Government Announces New Programs to Assist Local Government

At the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, Premier Gordon Campbell announced two new funding programs for local government that will be managed by UBCM:

- $2 million to assist in planning for an aging population – with an emphasis on community planning for senior’s housing and a strategic partnership to address housing information needs.
- $1.5 million for Picture BC – an initiative to develop a library of images of BC communities that would be available for economic development, promotional activities, and to develop a strategic initiative with Tourism BC.

The delivery of these programs will be through UBCM rather than the Ministry. This alternative method of program delivery is one that the federal government has adopted with the FCM, in its administration of the “green funds” programs.

In addition, UBCM is discussing three proposals that are linked to implementing recommendations affecting local government in the Filmon report on the 2003 Firestorm (see p.5 for Filmon recommendations). UBCM expects there will be further announcements of these types of funding arrangements in the near future.

Members will be notified when information is available on the senior’s housing and Picture BC programs.

The Premier met with the UBCM’s Presidents Committee and Committee Chairs on March 18, 2004 to discuss two new initiatives – Picture BC and housing an aging population. The Premier also indicated support for the federal government’s New Deal for communities and committed provincial resources to work with UBCM on developing a BC approach. The Premier will meet again with the full Executive in May.

Member Awareness of Newsletter Troubles UBCM

The UBCM Executive initiated a survey to determine member satisfaction with UBCM services. The survey seeks to determine member awareness of the service, its perceived importance as a UBCM activity and finally how UBCM is performing. The Presidents Committee recently reviewed the preliminary results and found that among those responding they rank the importance of the newsletter as a member communication as “high” and rank their satisfaction of the newsletter as “very good”.

However, the Committee was disturbed to find that a surprising 20% of respondents stated that they were not aware of the UBCM newsletter. Consequently, we have taken the extra step in this issue of addressing a copy to every council and board member. The UBCM News has published four times a year and ranges from 20 to 24 pages. Instead of a council newsletter, it is mailed in bulk to each municipality.

Government Confirms Grants – early & stable

The province of BC has announced that three sets of transfers will be maintained at previous years’ levels again this year. These programs total $37.5 million (actually a small $400,000 increase from last year) and include:

- Small community protection grants ($24.3 million)
- Regional district grants ($2.2 million)
- Traffic fine revenue sharing ($10 million)

UBCM President Frank Leonard remarked that the announcement continues the commitment made by the Premier at the 2001 Convention to maintain the grant funding.

(Also see article on page 8 on future traffic fine revenue sharing.)
Community Excellence Awards - New & Improved!

Local Government in BC is constantly working hard to provide excellent programs and services to its citizens. During the UBCM convention, community representatives are able to discuss their challenges and frustrations with fellow delegates. They are also able to talk about what works and share their knowledge and experiences to help each other.

UBCM would like to continue its formal acknowledgment of local government success stories by improving upon our existing program. The program, started out as the Local Government Awareness Program, then the Local Government Excellence Awards and has now become the Community Excellence Awards. The program encompasses three categories:

- Best Practices
- Leadership & Innovation
- Partnerships

There are three sponsors who have helped make this program possible. The Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services is sponsoring the sub-category “Best Annual Reporting” under Best Practices. The consulting firm CH2MHill is sponsoring the entire Leadership and Innovation category and has provided ongoing support and expertise in the development of the program. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, BC Region is sponsoring the Partnerships category which focuses on Local Government-First Nation partnerships.

The new and improved Awards Program has been carefully designed to showcase municipalities and regional districts who “lead the pack.” UBCM looks forward to receiving your submissions.

The application booklet can be accessed at www.civicnet.bc.ca under About UBCM/Programs/Excellence Awards. The deadline for submissions is May 28, 2004. The awards will be presented at the UBCM convention in Kelowna.

Richmond Mayor Joins UBCM Executive

On January 9, 2004, Mayor Malcolm Brodie from the City of Richmond was elected by fellow Board members to serve as CVRD’s representative on the UBCM Executive. Mayor Brodie joined the Executive for their January 22-23, 2004 meeting and was appointed by UBCM President Frank Leonard to the UBCM’s Justice and Protective Services Committee.

How do you rate UBCM?

Local Government in BC is constantly working hard to provide excellent programs and services to its citizens. During the UBCM convention, community representatives are able to discuss their challenges and frustrations with fellow delegates. They are also able to talk about what works and share their knowledge and experiences to help each other.

UBCM would like to continue its formal acknowledgment of local government success stories by improving upon our existing program. The program, started out as the Local Government Awareness Program, then the Local Government Excellence Awards and has now become the Community Excellence Awards. The program encompasses three categories:

- Best Practices
- Leadership & Innovation
- Partnerships

There are three sponsors who have helped make this program possible. The Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services is sponsoring the sub-category “Best Annual Reporting” under Best Practices. The consulting firm CH2MHill is sponsoring the entire Leadership and Innovation category and has provided ongoing support and expertise in the development of the program. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, BC Region is sponsoring the Partnerships category which focuses on Local Government-First Nation partnerships.

The new and improved Awards Program has been carefully designed to showcase municipalities and regional districts who “lead the pack.” UBCM looks forward to receiving your submissions.

The application booklet can be accessed at www.civicnet.bc.ca under About UBCM/Programs/Excellence Awards. The deadline for submissions is May 28, 2004. The awards will be presented at the UBCM convention in Kelowna.

Richmond Mayor Joins UBCM Executive

On January 9, 2004, Mayor Malcolm Brodie from the City of Richmond was elected by fellow Board members to serve as CVRD’s representative on the UBCM Executive. Mayor Brodie joined the Executive for their January 22-23, 2004 meeting and was appointed by UBCM President Frank Leonard to the UBCM’s Justice and Protective Services Committee.

How do you rate UBCM?

Local Government in BC is constantly working hard to provide excellent programs and services to its citizens. During the UBCM convention, community representatives are able to discuss their challenges and frustrations with fellow delegates. They are also able to talk about what works and share their knowledge and experiences to help each other.

UBCM would like to continue its formal acknowledgment of local government success stories by improving upon our existing program. The program, started out as the Local Government Awareness Program, then the Local Government Excellence Awards and has now become the Community Excellence Awards. The program encompasses three categories:

- Best Practices
- Leadership & Innovation
- Partnerships

There are three sponsors who have helped make this program possible. The Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services is sponsoring the sub-category “Best Annual Reporting” under Best Practices. The consulting firm CH2MHill is sponsoring the entire Leadership and Innovation category and has provided ongoing support and expertise in the development of the program. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, BC Region is sponsoring the Partnerships category which focuses on Local Government-First Nation partnerships.

The new and improved Awards Program has been carefully designed to showcase municipalities and regional districts who “lead the pack.” UBCM looks forward to receiving your submissions.

The application booklet can be accessed at www.civicnet.bc.ca under About UBCM/Programs/Excellence Awards. The deadline for submissions is May 28, 2004. The awards will be presented at the UBCM convention in Kelowna.
Ministry Staffing Changes Contributed by MCAWS staff

The Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services is saying farewell to a number of employees who have contributed to the local government system in British Columbia over many years. The following people are retiring:

- Eric Bonham, Director of Municipal Engineering Services
  - Mitch Funnelle, Regional Director Okanagan Region;
  - Allan LeFerre, Regional Director Vancouver Island;
  - Graham Dragushan, Manager Local Government-Fisheries Relations;
  - Gerry Cook, Financial Analyst; and
  - Gail Fattore, Administrative Assistant.

The combined talents and experience of these staff have been greatly appreciated and they will be missed.

On April 1, Dale Wall, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) will begin a six month deferred leave. During this period, Gary Paget will be the Acting ADM. His responsibilities in the Governance and Structure Division will be redistributed among other staff in the Local Government Department. For an updated list of Department staff and contact information please go to http://www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/ldg/Contacts/department.htm

57 Infrastructure Projects Announced

UBCM President Frank Leonard MC'd a major Federal-Provincial infrastructure event on March 15th at the Vancouver Aquarium, where 57 projects, including both “green” and non-green community projects, were announced for community use around the province.

Mayor Leonard noted that a number of the communities involved were receiving their first funding from the program. This announcement more than doubled the total number of approved projects to 260, with a total value of nearly $473 million from the federal and provincial governments. The project applicants contributed the remaining cost-eligible under the program guidelines, plus any additional costs.

Hubbard v. District of West Vancouver

This case dealt with the issue of council receiving a staff report on concerns raised at a public hearing after the hearing. The court found that the report contained information that council has to disclose to the public prior to a public meeting. The court found that the failure to disclose this information in the staff report denied a fair public consultation process to protect the public interest. This decision basically leaves local government with two options, - if receiving staff reports after a hearing, hold another hearing - not receive staff reports on issues raised.

The UBCM Executive, at their January 2004 meeting, considered and approved funding from the UBCM legal assistance fund for an appeal of this case. This fund provides moral support and financial support up to 1/3 costs to a maximum of $10,000 to UBCM members, whose case meets established criteria.

In Memoriam

Peter Pattullo passed away on January 27, 2004 at McKinney Place in Oliver after an eight-year battle with dementia. Peter was born in Vancouver, B.C. on July 12, 1930. He spent his growing up years residing between Scotland and Canada. He attended the Vernon Boys’ School during the war years and returned to Scotland to study engineering at Edinburgh University.

The major part of his working life was spent in municipal administration with the cities of Prince George (city clerk during 1960s and 1970s), Prince Rupert (city administrator from 1977 - 1981), president of Municipal Officers’ Association during the later 1970s and with UBCM from 1981 - 1985. He and his wife, Carol, moved to the Oliver area in January 1985 when they purchased Gallagher Lake Lodge. They successfully operated the lodge for over 14 years.

In business since 1975, we are an employee owned firm of 190+ people working out of seven different offices throughout BC and Alberta. In helping our clients solve their problems, we combine the talents of planners, engineers, landscape architects, design technologists, lawyers, local government consultants, accountants and service teams.

Our specialties include:

- Water & Wastewater Engineering
- Transportation Planning & Engineering
- Stormwater Management
- Land Development
- Information Management Systems

Our contact information:


www.urban-systems.com
Area Associations

AVICC CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 53rd AVICC Convention was held in Parksville in the Parksville Community and Conference Centre adjacent to the award winning Parksville Civic and Technology Centre. The guest speakers set the stage for a successful conference – speakers included:

- Michael Smyth, Political Columnist
- Premier Gordon Campbell
- UBCM President, Mayor Frank Leonard
- Honourable Murray Coell, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services
- Gail White, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility, British Columbia Lottery Corporation
- Joy MacPhail, Leader of the Opposition
- Gail White, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility, British Columbia Lottery Corporation
- UBCM President, Mayor Frank Leonard
- Premier Gordon Campbell
- Michael Smyth, Political Columnist

AVICC would like to thank the presenters that took time out of their busy schedule, to attend and participate in the workshops on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

The new AVICC Executive are:

- President
  - Mayor W. J. (Jack) Peake, Lake Cowichan
- 1st Vice President
  - Councillor Bea Holland, Victoria
- 2nd Vice President
  - Chair David Essig, Islands Trust
- Director at Large
  - Mayor Barry Janyk, Gibsons
- Director at Large
  - Mayor Ken McRae, Port Alberni
- Director at Large
  - Councillor Nicholas Wade, Saanich
- Electoral Area Representative
  - Director Rod Sherrill, Mt. Waddington RD
- Past President
  - Councillor Mary Ashley, Campbell River

BC School Trustees and UBCM renew Protocol

In September 2001, the UBCM and the BC School Trustees Association signed a protocol confirming their intention to work together on projects of joint benefit and interest to both associations. Recently our two associations met and agreed to renew the protocol, establish a working group and develop opportunities for association collaboration.

Over the next few months the working group will develop a communication plan for publicly promoting community success stories. We want to highlight examples where the local government and school district have worked cooperatively to save their taxpayers money, establish joint use agreements for their facilities or some other initiatives that make their community a better place. If you would like to tell us your story we would love to hear it! UBCM hopes to profile a few of these unique working relationships at a workshop at the 2014 Convention. So tell us your story by faxing it to the UBCM/BCSTA Protocol Working Group c/o the UBCM office at 604-270-9116.

Smart Development Partnerships Contributed by MCAWS staff

Working through partnerships, the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services supports local governments in their efforts to plan and make land use decisions to benefit their communities. Partnership projects focus on key priorities, including:

- building co-operation among local governments and between local governments and the province;
- encouraging innovation and capacity building in local government land use planning and decision making;
- improving housing affordability; and
- promoting efficient and cost-effective infrastructure.

Descriptions of partnership projects will be posted as details were confirmed.

For more information on Smart Development Partnerships, please contact:

Lea Goodwin, Director
Intergovernmental Relations and Planning Division
Min. of Community, Aboriginal & Women’s Services
Tel: 1-250-356-1128 (Toll Free through Enquiry BC)
Email: Lea.Goodwin@gems7.gov.bc.ca

2004 AREA ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE DATES

Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities
Friday, March 26 - Sunday, March 28
PARKSVILLE

Association of Kootenay and Boundary Municipalities
Thursday, April 15 - Saturday, April 17
FERNFERN

Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association
Wednesday, May 5 - Friday, May 7
KAMLOOPS

Lower Mainland Municipal Association
Wednesday, May 12 - Friday, May 14
WHISTLER

North Central Municipal Association
Thursday, May 13 - Saturday, May 15
FORT NELSON
The provincial government released its report “Firestorm 2003 Provincial Review” by former Mani- toba Premier Gary Filmon on February 27, 2003. The report examined four basic questions:

- Was British Columbia prepared?
- How well did emergency systems deal with the situation?
- What could be done better in the future?
- What action should be taken?

The report made a total of 47 recommendations as measures that might be taken to ensure that the prov- ince was better prepared in the future. A number of the recommendations made could impact on how local governments undertake develop- ment in the future. The report recommended that:

- The province should require a community protec- tion plan in those communities with a high probability and consequence of fire in the interface zone.
- Municipalities within fire prone areas should form- ally adopt the FireSmart (Partners in Protection 2003) standard for community protection both for private and public property. At a minimum, this standard should be applied to all new subdivision develop- ments.
- The province should require all slash within or adjacent to a wildland urban interface to be removed, treated or burned on site to mitigate the surface fuel hazard.
- The British Columbia government should require municipal and regional governments to implement building codes and land use requirements that have proven useful elsewhere in limiting the impact of interface fires.

In addition, the report made a number of recommenda- tions which may affect how local governments train their staff and how they may manage interface urban fires in the future. The report recommended that:

- Regional districts should be required through legis- lation to provide local emergency plans developed to a provincial standard and maintained to a current status.
- Provincial and local governments should ensure both forest firefighters and structural firefighters are cross trained in each other’s area of competence.
- To gain the full value of the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System (BC ERMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) it must be universally adopted by all provincial and local gov- ernment agencies. Training course material, delivery and examination for ICS should be standardized across organizations.
- Maintaining ICS accreditation over time should be dependent on a system of continuing education credits and participation in regularly scheduled, integrated simulations using ICS.
- All jurisdictions should consider intensifying inter-agency training efforts, including the use of large-scale interface wildfire simulations, to improve commu- nications.
- The British Columbia government should develop and implement a provincial strategy for emergency communications technology focused on moving over time to total inter-operability across agencies through- out the province.
- Municipal and regional governments should regu- larly distribute educational materials to interface resi- dents.
- Training for volunteer firefighters should be funded by municipal and regional governments. The provincial report also recommended that:
- The provincial government should undertake a series of fuel treatment pilot projects in cooperation with municipal and regional governments in locations of high interface fire risk to demonstrate and prove the social, economic, and ecological costs and benefits of fuel treatments. The provincial government should commit new funding for its share of the fuel manage- ment program.

**DCC Guide for Elected Officials Now Available**

The newest addition to the DCC Guide series is now available: the Development Cost Charge Guide for Elected Officials. Copies can be downloaded in pdf format from the Minister’s web site at: www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/leg/advise/index.htm under the Finance heading. All local governments have been advised electronically that the Guide is now available.

This new publication of the Ministry of Commu- nity Aboriginal and Women’s Services was developed in conjunction with the Development Finance Review Committee, which has representation from local gov- ernment, UBCM, the development, home building, and real estate industries, and provincial staff.

The new Guide is designed to increase understand- ing about DCCs among local government leaders. The Guide uses a “question & answer” format, which ad- dresses important questions on DCCs and their use. The Guide deals with the basics, or fundamentals of DCCs.

Readers interested in more detailed reviews, or in learning more about the technical aspects of DCCs or other development finance tools, may wish to refer to the DCCs Best Practices Guide or the Development Finance Choices Guide, both of which are available at the same web address as the Elected Officials Guide.

**2003 RESOLUTIONS**

In total, 119 resolutions were forwarded to the prov- incial government for consideration following the 2003 UBCM Conven- tion. UBCM expects to receive responses to these resolutions by mid April and individual sponsors will be alerted as these ar- rive at the UBCM office. Members are advised that full provincial responses to all forwarded resolu- tions will be made avail- able on CivicNet (www.civicnet.bc.ca) temporarily under the New Documents tab and permanently under Reso- lutions/Policy – Provin- cial Responses. A com- plete analysis of provin- cial resolutions responses will be undertaken once all responses are received and this will be reported in an upcoming edition of UBCM News and in the UBCM’s Annual Report to members.

In addition to the pro- vincial conveyance of resolutions from the 2003 Convention, UBCM for- warded 23 resolutions to the federal government, 15 to the Federation of Cana- dian Municipalities, and 7 to other organizations for consideration. Responses to these resolutions have been arriving since De- cember 2003 and are be- ing copied to sponsors as they are received.

**NAV CANADA – Level of Service Review**

Nav Canada has prepared an internal preliminary assessment of possible changes in the level of service provided at a number of airports across Canada that would allow it to reduce its operating costs and pro- vide better service in some areas. The changes are directed at the type of weather services, flight informa- tion services, and navigational assistance Nav Canada currently provides.

The report identifies reductions in the level of service provided at the following airports in British Columbia: Abbotsford, Dawson Creek, Prince George, Smithers, Quesnel, Williams Lake, and Cranbrook. The report also identifies areas where there may be an improvement in services: Victoria, Nanaimo, Masset and Bella Bella.

The changes proposed to the navigational services have the potential to affect the delivery of medevac emergency services and the development of tourism opportunities in some of the communities. The preliminary report implies that a similar process will be undertaken and that there will be consulta- tion with stakeholders before any changes are made in the level of service, but no details are provided or indication of when this process will take place.

UBCM has written to the federal Minister of Trans- port, indicating concern about possible changes in the level of navigation service provided to local airports in British Columbia. It has also written to Nav Canada requesting that local communities be consulted before there are any changes in the level of service provided and requested details of any consultation process that will be undertaken in British Columbia.

**Policy Updates**

Staples McNandnold Stewart ...

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

Visit our website at www.sms.bc.ca for more information about our firm and lawyers and for recent issues of our newsletters, client bulletins and other news items.
NEW GUIDELINES FOR ALR PLANNING

The Agricultural Land Commission has worked with local governments for over 30 years to achieve consistency between local government plans and the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Community Charter updates provide a streamlined review of plans and bylaws. The Commission’s Community Charter Update would apply to plans and amendments to plans with small areas of ALR, or plans for areas that already have an agricultural land plan or comparable plan in place that recognizes the ALR and promotes farming. These plans will be assigned to the Commission at a later date. This new process is called Stream #1.

Under Stream #2, local governments will follow the existing procedure by referring plans and plan amendments to the Commission early in the planning process for review by Commission and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries staff and the Commission panel. The plan is formally referred to the ALR after first reading and the Commission may or may not require changes to the plan to make it consistent with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and regulations.

Commission staff will provide advice on the appropriate process for local government plan reviews. In any case, those local governments that want a more detailed review by the Commission, may opt for the second stream. By streamlining its review of local government plans, the Commission hopes to focus its efforts on planning with those local governments with significant ALR areas, which sometimes are coupled with limited areas for future growth and development outside the ALR.

The Agricultural Land Commission appreciates the efforts of local governments in protecting the land base for agriculture and encouraging farm businesses in their areas. The Commission panel members will continue to meet with applicants and local governments in their panel regions and to factor community needs and issues into their decision-making. All communities are encouraged to recognize the important economic and social contributions made by a healthy and prosperous agricultural sector.

For a copy of the “ALR and Community Planning Guidelines” visit the Commission website: www.alc.gov.bc.ca

Community Charter Update

Continued from page 1

The Environment and Wildlife Regulation has the following key provisions:

• local government can act with same authority as in the LGA regarding the sale of wildflowers (LGA sec 722)
• similar authority as the LGA regarding the Protection of Waterways (LGA sec. 725.1) but the LGA power to prohibit has been enhanced with the addition of the power to regulate, which gives municipalities some authority to provide terms and conditions with regard to activities affecting wetlands
• new authorities are provided in relation to:
  • the application of pesticides for ‘comestics’ use in the maintenance of outdoor plants and turf on residential or municipal properties.

BCBC Outsources Property Management Services

Brookfiled LePage Johnson Control (BLJC) has been awarded the contracts as BC Buildings Corporation’s (BCBC) outsourcing provider of property management services effective April 1, 2004.

The five-year contract includes a renewal option of two additional terms of up to five years each. Based on current activity volumes of $90 million per year, BCBC expects that the savings over the course of the five-year contract will be in the range of approximately $35-40 million.

The contract provides for the transfer of over 300 BCBC property management employees to BLJC’s newly formed entity: BLJC Workspace Solutions Inc. (BLJC WSI), that will deliver the services. Both unionized (BCGEU) and non-unionized transferring employees retain all of their compensation, pension and benefits. Transferring bargaining unit employees will continue to be covered by the existing Collective Agreement, as BLJC WSI will be the successo...
Under the Forest Revitalization Plan announced in March 2003, the provincial government committed to taking back 20% of the logging rights allocated to existing tenure holders and making it available for First Nations, BC Timber Sales, Community Forest and Woodlot licences. In exchange for the take-back licenses, they are to be fairly compensated for harvesting rights that have been returned to the Crown. The Province has set aside $200 million in a one-time fund for this compensation to existing tenure holders.

Since that announcement one year ago, negotiations have been taking place between the provincial government and existing licensees. The results of those negotiations are starting to become known. Specifically, the communities of Pemberton, Hope, Fort Alberni and Lake Cowichan have advised UBCM’s Communities and Resources Committee of their desire to be included in the take-back process. The Ministry of Forests staff noted that it was important to ensure that local communities had a voice in the decision-making.

Chairs Lonsdale expressed concern that there appears to be a lack of concern by the major licensees for the impact that their decisions will have on communities and workers. Last year, the Ministry of Forests announced a $75 million dollar program to assist workers and contractors. At the meeting, ministry staff heard the news when it became public information.

Chair Lonsdale emphasized that the loss of 50 jobs in a community can be devastating as it often means that 50 families leave a community. She also queried how the take-back had been apportioned and if it mainly affected coastal operations. Ministry staff advised that the take-back was proportional as much as possible. The take-backs were determined based on the needs of First Nations and augmenting the BC Timber Sales program. These objectives resulted in some areas being hit harder than others. Ministry of Forests staff noted that it was weighted slightly in favour of coastal operations, where there is more First Nations demand.

Chair Lonsdale expressed concern that there appears to be a lack of concern by the major licensees for the impact that their decisions will have on communities and workers. Last year, the Ministry of Forests announced a $75 million dollar program to assist workers and contractors. At the meeting, ministry staff heard the news when it became public information.

Chair Lonsdale emphasized that the loss of 50 jobs in a community can be devastating as it often means that 50 families leave a community. She also queried how the take-back had been apportioned and if it mainly affected coastal operations. Ministry staff advised that the take-back was proportional as much as possible. The take-backs were determined based on the needs of First Nations and augmenting the BC Timber Sales program. These objectives resulted in some areas being hit harder than others. Ministry of Forests staff noted that it was weighted slightly in favour of coastal operations, where there is more First Nations demand.

Chair Lonsdale expressed concern that there appears to be a lack of concern by the major licensees for the impact that their decisions will have on communities and workers. Last year, the Ministry of Forests announced a $75 million dollar program to assist workers and contractors. At the meeting, ministry staff heard the news when it became public information.

Chair Lonsdale emphasized that the loss of 50 jobs in a community can be devastating as it often means that 50 families leave a community. She also queried how the take-back had been apportioned and if it mainly affected coastal operations. Ministry staff advised that the take-back was proportional as much as possible. The take-backs were determined based on the needs of First Nations and augmenting the BC Timber Sales program. These objectives resulted in some areas being hit harder than others. Ministry of Forests staff noted that it was weighted slightly in favour of coastal operations, where there is more First Nations demand.

Chair Lonsdale expressed concern that there appears to be a lack of concern by the major licensees for the impact that their decisions will have on communities and workers. Last year, the Ministry of Forests announced a $75 million dollar program to assist workers and contractors. At the meeting, ministry staff heard the news when it became public information.

Chair Lonsdale emphasized that the loss of 50 jobs in a community can be devastating as it often means that 50 families leave a community. She also queried how the take-back had been apportioned and if it mainly affected coastal operations. Ministry staff advised that the take-back was proportional as much as possible. The take-backs were determined based on the needs of First Nations and augmenting the BC Timber Sales program. These objectives resulted in some areas being hit harder than others. Ministry of Forests staff noted that it was weighted slightly in favour of coastal operations, where there is more First Nations demand.

Chair Lonsdale expressed concern that there appears to be a lack of concern by the major licensees for the impact that their decisions will have on communities and workers. Last year, the Ministry of Forests announced a $75 million dollar program to assist workers and contractors. At the meeting, ministry staff heard the news when it became public information.

Chair Lonsdale emphasized that the loss of 50 jobs in a community can be devastating as it often means that 50 families leave a community. She also queried how the take-back had been apportioned and if it mainly affected coastal operations. Ministry staff advised that the take-back was proportional as much as possible. The take-backs were determined based on the needs of First Nations and augmenting the BC Timber Sales program. These objectives resulted in some areas being hit harder than others. Ministry of Forests staff noted that it was weighted slightly in favour of coastal operations, where there is more First Nations demand.

Chair Lonsdale expressed concern that there appears to be a lack of concern by the major licensees for the impact that their decisions will have on communities and workers. Last year, the Ministry of Forests announced a $75 million dollar program to assist workers and contractors. At the meeting, ministry staff heard the news when it became public information.

Chair Lonsdale emphasized that the loss of 50 jobs in a community can be devastating as it often means that 50 families leave a community. She also queried how the take-back had been apportioned and if it mainly affected coastal operations. Ministry staff advised that the take-back was proportional as much as possible. The take-backs were determined based on the needs of First Nations and augmenting the BC Timber Sales program. These objectives resulted in some areas being hit harder than others. Ministry of Forests staff noted that it was weighted slightly in favour of coastal operations, where there is more First Nations demand.

Chair Lonsdale expressed concern that there appears to be a lack of concern by the major licensees for the impact that their decisions will have on communities and workers. Last year, the Ministry of Forests announced a $75 million dollar program to assist workers and contractors. At the meeting, ministry staff heard the news when it became public information.

Chair Lonsdale emphasized that the loss of 50 jobs in a community can be devastating as it often means that 50 families leave a community. She also queried how the take-back had been apportioned and if it mainly affected coastal operations. Ministry staff advised that the take-back was proportional as much as possible. The take-backs were determined based on the needs of First Nations and augmenting the BC Timber Sales program. These objectives resulted in some areas being hit harder than others. Ministry of Forests staff noted that it was weighted slightly in favour of coastal operations, where there is more First Nations demand.

Chair Lonsdale expressed concern that there appears to be a lack of concern by the major licensees for the impact that their decisions will have on communities and workers. Last year, the Ministry of Forests announced a $75 million dollar program to assist workers and contractors. At the meeting, ministry staff heard the news when it became public information.

Chair Lonsdale emphasized that the loss of 50 jobs in a community can be devastating as it often means that 50 families leave a community. She also queried how the take-back had been apportioned and if it mainly affected coastal operations. Ministry staff advised that the take-back was proportional as much as possible. The take-backs were determined based on the needs of First Nations and augmenting the BC Timber Sales program. These objectives resulted in some areas being hit harder than others. Ministry of Forests staff noted that it was weighted slightly in favour of coastal operations, where there is more First Nations demand.
CIVICNET UPDATE

Changes, revisions and additions to the CivicNet website are nearing completion and UBCM staff would like to thank members for their patience over the past several months as structural and editorial adjustments were undertaken. Recent comments indicate that members are finding the site easier to navigate and use and UBCM now invites all its members to (re)visit www.civicnet.bc.ca and check out the additions and improvements. The following diagram highlights some of CivicNet’s key site content:

Of particular interest to members will be:

- 2003 Convention Photo Album (under Convention)
- UBCM History pages (under About UBCM)
- Executive photos (under About UBCM – Executive)
- 2004 Excellence Awards information (under About UBCM – Programs)
- Updated Aboriginal Affairs pages (under Services Surveys)
- Community to Community Forum Final Reports (under Featured Policy Topics – Aboriginal Affairs – Community to Community Forum Program)
- Improved Resolutions Database Search Functionality (under Resolutions/Policies – Resolutions Database)
- Improved Links section

Still to come are improvements to the site Search Engine and online Surveys as well as new content in the Professional Directory and an updated version of the UBCM Information Guide. Stay tuned for more Convention 2004 details as September approaches and be sure to check our News/Announcements button regularly for current news and events of interest to local government.

Members are encouraged to contact Errin Armstrong in the UBCM office (earmstro@civicnet.bc.ca) with comments, concerns, questions and suggestions for further improvement – feedback on what you like about the site is also welcome of course!

Traffic Fine Revenues

Under the Budget plan the government will begin in 2005/06 to fulfill its New Era commitment to share 75 per cent of all traffic fine revenues with municipalities. The three-year fiscal plan indicates increased payments of $10 m. in 2005 and $7 m. in 2006. This would indicate that building on the existing base of $10 m. in 2005/06 to fulfill its New Era commitment to share 75 per cent of all traffic fine revenues with municipalities.

Still to come are improvements to the site Search Engine and online Surveys as well as new content in the Professional Directory and an updated version of the UBCM Information Guide. Stay tuned for more Convention 2004 details as September approaches and be sure to check our News/Announcements button regularly for current news and events of interest to local government.

Members are encouraged to contact Errin Armstrong in the UBCM office (earmstro@civicnet.bc.ca) with comments, concerns, questions and suggestions for further improvement – feedback on what you like about the site is also welcome of course!

Traffic Fine Revenues

Under the Budget plan the government will begin in 2005/06 to fulfill its New Era commitment to share 75 per cent of all traffic fine revenues with municipalities. The three-year fiscal plan indicates increased payments of $10 m. in 2005 and $7 m. in 2006. This would indicate that building on the existing base of $10 m. in 2005/06 to fulfill its New Era commitment to share 75 per cent of all traffic fine revenues with municipalities.

Still to come are improvements to the site Search Engine and online Surveys as well as new content in the Professional Directory and an updated version of the UBCM Information Guide. Stay tuned for more Convention 2004 details as September approaches and be sure to check our News/Announcements button regularly for current news and events of interest to local government.

Members are encouraged to contact Errin Armstrong in the UBCM office (earmstro@civicnet.bc.ca) with comments, concerns, questions and suggestions for further improvement – feedback on what you like about the site is also welcome of course!

Traffic Fine Revenues

Under the Budget plan the government will begin in 2005/06 to fulfill its New Era commitment to share 75 per cent of all traffic fine revenues with municipalities. The three-year fiscal plan indicates increased payments of $10 m. in 2005 and $7 m. in 2006. This would indicate that building on the existing base of $10 m. in 2005/06 to fulfill its New Era commitment to share 75 per cent of all traffic fine revenues with municipalities.

Still to come are improvements to the site Search Engine and online Surveys as well as new content in the Professional Directory and an updated version of the UBCM Information Guide. Stay tuned for more Convention 2004 details as September approaches and be sure to check our News/Announcements button regularly for current news and events of interest to local government.

Members are encouraged to contact Errin Armstrong in the UBCM office (earmstro@civicnet.bc.ca) with comments, concerns, questions and suggestions for further improvement – feedback on what you like about the site is also welcome of course!

Traffic Fine Revenues

Under the Budget plan the government will begin in 2005/06 to fulfill its New Era commitment to share 75 per cent of all traffic fine revenues with municipalities. The three-year fiscal plan indicates increased payments of $10 m. in 2005 and $7 m. in 2006. This would indicate that building on the existing base of $10 m. in 2005/06 to fulfill its New Era commitment to share 75 per cent of all traffic fine revenues with municipalities.

Still to come are improvements to the site Search Engine and online Surveys as well as new content in the Professional Directory and an updated version of the UBCM Information Guide. Stay tuned for more Convention 2004 details as September approaches and be sure to check our News/Announcements button regularly for current news and events of interest to local government.

Members are encouraged to contact Errin Armstrong in the UBCM office (earmstro@civicnet.bc.ca) with comments, concerns, questions and suggestions for further improvement – feedback on what you like about the site is also welcome of course!
The UBCM is working with the Local Government Management Association, Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services and the North Shore communities (West Vancouver, North Vancouver City and North Vancouver District) to develop the first bylaw adjudication process under the new Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act. The pilot communication is scheduled to begin in May.

The Ministry of Attorney General has reviewed proposals from a number of groups able to provide mediation and arbitration services to undertake the bylaw adjudication process. The intent is to develop a best practices guide that can be used by other local governments who may want to implement the bylaw adjudication process in the future.

The concept under development is to undertake a six-month pilot project on the North Shore, focused on parking ticket, to monitor how well the system works and what regulatory and/or administrative changes may be needed to make it work better. The Ministry of Attorney General at the request of the UBCM has agreed to undertake an assessment of the new system and do a business case analysis documenting all the costs and savings to local governments of implementing the new system.

The Ministry of Attorney General has requested that each of the Regional Districts, (i.e. representatives from small municipalities, electoral areas) have input into policing that parallels that of municipalities with populations over 5,000.

The UBCM will be exploring with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the RCMP, ways that it can develop a stronger working relationship with each of them.

The Ministry of Attorney General has requested that individuals, (i.e. representatives from small municipalities and electoral areas) have input into policing that parallels that of municipalities with populations over 5,000.

The UBCM has appointed the Electoral Area Representative and the Small Communities Representative to the committee. The Ministry of Attorney General at the request of the UBCM has agreed to pay local governments for federal prisoners (corrections/immigration) kept in local jails. This means that an added $70,000 to $100,000 dollars in new money will be paid for the provision of local jail services in the future.

The concept under development is to undertake a six-month pilot project on the North Shore, focused on parking ticket, to monitor how well the system works and what regulatory and/or administrative changes may be needed to make it work better. The Ministry of Attorney General at the request of the UBCM has agreed to undertake an assessment of the new system and do a business case analysis documenting all the costs and savings to local governments of implementing the new system.

The Ministry of Attorney General has requested that each of the Regional Districts, (i.e. representatives from small municipalities, electoral areas) have input into policing that parallels that of municipalities with populations over 5,000.

The UBCM will be exploring with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the RCMP, ways that it can develop a stronger working relationship with each of them.
What’s New on the MCAWS Web Site Contributed by MCAWS staff

Of interest are the following updates to the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal & Women’s Services (MCAWS) Local Government Department web site:

Community Charter

Revised Tables of Concordance (CC to LGA/LGA to CC) http://www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/charter/concordance/index.htm
Updated Responsibilities under the Charter http://www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/charter/responsibility/index.htm
Updated Opportunities under the Charter http://www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/charter/opportunity/index.htm

Finance

Updates to Municipal Statistics (including 2003 statistics) http://www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/lgd/infmt/index.htm

Structure

Updates to Regional District Voting Strength http://www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/lgd/gov_structure/structure/voting1.htm
Improvement Districts

New Improvement District Index page http://www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/lgd/gov_structure/improvement/index.htm

Community Charter Update

Continued from page 6
- the control of alien invasive species, which includes a Schedule listing plants, invertebrates (insects) and some vertebrate species, and
- the control of wildlife species that are generally not recognized as threatened or endangered (animals listed on Designation and Exemption regulation, schedules B and C).

Any municipality wishing to exercise powers not included in the regulation will need ministerial approval in order to proceed. As per the related consultation agreement, requests for powers will be reviewed on an annual or more frequent basis to determine if amendments to the regulation can provide all municipalities with additional authorities.

Building Standards Regulation

Under the Community Charter’s concurrent authority provisions, any new local government bylaw, or amendment to an existing bylaw, that establishes building standards requires approval by the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services. The minister’s regulation sets out matters which local governments may deal with autonomously. These matters relate to practice, including administrative and operational requirements and procedures. For example, a bylaw that establishes procedures for the administration and enforcement of the BC Building Code (e.g., procedures for plan review and building inspections) will not be subject to concurrent authority.

Local governments will also continue to have authority to regulate construction for buildings that are exempt from the BC Building Code and structures that are not buildings.

Note that all existing bylaws are ‘grandfathered’ and will not be subject to the regulation until or unless they are amended. The onus is on local governments to determine if they need provincial approval of a bylaw that alters the requirements or application of the BC Building Code.

Soil Removal and Deposit

There is no regulation at this time. Municipal bylaws prohibiting soil removal or prohibiting the deposit of soil, making reference to the quality of soil or contamination will continue to require Ministerial approval.

MCAWS and UBCM Agreement on Required Consultation

The Community Charter requires consultation with local government through the Union of BC Municipalities, on changes to the CC or Local Government Act legislation or regulations and on changes to the Local Government Grants Act. A consultation agreement is being drafted respecting matters affecting local government where the MCAWS minister is the responsible minister. It outlines a consultation framework including:
- who is to be consulted;
- when and how the consultation is to take place;
- specifics of information that is to be provided for the purposes of consultation;
- how responses are to be provided and dealt with, and confidentiality.

The agreement also sets out priority steps for identifying routine or substantive changes and the associated requirements for notice, information sharing and response times. It has been developed as a guidance document and is expected to provide some flexibility around what constitutes adequate consultation given the nature of the matter.

Introducing CouncilVISIONS Membership

CouncilVISIONS now pays for itself! In addition to being the most current, accurate and valuable database of legislation and policy for BC’s local government sector, we are pleased to announce that CouncilVISIONS is now an exciting membership that will assist you in reducing administrative costs, increasing productivity and efficiency, and improving customer service:

Membership Benefits Coming in the 2nd Quarter of 2004:

- **My CouncilVISIONS:** By selecting specific acts and regulations you want to search within as your default, you will be able to personalize your own content package, thus making CouncilVISIONS much more user-friendly. As well, enhanced search capabilities will provide Google-like search functionality giving you even simpler and quicker access to information, and enhanced printing capabilities will allow you to print specific pages of text.

- **Free Hard Copies of CouncilVISIONS Legislation:** Members will receive one free hard copy of our local government legislation package in an attractive binder, and you will be able to make as many additional copies for your local government at no cost. Updates will be provided for download on a weekly and quarterly basis, also at no cost and with no restrictions on the number of additional free copies for your local government.

- **Savings on Other iCompass Services:** Members will receive a 25% discount off the set-up fees associated with any of our GovWeb applications that assist local governments automate and streamline many of their administration processes. These applications currently include iWeb (our website content management tool), iHost (our web-based document publishing tool), and our Action Items application (our web-based tool for tracking and reporting action items).

Membership Benefits Coming in the 3rd Quarter of 2004:

- **On-Line Printing Savings:** A new on-line print service will provide you with an easy and affordable solution to create, order, modify, proof, financially manage and receive your custom printed materials - such as forms, licenses, business cards, and letterhead - 24/7 via a secure website. This service will reduce the time required to order printed business materials, reduce the margin for human error in the ordering of printed materials, and reduce the amount of waste by eliminating the need to order large quantities of printed materials at any one time.

- **Free On-Line Surveys Application:** A wizard driven survey application containing powerful reporting capabilities will enable you to effortlessly create on-line surveys that can be used both internally and with your constituents. This application will save you time and money by distributing your surveys electronically, and by allowing for the quick storage, retrieval and analysis of results at no charge.

- **Savings on Your Communications Expenses:** National volume discounts with a world class telecommunications provider will be available to you.

CouncilVISIONS
Call us for more information: 1-800-260-7409 or mcaws.sales@mcaws.gov.bc.ca

Building Standards Regulation

Under the Community Charter’s concurrent authority provisions, any new local government bylaw, or amendment to an existing bylaw, that establishes building standards requires approval by the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services. The minister’s regulation sets out matters which local governments may deal with autonomously. These matters relate to practice, including administrative and operational requirements and procedures. For example, a bylaw that establishes procedures for the administration and enforcement of the BC Building Code (e.g., procedures for plan review and building inspections) will not be subject to concurrent authority.

Local governments will also continue to have authority to regulate construction for buildings that are exempt from the BC Building Code and structures that are not buildings.

Note that all existing bylaws are ‘grandfathered’ and will not be subject to the regulation until or unless they are amended. The onus is on local governments to determine if they need provincial approval of a bylaw that alters the requirements or application of the BC Building Code.

Soil Removal and Deposit

There is no regulation at this time. Municipal bylaws prohibiting soil removal or prohibiting the deposit of soil, making reference to the quality of soil or contamination will continue to require Ministerial approval.

MCAWS and UBCM Agreement on Required Consultation

The Community Charter requires consultation with local government through the Union of BC Municipalities, on changes to the Community Charter or Local Government Act legislation or regulations and on changes to the Local Government Grants Act. A consultation agreement is being drafted respecting matters affecting local government where the MCAWS minister is the responsible minister. It outlines a consultation framework including:
- who is to be consulted;
- when and how the consultation is to take place;
- specifics of information that is to be provided for the purposes of consultation;
- how responses are to be provided and dealt with, and confidentiality.

The agreement also sets out priority steps for identifying routine or substantive changes and the associated requirements for notice, information sharing and response times. It has been developed as a guidance document and is expected to provide some flexibility around what constitutes adequate consultation given the nature of the matter.

Introducing CouncilVISIONS Membership

CouncilVISIONS now pays for itself! In addition to being the most current, accurate and valuable database of legislation and policy for BC’s local government sector, we are pleased to announce that CouncilVISIONS is now an exciting membership that will assist you in reducing administrative costs, increasing productivity and efficiency, and improving customer service:

Membership Benefits Coming in the 2nd Quarter of 2004:

- **My CouncilVISIONS:** By selecting specific acts and regulations you want to search within as your default, you will be able to personalize your own content package, thus making CouncilVISIONS much more user-friendly. As well, enhanced search capabilities will provide Google-like search functionality giving you even simpler and quicker access to information, and enhanced printing capabilities will allow you to print specific pages of text.

- **Free Hard Copies of CouncilVISIONS Legislation:** Members will receive one free hard copy of our local government legislation package in an attractive binder, and you will be able to make as many additional copies for your local government at no cost. Updates will be provided for download on a weekly and quarterly basis, also at no cost and with no restrictions on the number of additional free copies for your local government.

- **Savings on Other iCompass Services:** Members will receive a 25% discount off the set-up fees associated with any of our GovWeb applications that assist local governments automate and streamline many of their administration processes. These applications currently include iWeb (our website content management tool), iHost (our web-based document publishing tool), and our Action Items application (our web-based tool for tracking and reporting action items).

Membership Benefits Coming in the 3rd Quarter of 2004:

- **On-Line Printing Savings:** A new on-line print service will provide you with an easy and affordable solution to create, order, modify, proof, financially manage and receive your custom printed materials - such as forms, licenses, business cards, and letterhead - 24/7 via a secure website. This service will reduce the time required to order printed business materials, reduce the margin for human error in the ordering of printed materials, and reduce the amount of waste by eliminating the need to order large quantities of printed materials at any one time.

- **Free On-Line Surveys Application:** A wizard driven survey application containing powerful reporting capabilities will enable you to effortlessly create on-line surveys that can be used both internally and with your constituents. This application will save you time and money by distributing your surveys electronically, and by allowing for the quick storage, retrieval and analysis of results at no charge.

- **Savings on Your Communications Expenses:** National volume discounts with a world class telecommunications provider will be available to you.

CouncilVISIONS
Call us for more information: 1-800-260-7409 or mcaws.sales@mcaws.gov.bc.ca

Building Standards Regulation

Under the Community Charter’s concurrent authority provisions, any new local government bylaw, or amendment to an existing bylaw, that establishes building standards requires approval by the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services. The minister’s regulation sets out matters which local governments may deal with autonomously. These matters relate to practice, including administrative and operational requirements and procedures. For example, a bylaw that establishes procedures for the administration and enforcement of the BC Building Code (e.g., procedures for plan review and building inspections) will not be subject to concurrent authority.

Local governments will also continue to have authority to regulate construction for buildings that are exempt from the BC Building Code and structures that are not buildings.

Note that all existing bylaws are ‘grandfathered’ and will not be subject to the regulation until or unless they are amended. The onus is on local governments to determine if they need provincial approval of a bylaw that alters the requirements or application of the BC Building Code.
Meeting with new Environment Minister - Honourable Bill Barisoff

On March 4, President Leonard and Chair Hobson met with Minister Barisoff and his staff to discuss several matters of interest to UBCM. The following is a brief report on the meeting.

Community Charter Con- current Authority Regula- tion on Protection of the Natural Environment and Animals in Relation to Wildlife. The intent of the regulation is to provide clear direction to local govern- ments on what areas of environmental policy it can regulate and avoid conflict with the province. The regulation is accompanied by a consultation agree- ment that provides a frame- work for reviewing requests from local govern- ment to regulate in areas of interest to the ministry. UBCM has requested the Minister’s support in mov- ing the regulation forward as soon as possible.

Waste Permit Fees - Chair Hobson raised the waste permit fee increases. UBCM’s key request is that if fees are meant to cover costs, that more disclosure and transparency is needed about how the permit costs are derived. (Please see the related article.)

Waste Discharge Regula- tion - UBCM requested that all local governments be allowed to operate under the code of practice provi- sions in the regulation. In addition, UBCM re- quested more detailed in- formation on the future operation of the Waste Discharge Regulation: e.g. how the Code of Practice is intended to operate, on what basis fees will be cal- culated, and how the fees charged under a Code of Practice and the permit process will be deter- mined. Ministry staff in- dicted it is fully intended that local governments be provided with the oppor- tunity to operate under a code for certain practices if desired. Ministry staff are working to develop a code that achieves both the required standards and flexibility.

Use of Qualified Profes- sionals - Chair Hobson addressed the require- ment for liability protec- tion when local govern- ment is receiving reports of qualified professionals.

New Sewage Regulations

The Ministry of Health Planning is currently develop- ing a new performance- based regulation for the management of on-site sewage systems. UBCM has participated in the re- view of the draft regula- tion. The regulation is moving away from permit- ting and prescriptive stand- ards to a requirement that a qualified professional design, install and provide a maintenance plan for the site according to a Practice Standards guideline. Site design and maintenance criteria, and letters of certifi- cation for local governments should face no added liability when mak- ing decisions based on the reports of qualified pro- fessionals. UBCM sug- gested that one way of addressing this issue would be to provide for pro- tection for local govern- ment similar to Section 296 of the Local Government Act. Under Section 290, when acting in good faith, local government is pro- tected when making deci- sions based on the infor- mation provided in such reports in the event that problems should arise. The Minister agreed he would consider the sup- port required to ensure that potential process de- lays due to local govern- ment liability concerns do not hinder the approval processes.

Streamside Regulation - The UBCM noted that its Executive supported in principle the proposed ap- proach to a riparian as- sessment area regulation. The Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, subject to liability protec- tion for local government and technical assistance to local government. Chair Hobson expressed the view that if this new regu- latory framework is to go forward it needs to hap- pen soon. Both the regula- tion and the implementa- tion measures need to be released at the same time. They are:

• New regulation – based on 30 metre assessment proce- dure.

• Guidebook – providing advice on how the regulations are to be implemented and best practices measures.

Product Stewardship

Chair Hobson reinforced that the product steward- ship programs play a criti- cal role in waste manage- ment and are needed to divert products out of landfills. There is an on- going need for provincial regulation to ensure a level playing field for industries participating in the pro- grams. It was noted that our members continue to press for the inclusion of milk and milk substitute containers in the deposit/ refund system. Ministry staff indicated that the is- sues of milk spoilage at the take back sites and in the recycling process are issues that are being ad- dressed in the matter of milk containers. Some pi- lot studies are underway.

Insist on it: The RGC Guarantee

Waste Permit Fees

UBCM has requested the Minister’s support in mov- ing the regulation forward as soon as possible.

Waste Discharge Regula- tion - UBCM requested that all local governments be allowed to operate under the code of practice provi- sions in the regulation. In addition, UBCM re- quested more detailed in- formation on the future operation of the Waste Discharge Regulation: e.g. how the Code of Practice is intended to operate, on what basis fees will be cal- culated, and how the fees charged under a Code of Practice and the permit process will be deter- mined. Ministry staff in- dicted it is fully intended that local governments be provided with the oppor- tunity to operate under a code for certain practices if desired. Ministry staff are working to develop a code that achieves both the required standards and flexibility.

Use of Qualified Profes- sionals - Chair Hobson addressed the require- ment for liability protec- tion when local govern- ment is receiving reports of qualified professionals.

New Sewage Regulations

The Ministry of Health Planning is currently develop- ing a new performance- based regulation for the management of on-site sewage systems. UBCM has participated in the re- view of the draft regula- tion. The regulation is moving away from permit- ting and prescriptive stand- ards to a requirement that a qualified professional design, install and provide a maintenance plan for the site according to a Practice Standards guideline. Site design and maintenance criteria, and letters of certifi- cation for local governments should face no added liability when mak- ing decisions based on the reports of qualified pro- fessionals. UBCM sug- gested that one way of addressing this issue would be to provide for pro- tection for local govern- ment similar to Section 296 of the Local Government Act. Under Section 290, when acting in good faith, local government is pro- tected when making deci- sions based on the infor- mation provided in such reports in the event that problems should arise. The Minister agreed he would consider the sup- port required to ensure that potential process de- delays due to local govern- ment liability concerns do not hinder the approval processes.

Streamside Regulation - The UBCM noted that its Executive supported in principle the proposed ap- proach to a riparian as- sessment area regulation. The Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, subject to liability protec- tion for local government and technical assistance to local government. Chair Hobson expressed the view that if this new regu- latory framework is to go forward it needs to hap- pen soon. Both the regula- tion and the implementa- tion measures need to be released at the same time. They are:

• New regulation – based on 30 metre assessment proce- dure.

• Guidebook – providing advice on how the regulations are to be implemented and best practices measures.

Product Stewardship

Chair Hobson reinforced that the product steward- ship programs play a criti- cal role in waste manage- ment and are needed to divert products out of landfills. There is an on- going need for provincial regulation to ensure a level playing field for industries participating in the pro- grams. It was noted that our members continue to press for the inclusion of milk and milk substitute containers in the deposit/ refund system. Ministry staff indicated that the is- sues of milk spoilage at the take back sites and in the recycling process are issues that are being ad- dressed in the matter of milk containers. Some pi- lot studies are underway.
Waste Discharge Fees and Regulations

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has notified the UBCM that they have received approval from Treasury Board to implement a 30% increase in waste permit fees this year - on the date that the permit comes up for renewal. The balance of the fee increase for permis- sions will be introduced over the next two years - 10% each year for an overall 50% increase. The fee increase will be effective on the date of re- newal of permit.

The fee increase by the ministry is intended to provide 100% cost recov- ery for the management of the waste permit fee program, but not for con- taminated sites, pesticides and special wastes.

Waste Discharge Regulation

The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is developing a new Waste Discharge Regulation, un- der the Environmental Management Act. The new regulation lays out two things: a process under which each industrial sec- tor will be classified, and the fees that they will be charged for discharging the waste permit pro- gram in the future and who will be required to pay for these costs.

The UBCM has written the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection opposing the waste per- mit fee increases. It has requested that local gov- ernments be allowed to operate under the code of practice provisions in the regulation. In addition, the UBCM has requested more detailed information on the future operation of the Waste Discharge Regulation.

Meeting of the Environment Protocol Steering Committee

On March 5, repre- sentatives of UBCM, Environ- ment Canada, and the Ministries of Water, Land and Air Protection, Sus- tainable Resource Management and Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services, discussed the broad themes of shared stewardship and inte- grated environmental management. The pur- pose of the meeting was to look ahead, after working together for over 10 years through our collaboration agreements, and consider ways to further our joint work.

Key discussions at the meeting showed that most agencies have similar ideas of the meaning of shared stewardship and integrated environmental management. In a nut- shell, shared stewardship addresses the notion that agencies must work together cooperatively within their respective juris- dictions to address en- vironment and sustain- ability issues. Integrated environmental management captures the ideas of harmonized objectives and also nested, compli- mentary programs that work toward a shared goal. From UBCM’s per- spective, shared steward- ship does not include the downloading of responsi- bilities on to local govern- ments, nor does it mean carrying out another agen- cy’s regulatory agenda.

All committee mem- bers supported case studies as a means to explore the implementation of shared stewardship and integrated environmental management approaches. Four areas of interest were selected as pilot cases: Speci- es at Risk, brownfield sites, noxious weeds, and interface fire planning. At this early stage, each agency will provide input on perspectives, roles and interests in policy and management, with a goal to better understanding the issues and challenges. Case studies of local gov- ernments currently under- taking successful inter- agency/ integrated envi- ronment management ac- tivities will also be de- veloped for the benefit of all members. This is an excit- ing and proactive step to increase awareness and explore the challenges in developing a shared stew- ardship approach.

The committee agreed to consider the UBCM’s approach to shared stew- ardship as an initial frame- work for exploring the is- sues. UBCM’s principles of shared stewardship were developed in the paper enti- tled “New Environmen- tal Legislation: Impact and Implications for Local Gov- ernment” and endorsed by members at the 2003 UBCM Convention.
Floodplain Development Guidelines

In December 2002 members were advised of changes to the province’s model for flood hazard management. Local governments have been given sole responsibility to regulate development on floodplains. The Ministry indicated it would establish provincial guidelines for development of subdivisions on floodplains and local government could, on a voluntary basis, use these standards to create bylaws to regulate development in these areas. UBCM can update that staff at the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection indicate the floodplain development guidelines should be available soon and will be posted on the Ministry website.

Some local governments that wished to make their own land use decisions on developments in floodplains, without any interference from the province, will view this as a positive change. Other local governments that relied on the expertise of the province to determine what type of development should take place on floodplains will be concerned that this added responsibility will be transferred to them. In any event, local government will need to be cautious in approving developments on floodplains given the potentially broad liability implications related to these types of decisions.

Environment Policy Updates

Environmental Management Amendment Act (2004)

The province has introduced some changes to the Environment Management Act that specifically deal with the contaminated sites policy. In general, the changes move some powers to ministerial regulation which now reside in the legislation or in cabinet regulations, and also provide more power to the Director to make regulations. The changes provide additional support for the use of qualified professionals under what will be an established roster, to carry out the site investigation, remediation planning and implementation, and monitoring functions for low and medium risk sites.

Other changes of interest include:
- adds to the opportunity to identify codes of practice for certain activities by industry, a provision allowing the minister to provide temporary relief from a code of practice requirement, and adds to the codes of practice the power to regulate monitoring and reporting
- removes the references to hazardous waste from definition of contaminated site and contamination and describes contamination based on prescribed risk-based or numerical criteria, standard or conditions
- requires a vendor to disclose a site profile to a purchaser if required under the Waste Management Act
- provides for a Land Remediation Fund, which when funded, will hold money in trust for provincial programs supporting brownfield development, orphan site remediation and underground tank remediation. At this time no funding source has been identified.

Drought Management Task Force

The province has recently established the Drought Management Task Force, chaired by Jim Mattison of Land and Water BC. The task force will be advising on the development of the province’s Drought Management Plan. Participants on the task force come from the following ministries and agencies:
- Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
- Ministry of Solicitor General, (Provincial Emergency Programs)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
- Ministry of Intergovernmental Relations
- Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services
- Ministry of Health, (Health Protection)
- Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
- Ministry of Forests (Range and Integrated Resources)
- Land and Water British Columbia, Inc.

Land and Water BC is currently in the early stages of developing the Provincial Drought Management Plan. The plan is intended to explore and develop, as a first step, a definition of drought. It will look at the impacts of the 2003 drought, and consider information from the respondents to the Community Supply Survey last Fall. LWBC has indicated that, in developing the plan, the team will explore the need for a demand management approach to drought management and look at ways to increase preparedness for water shortages through water conservation and monitoring. The plan will also look at best use of indicators such as precipitation and streamflows to understand and forecast drought conditions. Indices will be developed to characterize the stages of drought. A response matrix will examine the role and responsibilities of participating agencies at different stages of drought. Local government may be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the Drought Management Plan in the future.

Climate Change

Continued on page 12
- Local and regional government adaptation initiatives from Canada and elsewhere
- Resources, information, and tools available to assist local governments (in BC and elsewhere) adapt to climate change
- The types of local and regional government policy and operational decisions in BC that are sensitive to climate variability and change
- Local and regional government needs in BC (e.g. information, tools)
- Key references and resources on municipal governments and adaptation
- Opportunities for partnerships and networks within and outside of BC
- Selected local government will be contacted for brief interviews and information gathering over the next couple of months while the paper is being developed.

Learn more about designing with wood!

Wood WORKS! - a Canadian Wood Council initiative, is offering a series of seminars to help you or your municipality learn more about designing with wood.

If you, or your municipality, would like information regarding:
- In-house Seminars (designed specifically for you or your municipality)
- Wood Design Luncheons
- Procuring a High Performance (green) Building Workshop

Contact Wood WORKS! at 1-877-929-9663

Continued on page 20

Norwegian Architects Inspire Canadians

- Prepared by Brian Martin, freelance writer for Wood Works!

In 1994 when Norway hosted the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer thousands of people were part of a unique experience. The speed skating facility for the Lillehammer games was designed to resemble a giant upturned Viking ship. Saying that this is warlike, however, is like telling someone the Hope Diamond is really big and splendid a lot. It might be correct but it just doesn’t catch the stunning beauty of the creation. Norway, of course, has a forestry heritage just as British Columbia does. When it was its turn to host the Winter Games Norway wanted its Olympic venues to reflect that fundamental cornerstone of its national life. It is not something that has been lost on the planners and designers hoping to be part of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and Whistler. Hundreds of them twice jammed the seats and stood around the edges of the room when the Architects responsible for “The Viking Ship” skating facility put on two detailed presentations at the Wood Solutions Fair in Vancouver March 10. The Canadian Wood Council and Wood WORKS! staged the fair. Architects Jan Inge Lindeberg and Terje Rorby of the 105-year-old firm, Bjon Architects, led British Columbians through the project.

Anyone who has ever admired the flowing lines of an old-fashioned, handcrafted, wooden, hulled rowboat overturned on a beach for protection against the weather has

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004 13
BC Hydro Integrated Electricity Plan (IEP)

BC Hydro is currently developing an Integrated Electricity Plan (IEP) for the province. The IEP, once complete, will describe BC Hydro’s electricity demand forecast over the next 20 years, including incremental forecasts for 4 and 10 years. The plan will recommend how to meet those future needs, including plans for acquiring new electricity resources. Reviews of energy supply options include new sources, alternative sources, and demand management programs. BC Hydro has proposed that new electricity resources will be required to meet provincial domestic demand after 2013. The IEP was to be submitted to BCUC by March 31. BCUC and other agencies will use the plan to assess new power proposals for the BC electricity market.

One of BC Hydro’s key interests at an early workshop, in which UBCM participated, was gaining feedback from stakeholders on the development of new resources. UBCM and local government participants took the opportunity to indicate their support for alternative energy development and to highlight the need for a coordinated approach to alternative energy development that addressed impacts on local government and communities. Wind power and small hydro projects may have implications for communities such as managing competing land uses, maintaining recreation access to the backcountry, protection of water-sheds and preserving views. It was suggested that some long range planning be undertaken for key areas, looking at overall development capacity in the area, in order to provide some assistance with expectations, and a framework for project approvals. It was also suggested that workshops with BC Hydro, industry and local government could assist in working out some of these matters “on the ground.”

EnerGuide for Houses: What can it do for your community?

EnerGuide for Houses is a new program of the Government of Canada developed to foster energy efficiency in the residential sector and provide homeowners with reliable advice from independent energy efficiency advisors. Municipalities that are participating in the FCM Partners for Climate Protection program, considering air quality management and looking at ways to encourage energy efficiency, will be interested.

Studies show that 50% of personal greenhouse gas emissions are attributed to the residential sector, and 70-80% of that is attributed to low-rise space and water heating. Therefore, addressing the residential sector is fundamental to any community plan that addresses greenhouse gases or air quality.

Canada’s plan to meet its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol sets a goal that 20% of existing low-rise housing undergo energy efficiency retrofits by 2010. In October 2003, the Government of Canada launched the $734.4 million EnerGuide grant program to encourage homeowners to retrofit their homes to make them more energy efficient and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The EnerGuide program provides an official home energy audit facilitated by EnerGuide Advisors. By obtaining official before and after EnerGuide ratings, homeowners can qualify for grants of up to $3,348. A first EnerGuide for Houses evaluation takes about two hours. The advisor does a whole-home air leakage test and collects data to model the home on a computer. That allows the advisor to rate the home on a scale of 0 to 100, while estimating the home’s gas, oil, and electricity use under standard operating conditions and typical local weather. The advisor then provides the homeowner with a detailed report, complete with recommendations on how to improve the energy efficiency of the home.

Homeowners who improve their home’s energy efficiency can then request a second EnerGuide for Houses evaluation. The difference between the first and second rating determines the value of the grant. To qualify for the grant, homeowners must own and live in the house being evaluated. For example, an unimproved 1958 Burnaby home with a starting EnerGuide rating of 54 that improves its score to 71 after completing some of the recommended retrofit work would qualify for a grant of $920.

Communities are interested because real savings in CO2 outputs can be realized. “We’ve heard from the municipalities that existing housing stock must become more efficient, particularly if communities are going to improve air quality or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Every municipality we’ve spoken to welcomes the EnerGuide program because homeowners are motivated to do the work, and the program costs are borne elsewhere. But it’s the municipality that can take the credit for the improvement – if they can track it,” said Peter Moffatt, President of Building Insight, a Vancouver-based company that trains EnerGuide Advisors, offers home audits and an on-line service that allows participants to access their home reports and calculate potential for savings.

An EnerGuide evaluation generates valuable data on every home. The data can then be aggregated by the EnerGuide advisor, including the number of tonnes of CO2 produced by the home, and the savings of CO2 that the home achieved. Those communities working with EnerGuide CO2 data as part of their Partners for Climate Protection planning find this invaluable (see www.fcm.ca).

Why is the EnerGuide for Houses program important to local government?

- It provides real gains in CO2 savings by improving local existing housing stock.
- The benefits are all local, direct, and easily tracked.
- Improving existing housing stock generates local employment.
- Reducing energy bills reduces the flow of money out of a community by hundreds of dollars per household per year.
- No program funding or administrative support is required from local government, as the costs are borne elsewhere.

For more information on the EnerGuide for Houses program visit www.energuideforhouses.gc.ca.

BCUC Hearings Update:

BC Hydro 2004/05 and 2005/06 Revenue Requirements Application and BC Transmission Corporation Request for Approval for Deferral Accounts

In December 2003 BC Hydro applied to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) for a 9.23% rate increase over the next two years. The rate increase will result in a revenue increase to BC Hydro of $221 Million which it justifies against its costs. BC Hydro also requested approval to implement the initial 7.73% rate increase on an interim basis on April 1, 2004 and received permission from BCUC to do so. The final rate, and potential for increase in 2005 will be determined through the BCUC hearings process.

The schedule for BCUC proceedings regarding the Revenue Requirements Application has been set. Prehearing conferences were held January 14th and 15th and information requests and responses, additional workshops, filing of evidence, and the second prehearing conference will lead up to the Oral Hearing scheduled to begin May 17th. Expected duration of the hearing is 4-7 weeks. As a registered party, BCUC will receive hearing materials from BC Hydro and from the other intervenors.

UBCM’s standing policy supports the maintenance of a regulated price structure utilizing cost-based, postage-stamp rates that ensure economical electricity to all parts of the province (2001). Several members have voiced their opposition to BC Hydro’s requested rate increase, explaining that the increased cost, currently not budgeted for in 2004, will have a significant impact on local government.

UBCM has joined the Commercial Electricity Customers Joint Action Intervention for this hearing. They have independently notified governments and other commercial class customers that they have filed the intervention to voice their concerns. Key positions of this intervention are opposition to the cost increase, and that commercial class customers be protected from carrying a unfair share of any new revenues granted when distributed across the rate classes.
BCMA Seeks Nominations for Health Promotion Awards

B C doctors honour the outstanding ef-
forts of individuals, companies and community
organizations whose work has made a positive impact
on the long-term health and safety of British
Columbians. Nominations are now open for the 5th
annual Excellence in Health Promotion Awards
presented by the BC Medi-
cal Association (BCMA).

Through this award, the BCMA Council on Health
Promotion annually recog-
nizes the achievements of both an individual and a
corporation or community
organization.

Award recipients have contributed toward im-
provements in health and safety through clearly
identified actions, initia-
tives or increased public
awareness. Businesses must have been operating
for at least one year in BC
and individuals must be
BC residents. Self-nomi-
nations are accepted in
both categories.

Some past award re-
cipients:

• Glennen Agerst, the driv-
ing force behind a group of
agencies that made bike hel-
nets mandatory on BC roads.

• Lida Kemeny, founder of
the Safe Start Program,
Canada’s first and only child-
hood injury prevention pro-
cram.

• Workers’ Compensation
Board for taking action
aimed at protecting workers
from second hand smoke in
the workplace.

• City of Port Moody for
its leadership in becoming
the first Canadian municip-
ality to pass a bylaw enforc-
ing helmet use by skateboard-
ners, and for creating a bike
trials park that provides
stunt-mountain biking en-
thusiasms with a place to prac-
tice jumps, tricks, and nu-
mberous curves. Few bike parks
exist in North America – all
but this one are located in
mountain resort areas.

The deadline for nomi-
nations is May 3, 2004. For
nomination forms and more information contact
L.R. Trevor Johnstone, VCHA Vice Chair. Barry Janyk, Sunshine
Coast RHD Chair; Colleen Gimse, Sea to Sky RHD Chair; Susan
Gane, Storrs Sky RHD Chair; Ida Goodreau, VCHA President & CEO.

UBCM Supports National Centre for Disease Control for BC

O n March 24th, the three Coast Garibaldi Re-
gional Hospital Districts signed a Memorandum of
Understanding with the Vancouver Coastal
Health Authority. The signing took place in Victoria, in
conjunction with the Municipal Finance Authority
meeting held there.

RHD signatories were the three RHD chairs:
Susan Gane, Sea to Sky RHD; Barry Janyk, Sun-
shine Coast RHD; and Colleen Palmer, Powell River
RHD. The Health Authority signatories were Trevor
Johnstone, Board Vice Chair and Ida Goodreau,
President and CEO.

The RHD chairs thanked the Health Au-
thority representatives for accommodating their
schedules by coming to Victoria Island to sign
the MOU. The event was the culmination of over
a year of negotiations and internal discussions
among the parties.

The MOU formalizes the relationship between
the three RHDs and the Health Authority with re-
spect to the capital plan-
ning process and informa-
tion sharing on capital
plan, strategic directions,
and priorities. The MOU
establishes the RHD Capi-
tal Planning Group and
provides for Project Re-
view Committees which
include RHD representa-
tives

Following on the SARS and BSE crises, now the Avian
flu, the federal government in this year’s Throne
Speech and Budget announced the establishment of a
new Canada Public Health Agency, which will be
a focal point in Canada’s national network for disease
control and emergency response.

UBCM President Frank Leonard has called on the
Prime Minister and the federal government to estab-
lish the existing BC Centre for Disease Control
(BCCDC) as a national centre. BC is in an ideal
situation to anchor this new initiative given the excel-

cent centre for infectious disease control and research
that we already have in place. The BCCDC is the only
provincial centre for disease control in the country.

BC is lobbying to have the national system centred
in this province to build on the proven public health
infrastructure and capacity that already exists. Given
the importance of getting a new integrated system up
and running quickly so future emergencies can be
better managed, BC feels it has an advantage which
should be utilized to the benefit of all Canadians.

Interest in Joint Health Projects

In its ongoing pursuit of improving working relation-
ships among local governments, regional hospital dis-
tricts, and health authorities, the UBCM Health Com-
mittee would be interested in hearing about any joint
projects that have been undertaken or are being con-
templated, by local governments or RHDs with their
local health authority, or with local foundations and
community groups. Your views on how these projects
came about and why they were successful (or not)
would be welcomed.

Please send your comments to Harriet Permut by e-
mail at hpermut@civicnet.bc.ca, by fax at (604) 270-9116,
or by regular mail to the UBCM offices in Richmond.

Your input will be very valuable and much appre-
ciated.

BCMA NEWS MARCH 2004

15
2004 UBCM Convention: Harvesting Opportunities

It’s fall, it’s harvest time in the Valley and throughout BC. Harvest time is the time to reap the opportunities that BC offers.

Our opportunities can be those offered by the traditional resource sectors or the new growing technology or tourism sectors. Our opportunities include the new ideas that are needed to meet our social issues or to protect the environment. For those that speak about “challenges”, we would see them in the light of opportunities.

At this year's UBCM Convention, we want to talk about opportunities - the ones local government is familiar with and the ones we want to identify and grow. We want to talk frankly about turning challenges in the economic, social and environmental sectors into opportunities. We also want to address the ways – the techniques to successfully identify opportunities, and develop strategies to make the most of those opportunities for the benefit of communities.

We want to share experiences on how to Harvest Opportunities.

September 22 – 24, 2004
Kelowna, BC

2004 RESOLUTION AND POLICY SESSIONS

Thanks to member support and strong chairing by the Resolutions Committee, all resolutions were debated at the 2003 UBCM Convention – normally a feat considering the record-breaking 203 resolutions on the Convention agenda! Delegates have expressed their appreciation that all resolutions were handled in 2003 and the Resolutions Committee has made full debate a standing goal for all future Conventions.

Delegate feedback from 2003 indicates that the level of attendance at resolutions sessions continues to be of primary concern to members. Resolutions and policy papers are the heart of the organization and members recognize that the best debate occurs when policy matters are considered by the full membership at Convention.

In response to this feedback, the Resolutions Committee will be stepping up communications on the importance of participation in resolutions sessions in the hopes of achieving a long-term increase in attendance levels. All attending communities are encouraged to ensure that at least one local government representative is present at resolutions and policy sessions to vote on issues of concern and communities sponsoring resolutions are strongly encouraged to provide background to their resolutions once the Chair has put them on the floor. With regard to actual debate, members are reminded to speak succinctly and avoid repetitive debate – thereby ensuring that a full spectrum of commentary can be heard in a reasonable amount of time.

Members are also reminded to check the final UBCM Convention Program for resolution and policy session times and to be prepared for possible scheduling changes due to last-minute additions/revocations to the Convention Program (e.g., accommodating additional speakers, presentations, etc.).

It encourages delegates to organize transportation and accommodation needs as soon as possible. Make your Convention experience as comfortable as possible by planning ahead!

Developing options.

Our Municipal Group offers experience in all areas of law relevant to local government, including land use and planning, environmental, labour and employment, public private partnerships, tax and litigation.

Recognized by Chambers Global as the only Canadian firm on its list of “Top 10 Firms in North America” and named “Best Canadian Business Law Firm of the Year,” McCarthy Tétrault is Canada’s premier law firm.

The right people. The right results.

McCarthy Tétrault

2004 UBCM Convention

Convention Planning Underway

The 2004 UBCM Convention planning is well underway with the UBCM Committee chaired by Councillor Brenda Binnie and a local events committee in the host city of Kelowna. The UBCM Committee has reviewed the responses to the 2003 Convention, is well advanced in planning the various facilities and is beginning to plan the business program.

Submitting Resolutions for 2004

Check the UBCM website (www.civicnet.bc.ca) under Resolutions/Policy for Submission Procedures, which provides a review of the UBCM procedures and criteria for admission and consideration of resolutions as well as guidelines on resolutions content and formatting. The deadline for submission of resolutions to UBCM is June 30, 2004.

Book Now, Here’s How!

Make your time away from home as comfortable as possible during the Convention by booking your accommodations early. Some properties are already booked solid, so don’t wait any longer! You can access Kelowna hotel properties on the UBCM website at www.civicnet.bc.ca under Convention / 2004 Convention / Accommodations OR you can call Okanagan Reservations at 1-800-663-1900 and ask about UBCM accommodations.

Convention is a busy time for everyone and that is why UBCM encourages delegates to organize transportation and accommodation needs as soon as possible. Make your Convention experience as comfortable as possible by planning ahead!
Independent Review Recommends Successful Program Continues

The Community to Community Forum program is now in its fifth year. The goal of the program is to build effective relationships between First Nations and local governments and to meet current and future needs for communication and cooperation. Through this program, UBCM has provided funding and other assistance to local governments and First Nations for meetings between their elected leaders. At these meetings, First Nations and local government representatives have shared information on how their respective governments operate, discussed opportunities for collaboration (e.g., on economic development) and worked on innovative solutions to issues of mutual concern. Since 1999, almost seventy Community to Community Forums involving over 1,500 people have been held across BC.

Late last year, UBCM and the First Nations Summit retained Wes-Can Advisory Services to conduct an independent review of the Community to Community Forum program. The specific purposes of the review were:
1) To provide an overview of the program to date;
2) To provide conclusions about how well the program has met its stated objectives and whether it continues to be a good investment;
3) To provide recommendations on how the program might be improved to respond to the current context of local government – First Nations relations.

The Wes-Can Program Review reveals that First Nations and local government leaders have found value and success in the Community to Community Forum program. A random survey of participants was conducted as part of the review process and, according to the report, 80 percent of the respondents representing both local governments and First Nations said the program should continue. The Wes-Can report found that "As a general statement, the sense is that relationships improve exponentially as more forums and meetings are held and as trust and understanding continue to build between communities."

UBCM has also noted that since the beginning of the program and particularly in the 2003-2004 program year, there has been a marked growth in:
- number of regional Community to Community Forums held annually;
- number of regional Community to Community Forums held and as trust and understanding continues to build between communities.`

UBCM Comparative Analysis of the 2003 Agreements in Principle and Local Government Interests

The main objectives of both these papers are: (1) to review and compare the content of the AIPs, (2) to analyze whether and how local government's general interests are addressed and (3) to make recommendations for future negotiations to the federal and provincial governments.

The focus of UBCM's comparative analysis paper is on topics of key interest to local governments, generally in relation to certainty, lands, governance, jurisdiction and management of resources, standards and property taxation. In each case, the report sets out the UBCM interest as defined in current policy, a discussion of the comparative content of the five AIPs, followed by conclusions and recommendations specific to the topic area.

Appendix 2 of the comparative analysis paper consolidates the recommendations made throughout the report. Areas where we have concluded that local government interests are not met in the AIPs include:
- Certainty and finality;
- Selection of treaty settlement lands pre-treaty;
- Additions to treaty settlement lands post-treaty;
- Repealing land claims;
- Harmonization of property taxation;
- Both parties have been sent to local government.

The Community to Community Forum program since 1999. While relationship building remains UBCM's emphasis, our respective members have told us that they also need tools to help them deal with disputes if they occur. The Communities in Cooperation Guide is intended to be a primer on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for use by elected leaders and their staff. It provides readers with a basic understanding of considerations, options and process steps for First Nations and local governments when they encounter a dispute. It identifies documents where First Nations and local governments may want to include dispute resolution provisions and lists additional training, information and other resources.

This guide adds to the growing body of resources for First Nations and local government to use in developing their relationship and in dealing with disputes. These resources also include a background study by David Morris on the history of local government and First Nations relationships in BC and the nature of their disputes. We encourage you to visit our websites to access other resources.

Two UBCM Reports Available on 2003 AIPs

All UBCM members will have recently received the Communities in Cooperation Guide on Alternative Dispute Resolution, developed by Nenim Consultants for UBCM and the First Nations Summit (FNS), with the support of the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

This guide is the result of implementation of the UBCM - FNS Protocol on Communication and Cooperation. One of the objectives of the Protocol Agreement is "to find ways to encourage and promote effective methods of resolving disputes between First Nations and local governments in BC."

Both organizations strongly believe in the importance of building effective working relationships between First Nations and local governments. To this end, we have supported the Community to Community Forum program since 1999. While relationship building remains UBCM's emphasis, our respective members have told us that they also need tools to help them deal with disputes if they occur.

The Communities in Cooperation Guide is intended to be a primer on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for use by elected leaders and their staff. It provides readers with a basic understanding of considerations, options and process steps for First Nations and local governments when they encounter a dispute. It identifies documents where First Nations and local governments may want to include dispute resolution provisions and lists additional training, information and other resources.

This guide adds to the growing body of resources for First Nations and local government to use in developing their relationship and in dealing with disputes. These resources also include a background study by David Morris on the history of local government and First Nations relationships in BC and the nature of their disputes. We encourage you to visit our websites to access other resources.

Additional copies of the Communities in Cooperation Guide are available from the UBCM and FNS offices and can be downloaded from our websites. We welcome your feedback on the guide and on resources you would like to see available in future.
TREATY NEGOTIATION UPDATE

In a recent meeting with provincial Treaty Negotiations Office officials, the UBCM Aboriginal Affairs Committee was advised that the majority of provincial resources will be focused on the four tables in formal agreement negotiations (see below). These are the tables at which Agreements in Principle (AIPs) were completed in 2003. The province hopes to achieve final agreements at these tables with twelve to eighteen months. UBCM is communicating regularly with our members involved to understand approaches being taken to key issues and to ensure that local governments are able to participate fully in the negotiations under the terms of the 2003 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the province.

Updates from Final Agreement Negotiation Tables

The following updates have been provided to UBCM by our members involved in the negotiations.

Tsawwassen (Lower Mainland)

The Provincial government approved the Tsawwassen AIP during an open cabinet meeting held February 27, 2004. An AIP Signing Ceremony took place on March 15th and, Tsawwassen Chief Kim Baird, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Andy Mitchell and Attorney General Geoff Plant, provincial Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations, were in attendance. The Parties at the Tsawwassen table are meeting every two weeks for negotiation sessions and anticipate reaching a final Agreement in 12 to 14 months.

The inaugural meeting of the Tsawwassen Intergovernmental Relations Technical Working Group (KRTWG) proceeded on February 25, 2004. In addition to the Parties at the Tsawwassen table, participants included representatives from the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Corporation of Delta and the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC).

The focus of the meeting was to review the KRTWG draft Terms of Reference and proposed workshop topics. Future KRTWG workshops are scheduled.

The Provincial Treaty Negotiation Office provided LMTAC with a one-time payment ($10,000) to assist LMTAC with its continued participation in the Tsawwassen negotiations.

Lheidli T’enneh (Prince George Area)

Chief provincial negotiator Terry Proverbs has replaced Robin Junger at this table. Not much progress has been made on negotiations involving governance and details in fiscal and taxation matters. It appears that the Lheidli T’enneh First Nation wants to move forward and deal with the discussion of governance and jurisdiction over areas such as education, health and local government type authorities.

Other Negotiation Tables

Given the results achieved in 2003 from the “breakthrough” tables approach, UBCM has learned that another small group of four to six treaty tables is being selected for accelerated AIP negotiations. These tables have not yet been announced but some of the TAC’s affected have advised us that they have already been informed about newly designated “fast track” negotiations in their area. UBCM has asked the Treaty Negotiations Office to provide an updated list of priority tables and associated staffing assignments as soon as possible.

Governing Negotiations a Priority

Negotiations on First Nations governance is a priority at final agreement negotiations tables. The 2003 AIPs left many governance issues to be negotiated and indicated the intent to negotiate separate Governance Agreements. These will detail First Nations law making powers and limits in a wide range of areas including: education, health, adoption and local government type authorities including public order, business regulation and planning. The treaty itself will contain First Nations governance authorities on matters related to land and resource management, preservation of cultural and internal government operations.

UBCM’s Aboriginal Affairs Committee was recently briefed on BC’s newly developed approach to governance negotiations with First Nations which at the time of writing this article, is to proceed shortly to Cabinet for approval. Committee members had an opportunity to communicate priorities with respect to First Nations governance from a local government perspective (a digest of existing UBCM policy relating to First Nations Governance is available on the UBCM website).

These priorities include achieving parity between First Nations and local governments to create a “level playing field” on the ground. This means First Nations and local governments would follow comparable rules with respect to areas like standards for building construction, environmental protection or providing incentives to business. Another priority UBCM communicated to the provincial government relates to defining the relationship between First Nation and local governments post-treaty. UBCM has emphasized that representatives from both need to be fully involved in discussions on land use coordination, servicing, dispute resolution and other aspects of their relationship.

Maa Nulth (West coast Vancouver Island)

Involvement of local government representatives in negotiations is improving with respect to access to meetings and up to date information. Discussions are proceeding on the issue of consultation and self government. A Treat Spray Related Measure is currently being considered to pursue discussions on First Nation – local government relations.

Shannon (Powell River)

Priority issues currently are taxation and fiscal relations and both the Shannon and Lheidli T’enneh are involved in these discussions. Preserving the competitiveness of adjacent communities is a topic on the table of key interest to local government.

The First Nation and municipality are having full monthly government to government meetings and are working on land selection within municipal boundaries and a community forest pilot partnership. They are in the process of developing a protocol agreement between the First Nation and municipality that will provide specifics concerning consultation on land use planning, economic development, etc. The regional district also recently held an all day workshop with the Shuswap First Nation to discuss their relationship.
SUBSTANTIVE & PROCEDURAL GOALS

To avoid the above problems, one has to consider that a decision-making team should always aim to achieve two goals. The first is a substantive goal: Making the best possible decision (strategically-driven, balanced, affordable). The second is a procedural goal: Ensuring that all members are involved in the decision-making process, with each one having the same opportunity to influence the outcome.

The above three examples show that rushing a decision-making process can have negative impacts on both the substantive and procedural goals. The decision itself may end up being narrow sighted, poorly thought out and unsustainable. The decision-making process may end up being adversarial and leaving some members resentful and frustrated. Such practices continue, they can create long lasting dysfunctions, poison the tone of future meetings, and erode trust, respect and teamwork.

The key point to consider is this: Expediency, though sometimes needed, should never come at the expense of substantive quality (good discussions and smart decisions) and procedural quality (giving members meaningful opportunities to influence the outcomes).

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

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

For more information on how we can help your Municipality or Regional District, contact one of our 21 offices in British Columbia, or one of our 98 offices across Canada. We’ve got the answers.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.

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

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2004

Courses and Resources

Municipal staff should not be expected to sit back and watch Council go through a flawed decision-making process, without doing or saying anything. Even the minute taker should not be precluded from helping with the process. Staff can:

• Request that a motion be clarified or offer to repeat it before the vote is taken.
• Give feedback to the Chair between meetings and offer tips for better meeting management.
• Establish the protocol for staff to share a concern about the decision-making process.
“helping b.c. communities”

The MFA Education Fund was established in the fall of 1999 and was later renamed the Len Traboulay Education Fund to recognize the large contribution that the late Len Traboulay made to the development of Local Government in this Province. Since that time the fund has invested approximately $215,000 in the development of B.C. Local Government Education.

The contributions to the Fund are from the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFA). The Fund is focused primarily on encouraging the development of courses of study, delivered by post-secondary institutions, which support the educational needs of both elected Local Government Officials and staff.

Each year the MFA appoints a Chairperson who in turn assembles a group of knowledgeable local government representatives to administer the Fund. For 2004, the Committee is currently comprised of the following members:

George Paul, City Manager, City of Prince George, Chair

 Committee Members:

Marguerite Fenske, Project Coordinator, MFA
Doug Levell, Director, Administrative Services, Islands Trust
Ron Poole, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Terrace
Allan Neilson-Welch, Principal, Neilson-Welch Consulting Inc.

In order to provide additional balance to the group, we would like to encourage an elected official to be directly involved in the fund allocation process by becoming a Member of the Committee.

The “Job” requirements are as follows:

• Enthusiasm!
• Enthusiasm for Local Government!!
• Enthusiasm for Local Government Education!!!
• Some experience with Educational systems and processes.

We hope to continue to develop an intake and approval process that will see applications from post-secondary institutions received and reviewed twice each year. In order to minimize costs, we expect to meet as a group during the following annual events:

• MFA Annual General Meeting
• LGMA Conference
• UBCM Conference

As well, teleconferencing may form part of our information sharing and decision-making.

Norwegian Architects

Continued from page 13

had a mini-glimpse of their creation.

The horizontal lines of the overturned Viking ship are positively liquid and flow seamlessly from bow to stern. Photos testified that whether seen in full summer sun or covered in winter snow the building is as much sculpture as it is structure. It is 260 metres long by 100 metres wide. At its highest point it is 30 metres high. The “risks” of the ship are Glulam arches. They are believed to be the largest Glulam arches ever built. The manufacturer developed new production equipment to create them. They were built offsite and transported in four sections each. The roof incorporated a grey-blue asphalt material that blends in with the bluish tinge of the surrounding hills.

The fact is that anyone who remembers a popular Glulam Canadian super market design of the 1960s and 1970s has seen a small example of the type of construction that went into building The Viking Ship. It is simply a matter of Glulam arches resting on large concrete pilings. The difference is that in the case of the supermarkets, the front of the building was glass and the back was concrete brick. In this case it is considerably more sophisticated. A giant keel runs from the ground at the front or the “bow”—the length of the roof and swoops down again to the ground at the “stem.” The people enter and exit via the stem and the bow. The facility can seat anywhere from 6,000 to 20,000 people depending on the type of event being held. Cost was approximately $64 million (Cdn) in 2004 dollars.

Construction was relatively simple. The arches were raised using two cranes and four people. Because essentially no scaffolding was required other trades and workmen were able to get on with their own duties unencumbered down below. Lindeberg correctly points out that the building’s “simplicity” is the key to both its beauty and its ease of construction. Lillehammer is a small town with a population of around 25,000. From its population and from photos the architects showed it appears to be a town that looks a lot like Cranbrook, for example. As a result the facility was designed for events that would attract post-Olympic crowds from all over Norway. This, they say it was an unintended Olympic legacy. In the long run, though, it is possible this building program will be the most important legacy of them all.

Lindeberg correctly points out that the building’s “simplicity” is the key to both its beauty and its ease of construction. Lillehammer is a small town with a population of around 25,000. From its population and from photos the architects showed it appears to be a town that looks a lot like Cranbrook, for example. As a result the facility was designed for events that would attract post-Olympic crowds from all over Norway. This, they say it was an unintended Olympic legacy. In the long run, though, it is possible this building program will be the most important legacy of them all.

Mary Tracey, BC Project Manager for the Canadian Wood Council’s BC Wood WORKS! initiative, noted the Lillehammer Olympic buildings are an inspiration to Canadians.

“It is inspiring to see how Norway showcased wood in their Olympic buildings and ultimately produced buildings that will provide a lasting legacy,” Tracey noted. “The message given by the Norwegian architects at the Wood Solutions Fair reinforced the importance of using Canadian wood in the 2010 facilities. The provincial government has made a commitment to showcasing wood in these buildings and when we consider the spin-off from these wood designs, it is very exciting indeed.”

Len Traboulay Education Fund, A Call to Service

If you meet the job requirements and have an interest in serving Local Government in a slightly different way, please send an expression of interest to:

Marguerite Fenske
c/o The Municipal Finance Authority of B.C.
737 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2V1
education@mfa.bc.ca
Phone: 250-380-0432 ext. 226

If you wish to discuss this opportunity prior to submitting your expression of interest, please contact me at (250) 561-7607.

George Paul, Chair Len Traboulay Education Fund

This program is another example of the value added to our Communities through the existence of the Municipal Finance Authority of B.C.

2004 Financial Forum / AGM

The Municipal Finance Authority would like to thank all who attended this year’s 2004 Financial Forum and Annual General Meeting. As well, we extend our thanks to our banking syndicate for their support and contributions, and special thanks to our presenters.

This year’s topic “Game Plans for Communities in Transition” was very well received. We are happy with the level of participation at this year’s event (170+) and have had many expressions of interest in follow-up information.

If you were unable to attend the Forum we do have some workbooks (which includes the speakers’ presentations) still available and you may contact our office to receive one.

As well, we have posted some of the presentations on our website for your convenience. We are looking forward to the challenge of producing an event in 2005 which holds as much interest as this year’s. If you have a suggestion or topic of interest, please drop us an email.

Municipal Finance Authority of BC
737 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2V1
Phone: 250-383-1181
Fax: 250-384-3000
mfa@mfa.bc.ca
www.mfa.bc.ca