UBCM NEWS is published by Union of British Columbia Municipalities
60 – 10551 Shelbourne Way Richmond, B.C.
Canada VEX 2W9 (604) 270-8226 fax: (604) 270-9116
www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca
ISSN 1198-7529

in this issue...

UBCM Page ................. 2
Area Associations .......... 4
Policy Updates ........... 5
Environment ........... 6-7
Financial Policy .......... 16
Aboriginal Update ...... 19-20
Courses and Resources ... 21

Happy Holidays!

Inside the UBCM News
executive consideration of referred resolutions (p.5)
• update on streamside protection regulation review (p.6)
• “greenbuildings” initiatives (p.6)
drinking water review panel underway (p.7)
briefs on contaminated sites, product stewardship and safe drinking water regulations (p.7)
intermunicipal business licencing initiative (p.18)
aboriginal affairs committee meets Ministers (p.19)
new energy aware tool kit being distributed (p.20)
police costs for small communities and regional districts (p.77)
Bill 55 discussed (p.20)
drinking water report (p.24)

UBCM 2001 Convention in Review
It was a big week! And if there is any doubt look at some of our numbers about just how big a UBCM Convention is. The convention also got a nice big 4.1 out of 5 rating. UBCM Convention Committee Chair, Helen Sparkes along with Hans Cunningham and Bert Banks did the planning this year. The convention featured a number of innovations:
• new layout format for the program
• new fax/phone message centre display
• created the “clinic” corner for early morning sessions
• mounted the full convention program in downloadable PDF format.

This issue of the Newsletter reviews the Convention:
• convention evaluations (p.8)
• conventions past and future (p9)

And a big pictorial special on pages 10 – 15 with sponsors featured on page 13 and awards featured on pages 16 and 17.

ATTORNEY GENERAL COMMITS TO A DISCUSSION OF FUNDAMENTAL LIABILITY ISSUES

UBCM/MIA Joint Task Force on Liability met with the Attorney General, the Honourable Geoff Plant, to present four recommendations. MIA Chair Janis Elkerton and UBCM Third Vice President, Helen Sparkes, led the joint delegation and made the presentations. The theme of the joint presentation is that consumers are not being protected by the current situation, which allows some responsible parties to escape financial responsibility. Quality consultation is being compromised as long as this situation is allowed to persist argued the Joint Task Force. They put forward four recommendations:

1. Amend the Negligence Act to provide for proportionate liability.
2. Require Professionals to have minimum levels of errors and omissions insurance.
3. Introduce a reasonable ultimate limitation period of 10 years for construction claims.
4. Hold professionals responsible when local governments rely on architects or engineers to both plan review and inspections, or where local government relies on certified products. They suggested these would lead to:
   1. fair and equitable treatment of all parties;
   2. financial responsibility that is commensurate with each party’s responsibilities – and consumers will know there is financial security behind the system;
   3. with the above, there will be quality construction in B.C. – with clear legal and financial responsibility and accountability for the quality of the work.

The Attorney General is receptive to a public policy debate, particularly with respect to:
• joint and several liability and ultimate limitation periods.
• a new limitation period of 15 years.

The AG also asked for more information on having design professionals responsible for inspections.

He directed his remarks to provide for proportionate liability. Under the B.C. Negligence Act, defendants are jointly and severally liable for the full amount of a damage award, unless contributory negligence on the part of the plaintiff can be established. This means that a defendant who is only 5% at fault, could be liable for 100% of the plaintiff’s damage in the event that other defendants are unable to pay. The changing economic and legal landscape requires a re-thinking of the fairness of the law of joint and several liability. [Excerpts of the AG’s notes can be found on page 20 and we would urge all members that are interested in this subject to read those notes in full].

Continued in later in this address he directed his remarks to limit period.

COMMUNITY CHARTER

THE COMMUNITY CHARTER COUNCIL (CCC, under Chair Minister of State Ted Nebbeling, has been on a two track process since the September UBCM Convention. One track has been the regional consultations and the other has been the policy review sessions.

Regional Consultations
Five regional consultations involving nearly 500 local government officials have been completed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Assoc.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th># Attend’g</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AKBM</td>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Creston</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMMA</td>
<td>October 24</td>
<td>Kelowna</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVICC</td>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>Courtenay</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMCMA</td>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>Coquitlam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCMA</td>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Prince George</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Ministry issued a Discussion Paper in advance (also available on CivicNet). Logistical arrangements were shared between UBCM, the Ministry and the Area Associations. Most sessions featured a similar format with the emphasis on small group discussion. Thanks to all those who attended and particularly those who helped organize the Area meetings. The Charter Council couldn’t get into Terrace for their scheduled meeting on November 16 and requested that local governments in the region provide input using the prepared questionnaires. Feedback should be submitted to the

Continued on page 9
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This year was especially challenging for executives and members. Their term straddled an ongoing, and incom- ing provincial government that required additional work to bring the new Ministers up to speed on our issues. Even with this added challenge, much was accomplished including:

• development of a new BC Communities Agenda to highlight local government priorities.
• launched the first year of the multi-year infrastructure funding program – local government secured membership on the Infrastructure Program Management Committee.
• secured local government representation on the Community Charter Coun- cil.

We would like to take some time to thank the following members for their contribution over the past year as they are not returning to the Executive.

Mayor Steve Thorlakson served as UBCM President during 1999-2000 and this last year as Past President. Steve has contributed his time over the years to many UBCM committees, most notably serving as Chair of the Communities and Resources Committee for several years as well as a member of the Resolutions Committee and Health Committee. As a strong advocate for northern and rural issues, Steve’s presence will be missed at the boardroom table.

Mayor Barbara Sharp served as a Director for Large for two terms on the UBCM Executive; 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. During her first year she served as a member of the Communities and Resources and Arts, Culture, Heritage and Tourism Committees. Her participation continued on these two Committees this past year as well as serving as a member of this year’s Resolutions Committee.

Towers Perrin

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
1300 Melville Street, Suite 1600
Vancouver, B.C. V6K 4L6
604 691-2002 Fax: 604 691-2062
OFFICES IN VANCOUVER, CALGARY, TORONTO & MONTREAL

SPECIAL THANKS TO DEPARTING EXECUTIVE MEMBERS......

Your Table Officers and I are fully consumed in the Community Charter process and are spending many days each month on this project. We will be into a critical final phase at the time this newsletter reaches you. There has been a good turnout for the fall consultations on the charter. Even better is the opportunity now for UBCM and the Ministry to host a Legislative Symposium in the spring of 2002, and to have opportunities to consider the Community Charter at each of the Area Association Annual General Meetings. This

COMMITTEES APPOINTED FOR 2001-2002

President Hans Cunningham confirmed the following committee appointments at the November 8-9, 2001 Executive Meeting:

Resolutions
Councillor Pat Wallace, Chair
Mayor Frank Leonard
Director Rick Hardie
Director Aaron Dinwoodie
Convention
Mayor Helen Sparks, Chair
Councillor Brenda Binnie
Director Aaron Dinwoodie
Councillor Don MacLean
Councillor Pat Wallace
Member Services / Local Government Awareness
Mayor Frank Leonard, Chair
Councillor Bruce Strachan
Councillor Brenda Binnie
Mayor Don MacLean
Executive Committee
Chair Hans Cunningham
Councillor Pat Wallace
Mayor Frank Leonard
Mayor Helen Sparks
Director Rick Hardie
Protective Services Committee
Councillor Lynne Kennedy, Chair
Mayor Helen Sparks
Chair Susan Gimsie
Director Rick Hardie
Councillor Marvin Hunt
Councilor Pat Wallace
Mayor Wayne Hunter, BC Assoc. of Police Boards rep.
Environment
Chair Rob Hobson, Chair
Councillor Bruce Strachan
Councillor Ida Makaro
Councillor Lynne Kennedy
Director Jim Abram
Aboriginal Affairs
Director Aaron Dinwoodie, Chair
Director Jim Abram
Mayor Corrine Lonsdale
Councillor Mary Ashley
Mayor Don Bell, LMTAC
 Communities and Resources
Mayor Corrine Lonsdale, Chair
Mayor Sharon Hartwell
Councillor Mary Ashley
Councillor Jim Thom
Director Rick Hardie
Health
Chair Susan Gimsie, Chair
Robert Hobson
Councillor Ida Makaro
Councillor Jim Thom
Councillor Marvin Hunt
Mayor Sharon Hartwell

Thanks to you all for your contributions to the UBCM Executive – and to local government as a whole!
Your UBCM Executive

UBCM Executive Welcomes New Members

We are pleased to introduce your 2001-2002 UBCM Executive. We are welcoming the following new members to the Executive: Mayor Don MacLean, GVRD Representative; Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Small Community Representative; Director Rick Hardie, Association of Kootenay Boundary Municipalities; Councillor Jim Thom, North Central Municipalities Association; Councillor Mary Ashley, Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities; and Councillor Brenda Binnie, Director at Large.
BC Assessment receives IAAO Distinguished Assessment Jurisdiction Award for 2001

The International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) awarded BC Assessment the Distinguished Assessment Jurisdiction Award for 2001 at its 67th Annual International Conference on Assessment Administration in Miami in September.

The Award is conferred upon a national, state/provincial, regional or local assessment agency that has instituted a technical, procedural, or administrative program that is an improvement over prior programs.

BC Assessment is “generally recognized as a model assessment system and a contributing factor to equity in property taxation,” according to IAAO publications.

The award was received on behalf of BC by Josephine Lim, IAAO Executive Board Member and BC Assessment Appraisal Systems Analyst. Sept 10 before 1400 delegates at a breakfast function in Miami Beach.

BC Assessment also received the IAAO Public Information Program Award for 2001. This was the third time BC Assessment received this award. Previous years included 1993 and 1998.

The IAAO promotes excellence in property appraisal, tax and assessment administration. It was founded in 1934 and has more than 7,500 members worldwide.

The IAAO Distinguished Assessment Jurisdiction Award for 2001

The award was received on behalf of BC by Josephine Lim, IAAO Executive Board Member and BC Assessment Appraisal Systems Analyst. Sept 10 before 1400 delegates at a breakfast function in Miami Beach.

BC Assessment also received the IAAO Public Information Program Award for 2001. This was the third time BC Assessment received this award. Previous years included 1993 and 1998.

The IAAO promotes excellence in property appraisal, tax and assessment administration. It was founded in 1934 and has more than 7,500 members worldwide.

0% increase in UBCM dues

The UBCM determined in July 2001 that they should budget for a 0% increase in member dues for 2002. The dues payable will be adjusted for population changes as reported by the province.

Based on a 1982 benchmark, UBCM dues increases remain below what they would have been even if they were adjusted for CPI.

Approximately 60% of UBCM operations are financed by member dues. The remainder of the operations are financed by fee for service programs including our Member Services program; Association Services or private sector sales.

2002 Area Association meeting dates

AVIC May 10-11 Campbell River
AKBM April 18-20 Nakusp
LMMA May 8-10 Harrison Hot Springs
NCMA May 2-4 Quesnel
OMMA May 1-3 Silver Star (Vernon)

CivicNet Update

Check out CivicNet (www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca), a UBCM Member Service website that provides:

- access to information on 182 municipalities & regional districts and the associations of BC local government;
- over 90 links to international, Canadian, U.S., national, provincial, associated groups and other miscellaneous sites and
- a UBCM Executive list and staff list, Executive Meeting Highlights, Member Releases, Annual Reports, 10 years of resolutions, surveys and other UBCM information sources etc.

*NEW*

A recent addition to the website this past summer was access to three on-line surveys for Engineering, Animal Control and Recreation Fees. This is a work-in-progress project with the ultimate goal of establishing all UBCM surveys on-line for our membership.

*NEW*

Other new additions to the site include:

- 2001 Infrastructure Program Bulletins;
- In the House Releases for June, July and August 2001;
- March 19 and July 19, 2001 Executive Meeting Highlights;
- BC Communities Agenda for 2001;
- UBCM News – June and August 2001 issues;
- Updated Member List (150 direct links to member websites).

Future items to be posted to the website include 2001 Annual Report and Convention Policy Papers, 2001 Annual Minutes, Member Releases, UBCM News, Executive Highlights and surveys.

If you would like additional information regarding the website, please contact Barbara Ingamells, Manager, Member Services at: Phone: 604.270.8226; Email: bingamels@civicnet.gov.bc.ca.

Local Government Planners and Wall Calendars

Have you ordered your supply of 2002 Pocket Planners and Wall Calendars? There’s still time to order. Simply fax this order form to UBCM (604) 270-9116.

Local Government Planners and Wall Calendars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2001 Local Government Planner(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1-9)</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(10+)</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2001 Wall Calendar(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1-9)</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(10+)</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Prices include shipping and handling but do not include applicable taxes. UBCM will invoice – please do not prepay.

Deliver to:

Attention:

Please deliver:

Please deliver:

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

We have been providing the public sector with audit opinions and accounting advice for well over 60 years. But that’s not all. Increasingly, our clients are turning to us for related services as well, such as management advice, feasibility studies, financial indicators reports, financial planning, information 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) 688-5421
Represented Internationally by BDO International
Executive considered
Referred Resolutions

The Executive has recommended the following resolutions to be referred to the appropriate committees for further study:

1. Resolutions Endorsed and Referred to the Executive

892 Coordinated Provincial Approval System for Local Government Development Projects
Decision: Staff to inform sponsors that due to the nature of the proposal further study and development is required before going forward as a policy position of the UBCM. Staff to inform the sponsor that the Agencies, Boards and Commissions review that is presently underway may be an appropriate forum for addressing some of their concerns.

B102 Trade Corridor Initiative
Decision: Staff contact sponsor to advise that the intent of the resolution is not clear and therefore the Executive is not able to take any action.

3. Late Resolutions Referred to the UBCM Executive

LR4 General Agreement on Trade in Services
Decision: Endorsed and referred to FCM, with notice to sponsor that requested action has already been taken.

LR5 World Trade Organization; Local Government Interests
Decision: Endorsed and referred to FCM.

4. Resolutions from Energy Forum Referred to the Executive

Energy Forum Recommendation E7
Decision: Take no further action on the recommendation at this time.
Streamside Regulation

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has established a Streamside Protection Regulation Advisory Committee. The Committee is made up of representatives from industry, local government, environmental groups, federal and provincial officials.

The purpose of the Committee is to review concerns and look at options for implementing the regulation that are:

- Flexible to meet local circumstances;
- Practical to implement with the resources of the province and local governments;
- Minimizes the impacts on the use and value of property.

The role of the Committee is to:

- Develop a clear and common understanding of how the regulation is supposed to work;
- Develop a clear and common understanding of the status of implementation;
- Understand and agree on what is meant by a results-based/flexible approach;
- Identify barriers to a results-based/flexible approach in the current implementation; and,
- Develop recommended actions to overcome the barriers identified.

The provincial government has indicated that the regulation must be consistent with its commitment to a scientifically-based, balanced and principled approach to environmental management.

The Committee is expected to provide recommendations to the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection on how the regulation can be effectively implemented and changed to meet the provincial objectives by December 21, 2001.

Green Buildings & Sustainable Communities report

This October 3rd conference, sponsored by the GVRD Planning and Environment Committee, was an excellent opportunity to learn more about resource conservation and environmental stewardship through local planning and land development decisions. Items of note to members interested in sustainable community-building are:

- Understanding and agreeing on what is meant by a results-based/flexible approach;
- Developing a clear and common understanding of how the regulation is supposed to work;
- Minimizing the impacts on the use and value of property.

The Committee is expected to provide recommendations to the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and Colin Hansen, Minister of Health Services, appointed an independent review panel to provide recommendations on the completeness, effectiveness and efficiency of the Drinking Water Protection Act. These recommendations will be used to confirm, amend or repeal the legislation and guide implementation.

- Make certain that there are measurable goals, defined responsibilities and clear accountability for implementation.
- Chair Robert Hobson is the local government representative on this Committee.
- The Panel will:
  - Review the Drinking Water Protection Act;
  - Review amendments to the Water Act for groundwater protection;
  - Recommend principles for developing and revising regulations and implementation.

Drinking Water Review Panel

On September 25, 2001, Joyce Murray, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection and Colin Hansen, Minister of Health Services, appointed an independent review panel to provide recommendations on the completeness, effectiveness and efficiency of the Drinking Water Protection Act. These recommendations will be used to confirm, amend or repeal the legislation and guide implementation.

- Make certain that there are measurable goals, defined responsibilities and clear accountability for implementation.

- The Panel is chaired by David Marshall, Executive Director of the Fraser Basin Council and has representatives from public health, environmental, industry and local government interests. Chair Robert Hobson is the local government representative on this Committee.
- The Panel will:
  - Review the Drinking Water Protection Act;
  - Review amendments to the Water Act for groundwater protection;
  - Recommend principles for developing and revising regulations and implementation.

- Make certain that there are measurable goals, defined responsibilities and clear accountability for implementation.

- The Panel is chaired by David Marshall, Executive Director of the Fraser Basin Council and has representatives from public health, environmental, industry and local government interests. Chair Robert Hobson is the local government representative on this Committee.
- The Panel will:
  - Review the Drinking Water Protection Act;
  - Review amendments to the Water Act for groundwater protection;
  - Recommend principles for developing and revising regulations and implementation.

- Make certain that there are measurable goals, defined responsibilities and clear accountability for implementation.

- The Panel is chaired by David Marshall, Executive Director of the Fraser Basin Council and has representatives from public health, environmental, industry and local government interests. Chair Robert Hobson is the local government representative on this Committee.
- The Panel will:
  - Review the Drinking Water Protection Act;
  - Review amendments to the Water Act for groundwater protection;
  - Recommend principles for developing and revising regulations and implementation.

LEED Green Building Rating System™ underway for BC

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ enables a rating of buildings with respect to the energy and resources necessary to create and sustain them, right from the first day of construction and across the lifespan. It is a voluntary, market-driven building rating system used for new and existing commercial, institutional, and high-rise residential buildings. Some communities are demanding that all new construction reach certain LEED rankings, and buyers are checking the stats too. Today a ranking system specific to BC, including low-rise buildings, is in draft form. You can find the draft copy of the LEED BC Applications Guide by going to the New Buildings Program at http://www.greenbuildingbc.com. The BC ranking system has yet to go through its own final approvals with the US Green Building Council. The website will keep you informed of its progress.

Continued on page 7
Environmental Shorts

Contaminated Sites Regulation

The contaminated site regulation, which was established to create a process whereby contaminated sites are cleaned up and that the polluter is held responsible for the clean-up of the site, is presently being examined as part of the provincial government’s ‘sweep view’. The regulation has been criticized by industry as failing to provide a cost-effective and timely mechanism for the clean-up of contaminated sites. The process has proven to be an administrative burden and costly for the provincial government to manage. There will likely be some significant changes to the standards, operation and management of the regulation.

Product Stewardship Programs

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is currently looking at the operation and management of the product stewardship programs in the province. The ministry currently operates two programs directly—tires and batteries. A recent decision requiring a regulatory framework to implement the tire program and a comprehensive audit of the battery program has suggested that major changes need to be made in the operation and management of these programs. It is likely that industry will be asked to take a more direct role in the delivery of these programs in the future. The review of the programs has brought a broad range of issues forward. Industry is using the review to highlight all of the changes it has with the current programs, such as the ongoing cost of the collection system; questions about the need for a ‘deposited-refund’ system for beverage containers; the health and space problems associated with the return-to-retail regulatory requirements, etc. Industry has been requested to provide the Minister with a report on how the stewardship programs might be provided in a more cost-effective and efficient way. In addition, industry has been asked to look at how these programs might be delivered to cover the cost of the provincial government might incur in monitoring the compliance and enforcement of the programs.

Health Act – Safe Drinking Water Regulations

The provincial government in the spring of 2000 amended the Safe Drinking Water Regulations without any consultation. The new regulation would have required that local governments test for some 80 water quality parameters, substantially increasing the cost of monitoring water quality. Local government is concerned about the increased cost and the fact that this measure would not result in safer drinking water. The regulations have been amended to give the Public Health Officer the authority to determine the water parameters that require testing, focusing on the potential threats to water quality in their specific region.

Drinking Water Review Panel

The Panel will provide an interim report by November 30, 2001 to the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection and Minister of Health Services and a final report by January 15, 2002. The protection of drinking water is a local government concern for the following reasons:
- One of the most basic services that local government provides in a community is water. Resource users on watersheds, which are not properly controlled, pose a major problem to the health of the community and can represent a major financial cost to the community;
- Local government is required to provide water quality which meets provincial health standards and is therefore required to test sufficient water to meet the needs of the community;
- Local government faces a major financial cost of the quality of the water is changed and it must introduce water treatment and filtration systems or if the watershed is destroyed and it is forced to find a new source of water.
- The Auditor General in his report released in 1996 entitled “Protecting Drinking Water Sources” estimated that the cost of neglecting our drinking water sources could be expensive for the approximately 100 municipalities outside Victoria and Vancouver that use unfiltered surface water. The report suggested that the capital cost of installing filtration would be about $700 million and the extra cost of operating, maintaining and maintaining the new treatment plants would be about $30 million a year.
- The key points identified by the Auditor General contained in the report to protect drinking-water sources from a local government perspective were the need for:
  - the true value of water to be identified and ascribed in relation to other resource uses to ensure the best use of community watersheds;
  - a lead agency in the provincial government be identified which speaks for drinking water users;
  - the statutory rights of drinking-water suppliers and users to be identified and the same footing as other resource users (i.e. form of tenure, financial responsibilities etc.) and the rights of compensation for water-source contamination, etc.).

There are currently a number of changes being contemplated in the management of provincial resources and the challenge for industry and government will be to achieve a balance between the drinking water needs of local communities and all other resource uses in community watersheds.
Convention Evaluation

T
date, 19% of the
cvention evalua-
tion forms distri-
buted to delegates have
been returned (down from
27% last year). Of those
that have responded, 87%
rated the week as good or
excellent – with an overall
composite rating of 4.1 out
of 5 - the best since 1996.
Many of you noted a
general feeling that the
conference was more up-
beat than those of recent
years. And for the first
time in five years, we were
not subjected to even one,
“not enough time for reso-
lutions” comment. Con-
gratulations! “Networking”
opportunities still top the
charts as the most-liked
facet of the convention.
Other notable improve-
ments were seen as we
returned to Vancouver with
the Welcome Reception
and Annual Banquet.
Morning clinics also saw a
modest increase in ratings;
you told us you appreci-
ated the wide range of
current topics.
The biggest disappoint-
ments were the Commu-
nity Charter sessions and
the lack of meaty informa-
tion about the Charter.
Apologies – “under con-
struction.” We also con-
trast the wide range of
current topics.

SUMMARY AWARDS
The Top Event of the 2001 Convention
Flower Auction Tour @ 4.9
(87.5% excellent)
The Runner-up
Agriculture Study Tour @ 4.5
(50% excellent)
Top Sessions
Crime-free Multi-housing Clinic @ 4.3
Recent Court Decisions Clinic @ 4.2
Convention Business Program’s Biggest
Improvement
Overall clinics increased by 5.1%
General Aspects with Biggest Improvement
Welcome Reception increased 48.9% over 2000
Opportunity to meet with Ministers Abbott /
Nebbeling and Other Cabinet Ministers increased
14.7% and 10.6% respectively over 2000
The Weakest Events
Inside the Community Charter (pm) @ 3.1
(28.6% of respondents dissatisfied)
Partners Favourite
Holistic Approach to Living Longer @ 4.2
Drops in Popularity
Overall Monday Study Sessions
(down by 16.0% over 2000)
Overall Partners Programs
(down by 10.5% over 2000)
**UBCM Conventions Present & Future**

**Convention Registration**

A TOTAL OF 1,715 DELEGATES ATTENDED the 2001 UBCM Convention in Vancouver, September 24 to 28.

A few relevant statistics on attendance this year include:
- 178 out of 182 members (Not represented: Fort Nelson, Highlans, Ladysmith and New Denver)
- 743 voting delegates; 153 non-voting delegates; 357 partners and 462 “others”
- 27 media representatives.

Recent and other high registrations:
- 1991 Victoria 1,836
- 1994 Whistler 1,710
- 1995 Vancouver 1,734
- 1996 Penticton 1,480
- 1998 Penticton 1,579
- 1999 Vancouver 1,694
- 2001 Victoria 1,918

Recent federal and provincial agreements:
- Cooperation Agreements with government and energy utilities.
- Energy Forum Recommendations
- 2001 BC Communities Agenda

**UBCM Annual Convention Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 23 to Fri. Sept. 27</td>
<td>Whistler Conference Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 22 to Fri. Sept. 26</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 20 to Fri. Sept. 24</td>
<td>Kelowna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 26 to Fri. Sept. 30</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 24 to Fri. Sept. 28</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2001 Convention Minutes underway!**

The UBCM Convention is the principal event each year that provides local elected officials with the opportunity to set the policy direction for the organization. This year over 166 resolutions were submitted and two policy papers were prepared for member consideration. As in previous years, the Minutes provide a summary of activities including resolutions and policy sessions as well as copies of the key addresses by: David Anderson, Federal Minister of Environment; George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services, and Premier Gordon Campbell.

With respect to policy papers the following are included:
- 2001 BC Communities Agenda
- Energy Forum Recommendations
- Cooperation Agreements with government and community organizations
- Revenues, reserve funds, tax exemptions, new revenue sources
- Roles of mayor, council and local government officers.

**Policy Review**

The Community Charter Council will have met over fourteen days before Christmas, between and after the regional consultations to discuss feedback and deliberate on the many policy options and recommendations to be made. Among the many items that the Council have been considering are:
- Public participation, accessibility and accountability, including requirements for annual reporting and requirements for notice.
- Regulatory authority, service powers and local government jurisdiction with respect to regulation.
- Roles of mayor, council and local government officers.
- Future powers, duties and functions of a permanent Community Charter Council.
- Revenues, reserve funds, tax exemptions, new revenue sources.

**UBCM Executive Briefing**

Members of the Executive briefed their colleagues on November 8th about what they were hearing at the regional consultations, the major directions that appeared agreed and the outstanding issues. UBCM members of the CCC sought the Executive’s advice on some significant policy choices.

**Upcoming Dates**

The Community Charter Council is still on track to complete its report and draft Community Charter (CCC) for presentation to Cabinet in mid-January. The Legislature resumes on February 12th for the Throne Speech and budget on February 19th. It now looks like the CC might be introduced in late February or early March. The CCC has agreed to sponsor a two-day Legislative Symposium to discuss the CC – the timing is looking like late April. As well, CCC is hoping each Area Association will set aside some time for consideration of the CC at their spring meeting.

The deadline for submissions will be the end of June 2002 so that the CCC can make revisions and submit a revised CC to Cabinet so that it can be considered at the full session.

---

**Convention Sets Policy Direction**

**Goal achieved! All resolutions considered!**

FORMULATING AND implementing policy is the principal purpose of UBCM. Members advocate new policy initiatives primarily through resolutions. The Executive also provides policy direction through discussion papers that tend to be more comprehensive in scope.

During the 2001 Convention over eight hours were devoted to consideration of resolutions and policy papers. This year the Resolutions Committee made a commitment to ensure that all resolutions received before the deadline were debated at convention. Additional hours were contributed to the policy sessions for this purpose.

The Resolutions Committee is pleased to have met the goal to consider all of the resolutions. Delegates considered 144 resolutions. Those endorsed have been forwarded to the provincial or federal government as appropriate.

- Federal Department of Environment
- Federal Department of Indian & Northern Affairs
- First Nations Summit
- Health Assn. of BC
- BC School Trustees Assn.
- BC Assn. of Police Boards
- Lands Advisory Board, BC Chiefs

Delegates also reaffirmed the revised Protocol on Principles for Sharing Environmental Responsibilities with the Province. One proposed agreement with the BC Environmental Network was referred to the Area Associations for their consideration.

Staples McDaniel Stewart ...

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

Visit our website at [www.sms.bc.ca](http://www.sms.bc.ca) for more information about our firm's services and for recent issues of our newsletters, client bulletins and other news items.

**Staples McDaniel Stewart**

2nd Floor, 837 Burdett Avenue, Victoria, BC V8W 1B3
Phone: (250) 380-7744; Fax: (250) 380-3108
loglaw@sms.bc.ca
Councillor Peter Sharp, Kamloops, leads off the 2001 Convention.

UBCM President Jim Abram introduces the 2000-2001 Executive.

UBCM President Jim Abram’s address talked about theme of Convention - Reflections & Visions looking back 10 years to the policy paper “Local Government and the Constitution” and the proposed new BC Communities Agenda. Copy can be found on the CivicNet web site.

Vancouver Mayor Phillip Owen welcomed delegates. The City helped sponsor the very successful Welcome Reception at the Vancouver Aquarium.

Members made good use of the Municipal Marketplace Delegate Lounge for informal meetings. Here Nanaimo’s City Council puts their heads together.

Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre was the site of the 2001 Convention. Conference facilities received a 4.1 rating.
Councillor Jim Stangier and other delegates debated “144” resolutions and two policy papers. This year’s target to complete all resolutions was met with time to spare. Disposition of resolutions can be found on CivicNet.

Waiting on the “new” technology to work. UBCM implemented for the first time a live video hookup with DND headquarters in Ottawa for the Honourable David Anderson’s address. This was just a small part of the A/V requirements. This live video feed was coordinated with less than 24 hours notice and involved coordinating two suppliers, with 2 front screen projectors, 3 TV monitors and a camera. Overall, the UBCM Convention involved a team of 5 A/V technicians who set/dismantled and sometimes reset all the microphones, speakers, mixers and projector and screens.

During his address Premier Gordon Campbell tells the story of his son’s having purchased a ticket to visit New York’s World Trade Centre on September 11th. Premier Campbell committed in his address to maintain grants to local governments in the 2002 budget. CivicNet has a copy of the Minister’s remarks.

Over 1700 delegates and others attended the Convention. Registration was 743 voting delegates, 153 non-voting delegates, 317 partners, 502 guests and observers.

One of the media scrums.

Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services.

UBCM is always pleased to honour its Life Members at the Delegate’s Luncheon. Here Honourable Graham Bruce, Minister of Labour and Skills Development chats with Don Morton (centre – UBCM President 1968-69) while Audrey Moore (right – UBCM President 1983-84) and Marilyn Baker (UBCM President 1988-89) look on.

During his address Premier Gordon Campbell tells the story of his son’s having purchased a ticket to visit New York’s World Trade Centre on September 11th. Premier Campbell committed in his address to maintain grants to local governments in the 2002 budget. CivicNet has a copy of the Minister’s remarks.
Following the Premier’s Address four Cabinet Panels were held on health, business and the economy, community & safety; and resources.

**Resources** – Honourable Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Honourable Mike De Jong, Minister of Forests, Honourable Stan Hagen, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management and Honourable John Van Dongen, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

**Community and Safety** – Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services, Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Honourable Geoff Plant, Attorney General, Councillor Lynne Kennedy, UBCM Executive.

**Business and Economy** – Honourable Gary Collins, Minister of Finance, Honourable Rick Thorpe, Minister of Competition, Science and Enterprise, Honourable Kevin Falcon, Minister of site for Deregulation, Honourable Judith Reid, Minister of Transportation.

**Health** – Honourable Sindi Haukina, Minister of Health Planning, Honourable Colin Hansen, Minister of Health Services, Honourable Katherine Whittred, Minister of State for Intermediate, Long Term and Home Care, Honourable Gulzar Cheema, Minister of State for Mental Health.

Honourable Ted Nebbeling, Minister of State for Community Charter was very involved in the convention from the two pre-conference study sessions on Monday, three sessions during Tuesday’s forums and a Wednesday afternoon plenary sessions. In all 17 hours of sessions.

Honourable David Anderson, federal Minister of Environment, hasn’t missed a UBCM Convention in recent years and this year was no exception – even if it meant going live to Ottawa. The Minister quickly left the House after Question Period, raced to DND headquarters where a live feed was waiting with President Jim Abram ready in Vancouver to introduce him. The Minister’s speech is on CivicNet.

The Convention also approved and updated Protocol on Sharing Environmental Responsibilities between the UBCM and the new Ministries of Water, Land and Air, Sustainable Resource Management and Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services. Signing were (left to right) Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, Honourable Stan Hagen, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, Robert Hobson, Chair UBCM Environment Committee, Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services.
UBCM Convention Sponsors

UBCM gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following sponsors of the 2001 UBCM Convention:

UBCM BANQUET RECEPTION & ENTERTAINMENT

BC Gas

CONVENTION KITS

BC Hydro

DELEGATES’ LUNCHEON

Credit Union Central of British Columbia

WELCOME RECEPTION

City of Vancouver

CONVENTION MESSAGE CENTRE

BC Buildings Corporation

REGIONAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTORS FORUM LUNCHEON

Municipal Finance Authority of BC

LARGE URBAN COMMUNITIES FORUM LUNCHEON

Municipal Finance Authority of BC

SMALL TALK FORUM LUNCHEON

Telus

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

ICBC

DELEGATE OFFICE SERVICES

Lidstone, Young, Anderson

DELEGATE E-MAIL SERVICES

Shaw Communications

DELEGATE’S LOUNGE

ICBC

UBCM DAILY NEWS

Staples McDannold Stewart

CONTINENTAL BREAKFASTS

Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers’ Association
Canadian Wood Council - Wood Works!
Coast Forest & Lumber Association
Council of Forest Industries
Interior Lumber Manufacturers’ Association
Northern Forest Products Association

CONVENTION PROGRAM

BC Assessment Authority
Singleton Urquhart
Pacific Blue Cross

COFFEE SERVICES

British Columbia Lottery Corporation
Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers’ Association
Canadian Wood Council - Wood Works!
Coast Forest & Lumber Association
Council of Forest Industries
Interior Lumber Manufacturers’ Association
Northern Forest Products Association

CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang
Canada Life
Municipal Insurance Association of BC
Murdy & McAllister
Urban Systems

SPECIAL THANKS TO …

Environment Canada
BC Gas – wine glasses

Over 160 exhibitors participated in the two day Municipal Marketplace. A big hit with delegates the Marketplace also included the ICBC sponsored Delegate Lounge featuring continental breakfast and coffee service.

Thanks to Cindy LeMaire and Company for the Tradeshow management. Marketing begins in January of each second year. Starting with a bare room on Tuesday night Cindy and other contractors build the entire tradeshow so that it is ready for delegate’s continental breakfast by Wednesday morning - and they are completely vacated by Thursday midnight.

Lots to see at the Marketplace.
Cooperation Agreements

UBCM Convention approved a total of seven new cooperation agreements

President Abram introducing the representatives of UBCM’s partners in the cooperation agreements. Establishing protocol agreements with these organizations was a significant goal of Jim’s presidency. After the various agreements were signed, the partner organizations briefly addressed the convention. Copies of the cooperation agreements are available on CivicNet.

Protocol on Consultation and Cooperation between the UBCM and the Health Association of British Columbia. Councillor George Peary (center), Director of HABC’s Executive Committee signs the agreement along with Director Abram and Chair Susan Gimse, Chair of the Health Committee. Two more cooperation agreements are featured on page 19.

Protocol on Consultation and Cooperation between the UBCM and the BC School Trustees Association. Gordon Comeau (center), President of the BCSTA and President Abram are signatories. Lee Southern, Executive Director of the BCSTA, witnesses the signing.

Statement of Cooperation on Environmental Matters between Environment Canada - Pacific and Yukon Region (EC PYR) and UBCM. Don Fast (center), EC-PYR Regional Director General is signing here with President Abram and Chair Robert Hobson, Chair of the Environment Committee. The Honourable David Anderson is also a signatory to the agreement.

Protocol on Consultation and Cooperation between the UBCM and the British Columbia Association of Police Boards. Mayor Wayne Hunter (center), Police Boards President is signing here with President Abram and Councillor Lynne Kennedy, Chair of the Protective Services Committee.

Protocol on Consultation and Cooperation between the UBCM and the Health Association of British Columbia. Councillor George Peary (center), Director of HABC’s Executive Committee signs the agreement along with Director Abram and Chair Susan Gimse, Chair of the Health Committee. Two more cooperation agreements are featured on page 19.

Since 1980 our firm has restricted its practice to acting for local government and providing advice concerning municipal law to other clients.
Incoming President, Hans Cunningham outlined his message to delegates on Friday morning. The text was circulated to all members.

Urban Future’s David Baxter gave a light-hearted but meaty message about the demographics and social forces facing BC – perfect for the convention theme – Reflections and Visions.

The final evening featured the Annual Banquet and Dance and included presentation of two Life Memberships and two Long Service (25 year) awards. Other social events included the YVR and Welcome Receptions on Tuesday night, the very popular Government of BC Reception hosted by the Premier and Ministers and the BC Hydro reception on Wednesday evening.

BC Gas sponsored improv comedy by Roman Danylo. Several members of the audience were called on to participate. BC Gas also sponsored the dance with the Hitmen.

Always the sign of a vital and healthy organization, there were elections for Executive positions of Third Vice President, Small Community Representative and Directors at Large. Here Director Aaron Dinwoodie gives his candidate’s speech. Thanks to all those who ran. The new Executive is introduced on page 3.

**iCompass Technologies Presents:**

**iHost**

**iHost**

iHost is a cost-effective, user-friendly, web-based service that helps local governments manage Council Information such as bylaws, minutes, reports, and manuals.

**Benefits of iHost**

- Easy to use and maintain
- No software to install
- No training required
- No IT support needed
- Powerful full text retrieval search capabilities
- No limit to the volume of information
- No need to convert documents
- Documents can be accessed by internal and external users with a web browser

iCompass Technologies Inc.
Your Information Navigator

info@icompasscanada.com
www.icompasscanada.com

250-851-9401
A number of awards were presented at various points throughout this year’s convention – some of the more pleasant duties associated with our annual meeting.

Long Service
At the 2001 UBCM Convention, President Jim Abram was pleased to present Long Service Awards in recognition of 25 years’ service to local government as a Mayor, Councillor or Director to:
- Councillor Kiichi Kumagai, City of Richmond (below-top)
- Councillor George Puil, City of Vancouver (below-bottom)

Life Memberships
- President Abram presented a Life Membership to Suzanne Veit in recognition of her service as Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, 1996 to 2001.
- President-elect Hans Cunningham presented a Life Membership to Comox-Strathcona RD Director Jim Abram in recognition of his service as UBCM President, 2000-2001.

The Executive also directed that Life Memberships be granted this year to:
- Cathy McGregor for her service as Minister of Municipal Affairs, 2000 (however, Ms. McGregor was not in attendance to receive her award); and
- Iona Campagnolo for her service to local government through the Fraser Basin Council. Ms. Campagnolo’s presentation was made at her Sept. 14, 2001 Fraser Basin retirement dinner.

Local Government Awareness Awards
Mayor Frank Leonard, Chair of the Local Government Awareness Committee and the Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services, presented the Local Government Awareness Awards for 2001. The awards presented were:
- Intermediate & Junior Student Poster Contest Awards: City of North Vancouver (accepted by Mayor Barbara Sharp); photo #1; St. Edmunds School poster winners (Junior award accepted by Krystle Bulalakaw and Intermediate by Jennifer Bantugon); photo #2
- Web Site Award (Large Community): City of Richmond (accepted by Councillor Lyn Greenhill); photo #3
- Web Site Award (Small Community): City of Revelstoke (accepted by Mayor Gail Bernacki); photo #4
- Year-Long Award: Town of Fort Nelson / Northern Rockies Regional District (accepted by Mayor Harry Clark/Chair of the Regional District); photo #5
- Month-Long/Week-Long Award: City of Chilliwack (accepted by Councillor Dorothy Kostrzewa & Councillor Mel Folkman); photo #6
- Web Site Award (Medium-Sized Community): Regional District of Nanaimo (accepted by Chair George Holme); photo #7

Photos on page 17.
Intermunicipal Business Licences: Streamlining Municipal Regulations and Improving Service to Business

Contributed by David Duke, Business Licence Inspector, District of Saanich

I have been the Business Licence Inspector for the Municipality of Saanich for 25 years. The two most-often-asked questions concerning the regulation of business were: “Why do I have to buy 13 business licences to work in Greater Victoria as a contractor?” and... “Why do all 13 municipalities have different rates for the same type of business?” My standard answer was always, “Sorry, that’s just the way it is when there are so many municipalities in one regional area.”

Our Mayor, Frank Leonard, received a letter in late fall of 1997 to attend the “Grand Opening” in late fall of 1997 to attend the “Grand Opening” of the Trail/Rossland area and felt the four Western Regional Districts should be good for the four core municipalities of Saanich, Victoria, Oak Bay and Esquimalt that we could reduce red tape and business startup costs by entering into a trading area agreement that would permit certain types of “service providers” to purchase just one licence for a nominal fee from the municipality in which they are located, which would allow them to operate within all municipalities participating in the agreement. At the moment, just the four of us. Several meetings and many months later we had begun drafting an agreement to present to our respective Councils. In January of 1999, we were contacted by the District of Langford advising they had heard of our attempts and felt the four Western Communities municipalities would also benefit from such an agreement. It didn’t take long for the peninsula municipalities to join in and by March we had each prepared our first reports to our Counsills recommending they approve the proposed “Intermunicipal Business Licence Agreement” in principle. The principle being, of course, that they would each support an agreement that would negate the current requirement for service providers to purchase numerous business licences in order to operate throughout Greater Victoria, a better purchase one licence at a nominal fee of $100 from their resident municipality, resulting in considerable potential cost savings and greater convenience to businesses. At the same time it would enhance the OneStop program by providing a computerized, standard business licence application form which could be issued province-wide.

On July 14th, 1999, nine mayors from the Greater Victoria region gathered together for a joint signing of the Intermunicipal Business Licence Agreement. Bylaw amendments were then made by each participant and the Agreement became effective January 1, 2000. All thirteen municipalities in the Greater Victoria area are now participants in this agreement. I should mention that we have received letters of support from the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, Business Victoria and the Small Business Branch of the Ministry of Competition, Science and Enterprise, as well as numerous letters and telephone calls from independent contractors and service providers operating in Greater Victoria.

This entire project would not have been possible had we not had the overwhelming support of our respective mayors and councillors during these past two or three years. I advised Saanich Council at the onset of a possible drop in revenues (approx. $12,500) due to the loss of more than 100 non-resident clients; however, that concern paled in comparison to the desire to reduce red tape, and basically do what is right and fair for the business community. Now that I am currently budgeting for 2002, I can confirm that we did not suffer any loss of revenue. In fact, we gained nearly 200 more clients who quietly informed me that they now wanted to become “legal” because it was such a good deal.

Not being one to “let sleeping dogs lie,” in the summer of 2000 I embarked on addressing the second most-asked question about the variety of fees applied to all of the commercial and home based businesses throughout Greater Victoria. While I have not been as successful with this latest initiative, I have managed to have three (and hopefully six by the end of the year) of the thirteen municipal councils pass by-law amendments to standardize business licence fees throughout Greater Victoria. The Standardized Fees will come into effect on January 1, 2002 in Saanich, Langford and Sidney.

While contemplating retirement next year, I needed a sense of accomplishment. In April of this year, I became the first municipal recipient of a provincial Public Service Award in the Partnership Category. It was a Gold Award for “Excellence in Championing the Province’s OneStop Business Registration Initiative at the municipal level, streamlining business registration in the Capital Regional District by reducing 250 fee categories to four – combining 13 different licences into a single intermunicipal licence, and sparking similar service-first thinking across B.C.”

Working Together Enterprises

Martin Thomas

628 Battery Street, Victoria, BC V8V 1E5
Tel: (250) 361-3766 • Fax: (250) 361-3750
Email: mthomas@islandnet.com
Three cooperation agreements signed at convention assist on aboriginal issues

A T THE 2001 Convention, the membership endorsed UBCM Cooperation Agreements with two federal departments and five organizations as the basis for relationship building. Three of these agreements relate directly to Aboriginal matters:

- The Memorandum of Understanding on Communication and Information Sharing with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, BC Region;
- The Protocol on Cooperation and Communication with the First Nations Summit;
- The Agreement on Communications and Cooperation with the Lands Advisory Board, (BC Chiefs).

The agreements recognize the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties in promoting the sharing of information and encourage both parties to work together on areas of mutual interest. Signed copies of the first two of these three Agreements are posted on the UBCM’s website (www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca) and have been sent to all Treaty Advisory Committees. The Agreement with the Lands Advisory Board has been agreed to by the BC Chiefs in principle and awaits approval and signature by each of the five First Nations involved (Lheidli T’enneh, Musqueam, N’Quatqua, Squamish and Westbank).

The UBCM’s Aboriginal Affairs Committee will be working to implement the objectives of all three agreements (see below) over the coming months.

General Objectives

FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT PROTOCOL

- Promote understanding of the interests of First Nations and local governments in a province-wide context, including through inclusion of the Parties in each other’s events wherever appropriate;
- Provide notice of actions to achieve changes in provincial and federal policy and regulations;
- Provide opportunities for relationship building between First Nations and local governments, such as through an annual Community to Community Forum, which allow dialogue between community leaders on areas of common interest including economic development, natural resource management, efficient and affordable service delivery and cooperative land use planning; and
- Encourage dispute avoidance and promote effective methods of resolving disputes between First Nations and local governments without resorting to the courts.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS MOU

- to promote the successful and timely conclusion of agreements (see below)
New Energy Aware Tool Kit arriving soon

Municipal councils and staff will be receiving the new Community Energy Planning Tool Kit on their doorstep within the next month. The new tool kit, produced by BC Energy Aware, is a composite of three documents, each of them updated and expanded since the first edition of 1997. It is chock full of information to assist communities in making decisions and plans that will increase the community’s energy efficiency and conserve resources, save money and reduce harmful air emissions.

The three-volume set includes the Introduction, Energy Ideas and Case Studies. The Introduction provides an overview of Community Energy Planning and a rationale for it in the BC context. It also includes a broad discussion of the social, economic and environmental issues and pressures that make community energy planning both a priority and a challenge for BC communities.

Cooperation

Treaty negotiations in BC:
• to support relationship building initiatives between First Nations and local governments;
• to promote and facilitate partnership opportunities and capacity building initiatives between First Nations and local governments;
• to promote effective dispute resolution mechanisms between First Nations and local government; and,
• to support good governance, efficient service delivery, prosperous economies and healthy communities.

Road Blocks

The Committee reminded the Ministers that road blocks are particularly burdensome for the local area, causing hardship to industries and affecting communities financially. They shared members’ concerns about co-determination of the province or police response with local government and the need for a better approach to efficiently addressing and resolving roadblocks by First Nations groups. Minister Dinwoodie advised that Provincial ministers and agencies do attempt to work with local governments in these cases. The first point of contact is the Aboriginal Relations Branch in the Treaty Negotiations Office and the UBCM office is following up with this branch to provide contacts for members.

Funding for Adjustment to Treaty Impacts

A commitment to “Adjustment funding” for municipalities and individuals adversely affected by treaty settlements was included in a 1993 Memorandum of Understanding between the federal and provincial governments. Policy and criteria related to adjustment funding have never been developed. The Committee expressed members’ concerns that treaty settlements may cause loss of property tax revenues, inability to service debt or maintain service levels, loss of job opportunities and tension at a regional level and lack of policy and criteria related to adjustment funding. The Ministers responded that municipalities should consider that a positive injection of money into a local economy may result, that the Niiga’s agreement has not so far included compensation, that the province is committed to avoiding the need for compensation as a basic principle.

Working Together on Treaty and non-Treaty Issues

The Ministers agreed to continue working with the UBCM under the terms of the Sub-Agreement on Aboriginal Issues using a revised agenda reflecting current priorities of both parties. Staff have jointly prepared an update to the workplan so as to continue working toward shared priorities including relationship building initiatives between First Nations and local governments.

At the conclusion of the meeting with the Ministers, the Aboriginal Affairs Committee reiterated local governments’ support for treaty negotiations with First Nations and their investment in the process to date through participation in advisory committees including TNAC, TACs and RACs. The need for certainty over the land base by BC communities remains a pressing one and the Committee expressed the hope that treaty negotiations would move forward as rapidly and as soon as possible.

Bill 55

In a meeting arranged by Randy Havens, MLA and facilitated by UBCM a number of members met with Honourable George Abbott (MCAWS) to discuss the possibility of revisiting aspects of Bill 55 – the controversial and universally disliked initiative on railway assessment and taxation introduced and pushed through under the previous administration. There was recognition that if there were to be any changes, railway competitiveness and a predictable taxation regime must be preserved. A report to the UBCM Executive will determine the next steps.

MUNICIPAL councils and staff will be receiving the new Community Energy Planning Tool Kit on their doorstep within the next month. The new tool kit, produced by BC Energy Aware, is a composite of three documents, each of them updated and expanded since the first edition of 1997. It is chock full of information to assist communities in making decisions and plans that will increase the community’s energy efficiency and conserve resources, save money and reduce harmful air emissions.

The three-volume set includes the Introduction, Energy Ideas and Case Studies. The Introduction provides an overview of Community Energy Planning and a rationale for it in the BC context. It also includes a broad discussion of the social, economic and environmental issues and pressures that make community energy planning both a priority and a challenge for BC communities.

Treaty negotiations in BC:
• to support relationship building initiatives between First Nations and local governments;
• to promote and facilitate partnership opportunities and capacity building initiatives between First Nations and local governments;
• to promote effective dispute resolution mechanisms between First Nations and local government; and,
• to support good governance, efficient service delivery, prosperous economies and healthy communities.

Road Blocks

The Committee reminded the Ministers that road blocks are particularly burdensome for the local area, causing hardship to industries and affecting communities financially. They shared members’ concerns about co-determination of the province or police response with local government and the need for a better approach to efficiently addressing and resolving roadblocks by First Nations groups. Minister Dinwoodie advised that Provincial ministers and agencies do attempt to work with local governments in these cases. The first point of contact is the Aboriginal Relations Branch in the Treaty Negotiations Office and the UBCM office is following up with this branch to provide contacts for members.

Funding for Adjustment to Treaty Impacts

A commitment to “Adjustment funding” for municipalities and individuals adversely affected by treaty settlements was included in a 1993 Memorandum of Understanding between the federal and provincial governments. Policy and criteria related to adjustment funding have never been developed. The Committee expressed members’ concerns that treaty settlements may cause loss of property tax revenues, inability to service debt or maintain service levels, loss of job opportunities and tension at a regional level and lack of policy and criteria related to adjustment funding. The Ministers responded that municipalities should consider that a positive injection of money into a local economy may result, that the Niiga’s agreement has not so far included compensation, that the province is committed to avoiding the need for compensation as a basic principle.

Working Together on Treaty and non-Treaty Issues

The Ministers agreed to continue working with the UBCM under the terms of the Sub-Agreement on Aboriginal Issues using a revised agenda reflecting current priorities of both parties. Staff have jointly prepared an update to the workplan so as to continue working toward shared priorities including relationship building initiatives between First Nations and local governments.

At the conclusion of the meeting with the Ministers, the Aboriginal Affairs Committee reiterated local governments’ support for treaty negotiations with First Nations and their investment in the process to date through participation in advisory committees including TNAC, TACs and RACs. The need for certainty over the land base by BC communities remains a pressing one and the Committee expressed the hope that treaty negotiations would move forward as rapidly and as soon as possible.

Bill 55

In a meeting arranged by Randy Havens, MLA and facilitated by UBCM a number of members met with Honourable George Abbott (MCAWS) to discuss the possibility of revisiting aspects of Bill 55 – the controversial and universally disliked initiative on railway assessment and taxation introduced and pushed through under the previous administration. There was recognition that if there were to be any changes, railway competitiveness and a predictable taxation regime must be preserved. A report to the UBCM Executive will determine the next steps.

Continued from page 19
“A Rescue from the Amending Process”

by Eli Mina, P.R.P.

It needs to be looked beyond rules of order. It needs to be, for an end in themselves. They should facilitate progress while protecting basic rights. They should not have the effect of frustrating, confusing or intimidating people, or slowing down progress (as they may do in the example at the start of this article).

How might the Mayor deal with the scenario at the start of this article? The overall goal should be to make the decision making process clear, simple, logical, inclusive and efficient. Here is an example of how the Mayor might say:

"Before we get involved with amendments and amendments to amendments, I suggest we set everything aside for the time being, and have an informal discussion first. We could discuss the following questions in a logical order:

1. The first question is: Do we want to pursue this project at all? We need to discuss this question first, before we start talking about amendments. If this discussion leads us to conclude that there isn’t a majority in favor of this project under any conditions, then we can wave ourselves time by not discussing any amendments.
2. On the other hand, if it becomes clear that a majority is in support of this project, but is not comfortable with the terms of agreement and the approval schedule, we can then discuss the next question: What terms of this agreement would be acceptable to us? What schedules would be comfortable?
3. After we conclude the informal discussion, we could frame our consensus as a motion, and then move, second, debate and vote on it."

"Is Council in agreement with this process, that is starting with the general idea, and only then discussing the details? Is there any objection to setting everything aside for now and starting with an informal discussion, without any amendments for now? Thank you."

The impact of the above approach will likely be a big sigh of relief (at least for some). Councillors will debate the main issues freely and without being distracted, restricted and confused by the amending process. The citizens in the public gallery will likely understand the process much better. Time will be saved and agony will be reduced.

"BITT," you might say, "This does not follow Robert’s Rules of Order to the letter." And you would be absolutely right. So here is a phrase for you from page 243 of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR, 2000 edition):

"In ordinary meetings it is unsatisfactory to raise points of order in minor irregularities of a purely technical character, if it is clear that no one’s rights are being infringed upon and no real harm is done to the proper transaction of business."

Further, RONR page 440 states:

"The president should never be technical or more strict than is necessary for the good of the meeting. Good judgment is essential: that quality may be of such a nature, through its unfamiliarity with parliamentary usage and its peaceable disposition, that strict enforcement of the rules, instead of ossifying, would greatly hinder business."

The message? Stop nitpicking and don’t insist on a "picture-perfect" meeting (procedurally, that is). Just make sure that business gets done properly, that members are included in the decision making process, and that basic rights are respected. Pay attention to the principles, much more so than the purely technical rules.

In closing

When chairing or participating in a meeting, consider the rules of order as a means to an end, and not an end in itself. If used well, rules of order will advance fundamental goals and principles. They will help your Council spend its time well and make good decisions on behalf of the community. So don’t let the rules become the master and the primary focus for the meeting. Always put "the heart of the project" (the principles) before "the cart" (the rules).
A most of the B.C. Municipal Family is already aware, Jim Craven will retire from the position of Executive Director and I will take on that position after December 31, 2001. We have retained Jim’s services for at least the next year to work on some special projects that are of interest to us all.

The MFA will continue to be vitally linked to all members, their problems and possible solutions, and will work hand-in-hand with Jim on these projects. Due to the current economic crunch, bank pullouts, etc, it is anticipated that Jim’s experience and freedom of movement will allow the MFA to be very responsive in these situations. We want to be proactive in regard to the existing and upcoming problems.

These projects include the finalization of the First Authority of BC project, involving debt structuring (if appropriate) that will be tailor made for each city or town. With my staff to bring forward technical solutions and strategies that appear to have worked very well already in some B.C. towns. I have instructed Jim to serve some strategies that seem to be effective in these instances.

However, along with the bad news is the good news that some solutions are at hand. We have already observed some strategies that appear to have worked very well already in some B.C. towns. I have instructed Jim to assemble a ‘tool kit’ of such strategies and the personnel that have proven to be effective in these instances.

Our intention is to assemble a kit of such resources and ‘take it on the road’ making it available to our members. Jim is well-equipped to facilitate such gatherings out there in your region and I will also work with my staff to bring forward technical solutions involving debt structuring (if appropriate) that will be tailor made for each city or town.

If your community would like to be included in such a strategy session please register this interest with the MFABC and Jim will contact you shortly to arrange a suitable time slot, sometime in the year 2002. It will take place in your community and can involve as many people as you wish.

We are delighted to offer this service to our members, in the hope that by working together and sharing strategies and information we can emerge from this trying period even stronger than we are today.

**MFA Fall Issues**

This fall we launched two issues, one on October 2, 2001 and one on November 1, 2001. The first issue was our regular issue and the latter a special issue for the City of Kelowna. With both of these issues we took advantage of the low rates that are available for shorter terms. For the October issue we reopened our 1996 issue and our 2001 issue to achieve an overall lower rate for our borrowers. For the Kelowna issue, part was financed by reopening our 2001 issue, as well as a new one-year issue. This combination also allowed us to yield a lower rate than a conventional new 10-year issue.

**Dates to Remember:**

- **Financial Forum 2002**
  - Tuesday, March 26, 2002
  - Victoria Conference Centre

- **Annual Meeting 2002**
  - Wednesday, March 27, 2002
  - Victoria Conference Centre

- **Request for C of A’s to Ministry by**
  - Wednesday, February 27, 2002

- **RHD Requests to MFA by**
  - Monday, March 4, 2002

---

**BC Assessment**

**Survey Plans Online**

- 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 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

---

**MFA workshops: Is your community interested?**

Steve Berna – Director of Finance

This is work we have been involved in prior to 2002 but with a rising tide of individual ‘economic challenges’ coming up this year we feel it makes good sense to devote some specific attention and personnel to this area.

Over the past few years international markets have dealt a severe blow to a number of our members—from timber towns on Vancouver Island and the Central Coast to the coal fields of the Kootenays and the North Eastern part of the province.

Recent pulp and paper and sawmill events in the North West, revolving around Skeena Cellulose and the effect that has had on Prince Rupert, Port Edward, Terrace and the Hazeltons, seem to be compounding the problem. Powell River, Port Alberni, and other cities are also facing some sober realities as their plants scale down.

However, along with the bad news is the good news that some solutions are at hand. We have already observed some strategies that appear to have worked very well already in some B.C. towns. I have instructed Jim to assemble a ‘tool kit’ of such strategies and the personnel that have proven to be effective in these instances.

Our intention is to assemble a kit of such resources and ‘take it on the road’ making it available to our members. Jim is well-equipped to facilitate such gatherings out there in your region and I will also work with my staff to bring forward technical solutions involving debt structuring (if appropriate) that will be tailor made for each city or town.
Experts of Notes of an address by Honourable Geoff Plant, Attorney General at Attending Legal Education Advocacy Conference, November 16, 2001

Specifically, today I want to spend some time talking about civil process and civil liability, and the relationship between the ideal of justice and the practical imperative of affordability.

The legal landscape is in a state of constant flux, as the boundaries of traditional legal principles expand to embrace new facts. These shifts have tended to favour increased liability, and in particular, solvents.

For whatever reason, we seem to be aware of the implications of these shifts, perhaps because our natural tendency is to identify with plaintiffs rather than defendants. But damages awarded against the solvent are eventually paid in one way or another by all of us, whether as consumers, as taxpayers, or as charitable donors, or even as church-goers.

In recent years, there has been an expansion in the liability rules that apply to governmental entities, as an upward trend in civil damage awards. These trends have had an impact on government levels. Municipalities face the rising costs of lawsuits and, more importantly, the increasing inspection functions. The provincial and federal governments have seen a similar expansion in liability flowing from the exercise of their statutory powers in areas such as highway maintenance, child protection, and financial regulation.

Today government is named as a party in forty percent of all litigation commenced in court in British Columbia. For example, the average number of cases commenced against the province in the year 1996 was 123. The average number of cases commenced against the federal government has more than tripled, to 383 cases per year.

The cost to government—and thus to taxpayers—of this expansion in liability is now significant. In 1995, the government of British Columbia, for example, began an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, which may not be a general policy of municipalities.

In conclusion, to paraphrase Dr. J. T. F. West, "We have met the beginning and we are doing our best. It is time to adopt a policy of compromise and cooperation in all the various phases of the struggle for a better means of solving conflict in the community."

Municipal government officials interested in improving their negotiation skills can learn how to do so in a special three-day course being offered at Royal Roads University February 3-5, 2002.

Tailored to meet the needs of municipal government officials, this course will show officials how to manage and resolve problems more effectively.

More information can be obtained at http://www.royalroads.ca/CP/Parents/curriculum/3-01/CCS3000.html or 250-391-2654.
The Provincial Health Office released an annual report on water quality entitled “Drinking Water Quality in British Columbia: The Public Health Perspective”. In the report the Provincial Health Officer points out that there are “more than 3,000 public and community water systems under provincial jurisdiction and 468 First Nations water systems under federal jurisdiction” and that about 76% of the drinking water comes from surface water (lakes, rivers, streams), with the remainder coming from groundwater sources.

The report indicates that in 2001 “304 communities in B.C. or ten percent of the water systems, were under boil-water advisories as a result of fecal or total coliform bacteria in water samples.” The majority of these advisories were for small water systems which had little or no treatment.

The report notes that “better protection and management of the land that surrounds the water source will protect and improve the quality of water at the tap.” The Provincial Health Officers suggests, however, that to ensure that safe drinking water is maintained will require increased investments in filtration and other advanced forms of water treatment. The best way to ensure safe drinking water at the consumer’s tap is to adopt a multi-barrier approach (source protection, treatment, safeguarding during storage and distribution; monitoring the standards at the tap).

The report makes 32 recommendations overall to improve water quality in the province. The 5 priority actions identified in the report are:

1. Provide legislative authority that establishes drinking water as the priority water use;
2. Establish different levels of regulation, depending on the size of the water system and the population served;
3. Establish – either through legislation or administrative policy – a lead ministry to co-ordinate water quality issues;
4. Require microbiological treatment standards:
   a) incorporate treatment standards into the operating permits of water systems;
   b) set a minimum level of treatment to be met in all water treatment systems;
   c) develop a consistent set of guidelines for use by medical health officers to determine when additional treatment may be required.
5. Establish a standard set of performance measures along with methods for public reporting on the quality of British Columbia’s drinking water and the performance of drinking water systems.