New Deal Final Agreement

On April 15, 2005 BC was the first province to sign an Agreement in Principle on the federal government’s New Deal for Cities and Communities. It was a historic agreement in many ways. The New Deal for BC is:

- the first tripartite infrastructure agreement between the federal government, a provincial government and a provincial association;
- federal funds will flow directly to UBCM to allocate to local governments; and
- UBCM will play a central role on the Management Committee – appointing three of six seats, including the Chair.

Since BC’s AIP was signed, Alberta, the Yukon and Ontario have signed final agreements. Now that the Federal Treasury Board has considered the form of the agreement, BC is negotiating a Final Agreement. It is hoped to have a Final Agreement early in the summer. Approval of the federal budget is necessary before funds can be transferred. In anticipation, UBCM is working on the administrative systems needed. Funds are available in two envelopes:

- a Community Works Fund – which is a per capita allocation (with an initial $25,000 floor) that flows directly to non-metropolitan municipalities and regional districts electoral areas; and
- a Strategic Priorities Fund that can support inter-jurisdictional projects like transit.

The initial BC allocation in year one is $70 million rising to $254 million in year five for a five-year total of $635 million. The funds are for environmentally sustainable infrastructure such as water, wastewater, transit and planning for capacity building.

Transit Agreement Next Up

Once the Final Agreement is complete, attention will turn to completing an agreement on new federal funding for transit. This is part of the federal budget components agreed to between the Liberals and NDP. BC will receive $100 million over two years for transit – to be allocated on the basis of “ridership”. The third priority is to conclude an agreement on the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. UBCM is supporting the position that the $54 million in federal funding be added to the current Canada-BC Infrastructure program rather than creating a new program.

Inside this Issue

A digest of policy considerations in this issue.

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New Minister

The Honourable Ida Chong is the first Minister of Community Services, but continues the long tradition of a voice in Cabinet for local government (the first Minister of Municipal Affairs was appointed in 1934). She previously served as Minister of Advanced Education and Minister of State for Women’s and Seniors’ Services.

Ms. Chong began her life in elected office as a Saanich Councillor and has remained a regular participant in Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and UBCM Conventions even after her move to provincial politics in 1996 in the riding of Oak Bay-Gordon Head, where she was re-elected in 2001 and 2005.

In her first term in provincial politics, she

S o m e  o t h e r  r e s t r u c t u r i n g s  o f  p a r t i c u l a r  i n t e r e s t  t o  t h e  l o c a l  g o v e r n m e n t

- Land Reserve Commission to Minister of Agriculture and Lands;
- Land (formerly LWBC) also to Minister of Agriculture and Lands;
- BC Assessment Authority to Minister of Small Business and Revenue;
- Resort development to Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts;
- Tourism to Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts;
- Film commissions to Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts;
- Fisheries and aquaculture to Minister of Agriculture and Lands;
- Forest recreation sites and trails to Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts; and
- Recreational fish and wildlife recreation promotion to Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts.

Three new Ministries will be of particular interest to the activities of local government: Environment, Tourism, Sport and the Arts and Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

For further information on the new Cabinet, please refer to the UBCM circular of June 21, 2005 posted on the website at www2.news.gov.bc.ca/nrm_agm/20050621-104632.htm.
These are exciting times at UBCM. It is very much as our Convention theme states: Celebrating our legacy; charting our future.

We are timely, charting the future with groundbreaking terms of the New Deal for Cities and Communities. The fact that UBCM is a signatory, the funds flow directly to UBCM from the Federal government. UBCM will be a key part of the administration and the funds flow prior to the capital works being completed. For those that weren’t at the FCM conference, Federal Minister Godfrey was full of praise for the work done by BC and UBCM involvement:

It’s interesting that in the case of British Columbia, that the UBCM is a full signature on the agreement – not just a witness. It’s the UBCM thanks to province of British Columbia, which will be receiving the gas tax fund directly to UBCM from the provincial government. Witness. It’s the UBCM, agreement – not just a

UBCM was empowered with a boardroom for meetings, a place to regroup between government meetings and do some faxing or photocopying. Call Eydie Fraser if you wish to book the boardroom @ 250.356.5133.

James, as former President for BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA), attended many UBCM Conventions and is very familiar with the organization and its values. I also had an opportunity to speak to our new Director, Ida Chong, and we are looking at building on our experience in local government to move our files forward.

As President, I attended all five Area Association meetings this past spring. I want to thank everyone for their warm hospitality. These area meetings provide an extremely valuable venue to hear your concerns and the issues you want UBCM to address. At the Area Association meetings, I wanted to spread the word about UBCM’s 100th Anniversary and the achievements we have made by working together and the role of the Area Associations in these achievements. One of the reasons that we are able to break new ground is because we are united and speak with one voice. I am pleased to report that UBCM has maintained 100% membership for 26 consecutive years. All our accomplishments would not be possible without the dedication of the UBCM Executive, our Executive Director, Richard Taylor and the other members of the UBCM team. Thank you for your continued support.

UBCM Planning Seminars for Newly Elected Officials in 2006

UBCM plans seminars for Newly Elected Officials, which are scheduled shortly after the fall election. These widely acclaimed seminars are a “must” for newly elected. The focus is on decision-making and the seminar covers budgeting, planning, procedures and the decision-making process. Features on legal issues, council/staff relations, and dealing with the media are also reviewed. The faculty is drawn from practitioners and experts in local government. Representatives from the Ministry of Community Services and other agencies will also attend.

Choose from the six seminars offered beginning in January and February—the one best suited to your circumstances. A sixth seminar, which will be added for Nelson. Further details and hotel information will be available in the fall. Check www.civincet.bc.ca for updates.

In Memoriam
Mayor Gilbert Popovich

Mayor Gilbert Popovich, long serving mayor of Alert Bay, passed away on June 23, 2005. Immigrating from Canada to Italy at the age of 14, he was adopted by his uncle thereby allowing him to fulfill his dream of joining the Canadian Air Force.

He came to Alert Bay 50 years ago, where he came to Alert Bay 50 years ago, where he was employed by Pacific Blue Cross. He was a very familiar with our organization and its values. I also had an opportunity to speak to our new Director, Ida Chong, and we are looking at building on our experience in local government to move our files forward.

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BC Representatives to FCM Board

At the recent Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference held in St. John’s, Newfoundland, the following BC representatives were elected to serve on the National Board of Directors for 2005-2006:

British Columbia Representatives:
Councillor Don Bassermer, City of Prince George
His Worship Mayor Derek Corrigan, City of Burnaby
Director Hans Cunningham, Regional District of Kootenay
Director Jim Green, City of Vancouver
Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Village of Telkwa
Councillor Patricia Wallace, City of Kamloops

The UBCM representative position is vacant until a replacement is appointed because of the election of Director Aaron Dinwoodie to Director at Large. Chair Cunningham was subsequently elected chair of the BC Caucus.

BC to Lead FCM

Congratulations to Mayor Michael C. Coleman of the City of Duncan on being elected as the new President of the FCM.

Other FCM officers are:
First Vice-President: Councillor Gloria Kovach, City of Guelph
Second Vice-President: Councillor Gordon Seeves, City of Winnipeg
Third Vice-President: Monsieur Jean Perrault, Mairie, Ville de Sherbrooke
Immediate Past President: Mayor Ann MacLean, Town of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

BC/FCM Travel Fund

In 1989, BC municipalities established a travel fund for five BC Directors on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities National Board

Financial Statement
May 1, 2004 - April 30, 2005

REVENUE:
Opening Balance May 1, 2004 $50,873.70
FCM 2005 dues 28,215.91
Interest earned to April 30, 2005 122.13
92,211.74

EXPENDITURE:
Members expenses $19,844.78
FCM Administration Fee - none shown
UBCM Administration Fee* 0.00
19,844.78
89,366.96
*UBCM does not deduct an administration charge

BC'S NEXT FOREST CAPITAL?

The forests of British Columbia are a vital part of every community in this province. The BC Forest Capital program lets the people of B.C. celebrate the economic, cultural, natural and historic contributions of forests to community life.

Find application packages for designation as the 2006 Forest Capital of British Columbia and additional information online.

Deadline: November 15, 2005

The Association of B.C. Forest Professionals has the privilege of selecting the Forest Capital of B.C. The winning community will be announced in December.

The Association of B.C. Forest Professionals (est. 1947) ensures that British Columbia’s forests are in good hands by registering and regulating the province’s professional foresters and forest technologists.

2006 Forest Capital of British Columbia

www.abcfp.ca

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Area Associations

2005-2006 AREA ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

PRESIDENT Councillor Bea Holland Victoria
1st VICE-PRESIDENT Councillor Nichola Wade Sarnich
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT Director Rod Serrell Mt. Waddington RD
PAST PRESIDENT Mayor Jack Peake Lake Cowichan
ELECTORAL AREA REP. Director Barbara Price Comox-Strathcona RD
DIRECTORS AT LARGE Mayor Christopher Causton Oak Bay
Mayor Barry Janyk Gibsons
Mayor Ken McRae Port Alberni

The 2006 Convention will be in Oak Bay – April 7 – 9, 2006

Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

PRESIDENT Director Martin Cullen East Kootenay RD
PAST PRESIDENT Councillor Bev Bellina Sparwood
VICE PRESIDENT Councillor Janis Dahlen Nakusp
DIRECTORS AT LARGE Councillor Art Bezerer Montrose
Councillor Christina Benty Golden
Councillor Neil Krogs Grand Forks
Councillor Gord McdAms Nelson
Director Health Sliee East Kootenay RD
Mayor Joe Snopek Creston

The 2006 Convention will be in Grand Forks – April 27 – 29, 2006

Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association

PRESIDENT Mayor Colin Mayes Salmon Arm
VICE-PRESIDENT Councillor Gus Boersma Penticton
PAST PRESIDENT Councillor Ron Cannan Kelowna
DIRECTORS AT LARGE Councillor Kevin Flynn Salmon Arm
Director Ronay Havisto-Elliott Thompson-Nicola RD
Councillor Harry Kroecker Merritt
Director Rhona Martin Columbia Shuswap RD
Mayor John Slater Osoyoos
Councillor Jackie Tegart Ashcroft
Councillor Patricia Wallace Kamloops

The 2006 Convention will be in Revelstoke – May 4 – 6, 2006

North Central Central Municipal Association

PRESIDENT Councillor Mary Sjostrom Quesnel
1st VICE-PRESIDENT Councillor Craig Caruso Stewart
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT Director Eileen Benedict BNRD
PAST PRESIDENT Director Ted Armstrong Canim RD
REGIONAL DIRECTORS Director Ralph Roy BNRD
Director Bryon Kemp CRD
Mayor Tom Briggs FFGRD
Director Stew Christensen KSRD
Councillor Ted Craddock NRGR
Chair Karen Goodings PRD
Councillor Paul Kennedy SGRD
Councillor Linda Campbell Kitimat
Councillor Murray Krause Prince George
Councillor Susan Schienbein Burns Lake

The 2006 Convention will be in Fort St. John – May 3 – 6, 2006

Lower Mainland Municipal Association

PRESIDENT Councillor Fayl Issac Chilliwack
1st VICE-PRESIDENT Councillor Sharon Gaetz Langley Township
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT Councillor Bob Long Langley City
PAST PRESIDENT Councillor Terry Smith Squamish-Lillooet RD
Councillor Susan Gimse Kent
Mayor Sylvia Pranger Abbotsford
Mayor Mary Reeves Fraser Valley RD
Councillor Kiichi Kumagi Greater Vancouver RD
Chair John Turner Squamish-Lillooet RD

The 2006 Convention will be in Harrison Hot Springs – May 10 – 12, 2006

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.

Provincial Contact Partner: Bill Cox, Partner
Tel: (604) 688-5421
BDO DUNWOODY LLP
Chartered Accountants
Management Consultants

In Memoriam
Rick Michael Marusyk

Rick Marusyk, former Mayor of the City of Port Moody, passed away suddenly on June 6, 2005 at the age of 47. He served as Mayor from 1996 to 1999 and devoted his political career to the betterment of his city and to its citizens.

On behalf of local government, UBCM extends its sympathies to the family, friends and associates of Rick Marusyk.
On March 24th, the Environment Committee met with Minister Caulford and Past President Frank Leonard met with the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection Bill Bardoff to discuss the status of preparations to implement the RAR. They requested the Minister provide an extension to the effective date for those local governments that are not yet prepared to deal with the new regulatory process.

The Minister officially recognized the need for some flexibility within the RAR implementation schedule and process. UBCM received a letter from the Minister outlining a new process for implementing the RAR, which contains the following provisions:

- The Riparian Areas Regulation will come into effect on March 31, 2005, as scheduled. Those local governments that are ready to implement the regulation may proceed at that time.
- For those local governments that require extra time to make the changes necessary to comply with the Fish Protection Act, the Minister will consider limited time extensions beyond June 30, 2005, in exceptional circumstances.
- Local governments that wished to proceed with the implementation of the Riparian Areas Regulation on March 31, 2005 were requested to notify UBCM so that a list could be forwarded to the Deputy Minister of WLAP. Only Langford and Kelowna notified UBCM of their readiness to proceed on the 31st, and the Minister subsequently passed legislation granting an extension to the remaining local governments affected by the regulation in June.
- Since April 2005, UBCM staff have been actively monitoring the status of the RAR implementation work plan as well as the status of local government readiness to implement the regulation on June 30th, 2005. Staff and local government participants have provided advice and input to WLAP on the content and structure of the implementation g i d e b o o k , c o m m u n i c a t i o n materials, and proposed local government training sessions. In accordance with the 2004 UBCM resolution on the RAR, a list of liability questions associated with the implementation of the RAR has been referred to a legal firm specializing in municipal affairs, with joint cost sharing between UBCM and WLAP.
- In terms of the RAR implementation work plan, UBCM is currently awaiting the results of the liability review so that they can be forwarded to ministerial or local governments to assist in their decision-making process. UBCM is also awaiting a finalization of the assessment methodology for the RAR, as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and WLAP are still in discussions on the assessment methodology. The delivery of the Qualified Environmental Assessment gives the opportunity for public input and provides assurance that UBCM is keeping informed on the status of the RAR.

For more information on the new Sewer System Regulation and the draft Standard Practice Manual, go to www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/protect/sewage.html.

The Riparian Areas Regulation - New Sewer System Regulation

O n May 31st, 2005, the Ministry of Health’s new Sewer System Regulation, which governs the installation and maintenance of wastewater systems, came into effect. The regulation covers domestic sewage discharged to a sewage disposal, pit, privy or holding tanks, by limiting daily discharge to 22,700 litres, or approximately 20 dwellings. Developments with a daily domestic sewage flow of more than 22,700 litres, or more than approximately 20 dwellings, are regulated by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection under the Waste Management Act.

Under the new regulation, only “authorized persons” may design, plan, construct and maintain an onsite sewage treatment system. “Authorized persons” are defined as professional or registered practitioners who have received certification training. The responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the system is placed on the owner and/or a designated professional.

The British Columbia OnSite Sewage Association has been working over the past year to inform and train backhoe operators and others who will install septic systems about the new regulatory process. The Ministry of Health has indicated that they will monitor the new regulatory process to assess how well the new process is working.

Environment

Canada’s Climate Change Plan

O n April 13th, 2005, the federal government released an updated climate change plan called, Moving Forward on Climate Change: A Plan For Honouring Our Kyoto Commitments. The Plan provides for federal investments in the order of $10 billion between now and 2012, in order to reduce green house gas emissions 6% below 1990 levels by 2012. The Plan acknowledges that:

- The New Deal for Cities and Communities will play a significant role in reducing green house gases (GHG) by transferring $5 billion in green tax revenues to local governments over the next five years for investments in sustainable infrastructure;
- $120 million will be made available to fund, in part, community challenges associated with the One-Tonne Challenge (GHG reductions). Currently, 41 communities have rolled out Community Challenges that engage individuals in reducing GHG emissions and in making local investments to create sustainable communities;
- $4 billion will be directed towards the Climate Fund, which will purchase domestic greenhouse gas reductions from farmers, businesses and communities;
- $1.8 billion will be made available over fifteen years to quadruple the Wind Power Production Incentive and thereby help meet the larger goal of developing more renewable energy sources; and
- $225 million over five years will be directed to the EnergyGuide for Houses Retrofit Incentive Program to encourage half a million homeowners to increase the efficiency of their homes.

Water Act Section 9 Changes - Notifications and Approvals Process

T he Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (WLAP) and Land and Water British Columbia Inc. (LWBC) introduced a new process on May 18th designed to streamline the administrative procedure and application process for Approvals and Notifications under Section 9 of the Water Act.

Activities that affect the province’s water resources are regulated under the Water Act which requires that anyone proposing to undertake work in and about a stream must comply with Section 9, ‘changes in and about a stream’ and Part 7 of the Water Regulation. The Act and Regulation specify that in order for anyone to carry out works in and about a stream, they are required to obtain one of the following:

- Authorization authorizing the works;
- Water Act, Section 9 Approval from Land and Water British Columbia Inc.;
- Compliance with the Water Act, and Part 7 of the Regulation (Notifications);
- Order from the Comptroller of Water Rights or designation; or
- Authorization under the Mines Act or Forest Practices Act.

LWBC and WLAP have developed a centralized, coordinated web site that allows clients seeking compliance with Water Act requirements to access the complete range of information necessary to undertake their activity. Clients are now able to obtain Approval applications and Notification forms through one web portal. Links have been provided to documents and resources including a complete application package providing both a standardized approval application and notification form. In addition, links have been provided to Regional WLAP offices where clients can obtain specific requirements for Notifications and/or Habitat Officer’s Terms and Conditions including Least Risk Timing Windows. As the web site is now ‘live,’ all Approval applications and Notifications province wide will be initiated through this site. While forms will still be submitted in hard copy, consolidation and standardization of materials and approach is a first step towards a full Internet based electronic submissions system. The website is located at http://lwbc.bc.ca.

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2005

Continued on page 6

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2005

Continued on page 6
WEST NILE VIRUS – INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

West Nile Virus has not yet been found in British Columbia, however, it has been identified in both Alberta and Washington State and it is anticipated that an outbreak of the West Nile virus may take place in the near future.

In the event that a West Nile Virus outbreak does occur, the Ministry of Health has indicated that the province intends to play the lead role in addressing the situation and taking the measures needed to contain it. The intent of the Ministry of Health is to work cooperatively and in partnership with local government to address this public health issue.

Ministry of Health and Health Authority officials envision local governments assisting them to protect the public from this particular health problem under the following legislative framework. First, under the Health Act, local governments are identified as ‘local boards of health’ with broad general responsibilities to assist the ministry in protecting public health and the ability to identify local measures which might assist in protecting the public from the virus. Second, under the Emergency Program Act local governments are identified as a ‘local authority’ with responsibility for undertaking measures to ensure prompt coordination of action to protect the health, safety or welfare of the public. Local government, in the case of West Nile Virus, would appear to have a general responsibility, similar to that of fire or flood protection, to identify in its local emergency plan how it intends to address this matter should an outbreak occur in the community. In both cases the legislation provides the framework for local government to help the Ministry of Health and Health Authorities deal with West Nile Virus, if and when, it is identified in a local area.

The implementation of the West Nile Virus Regulation has raised some questions for local government. There are two major issues that have been identified. The first issue is the degree of liability a local government takes on when attempting to work under the regulation. The second issue is the Indemnity Agreement the Ministry of Health Services has proposed that local government sign.

The Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia (MIA) has undertaken a legal review of the West Nile Virus Control Regulation and the draft indemnity agreement. The review points out that the indemnity agreement “appears to offer little protection or comfort to local authorities. A number of local governments have also looked at the Indemnity Agreement proposed by the Ministry of Health Services and reached the same conclusion as the MIA.”

A meeting was held on June 3, 2005 with staff representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations, Municipal Insurance Association, the GVRD and UBCM to discuss the application and purpose of the West Nile Virus Regulation and a number of liability issues that had been raised by the indemnity agreement.

At the meeting the Ministry of Health indicated that the agreement was not intended to download liability onto any of the parties involved in dealing with an outbreak of the virus. The ministry indicated that it was prepared to amend the agreement to address a number of the liability concerns raised. It also pointed out that the agreement was intended as a tool local governments might use, if needed, and it was not a requirement for taking measures to address West Nile Virus.

The UBCM and the Ministry of Health will be having further discussions on the new indemnity agreement being developed by the province.

PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PRIDE…GROWING TOGETHER

British Columbia–Communities in Bloom (BC-CiB) is pleased to announce the participation of 22 communities in this year’s 2005 program. Grouped by region they are:

Northern BC - Hudson’s Hope, and Dawson Creek;
Vancouver Island - Campbell River, Port Alberni, Parksville and Lake Cowichan;
Central Interior - Clinton, Sicamous, Enderby, Armstrong, Lumby and Electoral Area Westside - Regional District of Central Okanagan;
Lower Mainland - Gibsons, Township of Langley, Mission, and Kent
And in the Kootenays - Nakusp, Nelson, Castlegar, Trail, Cranbrook and Elkford.

NOT FOR PROFIT SOCIETY

Since May of last year, the BC-CiB has accomplished many changes with the assistance of the BC Landscape and Nursery Association. BC-CiB’s incorporation as a society was formed to manage the sustainability and accountability of the program with the program coordinator overseeing daily progress. Fundraising will offset the minimal entrance fees and help to develop awareness programs such as bimonthly newsletters, and upcoming workshops in 3 or 4 regions to boost community registration. Our goal is to increase community participation by at least 20% per year in an effort to reach similar levels of over 60 communities in Alberta.

SPONSORSHIP

In addition to our first two sponsors - City of Fort St. John and Urban Systems - we are proud to announce Duke Energy as our newest Gold Sponsor. Duke Energy Gas Transmission is a premier integrated natural gas company comprised of transmission, storage, gathering and processing and distribution assets across North America.

FLASH!!

This just in.......

The Ministry of Environment confirms that implementation of the Riparian Areas Regulation has been extended to March 31, 2006.

More details will follow in a UBCM Circular.

Thanks to new Minister Penner for granting our request.
BC Forestry Revitalization Trust Update

At the April meeting of the Community Economic Development Committee (CED) Committee, Ms. Sara Shaak, President of the Regional Film Commissions of BC (RFCBC) met with Committee members. She discussed the important role regional commissions play in encouraging film producers to locate throughout the province, thereby creating economic development opportunities for communities by way of the film production industry. She indicated that a provincial review of the BC Film Commission (BFC) was underway and it was unclear what the future role for RFCBC would be in relation to the BFC. She also noted that the regional commissions have not yet received current year fiscal funding, making it difficult to continue their work in promoting regions as potential film locations.

Recognizing the role the RFCBC plays in promoting community economic development, CED Committee Chair Dan Rogers has written a letter to the RFCBC Chair (March 21, 2005) expressing the commitment of the community to the accountability of the commission.

March 31, 2003. It is our purpose to provide mitigation to contractors that lost some or all of their work. The Regional Film Commission (RFCBC) was established by the provincial government effective March 31, 2003. Its purpose is to provide mitigation to workers and contractors who might be negatively affected by the take-back of tenure from major licensees pursuant to the BC Forestry Revitalization Act.

As part of its April 21, 2005 meeting, the Community Economic Development Committee met with Eric van Soeren, Chair of the BC Forestry Revitalization Trust. Mr. van Soeren indicated that when established the BCRTF was funded with $75 million to be allocated as follows:

- $47 million to provide mitigation to contractors that lost some or all of their work
- $23 million to provide mitigation to contractors that lost some or all of their jobs
- $75 million to be provided to Regional Film Commissions
- $47 million to provide mitigation to contractors

The plan is to launch the Regional District Tool Kit at this year’s UBCM Convention and provide a copy to all UBCM members in the fall, in addition to posting an on-line version.

Building the Regional District Tool Kit

As part of the process of building the Regional District Tool Kit, RD Task Force Chair Susan Gise has traveled to all five UBCM Area Association meetings and the Regional District Forum this spring to obtain member input. The response to the Tool Kit’s planned roles of assisting regionals in having consistently positive and anticipating of its completion is growing.

“People like the idea of all regional districts in the province singing from the same song sheet and conveying the same information about regional districts to everyone who is involved with them, from the elected official, to the developer, to the community association,” notes Chair Gise.

“The last of possible audiences for this information gets longer all the time, people really want to put this Tool Kit to work for them”.

UBCM’s Regional District Task Force is overseeing the development, implementation and evaluation of a Regional District Tool Kit. The finished Kit will consist of a set of materials and resources that can be used by local governments to: (1) improve the general understanding of regional districts in BC’s system of local government and (2) address concerns related to the accountability and roles of regional districts.

The Tool Kit will contain:

- 10-15 best practices guides
- 10-15 fact sheets
- 5-8 discussion guides
- 1 powerpoint presentation

with input from members is currently being reviewed and will help shape the draft documents. Both the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) and the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services (MCAWS) are partners in this project and are involved in the review of the Tool Kit elements to ensure they are accurate and comprehensive.

The plan is to launch the Tool Kit at this year’s UBCM Convention and provide a copy to all UBCM members in the fall, in addition to posting an on-line version.

Infrastructure Update

Canada-BC Infrastructure Program

With the project approval deadline being June 30, 2005, the Canada-BC Infrastructure Program (CBICP) is drawing to a close. To date, a total of 309 projects have been supported by this program.

Under the current terms for the program, all approved projects must be completed by March 31, 2006. UBCM and the province have made a request to the federal government to extend the completion date for approved projects by two years to March 31, 2008. We hope to receive a positive response shortly on this matter and will keep our members informed. If this program amendment is made, certain project proponents could make requests for extensions, which can be approved if they so choose.

Given the recognized success of the current program in responding to local government priorities, UBCM continues to be hopeful that Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) dollars will be added to CBICP to extend it, rather than launching an entirely new program with different sets of requirements and procedures.

BC Community Water Improvement Program

On February 5, 2005, the provincial government announced a new $80 million Community Water Improvement Program (BCCWIP).

The program is aimed at promoting community economic development, specific sectorial practices, and other information.

The responses to the survey were excellent, with 84 out of 184 surveys completed. Most responses were very detailed, with local governments displaying a keen interest in both communicating their own practices and learning about the practices of their peers.

UBCM has compiled a preliminary analysis of the survey results and steps are being taken to develop a comprehensive report on the findings. The report will provide members and other interested organizations with information on what local governments are doing in the field of economic development.

We are continuing to accept completed surveys so, if you have not yet filled one in for your local government, please go to the UBCM website and look under “Featured Policy Topics” and follow the “Community Economic Development” link. Completed surveys can be faxed or mailed to Joanne Gauci at the UBCM office.

Thank you once again for taking the time to tell us about what is going on in your community. UBCM will be following up with some local governments to obtain further information on specific initiatives in your area.
Viability Of Regional Airports In British Columbia


The provincial report attempts to examine the economic viability of the regional and small airports in the province and outlines an action plan for addressing some of the problems identified.

The report highlights a paper entitled “Regional and Small Airports Study” released by Transport Canada in 2004 which examined the financial viability of the 150 airports divested by Transport Canada as part of the National Airports Policy adopted in 1994. The federal study highlighted the fact that 48% of Canada’s divested regional and small airports are not able to cover even their annual cost of operation and are unable to finance capital at all. Even those airports managing a surplus on operation can only finance a quarter of their capital requirements. The report did not identify those airports that were able to cover their costs and those that were not.

The findings in the federal study were supported by other studies in British Columbia, which have suggested that most small/regional airports in BC had inadequate capital funding and insufficient revenues to cover operating costs. A survey undertaken of BC airport operators in 2001, for example, indicated that over 80% of the regional airports would not meet their capital budgets over the next five years and that approximately 40% of BC airports did not break even and did not expect to do so in the near future. The survey also indicated that 17% of the regional airports do not have a capital plan, 28% do not have a business plan, 72% do not have a strategic plan, and 44% do not have a Development or Master Plan.

The discussion paper highlighted a number of federal regulatory issues faced by BC regional airports that affect their operation.

- Implementation of CAR 308 – aircraft emergency intervention services;
- Reduction NAV CANADA services – will reduce the quality of air service, resulting in increased delays and the increased possibility of diversions to other airports in poor conditions;
- Payment for Customs – small airports operating international and transborder services are required to pay for the full cost of custom services – negatively affects their financial position either through increased costs or reduced sources of revenue;
- Air Travellers Security Charge (ATSC) – results in the loss of 96,000 visitors annually to British Columbia, representing a loss of $23,5 million in tourism spending.

The report makes a number of recommendations that key stakeholders might take to address some of the problems identified.

Province of British Columbia

- Continue or even enhance the Transportation Partnerships Program - $10 million dollar fund targeted for airports and port development;
- Create a funding program for small/remote communities not eligible for ACAP funding;
- Work with stakeholders to develop air service trust funds – facilitate development of trust funds with tourism industry, business and employers;
- Provide funding for and encourage airport planning;
- Encourage and support training; and
- Support development of regional airport system plans.

Government of Canada

- Reduce the regulatory burden of CAR 308 and other regulations;
- Allow right of establishment – review ownership restrictions for airlines to permit foreign ownership of domestic airlines;
- Pursue open skies agreements – increase international access to Canadian airports;
- Increase permissible level of foreign investment in Canadian airlines;
- Expand the scope of ACAP (Airports Capital Assistance Program) – Transport Canada program should be broadened to allow a wider range of capital projects to qualify for funding;
- Expand funding for ACAP – Transport Canada should tie level of funding for ACAP to demand, so funding will be sufficient to meet demand increases;
- Eliminate/revise the ATSC (Air Travellers Security Charge); and
- Fully fund customs services at all relevant airports.

Tourism Industry

- Sponsor workshops to address community actions to support airports – gather local stakeholders to discuss issues such as travel trust funds, rationalization of airports, and training and planning;
- Provide marketing support – highlight transportation information on websites, promote transportation services at tourism trade shows etc.; and
- Advertising support – transportation information in advertisements in in-flight magazines and radio and television advertisements in international markets.

New Community Energy Planning Guide

Natural Resources Canada has just updated their Community Energy Planning Guide, designed for communities that wish to develop long-term energy strategies that enhance their environmental and economic situation. The guide can be used at the project, community or regional level and comes in three volumes: volume 1 provides and overview of the process with a discussion of what constitutes a sustainable community; volume 2 details the 5-stage process, and volume 3 outlines examples, case studies and energy-reducing applications for use within the community. All are available in CD format. For a free copy, send your name and address to Ken Church, Manager Community Planning at kchurch@nrcan.gc.ca

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Continued from page 7

their replaceable contracts because the licensee with whom they had a replaceable contract lost tenure because of the BC Forestry Revitalization Act in the area where that contractor worked; and
- $5 million to pay for administration of the BC FRT.

He noted that as part of the 2005 provincial budget, an additional $50 million has been allocated to assist workers and contractors in the transition process. Joining van Soeren on the seven member Advisory Board are representatives from the coastal and interior contractors, coastal and interior licensees, workers (United Steelworkers) and Ministry of Forests staff. The role of the Advisory Board is to set guidelines for mitigation.

Mr. van Soeren also took the opportunity to advise Committee members about another Trust, the Coast Sustainability Trust, which was established in 2002 by the Province of British Columbia to mitigate any adverse impacts arising from Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) land use planning decisions in the Central Coast, North Coast, and Queen Charlotte Islands. Members wishing more information on either of the Trusts please view the following websites: www.bcfrt.com and www.coaststabilitytrust.com or contact: Eric van Soeren 6705 London Drive, Delta BC V4C 0T7 Phone: 604-940-0850 Fax: 604-940-0858 Email: eric@vansoeren.net

2004 RESOLUTIONS UPDATE

The Province has returned the last of its responses to resolutions submitted for consideration after the 2004 Convention and copies of the full text of each of these have been sent to sponsoring communities. In addition, responses from various federal ministries continue to arrive and are conveyed to sponsors as they are received in the UBCM office.

The overall rate of reply to 2004 resolutions has been excellent this year, with 96% of the resolutions conveyed by the UBCM to government ministries and outside agencies now having received a response. While the responses themselves may not always satisfy, we can at least be assured that the voice of BC local government is being heard loud and clear in both Victoria and Ottawa.

Continued from page 7

a letter to the Ministry responsible for the BC Film Commission to determine the status of the review, including the relationship with the RFCBC and requesting that:
1. funding for the current fiscal year be provided to the regional film commissions; and
2. local governments and the regional film commissions be provided with ample time to review any of the proposed changes to funding or governance structure and that the Committee determine what further action(s) may be required once the status of the review is known.

Film Commissions

Criteria

Selection criteria:
1. Energy Awareness - integration of energy consideration into planning and development strategies;
2. Demonstrated Community Leadership - leadership demonstrated by elected officials and staff - barriers faced and overcome (e.g. geography, limited resources, small community population base);
3. Energy Impact and Cost Effectiveness - demonstrated or potential gigajoules (GJ) produced or saved, per capita; and cost per GJ saved; and
4. Best Practices and Innovation - forefront of local government practices; replicability potential for others.

A submission may be based on such elements as an adopted plan, bylaws or other legal rules and regulations, policies, inducements or reward programs, educational programs, or technological or institutional innovation. Factors that contribute to «energy aware» and «sustainability» include such things as incorporation of energy consideration into planning and development decisions, urban design, layout supporting diverse transportation alternatives, efficient buildings and infrastructure, and use of waste energy and renewables.

Recent Award Winners

City of Revelstoke (Population 8000): Community Energy Project (2004 Award)

BC’s first district heating system based on wood-residue; using a biomass boiler to produce heat for dry kilns and several large buildings.


Using underground heat and a heat pump system, saving about $7000 annually in heating and cooling costs.

City of Vancouver (Pop 578,000): Corporate Climate Change Action Plan (2004 Honourable Mention)

A comprehensive plan with strong greenhouse gas targets and a broad range of actions for all municipal operations.

City of White Rock (Pop 19,000): Operations Building (2003 Award)

A 2004 provincial Energy Aware Award winner.

District of Delta (Pop 101,000) / City of Vancouver: Municipal/private landfill gas utilization (2002 Award)

City of Quesnel (Pop 11,000): A rural energy-friendly transportation system (2002 Honourable Mention)
The UBCM SPU program began in 2004 with the creation of three Community Sprinkler Protection Units and a full set of replacement inventory. The “made in BC” design proved to be very successful with numerous structures saved during 69 deployment days.

In preparation for the 2005 fire season, a review of the program was completed and a number of minor upgrades to the units were recommended. We have completed these upgrades in readiness for summer deployment. Crew training and orientation opportunities are also being offered around the province this spring.

In order to build on the success of the 2004 program, we recognized the need for a detailed analysis of BC interface fire data. The information examined, spanning a ten-year period, will include the location, intensity, and frequency of interface fires. The analysis will provide a basis for developing policy around the use of the units and address issues such as optimum number of units required in the province, storage locations, deployment procedures, funding, and ownership.

The research and analysis will be completed by Joanna Merson. Joanna is a University of Victoria Co-op student and is working with the UBCM and the Office of the Fire Commissioner this summer. Joanna will be commencing her third year of studies towards a B.Sc. Geography Major next fall.

Emergency Planning (Administered for the Provincial Emergency Program [PEP]):

The Emergency Planning program began in 2004 with a $1 million program funded by the Province of BC. The program proved to be very successful with all regional districts accessing funding under the program; 41 municipalities were also provided with financial assistance to embark on emergency planning related activities. The UBCM will continue to administer this program in 2005 and 2006 with an additional grant of $1.5 million dollars.

Complementing the granting portion of the Emergency Planning program, a Regional District Management Workshop was held June 22 and 23. Developed to strengthen emergency preparedness in regional districts, the workshop provided an opportunity for regional district representatives to share best practices and common program development challenges. The workshop also provided representatives from PEP and UBCM to explore additional opportunities to provide effective support to regional districts as they work through the emergency planning process.

Criteria for the 2005 Emergency Planning Program will be distributed before the end of June 2005.

Wildfire Protection plans for communities.

The fire threat analysis data is complete, and has since been offered to local governments and First Nations as a tool for assessing wildfire risk in their communities. By overlaying this data over existing community mapping, communities are able to identify areas of the interface at greatest risk. Six workshops designed to inform communities of the availability of and uses for this data were held over the past few months. To date, 72 communities have requested and received this information.

Twenty-two local governments accessed 2004 funding for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). To date, six of these communities have completed their plans. We congratulate the following local governments on their efforts:

- District of Logan Lake;
- City of Kelowna;
- City of Coquitlam;
- Village of Valemount;
- Regional District of Central Okanagan (West Side);
- Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen.

Now that communities have received their fire-threat analysis data, we are looking forward to receiving the balance of the completed CWPP’s funded under the 2004 program.

There were also fuel mitigation pilot projects initiated in 2004. The District of Logan Lake, City of Prince George, East Kootenay Regional District, and City of Cranbrook all had pilot projects approved through Ministry of Forests funding. The Village of Pemberton and the Village of Telkwa also have pilot projects under consideration.

There are other strategic wildfire prevention activities underway in the province that have moved ahead without the benefit of UBCM funding—and Prince George, Invermere, and 108 Mile House have developed connections for funding of fieldwork through HRDC.

The work being done on wildfire prevention around the province is crucial to community safety and forest health in the coming years and we applaud all communities who have begun this process.

Funding will continue in 2005. The Community Wildfire Protection Grant process is already underway and we have received 34 applications under this program. All applications will be reviewed during the month of June and applicants will be advised of the status of their application upon review.

The UBCM will also be administering funding for pilot projects dealing with fire fuel mitigation methods. Expressions of interest will be accepted until June 30th. Those with a proposal that fits the pilot project criteria will be invited to work with Ministry of Forests personnel to flesh out the details of their proposals.

We also anticipate a program to assist communities with fuel treatment, and hope to announce details of that funding within the next few weeks.

Strategic Wildfire Protection Program (Administered for the Ministry of Forests, Protection Branch):

The 2004 Strategic Wildfire Protection program included two distinct programs. The first was the development of fire threat analysis data for the Province of British Columbia. The second was a granting program to facilitate the development of Community Seniors Housing and Support Initiative (Administered for the Ministry of Community Service):

In 2004 UBCM staff focused on researching work already being done in the area of Seniors Housing and Support Services. The purpose of this was to develop a program that would be relevant to local government and address some of the gaps in the work being done by other agencies. To complement and expand on this work, a series of workshops were held at the recent Area Association meetings around the province. Feedback from these workshops has been compiled and will assist us in determining next steps as we move forward with the program.

A website designed to share information on Seniors Housing and Support Initiatives has been developed. While some information has been posted to the site, its primary purpose is for the sharing of information and experiences. U Vic co-op student Taira Nakani is working with us on this project, and will be contacting many communities and inviting them to share their stories. To view the website, go to www.seniorsincommunities.ca.

Seniors in Communities Dialogue funding is now available to those of you wishing to host workshops or other events in your communities. If you have not yet considered hosting a dialogue, information is available on the UBCM website. A provincial forum on seniors’ issues and how they relate to local government will be held at the upcoming UBCM Convention.

West Nile Virus Prevention (Administered for the Ministry of Health Services):

The West Nile Virus Prevention initiative was launched in March and is designed to assist communities with mosquito management activities. Funding levels were determined by the risk levels in each geographical area.

To date, 107 local governments and 74 First Nations communities have applied for and received funding under the program. These represent 3.7 million people out of 4.3 million in BC. This level of uptake for this program is good news. While West Nile virus has not yet been detected in British Columbia, anticipatory planning is essential to a timely response if an outbreak should occur.

Continued on page 11

Community Health Promotion Initiative (Administered for the Ministry of Community Service):

The Community Health Promotion fund was initiated to support communities in building the skills and abilities they need to address their health promotion priorities. The program will focus on strengthening collaboration among local government, health...
Local Government Program Services

Continued from page 10

authorities and non-governmental health-related organizations in protecting and promoting the health of their citizens. Innovation, best practices development, information sharing and networking associated with health promotion will also be supported. UBCM is in the initial planning stages for this program and will be taking into account the fit with related initiatives already underway and others soon to be announced. A pre-conference session will be held at the Convention in September.

School Community Connections (Joint program with BCSTA administered for the Ministry of Education)

School Community Connections is a joint program involving the BC School Trustees Association and the UBCM in consultation with the Ministry of Education. The intent of the program is to assist school boards and local governments to revitalize under-utilized schools as centres for community learning and activities. Program development is underway, and the program will be launched in September in conjunction with the UBCM annual Convention.

For more information on any of these programs, please visit the UBCM website at www.civiciet.bc.ca. Go to Services and Surveys/Local Government Program Services, or contact Sue Clark at 250-356-5134.

Regional Traffic Commissions (Administered for the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services)

This grant program was initiated in 2004 and designed to assist communities wishing to develop a Regional Traffic Commission. While there was a great interest in program, the initial format proved problematic when translated into different regions. In response to concerns expressed by the members we are in the process of program re-design. Details of the revised program will be announced to the members during the summer months.

Community Tourism Program

The Province of British Columbia recently provided UBCM with $25 million to develop a program to support communities in the development of local tourism initiatives. Since receiving this funding, programming options have been developed by staff and evaluated by the task force overseeing the program. Based on this evaluation, recommendations will be taken to the July executive meeting. We expect to launch the first phase of the program shortly thereafter.

New Minister

Continued from page 1

served as the Official Opposition Critic for Small Business, Tourism and Culture, the Deputy Critic of Finance, the Deputy Critic for Women’s Equality and Chair of the Official Opposition Committee on the Economy.

Since the 2001 election, Ms. Chong has served on many government committees. She has been chair of the Government Caucus Committee on Economy and Government Operations, as well as a member of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, and the Special Committee on the Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform.

She currently serves on Treasury Board, the Government Caucus Committee on Education and the Government Caucus Committee on Cross Government Initiatives.

Ms. Chong proudly retains her credentials as a Certified General Accountant and has won several awards for her work in this field for service at a chapter level, as well as for service on a provincial committee. In 1999, she was awarded the CGA Community Service Award. She has worked extensively in public practice, and from 1985 to 2003 was senior partner in an accounting practice in Saanich. She also found time to volunteer for several non-profit organizations, serving as a board member.

UBCM is arranging its first meetings with Minister Chong and it is expected that she will attend the July Executive meeting.

New Deputy Minister

Sheila Wynn was appointed Deputy Minister, Community Services on June 16th. Dr. Wynn has a long record of service with Alberta and British Columbia provincial governments. She joined the BC Public Service in February 1989 as Assistant Deputy Minister of Regional Operations and Enforcement in the Ministry of Environment (later Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks). In March 1992, Ms. Wynn was appointed Deputy Minister, Ministry of Women’s Equality, in September 1993, Deputy Minister of Social Services; in June 1996, Deputy Minister of the Environmental Assessment Office and in April 2003, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Energy and Mines. She is a former Board member of the Women’s Hospital in Vancouver, as well as the former Chair of the Medical Services Commission and the Oil and Gas Commission.

Dr. Wynn’s educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta, a Master of Arts from the University of Washington and a PhD in Sociology from La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Wynn’s educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta, a Master of Arts from the University of Washington and a PhD in Sociology from La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia.

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Convention Registration Underway

UBCM’s 2005 Convention registration materials have been distributed to all members and are on the UBCM website. You may download registration materials from the web, but all registrations must be returned by mail. With the number of optional program choices and three different registration dates affecting pricing, we found it too complicated for electronic registration – plus people were often duplicating registration with a combination of electronic, faxes and mail.

Register before August 12th for the lowest costs. UBCM does try to keep its basic registration costs affordable. If not for the tremendous support we receive from our sponsors and the Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow in Vancouver, registration costs would be approximately 30% higher. Our basic registration ($335) compares favorably with FCM ($545), LGMA ($375), Alberta Municipalities Association ($350) and Association of Ontario Municipalities ($480).

Convention Planning

This is the 100th Anniversary Convention of the Union of BC Municipalities and it’s going to be a great event members shouldn’t miss. The Convention Planning Committee is planning some very special events, such as:

• welcome reception at Storeyarm – the new attraction in Gastown featuring BC’s history;
• member participation in the opening flag parade and the centennial group photo;
• historic re-enactment on September 29, 2005 of the founding of UBCM on September 29, 1905; and
• unveiling of the UBCM history publication and displays on events throughout UBCM’s 100 years.

While these events are new and different, the basic framework of the Convention remains unchanged with pre-conference study tours and study sessions on Monday, four Forums on Tuesday and the business program from Wednesday to Friday noon. We are, however, hoping to build a stronger federal presence into the conference this year.

CONVENTION WEBSITE 2005

For the latest information on the 2005 Convention, check out the UBCM website at www.civicnet.bc.ca. Here, along with other information important to members, you will find the Convention Page. The Convention Page will be updated regularly as Convention planning unfolds.

As the Convention approaches, you will find everything from the President’s message to registration and accommodations information here. You will be able to read about planned sessions, as well as print out the registration brochure and learn about other Convention details. Currently, the site includes information on location, accommodations, the trade show and sessions. The “Trade Show” provides information on the always-popular Municipal Marketplace and the “Sessions” link provides information on how to submit a workshop or clinic idea.

Just follow the path: www.civicnet.bc.ca and click on Convention/2005 Convention. We recommend bookmarking the site for easy access to the most recent Convention information.

Celebrating our Legacy, Charting our Future

On September 29, 1905 thirty-three local elected officials from British Columbia’s 41 municipalities gathered together in New Westminster to discuss common issues and concerns. They agreed to work together through an association of local governments they could achieve more for their communities. It was Mayor Buscombe of Vancouver who made the historic motion:

“The time has arrived to take concerted action. I move that delegates now present do form a union of municipalities of British Columbia.”

And here we are, 100 years later celebrating the legacy of that historic meeting. Today all 184 local governments maintain their membership in UBCM because decade after decade we continued to demonstrate the value of ‘strength in numbers’. This Convention will reflect on the last 100 years of UBCM achievements and demonstrate our legacy of service to local government.

But it doesn’t end here. Like our founders in 1905, we too must chart our future and develop a new vision of strong and vibrant communities that will lead us through the next century. By reflecting on our accomplishments, experience will guide us in establishing our direction for the "Second Century". At this Convention a new vision will be put forward and like our founders, you will be charged with the responsibility of charting our future.

As experience has shown, we cannot do it alone. Only through strong intergovernmental relationships can we continue to build strong and vibrant communities. We invite you to join this historic event - Celebrating our Legacy, Charting our Future - A Centennial Celebration.

2005 Community Excellence Awards

Upon publication and mail-out of this newsletter, the Community Excellence Awards deadline of June 20 will have come and gone. And, if you’re a UBCM member with something to boast about, we certainly hope you sent us your application by that date.

I n its second year as the Academy Awards of Local Government performance, the UBCM Community Excellence Awards program is in full swing. The application booklet was faxed out to councils, boards and office administrators on May 12 and 13. The notice asked BC communities to share their success stories of Best Practices, Leadership & Innovation and Partnerships.

Municipal and regional district staff have wasted no time in calling the UBCM office to ask questions and get started with their submission reports. It is this kind of active pursuit of excellence that the Community Excellence Awards strives to acknowledge. Some questions asked were, “Does the summary report have to be five pages long, or is this just a maximum number of pages?” and “Can we provide appendices?” For answers to these, and other important questions, a Question and Answer page was added to Excellence Awards portion of the civicnet website. To review this section, go to www.civicnet.bc.ca under “About UBCM/Programs/Community Excellence Awards Program”.

The month of July will be spent reviewing submissions to ensure they all meet the guidelines outlined in the application book. Subsequent to that, Selection Committee members will be sent copies of the submissions for pre-judging session reading and scoring. The final step will be a meeting where Selection Committee members meet to determine category winners.

The winners of the Community Excellence Awards will be announced at the UBCM Convention in Vancouver on Wednesday, September 28th. A reception is being planned for all communities that submitted applications. It is our hope this will be an opportunity for award winners to have their photos taken, meet the award sponsors and for all applicants to mingle and share their success stories.

UBCM thanks the following supporters of the Community Excellence Awards:

~ REMINDER ~

Long Service Awards deadline is August 31, 2005

Watch your fax for guidelines on nominating procedures.

Questions?
Call Joslyn Gramlich at 604.270.8226
The District of Maple Ridge and ERA Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc.’s “Community Ecosystem Restoration Initiative” (CERI)

In October of 2004, the District of Maple Ridge became the first community in British Columbia to decide to participate in the “Community Ecosystem Restoration Initiative” with ERA Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc. (ERA).

This initiative represents a unique community approach to fighting climate change, through the enhanced removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide, a “greenhouse gas,” is the gas most responsible for climate change. Healthy ecosystems absorb vast tonnages of carbon dioxide, while releasing 2.5 tonnes of oxygen for each tonne of carbon dioxide absorbed.

Maple Ridge kicked off the project by having ERA assess the carbon dioxide sequestration (absorption & storage) potential of ecosystems that were not achieving their potential as a result of tree removal and the inadvertent introduction of invasive species during the community’s long history of settlement. Knowing the sequestration potential is important because organizations prepared to sponsor the undertakings will do so on the basis of the value the project will have in terms of sequestering carbon from the atmosphere to address climate change.

The advantage to the District, is that ecosystem restoration work, including tree planting and invasives management worth up to millions of dollars, would be undertaken at virtually no cost to the District.

The “Community Ecosystem Restoration Initiative” has been developed in response to the growing awareness of citizens, businesses, and local governments over the state of their local ecosystems, and the relationship of healthy ecosystems to a stable climate. The ultimate goal is to return these degraded areas back to their pre-disturbance state, largely old growth coniferous forests. These restored ecosystems, through their natural photosynthetic processes, will begin to remove carbon dioxide (“CO₂”) from the atmosphere almost as soon as they are established.

The ancillary environmental benefits of this initiative include enhanced biodiversity, stream shading, stream bank stability, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, removal of invasives, recreation, and educational opportunities.

Cost to the Community

An ecosystem restoration performed under CERI, has little or no cost to the community, as ERA will arrange for the project to be sponsored by a corporation &/or the United Nations sanctioned “Footprint Neutral” program, based upon its value in addressing climate change. In March 2005, ERA established an agreement that encompasses Western Canada and Ontario with the not-for-profit “Footprint Neutral” initiative. ERA will also liaise with all regulatory authorities and the environmental community to ensure restoration activities are fully endorsed before proceeding.

Implementing CERI

The implementation of an ecosystem restoration has the following steps: (a) identifying suitable restoration sites; (b) conducting biometrics to determine site productivity; (c) developing restoration prescriptions, and (d) implementing those prescriptions. In addition to addressing all of these needs, ERA will ensure the upkeep and monitoring of these sites at no cost to the community.

The company behind CERI

ERA Ecosystem Restoration Associates Inc. was established to integrate climate change mitigation with ecosystem restoration in communities and parklands. ERA has over 45 years of combined experience in climate change research and mitigation for over fifteen years.

Participants

The Districts of Maple Ridge and Mission are current CERI participants, and a number of other municipalities have requested presentations and are expected to join the initiative. Interest in “Footprint Neutral” participation is well advanced with companies having policies that are aligned with the initiative’s sustainability and climate change mitigation goals.

Contact Information

For further information, please contact Neil Williams, Director of Marketing, by phone at 604-786-1688, or by email at neil@ERAforests.com.

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2005

The 2005 Nominations PROCESS

May

Nominating Committee will circulate a Call for Nominations notice that will contain the following information:

- positions open for nomination;
- process for nomination;
- qualifications for office;
- role of Nominating Committee;
- closing date for nominations (prior to the Convention); and
general duties of an Executive member.

It will include instructions on how to access additional information on UBCM Executive responsibilities and how to submit a nomination.

July 29 – Last Business Day in July

Advance nominations close – all candidates must have their documentation submitted. Following this deadline the Nominating Committee will review the credentials and prepare its report. It is not the role of the Nominating Committee to recommend any one nomination, rather Committee members are to ensure nominations are complete and according to policies and procedures.

Mid-August

The Nominating Committee report will be distributed to all UBCM members which will include:

- names of members and positions;
- photo (to size set by Nominating Committee Chair); and
- biographical information. (The maximum length of such information shall be 300 words. If the information provided is in excess, the Nominating Committee Chair shall return it once for editing; if it still does not meet the maximum, the Nominating Committee Chair shall edit as required).

For further information on the nomination and election process contact the Chair, UBCM Nominating Committee, Mayor Frank Leonard at:

District of Saanich
770 Vernon Avenue
Saanich, BC V8X 2W7
Phone: 250.475.5510 Fax: 250.475.5440
Email: Mayor@saanich.ca


CIVICNET UPDATE

With major yearly revisions and updates now complete, staff are focusing on maintaining and enhancing CivicNet content as summer approaches. Recent updates of note include:

- A scrolling news bar has been added to the CivicNet homepage to alert members to upcoming events, announce the launch of new programs and draw attention to important news items and additions to the site.
- Historical Information Links.

UBCM documents are gradually being uploaded to the UBCM Guide to Information Services (Publications/ Guide to Info Services). The goal is to provide UBCM members with electronic access to as many publications as possible and work on this project is ongoing.

Final reports from the UBCM Community Forum events held during the 2004/2005 program year are available for viewing in the UBCM’s online Library. Follow this file path to learn about some of the achievements of BC local governments and First Nations: Featured Policy Topics/First Nations Relations/Community to Community Forum Program.

Stay tuned to the Convention section of the CivicNet site for details on the upcoming UBCM Convention in Vancouver. Information on all aspects of the annual Convention will be posted here as it becomes available.

As always, we welcome member input on the UBCM website. Please take a moment to direct your CivicNet comments, suggestions or questions to Errin Armstrong at earmstro@civicnet.bc.ca.

BIG SHOES TO FILL...

With the retirement of Frank Storey at the end of May, staff member Errin Armstrong has taken on some new responsibilities and is now the UBCM’s Information and Resolutions Coordinator. Errin will continue to coordinate the annual resolutions process and administer the CivicNet website but in her new capacity she will also be responsible for providing the information and services previously handled by Frank. Errin has been with the UBCM for the past two years, and although she can’t yet claim Frank Storey’s decades of experience in local government, her training in library and information studies will no doubt serve her well in her new role. Please feel free to call Errin with your inquiries and rest assured that she can’t provide the answer to your question right away, she will take the time to unearth it and call you back!

Errin will also be handling:
- List of Electors requests;
- UBCM Survey inquiries.

She can be reached at 604.270.8226, ext. 115 or earmstro@civicnet.bc.ca.

GROWING TOGETHER

Continued from page 6

Their business is built upon the four pillars of safety, responsibility, customer service and cost management. duke Energy has seen the many benefits of successful CiB programs in communities such as the City of Fort St. John.

SUMMER JUDGING

Starting in early July, community volunteers will visit and evaluate each entry based on the following eight criteria:

- Community involvement
- Overall tidliness
- Urban forestry
- Landscaped areas
- Floral displays
- Golf tees and lawn areas
- Environmental effort
- Cultural and heritage preservation

Entrants will be awarded a blooming rating and supplied a detailed report that summarizes their community’s effort at this year’s 2nd Annual BC-CiB Award Show hosted by the City of Kamloops on September 10th, 2005. The judges value a high level of co-operative effort by individuals, businesses, organizations, institutions and the municipal government. Detailed reports, and access to an information exchange network or other participants creates a dynamic and rewarding process for a community’s continuing improvement.

THE BENEFITS

The success of the program is evident in British Columbia’s performance at the national level. In 2004, four of the ten top winners were from BC. Communities in Bloom has truly become a national movement encouraging the involvement of citizens to celebrate community achievements and civic pride. The appeal of the program is more than simply visual, as important as this benefit is, the real strength comes from the social impact participation has in building a sense of pride through community involvement. Over the past 10 years, the national finalists and provincial participants have shared knowledge and exchanged information amongst one another to improve the quality of life and to make our communities better places to visit, live and work in.

For more information please contact:
Randy Greenizan, BC-CiB Chair - Phone (604) 533-6092
lrgreenizan@telic.bc.ca

Catherine Kennedy, BC-CiB Coordinator – Phone (604) 576-6506 [c.kennedy@telus.net]

UBCM Honours Two Long-Serving Staff

UBCM Executive, staff, some friends, and family gathered together on the evening of Wednesday, April 20th to mark the retirements of Frank Storey and Barbara Ingamells. The loyal service of these two long-time UBCM employees was reported on in the March newsletter, but the dinner celebrating Storey and Ingamells was the true and deserved celebration of their time at UBCM.

“Frank gave three decades of loyal service, which is indeed an accomplishment in itself,” said UBCM President Aaron Dinwoodie. Always available to answer member inquiries, Storey’s decades of service were akin to encyclopedia’s of information—information that was held in Frank’s invaluable memory. When stumped with an offbeat question, UBCM staff would often say, “Ask Frank, he’ll probably know.” Always a pleasure to deal with, the appreciation for Storey’s quiet demeanor was stated perfectly by Third VP Brenda Binnie who said, “still waters run through him”. Staff and UBCM members will certainly miss Storey, but are equally happy for his newfound freedom and the chance to go fishing whenever he likes.

Sharing the spotlight at the retirement dinner was Barbara Ingamells—a lady that “had style and always brought a professional touch...” according to Director Dinwoodie. Always ready with a laugh, “Barb was very helpful when I was on the Members Services Committee. She made me feel comfortable. She has a great smile and attitude about life,” said Cllr. Binnie. That sentiment was echoed by Mayor Frank Leonard, who said, “Barbara was a trusted advisor on Member Services issues, especially the Pension Board file as it was being created as a Joint Trusteehip and now as we take an active role. She had a tone of voice that was polite, but effective, if she thought we elected folks might be going down the wrong path with a decision.” Well-liked by her colleagues, Ingamells was a pleasure to have in the UBCM office.

Thank you to both Frank Storey and Barbara Ingamells for their years of service and the individual talents and traits you shared with UBCM, we shall miss you!

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Thank you to both Frank Storey and Barbara Ingamells for their years of service and the individual talents and traits you shared with UBCM, we shall miss you!
New Funding Year for Community to Community Forum Program Now Underway

The 2005/2006 Community to Community (C2C) Program is now underway. The goal of the program is to support dialogue between elected officials of First Nations and local governments on issues of mutual interest and concern.

First Nations or local governments can apply for event funding and the size and nature of the forums can vary. In the past, some participants have used the funding to host a meeting between one local government and one First Nation, while others have hosted larger events, which included several local governments, First Nations and other community leaders.

A variety of topics have been explored at past events and common themes in the 2004/2005 program year were:
• development of MOUs and protocols;
• emergency preparedness planning;
• joint economic development planning and opportunities;
• developing understanding around “Additions to Reserve”;
• development of servicing agreements and
• shared library services.

Thirty-nine applications were received and approved in the 2004/2005 program year. This was the highest annual number of applicants to be approved since the program began and we are hoping the 2005/2006 program year will prove to be just as successful.

The Community to Community Forum Program is funded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services and administered jointly by the UBCM and the First Nations Summit.

In addition to the Regional Community to Community Forum Program, a Provincial Community to Community Forum Program is also being scheduled for the spring of 2006. This event will provide an opportunity for First Nations and local governments from across the province to discuss common goals and opportunities and learn about successful local government – First Nation relationships being developed throughout BC.

Treaty Negotiations Update

While there were no final treaty settlements reached before the provincial election in May of 2005, there have been some notable treaty developments in recent months.

On April 4, 2005, the Musqueam Nation signed a framework agreement with Canada and BC that will move the parties into Stage 4 of the treaty process, which involves the negotiation of an agreement in principle (AIP).

The Yekooche Nation also recently voted to approve an AIP, which provides approximately 6000 plus hectares of treaty settlement land and $6.5 million. The Yekooche Nation is based in the community of Portage about 85 kilometres northwest of Fort St. James. To move into Stage 5 of the treaty process, which involves final agreement negotiations, will require all three parties to sign the AIP.

Currently, there are 42 First Nations in Stage 4 of the treaty process. Treaty tables that could conclude AIP negotiations by the end of 2005 are listed in the table below, as are the four lead final agreement tables. For a comprehensive list of First Nations in the BC treaty process, please visit the BC Treaty Commission website at www.bctreaty.net.

Lead Final Agreement Negotiations (Stage 5):
• Lheidli T’enneh Band (near Prince George)
• Maa-nulth First Nations (west coast of Vancouver Island)
• Tsawwassen First Nation (Lower Mainland)
• Sliammon First Nation (Sunshine Coast)

Advanced Agreement in Principle Negotiations (Stage 4):
• Yekooche Nation (near Fort St. James)
• Yale First Nation (north of Hope)
• In-SHUCK-ch Council (near Lillooet)

For additional information on how to apply for funding please contact Joanne Gauci at 604.270.8226, ext. 116. Application packages have been mailed to each local government and can also be found on the UBCM website at www.civicien.bc.ca. From the UBCM website select “Featured Policy Topics”, then “First Nations Relations” and follow the Community to Community Forum links.

FCM Releases Toolkit on Municipal-Aboriginal Partnerships in Land Management

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has produced a toolkit to assist First Nations and local governments in developing successful working relationships and partnerships in the area of land management. This article highlights areas of particular local government interest from this new publication, as it is a document that may be of use to many of our members. For a full copy of the toolkit, visit the FCM website at www.fcm.ca.

The FCM Land Management Project Toolkit consists of six booklets, which present detailed information on:
• the federal Additions to Reserve (ATR) policy and
• the First Nations Land Management Act;
• strategies to establish effective municipal-Aboriginal working relationships; and

Continued on page 16

Coming Soon: Local Government—First Nation Relations Newsletter

UBCM is partner-

ing with the First Nations Summit and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to develop a newsletter on local gov-

ernment—First Nation relations.

In addition, local governments and First Nations are entering into new working relationships on a variety of issues, such as servicing and planning. The goal of the newsletter will be to provide a regular source of information on:

• innovative initiatives and best practices in local government—First Nation relations;
• the operation of local governments and First Nations (i.e., a compara-
tive look at each approach planning, ad-

ministration, financing, etc.); and on
• resources available to local governments and First Nations on dispute resolution, funding sourc-
es, mentorship and train-
ing opportunities, and other related topics.

Continued on page 16

Murdy & McAllister
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

#1155 – Two Bentall Centre, 555 Burrard Street P.O. Box 49059 Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1C4
Fax: (604) 689-9029 Tel: (604) 689-5263

Since 1980 our firm has restricted its practice to acting for local government and providing advice concerning municipal law to other clients.
Toolkit on Municipal-Aboriginal Partnerships

Continued from page 15

• case studies that highlight successful land management partnerships.

The booklets dedicated to the First Nations Land Management Act and the ATR policy are helpful in that implications for both First Nations and local governments arising from these legislative and policy initiatives are clearly laid out. Other aspects that are of particular interest to local governments are the guide for establishing working relationships with First Nations and the lessons learned from the case studies.

The step-by-step guide for developing effective working relationships illustrates actions that can be taken to initiate contact, maintain relationships, and develop partnerships (see table). In this booklet, a lack of effective communication and differing approaches to land management are identified as the main barriers to relationship building between First Nations and local governments.

Steps for Building Municipal-Aboriginal Relations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEP 1: INITIATING CONTACT</th>
<th>• Informal meetings</th>
<th>• Reciprocal site visits</th>
<th>• Community to Community Forums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STEP 2: MAINTAINING THE RELATIONSHIP</td>
<td>• Regular meetings/presentation committees</td>
<td>• Participation in local events/festivals</td>
<td>• Partnership agreements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Community Accord/MOUs</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Protocol Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEP 3: DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS</td>
<td>• Economic development</td>
<td>• Land use planning</td>
<td>• Service delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Environmental resource management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on steps set out in Book 4 of the FCM Land Management Toolkit

The case studies illustrate what can be achieved from working together when mutual respect and trust, as well as open communication, are the foundations for developing relations. Information on successes, challenges and lessons learned are provided for each of the following case studies:

KPMG Congratulates Archie Johnston - Recipient of the GFOA Life Member Award

Archie Johnston, Partner-In-Charge of KPMG’s Public Sector practice in BC, was recently awarded the Life Member designation by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of BC for his contributions to the public sector. Having served as a Director of the GFOA for 10 years, Mr. Johnston was recognized for his dedication to the work of the Association particularly with respect to promoting education to enhance professional skills within local government.

KPMG’s Public Sector practice is one of the largest of its kind in Britain Columbia. This dedicated practice, led by Archie Johnston, is staffed by experienced professionals focused on developing value-added strategies to help you meet your mandate as a public official. Whether your organization is responding to the challenges of regulatory compliance, meeting targets, or working to enhance service quality, we can provide help and advice across the public sector.

KPMG’s public sector clients include local, provincial and federal governments and their affiliates. Our services help the public sector enhance its performance for the benefit of accountability and public interest.

To find out more about KPMG’s services to the public sector please contact us at: 604.523.3757 or visit our Web site at www.kpmg.ca/en/industries/ps/

www.kpmg.ca

Land Title and Survey Authority - Corporate Outline Available

On-line at http://www.ltsa.ca or in hard copy

Linda Williamson
Senior Executive Assistant
Land Title and Survey Authority of BC
P.O. Box 9390
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9M8

Linda.Williamson@ltsa.ca
Tel: (250) 952 – 5334

FCM has received funding for Phase II of the Land Management Project, which will include the development of a resource guide on effective relationship-building and dispute resolution between First Nations and local governments. Further, a series of workshops are being conducted to provide information and a forum for discussion on important land management issues concerning both First Nation and municipal government leaders across Canada.

Additional information about this project can be obtained by contacting the FCM Land Management Project Coordinator, Dallas Alderson, at dallerson@fcma.ca.
Healthy Communities

UBCM Establishes A Community Health Promotion Fund

A $5 million Community Health Promotion Fund has been provided to the UBCM by the Province to accomplish three goals:
1. To assist communities to build skills and abilities required to address their own health promotion priorities.
2. To strengthen the collaboration of local government, health authorities, and communities in addressing health-related organizations in protecting and promoting the health of their citizens.
3. To support innovation, best practices development, information sharing and networking related to health promotion.

The announcement was made by the Premier at the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities conference. Robert Hobson, chair of UBCM’s Healthy Communities Committee, noted, “Through activities such as community planning, transportation, public works, parks and recreation, local governments play a significant role in influencing the health of their citizens. The Province’s support will go a long way in assisting local governments and their communities partners to be proactive in addressing their community health issues.”

The health care system has traditionally emphasized treatment and rehabilitation. Health promotion on the other hand, emphasizes preventing health problems and improving wellness by enabling individuals and communities to increase their control over the determinants of health. Research confirms that environmental, social and economic conditions of community life all affect health.

UBCM is in the initial planning stages for this program and will be taking into account related initiatives currently or soon to be underway. More information will be posted on the UBCM website as it becomes available (see www.vcivincet.bc.ca under Services & Surveys/Local Gov’t Program Services).

Employee and Community Health Promotion

2010 LegaciesNow and the UBCM have recently become partners in the Local Government Employee Health Promotion Project. The purpose of this project is to provide information and support for municipalities and regional districts to promote good health and active lifestyles for their employees.

The project will focus on the following components:
• A Survey and Inventory
• A Sustainable Network
• Links to Resources
• A Report with recommendations on strategies to promote healthy living and physical activity to employees of municipalities and regional districts.

It is part of a larger UBCM initiative to support health promotion in communities (see article this page on Community Health Promotion Fund).

A survey is presently being sent to UBCM to gather information on health promotion programs and initiatives currently underway with local governments, including those directed specifically at employees. The goal is to determine:
• what programs/initiatives/policies are currently in place;
• who delivers them and is key to their implementation; and
• successes and challenges, including barriers where no programs are in place.

Over the longer term, UBCM intends to create an opportunity for those local governments involved in community health promotion, to develop a sustainable network to share best practices, successes, challenges and resources. This effort will begin with a Local Government Employee Health Promotion webpage on the UBCM website which will provide resources for development, implementation, improvement and expansion of local government employee health promotion initiatives.

For more information on the Local Government Employee Health Promotion Project, contact the project coordinator, Kate Lekas at kate.lekas@vancouver.ca or Alison McNeil at amcneil@civicnet.bc.ca.

Other examples of how BC got active on May 10th, 2005

Burnaby - Burnaby Parks & Recreation Department offered access to over 25 recreational events throughout the day.
Golden - Students ran an obstacle course.
Hazelton - Residents walked around a local lake.
Kelowna - Families explored paths and parks by cycling and hiking.
Kamloops - Students participated in an active living conference.
Powell River - Powell River Women’s Health Network issued a physical activity challenge to the Lower Sunshine Coast and Sechelt.
Seward - Sechelt - Organizations and businesses set up displays and demonstrations about services.
Vancouver - BC Recreation and Park Association (BCRPA) in collaboration with the BC Healthy Living Alliance (of which UBCM is a member) and various physical activity stakeholders spearheaded the organization of this year’s Move for Health Day activities. Together, these partners encouraged municipalities across the province to help get British Columbians moving and meet the 20% physical activity challenge for a healthier BC in 2010. Planning is underway for Move for Health Day 2006. The BCRPA is looking for input and welcomes comments and suggestions to help get your community active. Please contact Heather MacLeod Williams, Move for Health Day Coordinator, at 604-990-3958 or hmlaeod@bcrpa.bc.ca.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SPRING INTO ACTION ON MOVE FOR HEALTH DAY

On May 10, 2005, hundreds of municipal employees took to the streets across the province to celebrate Move for Health Day. To highlight the day, a City Hall Challenge was initiated to see which municipality could get the most employees out for a noon hour walk that day. The challenge was taken up by Fort St. John, Kelowna, Vancouver and Courtenay.

Employees enthusiastically joined their respective mayors that day in walks around their communities. The winner of the Move for Health Day City Hall Challenge was Fort St. John with 95.5% (or 23/24) of their City Hall staff participating. Kelowna came in 2nd with 75% (141/187). Courtenay, a latecomer to the challenge, tied with Vancouver for 3rd place, with a 47% participation rate. Courtenay got 1532 staff out walking, while Vancouver had the most participants, with 582 of their 1229 City Hall Campus staff participating. All four municipalities were pleased with their results, and would like to extend the City Hall Challenge to all municipalities in B.C. next year.

The City Hall Challenge was among dozens of events which took place in all corners of the province to celebrate this World Health Organization Day that encourages everyone to get active for the benefit of their health. Over thirty municipalities participated in the day, comprising over 10,000 individual participants. They ranged from walk-to-school challenges, community walking challenges, local walks/runs, scavenger hunts, daylong recreational activities, obstacle courses and park exploration adventures – see below.

The BC Recreation and Park Association (BCRPA) in collaboration with the BC Healthy Living Alliance (of which UBCM is a member) and various physical activity stakeholders spearheaded the organization of this year’s Move for Health Day activities. Together, these partners encouraged municipalities across the province to help get British Columbians moving and meet the 20% physical activity challenge for a healthier BC in 2010. Planning is underway for Move for Health Day 2006. The BCRPA is looking for input and welcomes comments and suggestions to help get your community active. Please contact Heather MacLeod Williams, Move for Health Day Coordinator, at 604-990-3958 or hmlaeod@bcrpa.bc.ca.

Above: At the starting line in Fort St. John.
Left: Mayor Larry Campbell, Councillor Ellen Woodward, City Manager Judy Rogers, lead employees from Vancouver City Hall on May 10,
Courses and Resources

CLARIFYING THE MAYOR’S RIGHTS

Is the Mayor allowed to vote? Is it true that the Mayor only votes to break a tie? Is the Mayor allowed to debate pending motions, or must he or she remain entirely neutral? Is it true that, if the Mayor wants to debate an issue, he or she must vacate the Chair and let someone else chair the meeting? Is the Mayor allowed to make or second motions?

There are many myths and misconceptions about the rights of the Mayor. This article is an attempt to demystify the rules and dispel a few myths.

May the Mayor Vote?

Many people believe that a presiding officer must serve as an arbiter and facilitator, being entirely neutral and avoiding any influence over substantive decisions, the group is at an “impasse,” in which case the myth suggests that the Chair votes to break the tie. In fact, a presiding officer’s rights vary depending on the setting.

In the municipal setting in British Columbia, the Mayor is a voting member of Council. As such, the Mayor is entitled to vote. In fact, under BC’s municipal legislation, the Mayor, if present at a meeting, has no option of not voting. If the Mayor abstains, he or she is counted as having voted in the affirmative, like any other abstaining Councillor. Under the Community Charter, the option of abstaining is not available to council members, including the Mayor.

To say that the Mayor only votes if there is a tie is nonsensical. In fact, if the vote is 3 Councillors in favor and 2 against, the Mayor may vote against the motion, create a tie, and thereby cause the defeat of the motion. In the case of a vote on a motion, a tie is not “an impasse.” All it means is that no majority is achieved and therefore the motion is defeated. There are only two occasions when a Mayor truly abstains from voting. The first one is when the Mayor has a conflict of interest. In such a case, the Mayor must declare the conflict and then be absent from Council chambers while the issue is being debated and voted on. The second occasion when the Mayor does not vote is when a member of Council appeals the Mayor’s ruling.

The situation may differ in jurisdictions to which B.C.’s Community Charter does not apply. In some jurisdictions, the applicable legislation requires the presiding officer to refrain from voting unless there is a tie vote. Some Boards have Bylaws that impose a similar restriction. In my view, such restrictions are misguided and unfair, since they prevent the Chair from creating a tie and thereby causing the defeat of a motion that he or she opposes.

Another setting where the situation is different is a large voting assembly, such as the annual general meeting of a non-profit society or a credit union. Such settings are often governed by Robert’s Rules of Order. Robert stipulates that the presiding officer of a large assembly should remain neutral and ordinarily would not vote, except when the vote is by secret ballot or when the presiding officer’s vote would alter the outcome.

For example: If 49 votes are cast in favor and 49 against and the Chair is against the motion, he or she would not need to vote, since his or her negative vote would not alter the outcome. However, if the Chair is in favor of the motion, he or she may vote in favor and cause the ticket to be adopted. Similarly, if the vote is 49 in favor and 48 against and the Chair opposes the motion, he or she may vote against it and thereby create a tie and cause the defeat of the motion.

Another example of when the Chair might vote under Robert’s Rules of Order is when a super-majority, such as a 75% vote, is required and the outcome is very close. Suppose a 75% vote is required, 74 votes are cast in favor and 25 against, meaning that the motion would be narrowly defeated. If the Chair favors it, he or she may vote in favor and cause the motion to be adopted.

As further reinforcement, the latter examples apply only to organizations that rely on Robert’s Rules of Order and do not have an overriding legislative requirement to the contrary (for BC municipalities the Community Charter does contain a conflicting requirement, and Robert’s Rules are superseded by it).

May the Mayor make or second motions?

If your Procedure By-law stipulates that the Mayor may not move or second motions, then you must follow your Procedure By-law, unless (of course, your Council opts to amend it).

If the Procedure By-law is silent and Robert’s Rules of Order are relied upon, the Chair of a small deliberative assembly (with no more than about a dozen members present) is indeed entitled to make motions. By implication, the Mayor is also not precluded from seconding motions, since seconding a motion is a less significant step than moving it.
COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

For the second year in a row, Wood WORKS! will be recognizing communities that have shown leadership in advancing a wood culture. Wood WORKS! will be handing out Community Recognition Awards at the UBCM Convention in Vancouver. The award will recognize a municipality or regional district from each area association that has championed the use of wood in their community. These efforts could be demonstrated in a number of ways, utilizing wood in a municipal project, making a concerted effort to incorporate wood into a project, passing a ‘Build with Wood’ resolution, hosting workshops and other initiatives to familiarize city staff with the benefits of building with wood. Wood WORKS! is an initiative of the Canadian Wood Council to increase the use of wood in commercial, industrial and institutional construction. Wood WORKS! provides technical assistance, product sourcing, design seminars, life-cycle analysis, continuing education credits and information about wood use in non-residential construction.

“Wood WORKS! is committed to the greening of our future by encouraging the use of wood as a non-residential building material,” noted Mary Tracey, Executive Director for Wood WORKS! BC. “Wood is the only renewable building material and is instrumental in ensuring buildings are green and sustainable. The Wood WORKS! awards recognize communities who are committed to sustainable development and use wood to help achieve their goals of sustainability.” Tracey noted that it is impossible to construct a building without “leaving a footprint on the environment”. She said the Community Recognition awards encourage the pursuit of ‘green buildings’ in order to make choices that reduce energy use, reduce the use of non-renewable materials and reduce pollution caused by the manufacture of non-renewable materials.

Last year’s Community Recognition Awards were given to Courtenay (Courtenay Library), Sechelt (Justice Building), Armstrong/Spallumcheen (arena), Central Okanagan Regional District (Mount Boucherie Multi-plex), Golden (Bridge), District of Fraser Fort George (District Office) and West Vancouver (West Van Aquatic Centre).

Anyone wishing to nominate their community for an award can do so by contacting Lorna Malone at 1-877-929-9663 (ext 4). The deadline for nominations is August 15, 2005.

New BC Energy Program Funded

The Community Energy Association (CEA, formerly BC Energy Aware Committee) was awarded funding in May 2005 (subject to successful negotiation of a Contribution Agreement) by the Knowledge-Building, Outreach and Awareness Program of Infrastructure Canada. The funding will support a major 3-year CEA program “Toward Energy Sustainability of Community Infrastructure”. Other funding partners for the program include the Province of British Columbia, BC Hydro and Terasen Gas, while the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, Planning Institute of British Columbia and BC Transit are providing in-kind support for the program.

The CEA energy program will include research and tool development, including best practice and innovations research, and an Alternative Energy Guide for local governments. The program will also involve outreach, presentations/workshops, support and consultations with BC local governments.

CEA will assist many BC local governments to save future energy dollars through efficient land-use planning and development of energy-efficient and alternative energy community infrastructure. "The Community Energy Association will now be able to increase the level of knowledge and expertise it can provide to BC communities and partner organizations. Many partners deserve recognition for their ongoing commitment and support of the CEA application,” said Dan Rogers, CEA Chair, and Councillor, City of Prince George.

The UBCM Newsletter will provide more details on this timely new CEA program as the program emerges.

For information, contact: Laura Porcher, Executive Director
Tel: 250-598-4034
Email: lporcher@communityenergy.bc.ca
CEA Website: www.communityenergy.bc.ca

Wood WORKS! Community Recognition Awards

Wood WORKS! will be recognizing communities who have helped advance the use of wood in municipal and regional district projects at this year’s UBCM.

To nominate your community, call Wood WORKS!

> 1-877-929-9663 ext. 4
> email: lmalone@wood-works.org

Wood WORKS! Community Recognition Awards

Wood WORKS! will be recognizing communities that have shown leadership in advancing a wood culture. Wood WORKS! will be handing out Community Recognition Awards at the UBCM Convention in Vancouver. The award will recognize a municipality or regional district from each area association that has championed the use of wood in their community. These efforts could be demonstrated in a number of ways, utilizing wood in a municipal project, making a concerted effort to incorporate wood into a project, passing a ‘Build with Wood’ resolution, hosting workshops and other initiatives to familiarize city staff with the benefits of building with wood. Wood WORKS! is an initiative of the Canadian Wood Council to increase the use of wood in commercial, industrial and institutional construction. Wood WORKS! provides technical assistance, product sourcing, design seminars, life-cycle analysis, continuing education credits and information about wood use in non-residential construction.

“Wood WORKS! is committed to the greening of our future by encouraging the use of wood as a non-residential building material,” noted Mary Tracey, Executive Director for Wood WORKS! BC. “Wood is the only renewable building material and is instrumental in ensuring buildings are green and sustainable. The Wood WORKS! awards recognize communities who are committed to sustainable development and use wood to help achieve their goals of sustainability.” Tracey noted that it is impossible to construct a building without “leaving a footprint on the environment”. She said the Community Recognition awards encourage the pursuit of ‘green buildings’ in order to make choices that reduce energy use, reduce the use of non-renewable materials and reduce pollution caused by the manufacture of non-renewable materials.

Last year’s Community Recognition Awards were given to Courtenay (Courtenay Library), Sechelt (Justice Building), Armstrong/Spallumcheen (arena), Central Okanagan Regional District (Mount Boucherie Multi-plex), Golden (Bridge), District of Fraser Fort George (District Office) and West Vancouver (West Van Aquatic Centre).

Anyone wishing to nominate their community for an award can do so by contacting Lorna Malone at 1-877-929-9663 (ext 4). The deadline for nominations is August 15, 2005.
TAKING ACTION

UBCM’s first President, C.S. Stevens, at the end of his term in office elaborated the following principles for action by the UBCM:

(1) that every effort be made to foster first cement every Municipality in the Province into one organic Union. Let the organization be comprehensive.

(2) be united in what you ask for;

(3) make sure that what you ask for is right and based upon justice for all;

(4) let the one whom you appoint to present your case understand it from more sides than one; and

(5) get all you can, when you can, keeping in view ultimate end to secure for the municipal Council what it originally had, and which as years have rolled by it has been gradually shorn of vision. Power of governing its own internal affairs, when they do not conflict with the affairs of the province in general.

And although these principles have remained through the years, the way that they have been pursued has changed as the relationship between the UBCM and the Province has moved from a formal relationship based on briefs, commissions and submissions to the Government to a more collegial and broadly based relationship based on solving mutual problems as a team.

To capitalize on the opportunities of the 1980’s, the UBCM, the Executive "waited on" the Cabinet and the Attorney-General to present their petitions for changes to legislation or other actions such as building a sanitary landfill. Their requests were often few in number and it was sometimes difficult to get meetings with the Cabinet. In 1912, the decision was made to hire a Solicitor and Parliamentary Agent to look after legislative business and monitor the progress of resolutions. Also, in 1912, the UBCM gave briefs to its first Royal Commission.

Commissions became another way in which UBCM was able to "waited on" the Cabinet and the Attorney-General to present their petitions for changes to legislation or other actions such as building a sanitary landfill. Their requests were often few in number and it was sometimes difficult to get meetings with the Cabinet. In 1912, the decision was made to hire a Solicitor and Parliamentary Agent to look after legislative business and monitor the progress of resolutions. Also, in 1912, the UBCM gave briefs to its first Royal Commission.

Commissions became another way in which UBCM was able to influence the actions of the Province, assuming that the recommendations of the commission were taken, which was not always the case.

Over the first fifty years, the relationship with the province waxed and waned (low periods often coinciding with economic downturns) but the role of the UBCM mostly remained the same. As the relationship between the UBCM and the Province has changed as the relationship between the UBCM and the Province, through the years, the way that they have been pursued has changed from the gasoline tax for distribution to municipalities specifically for the purpose of providing local police forces to the development of the Whistler Blackcomb community.

When UBCM moved to a staffed office in 1954 it became possible to keep track of relationships with various members of government, and thus to be able to work on longer term policy issues supported by the members. Again, these relationships have varied in strength, often influenced by the personalities of those involved.

From the beginning, UBCM asked to be advised of and work with the Province on upcoming changes to legislation, but was often taken by surprise by new laws and regulations. Eventually, over the last 40 years or so, the Province has come to see the value that came from having UBCM on board on new legislation affecting local governments. The UBCM now acts as advisor to the Province on draft legislation and regulations. UBCM staff are involved in consultations with the Province on draft legislation and regulations.

In the last twenty years, these relationships have become especially strong. UBCM is now able to work in long-term policy development in other ways: it can bring together local and provincial officials to work on recommendations to both sets of decision makers and it can work directly with the Provincial Government to develop policies, such as was done with the Community Charter and the New Deal. UBCM also develops policy papers to guide long term policy—these can be developed in response to a concentration of resolutions from members or emerging issues.

But despite all these changes in how the UBCM takes action, what has remained the same is UBCM’s adherence to working as the united voice for the interests of municipalities to achieve what is right for all.

RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

UBCM is a policy-based organization. At its first Convention, UBCM has been directed by members, through resolutions proposed, debated and passed at every Convention. Resolutions can address a specific clause of particular legislation or address policy mandate, but should always be something of interest to all members.

The resolutions process, we follow now at Convention is similar to that followed in 1905 in that resolutions are proposed, debated and passed at every Convention. However, the process has been streamlined and refined as the number of resolutions has grown, so as splitting the resolutions in A, B and C categories in 1980 and grouping the resolutions into sections based on content in 1984. In 1996, the process was streamlined when resolutions in keeping with previously endorsed resolutions began to be considered as a block, without further debate.

There have also been some significant changes in the process resolutions go through to get to Convention. Historically, the UBCM Secretariat sought resolutions from each municipality and these were submitted to the Resolutions Committee for their comments prior to discussion by the membership at the Convention. At first the Committee met during Convention, but soon began to meet at an extra meeting to not miss out and bring prepared resolutions to Convention to debate. Today resolutions are usually vetted by Area Presidents prior to being submitted to the general Convention. It appears that this tradition began in 1926 when the Lower Mainland resolutions were endorsed by the Fraser Valley Reeves Association.

Historically, resolutions endorsed by the Convention were reviewed by the Executive and key ones were discussed directly with Cabinet in the annual meeting. Now, endorsed resolutions are conveyed to the relevant body for action. Most often this is the Province, but can also be the Federal of Canada Municipalities, the Federal Government, or other parties. The UBCM then receives replies to resolutions and reports back to the Councils and Boards that sponsor the resolution.

Some resolutions receive favourable responses and action immediately—others remain UBCM standing policy with results often achieved over the long term. The success of using resolutions can be seen in the increase over the years in the number presented for consideration at Convention. In 1905 there were 13 – in 2002 there were 20 over. But the UBCM remains as driven by member resolutions as it was in 1912, the reason being that Resolution was the "beginning, continuation and the end."
Executive Structure

The Executive has always been responsible for setting the direction of the UBCM in policy and operations. From 1912-1953, the only paid staff member was the Solicitor/Parliamentary Agent, who attended sessions of the Legislature, read all legislation through a legislative lens, and worked on getting legislative changes implemented. The Executive, especially the Secretary-Treasurer, took care of the day-to-day operations of the association as well. Between 1906 and 1951 there were only three Secretary-Treasurers and they took care of the day-to-day operations of the association as well. Between 1906 and 1951 there were only three Secretary-Treasurers and they were elected by Convention year after year, whether or not they remained in elected office. After 1954, when the first Executive Director started, Secretary-Treasurers lost their operational role and began being rotated out of the position year to year, and like the rest of the Executive, had to remain an elected official while serving.

Because of this crucial role, the first order of business of the first UBCM Convention in 1905 was to elect an Executive Committee. At that time there were seven members – the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and four general members. Over the years, as the UBCM and the province have grown and changed, the Executive has grown to its current 19 members – some crucial changes were expanding the table officers and refining their duties, making five members directly appointed from the Area Associations and adding representatives from various key constituencies. Despite these changes, Executive Committees are still elected by delegates at Convention and still guide the UBCM’s path.

H. Bose, Surrey, 1906-1917
A.W. Gray, New Westminster, 1917-1934
R.R.E. Sewell, Saanich, 1934-1951
Sollicitors/Parliamentary Agents 1912-1993
F.A. McDaid, 1912-1922
G.E. Martin, 1923-1935
C.D. McQuarrie, 1948-1972
T.G. Pearce, 1972-1993

Changes in the Executive Committee

1905 – 7 members
President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and four Directors-at-Large
1908 – 10 members
Three Directors-at-Large added
1922 – 12 members
Second Vice-President and another Director-at-Large added
1939 – 14 members
Past President given permanent seat and another Director-at-Large added
1947 – 14 members
One Director-at-Large made Village Representative
1966 – 15 members
Appointed Vancouver Representative added
1972 – 16 members
Electoral Area Representative added
1979 – 16 members
Five Directors-at-Large became appointed Area Association Representatives
1995 – 18 members
Two Directors-at-Large added; Secretary-Treasurer renamed Third Vice-President
1998 – 19 members
Appointed GVRD Representative added; Village Representative renamed Small Community Representative

Achievements

New Deal

In April, BC became the first municipality to sign an Agreement in Principle for the New Deal sharing Federal tax revenues with local governments. This historic agreement marked the first time that UBCM, and thus local governments, were a signatory to an agreement with the provincial and federal governments and given a permanent role in the distribution of the funds.

Recognition as an Order of Government

In 1998, after over a decade of UBCM advocacy, the Province passed Bill 31, which recognized local government as an independent, responsible and accountable order of government. It gave local governments an unprecedented level of control over their own affairs. The Community Charter further refined and elaborated the roles of the Province and municipalities.

Municipal Act

The 1912 Royal Commission on Municipal Affairs, chaired by UBCM Past-President Mayor Keary of New Westminster, proposed a revised Municipal Act. The new Act, passed in 1914, was the basis for municipal powers until the consolidated Act of 1957, which UBCM also had a hand in shaping. The UBCM worked closely with the Provincial Government to craft both the revised Local Government Act of 2000 and the Community Charter of 2003.

Municipal Finance

Through its annual resolutions and submission to Cabinet since 1905, UBCM has achieved hundreds of amendments to the Act, allowing local government to respond to changing public expectations and population growth.

Welfare Costs

Welfare costs were originally a municipal responsibility, but during the Depression, they absorbed up to one quarter of municipal taxes, bankrupting three municipalities and placing many near the brink. UBCM held an emergency session in Victoria and petitioned the legislature for relief. By 1939, the Province had taken over 80% of welfare costs. Finally, in 1982, the Province assumed the full responsibility for welfare.

Three-Year Terms

As early as 1912 UBCM resolved to extend the term of elected officials beyond 1 year; in 1947 the term became two years. Three-year terms were proposed in 1963. In 1990, all local government elections were for 3 year terms, providing greater stability in municipal government.

Legacies

BC Assessment Authority

UBCM played a major role in achieving independent actual property assessment in BC. UBCM helped form the Royal Commission which recommended the Assessment Authority and actual value assessment.

Municipal Insurance Authority

UBCM was the driving force behind the formation of the Municipal Insurance Association. A task force formed at the 1985 Convention to look at liability issues recommended the idea of insurance pooling and the formation of the MIA; the MIA was set up by the UBCM in 1987.

Municipal Finance Authority

UBCM also played a role in the shaping of the Municipal Finance Authority. Minister of Municipal Affairs Dan Campbell conceived the MFA in response to repeated resolutions asking the Province for assistance in financing projects. He worked closely with UBCM to work out its implementation.

Local Government Management Association

The UBCM was directly responsible for the establishment of the Local Government Management Association (previously the Municipal Officers’ Association) via a resolution at the 1919 convention. The MOA met in conjunction with the UBCM until 1939.

Do you know these people?

In our search through our archives, we have come across some photographs which we have been unable to identify. Do you know the people in the photographs on this page? We have also been trying to locate photographs of several people from UBCM’s past, to no avail. We are seeking pictures of three of UBCM’s solicitors:

F.A. McDaid, UBCM solicitor from 1912-1922
G.E. Martin, UBCM solicitor from 1923-1935
H.J. Sullivan, UBCM solicitor from 1935-1947

We believe F.A. McDaid practiced in Victoria and the other two in New Westminster. If you have information about the pictures or photos that you could forward on, please contact Harmony Foltz at 604-270-8226 extension 111, or hfoltz@civicnet.bc.ca.

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CENTENNIAL QUIZ #2

Due to a decidedly overwhelming response to the first Centennial Quiz, this second of four quizzes to be published in the UBCM News in 2005 has been scaled down to a more manageable size and scope. We know our readers are busy, but we challenge local government staff and elected officials alike to see if they can answer the following five multiple choice questions.

The first person to return this quiz to the UBCM office with all five correct answers will receive a copy of the forthcoming book chronicling the history of the UBCM. The next five correct respondents will receive UBCM mousepads. Quizzes can be submitted to the UBCM office via fax (604.270.9116) or email (ubcm@civicnet.bc.ca).

These questions are designed to test your knowledge of a few of the significant accomplishments of the UBCM – as well as your familiarity with the UBCM’s CivicNet website. Good luck – and feel free to contact the UBCM Office for hints if you find yourself stumped!

1) In what decade did Minister of Municipal Affairs Wes Black begin the tradition of provincial government Ministers making themselves available for interviews with UBCM members at the annual Convention?
   a) 1920s  b) 1930s  c) 1940s  d) 1950s  e) 1960s

2) The idea of the BC Assessment Authority arose out of UBCM resolutions calling for a province-wide assessment system. In what time period was the Assessment Authority established?
   a) 1940s  b) 1950s  c) 1960s  d) 1970s  e) 1980s

3) In what decade was the UBCM Group Benefits Plan introduced?
   a) 1950s  b) 1960s  c) 1970s  d) 1980s  e) 1990s

4) In what time period was local government formally recognized, in legislation, as an independent, responsible and accountable order of government?
   a) 1960s  b) 1970s  c) 1980s  d) 1990s  e) 2000s

5) Who are the two UBCM signatories and the one provincial signatory to the 2003 Memorandum of Understanding between the Province of BC and the UBCM on Local Government Participation in the Negotiation of Treaties and Agreements?
   a) Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services, Murray Coell
   b) Attorney General Geoff Plant
   c) UBCM President Frank Leonard
   d) UBCM President Pat Wallace
   e) UBCM Aboriginal Affairs Committee Chair Aaron Dinwoodie
   f) UBCM First Nations Relations Committee Chair Ted Armstrong

Stay tuned to the next edition of the UBCM News for quiz answers…

CENTENNIAL QUIZ #1 – ANSWERS

1) Three separate communities in BC have produced six UBCM Presidents each. Which are they?
   a) Kamloops, New Westminster and Vancouver

2) Who was the first President of the UBCM and from which of the three cities in question number one did he hail?
   b) Mayor C.S. Stevens, Kamloops

3) Who was the first female President of the UBCM, where was she from and in what year did her term end?
   c) Mayor K. Grouhet, Ladysmith, 1975

4) Name the five recipients of UBCM Long Service Awards in 2004.
   d) Councillor Muriel Arnason
   e) Mayor Ralph Drew
   f) Mayor Frederick Jarvis
   g) Councillor Erik Larsen
   h) Councillor Earl Shipmaker

5) Which community is the newest member of the UBCM?
   i) Canal Flats

6) In what capacity was BC’s current Lieutenant Governor named a UBCM Life Member and in what year?
   j) Fraser Basin Council Chair, 2001

7) In what year did the UBCM represent all local governments in BC for the first time?
   k) 1979

8) In which of the three cities from question number one was the UBCM office located before its current location in Richmond?
   l) New Westminster

9) Who put forward the Private Members Bill that led to UBCM’s Incorporation?
   m) Wes Black

10) On what date did the UBCM’s Act of Incorporation receive formal assent?
    n) March 20, 1959

CENTENNIAL QUIZ #3

1) Three separate communities in BC have produced six UBCM Presidents each. Which are they?
   a) Kamloops, New Westminster and Vancouver

2) Who was the first President of the UBCM and from which of the three cities in question number one did he hail?
   b) Mayor C.S. Stevens, Kamloops

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Centennial Newsletter Features

This is the second in the series of features looking back at UBCM’s 100-year history. In March we provided a historical overview of the UBCM. Upcoming features are:

~ August ~
100 Years of Conventions

~ November ~
UBCM and the Province: Responsibilities and Relationships

Other Centennial Celebrations

The UBCM would like to wish Happy Birthday to the four municipalities in British Columbia who are also celebrating their Centennial in 2005: Enderby on March 1, Kelowna on May 4, Salmon Arm on May 15 and Cranbrook on November 1. They join the 31 existing municipalities which were incorporated before 1905 and so have already stepped over the Centennial line.
The target is to meet at least 25% of members outside GVRD and CRD each year.

The purpose is to:
• hear their issues and concerns (so we can ensure UBCM’s work is related to and informed by their needs); and
• answer questions or talk about the work of UBCM.

STRETCH TARGETS

Our current target is to visit at least 38 members outside of the CRD/GVRD each year. Last year our record was 41 visits – that helped catch us up on a couple of years where we were short staffed and did not make our target. This year we set a stretch target – to meet at least 50 members during our 100th anniversary – 50 for 100.

The proposal for 2005 was to visit four main target areas. Those areas and the communities visited are listed below.

Cariboo/Central Interior
Number of meetings: 15
100 Mile House
Bulkley Nechako RD
Burns Lake
Cariboo RD
Clinton

Fort St. James
Fraser Fort George RD
Fraser Lake
Greenisle
Houston
Prince George
Queensel
Vanderhoof
Wells
Williams Lake

Northwest
Number of meetings: 12
Hazelton
Kitimat
Kitimat-Stikine RD
New Hazelton
Port Edward
Prince Rupert
Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD
Smithers
Stewart
Telkwa
Terrace

Kootenays
Number of meetings: 15
Castlegar
Central Kootenay RD
Creston
Kootenay-Boundary RD
Fruitvale

Montrose
Nelson
New Denver
Revelstoke
Rossland
Salmo
Silverton
Slocan
Kaslo
Trail
Warfield

North Island
Number of meetings: 10
Alert Bay
Campbell River
Gold River
Mount Waddington RD
Port Alice
Fort Hardy
Fort McNeill
Sayward
Tahsis
Zeballos

SUMMARY

We met and exceeded our targets with 52 meetings – June 6th was the blitz week with 3 teams on the road simultaneously.

A sub theme of this year might also be “Reaching out to the communities off the beaten track”. You must retrace your journey to continue on from:
• Stewart
• Granisle
• Tahsis
• Zeballos
• Fort St. James
• Wells

UBCM Staff visit the Prince Rupert City Hall

UBCM Staff visit the Prince Rupert City Hall

Zeballos Village Office

Campbell River Maritime Heritage Centre

Quality of Life
2005 NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON PARKS & GROUNDS
Parkatoon, SK September 21 to 23, 2005
Visit: www.communitydevelopment.ca • Call 513-694-8871
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT • HEALTH & URBAN PLANNING • WATER MANAGEMENT • NURSING
Vote by Mail Online Tools

New Online Tools make Vote by Mail even easier to administer.

Now you’ll have access to the new Vote by Mail Online Tools, a fully integrated program that lets you manage voter lists and print and distribute ballots, so that you can focus on election activity and critical counting tasks. Vote by Mail offers election officials a simple, cost-effective way to conduct an election by mail. Vote by Mail also helps remove many of the barriers, such as inclement weather, that can keep voters away from polling stations, making voting easy and convenient for constituents.

Find out how you can increase voter turnout and benefit from a more efficient and cost-effective election. For more information about Vote by Mail, visit www.canadapost.ca/votebymail

Ontario municipalities that used the service in the 2000 elections increased voter participation rates by as much as 20%.