Liquor policy changes underway

The provincial government has approved new liquor regulations which will allow the following:

- Existing liquor establishments to expand their licensed capacity by the building/fire code, with local government approval;
- Restaurants to have a limited area where patrons can be served liquor without having to consume food, with local government approval;
- Enforcement measures to be changed to ensure that there is an ongoing record of liquor infractions, such that problem establishments can be clearly identified and measures taken to address these issues, and an independent monitoring program has been created to deal with alleged liquor licensing violations in a timely manner.

Under the new regulations, local government will be asked to review and comment on requests by local liquor establishments for capacity increases and by restaurants for serving liquor without food. The local government will be asked to pass a resolution taking into consideration the “public interest” from the community’s perspective. This may include such factors as the traffic, noise, road access, availability of parking, the general impact on the community of an increase in person capacity (i.e. number of liquor licensees in the area, alcohol problems in the community, policing concerns etc.) and any other matters it considers relevant.

The final decision on whether or not to issue a license will be made by the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB), however, it is very unlikely that a local government recommendation will be overridden unless there are issues of fairness or due process in how the local government has dealt with the applicant. The LCLB, if it chooses to alter the local government recommendation, is required to undertake public hearings in the community.

Local government will have the ability to recover the costs of reviewing requests for changes in liquor licenses in the community under this new process. Each local government will need to determine what fee is appropriate to charge for under-taking these reviews, if any, and whether or not it will need to amend its current bylaws in order to recover the costs of these reviews.

Building 21st century infrastructure through encouraging the use of best technologies, new approaches and best practices. The Management Committee is comprised of two representatives each from federal, provincial and local governments.

The UBCM President and Executive Director have been nominated by the Executive to represent local government. UBCM’s role has been to help finalize the application procedures and ranking criteria.

The ministry also provides a wide variety of other services to support the work of local governments. Some of these include providing gas and electrical permits over the Internet, and public education around juvenile fire setters through the Fire Commissioner’s Office. We continue to look at new ideas to help communities build on their strengths.

In the coming months, I will be attending regional UBCM meetings and look forward to meeting with many of you then, and I am always available to discuss matters either at my office in Victoria or by telephone.

Working together, I believe we can provide the best possible services for your communities and the people we serve.

Honourable Jim Doyle was appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs on November 1, 2000. Mr. Doyle previously served as Minister of Forests from February 2000 to November 2000, and as Minister of Municipal Affairs from July 1999 to February 2000.

Mr. Doyle was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1991, representing the riding of Columbia River-Revelstoke. Before being elected to the Legislature, he served on Golden’s council for 14 years, the last nine years as Mayor.

It is a pleasure to be working with you again, to continue the collaborative relationship that exists between the Province, the UBCM and local governments.

One of the more recent results of our joint efforts is the new infrastructure program, the Infrastructure Canada-British Columbia Partnership. This program, which was negotiated with the help of the UBCM Executive, will greatly add to the resources you need as local governments.

As with our existing programs, local governments will identify most of the water quality and sewer projects that need funding from the five-year program. We expect to send the application packages to you before the end of January. Supporting local infrastructure, particularly work to protect the environment and ensure safe drinking water for your community, continues to be a key priority of this government.

In other program areas, ministry staff continue to work with local governments to implement the new Local Government Act. The reforms of the past three years have provided you with broader decision making powers and more options on how to deliver and pay for community services.

In the coming months, I will be attending regional UBCM meetings and look forward to meeting with many of you then, and I am always available to discuss matters either at my office in Victoria or by telephone.
I hope that all of you had a great holiday season with family and friends and we are well rested and ready for a very busy and challenging New Year.

Each year during the Christmas season we all hear lots of talk about peace on earth and good will towards our fellow travelers in life. I have heard it said before that it would be nice if we could do that than just during the Christmas season. I would like to echo that thought. Not just for peace and goodwill, but working in harmony in support of common goals, understanding how much good we as local government leaders can do for our communities, our province, our country and our world if we just stay focused and use our leadership skills for the common good.

We face a very chaotic year, with provincial elections looming on the horizon. We cannot let this distract us from our very political and non-partisan agendas. No matter what party forms the next provincial government, we will go on and we as local government leaders will be at the forefront throughout the year.

I hope that as your president, I will be able to work with my executive to strengthen our relationships with the federal government, the provincial government, the opposition and with my executive to strengthen our relationships with the federal government, the provincial government, the opposition and with each other. I also hope that we will work more closely with our universities, the many organizations such as the Fraser Basin Council, and the many non-governemntal organizations and environmental organizations that have so much to share with us.

I expect that we will work very closely with our First Nations neighbours, both within and outside of treaty discussions. To this end we will be hosting, along with the First Nation Summit, the second provincial wide “Community to Community Forum” on March 6, 2001. As treaties are settled I believe that we will be able to enjoy the certainty that comes with those treaties, both socially and economically, and we will all benefit from the huge cash infusion into our communities as a result of that settlement.

When I took office in Octob-

I have been providing input and advice to the Minister on the proposed gaming legislation and overall gaming policy. Councillor Kostkowsky also played a principle role in the establishment of the Arts, Culture, Heritage and Tourism Committee of the UBCM Executive. As an active member of Executive, Councillor Kostkowsky also served as a member of the Member Services Committee.

As President of the North Central Municipal Association, Mayor Blair Lekstrom served as that Area Association’s representative on the Executive for the past year. As a member of the Communities and Resources, Local Government Awareness Committee and BC Rail Task Force, Mayor Lekstrom provided a valuable contribution to the Executive. As the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Municipalities, Aboriginal Affairs Committee representative on the Executive, Mayor Arno Hennig served as a member of the Member Services Committee. As an active member of the Communities and Resources, Local Government Awareness Committee, Mayor Lekstrom provided a valuable contribution to the Executive.

The executive had very heavy responsibilities this year, but much was accom-

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Your UBCM Executive

UBCM Executive Welcomes New Members

We are pleased to introduce your 2000-2001 UBCM Executive. We are welcoming the following new members to the Executive: Mayor Alice Maitland, Small Community Representative; Councillor Bert Banks, Association of Kootenay Boundary Municipalities; Councillor Marvin Hunt, Lower Mainland Municipal Association; Councillor Dan Rogers, North Central Municipalities Association; Councillor Ida Makaro, Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association; Mayor Pearl Myhres, Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities; and Councillor Bruce Strachan, Director at Large.

Mayor Steve Thorlakson, Past President
City of Fort St. John

Director Jim Abram, President
Comox-Strathcona RD

Mayor Hans Cunningham, First Vice-President
Central Kootenay RD

Chair Hans Cunningham,
First Vice-President
Central Kootenay RD

Director Aaron Dinwoodie, Director at Large
Central Okanagan RD

Councillor Patricia Wallace, Second Vice-President
City of Kamloops

Chair Susan Gimse, Electoral Area Representative
Squamish-Lillooet RD

Mayor Pearl Myhres, Assn. of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
Village of Zeballos

Councillor Marvin Hunt, Lower Mainland Municipal Association
City of Prince George

Councillor Bert Banks, Association of Kootenay & Boundary Municipalities
City of Kimberley

Mayor Alice Maitland, Small Community Representative
Village of Hazelton

Councillor Dan Rogers, North Central Municipalities Association
City of Prince George

Councillor Bert Banks,
Association of Kootenay & Boundary Municipalities
City of Kimberley

Councillor Ida Makaro, Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association
Village of Cache Creek

Mayor Frank Leonard, Third Vice-President
District of Saanich

Councillor Bruce Strachan, Director at Large
City of Prince George

Mayor Steve Thorlakson, Past President
City of Fort St. John

Mayor Corinne Lonsdale, Director at Large
District of Squamish

Councillor Lyne Kennedy, Vancouver Representative
City of Vancouver

Mayor Barbara Sharp, Director at Large
City of North Vancouver

Mayor Helen Sparkes, GVRD Representative
City of New Westminster

Mayor Alice Maitland, Small Community Representative
Village of Hazelton

Councillor Ida Makaro, Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association
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Mayor Barbara Sharp, Director at Large
City of North Vancouver

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CivicNet Update

CivicNet is a UBCM Member Service website that provides:
- access to information on 182 municipalities (cities, districts, towns, villages) & regional districts and the associations of BC local government;
- links to provincial, federal, and other information sources of particular interest to BC local government;
- 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.
- UBCM staff are continuously updating the CivicNet website and following are some new items that have been recently added:
  - Updated Fact Sheets
  - UBCM News – March, June, September 2000 Issues
  - Highlights of the October, 2000 Executive Meeting.

Survey of Planning Fees and Charges: April 2000
Recent Member Releases and In the House releases
Member List (now 190 members with a direct link to their website) and
over 90 links to international, Canadian, U.S., national, provincial, associated groups and miscellaneous sites.

Future items to be posted to the website include:
- 2001 Local Government Awareness Program
- 2001 Annual Report and Minutes
- 2001 Conversion Policy Papers
- UBCM staff are continuously updating the CivicNet website and following are some new items that have been recently added:
  - 2001 Local Government Awareness Program
  - 2000 Annual Report and Minutes
  - 2001 Conversion Policy Papers
- If you would like additional information regarding the website, please contact Barbara Ingamells, Manager, Member Services at Email: barbara@ubcm.org. Access the CivicNet website at the following address http://www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca.

Count Yourself In!
May 15, 2001 is Census Day in Canada. Many significant economic and social decisions hinge on Census data. Census data are used for:
- Determine transfer payments from the federal government to provinces
- Determine government funding of critical areas like health, post-secondary education and old-age security
- Support medical and academic research
- Allocate seats in parliament

UBCM is again planning to award provincial winners for the Student Essay Award and the Student Poster Award. So remember to send us your winning student submissions, along with your annual municipal program submission.

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We also remind you that we will once again be asking for nominations for the Best Local Government Internet Web Site. The criteria will also be included in the kits sent out and notification sent specifically to your information systems coordinators. If your local government has a web site to be proud of, then please tell us about it. We also remind those that have previously made submissions to try again. The sites change so much every year and deserve a fresh look.

For those wishing to get a head start on planning their 2001 program, the information kit and nomination forms for 2000 can be found on CivicNet at: http://www.civicnet.gov.bc.ca/civicnetawards_2000.html. The 2000 deadline for submitting nominations for the annual reports, 10 years of resolutions, surveys and other UBCM information sources, etc. will be extended.

Census Canada is looking for help to promote the census and encourage earlier and faster public response. This would help reduce the taxpayer supported cost of conducting the Census. If your community would like to participate by ordering and distributing census products, please call Margaret Gracie (604) 666-8846 for more information or check the Statistics Canada website: www.statcan.ca.

Local Government Planners and Wall Calendars
Have you ordered your supply of 2001 Pocket Planners and Wall Calendars? There’s still time to order. Simply fax this order form to UBCM (604) 270-9116.

2% Increase in UBCM Dues
The UBCM determined in July 2000 that they should budget for 2% increase in member dues for 2001. This is the 12th year in the last 20 years that UBCM has had a membership dues increase. Based on a 1982 benchmark, UBCM dues increases remain below what they would have been 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.

Taxes on 2001 Local Government Awareness Program
This year UBCM is again planning to award provincial winners for the Student Essay Award and the Student Poster Award. So remember to send us your winning student submissions, along with your annual municipal program submission.

We also remind you that we will once again be asking for nominations for the Best Local Government Internet Web Site. The criteria will also be included in the kits sent out and notification sent specifically to your information systems coordinators. If your local government has a web site to be proud of, then please tell us about it. We also remind those that have previously made submissions to try again. The sites change so much every year and deserve a fresh look.

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New implementation products unveiled at UBCM Convention

Several new products for implementing the new legislation were introduced at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs at the UBCM convention. At the “Guide to New Local Act Legislation” session, three explanatory guides were distributed: Municipalities and Regional Districts Act, Regional Districts and the New Local Government Act, and the New Local Government Act. These guides were developed to assist local government and the public in using the new Act. The guides include a comprehensive summary of changes introduced in Bills 31, 88 and 14 resulting in the New Local Government Act. Copies of the guides were distributed in December to all municipalities and regional districts and are available at http://www.mar.gov.bc.ca/LEGPOLICY/MAR/ on the Internet.

A revised version of the Development Cost Charges (DCC) Best Practices Guide is now also available. Changes since its initial publication in 1997 include:

• a circular on park land dedication
• a description of Municipality Liaison Committees and Urban Development Institute (UDI) confidentiality agreements that would meet Ministry requirements of a DCC bylaw minor amendment dealing with inflation;
• an example of inflation adjustment assumptions and calculations that would meet Ministry requirements of a DCC bylaw minor amendment dealing with inflation;
• a description of the provincial municipal experience to date calculating multi-family residential DCCs on the basis of the square footage of dwelling units (the floor space option) rather than on the basis of the number of dwelling units (the estimated development potential or development unit option); and
• legislative changes including a change in name to Local Government Act.

This guide is available at http://www.mar.gov.bc.ca/GROWTH/ (see publications) on the Internet.

Planning and Land Use Management

Bill 14 (2000) made a number of changes to the land use planning sections of the Local Government Act. The majority of these come into effect on January 1, 2001. In late October, an explanatory circular and 10 new bulletins were mailed to all Municipal and Regional District Planning Directors. The planning and land use bulletins (Using the New Local Government Act, section G) may be downloaded from the Ministry’s web at http://www.mar.gov.bc.ca/LEGPOLICY/MAR/URMA/urma9.htm on the Internet.

Specific topic titles are:

A New Focus for Official Community Plans (OCPs)
The new planning provisions include changes at both the local and provincial levels. What is highlighted is clearer direction on provincial interest, earlier consultation at the front end of planning processes and less provincial intervention at the end of the planning processes. Instead of being restricted to traditional land use, the new OCP purpose statement can be broader, consistent with this new definition: “statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management.”

Provincial Policy Guidelines

The Ministry is developing two types of policy guidelines: a strategic policy guideline and an interest-specific policy guideline. The strategic policy guideline will contain broad statements of provincial land use interests that local government must consider when developing an OCP (and/or a regional growth strategy). Interest-specific guidelines will provide more detailed guidance to local government about particular provincial interests, such as urban fringe and municipal boundary issues.

Improved Consultation

When developing, amending or repealing an OCP, local government will be required to provide one or more opportunities for consultation with all persons, organizations and authorities it intends to consult.

Municipal Pension Plan Joint Management Agreement

The major current responsibility of the UBCM Member Services Committee, which is chaired by Mayor Frank Leonard, is the potential implementation of the Municipal Pension Plan (MPP) Joint Trusteeship Negotiations. At the recent 2000 UBCM Convention, delegates considered the report entitled Municipal Pension Plan Joint Trusteeship and Proposed Joint Management Agreement and approved the following recommendations:

#1: UBCM convention in full authorize the President to enter into a joint trusteeship to manage the Municipal Pension Plans as set out under Part 2 of Schedule B of the Public Sector Pension Plan.

#2: Approve the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) and to the approval of the final legal document by the Members Services Committee and the Table Officers, which follows those same principles, the President of UBCM be authorized to sign the necessary documents as set out under recommendation #1 and confirming the implementation date for the Trusteed Board.

#3: That the above be subject to the province providing the necessary protection to the signatories, such as legislation, and that all conditions to enter into the plan are completed.

#4: That the Table Officers be authorized to select:

• the two UBCM trusted board members of the MPP

Trusted Board,
• the alternate UBCM trusted board member of the MPP

Trusted Board,
• the two alternate UBCM trusted board members of the MPP

Trusted Board, and
• the exempt trusted board member, and that the selected individuals be ratified by the UBCM Executive.

#5: That with respect to a phase in rates, the increase in employer contribution rates resulting from rate reform be phased in over a maximum three year period, in a formula approved by the Table Officers and the Members Services Committee.

When the UBCM delegates approved the above five recommendations they in effect ratified the JMA and Joint Trusteeship of the MPP. We are currently waiting for the ratification of the JMA by all parties involved, including the Municipal Employees Pension Committee (MEPC), Health Employers’ Association of B.C. (HEABC) and the provincial government. Until the JMA is ratified by all parties, the implementation of Joint Trusteeship for the MPP is on hold. If all parties ratify the agreement by early 2001, then the implementation and effective date of Joint Trusteeship will likely take place in 2001.

A Century of Solutions

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

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Daniel Bennett  604-4882  dbennett@ibt.com
James Goulden  641-4925  james@ibt.com
John Haythorne  641-4898  john@ibt.com

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TEL: (604)-857-6575  FAX: (604)-641-8494
WWW.BHT.COM
New Implementation
Continued from page 5

Ministry Approvals
The Ministry is preparing a Cabinet resolution which will reduce the number of official community plans by half in regional districts need to submit to the Ministry for approval.

Final notes
There are two specific provisions in the planning and land use sections in Bill 14 that will not be brought into force on January 1, 2001, namely:
- the repeal of the mandatory content of official community plans; and
- the provision that requires a person seeking a variance or rezoning from the local government first before applying to the Board of Variance.

Staff from the Planning Advice and Approvals Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, are available to assist you with any questions.

Tools for Implementation of the New Local Government Act
The ministry has developed and distributed implementation materials such as the legislative bulletins contained in the Using the New Local Government Act (formerly URMA) resource manual. These documents are also featured on the Ministry's web site at http://www.marh.gov.bc.ca/IGPOLICY/MAR/URMA/

Of the almost 50 completed bulletins, topics include: service powers, financial plans, agreements, official community plans, and improvement district subdivision servicing. Underway are more bulletins featuring topics such as conflict of interest, regional district voting and improvement district officers.

Also continuing over the next few months is the partnership between the Ministry and local government in developing Best Practices Guides. Guides underway include "Service Arrangements and Service Review" and "Reaching Agreement on Services and Counter-Petition Process". Limited copies of the guides will be available, and they will also be posted on the Ministry web site.

Referred

Referred Resolutions
Continued from page 5

Commission ensures that its Strategic Plan includes the requirement for extensive consultations with local governments and other provincial government ministries that could be impacted by its decisions.

B107 BC ASSESSMENT APPEAL
No Action Required

B106 DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION
Not Endorsed

B105 REGIONAL SERVICES
Endorsed

B104 PROTECTION OF STREAMS
Endorsed

B103 TIMBER HARVESTING RIGHTS
Endorsed

B102 IMPACT OF TRANSFERS OF PROPERTY
Endorsed

B101 SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN FARMERS
Not Endorsed

B100 PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICE
Endorsed

B99 PROPOSED CHG SERVICES
Endorsed

B98 SUPPORT FOR UNBC AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS
Referral to Health Committee

B97 DISEASE REPORT
Endorsed

B96 PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES
Endorsed

B95 FINDING OF INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES
Endorsed

B94 LOSS OF PAY PROVISIONS FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS WHILE ON TRAINING SEMINAR
Endorsed

B93 STAND-BY PAY FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS
Referral to Health Committee

B92 ENDANAGERED SPECIES CO-OPERATION
Endorsed

B91 COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF SEA CucL AND SEA LIONS
Deferred action until a response is received from the Federal Government on the FCM resolution.

B90 CRANBERRY OPERATIONS
Endorsed

B89 FUNDING LEVELS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE RECREATION
Not Endorsed

B88 PROTECTION OF LENGUAGE IN-USE IN FIRST NATIONS
Endorsed

B86 SUPPORT FOR UNBC HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Referral to Health Committee

B85 PROTECTION OF YOUTH IN piiVULAR HEALTH CARE
Endorsed

B84 LOSS OF PAY PROVISIONS FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS WHILE ON TRAINING SEMINAR
Endorsed

B83 STAND-BY PAY FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS
Referral to Health Committee

B82 MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS TO RURAL MUSEUMS
Endorsed

B81 AVIATION FUEL TAX
Referred to Airport Common Front Office

B76 REDEMPTION OF PROPERTY SOLD
Endorsed

B75 PROTECTION OF YOUTH IN-PURSUIT
Referred to Justice and Protective Services Committee

B74 LOSS OF PAY PROVISIONS FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS WHILE ON TRAINING SEMINAR
Endorsed

B73 STAND-BY PAY FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS
Referral to Health Committee

B72 PROTECTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY
Endorsed

B71 WOMEN'S COMPENSATION BOARD DISCUSSION PAPER-CLAIMS ADVICE
Endorsed

B70 FUNDING LEVELS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE RECREATION
Not Endorsed

B69 FUNDING LEVELS FOR DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
Not Endorsed

B68 PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR MIDDLE LEVEL CARE FACILITIES
Referral to Health Committee

B67 REDISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY SOLD
Endorsed

B66 PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES
Endorsed

B65 PROTECTION OF YOUTH IN-PURSUIT
Referred to Justice and Protective Services Committee

B64 LOSS OF PAY PROVISIONS FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS WHILE ON TRAINING SEMINAR
Endorsed

B63 STAND-BY PAY FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS
Referral to Health Committee

B62 FUNDING LEVELS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE RECREATION
Not Endorsed

B61 AVIATION FUEL TAX
Referred to Airport Common Front Office

B60 SUPPORT FOR UNBC HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Referral to Health Committee

B59 PROTECTION OF YOUTH IN-PURSUIT
Endorsed

B58 SUPPORT FOR UNBC AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS
Referral to Health Committee

B57 PROTECTION OF YOUTH IN-PURSUIT
Referral to Health Committee

B56 PROTECTION OF YOUTH IN-PURSUIT
Referred to Health Committee

B55 PROTECTION OF YOUTH IN-PURSUIT
Endorsed

B53 FUNDING LEVELS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE RECREATION
Not Endorsed

B52 PROTECTION OF YOUTH IN-PURSUIT
Endorsed

B51 FUNDING LEVELS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE RECREATION
Not Endorsed

B50 PROTECTION OF YOUTH IN-PURSUIT
Endorsed

B49 PROPOSED CHG SERVICES
Endorsed

B48 SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN FARMERS
Endorsed

B47 DISEASE REPORT
Endorsed

B46 DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION
Not Endorsed

B45 FINDING OF INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES
Endorsed

B44 LOSS OF PAY PROVISIONS FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS WHILE ON TRAINING SEMINAR
Endorsed

B43 STAND-BY PAY FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS
Referral to Health Committee

B42 FUNDING LEVELS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE RECREATION
Not Endorsed

B41 PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES
Endorsed

B40 SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN FARMERS
Endorsed

B39 APPOINTMENT OF APC MEMBER AS ALTERNATE DIRECTOR
Referral to RD Day at the 2001 UBCM Convention

MFA Education Fund
737 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2V1
Telephone (250) 383-1181 Fax (250) 384-3000
education@mfa.bc.ca www.mfa.bc.ca

The MFA Education Fund was started in the Fall of 1999. The contributors to the fund in 2000 were the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia and Phillips, Hoger & N orth Investment Management Ltd.

Applications are reviewed and funding awarded in March and October of each year. Approximately 10% of the monies will be made available to local government elected officials and staff members for education-related tuition and travel costs, no less than 20% of the monies will be for programs targeted at elected officials and up to 70% of the monies will be reserved for programs designed for local government staff.

The Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Education Fund is appointed each year at the MFA’s Semi-Annual M meeting and the members of the Committee are then appointed by the Chair. Currently the members of the committee are:

Jerry Berry Chair, MFA Appointee
Steve Brena MFA staff
Doug Leveille GFOA representative
Alain N Lisson-Welch Director at large
Barb Gordon MFA staff
Allison H abirk MBC representative
Sandy Gray LGM A staff representative
Richard Taylor UBCM staff
Tanalee Hesse LGM A Education Committee representative

MFA Education Fund Committee
Deadline for applications: March 5, 2001

For more detail on the application process and evaluation criteria, please visit the MFA website at www.mfa.bc.ca, e-mail us at education@mfa.bc.ca or contact the MFA office directly.

“An investment in knowledge always pays good interest”
The Beverage Container Management Board, Chaired by Councillor Pat Wallace, continues to monitor the performance of the stewardship programs in British Columbia. Overall Recovery Rate 94.68%

Non Industry Standard Bottles (refillable) 83.53%

Beverage Container Stewardship in British Columbia

The levels of participation are (always based on population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Mention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1001-1000</td>
<td>Edson</td>
<td>3 Blooms</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3001-3000</td>
<td>Creston</td>
<td>4 Blooms</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1001-2000</td>
<td>Fort St. John</td>
<td>3 Blooms</td>
<td>Community Involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1001-2000</td>
<td>Dawson Creek</td>
<td>4 Blooms</td>
<td>Heritage Conser vation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1001-2000</td>
<td>Over 1000</td>
<td>4 Blooms</td>
<td>Landscaped Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>1001-2000</td>
<td>Airdrie</td>
<td>4 Blooms</td>
<td>Heritage Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1001-2000</td>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>4 Blooms</td>
<td>Landscaped Areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The municipalities of Creston, Fort St. John and Airdrie having been awarded 4 Blooms, will be invited to represent British Columbia in the 2001 National Edition of Communities in Bloom.

The members of the community are (always based on population)

People, Plants and Pride – Growing Together

The Community in Bloom Program:

The communities in Bloom are (always based on population)

Municipalities throughout Canada participate Communities in Bloom. Canada’s national program for the improvement of quality of life through green spaces, heritage conservation, community involvement and environmental awareness.

The pride, sense of community and feeling of accomplishment generated through participation are being proven in municipalities, big and small along with both rural and urban, all over Canada.

The appeal of the competition is more than simply visual. As important as this aspect is, the real strength of the program lies in the social and health impact participation has in building a sense of pride through community involvement. Whatever the outcome of the friendly competition between communities, these benefits make Communities in Bloom a contest where everyone wins.

Judges visit each municipality to evaluate, taking into account efforts of the whole community (municipal, private, corporate and institutional) in tidiness, effort, urban forestry, landscaping, floral arrangements, turf areas, environmental effort, heritage conservation and community involvement.

The program started in 1995 as an idea from people involved in the Villes et Villages Fleurs Contest in Quebec (that has been going on since 1980).

Communities in Bloom has established itself as a valued national organization contributing to the improvement of the quality of life in our municipalities. From 29 municipalities in 1995, it has grown into a program involving, in 1999, hundreds of municipalities throughout Canada.

The levels of participation are (always based on population)

The winners of the national edition have gone on since 1980). Communities in Bloom is made possible by the contribution of our:

BC Municipal Finance Authority

UBCM NEWS JANUARY 2001
Convention Policy Direction

Formulating and implementing policy is the primary purpose of UBCM. Members advance new policy initiatives primarily through resolutions. The Executive provides policy direction through discussion papers that tend to be more comprehensive in scope.

Nearly eight hours were devoted during the 2000 Convention to consideration of resolutions and policy papers.

Delegates considered over 100 resolutions. Those endorsed resolutions have been forwarded to the provincial or federal government or FCM as appropriate. Some remaining resolutions were considered at the November Executive meeting. (See page 5).

The Convention also considered 7 policy papers. (See list in 2000 Convention Minutes on the Way article).

2000/2001 Member Visits Plan

As part of the UBCM work program, staff travel to areas of the province annually and meet with municipal and regional district staff. Topics discussed include areas of concern with our membership, the Member Services Program and UBCM policy initiatives. Each year visits are planned with approximately 25% of the membership outside the lower mainland. For the spring of 2001, 38 visits are planned for the following areas of the province:• Northern Vancouver Island • Greater Victoria • Fraser-Fort George / Peace River • Queen Charlotte • Spanish Lillooet visits exercise to Local Government Management Association Conference in Whistler.

UBCM NEWS JANUARY 2001

2000 Convention Minutes on the Way!

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 170 resolutions were submitted and seven 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; Gordon Campbell and Premier Ujjal Dosanjh. With respect to policy papers, the following were included: • Environment Action Plan • Municipal Pension Plan Joint Trusteeship and Proposed Joint Management Agreement • Land Use Coordination, Servicing and Dispute Resolution: Toward Certainty for Local Government Through Treaty Negotiations • UBCM Response to Bill 43 Gaming Control Act • Report of the CFIC Task Force • Report on Streamside Directive • Evaluation of the Stability of BC’s Assessment Rolls

Staples McDannold Stewart …

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

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

UBCM News January 2001
UBCM Conventions Present & Future

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

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

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

UBCM Annual Convention Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 24 to Fri. Sept. 28</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 23 to Fri. Sept. 27</td>
<td>Whistler Conference Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 22 to Fri. Sept. 26</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 20 to Fri. Sept. 24</td>
<td>Kelowna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 26 to Fri. Sept. 30</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Mon. Oct. 23 to Fri. Oct. 27</td>
<td>Victoria Conference Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Convention Registration

A total of 1,918 delegates attended the 2000 UBCM Convention in Victoria, October 23 to October 27.

Recent and other high registrations:

- 1999 Vancouver 1,694
- 1998 Penticton 1,579
- 1997 Vancouver 1,766
- 1996 Penticton 1,480
- 1995 Vancouver 1,734
- 1994 Whistler 1,710
- 1993 Vancouver 1,668
- 1992 Vernon 1,553
- 1991 Victoria 1,836

The 2000 Convention had a record attendance!

A few relevant statistics on attendance this year include:

- 180 out of 182 members (Not represented: Village of Slocan and Village of Fraser Lake)
- 806 voting delegates; 152 non-voting delegates; 454 partners and 502 "others"
- 49 media representatives.

Voter Turnout Awards

The Honourable Cathy McGregor, Minister of Municipal Affairs presented the 2000 Voter Turnout Awards as follows:

- City and Town Category: City of Nelson (accepted by Mayor Gary Exner); Top left
- District Category: District of Highlands (accepted by Mayor Karel Roessingh); Top right
- Village Category: Village of Port Clements (accepted by Councillor Mary Standbridge) bottom
Photo Captions

UBCM President Mayor Steve Thorlakson and the Executive open the Annual Convention

Leader of the Official Opposition, Gordon Campbell, pledges specific commitments to local government

Delegates discussed over 100 resolutions and seven policy papers

Then Minister of Municipal Affairs, Cathy McGregor, join in the celebration of the new Local Government Act

Premier Ujjal Dosanjh gave the closing address which included priority for new drinking water source protection powers for local government

Federal Environment Minister David Anderson welcomed delegates to his constituency and spoke of environment and general municipal issues

Farm Study tour again one of the top rated pre-conference sessions

Host Mayor Alan Lowe of City of Victoria welcomed delegates to the largest UBCM Convention

A “Chomp & Stomp” night replaced the traditional Annual Banquet

BC’s own Councillor Joanne Monaghan addressed delegates as FCM President

One of the several popular delegate services were the numerous e-mail access terminals

Incoming President Jim Abram (right) presents a Life Membership to Steve Thorlakson at the conclusion of the convention

Mayor Thorlakson presents the first UBCM Partnership Award to Greg Jadzyk of the Northern Forest Products Association for their community involvement initiatives

Former (and now returned) Minister of Municipal Affairs, Honourable Jim Doyle accepts a UBCM Life Membership

CKNW’s Rafe Mair returned this year to broadcast his show live from the convention floor

Councillor Danny Sulentich, Town of Princeton (middle) and Councillor Steve Kolida, Village of McBride accept their Long Service Awards
Awards Given at the 2000 UBCM Convention

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 2000 UBCM Convention, President Steve Thorlakson was pleased to present Long-Service Awards in recognition of 25 years’ service to local government as a Mayor, Councillor or Director to:
  • Councillor Steve Kolida, Village of McBride
  • Councillor Danny Sulentich, Town of Princeton

Life Membership


President-elect Jim Abram presented a Life Membership to Fort St. John Mayor Steve Thorlakson in recognition of his service as UBCM President, 1999-2000.

Energy Aware

Gary Hamer of BC Gas joined by federal Environment Minister David Anderson presented the Energy Aware Award to this year’s winner, the City of Coquitlam. Mayor Jon Kingsbury accepted the award on behalf of the City.

Local Government Awareness

Director Aaron Dinwoodie, Chair of the Local Government Awareness Committee and the Honourable Cathy McGregor, Minister of Municipal Affairs, presented the Local Government Awareness Awards for 2000. The awards presented were:
  • Year Long Award: District of Port Edward (accepted by Mayor Ed Wampler); Photo #1
  • Month Long/Week Long Award: District of Saanich (accepted by Mayor Frank Leonard, Councillor Judy Brownoff, 2000 Mayor of the Student Council – Lana Olague, and 1999 Mayor of the Student Council – Lorne Phipps); Photo #5
  • Web Site Award (Small Community): City of Trail (accepted by Councillor Fred Romano); Photo #2
  • Web Site Award (Medium-Sized Community): City of North Vancouver (accepted by Mayor Barbara Sharp and Cindy Turner, Director of Computer Services); Photo #3 and
  • Web Site Award (Large Community): City of Richmond (accepted by Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt, City Manager George Duncan, General Manager of Engineering and Public Works Chuck Gale, and Councillors Lyn Greenhill and Linda Barnes). Photo #4
Wood – the province’s oldest, most plentiful and most renewable resource – is finding its way back onto architects’ drawing boards, and over the heads and under the feet of the citizens of B.C.

Surprising as it seems, this hallmark resource has historically been under-utilized in large-scale construction projects. Until now, that is.

Advances in wood processing technologies, the advent of new engineered wood products and changes to the National Building Code mean that wood now stacks up against any other building product for any job. Take the recently completed Blenkinsop Trestle Bridge on southern Vancouver Island, for example.

Blenkinsop Lake was proving to be the missing link in the Galloping Goose-Peninsula trail system that connected over 100 kilometers of uninterrupted greenway from Sooke to Sydney. It had been without a crossing since 1954, when an unused railway trestle bridge was torn down, making the area relatively inaccessible to the general public.

The District of Saanich decided to fix the problem. They would put a bridge across the lake, linking the two ends of Lochside Trail, and completing the Galloping Goose-Peninsula system.

When it came to planning the bridge, wood was an obvious choice, says Gerald Fleming, co-ordinator of design and development with the district.

“One of the reasons we went with wood was we wanted the concept of a trestle bridge, which of course would be constructed using wood.”

The bridge would also need to fit with the natural habitat and the environmentally sensitive nature of its surroundings, says Fleming. The fact that wood was cost-effective, met the design criteria, and was just as structurally sound and easy to maintain as alternative building materials only sealed the deal.

“Wood is getting a boost because of the capacities of new manufactured wood products,” says Andrew Rushforth, senior partner with Graeme & Murray Consultants and a principal in the bridge’s design process. “And of course, in this case, the intention was to reflect the heritage.”

Construction went ahead in June of 2000. A lightweight skidder drove over 100 piles into the lake’s bottom, some as deep as 50 meters. Manufactured wood was used for stringers, while the rest of the 280-meter-long bridge was constructed from thousands of feet of B.C.-grown Douglas Fir. The project was completed ahead of schedule in late August.

“For opening day we had roughly 2,500 to 3,000 people on the bridge, so that’s about one person per square meter. That was a real test. We thought if it could withstand the opening then it could withstand anything,” Fleming explains.

The Blenkinsop Trestle Bridge is just one of hundreds of large-scale projects around B.C. that are going to wood. According to Roseline Ferré, it is also a perfect example of the province’s most natural partnership – designers and builders working with wood.

Ferré is the B.C. Project Manager of Wood WORKS, a national industry sponsored initiative to promote the use of wood in the industrial, commercial and institutional construction sector. Their primary goal, she says, is to create a “wood culture” in the B.C. design and construction industries, “where expertise in wood is unsurpassed.”

Cam McAlpine is a freelance writer based in Prince George.
THE VISION OF JOSEPH RILEY

V ision is a term often used, but rarely are we challenged to consider what it means to bring vision to life. At this annual convention of the Union of BC Municipalities, Mayor Joseph Riley of Charleston, West Virginia, gave a slide presentation at an Urban Design workshop which illustrated the methods he has tenaciously employed to create a city not only staying true to its historical context while providing amenities for all its citizens, but also symbolically bestowing a message of beauty, belonging, and hope on even its poorest residents.

Mayor Riley was first elected mayor of Charleston in 1975, and is currently serving his seventh term. A recent issue of Newsweek named him one of the twenty-five most dynamic mayors in America and he has also won many awards, including the Outstanding Mayors Award from the National Urban Coalition, the 1991 Municipal Leader of the Year by American City & Country, and the 1994 Thomas Jefferson Award from the American Institute of Architects for Public Architecture.

Mayor Riley’s presentation at the UBCM workshop illustrated the methods that have been employed to revitalize the historic downtown business area, to incorporate integrated affordable housing within neighbourhoods and to provide ample green space and amenities within the city. However, the most inspiring aspect of the workshop came from his philosophy that the treatment of the built environment of a community is a symbolic act, and can become a message of promise; of renewal and hope to its residents.

A number of slides featured the transformation of some very dilapidated, but architecturally or historically significant, buildings. “Resurrecting what appears dead gives hope to the community: he stated, “therefore, work hard to keep the bulldozers out.” Buildings on corner lots were one thing that Mayor Riley just couldn’t let die. “When the corner dies”, he said, “it’s a virus, all the rest come down”. When advised that the corner house would in one case fall on the adjacent home and should therefore come down, Mayor Riley chose instead to move the neighbours to the back lot in the middle of the renovation. A three-storey building on the corner of the main downtown street was so badly damaged by a late night fire that the engineers stated that the bricks would start raining down on passing motorists. Mayor Riley closed the road until the building could be reconstructed aware that the location would most likely become a surface parking lot otherwise. “Cities need memories”, he added, “live with them a proper family heirloom.”

The revitalization of the downtown main street was helped greatly by the building of a large confer- ence facility on a vacant city block right in the middle of the core area. “Vacant lots”, he commented, “are a no-person zone; and can destroy the flow of people between adjacent areas. It is important, he advised, to renew the areas that are within the public realm, “what every- body owns,” as it brings about a sense of connection and pride. To bring the “energy” up the main street from the conference centre, the city decided to do the main street in pavers, and offered the community the chance to buy the pavers for ten dol- lars apiece, with an injunc- tion. Mayor Riley noted that this initiative was wildly successful, that people wanted to reconnect emotionally to their main street. Another example of creating owner- ship was in the refurbish- ment of a city park that had become regarded as unsalvageable. (Parks are another thing that Mayor Riley just wouldn’t let die.) Part of the process in reviving the green space was to offer rose bushes for ten dollars apiece that would be planted with a donor’s tag in a central rose garden. Mayor Riley is also aware of the role that beauty can play within a city. “Actity is where every citizens heart can sing,” he commented, and added that, “when you beautify your city you are giving riches to the poorest citi- zens.” He pointed out that it is the most disadvantage that need to see beauty within their own community as they don’t have the opportunities for travel or vacation getaways. Therefore, he stated, one criteria for judging the greatness of a city is the degree it gives itself to the ordinary citi- zen. Mayor Riley goes to great lengths to build the beauty of his community as was illustrated by parking garages disguised as historical build- ings, or with inner courtyard fulls of flowers. “Who said that you have to feel bad when you go to park your car”, he joked. His care and attention to small details was shown in the attention given to the small tree which graced a narrow space between two buildings. Mayor Riley was afraid that someone might re- move the tree to replace it with a dumpster when he was no longer there to be its guardian. So, he had it dedicated to a historical event that took place nearby, the bronze plaque, he hopes will keep it safe.

BC Hydro awards scholarships to three UBCM delegates for students in their municipalities

VICTORIA – At BC Hy- dro’s annual reception as part of the Union of Brit- ish Columbia Municipalities Convention (UBCM) annual conven- tion held in Victoria late September, three delegates each won a $1,000 scholar- ship for students in their communities. The winners were: Councillor Bob Long from the Township of Langley, Councillor Aman Birk of Golden, and Councillor Scott Tanner from Qualicum Beach.

“I have already received so much benefit from attend- ing the UBCM meetings, the scholarship was a real surprise and a bonus! I know it will play an impor- tant part in the education of a deserving Langley stu- dent!” said Township of Langley Councillor Bob Long. “The scholarship will be awarded to a Langley student planning to enroll in the Horticultural program offered at Kwantlen College.”

The presentation of the winning communities will be awarded during the annual Agricultural Cultural Society Fall Fair in September next year.”

“BC Hydro supports UBCM as part of your Municipal Involvement program and to help ensure our business relationships with communities are as positive as possible,” said BC Hydro’s Fraser Valley Community Relations manager Terry Parsons. “We are very pleased that the winning communities represent three different re- gions and that these education opportunities are spread equitably.”

Urban Forum – Transit Funding a Major Issue

The Urban Forum dealt with two major policy issues. The first workshop looked at the impact of organized crime and drugs on local commu- nities and that these educa- tional opportunities are spread equitably.

For more information please contact BC Hydro’s information line at 1-800-663-1377.

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

At press time, we had received nearly 27% of delegate evaluation forms, up considerably from last year’s 19.5%. Seventy-nine percent of you rated the conference as ‘good’ or ‘excellent’ very well – with a composite rating of 3.9 out of 5, which is consistent with most previous years.

Despite its logistical disadvantages, almost all of you indicated that the location of our city, Victoria, was as the ‘most-liked’ aspect of the convention (special thanks to Mother Nature for supplying the unusually good weather, too!). An overwhelming number of you, as usual, also cited networking and information sharing as the best part of the convention. Accommodations ratings this year were the highest ever (4.4 out of 5), even surpassing our last visit to Victoria in 1999. However, many of you noted the lack of exhibits, while recognizing this is one of the drawbacks of smaller centres. The Convention Committee would like to welcome our new delegates to our full-scale Tradeshow in 2001, which is held in alternate years when we are in Vancouver only.

You were impressed by the variety and breadth of the information presented and discussed at the workshop, policy and study sessions. Monday’s HMCS Huron study tour attained a near-perfect score (4.97 out of 5). Also noteworthy was Mayor Joe Riley’s (Charleston, NC) inspirational ‘Urban Design’ session Thursday morning – a highlight for many of you. Resolutions sessions were down slightly in the ratings this year – “never enough time” – guest speakers running overtime and policy papers taking longer than expected did not help matters any.

2000 Convention Summary Awards

The Top Event of the 2000 Convention
HMCS Huron Study Tour @ 4.97
(The nearest excellent)

The Runners-Up
Urban Design session (Joe Riley) @ 4.74
(Farm Study Tour @ 4.71)

Top Workshops
Connecting the Region for Bicycling @ 4.58%
Parliament Buildings – Behind the Scenes @ 4.35%

Media Training @ 4.33%

Contribution Program Business’s Biggest Improvement
Large Urban Communities Forum increased 11.1% over 1999
Electoral Area Directors Forum increased 8.1% over 1999

General Aspects with Biggest Improvement
Sound System increased 7.8% over 1999
Minister’s Workshops increased by 7.3% over 1999

The Weakest Events
Energy Aware clinic @ 2.50
Welcome Reception @ 2.85

We can now appreciate those of you who prefer a sit-down dinner, if you can appreciate that it’s difficult “to please all the people, all the time” – especially when we didn’t have a venue for a formal banquet.

Thank you to all of you who took the time to respond to our questionnaire. Your feedback enables us to respond to your needs. We hope to serve you better next year!
Traffic Services Review

The Ministry of Attorney General has released a review of police delivered traffic services in B.C. entitled "Traffic Services Study Report – Safe Roads, Safe Communities." The purpose of the report was to look at ways to enhance safety on our roads through better allocation of police resources and public funds. Copies of the report are available on the ministry’s web site and www.ag.gov.bc.ca.

The report indicated that in 1998 over $98 million was spent on the delivery of traffic services in the province. The overall funding for the delivery of traffic services by each of the agencies involved was estimated as follows:
- Provincial Contribution: 29%
- Independent Municipal: 14%
- Municipal RCMP: 20%
- Federal: 14%
- ICBC: 23%

The report stated that traffic services were seen as a support function in many police agencies and that when resources were limited traffic officers were allocated to other duties. In some cases the police did not have enough officers to maintain traffic enforcement on all shifts and in some instances used the enhanced enforcement programs supported by ICBC to deliver regular traffic enforcement.

The study concluded that the police do not have the necessary resources and training needed to strategically respond to high-risk traffic safety issues.

The study recommended that “the police lead all traffic enforcement initiatives, including photo radar, intersection safety cameras, CounterAttack and speed and aggressive driving enforcement” and that “an independent, police-led enforcement unit be established with a research, evaluation and audit component.” The report also recommended that stable multi-year performance based funding for enhanced traffic enforcement be provided through the Ministry of Attorney General and ICBC.

The report recommended that the base service delivery and funding for traffic enforcement should be reviewed in each community. The intent of the review would be to increase the focus and priority placed on the delivery of traffic services, increase the training of those police officers involved in traffic enforcement and ensure that the police have access to the information needed to investigate and solve road safety problems.

RCMP REVIEW OF POLICING

The RCMP is undertaking an extensive review of:
1. How it is delivering service to the communities that it polices, to determine where improvements can be made to ensure that it remains competitive as an effective and efficient police service in the full range of its current policing responsibilities.
2. How it can best prepare itself to anticipate, and meet, foreseeable changes in the policing environment.

The first stage of this review is dealing with the policing needs in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia and once this is completed the policing needs in the remainder of B.C. will be dealt with.

The Lower Mainland communities identified the primary issues that they wanted considered in the review and the RCMP has agreed to implement the following:

Human Resource Issues

- Identify a resource model that will facilitate optimized staffing levels at authorized strength;
- Selection process for Senior Officers be done in concert with the municipality based on the appointment of a Principal Policing Contact being designated in the municipality and a determination on the desired level of input wanted by the community;
- Detachment Commanders participate in municipal management when it is desired by the local government;
- Wherever possible, new recruits selected from the Lower Mainland will be returned to the Lower Mainland for a minimum of five years and will only be transferred within this time period if an exceptional operation arises. A minimum of a three year commitment will be made to the municipality for existing members;

Financial Planning and Accountability

- Working with municipalities on the development of a five year planning cycle;
- Provide up-to-date information on detachment expenditures – new financial information system will provide “real time” information to each detachment and municipality on an as required basis;
- Provide invoices on actual expenditures per quarter and budget information on a quarterly basis;
- Accountability measures that will focus on ensuring value for money and identifying efficiencies for direct costs under the police contract.

Policing Costs – New Directions

A Special Resolution was endorsed at the 2000 UBCM Convention to address the ongoing concerns over police costs. The UBCM as part of the measures adopted will be lobbying the provincial government to:
- Re-instate the Independent Police Equalization Grants;
- Re-instate the transition fund for municipalities passing over the 5,000 population threshold.

The UBCM Executive has improved an increase in dues specifically directed to provide additional financial resources to address this issue. These additional resources will be used to support police departments acquiring the 5,000 population threshold; to coordinate research in dealing with contract administration activities; and to provide support for pilot projects or feasibility studies into new ways of funding policing.

Service Delivery

- A consultative approval process for the establishment of individual municipal policing priorities and the development of RCMP detachment work plans, service focus;
- A consultative/approval process to allow for municipal input into service levels and ensure the service delivery expectations and priorities of the municipalities are defined and delivered in a satisfactory manner.

The work undertaken in the Lower Mainland may provide a framework for the development of a province wide agreement with the RCMP.

UBCM NEWS JANUARY 2001

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e-mail: garyw@netidea.com

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Victoria, BC V8V 2B7
Tel: (250) 383-2063; Fax: (250) 383-2064
The following article was prepared by Eric W. Hurwood, Chair, Central Saanich Board of Variance. Any comments or questions pertaining to this case should be directed to Mr. Hurwood at the District of Central Saanich (256) 544-4202.

The Central Saanich Board of Variance received an application from a local nurseryman for a height variance – for the erection of a water tower – from 13 metres to 27.3 metres. The water tower was prefabricated, and was moved from another location in the City to this location in the Agricultural Land Reserve.

The Applicant’s contention was that in view of the water shortages in this area, the nurseryman has mature plants in his land to irrigate his nursery, he needed the extra water to irrigate these mature plants properly, and to expand his business, and that those neighbours (fellow Board Members) for decisions be provided with “the reasons for the decision to be made by the Board of Variance” for “further information” which seems to mean anything that Office feels it needs and “Specifically, we are interested in knowing what criteria were used to determine that the variance in question was minor and how undue hardship might have been considered by the BOV”.

The Ombudsman further cited a Supreme Court decision, Baker v. Canada (1992) 2 “which established that, in certain circumstances, fairness will require that written reasons for decisions be provided by those authorities making the decision.” At the request of the Central Saanich Board of Variance, solicitor Bill Buholzer responded to the Ombudsman, who response was recognized as “detailed and carefully crafted.” This response basically said that the Board no longer had any authority in the matter, having issued the decision. Further, any reasons now proffered could affect the positions of the Applicant or of others who were heard by the Board when it considered and dealt with this matter. Mr. Buholzer also pointed out that his advice to the Board of Variance must avoid the application of the above-mentioned “criteria” (as requested by the Ombudsman) to applications for a variance and that such Boards must deal with each case on its own merits. He directed the Ombudsman to the minutes of the relevant meeting.

The Ombudsman has responded that they “will not be pursuing the matter related to the specific variance”, they further add, “Please note, however, that the Office of the Ombudsman remains concerned about the issue of provision of reasons in decisions such as those made by a board of variance.”

Complete discretion will be exercised by the UBCM as to whether it should contribute part or all of the costs of an appeal. The decision whether the UBCM will participate will be made by the Executive.

The Ombudsman has responded that they “will not be pursuing the matter related to the specific variance” (sic). While the arguments you have made in your letter of September 1, 2000, about the inappropriateness of reasons in this context are well articulated, we are not prepared at this time to conclude that reasons ought not be provided in all cases. Indeed, we will not hesitate to consider this issue again should it arise in other contexts and circumstances.

It is this latter contention that reasons for a decision ought to be provided that raises the possible personal liability that might be incurred by members of Boards such as Boards of Variance. This I feel should be brought to the attention of fellow Board Members across the province.
**TAXATION OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

**Taxation of elected officials**

An allowance for expenses incident to the discharge of duties paid to an elected officer of an incorporated municipality, municipal utilities board, commission or corporation or other similar body, or a member of a public or separate school board or similar body governing a school district (recipient), does not constitute salary or remuneration to the recipient and is not includable in computing the recipient's income, except to the extent that the allowance exceeds one-half of the amount paid to the recipient as salary or remuneration by the municipality or corporation or the body (the employer) of which the recipient is an elected officer or member. In some provinces, 1/3 of the total remuneration by the municipality will be deemed to the extent that the Act provides otherwise. Some of the more common taxable benefits include employer provided automobiles and parking, non-accountable allowances for the use by the employee of the employee's automobile, frequent flyer program benefits, certain employer counseling services, awards for employees' suggestions, group term life insurance policies where the employer has paid the premiums, rent-free or low rent housing, subsidized board and lodging, except for employees working at remote locations or special work sites, and interest benefit of interest-free and low-interest loans received in respect of an officer or employee. Note that GST is included in the taxable benefit, where applicable.

**Taxable benefits - other**

Employees are generally taxable on the value of all benefits received by virtue of their employment, except where the Act provides otherwise. Some of the more common taxable benefits include employer provided automobiles and parking, non-accountable allowances for the use by the employee of the employee's automobile, frequent flyer program benefits, certain employer counseling services, awards for employees' suggestions, group term life insurance policies where the employer has paid the premiums, rent-free or low rent housing, subsidized board and lodging, except for employees working at remote locations or special work sites, and interest benefit of interest-free and low-interest loans received in respect of an officer or employee. Under CCRA administrative policy, some benefits considered non-taxable include certain free or subsidized school services for the employee's children, reimbursement of certain moving expenses on relocation, payments of club dues, and benefits considered non-taxable to the extent that the Act otherwise requires. The Guide was prepared with significant input from local government staff and the development community. It is a companion to the recently revised Development Cost Charge Best Practices Guide, which has proven to be a very practical and well-used publication. Both Guides are available at http://www.marh.gov.bc.ca/GROWTH/(under Publications) on the Internet or by calling the Growth Strategies Office at (250) 387-3394.

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**Development Finance Choices Guide Now Available**

Many local governments use development cost charges to finance the capital projects and infrastructure generated by new development. The objective of the Development Finance Choices Guide is to set out financing options available to a local government in addition to, or in place of, development cost charges. The guide outlines the considerations which should be taken into account when deciding which financing option may be the most effective in a particular circumstance. The Guide also provides useful advice on the design and implementation of the various tools. Both local governments and the public should find the “organizational capacity” considerations very helpful. Case studies for small, medium and large municipalities are provided. The Guide should be useful to a wide audience, including elected officials, staff, the development community and the public. It sets development finance in a broad local policy framework, and describes the various tools in ways that should be readily understood. It also provides sufficient detail to still be useful as a technical reference for local government staff whom may be less familiar with the range of financial tools that are available.

**Survey Plans Online**

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 dieters 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

Monday October 23

This pre-convention study session on Monday October 23 was prompted by the fact that the treaty negotiation process in BC is at a critical point with an uncertain future, and that local governments continue to have a stake in the process and its outcomes. Based on presentations providing perspectives on the current state of negotiations, the purpose of this session was to have participants discuss through discussions (1) arrive at some conclusions on the role of local government in its future; and (2) formulate recommendations to the provincial and federal governments on the treaty process and its future.

The first speaker was Alec Robertson, former chief commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission, who provided a thoughtful overview of the treaty process, and discussed his perspective on the promise of a range of future options including legislation, litigation and negotiation. Chief Herb Okimost, chair of the First Nations Trust, provided examples from his region of how municipal and First Nations partnerships are working. He advised local governments to take a leadership position and to show provincial and federal governments that they are willing to do so at the local level. Mayor Bruce Milbrath provided his perspective on why treaty negotiations around the province are stalling and discussed alternatives for reinforcing the process. He noted that local governments have a lot of freedom as indirect participants in the negotiations to find new innovative solutions.

Small group discussions focused on the barriers to progress on treaties and solutions for addressing those barriers, including through the actions of local governments. Most of the directions to provincial and federal governments, First Nations and others, that were generated by participants, fell into the following five areas:

1. Local Government Involvement in the Treaty Process should be reinforced and enhanced.
2. More Public Education on Treaties Needed;
3. Strong support should continue for Relationship Building initiatives such as the Community to Community Forum Program;
4. Greater Openness needed in Treaty Process; and
5. Provide More Funding for local government Treaty Advisory Committees.

Points #1 and #5 are linked, as are #2 and #4. With respect to the first point, this indicates local governments continue to support the treaty process, but that they recognize that in order to make progress and overcome current barriers, it needs to change. Many participants called for a more local approach to treaty negotiations with a direct role of local government in the negotiations by directly working with First Nations on treaty issues at the table. Bilaterally, progress could be made in the short term on local level issues, e.g. economic development, local services and infrastructure. Detailed notes on this session are available from the UBCM office.

Protocol Signed at Convention

A Protocol on Local Government Role in the Negotiation of Interim Measures Including Treaty Related Measures between UBCM and the Province was signed by Mayor Steve Thorlakson, Director Jim Abram and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon. Dale Lovick on October 23, 2000 at the UBCM convention. The protocol is designed to ensure that local government interests are taken into account so that when interim measures agreements are signed off, they actually work at the local level.

When signing this protocol it is important to UBCM members because it gives us, for the first time, a defined role in negotiation of these agreements between the province and First Nations. With the introduction of Treaty Related Measures in 1999, it became imperative for the provinces and UBCM to work together to address the issue of local government’s role in negotiation of interim measures. Most types of interim measures can be negotiated with First Nations anywhere in the province, whether or not they are involved in the treaty process. Interim Measures agreements can relate to issues in which local government has interests, such as forestry and parks. Up until now, local government did not have an explicit procedure for how the province will notify and consult with local governments when they negotiate these types of agreements with First Nations.

Interim measures are agreements negotiated and signed by First Nations and the province and while they usually concern the management of lands and resources, they can involve other issues as well, such as delivery of child and health services. These agreements are usually negotiated by the province’s individual line ministries, within their day to day operating mandates. Interim Measures include “Treaty Related Measures” which were announced last year and involve tri-lateral agreements negotiated between First Nations involved in the treaty process and both the provincial and federal governments. They are designed to bring the benefits of treaties to First Nations earlier in the treaty process.

In order to implement this protocol and make it work well, certain related agreements are required by provincial ministries and by local governments. With respect to interim measures, local governments need to know what agreements are being negotiated and who they can contact for more information. Provincial ministries also need a list of local governments contacts for the purposes of notification of interim measures negotiations and pursuing consultation with the local government. UBCM is pursuing these information needs as one of the next steps in implementing the protocol. With respect to Treaty Related Measures, the Protocol specifies that consultations with local governments on Treaty Related Measures will take place through their Treaty Advisory Committees or TACs.

Land Use Coordination at the Heart of Treaty Certainty for Local Governments

The policy paper “Land Use Coordination, Servicing and Dispute Resolution: Towards Certainty For Local Government Through Treaty Negotiations” was endorsed by UBCM members at convention. The paper contains the following recommendations:

1. A basic criteria for the success of treaty negotiations be greater certainty for local governments, through the creation of land use planning systems that connect local governments and First Nation governments; and that these systems be developed locally so that they respect local circumstances;
2. Local government needs with respect to achieving land use and servicing coordination and dispute resolution with First Nations be acknowledged and accommodated within the BC treaty process;
3. Provincial and federal government negotiators recognize that aspects of the local government – First Nation relationship require definition in a chapter of the treaty itself, with the direct involvement of local governments and First Nations in its development;
4. Provincial and federal government provide the opportunity during treaty negotiations for local governments to reach an agreement with First Nations outside the treaty itself, on land use coordination, servicing and dispute resolution;
5. Local governments and First Nations have the opportunity to design and sign-off on land use coordination mechanisms, servicing arrangements and dispute resolution before treaties are concluded; and that in certain cases, provincial and federal governments be prepared to not conclude a treaty until the completion of a local government – First Nation agreement.

A copy of the paper was mailed to all UBCM members prior to convening on October 3rd. Additional copies are available from the UBCM office.
The success of the regional program is growing as more First Nations and local governments continue to hold Community to Community Forums across the province. Eight Forums took place with provincial funding, another twelve have been approved for federal funding and UBCM is currently considering approval of five others. Forums have taken place on the Queen Charlotte Islands, in the Kootenays, on Vancouver Island, in the Okanagan, the Peace, the Fraser Valley and the Lower Mainland. Detailed reports on the latter two forums are found below.

All the events have shared the goal of generating new ideas for strengthening relationships between First Nations and local governments. Community leaders have discussed issues of common concern to their communities, such as economic development and resource management, and have shared information on how their respective governments operate. Improving communications between communities has been a strong theme, and most forums have sparked a commitment to holding more events of this kind, to keep the dialogue going.

Both the provincial and federal governments have contributed funds to this program which are administered through UBCM. The program will continue until late spring 2001; for more information, contact Alison McNiel in the UBCM Office.

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L T E MORE ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2000, 50 First Nation representatives and civic leaders participated in the first-ever Lower Mainland Community-to-Community Forum (LMCCF). This successful event was funded by the federal government through UBCM, as one of the several forums sponsored throughout the Province, and provided an opportunity to actively encourage direct dialogue between the participants on issues impacting neighbouring communities.

Many misperceptions exist about the linkages between local governments and Aboriginal communities. The variety and size of the communities that vary from region to region and from province to province. However, local governments and First Nations share many important commonalities. Such commonalities include, but are not limited to:

• shared broad community objectives, such as to maintain healthy populations and vibrant and dynamic economic systems;
• strong community ties and healthy populations and vibrant economic systems;
• shared need to work together in the post-treaty environment. It is at the local level that the day-to-day relationships between First Nations and other levels of government will take shape, particularly in the urban setting.

It was with these considerations in mind that the participants drew from the following LMCCF theme: together, we can recognize that the past, hear the present, and see the future, and that together, we seek to understand and respect our differences, identify current and common issues, and develop co-operative solutions.

The LMCCF involved the collaboration of three co-hosts: Tsleil-Waututh Nation (TWN), Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC), and the Lower Mainland Municipal Association (LMMMA).Co-chairs Chief Leonard George and Mayor Don Bell offered opening comments recognizing the importance of the event to all participants on this historic occasion. The co-chairs thanked the steering committee for their efforts exibited throughout the scenes and all the people who took time from their busy schedules to come and participate in the discussions.

To foster informal and open discussion, the steering committee selected an “Open/Space Technology” format to encourage a participant-driven approach to group meetings. The resulting discussion involved some key topics as aboriginal title, community capacity development, joint planning and development, and reconciliation. Both similar and differing points of view were expressed on these various issues, however, at the end of the day, there was a sense that a significant step towards a new positive relationship had occurred. Mayor Bell and Chief George agreed that the relaxed atmosphere opened their eyes to new opportunities of working together. The LMCCF provided a rare opportunity for participants to exchange views, identify interests and objectives for future strategies for treaty and non-treaty approaches to issues of concern in the province’s most urbanized area.

It was the intention that this LMCCF will be the first of several subsequent community to community events in the Lower Mainland. The desire by participants to continue to build stronger relationships was nurtured by the growing recognition that local government and First Nation communities have much more in common – including a shared passion for improving the quality of life for all healthy communities, providing services and amenities – than may have been previously recognized. As a result, future meetings, both at the regional and community levels, are being considered.

The complete LMCCF Summary of Proceedings can be accessed through www.lmtac.bc.ca.

COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM HELD IN AGASSIZ WITH FIRST NATIONS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

By Tamara Little, Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee

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motor vehicle that is designed or adapted primarily for personal use, and does not include a driver and eight passengers and does not include an ambulance, a taxi, bus, hearse, certain vans, pick-up trucks or similar vehicles. The standby charge is based on the employee’s personal-use-kilometres. Personal driving includes travel between home and work. The standby charge is computed differently for employer-owned vs. employer-leased automobiles. The standby charge can be reduced if the automobile is used at least 90% of the time for business purposes and the total kilometre for personal use are less than 12,000 per year.

Operating costs paid by the employer and related to an employee’s personal use of an automobile, are taxable benefits that can be claimed. The operating costs generally include gas, oil, maintenance and repairs, licences and insurance. The operating cost benefit is reduced by the amount reimbursed by the employee. The prescribed flat rate for 2000 and 2001 for regular employees is $1.55 and $1.6 per kilometre, respectively. The amount per personal-use kilometre includes 5% of GST deemed collected by the employer which must be remitted to the CCRA as GST collected. The operating benefit inclusion can be avoided if the employee repays all the benefits by February 14 of the new year. Certain employees can opt by December 31 of any year to have their benefit calculated as one-half the standby charge.

### Mileage allowances and traveling expenses

Automobile allowances received by an employee for the use of an employee’s own car in connection with his or her office or employment, are not subject to tax if the allowance is reasonable. An allowance for using a motor vehicle is considered as reasonable only if all of the following conditions apply: It is based solely on the number of kilometres driven in the year, the rate per kilometre is reasonable and the employee was not reimbursed for expenses that relate to the same use. The automobile allowance rates prescribed for the year 2000 were $3.37 for the first 5,000 kilometres and $3.11 for each additional km. For the first year, the rates are $4.14 for the first 5,000 kilometres and $3.35 for each additional km. Reasonable automobile allowances are deemed to include GST equal to 7% of the allowance paid.

Reimbursements or accountable advances for travelling expenses incurred while conducting the business of the employer are not income to an employee unless they represent payment of the employee’s personal expenses.

Questions on employee taxable benefits can be directed to Terry Vee, a senior manager in KPMG’s tax department in Vancouver, Ph: (604) 691-3135, E-mail: tvee@kpmg.ca

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### Courses and Resources

Defining Property Lines

The Corporation of Land Surveyors of the Province of British Columbia (the Corporation) is the licensing body for British Columbia Land Surveyors (BCLS) within BC. The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) represents the professional technologists and technicians within British Columbia.

The Corporation and ASTTBC are pleased to announce that they have recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Within this MOU there is a clear definition of the roles of the members of the respective associations. The mandate of a land surveyor to define and refer property lines and property corners is clearly spelled out. The ability of a properly certified ASTTBC member to relate improvements to refer objects such as legal survey posts combined with Land Title Office records is also recognized.

The result of this MOU is that where it is satisfactory for an improvement to be referenced to nearby markers combined with Land Title Office records, the services of either a BCLS, or an ASTTBC member certified in Site Improvements Surveys, should be sought. However, when a municipality or regional district requires certification in relation to a property line the services of a BCLS must be used.

For any further clarification please contact the Corporation office at (250) 582-4323 or the ASTTBC office at (604) 585-2788.

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PITCH-IN WEEK 2001

**LEND A HAND - CLEAN OUR LAND**

Your group is invited to participate in PITCH-IN WEEK 2001, MAY 7 - 13, 2001. Canada’s annual clean-up and beautification campaign! *It is easy to participate - and free!* Look for your PITCH-IN WEEK 2001 information/registration kit in the mail in early 2001, complete and return the enclosed registration form - or register now at www.pitch-in.ca. All registered groups will receive free, specially imprinted PITCH-IN WEEK 2001 garbage bags to help with their clean-up/beautification projects.

**P.S.** Brita is once again a PITCH-IN WEEK sponsor. Look out for the B.C. Shoreline Clean-up campaign taking place during PITCH-IN WEEK again this year, and special offers from Brita Water Filtration Systems for participants!

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PROVINCE-WIDE COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM PLANNED

A province-wide Community to Community forum is being jointly organized by UBCM and the First Nations Summit on March 6, 2001 in Vancouver. The conference provides an opportunity for local government and First Nations elected leaders from around the province to meet together to discuss issues of mutual interest to their communities and areas of common responsibility. Participants at the conference will generate:

- ideas for building stronger linkages between communities, and
- additional principles to guide local government – First Nations relations.

Registration information has been sent to all local governments and Indian bands in BC. For more information, please contact the UBCM office.
Thank you for Wood WORKS!

Wood WORKS! is an industry led initiative to promote the use of wood in commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. We encourage Canadian communities to proudly showcase innovative uses of their quality wood products produced from the best managed forests in the world.

Show us your WOOD!

And Wood WORKS will show BC your community!

Do you have a wood project for our next ad feature?

Buildings and bridges welcome.

Contact the Wood WORKS Office nearest you Toll Free at:

1-877-929-WOOD (9663)

Penticton
Mayor Mike Pearce
Wine Country Visitor Centre

Dawson Creek
Mayor Blair Lekstrom
Dawson Creek City Hall

District of Saanich
Mayor Frank Leonard
Blenkinsop Lake Bridge

District of Taylor
Mayor Fred Jarvis
Taylor Community Centre

Gibsons
Mayor Barry Janyk
Gibsons Landing Harbour

Dawson Creek
Mayor Blair Lekstrom
Dawson Creek City Hall

District of Saanich
Mayor Frank Leonard
Blenkinsop Lake Bridge

District of Taylor
Mayor Fred Jarvis
Taylor Community Centre

Gibsons
Mayor Barry Janyk
Gibsons Landing Harbour

Wood WORKS! is an industry led initiative to promote the use of wood in commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. We encourage Canadian communities to proudly showcase innovative uses of their quality wood products produced from the best managed forests in the world.
thinking wood!
BC is building with wood.

Cariboo Regional District
Chair Ted Armstrong
Proposed South Cariboo Recreation Centre

Village of Pouce Coupe
Mayor Jill Wonnacott
Municipal Office Building

District of Sechelt
Mayor Bruce Milne
Regional District Building

Peachland
Mayor George Waldo
Peachland Kiosk

Mackenzie
Mayor Tom Briggs
Municipal Office

Wood WORKS! in BC is supported by Forest Renewal BC, working in partnership to grow BC’s value-added forest and wood products industry.
Municipal Finance Authority of BC

Mayor Traboulay Remembered

On November 16, 2000, Leonard Macauley Traboulay passed away at home due to complications from a recent heart surgery. He was first elected in the City of Port Coquitlam in 1972 and had been mayor since November 1981. Len Traboulay was Chair of the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia for four years.

During this time the Authority worked with the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) and TransLink to finance the capital needs of water, sewer drainage and transit for the GVRD. In addition, capital financing required by E-Comm was completed as was a transition where the Regional Hospital Districts of British Columbia became the responsibility of the MFA.

He will be remembered for his sense of humour, his efficient chairing of meetings and his sense of mission to the wider world. He was a strong advocate of the MFABC and was partly responsible for the MFABC consulting work done in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and with the First Nations.

He was an enthusiastic ambassador for the Authority, his City of Port Coquitlam and BC Local Government. He carried that message to investors and local government everywhere he went in the world.

MFA Fall Issue

On October 31, 2000, the MFA launched its “Fall 2000” debenture issue. The issue closed on November 7, 2000.

Details of the Issue:
- Size: $156,000,000 (re-opening of issue no. 70)
- Relending rate: 6.36% for all terms
- Maturity date: June 1, 2009, will be refinanced then.

Because the term of this issue is for 8 1/2 years, borrowers with terms longer than this were given three choices:
1. Refinance after 8 1/2 years, interest rate determined at that time.
2. For the first 8 1/2 years the interest rate would be 6.36%, for the remaining years of their term a different interest rate could be set with a forward starting swap.
3. A blended rate for the entire length of their borrowing term could be set with a blend-and-extend financial product.

On December 6, 2000, four municipalities entered into a blend-and-extend that gave them a blended rate of 6.345% for the entire 20-year term of their borrowing. Further, on December 8, 2000, six municipalities with 15-year terms used the same blend-and-extend product to lock in their re-lending rate for all 15 years at 6.35%. The lower rates for the blend-and-extend are due to improved market conditions in December.

Mayor Len Traboulay

Surpluses in 2001!

Upcoming surpluses in the first half of 2001, for budgeting purposes:

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Check your Status of Issue report (available online at www.mfa.bc.ca) to determine your share or contact the MFA office.

MFA Pooled Investment Fund – New Fund Custodian

The MFA has appointed CIBC Mellon Global Securities Services Company as its new custodial agent for the MFA Pooled Investment Funds. This appointment is effective January 2, 2001 and replaces a long-standing association with Royal Trust.

CIBC Mellon is a leader in the custody and securities trust industry. They administer close to $500 billion in assets in Canada and are backed by the CIBC bank and Mellon Financial Corporation.

As the new custodian, CIBC Mellon will handle all subscriptions, redemptions, and transfers for our members in the pooled investment fund. We are pleased with this new partnership and have endeavoured to implement this change with minimal impact to our clients.

Exciting News from CivicInfo BC

A lot has been happening recently at CivicInfo BC, with two major announcements of interest made over the past few weeks.

It’s official! CivicInfo BC has become a non-profit society

As you may know, CivicInfo BC was founded by a partnership of major agencies in the province to initiate the popular website for people who work or do business in the BC local government sector. The CivicInfo BC Steering Committee that oversaw that project has, at a meeting held on November 14, 2000 become the Board of Directors of the new CivicInfo BC Society.

The founding partner organizations have become the first members of the society, and each organization has nominated an authorized representative to sit on the new Board. The Board is constituted as follows:
- Colin Crip (Local Government Institute, University of Victoria) – President
- Jim Craven (Municipal Finance Authority Finance) – Vice President
- Sandy Gray (Local Government Management Association) – Secretary/Treasurer
- Lori Wasanmaker (Ministry of Municipal Affairs) – Director at Large
- Richard Taylor (Union of BC Municipalities) – Director at Large
- Doug Rundell (BC Assessment) – Director at Large
- Mitch Kenyon (Municipal Insurance Association) – Director at Large

A committee headed up by Sandy Gray of the LGMA will shortly be making recommendations as to the most appropriate structure for making membership of the society available to additional organizations, including BC local governments and other agencies in the sector.

MacDonald Dettwiler Selected as Partner in E-Government Portal Project

After a competitive public process, CivicInfo BC recently announced that MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates (MDA) has been chosen to move forward in a partnership to explore opportunities for e-government and e-commerce services.

In a letter sent to all BC municipalities in September of this year the CivicInfo BC steering committee outlined plans to request a partner to assist in developing an e-government portal for the local government sector. In response to a subsequent Request for Expressions of Interest, CivicInfo received a number of high quality proposals. The selection of the MDA proposal was announced in a letter recently faxed to all BC local governments.

Developing a web-based, single-window access point to certain local government services has the potential to benefit local governments, citizens, and businesses. The first phase of the e-government portal project, to be conducted in consultation with local governments, will include the identification of the initial service offerings and evaluation of financial viability. It expected that this feasibility study will be completed by early spring 2001.

Local governments and other interested parties are invited to get in touch with the CivicInfo BC team at 250-383-4888 or by email at info@civicinfo.bc.ca.

All suggestions, comments, and questions are welcome. As CivicInfo BC moves forward with this exciting and challenging initiative.

Watch the website at www.civicinfo.bc.ca for news of further developments, and while you are there, don’t forget to sign up for the free weekly email newsletter.

University of Hawaii includes MFA in South East Asia Local Government Workshop Series 2000-2005

The Municipal Finance Authority recently gave three days of workshops to 400 local government officials and investment bankers in Surabaya and Jakarta on the Island of Java in Indonesia. The program, World Bank funded, took place on November 21st, through the 24th of November. The MFA model dominated the three days of workshops.

Steve Berna, Director of Finance spoke on the subject of “Keeping Member Autonomy While at the Same Time Preserving Economies of Scale,” and Jim Craven, Executive Director, outlined the “Past History and Present Activities of the MFABC.” Jim Craven followed that presentation with a session devoted to “Enabling the Credit of a Collective Finance Authority.”

The present senior government structure in Indonesia is in a precarious state and out of necessity, local government has been freed up to find their own solutions. There was great interest in the MFABC model as we continue to refine the concept here in this province.

The sponsor of the sessions, University of Hawaii, was very encouraged by our presentations and has invited the MFABC to be a part of their future invited meetings in South East Asia. This will involve a commitment of a week or two each year until 2005. The five-year series will include Malaysia, Thailand, Korea and Singapore.

Consulting studies for any interested countries and ‘hands-on’ training is also something we have indicated MFA could do. This training would be under contract, in the same way that the MFA has consulted with the First Nations Finance Authority. The First Nations project is virtually finished and legislation is expected in the new year.

Next Issue Deadlines

Next issue approvals by the MFA Board are on Friday, March 30, 2001.


Requests for long-term financing from RHD should be to MFA by March 9, 2001.