Community Charter and Convention

The “New Era” policy statement said that the government would introduce a Community Charter that would “give local government more control over their affairs.”

The Community Charter will be a major focus at the 2001 UBCM Convention. It will be featured at three sessions.

MONDAY PRECONFERENCE SESSION

Inside the Community Charter

A three hour exploration of the charter will be held in the morning (9 – noon) and repeated in the afternoon (1:30 – 4:30). Pre-registration is required (use the registration forms provided with the Registration brochure).

TUESDAY FORUMS

Community Charter Sessions

1:30 – 4:30

Consideration of the Community Charter will be a thread that runs throughout the Convention, beginning with more extensive general briefings during the Monday pre-conference sessions to the Wednesday afternoon policy working session. The three Tuesday morning forums will reconvene to consider the implications of the Community Charter for different sized municipalities and for regional districts and electoral areas.

Community Charter and Small Communities

Ballroom B, VCEC

Community Charter and Large Communities

Ballroom C, VCEC

Community Charter: Regional Districts & Electoral Areas

Ballroom C, Waterfront Hotel

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Focus on the Community

This session will be the principal opportunity to provide feedback on elements of the proposed Community Charter. This is designed as a working session. A report on the session will be made during the Friday morning plenary session.

If required, a report on directions considered at this session could be presented to the Friday morning policy plenary session.

CONVENTION FEATURES

UBCM Business Session

Each morning from Wednesday, September 26 to Friday, September 28 the focus will be on UBCM policy development through the resolution process. The Committee has set aside over 7 hours for resolutions, which should be adequate to fulfill the commitment to complete all resolutions this year.

Wednesday Afternoon Focus on Communities

2:00 pm Hon. George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services

2:45 pm Community Charter

Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services will kick off the afternoon with his first address to UBCM as Minister. The remainder of the afternoon will be devoted to consideration of the Community Charter with the Honourable Ted Nebbeling and others. The BC Government Reception hosted by the Premier and Ministers will follow immediately after the close of these sessions.

Thursday Afternoon Focus on the New Government

Premier Gordon Campbell will address delegates at 2 p.m. following the Delegate’s Luncheon. The convention will then break into four concurrent panel discussions with Cabinet Ministers. The four panels are:

• Health
• Resources
• Business and the Economy
• Community Safety

A list of invited Ministers appears on page 11.

Federal Government Presence

The Honourable David Anderson, federal Minister of the Environment and BC regional Minister has been invited again this year. At the time of writing he has yet to confirm but is tentatively scheduled to speak on Thursday morning at 11:30. Delegates are advised to check our updates for news on his confirmation.

INSIDE......

Minister of Forests updated on Softwood Lumber Agreement. UBCM representative appointed to Advisory Committee (p5).

government established a legislative calendar (p5).

UBCM meets Solicitor General on policing, auxiliary liquor policy, gaming and proceeds of crime (p6).

UBCM meets with Health Ministers and Caucus Committee on Health (p8).

look for your resolution book and nominations report before the end of August.

beverage container stewardship plans and exit from retail policies explored (p17).

Aboriginal update includes compensation and adjustment, negotiation update, and on Community to Community forums (p18-19).

Supreme Court upholds municipal ability to regulate pesticide use (p20).

federal government revises transportation policy (p20).

local government and the agreement on Internal Trade (p24).

Resolutions Deadlines

June 30, 2001 was the deadline for resolution submissions from sponsors. After the deadline those received at the UBCM office will be considered late resolutions. All resolutions received by the deadline will be included in the 2001 Annual report and Resolutions Book. Those received after the deadline will be considered by the Executive and categorized as emergency or delayed and considered in next year’s process.

Late and Emergency Resolutions

To be considered for admission as an emergency resolution, the resolution must address a topic that has arisen after the regular deadline date for resolutions (June 30th). If this cannot be proven the Executive will not recommend that it be admitted for debate.

Late and emergency resolutions must be received at the UBCM office by Friday noon, September 21st to provide time for Executive consideration and later presentation to the 2001 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 recommended by the Executive as appropriate for debate.
The UBCM Annual Convention is now just a month away and I look forward to welcoming delegates from throughout BC. This will also be the first UBCM for the new provincial government and I expect them to be there in large numbers especially for the Thursday afternoon focus on the new government. It promises to be a huge week of business and networking events. We have two full days of pre-conference sessions leading up to what should be a spectacular splash - Welcome Reception at the Vancouver Aquarium. We'll get 2 1/2 more full days to follow – I urge you to closely study this Newsletter as you make your plans.

Formal and informal networks are important and I am very excited about the prospect of signing up to seven Memorandums of Understanding or Protocols at the Convention, Drafts will be circulated in early September. We have prepared a background elsewhere in this Newsletter (page 3).

As you know part of the new government’s 90-day agenda will be to initiate steps towards a Community Charter and you may be wondering about the status of this initiative.

The Speech from the Throne provided the most recent status when it said “government will also initiate a far-reaching reform of local governance. It began with the appointment of a new Minister of State for Community Charter.”

So you can be assured there will be a consultative process and we are planning several major sessions at the Convention. As soon as legislation to enable this process is introduced we will inform you. I can assure you that the Executive and the Table Officers in particular are giving this matter an incredible amount of our time and energy and this is our first priority.

Executive Approves Proposed 2001 UBCM Budget

At its July meeting, the Executive approved the preliminary 2001-2002 UBCM budget. The budget contains a two percent increase in dues for the coming year. The graph below indicated that in 11 of the last 19 years there has been no dues increase. The effective increase after graph below indicated that in 11 of the last 19 years there has been a two percent increase in dues for the coming year. The budget contains a proposed two percent increase in dues for the coming year. The budget that contains a proposed 2% dues increase – the budget will be reviewed and finally adopted at the September Executive meeting. The effective two percent increase will be 0.6% after eliminating the 2001 surcharge.

Historically our dues increases are below inflation. The effective increase after eliminating the 2000/01 dues surcharge is 0.6%. Historically our dues increases are below inflation. The preliminary budget will be presented to the 2001 Convention.

Progress of Bills introduced into the BC Legislative Assembly

The following are a list of Government Bills introduced into the Legislative Assembly and their status as of August 9, 2001.

Bill #1 An Act to Ensure the Supremacy of Parliament 1st reading
Bill #2 Taxation Statutes Amendment Act, 2001 3rd reading
Bill #3 Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2001 3rd reading
Bill #4 Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act 2nd reading
Bill #5 Budget Transparency and Accountability Amendment Act, 2001 2nd reading
Bill #6 Supply Act (No. 2), 2001 Royal Assent
Bill #8 School (Protection of Parent Volunteers) Amendment, 2001 Royal Assent
Bill #11 Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2001 2nd reading
Bill #13 Greater Vancouver Transit Services Settlement Royal Assent
Bill #14 Crown Corporations Governance Statutes Amendment Act, 2001 1st reading
Bill #15 Health Care Services Collective Agreements Act Royal Assent

Traffic enforcement and traffic engineering programs.

• received a report on the status of the infrastructure program.

Due to the uninvited death of federal co-chair Keith Draper, the Management Committee meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled as soon as practical.

• as per UBCM policy, the Executive and Committee reviewed several 15 Memorandums and Agreements that UBCM holds with provincial and federal government departments as well as other associations. Due to their nature, some Agreements will expire, but all others were reaffirmed. In keeping with the new Executive direction some MOUs will be examined and removed to Protocols on Consultation and Cooperation and the term MOU will be reserved for use with the provincial government.

Director Jim Abram
President

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY 19-20, 2001 UBCM EXECUTIVE MEETING

This was perhaps one of the busiest recent Executive meetings as it involved:

• 8 committee meetings including the Resolutions Committee which reviewed 151 resolutions; meetings with 5 cabinet ministers including Health Ministers Sindil Hawkins and Colin Hansen with the full Executive and two sessions spanning 0.5 hours with Ministers George Abbott and Ted Netbelling and a meeting between the Protective Services Committee and Public Safety and Solicitor General, Rich Coleman (see more details below);

• all the regular business plus year-end/year-ahead matters associated with UBCM fiscal year end (financial statements, new work programs, new budgets).

GENERAL MEETING

The Executive:

• received a preliminary financial year-end statement that showed a surplus that could be applied to legal assistance and other reserves.

• adopted a preliminary budget that contains a proposed 2% dues increase – the budget will be reviewed and finally adopted at the September Executive meeting. The effective increase will be 0.6% after eliminating the 2001 surcharge.

• reviewed the status of initiatives to fix the loophole in the property classification regulations for “urban farms”.

• received a report on recent activities of the Development Finance Review Committee, including a proposal to prepare an addendum to the DCC Best Practices Guide to cover the issue of Agricultural DCCs. Also considered a proposed regulatory approach to permit use of “low speed vehicles on local roads”;

• will attempt to meet with UBCM chair on the future of traffic enforcement and traffic engineering programs.

• received a report on the status of the infrastructure program.

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• as per UBCM policy, the Executive and Committee reviewed several 15 Memorandums and Agreements that UBCM holds with provincial and federal government departments as well as other associations. Due to their nature, some Agreements will expire, but all others were reaffirmed. In keeping with the new Executive direction some MOUs will be examined and removed to Protocols on Consultation and Cooperation and the term MOU will be reserved for use with the provincial government.

UBCM ANNUAL SURVEYS

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 182 member municipalities. 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 and Exempt Personnel

This year UBCM is updating the triennial survey “Engineering Fees and Charges” for the first time ever. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to go into the UBCM website at www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca and update your local government’s information.
Around the Province

Core Review Process – Local Government Issues

The provincial government has launched a Core Service Review Process that seeks to examine each and every program delivered by government to answer the basic questions:

- what is the provincial government doing?
- why are they doing it?
- how are they doing it and are there alternative ways to deliver?
- how does government measure it? is it meeting its objectives?

The review has huge implications for local governments for a host of reasons involving potential impacts on:

- provincial programs that local governments depend on (small community grants)
- provincial programs that are intertwined with local government programs (gas/electrical inspections and building inspections/victims assistance)
- provincial programs that community groups depend on.

What is also of concern is the process. There is a short time frame to complete the review (October 31, 2001) and while any input will be accepted there are no major consultation opportunities planned. Local government, through UBCM and other bodies must take the initiative to make their views known about what is important to us. The other concern is about who is determining the importance of programs. We can’t just rely on Victoria, alone to determining community priorities. Therefore, UBCM and others have to get proactive and tell the provincial government what is important to us.

UBCM will be identifying the programs that potentially affect local government. We will be asking for our members’ views. This could be the biggest initiative to impact on local government and we need to get involved.

For more information visit the BC Government home page for links to further information.

Co-operation and Consultation Agreements

The UBCM Executive on the initiative of President Jim Abram should be in a position to present for member consideration possibly 7 draft agreements at the September convention.

The initiative was founded on the 1994 Protocol on Sharing Environmental Responsibilities that UBCM struck with the provincial Ministry of the Environment. It calls for notice, consultation and harmonization for example between local and provincial governments. It has worked well and is the beacon for an initiative being led by President Abram this year to expand our partnership activities.

We already have a partnering agreement with the Council of Forest Industries. And we already have an agreement on cooperation with Business Council of BC.

The purpose of these agreements is to recognize formally the roles and responsibilities of the two parties especially with respect to areas of shared interest. It also provides a framework for sharing information and working together to promote causes that advance the shared interest.

The drafts for consideration at the 2001 UBCM Convention are scheduled to be circulated on September 5th and to be posted on the website. They might include:

- MOUs • Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
- Department of Environment

Protocols
- Health Association of BC
- BC School Trustees Association
- BC Association of Police Boards
- BC Environmental Network
- First Nations Summit

GARY WILLIAMS and ASSOCIATES

RECENT LEGISLATION

At the time of writing, only 11 bills had been introduced at this session of the Legislature (see page 2 for listing).

Most concerned the recent Fiscal Update (5 bills) or labour relations (3 bills).

Of particular interest to local government is Bill 11 (Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act) which is acknowledged by sponsor Attorney General Geoff Plant as not a housekeeping bill.

In part it:
- eliminates photo radar
- repeals previous government’s pay equity legislation.

It also repeals the Protection of Public Participation Act (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation). UBCM had supported this legislation as early as 1994.

UBCM President Jim Abram expressed concern about repeal of this legislation. Attorney General Plant said that the Act created the potential for long delays in BC’s court system but we would have hoped he could have given the long sought legislation at least a trial period.

UBCM acting on 1994 and 1995 resolutions sought and supported the legislation.

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Infrastructure News

All orders of government are working hard towards decisions on infrastructure project applications. Complicating factors include a very large volume of applications plus incomplete information on a majority of the applications which necessitates time-consuming follow-up inquiries. Before the next intake of applications there will need to be some work with applicants around the information needed to support their project proposals.

There have also been some changes on the Management Committee. Sadly, the planned July meeting was cancelled due to the untimely death of federal co-chair Keith Draper. Since that time the provincial co-chair has left government (currently being replaced on an acting basis by Jim Sproul) and Ardith Paxton-Mann has been appointed as the new federal co-chair. She was previously an Assistant Deputy Minister with the provincial government prioritizing provincial government departments (gas/electricity inspections and building inspections/victims assistance). The review has huge implications for local governments for a host of reasons involving potential impacts on:

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2001 Local Government Awareness Winners

Best Local Government Web Site Awards

Given the difficulty in choosing from among the 27 excellent entries, the Local Government Awareness Committee decided to give three web site awards presented this year: one for communities of population 10,000 and under; one for medium sized communities between 10,000 and 50,000 population; and one for communities larger than 50,000.

The Committee decided to recognize the web sites of the following communities and encourage people to browse these sites and enjoy their content:

- Small Community: City of Revelstoke (www.cityofrevelstoke.com)
- Medium-Sized Community: Regional District of Nanaimo (www.rdn.bc.ca)
- Large Community: City of Richmond (www.city.richmond.bc.ca)

Year Long Award

The Year Long Award was given to the joint submission from the Town of Fort Nelson and the Northern Rockies Regional District. The Awareness Committee was impressed with the programs developed by the city and regional district and commended the work they had undertaken in Local Government Awareness.

Month Long/Week Long Award

The Awareness Committee also agreed to give the Month Long/Week Long Award to the City of Chilliwack for its Information Symposium held in February 2001. This is the first time that Chilliwack has won this award. The City's presentation, including videotape, was well-documented and attractive, providing an excellent profile of this well-planned and very well attended event.

Poster Contest

The poster contest was once again won by the City of North Vancouver for the poster submissions from the St. Edmund's Elementary School. Awards will be formally presented at the UBCM Convention in Vancouver in September.

Executive Highlights

Continued from page 3 and federal governments:
- discussed the proposed extraordinary resolution to amend the UBCM bylaws to rotate the Table Officer positions amongst the Area Associations.
- the Executive reviewed its relationship with the Airport Community Common Front and its future direction.
- agreed to provide legal assistance funding to support the District of Salmon Arm.
- received report on President's activities which included attending the remaining four Area Association meetings.
- received report on President's activities which included attending the International Trade Agreement.
-received a 30-page Overview of International Trade Agreements and implications for local governments;

The 'BC Builds a Wood Culture' resolution needs your support! Be the Builder of a BC wood culture! For more information on how to support this resolution, visit www.woodworks.org.

UBCM NEWS AUGUST 2001

Be the builder of a BC wood culture!
Ministry of Forests
Lumber Summit

On July 27 the Minister of Forests hosted a meeting of government officials and stakeholders in the softwood lumber industry to discuss BC’s strategy to manage the current Lumber IV dispute. More than 200 stakeholders from industry, producer associations, labour and resource-based communities were present, the majority being lumber producers.

Launched this spring, the US Department of Commerce and International Trade Commission allege that there has been ‘injury’ to the US softwood lumber market due to subsidies to the industry in Canada. There are also first-ever allegations of dumping. The allegations could result in a countervailing duty and/or a dumping charge being levied on Canadian exports. Each province has unique allegations to manage. Preliminary decisions for BC will be made by August 9th for subsidy charges and in mid-September for dumping charges.

This lumber dispute is different than those in the past for several reasons.

• Part of the charge of subsidy exists around the export level, or wood volume controls put in place by Canada. The WTO has recently ruled that export restraints are not a countervailing subsidy, yet this remains to be tested in US courts.

• After Canada won the 1996 Lumber III case, the US changed its laws to ensure Canada cannot win again on the same basis.

• The Maritimes and Quebec lumber trade are now included in the allegations.

• The US consumer movement has gained momentum and status.

This dispute is the new BC government’s top economic priority. The Minister is looking for an agreement that supports free trade and ensures that a dispute does not arise again. He stressed that any policy made and agreements entered into must reflect the commitments of the government in its forestry policy reform. The government will not compromise the goals of secure market access and policies that work for BC.

The Minister’s office considers negotiation a better option than litigation to end the dispute. Industry pointed out that it wants a secure policy outcome. Industry also noted that any haste could be detrimental and advised to proceed slowly in the talks, they also advised that initial discussions should be exploratory as BC assesses the potential for a good settlement. Further discussion included industry concerns around free trade, industry performance and need for a coordinated approach across the country.

The Minister is now establishing an advisory council of about seven members from industry and trade associations to assist him. The UBCM has been asked to nominate a member to this council and has put forward Mayor Corrine Lonsdale, Chair of the Community & Resource Committee. Director Dinwoodie noted the UBCM resolutions that support free trade in lumber and asked how the communities of BC could further support the government in resolving the dispute. Several resource-based community representatives were present at the meeting and expressed their support for the industry and concern about potential community impacts.

The Minister closed with his commitment to ensure equal access for all producers to compete and sell in US markets. For those looking for more information, updates on the dispute are available on the Ministry of Forests home page at www.gov.bc.ca/for, look for a link to its Softwood Lumber website.

Legislative Calendar Established

The government has moved to fulfill another of its election promises in a quiet way. It has established a fixed calendar for the legislative process and for the sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Points of note include:

• when in session, the Legislature will sit regular hours from Monday to Thursday, leaving members to work in their constituencies on Fridays. Previously, there were Friday morning sittings.

• during this summer session, evening sessions will commence on August 20th, and are scheduled from 6:30-9:00 pm every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The summer session will end when the Legislature completes its business.

• the Legislature will reconvene on Tuesday, February 12, 2002, with the first complete Budget being delivered on Tuesday, February 19, 2002.

• every year thereafter, the second Tuesday in February will be reserved for the Throne Speech.

• the third Tuesday in February each year will be reserved for the Budget speech.

• during 2002, the Legislature will be in session from February 12 to May 30 and from October 7 to November 28.

• the Legislature will not be in session during the weeks of March 25, April 22, May 20, October 14 and November 11, 2002. MLAs will be in their constituencies during these weeks.

Administrative Justice Project Launched

An attorney general appointed by the BC government last year has established an Administrative Justice Project with the objective to:

• review the mandates of administrative justice agencies to ensure they are relevant to a modern and efficient economy.

• make recommendations to eliminate overlapping jurisdictions and multiple proceedings.

• make recommendations to streamline administrative procedures.

• make recommendations for government to support the work of administrative agencies in an appropriate and effective way.

There are over 60 administrative justice agencies in BC and some of those that more directly touch on local government affairs that will be the subject of a Core Review of the Administrative Justice Project are:

• Building Code Appeal Board

• Building Safety Standards Appeal Board

• Electrical Safety Appeal Board

• Elevating Devices Appeal Board

• Employment Standards Tribunal

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Protective Services Committee Meets New Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Protective Services Committee met with the Honourable Rich Coleman and discussed the following issues:

Police Financing Issues

The Solicitor General indicated that he supported the RCMP review of policing and the sharing of policing services on a regional basis (dogs etc.). He indicated that he was looking for increased accountability from the RCMP and a system to measure how the money they received from the province was being used.

Auxiliary Constable Program

The Minister indicated that he saw the re-arming of the auxiliaries as a ministry issue and one that they will need to fund – the province will need to assume both the financial costs and the liability. He indicated that he did not feel that every ‘auxiliary’ police constable needed to be armed and does not intend to have a ‘one size fits all program’.

Liquor Policy

The Minister indicated that he intended to reduce the number of liquor licences in the system and increase the speed at which these changes were being made – currently 7 licences, 9 sub-categories and reduce the range of regulations. He felt that inspectors had to many issues to focus on and this needed to be streamlined to a number of key priorities, namely:
- Over consumption;
- Over crowding;
- Under age drinking;
- Inducements to local industry to buy certain brands – currently illegal;
- Sale of illegal liquor.

The Minister was of the view that the decision as to whether or not an establishment was allowed to serve liquor should be made by local government.

Gaming Policy

The Solicitor General indicated that the government policy on gaming was the following:
- No new expansion of gaming in the province – will not be looking at new casino developments;
- Freeze on the relocation of establishments;
- No change in the funding formula for casinos.

The Minister was of the view that the decision as to slot machines and whether or not they should be allowed to relocate if they wanted to do so.

The Minister indicated that the Bingo sector was under review and would be streamlined in the next few months. He suggested that he was looking at introducing a comprehensive Gaming Act, possibly in the spring as an exposure bill.

Proceeds of Crime

The Minister did not appear to support the sharing of proceeds of crime with local government and pointed out that approximately $700,000 currently goes to local communities in program funding. The program is currently part of the program review underway.

Federal Caucus Task Force To Prepare Farming Report

L ast March, the Prime Minister established a Caucus Task Force on Future Opportunities in Farming. The Task Force is comprised of 13 Liberal Members of Parliament and Senators from across Canada.

It is expected that the Task Force will submit its report, with recommendations late next year. Interested parties are requested to submit their suggestions, concerns and ideas about the future of agriculture. The focus of the review is on the long-term challenges and opportunities in the following areas:
- the agriculture and agri-food industry’s contribution to Canada’s Kyoto commitments.
- effective and sustainable farm programs that meet the needs of various regions and commodities, and are consistent with evolving international trade obligations;
- emerging, profitable value-added products and niche markets;
- rural economic development issues, and the infrastructure and other measures needed to sustain our rural communities;
- food safety and security issues, both domestic and international;
- the agriculture and agri-food industry’s contribution to environmental sustainability and land stewardship, and to the attainment of Canada’s Kyoto commitments.

Submissions will be accepted up until November 16, 2001 and can be faxed to: (613) 996-2051; or e-mailed to: mclersp@parl.gc.ca, or mailed to: Box 1016, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6.

UBCM is presently reviewing its endorsed policy positions on agriculture issues to determine what form of submission we may wish to make. Other members who have a strong interest in agricultural issues may wish to submit their own proposals to the Task Force.

Further information can be found on the following website: www.liberalcaucus.houseofcommons.ca/agriculture.
Local governments should be aware and responsive to the new government’s various but related initiatives. This is a summer of intensive activity. A legislative sitting in August is something we have not seen in BC for many years. Key items on the government agenda are:

Completion of the 90 day agenda.

Each of the Ministers was reminded by the Premier of the New Era commitments that need to be implemented by them. UBCM summarized these in our last Newsletter as they related to local government. (see UBCM website to access the June Newsletter page 7). UBCM has written Ministers identifying our interest in specific New Era items.

Core Service Review

This is a fundamental review of each and every government program and if the provincial government should be doing it, the way they are doing it and to identify if there are alternative ways of delivering the program. This has major implications for local government and communities (also see article on page 3).

Ministry key projects

As part of the Premier’s June 25th letter to Ministers “key projects” were identified and UBCM has summarized the projects in an IN The House circular.

Ministry Service Plans

Also part of the Premier’s instructions was the development of Service Plans. The annual plans will be specific and measure the outcomes of each Ministry.

Federal-provincial relations

The Premier directed Ministers to identify federal-provincial issues and for Intergovernmental Relations Minister Greg Halsey-Brandt to compile these. UBCM used the occasion to provide a list of our federal issues that we hoped the province would also address.

Deregulation

The Premier’s commitment to reduce regulation was assigned to Minister of State for Deregulation Honourable Kevin Falcon. UBCM has written the Minister indicating that while UBCM could benefit from deregulation, there are many areas where local and provincial governments share the regulatory jurisdiction. The deregulation initiative is linked to the Core Service Review through the Core Review and Deregulation Task Force of Caucus chaired by Val Roddick.

Community Charter

Finally, a New Era commitment of major interest is the restructuring of local-provincial relations.

The first step, as outlined in the recent Throne Speech, will be the creation of a Community Charter Council.
Telehealth Adds to Municipalities’ Array of Health Services

Contributed by the Health Association of BC

BC’s size, weather and rugged terrain make access to health services a problem for small and remote municipalities. But telehealth can be part of the solution to the access problem. Telehealth uses video, communications and information technologies to assist delivery of health services, education and information across distances.

Valerie Whitaker is project manager for the BC Telehealth Program, administered by the Health Association of BC on behalf of the members of a consortium of agencies and communities across the province. The program will link service providers among regional and community health authorities and across regional, provincial and national boundaries. She says telehealth technologies offer the potential for greatly improved access to health care.

“I imagine someone from one of BC’s smaller communities being able to undergo a video dermatology consultation through a local facility instead of having to take time away from work, and possibly having to arrange child care, in order to travel to another city for a 20-minute appointment,” she says.

One problem for telehealth in BC is that supporting infrastructure isn’t yet in place across the entire province. Municipalities need to be vocal about their communication and health service needs.

“They need to lobby the provincial government and telecommunications providers for an improved communication infrastructure that will support telehealth,” she says. “They need to find ways to bridge the digital divide between municipalities that have great infrastructure and ones that have very little.”

Telehealth applications have three main components: a means of capturing, processing and storing information in data, audio or video format; a means of transferring that information (e.g., telecommunication lines, satellite or computer/in internet networks); and a means for receiving, storing and displaying the information (e.g., a video monitor).

Municipalities can help get telehealth into their communities by helping to create demand by consumers and families for it; the technology will follow. “Municipalities should work with the health care providers in their communities to identify what telehealth services could best serve them, and then market and create the demand for telehealth services. If the providers know people want those services, they’ll have incentive to provide them,” Whitaker says. “Further, this infrastructure will serve as a professional collaboration many health providers miss being in remote communities. It gives them incentive to stay in those areas.”

Dedicated funds for telehealth technologies is another way municipalities can begin to add telehealth into the array of health services offered to their constituents.

Municipalities could purchase equipment, install it in a municipal hall and use it for a broad spectrum of community services including health promotion and education.

Prince George Mayor to Chair National Rural Health Council

Prince George Mayor Colin Kinsley has been appointed Chair of the newly-formed National Rural Health Council.

The Council was established by the Hon. Colin Hansen, Minister of Health Services. The new council will provide the Holm Report, as well as recommendations by the task force that supported the report, with implementation plans.

In his address to invited guests, Minister Rock said: “Prince George is home to a burgeoning health care community. The University of Northern British Columbia, grassroots community health care providers, municipal leaders, health care professionals and First Nations are all working together to improve the health not only of their community, but surrounding regions as well.”

Mayor Kinsley has had extensive involvement in health care issues from the Health Care Rally of June 2000 and the following Task Force which provided the Holm Report, to his work as Co-Chair of the National Health Summit, and as a strong supporter of the Northern Medical Program and Rural and Remote Health Institute at the University of Northern BC.

This appointment gives communities of remote and rural British Columbia a strong voice at the national table.

UBCM has been busy representing local government health-related concerns to the new government. At its July 19th meeting, the Executive, led by the Health Committee, met with the Hon. Sindi Hawkins, Minister of Health Planning and the Hon. Colin Hansen, Minister of Health Services.

UBCM was the first group to appear before this new Committee. Issues discussed with the Ministers and then with the Committee included:

Defining the Local Government Interest in Health Issues

UBCM explained the various ways that local government officials are involved with health issues as representatives of broad community interests and noted a number of specific issues that are of concern.

Continued on page 19

If o’we at estons, we’ve o’t tensans o’rello n for

If you have an idea, won’t you tell us about it?

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 technology, and human resources planning. 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.

Provincial Contact Partner: Bill Cox, Partner Tel: (604) 608-5421
Represented Internationally by BDO International
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 published 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 2001 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, September 24 and the three forums: Electoral Area Directors, Large Urban and Coastal Communities and Small Town, Tuesday September 25, 2001.
- Convention Clinic Series - provides information on four topic streams including the E-stream, New Policy and Protocols with:
  - Local Governments
  - Federal Department of the Environment
  - BC Association of Professional Engineers
  - BC Environmental Network
- British Columbia Communities Agenda. A
- Policy Issues to be Considered at the 2001 UBCM Convention

Policy Issues to be Considered at the 2001 UBCM Convention

come from Executive initiated processes. UBCM has made increasing use of policy papers to respond to the complexity of issues. Their effectiveness is also noted in many legislative changes that have resulted from them. This year’s convention will feature consideration of the “BC Communities Agenda”. A proposed version was issued by the Executive in April of this year and a final proposed version will be circulated before the Convention. The convention will also be asked to consider proposed MDUs with:

- Federal Department of the Environment
- Federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and Protocols with:
  - BC Environmental Network
  - First Nations Summit
  - Health Association of BC
  - BC School Trustees Association
  - BC Association of Police Boards

2001 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 15 persons nominated for various Executive positions. As a result of by-law 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 year’s nominating committee members are:

- Mayor Steve Thorlakson, Immediate Past President, Chair
- Councillor Ida Makaro, Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association
- Councillor Bert Banks, Association of Kootenay & Boundary Municipalities
- Councillor Marvin Hunt, Lower Mainland Municipal Association
- Councillor Dan Rogers, North Central Municipal Association
- Councillor Mary Ashley, Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
- Councillor Ida Makaro, Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association

For 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, September 21 to provide time for Executive consideration and later presentation to the 2001 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 recommended by the Executive as appropriate for debate.

Delegates' Check List

Before you leave for the UBCM Convention, be sure:

1. you’ve registered for Convention!
2. you’ve confirmed your accommodations
3. you’ve pre-booked meetings with Provincial Officials
4. you’ve packed your Annual Report and Resolutions book
5. you’ve left the Message Centre Phone/Fax with your office staff
6. you’ve asked your e-mail provider for instructions on how to retrieve e-mail from a remote location

When you arrive be sure to:

1. register and pick up your delegate’s kit for Convention
2. check that you have the correct number of meal tickets:
   - Annual Banquet, Forum Luncheons, Area Association Luncheons, Delegates’ Luncheon (no tickets needed for delegates for continental breakfasts)
3. check if you’ve got your Annual Banquet ticket and table reservations (if ordered)
4. familiarize yourself with the Convention venue and where your chosen functions are being held
5. check at the delegates’ information desk to see if there are any updates on sessions
6. check-in partners at the Partners’ Desk
7. make the most of your experience, and enjoy the company of your fellow members!
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept 24</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BC Communities Agenda</strong></td>
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<td>Consideration of MOUs and Protocols</td>
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<td>Nominations from the floor for Table Officer positions</td>
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<td>8:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>9:00 am - 12 noon</td>
<td>Agriculture Study Tours (optional)</td>
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<td>10:00 - 1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Area Association Luncheons (optional)</strong></td>
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<td>9:00 am - 12 noon</td>
<td>Study Sessions (optional):</td>
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<td>- Health issues</td>
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<td>- Inside the Community Charter</td>
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<td><strong>Consideration of Section B Resolutions</strong></td>
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<td>1:30 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Study Sessions (optional):</td>
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<td>- Energy Forum</td>
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<td>- Inside the Community Charter (repeat)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Sept 25</td>
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<td>7:00 am - 8:00 pm</td>
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<td>7:15 am</td>
<td>Fraser Basin Council/Breakfast</td>
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<td>- PEP Road Rescue Program</td>
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<td>- Role of Municipal &amp; Electoral Area Directors</td>
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<td>- Small Talk:</td>
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<td>- Role of Mayors and Councillors</td>
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<td>8:30 am - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Government Meetings</td>
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<td>Electoral Area Directors Forum</td>
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<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Regional District/Small Talk/Large Urban Lunches</td>
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<td>1:30 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Community Charter and Small Communities</td>
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<td>- Community Charter and Large Communities</td>
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<td>- Community Charter: Regional Districts and Electoral Areas</td>
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<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Municipal Insurance Association AGM</td>
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<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Sept 26</td>
<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>7:00 am - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Government Meetings</td>
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<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Delegates’ Continental Breakfast</td>
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<td>7:30 am</td>
<td>Clinics: 4 concurrent</td>
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<td>- Supreme Court Decision: Pesticides</td>
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<td>- Understanding Conflict of Interest</td>
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<td>CONVENTION OPENING SESSION O Canada</td>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
<td><strong>ANNUAL MEETING</strong></td>
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<td>Adoption of Conference Rules and Procedures</td>
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<td>Adoption of Minutes of 2000 Convention Annual Report</td>
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<td>Appointment of Convention Committees</td>
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<td>Welcome from Host Municipality</td>
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<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>First Report of the Nominating Committee</td>
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<td>9:20 am</td>
<td><strong>PRINCIPAL POLICY SESSION: RESOLUTIONS</strong></td>
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<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Address by the FCM President</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td><strong>BC COMMUNITIES AGENDA 2001</strong></td>
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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 to Friday**: main business sessions

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

**Monday Study Tours and Study Sessions**

Study sessions on Health, Community Charter and Energy. The always popular all-day agriculture study tour is featured again this year. These sessions are listed on page 11 and pre-registration is required.

**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 be three continued Forums focusing on the implications of the Community Charter for each group.

**Wednesday**

Morning sessions basically focus on UBCM policy development. [For more information on the resolution process (see page 20)]. The Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services annual address will kick off the afternoon to be followed by a policy discussion on the Community Charter. All five Area Associations will sponsor lunches.

**Thursday**

After a full morning of “early bird” clinics and policy debate delegates will adjourn to the Delegates Lunchroom. This is followed by the a focus on the new provincial government with an address by Premier Gordon Campbell at 2 pm and four Cabinet panels at 3 pm (see page 11).

**Friday**

After a final round of clinics and a policy plenary, the Convention wraps up.

We look forward to seeing you at Convention.

UBCM Convention Committee:
Mayor Helen Sparkes, Chair
Chair Hans Cunningham
Councillor Bert Banks
UBCM News August 2001 11

Pre-Convention:
• Study Sessions/Tours
• Forums

Monday, September 24

Four 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 (convention delegates take priority). Please submit a regular registration form and payment for only the study sessions you select on the form.

Tuesday, September 25

Forums
9:00 am – noon
• Electoral Area Directors
• Large Urban Communities
• Small Talk

The primary purpose of UBCM is to serve the common interests of all local governments throughout BC. However, UBCM formally recognizes the diversity of its members and that “one size fits all” solutions don’t work for BC local governments. The Tuesday forums recognize this diversity and promote problem-solving among different interests. Choose to attend ONE of the following:

Electoral Area Directors
“In the Director’s Chair”
Ballroom C, Waterfront Centre Hotel
Two focus sessions and a group problem-solving session designed for Electoral Area Directors will feature in the morning session.

Large Urban Communities Forum
Ballroom C, Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
The fifth year of a session designed for larger municipalities with particular urban issues.

Small Talk Forum
Ballroom B, Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
Designed to interest municipalities under 5,000 population.

UBCM members were solicited in June for forum content ideas. Detailed forum agendas will appear in UBCM members were solicited in June for forum content ideas. Detailed forum agendas will appear in UBCM News.

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Booking Government Appointments

Government Officials

Instructions on booking meetings with provincial Cabinet and staff during UBCM Convention week was circulated from the Premier’s office to all UBCM members.

APPOINTMENTS FILL FAST!! DON’T BE DISAPPOINTED!! – BOOK EARLY!

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Pre-Convention Study Sessions/Tours

Mon. Sept. 24
9:00 am – 12:00 noon
• Inside the Community Charter
• Health Issues
• Agriculture Study Tour

Mon. Sept. 24
1:30 – 4:30 pm
• Inside the Community Charter
• Energy Forum
• Agriculture Study Tour (Cont’d)

Clinics: 7:30 am to 8:15 am (Except Thursday 7:00 - 7:45)

TOPIC STREAM Wednesday Thursday Friday

E-Stream Supreme Court Decision: Pesticides E-Government Economic Dev/pm’t- Arts & Culture

New Policy and Legislation Water and Walkerton Bylaw Courts and the Community Charter Recent Court Decisions

Training Clinics Understanding Conflict of Interest Writing Defensible Bylaws Managing Meetings: Rules & Best Practice

Special Interest Natural Step Crime-free Multi-Housing Smarth Growth

Cabinet Panel Sessions:

Thursday Sept. 27 9:00 pm pm – 5:00 pm

The following four concurrent panel sessions are proposed:
(Ministers to be confirmed)

• E-Stream
• New Policy and Legislation
• Training Clinics
• Special Interest

Thursday Cabinet

Invited Ministers TBC

Resource Panel
Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, Honourable Stan Rapan
Minister of Forests, Honourable Michael de Jong
Minister of Energy and Mines, Honourable Richard Neufeld
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Honourable John van Donk
Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, Honourable Joyce Murray

Health Panel
Minister of Health Planning, Honourable Sindi Hawkins
Minister of Health Services, Honourable Colin Hansen

“Special Needs” at Convention

UBCM will do their best to assist with any special needs that delegates may have during Convention week. We ask that you make your requests IN WRITING (faxes accepted at 604-270-9116).

Our main convention venue, the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre is wheelchair accessible. We should be advised if we will need wheelchair accessible buses reserved for tours.

Special dietary requests are no bother... particularly if we know in advance of the convention. Please identify the nature of the request as well as suggesting a suitable meal option. We ask that you keep your requests within reason (e.g. allergies, vegetarian, diet/low fat).

Keeping in mind that we are attempting to feed more than 1400 people! If you have requested a special meal, please note that for events without reserved seating, you must identify yourself to waitering staff who will have a copy of your request in the kitchen. Your assistance in identifying yourself to your waiter in advance will be greatly appreciated!

SPECIAL REQUESTS DEADLINE:
Late requests will be accommodated if possible.

*Daycare not available. Hotels may provide babysitting services/lists.
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 session will be held in Ballroom C at the Waterfront Centre Hotel.

9:00 a.m. Welcome
9:10 a.m. Boundary Expansion Seminar Break
10:00 a.m. Rural Property Tax Seminar
11:00 a.m. “In the Directors Chair” issues discussion session
11:45 a.m. Resolutions
12:00 a.m. Lunch

The session this year will consist of two workshops, one on “Boundary Expansion” and a second on “Rural Property Tax” as well as the group problem solving session designed for Electoral Area Directors.

Small Talk Forum 2001

If you are a delegate from a village or small community, we encourage you to take part in the Small Talk Forum. The session will be held on Tuesday September 25th in Ballroom B of the VCEC from 9:00 am until noon. Small Community Representative, Mayor Alice Maitland has issued the notice inviting all small communities to contribute their issues for discussion.

Entering its twelfth 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 issues 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 and resource persons 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. There will be 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 the 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, two individuals have put their name forward for the position for the coming year:

• Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Telkwa
• Mayor Alice Maitland, Hazelton

The Chair of the Nominating Committee will be calling for any additional nominations on Thursday September 27th at 9:55 a.m.

If you have not yet forwarded your suggestions for Small Talk discussion please do so immediately by faxing your feedback form to 604-270-9116.

Urban Forum

The fifth annual forum for Large Urban Communities will take place at the UBCM Convention in the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre on Tuesday, September 25.

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 larger urban communities.

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

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 Concour, Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre (VCEC). 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: 604-647-7450
Fax: 604-647-7451

Hours of operation for the Message Centre will be:
8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday, September 24 to Thursday, September 27 and Friday, September 28
8:30 am to 12:00 noon

For OUTGOING faxes, please use the Liststone, Young, Anderson Delegate Office Services Booth located in the Delegate Concour. A photocopier and basic office supplies will also be available here for your use. Hours of operation are as above, beginning on Tuesday, September 25.

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.

Please use the MESSAGE CENTRE for delegate messages.

Convention Web Sites

Union of BC Municipalities
www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/ubcm/convention-2001

Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
www.vtcc.com

Tourism Vancouver
www.tourism-vancouver.org

Please use the MESSAGE CENTRE for delegate messages.
Delegates Social Program

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

• Fraser Basin Council Breakfast
  Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
  7:15 am

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

Shuttle service from the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre beginning at 7:15 pm.

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

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

• BC Government Reception
  Ballroom A, VCEC
  5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
  Invitation in delegate kits

Thursday, September 27, 2001

• Delegates’ Luncheon
  12:00 noon
  Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
  Pre-registration required
  Sponsored by Credit Union Central of BC

• UBCM Annual Banquet & Dance
  6:30 pm – Reception, Ballroom A/B
  7:30 pm - Annual Banquet & Entertainment, Ballroom C/Exhibit Hall A
  9:00 pm - Comedy by Roman Danylo
  10:00 pm - Dance with the “Hitmen”

Banquet Reservations
Pre-registration for banquet seating will be available this year.
Please have ONE designated representative from your group fill in the BANQUET RESERVATIONS form which was included in your registration package. Send it to the UBCM office with your completed convention registration forms and payment (no faxes will be accepted). Seating will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Reserved seating can be arranged on-site at the Convention up until Wednesday, September 26.

Several groups external to UBCM have indicated that they will be hosting hospitality suites and/or receptions during convention week. Events that are open to the entire delegation will be publicized in the delegate program (which you will receive upon check-in at convention) if requested by the host.

Prices listed reflect registration prior to August 22, 2001. Prices increase after this date.

Area Association
Luncheons at Convention
12:00 noon, Wednesday, September 26

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
Pride of Vancouver

Association of Kootenay & Boundary Municipalities
Ballroom A, Fairmont Waterfront Centre Hotel

Lower Mainland Municipal Association
Ballroom C, Fairmont Waterfront Centre Hotel

North Central Municipal Association
Ballroom B, Vancouver Convention & Exhibit Centre

Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association
Room 1, Vancouver Convention & Exhibit Centre

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

Partner’s Program

Wednesday, September 26th, 2001

Program #1
Home Fashion Shopping Tour
8:30 am – 1:30 pm Meet in Convention Centre Lobby.

Program #2
City Sightseeing Tour
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Meet in Convention Centre Lobby.

Program #3
“The Holistic Approach to Living Longer and Feeling Younger” with Dr. Barbara Fischer
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Cheakamus Room, Fairmont Waterfront Hotel.

Thursday, September 27th, 2001

Program #4
“Interior Design on a Dime” and “Gifts from the Heart” with Susan Wells
9:00 am - noon Cheakamus Room, Fairmont Waterfront Hotel.

Program #5
Luncheon Cruise - Pride of Vancouver Scenic Lunch Tour (back by popular demand)
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm Meet in Convention Centre Lobby.

NOTES:
• Please check in at the Partner’s Program Registration Desk
• TOURS - Please be at the lobby in the Convention Centre 15 minutes prior to tour time, as buses will leave on time. If you miss the bus, you will miss the tour and no refunds will be issued. Please wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Umbrellas and cameras are recommended.

Participating in UBCM Resolutions Sessions

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.
• Use floor microphones when speaking.
• Address the chair and be recognized before speaking.

2) Voting on a Resolution:
Who can vote on a resolution?
• Elected representatives from member municipalities or regional districts.

At convention there are three types of voting.
• Voting with voting card, used for voting on ordinary resolutions. The chair will determine votes and decide whether the motion has been won or lost.
• Standing vote, when ten or more people question the 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.

*Remember that you are voting on the resolution and not the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee.

Types of Resolutions

Resolutions in the Resolutions Book
1) Section A Resolutions: resolutions of importance that have not previously been debated by members.
2) Section B Resolutions:
   Part I – previously considered and endorsed resolutions/ previously approved policies/documents/resolutions in keeping with UBCM policy. These resolutions will be considered as a block.
   Part II – topics not previously considered/considered but not previously endorsed/ topics of local or regional significance/topics of national significance to be considered by FCM.
3) Section C Resolutions: resolutions that have been consolidated or grouped with other resolutions in Sections “A” or “B”, incorporated into policy papers or referred to special sessions.

Continued on page 15
**Tuesday Clinics**

Five clinics (7:30 am - 8:15 am) have been developed with the specific forum audiences in mind, but every clinic is open to all delegates:

- Regional District-Electoral Areas
- PEP Road Rescue Program
- Role of Municipal and Electoral Area Directors
- Small Talk – Smaller Communities
- Trade Agreements

**Long Serving Local Elected Officials**

Each year the UBCM acknowledges elected officials who have served in local government office for 25 years with our Long Service Award. A circular was distributed in June seeking new recipients for the award. You may think that 25 years is a long time to serve in local government but there are former recipients who continue to serve their communities.

Who are these dedicated individuals? We are aware that the following individuals have been in office for over 30 years! If you know of others please let us know and we can include them in upcoming issues of UBCM News:

- Mayor Bob McMynn, Midway
- Mayor Charles Lasser, Chetwynd
- Mayor Gerry Furney, Port McNeill
- Mayor Bill Moncrief, Cumberland
- Councillor Martin Lukaitis, Duncan

Congratulations to you all!
Municipal Finance Authority of BC

Expect good news at MFA-sponsored regional luncheon meeting September 25th, 2001

On September 25th at noon, the MFA-sponsored Electoral Area Luncheon will feature Chair Frank Leonard, who will speak briefly on our operation for the year to date. The Authority has had a very successful year and if current trends hold up we should have some very good news to report by that time. Your Chair and Trustees are presently analyzing this year’s activity in preparation for this presentation. We hope to see you there!

Media has discovered the FNFA project!

The Globe and Mail, La Presse, The Dow Jones Reporter, The Toronto Star and the “As it Happened” program on CBC have suddenly become very interested in the FNFA project that we have shared with Deanna Hamilton of the Westbank First Nations over the last five years. The consulting project has resulted in over 30 First Nations in Canada using our investment pool and includes work with the federal government to create an aboriginal collective credit which will finance sewer, water and roads on First Nation’s land. Legislative drafts for the concept are proceeding rapidly under a strong atmosphere of support from the federal government and the Assembly of First Nations.

MFA works for the First Nations consortium building Mackenzie Valley Pipeline

MFA has signed a memorandum of agreement with Cananda Enertex Corporation (CEC). MFA will be the principal consultant to this aboriginal corporation so that they can access capital markets to finance the building of an oil and gas pipeline across their lands in the NWT and Alberta.

CEC came to the Authority because of their member’s good relationship with the investment pooling program offered by the MFA and because of our five years of work with building the FNFA (a collective aboriginal credit for the aboriginals of Canada).

This project will explore possible synergies with FNFA and also offer consulting advice on the formation of an aboriginal credit including recommendations on governance – this first stage is expected to be complete in six months. The next six-month stage will be liaison with an international credit rating to acquire a credit rating of at least a single A for the newly formed corporation.

We’ve Got Mail!

A reminder that our new e-mail addresses and direct telephone lines for the MFA are:

- Steve Berna: steve@mfa.bc.ca
- Allison Boyd: allison@mfa.bc.ca
- Jim Craven: jim@mfa.bc.ca
- Graham Egan: graham@mfa.bc.ca
- Marguerite Fenske: marguerite@mfa.bc.ca
- Barb Gordon: barb@mfa.bc.ca
- Shelley Hahn: shelley@mfa.bc.ca
- Jane Morrison: jane@mfa.bc.ca

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.

Participating in UBCM Resolutions Sessions

Continued from page T3

How are Late Resolutions dealt with?

- Late resolutions are those received after June 30 deadline. You will receive a copy of the resolutions at convention.
- Late resolutions identified as “emergency”, issues that have arisen since the resolution submission deadline, will be addressed at the convention on Friday morning.
- Late resolutions not identified as “emergency” will not be debated by delegates.
- Some late resolutions may be referred to the Executive.

Can resolutions be raised on the convention floor?

- Any delegate may bring forward a motion which, if seconded, will be presented to the floor by the Chair.
- A three-fifths majority vote must be achieved before the motion can be put forward for discussion.
- The sponsor may have to provide copies of the resolution to delegates.

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.

Note

- Resolutions originating at a Convention workshop or seminar will be referred to Executive.

*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.

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-T R E E, 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.
Courses and Resources

“WHO IS MY BOSS?”
By Eli Mina, P.R.P.

“This is one of my campaign promises, and I cannot betray the people who supported me by voting against it. Nothing anyone says or does will change my mind”. “My only goal in serving on council is to stop rampant development. This current issue on the agenda does not interest me. I will turn out and abstain from voting” (guess what: under the Local Government Act, you will count as having voted in favour of the motion). “Councillor Jones. Will you support me on my issue if you support you on yours? I am trying to get my majority in place”.

The above statements are rarely made, but are often implied by the actions of elected councillors. On the subject of ‘bosses’, few discuss it anything unusual about them. People would ar-

With a dysfunctional council in place, most of the meaningful work ends up being done by the staff. Although councillors maintain allegiance to cer-
tain community groups, and build strategic all-
niances with other council-
ers to advance political or semi-political agendas. Council members exercise dual diligence, scrutinize proposals, debate issues and present pet projects), show interest in every agenda item (and not only their own ‘pet projects’), and show respect for one another and for the members of the staff team. The citizens and the council meeting may not concur with all the decisions made, but they are heart-

The ideal time to estab-

lish ‘who is the boss’ is immediately when coun-
cillor is sworn into office. The supremacy of the collec-
tive interest over any nar-
rower interests is usually

The difficulty with this ap-

proach is that it can frag-

ment a municipal council and prevent it from work-

ing as a team to serve the broad interests of the mu-

nicipality as a whole. With each councillor busy ad-
vancing his or her own pri-

orities and personal agen-
ties, a sense of joint pur-
posse dissipates. A council-

or may end up voting against a proposal which is good for the community as a whole only because it of-
fends a special interest group which supported him or her at election time. Another councillor may tune out of the discussion of a major financial com-

mitment because his or her own personal priorities or pet projects are unaffected. Each councillor ends up serving ‘his or her own boss’. The absence of a collec-
tive sense of ‘who is the boss’ creates fertile conditions for the develop-

ment of adversarial rela-
tionships. Council be-

comes a series of political or personal lines. Meet-

ings becomes ‘war zones’, with councillors fighting each other, trying to look good while making oth-

ers look bad in front of the TV cameras. In effect, some councillors end up running their next election campaigns for the full term in office.

The Com-

mittee, the Wine Centre, downtown shopping and is located right on Okanagan Lake. Regular shuttles are also available to take participants to the major shopping centers.

Deadline for Registration is July 31st on the MISA BC Web Site – www.misa.bc.ca

ACCOMMODATION AND CONFERENCE FACILITY DETAILS:
Penticton Lakeside Resort Convention Centre and Casino
21 Lakeshore Drive - Penticton, BC - V2A 7M5 - 1-800-663-9400 – www.pbhotels.com
Blocks of rooms will be held for MISA BC until August 1st, 2001. When booking, make sure you specify you are part of the MISA BC Conference or you will not be able to get a room or take advantage of the special rates for MISA BC conference participants. All activities will be taking place at the Penticton Lakeside. The hotel is in close proximity of the Penticton & Wine Country Chambers of Commerce, the Wine Centre, downtown shopping and is located right on Okanagan Lake. Regular shuttles are also available to take participants to the major shopping centers.

MISA CONFERENCE 2001
September 12 - 14, 2001 ~ Penticton, BC
Technology makes things possible People make things happen.

Erick Block

The 2001 MISA BC Fall Conference Committee is very excited to announce all of the components of this year’s conference — with the 50s Theme at the Banquet; the companion program; the golf tournament and the great facilities — Penticton has it all! This is going to be an action packed conference with quality exhibitors, dynamic speakers and sessions — an opportunity for MISA members to network in the sunny Okanagan.

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ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF B.C.
Beverage Container Regulation

The UBCM Environment Committee has been working with the provincial government and industry on two issues under the Beverage Container Regulation. The Committee met with Encorp to discuss the status of its stewardship plans and its objectives.

Stewardship Plans

The three stewardship plans under the regulation - Liquor Distribution Branch; Brewer Distributor Limited; Encorp - are required to achieve an 85% recovery rate by October 1, 2001.

The Liquor Distribution Branch has indicated in its preliminary audit that it will meet the 85% recovery rate and that its recovery rate would be higher if it could include the wine bottles that are diverted to the U-Brews to make homemade wine.

Brewer Distributor Limited has suggested that its preliminary audit shows a 2% increase in the recovery rate from aluminum and the recovery rate for plastic was 75%.

Encorp, in its audited financial statement, shows a surplus of approximately $1.2 million in 1999 and $5 million in 2000. The surplus for 2000 “was a consequence of higher than forecast commodity prices for aluminum and plastic”.

Exit-from-Retail

Under the 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 industry has indicated that it is currently accounting for 90% or more of the non-alcoholic beverage containers collected at depots in thirteen or more regional districts in the province and would like to see the implementation of a mandatory depot based collection system in the future, outside of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, Fraser Valley Regional District and Capital Regional District.

There have been ongoing discussions between the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, UBCM and the industry on procedures to implement this section of the regulation.

The UBCM has written the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection indicating that it supports a beverage container collection system based on the following principles:

- Maximize the recovery rate of product from landfills;
- Ensure the consumer has the broadest choice of options;
- Encourage competition in the collection of beverage containers;
- Ensure that decisions related to solid waste management are made with the agreement of the municipal and regional district governments in the area.

Water, Storm Water & Wastewater Management Conference
October 11 & 12, 2001

This conference/technology briefing provides a unique opportunity for elected officials, engineers and planners to meet and discuss your communities’ water and wastewater problems with experts in environmental technology and federal/provincial regulators.

A trade show component for technology providers will foster dialogue between industry, technology developers, design engineers, operators and regulators.

ORGANIZED BY THE UNION OF B.C. MUNICIPALITIES SPONSORED BY
Ministry of Competition, Science and Enterprise
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel, Grand Ball Room
1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C.

For More information and registration contact:
UBCM – Ken Vance Phone: 604.270.8226 Fax: 604.660.2271
Email: kvance@civicnet.gov.bc.ca

BTIO – Anton Kuipers Phone: 604.844.1914 Fax: 604.660.2457
Email: anton.kuipers@gems1.gov.bc.ca

BC Assessment
Survey Plans Online

VIA THE INTERNET

If time is important to you or you would like to provide your clients with fast and efficient services then this product will be of interest. Since it became available in October 1998 many users have reported they are pleased with the service for the following reasons:

- Plans can now be acquired online from any location within BC.
- Plans can be conveniently saved and stored electronically.
- The cost of acquiring a survey plan is often less than traditional methods of access.
- Once acquired plans can be easily transmitted to a client via e-mail.
- Multi-page strata plans are priced by the plan rather than page.

Recent user statistics indicate this new service is meeting the needs of many clients across the Province. If you are not a current user and would like to know more about this online product please visit the BC OnLine website at the following address:

http://www.bconline.gov.bc.ca
Aboriginal Update

FINAL REPORT ON COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM NOW AVAILABLE

A Final Report from the 2001 province-wide Community to Community Joint Forum was mailed to all participants and sponsors in early July. This event held on March 6th in Vancouver, was organized by UBCM and the First Nations Summit. It provided First Nations and local government leaders from across BC with an opportunity to share their ideas on common visions and opportunities for collaboration between their governments.

The Final Report captures these ideas in "toolkit" form to allow easy reference. The toolkit sections mirror the four themes explored at the conference: economic development, natural resource management, land use and servicing, and government to government linkages. This information will be of assistance to anyone interested in building relationships between local governments and First Nations, since it provides concrete ideas for projects and joint actions they can take to achieve shared objectives. The following are some highlights from the report’s conclusions.

Of the four theme areas discussed, economic development was the topic area that received the most attention from participants and it was closely linked to discussions on natural resource management. This underscores the interest neighboring communities share in increasing employment and opportunities for investment in their regions.

Improving communication and the importance of education also dominated discussions amongst participants. Local government and First Nation leaders recognized that their governments are still learning how to approach and work with one another. To accomplish this, new communication channels need to be developed and a willingness to learn about each other must be present.

Public education, through schools and by governments, was also emphasized as an essential element in building knowledge and trust.

Participants focused frequently on formal ways of linking First Nations governments and local governments. Mechanisms identified included representation on regional district boards and/or in regional processes, and the development of Memorandums of Understanding and Protocols defining expectations related to communications and cooperation. Another mechanism identified is joint planning, which allows First Nations and local governments to share ideas (including community needs and aspirations) and expertise. It also provides an opportunity to create a regional perspective on issues, building on those of a local nature.

Participants identified a number of barriers to working together more effectively. The most common barrier to achieving the objectives of increased collaboration in relation to the four themes of the Forum was the lack of human and financial resources. Local government and First Nation government representatives recognized that key ingredients for relationship building are time and commitment, and noted that the lack of time and expertise for dealing with their common issues is an on-going barrier.

Compensation and Adjustment Issues

A report prepared for the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee (PGTAC) on Compensation and Adjustment issues related to treaty settlements was reviewed by the Aboriginal Affairs Committee at their June meeting.

The paper, prepared in May 2001, examines three areas of interest to the PGTAC and member local governments, revenue and taxation, fee simple and other interests, community stability, and how compensation and adjustment funding will address impacts on each of these interests. While the main interest in this topic stems from future treaty settlements with First Nations, the subject extends to other types of negotiations and settlements such as Interim Measures Agreements and Treaty Related Measures.

The report concludes that neither Canada nor BC have well developed policies to address compensation for lost local government revenues, third party compensation or maintaining community stability. The approach to policy development appears to be largely reactive rather than proactive. The province maintains that it is preferable to develop compensation policy when a specific treaty impact is identified (e.g. as is being done with the Nisga’a treaty), rather than trying to anticipate what treaty impacts will need to be addressed.

The report notes that the Treaty Negotiation Advisory Committee’s (TNAC) Third Party Compensation Committee has done a significant amount of work on this topic and continues to engage both senior governments in dialogue on the issues. The Lower Mainland TAC has been written to the Deputy Minister recommending a working group be established to consider the financial impacts of treaties to local government and how that might be addressed. Other TACs, e.g. Fraser Valley, are also taking a close look at how treaty impacts will be addressed. UBCM has continued to emphasize to the province that a process must be in place for compensating local governments for loss of tax revenue and has asked the provincial minister of Aboriginal Affairs to immediately establish a working group.

Continued on page 19
Final Report
Continued from page 18
With respect to short and long term actions that could be undertaken to achieve their objectives and visions for the future, participants generated a long list of concrete and achievable ideas which are found in the Final Report. Some of the ideas for action generated by participants could be easily achieved now, whereas others would require substantive changes to current structures and processes. Even though many local governments and First Nations are still in the early stages of building their relationship, many of the actions listed would require a well developed working relationship. This clearly indicates a sense of optimism that if an effective working relationship is not already present, it would be developed relatively quickly through jointly pursuing short and long term goals.

The report recommendations include those provided on conference evaluation forms as well as those generated at the conference itself. Many participants recommended that this event be held annually and UBCM and the First Nations Summit are currently pursuing this goal.

Limited copies of the Final report are available from the UBCM Office (contact Alison McNeil 604.270.8226).

UBCM Executive favours Continuing Regional Program

Based on their recent review of an Evaluation Report on the regional Community to Community Forum program, the UBCM Executive has decided to request new funding from the federal and provincial governments to continue the program into its third phase.

There are 182 local governments and 197 Indian Bands in BC. Begun in 1999, the provincial program was designed to sponsor events organized by local governments with their neighbouring First Nations governments. These events usually took the form of 1-2 day meetings between First Nation and local government leaders and focused on the development of intergovernmental relations.

UBCM has administered the program and funding provided by the federal and provincial governments. After two years and two phases of the program, the UBCM Aboriginal Affairs Committee requested an evaluation to assess how well it was meeting program objectives and user needs before continuing with either another phase or a modified program.

The evaluation report examines the final reports from 15 of the regional forums and provides conclusions from a telephone survey of a sampling of participants in the events. The evaluation notes that the Regional Community to Community Forum Program has made a significant contribution to the process of bridging First Nations and non-First Nations communities. It has engaged First Nations and local government councils, many for the first time ever, in dialogue focused on relationship building and joint projects.

The evaluation report concludes: “In the new environment of increasing Aboriginal self-government, it is in the interest of both local governments and First Nations to seek mechanisms by which to establish and build new intergovernmental relationships. The Forum process can be seen as a beginning, providing for direct dialogue, collaborative programming, and initial but often frank and substantive discussions of key issues that require attention in order for effective relationships to evolve. It is worth noting that this program is unique in Canada, and demonstrates the leadership and commitment of local governments and First Nations in BC to relationship building.”

The report also concludes that generally, given capacity challenges for all governments, people expressed a preference to continue the current format of the program, emphasizing the need for political relationship building, within a framework flexible enough for each forum to address key issues most relevant to participants.

Health Ministers
Continued from page 8
A Primer on Regional Hospital Districts
UBCM spoke about the role of the 23 Regional Hospital Districts (RHDs) and described the primary RHD function of major capital funding partner, outside the GVRD. A recent survey noted that the RHDs contribute a significant amount of money to the health system each year. In 1999, the combined annual expenditure of the RHDs was around $51 million; in 2001, the figure was around $50 million; and in 2001, the budgeted annual expenditure for capital purposes is around $64 million.

Advocating for Healthy Communities
UBCM discussed the advantages of the old healthy communities program and advocated for a reinvestment in government in prevention and wellness programming together with local government partners. It was noted that only 25% of the determinants of health are actually linked directly to the health care system. Many of the other determinants are within the control or influence of local government, and the health status of the population frequently affects local services (e.g., drug addiction).

Representation on Health Authority Boards
The government members reiterated that there is no intention to have elected health authority boards, in whole or in part. UBCM made the point that given that local government is a significant capital funding partner of the health system through the RHDs, there should be a seat aside on all health authority boards for a representative of the respective RHDs. This measure would ensure a greater level of accountability for the funds being received by health authorities from local governments. Such representation could also facilitate improved communication and consultation between the two groups and the provincial government, and therefore better planning. UBCM emphasized its interest in participating in the government’s review of health board representation.

Health Capital Planning
Through discussions with the Health Association of BC, UBCM has identified a number of concerns and frustrations shared by health authorities and RHDs with respect to the current health capital planning process. The process would be enhanced by a greater level of cooperation and consultation being built into the system. There is also support for multi-year funding commitments for health authorities, as suggested by the government, to parallel the current three-year planning cycle. UBCM also noted that consideration should be given to the decision making and budgeting cycle of the RHDs, which is distinct from the health authorities. UBCM indicated its interest in participating any review of the health
Supreme Court Upholds Municipal Ability to Regulate Pesticide Use

The Supreme Court of Canada upheld the right of a local government in Quebec to regulate the use of pesticides within its boundaries. The court held that the Town of Hudson bylaw did not conflict with the:

- federal Pest Control Products Act which regulates which pesticides can be registered for manufacture and/or use in Canada;
- Quebec Pesticides Act which "established a permit and licensing system for vendors and commercial applicators of pesticides" and "gave municipalities the right to regulate pesticides, provided that the by-law was not incompatible with the regulations and the Management Code enacted under the Pesticides Act."

In addition, the Supreme Court of Canada held that s. 410(1) of the Quebec Cities and Towns Act "gave municipalities the right to regulate the use of pesticides within its boundaries. The court held that the Town of Hudson bylaw did not conflict with the:

- provincial Quebec Pesticides Act which regulates pesticides in Quebec.
- the right of the Supreme Court of Canada decision on the constitutionality of provincial laws to regulate the use of pesticides in Quebec.
- the Local Government Act in British Columbia which provides that the by-law was enacted "in the best interest and in response to health concerns expressed by residents. The court noted that these concerns were recorded in the Town Council's meeting minutes and manifested themselves in letters to Council, as well as a petition with more than 300 signatures. The local government in introducing the by-law was acting in good faith and in the public interest.
- a total of 37 municipalities have passed bylaws to regulate the use of pesticides in Quebec.
- the provincial Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development which provided that "the by-law was enacted by the Town in the public interest and in response to health concerns expressed by residents. The court noted that these concerns were recorded in the Town Council's meeting minutes and manifested themselves in letters to Council, as well as a petition with more than 300 signatures. The local government in introducing the by-law was acting in good faith and in the public interest.
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- a total of 37 municipalities have passed bylaws to regulate the use of pesticides in Quebec.

Federal Government Reviews Transportation Policy

The federal government is looking at major changes to the Canada Transportation Act in the fall and in a new proposed report "Visions and Balance - Final Report of the Canada Transportation Act". The report highlights a number of issues of interest to local government, including highway and urban transportation and assistance programs for smaller airports.

Urban Transportation

The paper points out that road users in 1998-99 "paid an estimated $6.8 billion in provincial and territorial special motor fuel taxes, $4 billion in federal excise taxes on road fuels, $3.1 billion in vehicle registration and driver licence fees, and about $0.4 billion in tolls - for a total of $14.3 billion a year." The report indicates that the provinces collected an estimated $10 billion dollars from road users and spent an estimated $12 billion dollars on roads, "the shortfall [being] made up by local property taxes". The study points out that "the focus of the policy debate over road funding is that the federal government receives the larger part of the excise revenue: its revenues from the road fuel taxes are $4 billion or more, while its recent annual spending on roads has been only about $200 to $300 million." The report in the panel recommends a major institutional change in how transportation is funded and managed across Canada. The report proposes that the federal government offer each provincial and territorial government an annual sum reflecting the provincial tax receipts, in exchange for a commitment that a road and transportation funding and management agency be established. This agency would be managed by an independent board made up of representatives from highway system users, municipal governments, federal government, and provincial governments. The agency would receive annual spending and provincial user fees (fuel taxes and licence fees) to allocate amongst different transportation modes, it would have the authority for advising on road charging principles and across mechanisms, it would provide infrastructure funding assistance to the main highway network, urban transportation, secondary roads and cost shared funding to local roads, and have the authority to provide funding to the transportation mode that offers the lowest cost-benefit ratio - commuter rail, public transit, or freight rail infrastructure projects etc.

Small Airports

The report recognized that the viability of smaller airports was a concern and that "some of the non-profit airports are incurring large annual deficits and rapidly exhausting the transition funding they received at devolution." The report stated that "the federal government has established a number of important nodes in the domestic air network" and that "a mix of federal, provincial, and private sector investment is required to enhance the viability of these nodes." The report recommended that "the federal government should appropriate to finance such a program from lease payments made by the major airports to the major beneficiaries of a well developed network." The report recommended that "a limited program of support be introduced to help smaller airports cover the operating expenditures. The program should be financed from air system revenues and be designed to encourage improved efficiency and cost-reduction incentives for airport rationalization." National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Honourable Anne McLellan, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada has announced that the federal government will be providing an additional $145 million in funding over four years to support community-based responses to crime.

The National Strategy first launched in 1998 has supported over 1700 projects in more than 500 communities across the country. It is estimated that crime costs Canadians an estimated 46 billion a year, this program is a commonsense approach based on the principle that the surest way to reduce crime is to focus on factors that put children, young people, women, seniors and others at risk in the community.

Community groups can get assistance to undertake local crime prevention initiatives through one of the following funding programs:

- Community Mobilization Program – goals are to increase public awareness and help communities deal with local crime problems and victimization;
- Crime Prevention Investment Fund – focuses on Canada-wide demonstration projects, research and evaluation of innovative efforts to prevent crime;
- Crime Prevention Partnership Program – supports the involvement of national and international non-governmental organizations in community crime prevention efforts;
- Business Action Program – supports the involvement of business and professional associations in corporate/community partnerships to prevent crime.

Since its launch the National Strategy has supported over 250 projects in communities across British Columbia.
Speech from the Throne
Reprint of July 27 UBCM Circular

The Speech from the Throne on July 24, 2001 contained many new familiar “New Era” commitments. Of interest from a local government perspective were some new proposals on:

Community Charter

… government will also initiate a far-reaching reform of local government. It began with the appointment of a new Minister of State for Community Charter.

In this session, legislation creating a Community Charter Council will be introduced. The Council will be tasked with preparing draft Community Charter legislation which will be submitted by January 15, 2002, for debate in the spring session.

Provincial Congress

(The government) will host an annual “Provincial Congress” that will bring together all B.C. MLAs, MPs and Senators. This forum will also include the mayors of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, and aboriginal leaders.

The Congress will help to establish an inclusive understanding of B.C.’s agenda and will aim to publicly identify and overcome issues of regional alienation within Canada and British Columbia. My government trusts all participants will accept this initiative in the spirit in which it is intended, to forge new linkages and communication between jurisdictions, regions and, above all, between people. (For information, the current 12 largest municipalities are Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby, Richmond, Abbotsford, Coquitlam, Saanich, Delta, Kelowna, Langley Township, North Vancouver District, Kamloops).

IT Risk Management Services for the Public Sector

Public sector organizations are taking advantage of Information technology (IT) to better manage operations and to improve service delivery. With these investments comes risk: of failed IT projects; of ineffective or insecure systems; and of problems with the integrity or availability of systems and information.

KPMG’s Information Risk Management (IRM) practice has extensive experience providing services in the areas of e-business, IT Governance, Project Risk Management, Business Process Controls, Information Security, and Business Continuity. These services assist clients to manage business risks associated with IT and business processes enabled by IT.

For further information on how IRM could assist your organization, please contact Shaun Wilson at (604) 691-3188, or on email at shwilson@kpmg.ca.

National Disaster Mitigation Strategy

The Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister of National Defence, announced that the federal government is undertaking consultations on the development of a national disaster strategy.

The intent is to look at structural and non-structural measures that can be taken to reduce the impact of disasters, such as upgrading building codes to withstand earthquakes or changing land zoning to avoid building in flood plains.

The Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness (OCICEP) will lead the consultations. The intent of the consultations is to obtain input from stakeholders, identify the components of a strategy, and develop a process which will allow all levels of government and stakeholders to evaluate, prioritise and implement risk and impact reduction measures.

Aboriginal

Efforts will be redoubled to address urban aboriginal issues, to build capacity, and to negotiate reasonable interim measures agreements.

Government will honour its pledge to fast-track treaty talks, under the Attorney General’s guidance as the Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations.

Within the next year, the government will fulfill its commitment to hold a provincial referendum on the principles that will guide government’s approach to treaty negotiations. In this session, a legislative committee will be appointed to consult with all British Columbians, including First Nations. That committee will draft the questions that will be asked in the referendum.

The government will also offer to negotiate delegated models of self-government with First Nations, to ensure that all aboriginal governments have the same legal status in British Columbia as they do in any other province.

Also of interest were the announcements regarding:

• covenan corporations to be held accountable by a committee of the Legislature.
• doubling physical fitness and amateur sport funding to $44 million over 4 years.
• a new Olympic Arts Fund will also be established with an initial commitment of five million dollars this year and matching commitments in the years to follow.
• three year rolling funding envelopes to improve school board long-term planning and budgeting.
• The Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services will focus on ensuring that the day-to-day services that are important to every community are delivered in a thoughtful, accountable and effective way.
• eliminating interprovincial trade barriers (This most likely confirms that B.C. will remove the exemption for the MASH sector from the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)). This was discussed by Cabinet recently and they directed that consultation be held with UBCM.
• ensuring more equitable sharing of federal transportation funding.

Of a particular interest to UBCM and local governments using government relations specialists will be the following announcement.

A law will be introduced in this session to require the registration of professional lobbyists who are paid to lobby government on behalf of their clients. The list of registered lobbyists will be open to the public and available at the Office of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner.

 Ministers Ted Nighed (left) and George Abbott (right) joined UBCM President Jim Abrain. Both Ministers made a one-hour presentation to the Executive on July 19th and rejoined the Executive at 7:00 am the next morning for a 11/2 hour discussion on Community Charter Council issues.

Background information on the Disaster Mitigation Strategy is available on the OCICEP web site at: www.ocicep-bpicep.gc.ca/.
Economic and Fiscal Update
Reprint of July 30 UBCM Circular

Business tax cuts featured prominently in the revised budget tabled today. The Finance Minister confirmed the commitment to health and education funding in the spring budget. The Minister stressed that the government would table its first full budget on February 19, 2002. This would be preceded by a Core Review of all government programs. The 2002 Fiscal plan will include three-year budgets and three-year service plans.

From a local government perspective there are few material changes from what was announced in March with no change to the previously announced:
- School and rural taxes
- Homeowner grants
- Traffic Fine revenues

There are two changes that are of interest to local government:
First, is an apparent $5 million reduction in Conditional Grants transfers available to local government. These are available for infrastructure planning and infrastructure development. The reduction is apparently due to the revised forecast of cash flow requirements to meet commitments. It is not a reduction in commitments or in funding available for new grants. These do not affect the federal-provincial-infrastructure-grant program. However, the cash flow savings are not being made available for new grants.

Second, there is an $8 million real reduction in Community Service and Culture grants. These were previously available through the former Ministry of Communities, Cooperatives and Volunteers for community enterprise and greening communities.

Overall, the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services is down $24 million from March – $8 million in the above grants and $16 million as a result of cancelling a previously announced child care program.

Health Ministers
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capital planning process that the government may be undertaking or contemplating.

Recruitment and Retention of Health Professionals
UBCM noted its continued support for government recruitment and retention initiatives and urged the government to continue its efforts to bring additional health professionals into the province, and particularly to encourage them to practice in rural and remote communities.

Level of Ambulance Service in Communities
UBCM expressed general concern about the level of ambulance service in communities, and noted the increasing numbers of reports of fatalities which seemingly are related to the time it took for an ambulance to arrive.

Drinking Water Legislation
UBCM restated local government support for safe drinking water but noted concerns about the nature of the standards established in the new legislation and the financial costs that may be imposed on local government. UBCM noted its interest in participating in the consultations on the new legislation to be carried out by the Ministry of Health Services and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
Local Government Procurement and the Agreement on Internal Trade

Provisions Extended to Local Governments

At the Open Cabinet Meeting of July 18, 2001, the provincial government decided to extend the procurement provisions of the national Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) to Crown corporations, local governments, school boards, publicly funded academic institutions, and health and social service entities, collectively known as the “MASH” sector. BC local governments had previously been exempted from these provisions. A transcript of the Cabinet meeting discussion (found on the internet at http://www.gov.bc.ca/prem/prem_report/default.htm) seems to indicate that the government intends to target March 31, 2002 as the date when local governments will have the new provisions apply to them. Prior to that, the government intends to consult with local governments to identify any issues, concerns or barriers that would make compliance problematic. UBCM will be circulating material from the government that explains the decision and the obligations that it will impose.

What is the AIT?

For those unfamiliar with the specifics, the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) was entered into by all provinces (including BC), territories and Canada in 1994. The objective of the agreement is to “… reduce and eliminate … barriers to the free movement of persons, goods, services and investments within Canada.” It includes chapters on various services and commodities, including Chapter Five on Procurement, which speaks to the acquisition of goods and services by governments. For those who are interested, there is an overview of the AIT available on the internet at http://www.intrasec.mb.ca/eng/overview.htm.

What Did UBCM Say About this Previously?

In 1994, all MASH sub-sectors (including UBCM) recommended to the BC government that the sector not be covered on a “Rules” basis (i.e., be required to adhere to existing reporting, bid posting and dispute resolution processes) but be bound by the “Principles” of regional non-discrimination, fairness and transparency. At the time, this position was supported by resolutions from the GVRD, UBCM and FCM. The basis for the recommendation was that:

a. there had not been any demonstrated instances of discrimination against out-of-province business by BC MASH entities; and

b. the imposition of the AIT “Rules” would be done at a cost with no benefit.