalization

Convention Highlights: Plan Your Week

The general format for the Convention remains the same as in previous years:

- Monday: pre-conference sessions
- Tuesday: forums: Electoral Areas, Small Talk, and the Large Urban Communities Forum
- Wednesday: Monday Study Tours and Study Sessions

Here are some of the highlights of this convention to help delegates prepare for a busy week.

Tuesday Special Focus
Three forums dealing with issues of specific focus for:
- Electoral Area Directors (featuring “In the Director’s Chair”)
- Small Communities (pop. under 5,000)
- Large Urban Communities

Additional details can be found on page 12.

The afternoon session will feature implementation of new regional district legislation and youth capital.

Wednesday
Morning sessions basically focus on UBCM policy development. [For more information on the resolution process (see page 20)]. The Minister of Municipal Affairs’ annual address will kick off the afternoon to be followed by four workshops with Cabinet members. All five Area Associations will sponsor lunches.

Thursday
After a full morning of “early bird” clinics, policy debate and pre-lunch workshops or tours delegates will adjourn to the Delegates Luncheon. This is followed by the Leader of the Official Opposition, Gordon Campbell.

Friday
After a final round of clinics and policy consideration, Premier Ujjal Dosanjh has been invited to UBCM prior to the Convention closing.

We look forward to seeing you at Convention.

UBCM Convention Committee:
Mayor John Ranta, Chair
Chair Hans Cunningham
Chair Susan Gimse
Mayor Paul Jean
Councillor David MacLean, Victoria
Pre-Convention:  
- Study Sessions/Tours  
- Forums

Monday, October 23

Seven pre-convention study sessions/tours are being offered through advance registration as follows. Please refer to the convention registration package for descriptions and fees. UBCM members may register to attend Monday pre-convention study sessions and Tuesday Forums without being a full convention delegate, space permitting (conference delegates take priority). Please submit a regular registration form and payment for only the study sessions you select on the form.

Tuesday, October 24

Topics:
- Environment
- New Legislation
- New Policy
- Special Interest

Booking Government Appointments

Government Officials

A “Provincial Appointments Book” with instructions on booking meetings with provincial Cabinet and staff during UBCM Convention week was circulated from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to all UBCM members in August.

Copies may be obtained by contacting the Ministry of Municipal Affairs “Provincial Appointments Book”.

APPONITIONS FILL FAST! DON’T BE DISAPPOINTED! - BOOK EARLY!

UBCM NEWS SEPTEMBER 2000 11
Tuesday Highlights

Electoral Area Director’s Forum – “In the Directors Chair”

One of the more important features of the UBCM Convention is the opportunity for delegates from all parts of the province to meet with each other and discuss issues of common concern.

The Tuesday, October 24, 2000 session “In the Director’s Chair” will allow electoral area directors to share their ideas and experiences on topics of the delegates choosing in an open forum. A facilitator will moderate the session and help draw out the experiences of those with shared concerns.

If you have not already done so, please forward your topics for discussion during the “In the Director’s Chair” session, as soon as possible. The UBCM office fax number is (604) 270-9116.

Small Talk Forum 2000

If you are attending your first UBCM Convention and are from a village or small community, we encourage you to take part in the Small Talk Forum. The session will be held on Tuesday, October 24th in the Theatre of the Victoria Conference Centre from 9:00 am until noon. Small Community Representative, Mayor Paul Jean has issued the notice inviting all small communities to contribute their issues for discussion.

Entering its eleventh year, the Small Talk Forum continues to be one of the most popular sessions at the UBCM Convention. Its premise is simple: you send us your issue and through information sharing, solutions and ideas for solving your problems can often be found. Our experienced facilitators, Gary Williams and Andre Carrel, will coordinate the session to ensure that you get as much out of it as possible. UBCM will make every effort to ensure that the appropriate provincial government staff are on hand to answer your questions.

The session will consist of a morning information sharing session followed by a ticketed lunch to allow you to network with your colleagues in a more informal setting. We are proposing a couple of early morning clinics prior to the start of Small Talk that will be of specific interest to smaller communities. These clinics will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 8:15 a.m. With bylaw changes made at 1997 Convention, all local elected officials from a village or a municipality with a population not greater than 2,500 will be eligible to vote and run for the position of Small Community Representative, if they so wish. As a result of a call for nominations for the position of Small Community Representative, no one has put their name forward for the position for the coming year. If you are interested in holding this position, the Chair of the Nominating Committee will be calling for nominations on Thursday, October 26th at 9:55 a.m. during the full plenary session.

If you have not yet forwarded your suggestions for discussion, please do so immediately. Copies of the feedback form can be obtained from the UBCM office. Please contact Marie Crawford at (604) 270-8226 or fax your reply to (604) 270-9116.

Urban Forum

The fourth annual forum for Large Urban Communities will take place at the UBCM Convention in the Victoria Conference Centre on Tuesday, October 24.

The session is intended to give politicians in large urban communities an opportunity:
- to share concerns about common challenges they are confronting;
- to seek solutions where communities have the same challenges and find out what other communities are doing about them;
- to develop a more cohesive network of contacts amongst large urban communities.

The morning session will provide an opportunity to discuss problems and share concerns with other urban communities.

Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Message Centre, Delegate Office Services, UBCM On-site Convention Office

TO CONTACT DELEGATES OR THE UBCM STAFF DURING THE 2000 CONVENTION use the MESSAGE CENTRE.

A delegate Message Centre, sponsored by B.C. Buildings Corporation, will be located in the Lower Level, Victoria Conference Centre (VCC). This service will allow for the taking of telephone messages and the receipt of INCOMING faxes only. Messages will be shown on monitors within the conference plenary room and tradeshow.

Message Centre
Phone & fax numbers will be available in early October

Hours of operation for the Message Centre will be:
Monday, October 23 to Thursday, October 26
8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Friday, October 27
8:30 am to 12:00 noon

For OUTGOING faxes, please use the Lidsone, Young, Anderson Delegate Office Services Booth located in the Business Centre. A photocopier and basic office supplies will also be available here for your use. Hours of operation are as above, beginning on Tuesday, October 24.

A delegate E-MAIL service provided by Shaw Cable, will be located next to the Message Centre. A bulletin will be sent out to delegates in September with further information. To use this service, delegates are reminded to ask their service providers for instructions on how to retrieve their e-mail messages from a remote location.

UBCM Office at the 2000 Convention
UBCM will have a temporary office on-site at the convention:
8:30 am Monday, Oct. 23, until noon, Friday, Oct. 27
Colwood Room, VCC
Phone & fax numbers will be available in early October

Messages for staff may also be left at the Message Centre. Please direct all non-urgent business to the permanent UBCM Office number (604) 270-8226, where voice-mail will be operational and checked regularly.

Message Centre, Delegate Office Services, UBCM On-site Convention Office

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

T&M ESTABLISHED 1951

THOMPSON & McCONNELL
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Robert C.P. Walker Gregory M. Vanstone M arjorie E. M cone
J. Craig M oulton Rodrick H. M ackenzie M ichael C. W oodward
A.K. Thompson (dec’d) George B. Rush W illiam C. Mc Clintock (ret’d)

ADVISING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR OVER 40 YEARS

Toll-Free: (604) 531-1421
Fax: (604) 531-8402
Tel: (604) 531-1421

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.

UBCM Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2000
Victoria Conference Centre www.victoriaconference.com
Tourism Victoria www.tourismvictoria.com
BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Please use the Message Centre for delegate messages.
Delegates Social Program

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

• Fraser Basin Council Breakfast
  Victoria Conference Centre
  7:15 am

• Welcome Reception
  Royal BC Museum
  7:30 pm - 10:00 pm
  Included in Delegate fee. Fee for Partners/Guests: $20
  Hosted by the City of Victoria.

The Royal BC Museum is located south of the Empress Hotel and opposite the Parliament Buildings.

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

• Area Association Luncheons
  12:00 noon
  See next column for locations.
  Pre-registration required

• Minister of Municipal Affairs Reception
  Government House
  12:00 noon
  Pre-registration required

• UBCM Chomp & Stomp
  Victoria Conference Centre
  12:00 noon
  Refer to Shuttle Service Information in kits

• Delegates’ Luncheon
  Victoria Conference Centre
  7:30 pm

• Welcome Reception
  Royal BC Museum
  7:30 pm - 10:00 pm
  Invitation in delegate kits

Refer to Shuttle Service Information in kits

Thursday, October 26, 2000

• Delegates’ Luncheon
  12:00 noon
  Victoria Conference Centre
  Pre-registration required
  Sponsored by Credit Union Central of BC

• UBCM Chomp & Stomp
  You think Victoria is staid, British stiff-upper-lip? Think again.
  Come out to the Saanich Fairgrounds for a real kick-back country evening - “foot-tapping, hell-clicking, butt-kicking good time.”
  No formal banquet this year but a chance to enjoy good food, good entertainment and good fellowship with the UBCM membership.

Buses leave at 6:30 pm
Pre-registration required

Area Association Luncheons at Convention
12:00 noon, Wednesday, October 25

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
Golden City Restaurant

Association of Kootenay & Boundary Municipalities
Pescatore’s Fish House

Lower Mainland Municipal Association
Union Club

North Central Municipal Association
Crystal Gardens

Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association
Old Spaghetti Factory

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER...so your Association is not guessing at the number of meals to order!

When in Victoria: Get your bearings on Municipal House for your next visit.

Municipal House is your base of operations while in Victoria.

Municipal House offers:

Services
• Meeting facilities
• Facsimile transmissions
• Photocopying
• Courier Services

Equipment
• Meeting room
• Telephone
• Fax machine

Municipal House will be closed during the convention week and most of our services will be available on-site. However, we invite you to get acquainted with our location. We are at the “back-door” to the Parliament Buildings. Our’s is a century old historic house.

Partners Programs at Convention

We hope your partners/guests enjoy the selections the City of Victoria has put together for this year’s “Partners Program”. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged (registrations will be accepted on-site, space Permitting only). Registrants for the following events are required to check-in at the PARTNERS PROGRAM DESK upon arrival at the convention to receive specific instructions and updated information.

Wednesday, October 25

• Castle, City and Garden Tour with Lunch
  Departure for Craigdarroch Castle, home of one of the wealthiest families in western Canada circa 1900. Visit the posh Victorian era home that Robert Dunsmuir built for his wife, Joa, but he himself never spent a night there! Learn the fascinating story of this pioneering family. Sit back and discover Victoria and its beautiful surroundings, with a bus tour that includes the most interesting and lovely aspects of the city. A boxed lunch will be provided with a gourmet sandwich, fruit, beverage and sweet. We arrive at Royal Roads University, the former estate of James Dunsmuir, elder son of Robert. He inherited a vast fortune by less than honourable means and built the largest private residence on the west coast in 1908, set on a stunning 650-acre oceanfront estate.

• Chinatown Tour with Dim Sum Lunch
  Explore Chinatown with a tour from a local expert that examines the heritage and culture of this fascinating downtown area with visits to the Chinese Temple, a Chinese Herbalist and the Chinese School. A Dim Sum lunch will be provided at Chinatown’s Don Mee Seafood Restaurant.

• Nature Walk and Lunch at Goldstream Park
  Massive trees, majestic waterfalls, a meandering river that meets the sea, flowers, birds and fascinating fish are but a few of the attractions that draw people to Goldstream Provincial Park, a mere 16km from downtown Victoria on southern Vancouver Island. From late October through December of each year, the Goldstream River is the scene of one of nature’s spectacles as Chum, Coho and Chinook salmon enter the river via Fidalgo Arm from the Pacific Ocean. Three to four years previously, these same salmon were born here before travelling to the sea to grow and mature. Their return to spawn and die in their ancestral feeding grounds and the Freeman King Visitor Centre features special programs to help visitors appreciate this miraculous event. Inclusive of a boxed lunch including a gourmet sandwich, fruit, beverage and sweet.

Thursday, October 26

• Vancouver Island Winery Tour and Tastings
  The Cowichan Valley is home to five successful vineyards where the Island’s ideal growing conditions for grape vines have produced wonderful wines. Explore the local vineyards with a tour that includes three wineries and a boxed lunch. Round-trip transportation on-board comfortable, well-appointed, air-conditioned buses.

• Butchart Garden Tour
  Departure for Craigdarroch Castle, home of one of the wealthiest families in western Canada circa 1900. Visit the posh Victorian era home that Robert Dunsmuir built for his wife, Joa, but he himself never spent a night there! Learn the fascinating story of this pioneering family. Sit back and discover Victoria and its beautiful surroundings, with a bus tour that includes the most interesting and lovely aspects of the city. A boxed lunch will be provided with a gourmet sandwich, fruit, beverage and sweet.

• Harbour Ferry and Microbrewery Pub Tour
  Starting at the Inner Harbour, the Harbour Tour features marinas, floating homes, Fisherman’s Wharf, floatplanes, the Coast Guard Station, Olympic Mountains, lots of seabirds, and often seal or otters. Make a stop at Spinnakers Pub on the waterfront to enjoy microbrewery beer tasting, darts and billiards. Additional food and drink items available at your own cost.
UBCM acknowledges the contributions of the following Sponsors of the 2000 UBCM Convention:

UBCM CHOMP & STOMP
To be announced

CONVENTION KITS

BC Hydro

DELEGATES’ LUNCHEON

Credit Union Central of British Columbia

WELCOME RECEPTION

City of Victoria

CONVENTION SIGNAGE & DELEGATE KIT TAGS

Pattison

CONVENTION MESSAGE CENTRE

BC Buildings Corporation

REGIONAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTORS FORUM LUNCHEON

Municipal Finance Authority of BC

LARGE URBAN COMMUNITIES FORUM LUNCHEON

Telus

SMALL TALK FORUM LUNCHEON

ICBC

DELEGATE OFFICE SERVICES

Lidstone, Young, Anderson

DELEGATE E-MAIL SERVICES

Shaw Communications

UBCM DAILY NEWS

Staples McDannold Stewart

CONTINENTAL BREAKFASTS

ICBC

Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers’ Association

Canadian Wood Council - Wood Works!

Coast Forest & Lumber Association

Council of Forest Industries

Interior Lumber Manufacturers’ Association

Northern Forest Products Association

Ray & Berndtson/Tanton Mitchell

CONVENTION PROGRAM

BC Assessment Authority

Singleton Urquhart Scott

Pacific Blue Cross

COFFEE SERVICES

Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers’ Association

Canadian Wood Council - Wood Works!

Coast Forest & Lumber Association

Council of Forest Industries

Interior Lumber Manufacturers’ Association

Northern Forest Products Association

Forest Renewal BC

Westcoast Energy

Ray & Berndtson/Tanton Mitchell

CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

Canada Life

Forest Alliance of BC

Municipal Insurance Association of BC

KPMG

Murdy & McAllister

Urban Systems

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Environment Canada

ICBC

UBCM Annual Convention Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Mon. Oct. 23 to Fri. Oct. 27</td>
<td>Victoria Conference Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 24 to Fri. Sept. 28</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 23 to Fri. Sept. 27</td>
<td>Whistler Conference Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 22 to Fri. Sept. 26</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 20 to Fri. Sept. 24</td>
<td>Kelowna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 26 to Fri. Sept. 30</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Mon. Oct. 23 to Fri. Oct. 27</td>
<td>Victoria Conference Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 24 to Fri. Sept. 28</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 22 to Fri. Sept. 26</td>
<td>Penticton Trade &amp; Convention Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 28 to Fri. Oct. 2</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 27 to Fri. Oct. 1</td>
<td>Whistler Conference Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 19 to Fri. Sept. 23</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 23 to Fri. Sept. 28</td>
<td>Kelowna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 16 to Fri. Sept. 20</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 21 to Fri. Sept. 25</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 26 to Fri. Sept. 30</td>
<td>Penticton Trade &amp; Convention Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 25 to Fri. Sept. 29</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 23 to Fri. Sept. 27</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Delegates Orientation

Close to 500 local government officials were “newly elected” as of the November 1999 elections. These individuals represent a large percentage of the total population of elected officials and are therefore anticipated to make up a substantial proportion of delegates at the 2000 UBCM Convention.

We welcome new delegates with a special orientation to help you get the most out of your time at the Convention. The presentation will include:

- Convention program overview
- Resolutions process
- Election of Executive
- Delegate services (message centre, office services)
- Tips from experienced “conventioneers”

The 2000 Convention sees local government at a critical point in decision-making and policy setting.

This session will be held:

Tuesday October 24
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Saanich Room
Victoria Conference Centre

It will be presented by members of the UBCM Executive and our City of Victoria Convention Committee member, Councilor David McLean.

McCarthy Tétrault
4 C x 5"
(repeat June 2000)
Municipal Finance Authority of BC

MFA Visits Credit Rating Agencies in September

THE AUTHORITY WILL BE VISITING Moody’s Investors Service in New York on September 18th, 2000, for our yearly Rating Agency visit to ensure that our coveted AAA rating is in safe territory; after which there will be similar meetings in Toronto to visit Canadian Bond Rating Service and Standard & Poor’s. In Toronto we also plan to do a presentation to investors and possibly a visit to OSFI (Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions). All of these visits are in anticipation of our customary debenture issue after the semi-annual meeting on October.

Presently there are only ten local government AAA credit ratings in Canada. Two of these are in British Columbia, (MFABC and The City of Vancouver), the others are Saskatoon, Peel, York Durham, Halton, London and Ottawa - Carleton. There are no Provincial AAA credit ratings in Canada.

Issue #38 Refinancing December 12th, 2000

This is early advice that debenture Issue No. 38 (presently at 11.15% for 20-year borrowers and 11.25% for 25-year borrowers) is coming up for refinancing on December 12th, 2000. It is likely that the refinancing rate will be between 6.50% and 7.00%. However, members will also have the option for early payout on that date should they wish to. Please notify Steve Berna, Director of Finance at the MFA by September 30th, if your intent is to pay out early.

MFA Web Site is a Success!

We have had a great deal of use recently on our MFA Website. All the forms necessary to use the Leasing Pool, Interim Financing Pool and the Investment Pool can be found there, as well as the status of your existing debenture issues (like the previously mentioned Issue No. 38). Current rates are available, as well as Investment Fund results and a calendar, including meeting dates and deadlines for financing.

Tumbler Ridge Changing Gears Successfully!

After just four weeks of sales in Tumbler Ridge, home of Canada’s most affordable housing, 300 homes and 50 condominium units have been sold. This is truly a great success story.

The new residents are composed of:
- 20% New families with children
- 20% Recreation users
- 10% Property investors
- 40% Near-retirement couples
- 10% Seniors on fixed income.

The Task Forces of Council and the Province (including MFA) headed up by Mayor Iles have done great work. The debt is about $9 million net (down from $38 million, when the district was created in 1982). The District of Tumbler Ridge has been saving towards this day and after they contribute their reserves, the net debt will be around $6 million.

One option being carefully examined is to approach the Province to accelerate their debt payments (which total approximately $6.5 million over 4 years) and payout the last vestige of debt this year. If this were to be done, the net result of no more debt payments would nicely match the loss of tax revenue from the mine.

Civic Info Update

CIVICINFO BC, THE NEW WEB GATEWAY for people who work or do business in the BC local government sector has now been up and running for three months, and is proving very popular indeed with communities across BC. An initiative of seven agencies, including the MFA and UBCM, the web site offers direct access to almost 2000 documents, including bylaws, policies and procedures, manuals, and reports. The site is updated daily, and is fast becoming an indispensable tool for researching an issue, finding a sample policy, or simply looking up a municipality’s phone number or web site address.

In the early fall, one of the most-requested content offerings, a fully searchable, consolidated version of the Local Government Act and Regulations will be added to the website.

If you haven’t seen what’s already available at the CivicInfo website, go to www.civicinfo.bc.ca and check it out. While you are there, why not sign up for the free weekly e-mail newsletter that provides the latest news, events, and job postings in the BC local government sector.

One strategy for future development that is being actively examined is to build on the unique position of CivicInfo BC in the local government sector to develop, through public/private partnerships, a full “Civic Portal” for municipal government in BC. Acting as a data aggregator and a provider of shared on-line services and applications, such a portal could offer further synergistic benefits and economies of scale.

Comments, suggestions, or queries relating to CivicInfo BC should be addressed to Barbara McGinn or Todd Pugh at info@civicinfo.bc.ca or 250-383-4898.

Come see us ...

We look forward to seeing all of the delegates at UBCM this year. We will have our information booth at the conference so please drop by and visit us. CivicInfo will also be at our booth to answer any questions you may have. If you have time while you are in Victoria drop by our offices at 737 Fort Street.

Reminder

MFA Semi-Annual Meeting:

Tuesday, October 24, 2000
5:00 p.m.
The Union Club
805 Gordon Street, Victoria, BC
Begbie Room

Certificates of Approval:

Please have your application(s) to Municipal Affairs by September 24, 2000 in order for them to be processed in time for our Semi-Annual Meeting.
An effective municipal council is one which is “in touch and in tune” with the community and is responsive to its needs. Its communication lines are always open and feedback is exchanged on a regular basis. Council meetings (with the exception of “in-camera” meetings) are open to the public and are easy to follow. Documents such as minutes and reports are generally available to interested citizens. These measures help in making the Council more accountable. They form the foundation of a positive relationship with the community.

This article addresses two aspects of Council’s relationship with the community: public communication during Council meetings and public consultation.

Public communication at meetings

Often public communication during Council meetings is inadequate. Citizens in the public gallery cannot tell what decisions are made on their behalf and what procedures are followed. It holds true during your meetings, consider these ideas:

First, ensure that absolute clarity is maintained at the meeting. The Mayor should articulate motions clearly, state the exact wording and impacts of amendments, and explain uncommon procedures, like the motions to postpone and refer and the procedure to re-visit a past decision. This should be done for the benefit of newer Council members (who may be embarrassed) and for the benefit of the citizens. Even the procedurally sophisticated councillors could benefit from a “refresher” explanation.

If the Mayor does not establish clarity the notion that “suffering is optional” should prevail and individual Councillors should give themselves license to interpret: “Your worship, what exactly is the motion that we are about to entertain?” or “For the benefit of Council and the citizens who are here, can someone explain the exact impacts of this bylaw on the community?”. You may feel nervous when raising such questions, but will likely be rewarded for your courage when Councillors and citizens express their gratitude to you after the meeting.

Another tool for enhancing public communication is via opening statements by the Mayor to establish the tone for a meeting. Such opening statements are especially useful when contentious issues are on the agenda. Here is an example:

“Before we proceed to this meeting’s agenda, it is worth while to note a few things. The first one is that some of the issues to be decided tonight are challenging. Given the complexity of these issues, it seems clear that satisfying all interests will be difficult, if not impossible. The best that we as a Council can do for the community is to listen with an open mind to all sides, and then reach the solution that will address as many legitimate needs as possible. It is not an easy task, but - as your Mayor - I pledge to work hard with Council to achieve it.”

By enhancing public communication during meetings, Council will ensure that the public is not only privy to its decision making process, but is also more likely to understand and respect it.

Public consultation

Section 1 covered the flow of information from Council to the citizens during meetings. Another aspect of Council’s relationship with the community is the flow of information from the citizens to the Council.

Citizens can express their views on issues with the hope of influencing Council’s decisions. There are times when public consultation is mandated in the statute (as in the case of public hearings) and there are times when Council voluntarily decides to hear from citizens (usually when a proposed initiative will have a profound impact on the community).

Public consultation occurs in formal and informal settings. Formal settings include public hearings, public meetings, and presentations by public projects. Informal settings include open houses during Council meetings. Informal settings include open houses and surveys to “measure the pulse of the community” on a specific initiative.

Ineffective public consultation efforts have several characteristics:

- Meaningful purpose: Sometimes Council initiates a public consultation process only because they are mandated to do so or in order to appease the public or “do the politicking right thing”. Such processes can come across as meaningless gestures of “tokenism”. The genuine purpose of hearing the public should be to enrich Council’s deliberations and to help it make better decisions. Council should take the position that it stands to learn from public input and gain new ideas and insights that could lead to more wholistic decisions.

- Early engagement: Public input should be invited well before any minds are made up on a proposal, so that it can genuinely have a chance of making a difference. If Councillors speak to the media before a public meeting and state how much they support a controversial project, one could hardly be faulted for being cynical. Will Council truly listen to public input? Advisory nature clarified: When embarking on a public consultation process, it should be made abundantly clear that public input is an advisory nature and that Council is not bound to act on any or all of the suggestions received.

- Diversity and balance: Council should diversify its consultation activities so it can have an accurate measure of “the pulse of the community”, including the large number of citizens who don’t come to public meetings and those who dread microphones and public speaking.

Open houses, surveys and interviews can be used to bring balance to the process. During meetings consultation activities can be diversified so as to hear the voices of the less vocal individuals. Examples: Arrange for a question and comment box for those who hesitate to approach a microphone or schedule discussions in small breakout groups.

Order and decorum: Controversial issues often attract large attendance and have the potential of becoming chaotic. Discussion guidelines should be established at the start of a public gathering to prevent chaos and avoid the proverbial heckling and booing. For example: “To participate in this meeting, we ask that you approach a microphone or submit a question in writing. In the interest of hearing as many people as possible, we ask that you keep your comments concise and to the point. We will start with one round of speakers and then - time permitting - those who want to speak second time will be able to do so.”
Environment Update

Beverage Containers

Recovery Rates

Recovery rates for the major containers categories have continued to improve. The leading categories are plastic containers greater than 1 litre which currently have a 96% recovery rate and aluminum cans which have an 85% recovery rate.

School Program

Encorp has developed a school program to promote the recovery of single serve containers, primarily juice boxes from elementary schools. Participating elementary schools may use the money collected for school projects. A total of three bins, posters and stickers have been sent out to over 400 elementary schools in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island areas. In September a further 300 to 400 shipments will be made. Elementary schools can register for this free program through the Encorp website at www.encorpinc.com.

Polycoat Containers

As of October, 2000 it is expected that the Crown Packaging Ltd. facility in Burnaby will be processing polycoat containers and recovering the paper fibre for use in paper board and other products which require high quality fibre. Encorp, on behalf of the brand owners using polycoat cartons, has provided 75% of the funding required for the plant modifications.

Exit-from-Retail – Future Direction

Under the Beverage Container regulation the beverage container industry may request the province to implement an exit-from-retail plan in a specific regional district where 75% of the returns are collected at depots. The Deputy Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks must approve all exit-from-retail proposals put forward by industry. The beverage container industry has three major objectives in putting forward an exit-from-retail program – only one stewardship program is included in the Sustainable Environment Fund. In the case of the tire program the province collects approximately $11 million dollars and spends $5 million on the program, the remaining $6 million is used by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

Product Stewardship Programs: Public and Financial Accountability

Between 1990 and 1998, British Columbians have achieved a 36% reduction in the per capita amount of municipal solid waste going to landfills or incinerators. The provincial government under the Waste Management Act has established a number of stewardship programs: Scrap Tire Program, Lead-Acid Batteries Program, Used Oil Program, Paint and Product Care Program, and the Beverage Container Program. In addition, it has encouraged a number of voluntary programs operated by industries for Ni-Cad batteries, pharmaceuticals, plastic milk jugs and commercial pesticide containers.

The province currently manages the Scrap Tire Program and the Lead-Acid Batteries Program directly. The revenues collected for these programs, the $3 levy charged for tires (car and small truck) and the $5 levy charged for batteries, are included in the Sustainable Environment Fund. In the case of the tire program the province collects approximately $11 million dollars and spends $5 million on the program, the remaining $6 million is used by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

The ministry by regulation has given industry the mandate to operate and manage the Used Oil Program, Paint and Product Care Program, and Beverage Container Program. Under these programs industry has introduced a levy or ‘eco-fee’ or ‘container recycling fee’ which is collected on the sale of an individual product to the consumer. The regulation grants the industry steward a monopoly over the management of these product types, but it does not appear that there are clear mechanisms to assess whether or not the ‘public interest’ is protected in the management of these products or what the fees collected are used for.

The product stewardship model used by the provincial government has provided a framework for industry to take action in a number of areas. There is a need for additional stewardship programs and a need to ensure that future programs are accountable from both a financial and public perspective.

The UBCM has requested that the current product stewardship process be reviewed and the existing short comings in the process addressed, such as the following:

• no coordination of ‘public education’ and the ‘media messages’ between the provincial, regional districts and industry regarding the recycling of products.

• no established measurement to determine the success or failure of the majority of stewardship programs – only the Beverage Container Management Program has a set target of 85% recovery rate that it is expected met after two years.

• generally no public accountability for the operation of the program – only one stewardship program (Beverage Container Program) has an advisory board which requires public representation on it.

A further problem is that the financial information about the programs is generally reported only to the province and is not available to the public, as some of the information is viewed as proprietary by the industry. There is no mechanism to inform the public about the ongoing viability of these programs and how the money collected from the consumer is spent. Industry has been reluctant to share with the public information on how the ‘eco-fees’ or ‘container recycling fees’ it collects from them are used.

Finally there is little monitoring of the existing regulations to determine whether or not industry is complying with them on an ongoing basis. The lack of regulatory enforcement of the regulations has created problems for local government as in some cases they have found used tires and batteries directed to landfill sites when the markets for these commodities are low rather than transporting them to be recycled.

The key to the success of product stewardship programs has been in finding markets to recycle the used products. Local government on a number of occasions has requested the implementation of recycling regulations and the expansion of the deposit refund system to other products, both of these actions would ensure ongoing markets for recycled goods and encourage the consumer to return the product for recycling.
Community Airports
Continued from page 4

In addition, it will place increased stress on the long-term viability of some community airports as they attempt to balance reduced revenues due to re-structuring in the industry and added regulatory costs. The federal government has, in part, acknowledged that its new regulatory requirements will increase airport costs by increasing the funding under the Aircraft Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) to $190 million - $38 million a year for the next five years. It has also changed the eligibility requirements under the program to accommodate the proposed Aircraft Emergency Service requirements on the $190 million - $38 million a year for the next five years. This new requirement of assistance, it will not address the major cost item posed by the regulation.

The Airport Common Front has pointed out that the introduction of this regulation is contrary to the promises made by Transport Canada when negotiating the transfer of these airports to local communities. It has requested that Transport Canada withdraw the proposed emergency firefighting regulation and work with the local communities to develop a safer and stronger regional airport system in British Columbia.

Urban Systems
3 C x 4” (repeat June 2000)

CouncilVIEWS

The most current and complete collection of municipal policy and legislation for B.C.'s Local Governments...at YOUR command!

CouncilVIEWS Municipal Database:
Over one-half of B.C.'s local governments are using ICFOSS's CouncilVIEWS Municipal Database. Features of this electronic subscription include:

- Over 200 acts and regulations, in addition to the 1998 and 1992 B.C. Building, Fire and Plumbing Codes (related documents), and 5 years of UBCM convention minutes and policy resolutions are contained within the database.
- All information within the database is fully searchable, consolidated, linked and defined, and can be personalized and annotated using electronic notes, highlighters and bookmarks.
- O n-line access to the database with weekly updates.
- A minimum of four annual CD-ROM updates.

CouncilVIEWS Customized Version Databases and CouncilVIEWS for the Internet: ICFOSS develops customized databases for local governments to assist them in managing their specific bylaws, minutes, corporate reports, and other types of mission-critical information, and in providing public access to this information via the Internet. Such databases have been created for many local governments such as Nanaimo, Burnaby, Surrey, Langley Township and Vernon. Features of Customized Version Databases and CouncilVIEWS for the Internet include:

- Instantaneous electronic retrieval of internal information in a fully searchable, linked and defined database.
- Reduced reliance on paper, improved internal efficiencies and unique cost-recovery opportunities.
- The ability to make information available via the Internet in “real time.”

Web Site Development/Re-Design:
ICFOSS develops re-designs local government web sites. For example, ICFOSS recently implemented a complete re-design of Langley Township's web site.

For More Information:
250-851-9401 (phone)
250-851-9402 (fax)
1-800-260-7409 (toll-free)
E-mail: info@icfcompasscanada.com
Web Site: www.icfcompasscanada.com

CouncilVIEWS Municipal Database: Official Content Expert Official Legal Expert

Exit-from-Retail
Continued from page 17

plan in a regional district. The first reason is to reduce its handling costs by reducing the number of containers that it needs to collect from the area. The second reason is to reduce the cost of the large grocery chains to eliminate return-to-retail. The third reason is to ensure the development of a depot based collection system throughout the province. It is anticipated that the industry will be proposing the implementation of exit-from-retail plans in a number of regional districts in the near future.

A protocol agreement has been developed by the industry in an attempt to provide a process and an opportunity for local government input around the application of exit-from-retail provisions provided for in the Beverage Container Regulation. Local governments have spent in the range of $60 to $70 million dollars in the development of solid waste management plans and spend approximately $25 to $30 million a year to manage these plans. Each local government will need to assess whether or not the plan proposed by the industry will improve the delivery of their plan or add to their potential costs in the future.

The local government will need to consider whether the industry proposal will provide the service-delivery needed in the region, whether it is convenient to the local consumer and whether the infrastructure exists to implement the plan being proposed. They will also need to assess whether or not the information provided by the industry is sufficient for the regional district to monitor the process. Furthermore, each regional district will need to determine whether or not there are adequate contingency provisions in place to deal with problems that may arise in a timely manner.

The regulation currently provides no mechanism for reverting an exit-from-retail decision without the agreement of the beverage container industry and the ministry has no policy on how to address problems should they arise in implementing the agreement. The agreement is one of good will, the good will of the grocery retail industry to provide convenient service to their customers, of the depot operator or operators in a region to continue to collect from all the areas of the region, and of the beverage container industry to continue to manage the process from both a public perspective and from a private industry perspective. The regional district may want assurances from the provincial government that they are prepared to protect the 'public interest' in the area should infrastructural or service problems arise.

The UBCM has indicated that it supports the concept that local governments be involved in decisions related to the development of recycling programs in their area. The Environment Committee has proposed that each regional district where an exit-from-retail protocol is proposed be involved in negotiating its own agreement with the beverage container industry so as to ensure the program meets the regions needs.

Streamside Directive Workshop

A workshop on the provincial streamside directive will be held at the Shearton Guildford in Surrey on Friday, September 29, 2000 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The workshop will explore the new directive that has been developed and the new approach to streamside management that the province is considering. The session will look at how some communities have used the concepts outlined in the new directive to develop projects.

The purpose will be to get local government views on whether the measures proposed will work for them.

The UBCM needs to hear your views on this new proposal so please plan on attending.

More information will be sent to members.
LAND USE COORDINATION CONSIDERED AT ANNUAL CONVENTION

Coordinating the use of land between neighbouring communities is fundamental to maintaining harmonious relationships, providing services efficiently, and planning for compatible future developments. Local government representatives have identified land use coordination as key to post-treaty relations at the local level, particularly in more densely populated regions. Policy development on First Nation - local government land use and servicing coordination in a post-treaty environment is important because of the current void in this area.

The proposed policy paper entitled, “Land Use Coordination: Servicing and Dispute Resolution: Towards Certainty for Local Government Through Treaty Negotiations” will be considered for approval by UBCM members at this Annual Convention.

Continued on page 21

Community to Community Forum a Success in Penticton

On Wednesday July 19, 2000, over 25 federal, provincial, regional district and municipal representatives from the Penticton and Summerland areas held a “Community to Community Forum” with Penticton Indian Band (Okanagan Nation) representatives at Apex Mountain Resort. The forum was organized to increase understanding among the communities, build relationships and share information in areas of mutual interest.

The participants agreed that Penticton is indeed “a place to stay forever”, and they established a working group to draft an Accord or Protocol Agreement to further harmonious relations among the communities. The Accord will highlight communities’ commitment in protecting water quality and the environment, while cooperatively pursuing ways to improve the sub-regional economy. Equally important, the Accord would define a mechanism for communication among the communities emphasizing trust and joint action.

The forum was focused on the need for joint regional economic development, and land use strategies, sharing expertise in building facilities and infrastructure, and emphasizing the cooperative aspects of community relationships in the media.

During the Apex meeting, participants noted that the Community to Community Forum was the first time, outside a crisis, that all levels of government and the Penticton Indian Band had met together to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Considering the forum a success, the participants closed the one day session with a strong commitment to continue to working together, with a follow-up meeting planned in September.

Provincial funding for the forum was obtained through UBCM, the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, District of Summerland, City of Penticton and Penticton Indian Band organized the event.

UBCM has also obtained funding from the federal government to support additional regional forums. Information on the program and applying for funding can be obtained from Alison McNeil in the UBCM office at (604) 270-8226.

PHOTO

Singleton Urquhart
4 x 5”
(repeat June 2000)

ABORIGINAL ISSUES FEATURED IN CONVENTION SESSIONS

Again this year, delegates at the UBCM Convention will have the opportunity to attend a number of sessions dealing with aboriginal issues. Details on these sessions are found below.

The Future of Aboriginal Treaty Negotiations

In BC today, treaty negotiations are at a critical point and there is some uncertainty about the future of the process. Can it change for the better? How could local governments be involved in making this happen? What are the consequences for local government if the situation worsens and what can we do about it? These are some of the questions that will be explored at this session.

A panel of experienced observers and participants in the process will open the session with their perspectives on the future of treaty process, discussing some of the barriers to achieving treaty settlements and possible solutions, including the local government role.

The second part of the session will challenge participants to develop ideas on the role of local governments in the future of the treaty process. What do communities think should happen? Do we need to take more of a leadership role to achieve agreements or step back? Workshop discussions may culminate in the development of a statement from local governments about the future of the treaty process.

An Afternoon with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Delegates will have the opportunity to hear from the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. The Minister will be on hand to speak on current priorities of the Ministry and answer questions from the floor.

Joint Treaty Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting with Aboriginal Affairs Committee

The Convention week provides a valuable opportunity for the UBCM Aboriginal Affairs Committee to meet with members of TACs from around the province. Once again this is an early morning, so be prepared to come out for breakfast! Registration forms have been sent to all TACs.

UBCM COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

The UBCM Aboriginal Affairs Committee is set to meet with federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, the Honourable Robert Nault, in September 15, 2000 in Richmond. This meeting is in response to repeated requests by the committee for a meeting to discuss a number of key issues of concern to local governments in BC. These include, federal commitment to tripartite negotiations on Aboriginal self-government and promoting land use coordination between local governments and neighbouring Indian Bands. A report out on the results will be sent to members following the meeting.
Participating In UBCM Resolution Discussions

UBCM is a policy driven organization. The resolutions and policies endorsed by members at the annual convention provide direction to the Executive. It is important that the UBCM Executive understand the positions of UBCM members. For this reason, we encourage delegates to express their views during resolutions sessions. This can be done in two ways:

1) Speaking to a Resolution:

Who can speak to a resolution?

• Elected representatives of the member municipality or regional district sponsoring the resolution
• Elected representatives from member municipalities or regional districts who have questions or comments regarding a resolution on the floor

What are the guidelines for speaking to a resolution?

• Speakers announce their: name, municipality or regional district office, municipality or regional district
• Resolution sponsor has 3 minutes to speak
• Speakers from the floor have 2 minutes to speak
• No one delegate may speak more than once on any resolution until everyone else who wants to speak has had an opportunity to do so

What are the rules for speaking?

• Roberts Rules of Order govern the proceedings
• Resolution sponsor has 3 minutes to speak
• Resolution sponsor may have to provide copies of the resolution and not the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee. The resolutions and policies endorsed/ topics of local or regional significance/ topics of national significance to be considered by FCM
• Late resolutions are those received after June 30 for purchase on site.
• Amendments to UBCM Bylaws
• Notice of Extraordinary Resolutions to be submitted for consideration at convention will have been given to the Executive Director no later than 75 days before convention
• Resolutions originating at a convention workshop before convention will be referred to the Executive Director no later than 75 days before convention

2) Voting on a Resolution:

Who can vote on a resolution?

• Elected representatives from member municipalities or regional districts
• Voting with voting card, when the ten or more people question chair’s decision by standing. The question will be put out again and delegates will be asked to vote by standing for or against.
• Voting by ballot, if standing vote is questioned by 50 or more delegates. Present voting card to scrutineers to vote by ballot.

What are Extraordinary Resolutions?

• Amendments to UBCM Bylaws
• Notice of Extraordinary Resolutions to be submitted for consideration at convention will have been given to the Executive Director no later than 75 days before convention
• Resolutions originating at a convention workshop or seminar will be referred to the Executive

IMPORTANT: When preparing to come to Convention, make sure to pack your resolutions book! Be sure to keep it with you throughout Resolutions Sessions so you can keep track of deliberations. A limited number of resolutions books are available for purchase on site.
Land Use Coordination

Continued from page 19

The paper establishes principles and makes recommendations on successful negotiation of the coordination of land use between First Nation and local governments and the related issues of servicing and dispute resolution through the treaty process. In short, this paper seeks to set out what local governments want to achieve with respect to land use coordination with First Nations governments through treaties, the treaty process, and how we believe this can be achieved. The principles and recommendations are based on a review of existing UBCM policy on land use coordination between First Nations and local governments, the results of consultations with UBCM members, and examination of practice in a number of other jurisdictions including Saskatchewan and the Yukon. The draft document was reviewed by members of Treaty Advisory Committees (TACs) over the summer and revised in response to comments and suggestions received.

The on-going work on land use coordination, servicing and dispute resolution is one piece of the UBCM policy development process (see “Policy Evolution Chart” on this page). This initiative fits into UBCM’s core policy stream.

Over the years, UBCM has published papers on a range of treaty related issues including:

- Defining the Municipal Interest (1994)
- Achieving Certainty (1995)
- Responding to Provincial Government Treaty Mandates (1997)
- Approaches and Options for Treaties in Urban Areas (1999)
- Permissive Tax Exemptions for Leased Property

KPMG’s Assurance-Based Advisory Services help you strengthen and better manage the operational and financial functions of your organization.

Our professionals focus on fundamental business issues – managing risk, increasing revenues, controlling costs – that all organizations in all industries must address to flourish.

We have worked with municipalities to:

- develop strategic plans
- identify and resolve governance issues
- review organization structure
- analyze operations, develop and implement improvements.

To find out more about how these advisory services can be tailored to meet your specific needs, and strengthen your foundation, please contact:

Mary O’Callaghan, CMC
(604) 601-3244
mocallaghan@kpmg.ca

KPMG

It’s time for clarity.

© 2000 KPMG L.L.P., a Canadian member firm of KPMG International.
newest stratified properties were asking to receive the Residential classification. The classification regulation at the time allowed this, resulting in much lower tax rates for these newer properties. This was considered discriminatory by the older properties, and the Classification Regulation was subsequently amended in 1995. The regulation attempted to close the loophole by specifically excluding hotels and motels from the residential class, and by providing a definition that included factors dealing with physical attributes, amenities and management arrangements that should have made it clear what types of accommodations were not included.

In recent years however, newer forms of commercial accommodation properties or arrangements have become popular, which has resulted in further challenges to the classification of both the older and newer types of accommodations.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the BC Association of Local Authorities are undertaking another comprehensive review of this thorny classification problem in an effort to re-establish a more enduring set of principles for the classification of short-term accommodation properties. Affected local governments and other stakeholders are being consulted.

Women's Economic Security Initiatives Moving Ahead

In June, the Ministry of Women's Equality released a report on Women's Economic Security, copies of which were distributed to all UBCM members. It contains four themes, of which three are specifically relevant to local governments (see sidebar).

The Ministry continues to pursue its initiative through regional and sectoral consultations and preparation for a provincial roundtable in the fall.

Recently UBCM as a group of local officials have reviewed what some local governments have initiated and provided advice on what a proposed Women's Workplace Office might do to assist. The premise of the meeting was to share local government experiences, albeit from a large municipal perspective of things that have been done.

A range of local government initiatives were reported including policies and training for workplace employment, age discrimination, equal employment opportunities, mentor-programs, retention of women in the workplace, attracting women to non-traditional jobs, job retention, telecommuting, job sharing and flexible hours. Successes, disappointments and barriers to implementing policies were shared. Different views on pay equity programs or approaches to measuring pay equity were discussed. A clear message was that a legislated or regulated approach to pay equity would not be well welcomed. Suggestions for a provincial convenor, Women's Workplace Equity Office included sharing best practices, integrated approaches to equity issues, demonstrating

If you've got questions, we've got the answers you're looking for!

We have been providing the public sector with audit opinions and accounting advice for well over 60 years. But that’s not all. Increasingly, our clients are turning to us for related services as well, such as management advice, feasibility studies, financial indicators reports, financial planning, information systems. Our specialized skills, tailored for your needs, allow you to use your resources — people, facilities, and money — as productively as possible.

For more information on how we can help your Municipality or Regional District, contact one of our 16 offices in British Columbia, or one of our offices across Canada. We've got the answers.

Women's Economic Security and Pay Equity

The Minister of Women's Equality, the Hon. Joan Smallwood, has released a Discussion Paper, which has four themes:

1. Closing the wage gap
2. Closing the poverty gap
3. Supporting women, children and families
4. Increasing women's representation in positions of influence

Theme 1

This theme deals with promoting women's equality by closing the gender wage gap. It suggests three options for extending pay equity:

1. Implement pay equity in the private sector and local government through voluntary compliance.
2. Implement pay equity and employment equity part of a condition on a bid on government contracts over a certain value.
3. Legislative approach to pay equity — that would be either reactive or complaint driven.

Other approaches are advanced:

1. Low wage redress — employers setaside an amount (such as one percent of payroll to top up wages in the lowest paid female dominated job class).
2. Employment equity — ensuring all types and levels of occupations are open to women.

The paper also references the development of a Women's Workplace Equity Office (WWEO) that among its other responsibilities would work with local governments on women’s economic equality.

Theme 2

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY AND PAY EQUITY

The Minister of Women's Equality, the Hon. Joan Smallwood, has released a Discussion Paper, which has four themes:

1. Closing the wage gap
2. Closing the poverty gap
3. Supporting women, children and families
4. Increasing women's representation in positions of influence

Theme 3

This theme looks at women's access to decision making structures and processes and cites experiences with deputy ministers; provincial boards and commissions; health and education sectors; and private sector. Local government is not mentioned directly.

Theme 4

If you've got questions, we've got the answers you’re looking for!
WoodWORKS
full-page (new)
(e-mailed to Broadway 00-08-31)
As we reported in the June UBCM News, one of UBCM’s longstanding policy requests has been met. On June 15th, Bill 24, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2000 was introduced into the House. We can now advise that not only did the Bill pass, it has now come into effect. The new legislation includes amendments to both the Local Government Act and the Vancouver Charter to provide animal control officers and peace officers with the authority to obtain a warrant to seize and impound a dangerous dog on private property. In those instances where a dog presents an imminent danger to the public and it is not practical to obtain a warrant, the officer in the company of a police officer, would be able to seize and impound the dog on private property. Authority is also provided for the impoundment and destruction of a dangerous dog, as required.

In a letter dated July 26th, the Minister states that: “This government is serious about protecting free speech in British Columbia and at the same time, is committed to protecting the rights of plaintiffs to pursue their legitimate business interests. The Bill attempts to strike a balance between the rights of plaintiffs to have access to the courts and the rights of defendants to engage in political speech without the fear of being sued. I invite your comments on whether the appropriate balance has been achieved.” The due date for feedback is September 15, 2000.

UBCM, pursuant to endorsed resolutions in 1994 and 1995 on this subject, has been supportive of the need for such legislation to protect local officials from the threat of litigation which is intended to put a chill on local decision making. There are however, several aspects of the Bill that could use improvement to better deal with the specific interests of local government elected and appointed officials. UBCM will be conveying these concerns to the government, and encourages interested local government officials or municipal solicitors to do the same.

Comments should be directed to Judy Klima of the Ministry of Attorney General by phone at (250) 387-5003, by fax at (250) 356-1092, or by e-mail at judy.klima@ag.gov.bc.ca. UBCM would be interested in receiving copies of any comments or concerns sent on to the Ministry about this legislation.

The Honourable Andrew Petter, BC’s Attorney General, introduced Bill 29, the Protection of Public Participation Act on July 5th. The Bill as currently drafted will not proceed to second reading until further feedback is received from interested parties. The Minister has advised that he will return to the House with an amended version of the Bill, once consultation has taken place.