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A NEW DEAL?

A NOTHER annual conference of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities has passed into history and today its results have been mentioned in Western Canada, where the Municipalities of British Columbia have reached an agreement on the Conflict of interests involving the new Federal government on related issues.

Further case a statement from the Honourable Minister of Local, Rural and Regional Affairs who told the Nova Scotia Minister that all residents must do is to vote and introduce to speak on budget resolutions once the Chair has introduced them to the floor. Delegate feedback from a Federal New Deal for municipalities in receiving over $600 million over five years to help small communities lower fiscal capacity, which is something we are also seeing extended funding for “non-green” projects.

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It has been years since local governments have seen so many funding partnership opportunities with federal and provincial governments. As the British Columbia Infrastructure Program (BCIP) winds down after funding over $700 million, a number of new programs are gearing up. In one week alone, over $700 million in new funding was announced - $635 million over five years to BC for the federal government’s gas tax funded New Deal for Cities and Communities – and $80 million for a provincial Community Water Improvement Fund.

Clean water is a priority, so the additional $80 million in shared funding made available last month by the MCAWS Community Water Improvement Program is welcomed. The ability to extend the provincial share from 66% to 75% to help small communities will lower fiscal capacity, which is something we are also seeing extended funding for “non-green” projects.

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This is shaping up to be a banner year for local gov-
ernment on many fronts due to the hard-working
efforts of the entire UBCM team. Certainly, in finan-
cial terms, the stars are aligned for the Federal New
Deal for Cities and Communities. We have made
the New Deal a priority. Our staff are fully partici-
ating in the actual discus-
sions to produce a federal
provincial agreement that will allow the funds to flow
to BC. We are working
with the mandate ap-
proved at the 2006 UBCM
Convention.

Our feature article on
page one sets out many other elements in the new
financial picture.

Last year was our first
major involvement in de-
ivering provincially funded programs and the
results have been good for the members (and for the
provincial government). Over the next few weeks
we hope to secure new fundraising programs to
launch in 2006 – including the $25 million for tourism
development announced by the Premier at the
UBCM Convention.

This is also a remark-
ably year-long 100th anniver-
sary. Throughout the year,
but particularly at Conven-
tion, we will be cel-
brating the accomplish-
ments of the past century. As our theme, “Celebri-
ing Our Accomplishments, Charting Our Future”, sug-
gests, this year we should also be “looking ahead”.

I also want to add my
perspective on two other
stories in this edition of the
President’s Message

Welcome to New
UBCM Staff

Jared Wright

Jared has worked for the past four years at the Univer-
sity of British Columbia’s Alma Mater Society in a
Policy Analyst and Policy Advisor/front office ser-
tained an MA in International Relations from Dalhousie
after completing an Honours BA from Queens in Soci-
Presently Jared’s primary areas of policy responsibility
include environment policy, ports competitiveness, staff to the New Deal and GIFF files and the Environment Committee.

Peter Larose

Peter has worked for the past two years with the Liu
Institute at UBC as a publications editor, graduate
associate and teaching assistant. He received his MA
in Political Science at UBC focusing on public policy,
comparative institutions and political economy. After
his degree, Peter worked for two years at the Centre for
Education Information. Peter also joined UBCM on
January 3, 2005. Peter’s primary areas of policy responsi-
bility include energy, international trade is-
Figure 1

Jared Wright

UBCM is pleased to advise of the following new full-
time and contract staff appointments.

Jessica Brandt

Jessica joined UBCM on February 14 as our recep-
tion front office serv-
ces support person. Jessica is a graduate of Langara Community College.
She has worked for the last five years with a local Chartered Account-
ing firm. Jessica will be the friendly voice on the end of phone to help you with your general inquir-
is.

UBCM President Aaron Dinwoodie

Director Aaron Dinwoodie
President

WHAT’S NEW ON CIVICNET

Staff members are once
again busy with up dates and improve-
ments to the CivicNet website. An annual site
review is currently underway, with the aim of
making any necessary cor-
rections or adjustments to
existing content and struc-
ture as well as adding new
information and materials
of interest to UBCM mem-
bers. The following is an
overview of recent addi-
tions to the site:

Policy Papers

Look under the Resolutions & Policy tab for the Policy Papers button. Conven-
tion policy papers are now available online from 1990 onward. Access is pro-
vided through either chronologica
or subject groupings.

Guide to Information Services

Look under the Publica-
tions tab for the Guide to Info Services button. The Guide has been updated over the past year and many documents and publications are now available online.

Provincially Funded Programs

Under the Services & Sur-
ces tab you’ll now find a
link to Provincially Funded Programs. Look here for information on various ministry-funded pro-
grams administered by the
UBCM. These currently

Provincial Engineering & Consulting Services

UMA Engineering Ltd. provides:
• Land Use Planning
• Transportation Planning & Engineering
• Public Consultation
• Economic & Tourism Studies
• Water & Waste Management
• Infrastructure Assessment & Rehabilitation
• Stormwater Management
• Digital Mapping & GIS
• Project Management

Continued on page 4

Continued on page 3

News

I want to thank Minis-
ter Bill Barisoff for agree-
ing to our request to extend the implementation date
for the riparian area regu-
lations. Marshalling the evi-
dence required to make the
case to the Minister re-
quired a huge effort on part
of staff both within local
governments and at
UBCM, the UBCM Envi-
ronment Committee, and
Chaz Robert Hobson and
Mayor Frank Leonard.
We have recently had
several opportunities to
share experiences with rep-
resentatives of the Philip-
pine League of Cities and
League of Municipalities.
It is cause for us to reflect
on the value of one associa-
tion to represent local gov-
ernment, the depth of our
policy development and
implementation skills, and
the maturity of local-pro-
vincial relations in BC.
I am looking forward to
meeting you at upcoming
Area Association meetings
and sharing more about our
activities and, most impor-
tantly, hearing your views
and concerns.
Long Serving UBCM Employee Retires

After serving nearly 30 years with the Union of BC Municipalities, Frank Storey will be retiring the end of May 2005. It was December 6, 1976 when Frank Storey began his career with the UBCM. Frank came to UBCM with previous work experience in the forest and oil and gas industries. His background in finance and labour relations were put to good use in his capacity as a local government advisor/ research officer with UBCM. At that time the UBCM office was located in North Vancouver on Blackford Street. The staff comprised Jeff McKelvey, Jeannie McKelvey, John Ryan, Dennis Grant, and Ted Youngblood, who worked part-time. From those early years to now, Frank has served the association in a variety of capacities, general office accounting to representing the UBCM on committees and legislative working groups. Over the years, Frank has become a key contact and valuable source of local government information within the organization and amongst the membership. He has contributed in many ways to BC local government and that contribution will be missed by all of us in the local government family.

A life-long resident of North Vancouver, Frank plans to retire elsewhere in BC where he can enjoy his love of fishing and his golf skills. On behalf of the UBCM staff, Executive and membership we wish him all the best in his retirement.

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

Represented internationally by BDO International

~ MARCH ~

25 In the House – Federal Budget Highlights

1 Memo West Nile Risk Reduction Initiative: Funding Now Available for Communities
3 UBCM Member Notice: Riparian Areas Regulation Status Update
8 UBCM Member Notice: Federal Appeal Court Ruling: PSIAG vs. Municipal RCMF Employees
11 Memo Leaving UBCM (from Barbara Ingamells)

Back Row: Shelly Desjardins, Administrative Officer, FCM, Mayor Caesar Perez (Municipality of Los Banos, Laguna), Hazel Biniza, Project Officer, LCP, Mayor Maria Lourdes C. Fernando (Marikina City, Member of the Executive Directorate of the LCP, Mayor Oscar B. Rodrigues (City of San Fernando), Member of the Executive Directorate of the LCP, Richard Taylor, Executive Director, UBCM, Mel Kozitsky, Councilor (Township of Langley), Member of the FCM International Committee.

Front Row: Gary Paget, Executive Director, Governance and Structure Division, MCAWS, Brian Walliser, Executive Director, Policy and Research Division, MCAWS, Mayor Ambrosio Cruz (Municipality of Guiangui, Bulacan), Member of the Executive Directorate of the LMP, Mayor Gerardo Calderon (Municipality of Angono, Rizal), Secretary General of the LMP, Elmer Mercado, Policy Advisor, LGSP

The UBCM wishes to note the following materials are now available from the FCM’s Canadian Women in Municipal Government Committee:

• Increasing Women’s Participation in Municipal Decision Making – Report
• Increasing Women’s Participation in Municipal Decision Making – Toolkit

These documents are available for download through the FCM website at www.fcm.ca. Click on the Women in Municipal Government link in the Documents, Policies and Events section of the homepage.
Could this be your community’s year to win a UBCM Community Excellence Award? With so many municipalities and regional districts developing successful programs, services and projects, UBCM re-designed the awards program in 2004 to increase recognition of BC’s leaders in excellence.

Benefits of the awards program extend beyond the crystal sculpture that winners receive to display at their offices. UBCM keeps a library of all the winning projects so that other communities can have access to new resources. If your community wants to construct a ‘green building’, why not find out who to talk to at the City of White Rock, since they won for that exact project in 2004? The Community Excellence Awards Library allows UBCM members to view what past winners have done. Their experiences can go a long way in assisting all BC communities in creating great projects of their own.

The Community Excellence Awards consists of three main categories:
• Best Practices
• Leadership & Innovation
• Partnerships: Local Government and (new focus each year)

The category definitions, as well as their respective sub-categories, are outlined below:

**BEST PRACTICES**

The Best Practices category recognizes local governments in BC that have improved or revised an existing program or service in their municipality or regional district. There are three awards within Best Practices, they are:
• Best Practices
• Best Practices, Website
• Best Practices, Best Annual Reporting

**LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION**

The Leadership & Innovation category recognizes regional districts and municipalities that have demonstrated excellence in successfully incorporating the principles of sustainable development into an engineering- and/or infrastructure-based project.

Four separate categories will be recognized for Leadership & Innovation:
1) Small Municipality (population under 5,000)
2) Mid-Size Municipality (population between 5,000 & 20,000)
3) Large Urban Municipality (population over 20,000)
4) Regional District

**PARTNERSHIPS**

The Partnerships category recognizes two or more parties working together on a joint venture or initiative with outstanding results. The ability to break down barriers, recognize and reconcile differing views and find common ground are all significant measures of success. When an initiative meets the needs and aspirations of the partners, the benefits from cooperation set a benchmark for all communities.

**FA C T S**

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**RESOLUTIONS DATABASE**

The UBCM is currently undertaking a revision of the searchable Resolutions Database available under the Resolutions & Policies table. Members can expect enhanced consistency in the formatting and display of resolutions and will find that federal government responses and responses from other agencies have been included in database records from 2003 onward.

**Site Index**

Look along the top navigation bar anywhere in the site for CivicNet’s newest navigational tool. The Site Index provides an alphabetical list of keywords linking to various pages and documents within the CivicNet site. If you’re having trouble with the Search Engine it could be you’re searching for something using an unrecognized term. The Site Index provides synonyms that may take you where you need to go.

**Google Search Engine**

There are now two search options provided to users of the CivicNet site. Click on the Search Engine button along the top navigation bar from anywhere in the site and choose to search using CivicNet’s standard search engine or the Google in-site search engine. The Google search engine supports phrase searching and will scan both CivicNet pages and PDF documents for your specified keyword(s). Improvements to the standard search engine are still underway and we recommend using Google for those tough-to-find materials in the meantime. And remember to contact the UBCM office if you have any trouble locating particular information on CivicNet – we’re always happy to point you in the right direction.

As we continue with our annual site review over the next couple of months (and with regular updates to the CivicNet site after that) we welcome your comments and suggestions for improvement. CivicNet exists as a member resource and we are always interested to hear how we can better tailor the site to meet your needs. Please contact Errin Armstrong in the UBCM office at errin.armstrong@ubcm.bc.ca for 604.270.8226, ext. 115 with any input you may have.
The Canada-BC Infrastructure Program (CBCIP) is drawing to a close as available funding has been exhausted. In total, 309 projects valued at over $897 million, including $537 million from the federal and provincial governments, have been supported by this program. The remaining contribution has come from local governments.

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 under the CBCIP to meet the contracting realities faced by local governments.

Given the recognized success of the current program in responding to local government priorities, UBCM is hopeful that Municipality and Rural Infrastructure Funds (MRIF) will be added to the CBCIP to extend it rather than launching a new program with different sets of requirements and procedures.

The CBCIP Agreement was signed on October 10, 2000. Green municipal infrastructure is the program’s first priority and examples of eligible projects include the following:

- water and wastewater systems;
- water management;
- solid waste management and recycling; and
- capital expenditures to retrofit or improve the energy efficiency of buildings and facilities owned by local governments.

Up to a maximum of 25 per cent of the program’s funding has been directed to community projects such as cultural and recreational facilities, infrastructure to support tourism, rural and remote telecommunication, high-speed internet access for public institutions, local transportation and affordable housing.

UBCM’s Regional District Task Force is overseeing the development, implementation and evaluation of a Regional District Tool Kit. The Tool Kit was recommended as part of an Action Plan proposed by a Regional District Working Group in 2004 and endorsed by the UBCM Executive.

The intent is to strengthen understanding, among a wide range of audiences, of how regional districts are intended to function and provide clarity on complex issues and key irritants.

The Task Force’s workplan involves the development of:

- 10-15 best practices guides
- 10-15 fact sheets
- 5-8 discussion guides
- 1 powerpoint presentation
- 1 booklet and possible video

Task Force Chair, Director Susan Gimsie characterizes the initiative as health promotion for the regional districts: “It’s see what we can do to keep the system working well for people, recognizing that there are always new people coming into the system who need to learn about it as well as experienced ‘old timers’ who are also interested in seeing it work better.”

The Regional District Tool Kit is designed to be of use to all local government senior staff and elected officials, even those that do not currently sit on a regional district board. This recognizes the fact that all municipalities and electoral areas are members of regional districts and have a stake in the issues being dealt with at the board table and in seeing the system work well overall.

To date, UBCM has received letters of support from almost all regional districts for this project and will be seeking input and guidance from UBCM members as the project progresses, including the following opportunities:

- Consultation on RD Tool Kit templates - February 2005;
- Consultation on Tool Kit elements at RD Chair/ Admin. Forum - March;
- Consultation on Tool Kit progress at Area Associations - April-May;
- Review of feedback and drafts to date by Task Force - April-May;
- Production of final Tool Kit products - May-June;
- Task Force/Executive endorse Tool Kit - July;
- Distribution and Promotion of Tool Kit - July-September/on-going;
- Evaluation of Tool Kit 2006

Continued on page 10

The second installment of funding related to the provincial government’s decision to return 100% of traffic fine revenues was made on March 14th.

$70 million in added funding has been provided to municipalities with policing responsibilities in the last six month period.

The distribution formula continues unchanged – it is distributed to policing municipalities on the basis of the percent of their police costs of total policing costs across the province.

In the interests of trans...
**RURAL SUBDIVISION REVIEW**

In 2004, UBCM participated in the Ministry of Transportation’s (MoT) Rural Subdivision Review Working Group. A final report on the 2004 consultations with regional districts and development practitioners was produced last November. The Working Group was established as a forum for discussion and exchange of views about how to make the existing rural subdivision approval process work better, particularly as it relates to regional districts. It was comprised of an equal number of staff representatives from regional districts (e.g., planning directors) and from the development industry. There were also representatives from the Islands Trust, professional associations, MoT and Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services (MACAWS). This group met three times in mid-2004.

The Working Group identified a number of key concerns with the current rural subdivision approval process for discussion and response by MoT. These included issues such as:

- scarcity of staff resources creating gaps in service and increased timelines;
- lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities of referral agencies, and lack of coordination between them; and
- variation in the interest and capacity of regional districts to participate.

The Working Group suggested a wide variety of actions that could be taken to address some of these concerns, relating to:

- clarifying MoT’s future role in the subdivision approval process;
- committing more resources to the process;
- improving information/communication;
- establishing regular realistic timelines;
- improving and strengthening relationships between MoT and referral agencies;
- consideration of increased use of professional consultants by subdivision proponents; and
- improving the quality of subdivision planning and design.

MoT sent the Working Group’s final report to all Regional District Administrators in early December.

UBCM will continue to monitor and assist members of any proposed changes to the sub-regional districts. Over 100 resolutions were conveyed to the provincial government, 35 were sent to the federal government and 11 were forwarded to other organizations for information and/or comment.

**UBCM RESOLUTIONS GET RESULTS**

After the 2004 UBCM Convention, resolutions endorsed by the membership were forwarded to the provincial government, and to relevant federal government ministries and other organizations.

The Province has now responded to 95 of these resolutions. 13 responses have been received from the federal government and 5 have arrived from other organizations. All responses are forwarded to resolution sponsors as they arrive at the UBCM, but staff would like to take a moment to point out a few resolutions that have achieved results so far.

### A1 PROCEEDS OF CRIME SALES

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province and the federal government review legislative and non-legislative options in order to increase the ability to seize items that are proceeds of crime and to further ensure the funds from the disposition of these goods are distributed in an equitable manner directly to municipalities and regional districts to aid in covering policing costs.

According to its response to this resolution, the Province “will continue to press the federal government for changes to federal criminal law and related statutes to better provide for the forfeiture of proceeds of crime.” At the provincial level “British Columbia will also introduce civil forfeiture legislation to ensure that people do not profit from illegal activity, such as illegal drug production and trafficking.”

### A4 SUPPORT FOR SAFE STREETS ACT AND URBAN TRESPASS ACT

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the provincial government enact a “Safe Streets Act” similar to the legislation already in existence in Ontario to allow police and communities to more effectively deal with aggressive behaviour and to ensure that the penalties and laws are consistent throughout the province.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the provincial government amend the Trespass Act to provide useful statutory authority or enforcement action for businesses and private property owners.

The Safe Streets Act and amended Trespass Act were brought into force on January 27, 2005. Ticketing for enforcement is now in effect and both statutes authorize arrest for repeated violations or in cases of more serious misconduct. Tickets will range from $86 to $115 depending on the severity and type of offence and include a victim surcharge levy.

### A5 IMPLEMENTING THE “NEW DEAL” FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN CANADA

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly encourage prompt implementation of the “New Deal” for Canadian local governments.

On February 1, 2005, federal Infrastructure Minister John Godfrey announced the allocation for provinces of the New Deal for Cities and Communities funding. BC’s share is $635 million over five years. The program funding will be phased in and will reach $254 million per year in the fifth year.

The announcement opens the door for talks to begin on an agreement on how the funds will be distributed in BC, including eligible funded activities and allocations within BC to local government. Exploratory talks have begun between staff of the federal and provincial governments and the UBCM.

### A7 SMALL COMMUNITIES COST SHARING UNDER NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that with respect to small community needs in the forthcoming Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, the new program should continue to set aside a portion of funding for small and rural communities.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the new program be structured to reduce the one-third share required for local governments that have a low fiscal capability.

On February 5, 2005, Minister Coell of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services, announced a new provincial-local government infrastructure program. BC will share on a two-thirds/thirds basis. The province’s $50 million and local government’s $40 million will levy $120 million in needed projects – with emphasis on water-related projects.

Consideration will also be given to increasing the financial share for local governments that face challenges raising their one-third share – a feature UBCM has been advocating on behalf of smaller communities.

### A12 WEST NILE VIRUS FUNDING

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Province provide annual funding to local governments who request it for monitoring, public education programs and mosquito control measures to enhance public and livestock safety.

On February 9, 2005, the Ministry of Health Services announced $5 million in funding to “ensure local mosquito control programs are in place before the potential finding of West Nile virus in the province.”

The funding program will be administered by the UBCM and funds will be “available to municipalities, regional districts and First Nations for mosquito control efforts such as monitoring mosquito populations and source reduction of mosquito breeding sites.”

### B53 SIZE OF COUNCIL

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government legislate the following alternatives to the requirements of Section 118 of the Community Charter:

1. The provision of a counter petition opportunity;
2. The holding of the referendum at the same time as...
Community Economic Development

Economic Development Focus for UBCM Committee

In the December 2004 News, the Executive Committee for the 2004-2005 year were announced. We noted that the Communities and Resources Committee had become the Community Economic Development Committee. Committee membership includes:

• Councillor Dan Rogers, Chair
• Councillor Terry Smith, Vice Chair
• Mayor Colin Mayes
• Mayor Sharon Hartwell
• Mayor Jack Peake
• Mayor Wayne Dahlén, VP Liaison

A new Terms of Reference was also adopted to reflect the broad range of issues and activities that the Committee will be considering in the coming months.

The primary focus for the Committee is to improve the regional economic development opportunities for local governments. The Committee will continue to be an advocate for communities on resource issues that have the potential to impact the stability, viability and sustainability of BC communities by monitoring and making recommendations on policy regarding fish, forests, energy, mining, agriculture and water (as a commodity). The Committee will also work to connect communities to emerging economic development opportunities (ie. value-added, tourism, technology sectors, etc.).

At the January 2005 Committee meeting, members confirmed the following work plan:

1. Immediate Priorities

• In response to endorsed member policy, seek provincial and federal support to develop a coordinated response to address the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
• Enhance knowledge base of offshore oil and gas issue, review experiences in other jurisdictions and identify and represent federal and government interests.
• Clarify role for the Committee to play in regard to the tourism funding grant and UBCM-provincial government MOUs on forest development and IIPPs.
• Survey members requesting information on the following:
  - Impediments to CED
  - Economic development budgets, structures and strategies to identify best practices and success stories that could then be shared with others through a CED resource directory on the CivicNet website.

2. Other Priorities

• Ensure local government interests are addressed as the provincial government develops policies and regulations with respect to IIPPs, wind power, and other alternative energy sources.
• Seek a revenue sharing agreement for resource-based communities with the provincial government.
• Arrange delegations with Forest Revitalization Trust, BC Transmission Corporation.
• Seek to develop improved relations with DFO to ensure coastal community interests are appropriately addressed (ie. foghorns, salmon enhancement, bake on/off shore processing).

3. Monitoring

• Softwood lumber agreement dispute
• Community Forests
• Policy related to mining and agriculture activities

Governments Increase Efforts to Combat Pine Beetle

One of the immediate priorities identified by the Community Economic Development Committee was to act on the endorsed resolutions from the membership and encourage the federal and provincial governments to take a coordinated approach to addressing the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Reports have estimated that by the time the infestation has run its course in 2013, 80% of the Interior’s pine is expected to be dead. Obviously, the extent of the devastation could have huge economic ramifications for communities, the province and the country. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a coordinated government approach to address the problem effectively. Reports by senior government officials appear to indicate a move in that direction.

Recently, Industry Canada Minister David Emerson indicated that the federal government is working on an action plan to address the mountain pine beetle that is expected to be delivered in the coming months. Minister Emerson indicated that both federal and provincial government departments are working to put together a proposal that would be workable and acceptable to help the regions. In 2003, prior to this announcement by the federal Minister, the federal government allocated $40 million, over five years, on research into the mountain pine beetle outbreak and the rehabilitation of beetle-infested forests on federal and private lands.

Additional provincial action has also been announced to address the mountain pine beetle. In the 2005 provincial budget $101 million has been allocated over the next three years to address the economic impacts of the mountain pine beetle and forest fires. These funds will provide new opportunities to industry and communities by facilitating new strategies for using beetle wood, supporting economic diversification planning for affected communities, and increasing reforestation of areas damaged by beetles and wildfire.

The UBCM’s CED Committee will continue to press for a coordinated governmental approach to address the problem and will monitor the actions taken in the coming months.

Survey of Local Governments and Economic Development

At the January 2005 Committee meeting, members were encouraged to complete the survey for local governments and economic development. This survey provides an opportunity for communities to identify the issues their community faces and the gaps that exist in supporting local economic development initiatives. The survey questions focus on economic development resources, emerging economic development initiatives, and other development issues that are impacting local areas. The survey will be distributed to all municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia and will provide the UBCM with valuable information to better understand and address the needs of local governments.

The survey is available on the UBCM website and can be accessed by clicking on the “Survey of Local Governments and Economic Development” link. The survey should be completed and submitted by April 30th, 2005.
Member Services

UBCM Hosts 3RD Benefits Workshop

UBCM hosted a two-day Benefits Workshop on March 2 and 3, 2005 at the Marriott Vancouver Pinnacle Hotel, which was well received by the participants. This is the 3rd workshop of this type, designed to focus on Group Insurance and Pension benefits. Previous workshops were held in 1999 and 2002 and the next workshop will be scheduled for spring 2008.

Approximately 80 delegates, speakers and UBCM staff attended the seminar, with participation from 54 municipalities and regional districts and associated groups. The seminar had seven workshop sessions with nine speakers from organizations including, Towers Perrin (UBCM’s benefits consultant), BC Pension Corporation, Great-West Life Assurance Company (GWL) and Pacific Blue Cross (PBC). Workshop presentations included: trends in Employee Benefits, GWL’s Group Net system, PBC’s CARESnet program and Direct Claims Depository, extended health claims patterns and prescription drug issues; disability management; and a review of the Municipal Pension Plan benefits and recent changes. GWL and PBC are the two insurance companies that provide benefit coverage for UBCM’s Group Insurance Association Plan. This association plan provides group insurance coverage to approximately 110 municipalities and associated groups for over 2,800 staff and elected officials. Thank you to the UBCM members and associated groups that have their group benefits coverage through the UBCM Group Insurance Association Plan.

If you would like information regarding the Association Plan please contact the UBCM office (604.270.8226).

Pension Contribution Rates to Increase

The Municipal Pension Plan contribution rates for members and employers will increase effective July 1, 2005. The rates for members and employers will increase by the same amount, that is 99% of salary.

The change in rates is required because there is an unfunded liability in the pension plan, that is the projected liabilities of the plan (obligation to pay pensions to current and future retirees) exceed the assets available to deliver on that pension promise (investment returns plus all contributions).

The unfunded liability is a result of lower than anticipated investment returns and predictions of future returns, which would result in the fund growing slower than expected.

Member Visits – Stretch Targets Set

Each year the UBCM staff try to meet about 25% of member municipalities and regional districts on their home turf. This builds rapport, but more importantly familiarizes UBCM with the locales of its members and their particular issues or accomplishments. Last year we succeeded in wiping out a deficit in member visits by making a record of 45 visits – so everyone has been visited in the last 5 years. This year we have set a “Stretch” Target to visit 50 members. Three target areas are:

- Northern Vancouver Island
- Central Interior and Northwest
- East and West Kootenays

The better we know you and your communities, the better we are able to respond to your needs.

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2005

2005 Net•work•book™

The 2005 Directory is here. This Directory is a comprehensive workbook for those working in local government or who want to know who’s who in B.C. local government.

• municipal and regional district listings of elected officials and senior staff
• provincial government
• federal cabinet and B.C. MLAs
• selected provincial agencies and commissions
• other organizations that have ties to local government
• consulting services in the professionals directory section

Yes! I want to order the updated 2005 Net•work•book (prepayment required)

Quantity
UBCM MEMBERS RATE
Net•work•book(s) @ $10.00 per copy
GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, CROWN CORPORATION, ETC. RATE
Net•work•book(s) @ $20.00 per copy
NON-MEMBERS RATE
Net•work•book(s) @ $30.00 per copy
Add 7% GST (Reg. #108150554)
BC residents add 7.5% PST
TOTAL

Attention:
Mun/RD/Org:

Return to: Union of B.C. Municipalities, Suite 60 – 10551 Shellbridge Way, Richmond, BC V6X 2W9
Tel: 604.270.8226 Fax: 604.270.9116 E-mail: ubcm@civicnet.bc.ca

Group Benefits Association Plan Renewal

The UBCM Group Benefit Association Plan provides coverage for over 2,800 municipal and regional district employees and elected officials. This program, which is available to all municipalities and regional districts, provides benefits that are designed individually for each member local government.

The coverage available through the association plan includes Group Life Insurance; Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance; Optional Group Life Insurance; Dependent Life Insurance; Weekly Indemnity (Short Term) and Long Term Disability Insurance; Dental; Extended Health Care (EHC) and Medical Travel Expense Benefits.

GROUP BENEFITS RENEWAL

The first stage of the 2005 Group Benefit Renewal was successfully completed effective April 1, 2005 with Pacific Blue Cross. Pacific Blue Cross provides EHC and Dental coverage. The second stage of the renewal will be completed at a later date (effective May 1, 2005). Each year our benefit consultant does a review of the rates and underlying basis to ensure the plan rates remain competitive.

Extended Health Rates

Extended Health rates were increased by an average of 1% this year. Recent claims experience, inflation, and utilization trend factors affect the EHC rates. Given that the current average industry premium rate increases for EHC range from 12% to 16%, the UBCM Association Plan has had a very favourable renewal.

Dental

This year Dental rates increased on average 4%. This is good news given the adjustment to accommodate the increased PBC Fee Schedule, which is based on the increase in the college of BC Dental Surgeons Fee Guide, was 3.4% and expected trend/utilization was 3.8%, for a total increase of 7.2%. In comparison to the general trend, the UBCM Association Plan continues to operate favourably.

SUMMARY

If you are interested in becoming a member of the UBCM Group plan and would like to obtain a rate quotation please contact:

Susie Koivu, Financial Services Officer
604.270.8226, ext. 106, skoivu@civicnet.bc.ca

We are always interested in your comments about your group coverage and the plan in general. The future stability of the plan is dependent on plan participation.
O
n January 6th, 2005 the Federal Court of Ap-
peal, in a two to one decision, declared that 
local governments in British Columbia (RCMP “E” Division) have the 
largest number of municipal service contracts in 
Canada. There are about 1,000 civilian municipal 
employees throughout 150 RCMP detachments and communication call centres in British Columbia that 
could potentially be affected by the court ruling. The 
Provincial government, based on the trial court 
court, the dissent in the appeal court, is preparing 
to seek leave to appeal the decision to the Supreme 
Court of Canada. The decision came after a legal challenge to the courts 
bylaw adjudication process outlined in the Local Gov-
ernment Bylaw Notice En-
forcement Act to other lo-
gal governments in the 
province. In March of 2004 a pilot project was un-
taken involving three 
North Shore communities (North Vancouver City, North Vancouver District and West Vancouver Dis-
trict) and was focused on the enforcement of park-
ing tickets. A RCMP sur-
vey of local governments undertaken in June of 2005 indicated that at least 27 
local governments were interested in having access to the new bylaw adjudica-
tion process.
The North Shore commu-
ities in reviewing the 
new process feel it has 
encouraged citizens to pay 
the fines, helped in deal-
ing with citizens com-
plaints and saved the three 
local governments money 
by reducing staff time in 
dealing with the issue, 
court and legal costs, and 
collection costs. The by-
law adjudication hearings 
were held in the City of 
North Vancouver council 
chambers. A total of 51 cases have gone to an 
Adjudicator and 44 of the 
cases have been upheld, 
the response of the major-
ity of the participants has 
been positive. The adju-
dicator has in two cases 
over turned the ticket is-
sued by the local govern-
ment. The North Shore 
communities overall have 
been pleased with the pilot 
project and have re-
quested that the Attorney 
General allow them to use 
the bylaw adjudication 
process to enforce other 
local government bylaws.
The Ministry of the At-
nenor General is cur-
cently having discussions 
with two local govern-
ments to expand the by-
law adjudication pro-
cess at this time and is looking at expanding the new sys-
tem to 10 local govern-
ments in 2005.

Bylaw Adjudication: Expansion Under Review

The Ministry of the Attorney General is looking at the possi-
ble development of expanding the by-
law adjudication process in British Columbia as outlined in the 
Local Government Bylaw Notice En-
forcement Act. The pilot project was undertaken in March 
2004 and was focused on the enforcement of parking tickets. 
The pilot project indicated that at least 27 local governments were 
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British Columbia as outlined in the Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act. The pilot project was undertaken in March 2004 and was focused on the enforcement of parking tickets. The pilot project indicated that at least 27 local governments were interested in having access to the new bylaw adjudication process. The Ministry of the Attorney General has indicated that it will continue to work with the UBCM to identify future implementation sites and provide training for local government staff. Under the current process the bylaw adjudicators are appointed by the provincial government and the costs of the bylaw adjudication process are borne by the local government involved in the process. The Attorney General has indicated that he does not intend to change how the administrative costs of the bylaw adjudication process are allocated.
Highlights of UBCM Special Programs

Community Sprinkler Protection Units (Administered for the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women’s Service):

2004 was a very successful year for the Community Sprinkler Protection Unit (SPU) program. With a $1 million grant from MCAWS and great effort from a multi-discipline working group, three “designed for BC” SPU’s along with an extra set of sprinkler inver-

Hot Springs. Approximately 140 people took this opportunity to learn how to access fire threat analysis data, receive an update on wildfire protection activi-

Senior Housing and Support Initiative (Administered for the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women’s Service):

In 2004, much of the work on this program was in the area of research. It was important to program staff to make sure that the activities considered met the needs of local government and did not duplicate the work of other agencies.

The 2005 work plan is now underway. A website designed to share information on Seniors Housing and Support Issues is now under construction. Using feedback from the membership, workshops are being designed and implemented for the upcoming Area Association meetings. Opportunities for information sharing on a local level have been identified as a useful tool for communities, and a program to facilitate such meetings is now in the final design stage.

All information gathered from these activities will be analyzed, and provide the basis for a second phase of the Seniors Housing and Support Initiative.

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

The West Nile Virus Initiative is a new funding program for the UBCM, and was just launched at the end of February 2005. $5 million is being made available to local government to support planning and implementation of disease control. The funding formula uses a combination of risk analysis data and population. Details on this program are available on the UBCM website.

Strategic Wildfire Protection Plans (Administered for the Ministry of Forests Protection Branch)

The Strategic Wildfire Program for 2004 was two pronged. Working with a $1 million grant, fire threat an-

Emergency Planning (Administered for the Provincial Emergency Program):

The Emergency Planning Program is being adminis-

traffic analysis data was developed for the Province of British Columbia and is now available to communities wish-

Traffic Fines

Continued from page 5

CIVICNET under Policy & Public Affairs. Please email them at civicnet@ubcm.bc.ca.

senior financial official.

UBCM also asked that the agreement contain projections of future fine revenue levels. This is important for financial planning purposes. For instance, actual fine rev-

Traffic Fines

Continued from page 5

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PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE

The Premier has indicated that he intends to hold a Special Provincial Congress meeting later this year that will focus on public safety.

The Premier announced the creation of a Task Force on Public Safety, made up of representatives from all three levels of government and First Nations communities. The purpose of the Task Force will be to make recommendations to the Provincial Congress on how all levels of government can work together to create safer communities through legislative improvements and investments in crime prevention and policing.

The UBCM will be asked to appoint local government representatives to the Task Force.

NEW POLICE FUNDING

The provincial government has announced that an additional $122 million will be spent on policing, correction services and courts over the next three years.

The funding is intended to build on other crime-prevention initiatives such as the Integrated Organized Crime Unit, the Amber Alert Program, and new polic-

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The process to deter-
With the March 31st deadline for the implementation of the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) approaching, UBCM has made determining the readiness of local governments and the implications of not being ready to implement the regulation a top priority. UBCM has taken steps to evaluate the readiness of local governments through a survey of those communities affected by the RAR, and an analysis of the status of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection’s (WLAP) implementation plan and schedule. It has also obtained an independent legal opinion on the consequences of local governments not being ready to implement the regulation by March 31st, 2005.

According to the preliminary results of the survey:

- 89% of local governments indicated that they would require further information in order to implement the RAR;
- 75% of local governments stated that they would not be ready to implement the RAR on March 31, 2005;
- 90% of local governments stated that they would like an extension of the implementation date, with 30% requesting 1 year and 30% requesting 9 months, and
- 54% of local governments stated that they are not currently using a SPEA process to protect fish habitat near streams.

The UBCM analysis of the readiness of local governments to implement the RAR shows that most local governments do not feel that they are ready to implement the RAR on March 31, 2005. In addition, even if the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection meets its scaled back and reduced implementation plan targets by March 31, 2005, the implementation tools and materials will not be in the hands of local governments in time to actually use them. A series of legal concerns also remain outstanding, which are above and beyond those that are to be addressed in the ability review.

On March 2nd, 2005, the Environment Committee Vice-Chair Robert Hobson and Past President Frank Leonard met with the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, Bill Barisoff, 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. They also asked the Minister to deal with the other issues identified by our legal advisors.

The Minister has officially recognized the need for some flexibility within the RAR implementation schedule and process. UBCM has received a letter from the Minister outlining the 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 extend the implementation date by Ministerial Order to June 30, 2005.
- The Minister will consider limited additional extensions beyond June 30, 2005, in exceptional circumstances.

UBCM is pleased that the Minister has acknowledged the need for flexibility within the RAR implementation schedule.

Risk and Resilience Services

Business risk is a two-sided coin. On one hand, organizations of all sizes must take calculated risks in order to grow. On the other hand, risks from a variety of sources – including technology, financial, controls, and regulations – can threaten the organization’s profitability, and sometimes even its viability.

KPMG can help your organization strengthen its ability to withstand unanticipated market and regulatory issues. Our Risk and Resilience Services can give you the confidence to move ahead, by providing effective programs to prevent business risk from eroding your progress.

Contact your KPMG advisor to find out more.

Shaun Wilson, CA•CISA
Lead Partner, Risk and Resilience
(604) 681-3188
shawilson@kpmg.ca

Archie Johnston, MBA, CA, CIA
Lead Partner, BC Public Sector
(604) 527-2979
ajojohnston@kpmg.ca

www.kpmg.ca/advisory

Canadian Environmental Protection Act and Wastewater

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) agreed in November 2003 to develop a Canada-wide strategy for the management of municipal wastewater effluents, which will address specific parameters of parameters and governance. It is expected that the national strategy will be completed by December 2006, after which it will be implemented by each jurisdiction.

Environment Canada recently published two instruments related to the municipal wastewater effluent strategy in the Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999 (CEPA 1999). These instruments are designed to help protect Canadian waters and aquatic life from municipal wastewater plant effluents.

The intent of these new regulations is to require local governments to develop a pollution prevention plan, to deal with the substances identified, where the volume of effluent discharges is equal to or exceeds 5,000 m³/day (10,000 population or over). The pollution prevention plan must be developed by June 15, 2007, and be implemented by June 15, 2010.

The pollution prevention requirements will be established under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), while the enforcement requirements for the new standards will be established under the Federal Fisheries Act. The strat-
In 1905, British Columbia was growing rapidly, with new settlements springing up all over the province, filled with immigrants from all over the world who had been drawn by the opportunities to be had in the resource-rich province.

The rapidly growing municipalities felt constrained by the limited powers allotted them by the province and wanted more say in their own governance. The most contentious issue was Provincial insistence that municipalities pay for health, education, law enforcement and welfare out of the limited funds they received from property and improvement taxes, statute labour (labour on municipal projects in lieu of tax payments), trade licenses, fines and local improvement rates.

In addition, municipalities were finding making amendments to the 1896 BC Municipal Corporations Act time-consuming, expensive and chaotic, with one municipality fighting hard to win an amendment, only to see it overturned the next session by another municipality.

Not to mention that there was little confidence in the Provincial government, which was in turmoil in the early years. The new Conservative government had come to power in a province near bankruptcy, promising to re-establish the authority of the Province over municipalities. The 1896 BC Municipal Corporations Act was being quietly ignored by the federal government.

A common voice was needed to represent the concerns of the municipalities to the Province. Mayor C.S. Stevens of Kamloops saw the need and took action. He sent a letter to all 41 existing municipalities asking whether they all should form a union, 36 replied, all in favour.

Mayor Stevens and Mayor Keary of New Westminster then organized a convention in New Westminster during the Dominion Fair, on September 29th and 30th, 1905. Thirty-three delegates from 22 municipalities attended. After they were accredited, Mayor Buscombe of Vancouver invited “the delegates now present to form a Union of the Municipalities of British Columbia, and on a strong appeal, urged that the time had now arrived to take concerted action.” The motion passed unanimously and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities came into being.

1900s: Vision and Common Purpose

After the convention in 1905, the new Executive of the UBCM got straight to work. They were successful in getting 6 of the 13 recommendations of the 1905 convention into the consolidated Municipal Clause Act of 1906. Important issues were establishing a home for the destitute, aged and infirm, the “White Plague of Tuberculosis,” and re-modeling the civil service system for municipal officials.

1910: UBCM represents 75% of BC’s population

1914: Office of Municipal Affairs promises Department of Municipal Affairs

1916: UBCM adopts a financial formula for municipal/provincial financial relations. Delegates agree later that all should contribute. It was required that BC pay 75% of the cost. Revenue sharing to municipalities began.

1917: Prohibition enacted. UBCM got straight to work. They were successful in getting 6 of the 13 recommendations of the 1905 convention into the consolidated Municipal Clause Act of 1906. Important issues were establishing a home for the destitute, aged and infirm, the “White Plague of Tuberculosis,” and re-modeling the civil service system for municipal officials.

1921: Prohibition repealed

1923: Convention held on steamer to Prince Rupert; UBCM Solicitor draws up report on the Convention.

1925: Town Planning Act passed

1927: Province puts Federal Old Age Pension Act into effect

1931: Unemployment reaches 28%; Rural work camps are organized.

1932: Special Convention to deal with unemployment

1939: The outbreak of WWII solved the unemployment problem.

1940s: War and Peace

Unlike the previous war, WWI was great for BC’s economy. In 1942, the UBCM started post-war planning, but in 1940 the Province pointed out that it was pointless to do so without financing commitments. UBCM Conventions in 1942, 1944 and 1944 called for the post-war repatriation of all Japanese, but by 1944 those who pointed out such calls were "unconstitutional... inhumane, undemocratic and unChristian" especially as some Japanese-Canadians had served in the war. After the war, school districts were reorganized, funding for schools, infrastructure and policing continued to be a problem.

1946: 74 School Districts are created, ensuring at least one secondary school per district (previously each municipality had a district; in 1947, 74 school districts were created in all; half were elected each year after many years of UBCM urging – half are elected each year) 1948: A 3% sales tax introduced; one third is shared with local government.

1950s: Rocky Relations

From 1952 to 1972, the Social Credit Party under W.A.C. Bennett was in power in BC. In 1954, the UBCM hired its first Executive Director, W.A.C. Bennett, who held the position until his death in 1971. Adams was the only person to have dedicated Bennett politically, and relations between the UBCM and the Province were rocky throughout the decade.

1955: Minister of Municipal Affairs Wes Black begins tradition of government officials making themselves available for interviews with UBCM members.

1951: BC Population exceeds 1 million

1952: R.R. Sewell, UBCM Secretary-Treasurer for 20 years, retires and is succeeded by Jeanne Wineberg.

1954: UBCM sets up office in New Westminster City Hall – City provides equipment and secretarial help

1959: Minister of Municipal Affairs Wes Black begins tradition of government officials making themselves available for interviews with UBCM members.

1960: UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.


1963: A 3% sales tax introduced; one third is shared with local government.

1967: BC Population exceeds 1 million

1970: UBCM sets up office in New Westminster City Hall – City provides equipment and secretarial help

1975: M. S. Stevens, President of UBCM 1975-77

1977: Convention held on steamer to Prince Rupert; UBCM Solicitor draws up report on the Convention.

1980: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

1985: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

1990: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

1995: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2000: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2005: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2010: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2015: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2020: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2025: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2030: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2035: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2040: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2045: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2050: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2055: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2060: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2065: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2070: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.

2075: Convention held in Vancouver; UBCM accepts Minister of Municipal Affairs offer of free regional government.
In 1960, matters were so strained between the UBCM and the Province that the only Convention resolution approved by Cabinet was a tax exemption for fallout shelters. There was also continuous wrangling between the two regarding Sunday sports and entertainment, benefits and school financing. Relations thawed somewhat after the first Provincial-Municipal Conference in 1963 in Victoria. Adams began to be advised of upcoming legislation but could not alter his position or the municipalities’ about it. In 1965 the UBCM took to begin to print a newsletter and gather statistics. However, urban members were criticizing UBCM for being ineffectual and a “rurally-oriented mouthpiece of the provincial government.” In the financial matters, especially school financing, were in such a state that a UBCM emergency session hired economist, T.J. Plunkett, to prepare a report on provincial/regional responsibilities. The $70,000 cost was originally to be shared with the Province, but the government pulled out after preliminary data revealed an increasingly greater financial burden on municipalities.

In 1960 UBCM moves to its own office on Blackford Street in New Westminster.

1961: Jeff McKelvey was hired as part-time assistant to Theo Adams.

1965: Regional districts created

1969: Municipal interest in fighting water pollution; Jeff McKelvey becomes full-time employee specializing in labour relations

1970: Provincial and hospital districts are created by the Province; As part of Centennial celebrations, a special gavel travels around the province from council to council – travels 5,780 miles to 139 municipalities.

1968: UBCM membership offered to regional districts.

In 1973, crunchy and entertaining finally allowed after a decade of UBCM pushing; Jeanne Wineberg and Jeff McKelvey many.

1970: Municipal Finance Authority formed

1971: Theo Adams dies suddenly; Jeff McKelvey becomes Executive Director

1973: UBCM holds its first seminar for newly elected officials.

1974: BC Assessment Authority formed after UBCM had pushed for assessment reform

1975: Municipal government agrees in discussions with UBCM to share natural gas revenues with municipalities.

1977: Revenue Sharing Agreement for local governments reached with Provincial Government.

1978: UBCM represents all local government for the first time – 100% membership has been maintained since; Area Associations given seats on Executive.

In 1961, UBCM began preparing tax notices for villages; 27 municipalities hold annual council meetings; UBCM form a committee to review its membership and its activities; making meetings ready for celebrations at Convention held May 11-17 1988.

As UBCM’s growth and membership continued, so did its focus on local government involvement in provincial legislation and government initiatives.

1960s: Still a Rocky Road

1970s: Growing Strength and Full Membership

In 1970, UBCM was concerned with intergovernmental relations, environmental control, welfare and social services, housing, land use, assessment equalization, finance and urban transport. Larger municipalities threatened to leave the UBCM. In 1971, the Plunkett report was released – it said the Province should relieve local government of welfare and education costs and documented the increasing financial burden being placed on municipalities. Minister of Municipal Affairs Dan Barrett agreed in discussions with UBCM that the report was “$70,000 worth of nothing” and that the UBCM had “flunked it with Plunkett.” In 1972, Jeff McKelvey began his tenure as Executive Director with a review of the organization and its activities – making several key changes both in services to members and relations with the Province, which improved during the decade. In the late 70’s BC had a resource/population boom which fueled municipal growth and expanded municipal services, also supported by Provincial revenue sharing.

1980s: Restraint, Review and Renewed Cooperation

In 1981, BC fell into a recession as resource revenues plummeted, which put an end to municipal expansion and placed municipalities in a tight position. In 1982 the municipalities agreed with the Province to a Partnership in Reestrainment program, cutting costs and changing revenues sharing distribution, including finally removing welfare as a municipal responsibility. In 1985 a Provincial-Municipal Partnership Program provided funds to local governments. Another major issue during the ‘80s was land use and regional district planning in 1983 regional planning was taken away from the regional districts and there was new land use regulation in 1985 and 1987 and regional district reform in 1989. Other major issues during the decade were assessment and property taxes and liability insurance. With the change in Executive Directors in 1985, the UBCM undertook a management review, which led to new efforts in developing professional services, strengthen Area Associations, providing more training programs, and overhauling information services. Policy matters grew in importance. The UBCM increasingly became recognized as a contact point for local government and gained appointments to Provincial bodies and intergovernmental meetings. At the end of the decade, the UBCM and the Province collaborated on a Financing Local Government study.

1980: Convention opposed Municipal Affairs Minister Vander Zalm’s indemnity guidelines; Finance Minister Curtiss agrees not to apply new Financial Administration Act to local government; Downtown Revitalization Program introduced.


1985: UBCM begins preparing tax notices for villages; 27 municipalities hold annual council meetings; UBCM form a committee to review its membership and its activities; making meetings ready for celebrations at Convention held May 11-17 1988.

1990: Convention votes to replace Alderman with Councillor after 10 years of debate

1991: Municipal House opens – an office in Victoria for local government officials.; The new NDP Municipal Affairs Minister meets with the UBCM Executive within 72 hours of being sworn in.

1992: Return to annual assessment roll; 20-year renewal of RCMC contract; Financial Summit and Environmental Conference called to work on settlement between Province and local governments in those areas.


1995: Growth management legislation introduced; MOUs signed with the Province on Accountability, Arts and Cultural Development, and Energy

1996: Protocol of Recognition signed with provincial Government; Over 50 requirements for Provincial approval eliminated.

1998: Local government recognized in legislation as an independent, responsible and accountable order of government.

1999: Memorandum of Agreement on gaming policy; Traffic fine revenue shared

2000s: A Common Voice Working With the Province

Coming into the new millennium and its 100th birthday, the UBCM has definitively fulfilled its original mandate. It now has a solid record of furthering the interests of local government in negotiations with both the provincial and federal governments.

It is in the unique position of representing all BC local governments and is now firmly with and for the local governments of BC.

A new book on the history of the UBCM will also be launched at Convention. This book will look at the detailed history of the UBCM and its ups and downs over the last century, tracing its growth and development from 1905 to today and touching on the history of BC and its local governments.

So, watch this space for further updates and get ready to celebrate at Convention. We look forward to looking back with you!
the 2005 election for application to the 2008 election. In its response to this resolution, the Province indicates that “Government will be proceeding with an Order in Council to allow those municipalities that have exceeded a population of 50,000 to hold an alternative approval process to determine whether the electors are in favour of maintaining their current council size at less than eight councillors if the municipality has not previously held a referendum on the issue.”

**B141 ENHANCEMENT OF REGIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Province of British Columbia to develop alternative or additional funding models that would support in enhancing existing programs and allow development of new, relevant, and innovative training opportunities that can be accessed within the region.

Also announced in this year’s Throne Speech were a major initiative to further increase access to skills training, and apprenticeships, the establishment of a World Trade University in Chilliwack and a One World Scholarship Fund to build new relationships with the world.

An August 15, 2005 news release announced that BC’s Industry Training Authority (ITA) is “already exceeding the targets it has set for increasing participation in industry training. The ITA is “well ahead of schedule in its plans to increase the number of apprentices/trainees by 30% and employers by 18 per cent in three years. Growth in youth participation is also exceeding targets, due primarily to the launch of the well-received Home Owner Grant threshold has been increased to $685,000. The rate of phase-out has also been reduced to $5 per $1000 assessed value from $10 per $1000.

**B97 LIBRARY ACT**

According to the 2005 provincial budget, $12 million will be provided over the next three years for new library programs and initiatives, including broadband Internet, a 24-hour virtual reference desk and a One-Card system. In addition, a review of the Library Act is planned, during which the issue of trustee stipends may be addressed.

**B110 HARMONIZATION OF PST ON FILM PRODUCTION**

Budget 2005 raised BC’s foreign film tax credit rate to 18% from 11% and the domestic film tax credit rate to 30% from 20%. According to a January 20, 2005 BC Government news release, these changes are intended to increase BC’s core tax incentives for domestic and foreign film production to the same level as the new Ontario rates – thereby ensuring that BC remains a competitive location for film and television production.

**B119 HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION**

In the recent Speech from the Throne, the provincial government announced a new, comprehensive health promotion initiative called “Health Promotion”. This initiative will be launched to assist in meeting population-based targets for increasing physical fitness, reducing obesity, reducing tobacco use, and encouraging healthy eating.

Federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for social services met on February 11, 2005 to discuss a national vision and principles for early learning and child care systems in each province and territory. They agreed that flexibility will be key in the development of any new system and will meet again once funding for child care is confirmed in the federal budget.

In the 2005 Throne Speech, the provincial government announced that $9 million will be invested over the next three years to establish a BC Conservation Corps. The Corps will provide new employment opportunities for BC’s students and graduates in BC parks and wilderness areas as a new generation of conservationists.

In addition, the Province will provide $7.5 million over the next three years to add up to 50 new Conservation Officers and Park Rangers.

Environmental Protection

Continued from page 17

UBCM has been ac-

quirers in order to es-

tablish the planning and 

enforcement requirements 

under CEPA are unknown 

at this time. There also 

currently appears to be no 

link between the planning 

requirements under 

CEPA and the enforce- 

ment requirements under 

the Fisheries Act, which 

creates the potential for 

different regulatory re-

quirements to be estab-

lished under different leg-

islative frameworks.

To date, Environment Canada has also indicated that local government can use existing planning processes as long as, at the end of the day, they meet the standard that the federal government has established. Environment Canada has also identified five BC communities that will be affected by the new regulatory strategy, in which those identified communities will be re-

quired to introduce a de-

chlorination process into their sewage treatment. Overall, while the scope of application of the new regulations may now appear to be narrower, UBCM will continue to monitor and seek clarifi-

cation on the impact of the regulatory strategy on local governments.

As part of UBCM’s on-
going monitoring of the process, it has written to the federal Minister of En-
vironment outlining local government concerns sur-
rounding harmonization, the potential costs of im-
plementation, and the need to link the planning and enforcement requirements. It has also written the Min-
ister of Water, Land and Air Preservation requesting provincial assistance in har-
monizing the CEPA re-
quirements in order to es-


tablish clarity and con-

sistency in implementing the federal regulatory re-

quirements.

**Riparian Areas**

Continued from page 11

and will continue to work

with the WLAP on ensur-

ing that the tools required for implemen-

tation of the RAR are completed in an expeditious manner.

In order for this pro-

cess to work, local govern-

ments that wish to pro-

ceed with the implemen-

tation of the Riparian Ar-

eas Regulation on March 31, 2005, will need to no-

tify UBCM by March 29,

2005. UBCM will compile a list of local governments that are ready and notify the Deputy Minister of Water, Land and Air Pro-

tection.

The completion information on the RAR, including the survey results, evalu-

ation of WLAP’s implementa-

tion plan, and legal opinions, please go to the Featured Policy Topics at: www.civcenet.bc.ca.
Communities Take Up “Active Cities” Challenge

The City of Vancouver, City of Kelowna and City of Kimberley have all recently committed to work with 2010 LegaciesNow and the provincial government to help meet the target of increasing physical activity amongst their citizens and employees by 20 per cent by 2010. In a related initiative, the Corporation of Delta is challenging all municipalities in BC to match program providing free access to municipal recreation facilities for all grade 5 students, as well as discounted rates for young adults.

The UBCM Executive supports the “20 percent by 2010” goal. This goal is equivalent the BC Healthy Living Alliance’s healthy living target, which was recently endorsed by the UBCM Executive as a BCHLA member. The UBCM will be considering shortly a proposal to provide assistance to local governments that want to implement the Active Cities challenge with their employees.

In 2003, 58 percent of the BC population were physically active and the overall goal is to increase that to almost 70 per cent by 2010, with municipalities playing a leadership role.

2010 Legacies Now is a not-for-profit society that works in partnership with community organizations, non-government organizations, the private sector and all levels of government to develop sustainable legacies in sport and recreation, arts, literacy, and volunteerism.

For more information visit www.2010LegaciesNow.com

UBCM SUPPORTS HEALTHY LIVING TARGETS

Formed in February 2003, the BC Healthy Living Alliance’s (BCHLA) mission is to improve the health of British Columbians through leadership that enhances collaborative action to promote physical activity, healthy eating and living smoke-free.

UBCM is a member of the BCHLA which is comprised of ten other organizations including: BC Lung Association, BC Recreation and Parks Association, Canadian Cancer Society (BC and Yukon Division), Canadian Diabetes Association (Pacific Division), Dietitians of Canada (BC Region), Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon and Public Health Association of BC. Members of the BCHLA work to achieve their mission through advocacy, collaboration and capacity building.

A key activity of the BCHLA in 2004 has been development of healthy living targets to achieve by 2010. As a membership of the BCHLA, the UBCM supports these targets which are:
• 9 out of 10 British Columbians will not smoke;
• 7 out of 10 British Columbians will be eating at least 5 vegetables and fruit a day;
• 7 out of 10 British Columbians will be physically active; and
• 7 out of 10 British Columbians will be at a healthy weight.

These targets, aimed at ages 12+ were developed through extensive research and consultation, including a regional consultation process. During the regional consultation process 11 meetings/workshops involving more than 200 participants, were held across the province. The groups discussed the risk factors in their health region, their link with chronic disease, and potential targets for their region.

The BCHLA’s future advocacy initiatives will focus extensively on promoting and supporting achievement of these targets.

UBCM SUPPORTS HEALTHY LIVING TARGETS

Here’s to you and you and you…

By using Green Power Certificates, these organizations are putting their environmental principles into action and making their operations greener. This means cleaner air for all of us.

Other organizations using Green Power Certificates:
• British Columbia Buildings Corporation
• City of Kamloops
• City of Vancouver
• Greater Vancouver Regional District
• Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection
• Resort Municipality of Whistler
• School District 34 – Abbotsford
• TransLink

To find out how Green Power Certificates can benefit your organization, call 604 453-6400 in the Lower Mainland, 1 866 453-6400 elsewhere, or visit www.bchydro.com/gpc.

A04-357c
CENTENNIAL QUIZ #1 – UBCM HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

This is the first of four centennial quizzes to be published in the UBCM News this year. The first person to return this quiz to the UBCM office with all ten 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).

This first set of questions is designed to test your general historical knowledge of the UBCM – although your familiarity with the CivicNet website will also help in finding most of the answers. Good luck!

1) Three separate communities in BC have produced quiz answers. Stay tuned to the next edition of the UBCM News for help in finding most of the answers. Good luck!
2) Who was the first President of the UBCM from whom the three cities in question number one are from?
3) Who was the first female President of the UBCM, where was she from and in what year did her term end?
4) Name the five recipients of UBCM Long Service Awards in 2004.
5) Which community is the newest member of the UBCM?
6) In what capacity was BC’s current Lieutenant Governor named a UBCM Life Member and in what year?
7) In what year did the UBCM represent all local governments in BC for the first time?
8) In which of the three cities from question number one was the UBCM office located before its current location in Richmond?
9) Who put forward the private members bill that led to UBCM’s incorporation?
10) On what date did the UBCM’s Act of Incorporation receive formal assent?

CENTENNIAL CONTENT ON CIVICNET

Over the next couple of months, staff will be adding content to the CivicNet site celebrating the UBCM’s 100th year. A photo bar depicting moments from UBCM’s history will illuminate the CivicNet home page and dedicated centennial pages will provide site visitors with a glimpse into the UBCM’s past. More and more materials will be made available online as we approach Convention – which just happens to fall right on the UBCM’s 100th birthday! Stay tuned to CivicNet for these and other centennial developments.
Aboriginal Update

In the fall, treaty negotiations at the four final agreement tables were occurring at an intense pace as negotiators aimed to reach a settlement by year-end. We know now that this deadline has not been reached and, with a new year underway, many treaty tables appear to have re-evaluated their timelines. Outlined below are some estimated timelines from the British Columbia Treaty Commission’s January Update for treaty tables nearing final agreements and agreements in principle (AIPs).

Closing in on Final Agreements

The following treaty tables are anticipating concluding treaties and related agreements by the end of 2005; some agreements could be initiated before the May provincial election:

- Hupacasath Nation
- Maa-nulth First

Closing in on AIPs

The following treaty tables are close to reaching an AIP:

- Yale First Nation

Treaty Negotiations Update

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Treaty Negotiations Update

On Thursday November 18, 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) handed down its ruling in Haida v. British Columbia, which could have far reaching implications on local governments and the ability to consult with First Nations on behalf of the community.

The SCC’s decision in Haida reverses the Court of Appeal’s conclusion that third parties may have a legal and equitable duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples. The law has now been clarified that the duty to consult, and accommodate Aboriginal interests if necessary, remains with the Crown and is founded in the honour of the Crown. This obligation cannot be delegated to third parties.

- Procedural requirements may be delegated by the Crown to be fulfilled by applicants for Crown lands, resources, permits or approvals. Local governments as applicants in those situations will need to fulfill those procedural obligations, in the same manner as other applicants.
- There is as yet no court decision which has addressed whether local governments, in exercising delegated Provincial powers, may also assume any portion of the Province’s duty to consult where decisions may affect Aboriginal claims to rights or lands. It is clear that there has been no express delegation of such an obligation by the Province.
- The Haida decision sheds no light on whether local governments as regulators have any special duty to fulfill . . . any such duty may only arise in limited circumstances, either where a statutory obligation exists (such as with Official Community Plans), where a decision may have a significant impact on Aboriginal claims to rights or lands, or in the limited circumstances where local governments regulate Crown lands. The specific issue of whether local governments have any special obligations in those circumstances may be the subject of future court decisions.
- To obtain copies of these papers, please contact Joanne Gauci at 604.270.8226, ext. 116.

Implications of the Haida Decision for Local Governments

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COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM UPDATE

As the four/2005 Community to Community Forum program draws to a close, we can report another very successful year. In the five years of running the program, UBCM has received the highest number of applications yet, with a total of 40 applications approved for joint local governments – First Nation events.

The Community to Community Forum program is funded by the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services (MCAWS) and administered by the UBCM and the First Nations Summit (FNS). Under the program, First Nations and local governments can apply for funding to hold events that bring elected representatives of local governments and their First Nations neighbours and their respective representatives.

The Community to Community Forum program is intended to be companion to the Community to Community Forums in future to build on work accomplished thus far.

Final reports on many of the 2004/2005 events are available for online viewing through CivicNet (www.civicnet.bc.ca). From our home page select “Featured Policy Topics”, then “First Nations Relations” and follow the Community to Community Forum links. Additional reports will be posted here as they become available – as well will future program application information.

The UBCM and the FNS anticipate continued funding for the Community to Community Forum program from MCAWS and INAC. We hope to begin the 2005/2006 program year later this Spring and will send notification and application packages to all members as soon as funding is confirmed.

Trent Bennett, Director
UBCM News March 2005
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New “Building Relations” Handbook Now Available

UBCM, in partnership with the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee, has now produced the second edition of Building Relations with First Nations: A Handbook for Local Governments. The Handbook provides a comprehensive and concise summary of formal government-to-government agreements between local governments and First Nations. The variety of agreements profiled in the Handbook illustrates the possibilities that exist for defining and improving First Nation-local government relations in a number of different areas. In total, 29 agreements are presented and analyzed; topics addressed in the agreements range from communication and cooperation to economic development and resource management.

The Handbook is part of a growing body of resources available from the UBCM office (Email: i inve@ivicinfoc.ca / 604.270.8226, ext. 116). The new Handbook was distributed to all Mayors and Regional District Chairs on March 4, 2005. Please see the UBCM website (www.ivicinfoc.ca) to download additional copies of the Handbook, additional agreements as they become available, and other useful resources, including:

- Communities in Cooperation: A Guide to Alternative Dispute Resolution for First Nations and Local Governments in BC
- Developing Good Neighbour Relations: Local Governments and First Nations Technical Workshop Final Reports;
- Province-wide Community to Community Joint Forum Final Reports, and
- Regional Community to Community Forum Final Reports.

Information on servicing agreements is also available from the UBCM office and actual servicing agreements can be sent to Joanne Gauci. The new Handbook is part of a growing body of resources available to First Nations and local governments through UBCM to assist them in strengthening their government-to-government relationships. UBCM would like to continue to post new agreements as they become available, so if your local government has been active in this area we would like to hear from you. Copies of MOUs, protocols, accords and other types of agreements can be sent to Joanne Gauci in the UBCM Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow & Exhibition at the Annual UBCM Convention September 26th and 30th, 2005 Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre

THE UBCM TRADESHOW & EXHIBITION is your opportunity to do business and gain exposure to local government decision-makers and purchasers. The Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow & Exhibition only happens every two years, the anticipation runs high.

Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow & Exhibition was created to satisfy members' requests for a “one-stop-shopping venue while at the Annual Convention, and to give local government suppliers and related service providers greater access to municipal/regional district representatives.

This is a targeted Marketplace directed at companies and organizations that focus on doing business with local government. To maximize traffic, the convention agenda will include a special time slot designated for delegates to visit the tradeshow floor!

Book your space now before it is too late!

For exhibitor information call: Lemaire & Co. Event Management 248 - 1857 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 1M4 Phone: 604.736.0535 Fax: 604.730.6968

Municipal Marketplace Tradeshow & Exhibition – THE place to do business with local government.

Show Days: September 28 & 29, 2005
Show Hours: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm
Exhibitor move-in: September 27, 2005 - 8:00 am to 7:00 pm
Exhibitor move-out: September 29, 2005 - 5:00 pm to midnight

Resort Task Force to Consider Approvals Coordination

Following the July Executive Meeting UBCM signed an MOU with provincial ministries on resort development. The common goals outlined were:

- fostering co-operative inter-governmental relations;
- recognizing the jurisdiction and accountabilities of both orders of government;
- promoting long-term job creation, sustainable economic growth and sustainable communities;
- developing a positive climate for resort investment in British Columbia;
- providing efficient and effective resort development review and approval processes for both orders of government that take into consideration highest environmental standards.

Prior to this MOU there had been municipal participation on the Task Force but UBCM was not a participant. In the fall of 2004 the Municipal Sub-Committee worked to complete two reports: 1. best practices regarding resort development 2. sequencing development, with a particular interest on governance options The third, and final report is now underway — into the local and provincial approval processes and how these might be better sequenced or harmonized. UBCM is represented on the group by regional district staff with hands on experience in resort development and a senior UBCM staff coordinator.

Over the past 6 years, iCompass has become a leader in Canada at delivering innovative, reliable and cost-effective web applications services that substantially lower the cost of local government administration. Now, we offer CivicWeb, a hosted end-to-end suite of administrative web applications.

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- E- Agendas, a website

1-800-260-7409
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A REALISTIC VIEW OF COUNCIL SOLIDARITY

Consider this scenario: A Municipal Council adopts a contentious motion by a narrow majority. After the meeting, a Councillor who voted against the motion speaks to the community and the media: “That was a misguided and foolish decision. I voted against it, and I will do everything in my power to stop its implementation.”

Given that this phenomenon occurs often, Council seeks the opinion of a governance guru. The expert’s advice is that “Once a decision is made, it is no longer a majority decision. It is a collective decision of Council. The majority is duty bound to accept the outcome as legitimate and move on.” This is often referred to as “the tyranny of the majority.”

The above advice is sound and principled. Participants in a democratic decision making process must accept that it is impossible to satisfy the desires of each individual, especially when an issue is complex and controversial. Attempting to accommodate every interest and insisting on unanimity every time could lead to “the tyranny of the minority,” whereby assertive members get what they want by just refusing to go along with majority decisions. Insisting on “consensus” every time may deliver weak and diluted decisions. If a “compromise decision” ends up compromising the interests of the broader community, compromise is a “dirty word.”

Assuming the Solidarity Rule and a principle-based decision-making process, a member who voted in the minority would respond to media and public inquiries as follows: “How I voted on this motion is less significant than the collective wishes of Council. Yes, I voted against the motion, but we had a full and open discussion of the issues, and we followed a positive and respectful process. My views were heard and understood, as were the views of others. In democracy, the minority must be heard, but it is the majority that rules.”

Notwithstanding the soundness of the above advice and script, reality is not quite that simple, and there remain a few questions. What if the majority’s decision is indeed flawed? What if the decision making process was driven by ignorance, emotion, narrow interests and politics, instead of being driven by knowledge, logic, broad interests and core principles? Is it realistic and reasonable to expect a conscientious and principle-based individual to abide by the Solidarity Rule under such conditions? Clearly, these questions mean that a more holistic approach to the Solidarity Rule is needed.

Symptoms versus Root Causes

When a Council member speaks to the public and the media against a corporate decision that was duly made by Council, you can invoke the Solidarity Rule and suggest that the individual is acting in bad faith. But as right as you may be, assigning guilt has little use and may be driven more by evidence, logic, broad interests and core principles? Is it honest, genuine, holistic, and principle-based, the likehood of it being challenged or undermined after the fact by a minority will likely diminish.

Root Cause 2: An Adversarial Climate

Another typical root cause for violating the Solidarity Rule is an adversarial climate. Votes may be predetermined before a meeting ever begins, by members “making deals” behind the scene (“I’ll support you on this if you support me on that one”). Recognizing its strength in numbers, the majority acts aggressively, cuts off debate (not allowing enough time for minority input to be heard), and dismisses legitimate minority concerns. In such a setting, the process is flawed from the start, and one set of dysfunctions (predetermined outcomes and an adversarial climate) leads to another (subsequent breaches of the Solidarity Rule, which may be driven more by procedural flaws than by substantive flaws of proposals).
Municipal Finance Authority of BC

Dear Members, Non-Members and Past Delegates:

The Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia Financial Forum and Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 655 Burrard Street, in Vancouver, on Wednesday (AGM) will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Victoria due to the over abundance of interest. We, once again, have interesting speakers and information for you to take back to your community to use.

The conference is open to all interested individuals in local government. Usually around 250 people are in the audience from all parts of this beautiful province and this year we are expecting more; please be sure to register early. We have an excellent accommodation rate at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. Registration and accommodation booking is available through our website at: www.mfa.bc.ca or you may call direct for accommodation to the Hyatt at: 604-683-1234 (please quote “Municipal Finance Authority” when booking).

We welcome all feedback and request that you fill out the evaluation sheet at the end of the day. This helps us to improve in areas needed and provides us with topics for next year.

Thanks to all of you for your support of the MFA Financial Forum and AGM and for making this event possible. We look forward to seeing you in March!

-MFA Staff

ACCOMMODATION FOR 2005 CONVENTION

The UBCM has booked blocks of rooms in the following hotels for delegate accommodations during Convention. Please use the contact information provided below to make your reservation and be sure to indicate that you are a UBCM delegate. If you have any questions about Convention accommodations, please contact the UBCM office with your inquiry. Please note that UBCM does not guarantee hotel rates or availability.

Fairmont Waterfront Hotel ($225 - $296)
900 Canada Place Way
1-866-540-4509
www.fairmont.com

Pan Pacific Hotel ($215 - $236)
300 - 999 Canada Place Way
1-800-327-8585
www.panpacific.com

Delta Vancouver Suites ($195 - $210)
350 West Hastings Street
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Energy Update

The BC energy sector has witnessed considerable activity in the past few months. On February 17th, BC Hydro was given the go-ahead from the BC Utilities Commission to build a 252-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in Duke Point, near Nanaimo. Construction should commence prior to the summer of 2010, bringing the success of any last-minute appeals of the decision that have already been filed with the BC Court of Appeal by opponents of the project.

In response to its forecasted electricity capacity shortfall in 2010, BC Hydro has also initiated its 2005 Open Call for Power process. The Crown Corporation will be purchasing 3,000 Gigawatt-hours of energy from independent power producers later this year, after receiving the approval of the BC Utilities Commission. In addition, Hydro is expecting to issue another 1,000 Gigawatt-hour Call for Power in 2006. These two calls should result in new energy generation from independent power projects (IPPs) that is almost equal to the total IPP generation over the past five years.

On November 1, 2004, BC Hydro announced the signing of an energy purchasing agreement with Holberg Wind Energy GP Inc., after Holberg received its environmental assessment certificate. It is the first time in BC's history that a wind power purchasing agreement has been signed with BC Hydro. The agreement is for 176 gigawatt hours of energy per year for 20 years. The wind farm is to be located eight km west of Holberg, in the Mount Waddington Regional District on North Vancouver Island. The project is able to compete in the energy market due to a one-cent per kilowatt-hour subsidy from the federal government’s Wind Power Production Incentive (WPPP) Program.

Independent Power Production Working Group Up and Running

At the September 2004 UBCM Convention, UBCM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the provincial government on Independent Power Production (IPP). Provincial signatories to the MOU included the Ministers of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, Sustainable Resource Management, Energy, and Mines; and the Crown Corporation will be purchasing 3,000 Gigawatt-hours of energy from independent power producers later this year, after receiving the approval of the BC Utilities Commission.

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Energy Update

The purpose of the MOU is to establish a process by which the BC Offshore Oil and Gas Team will consult with local governments regarding offshore development. More specifically, the MOU states goals are to:

• identify the interests of local government in relation to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas; and
• explore how the interests of local government could be addressed through the fiscal, regulatory, and environmental assessment regimes for the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas.

Meanwhile, the fate of offshore development remains uncertain. The Minister of Industry Canada, David Emerson stated in late February that he expects the federal cabinet to arrive at a decision on whether to lift or maintain the 30-year moratorium sometime in 2006.

The BC Minister of Energy and Mines, Richard Neufeld stated that if the federal government were to lift the moratorium, he would seek a similar deal as the one reached between the federal government and the Maritime Provinces, which guarantees that the provinces will retain all revenues from offshore oil and gas production.

Offshore Oil & Gas

The UBCM Executive has approved the final terms of a Memorandum of Understanding that will be signed with the BC Minister of Energy and Mines regarding offshore oil and gas development. The MOU is presently in the process of being signed by UBCM President, Director Aaron Dinwoodie, Community Economic Development Committee Chair, Councillor Dan Rogers, and the BC Minister of Energy and Mines, Richard Neufeld.

The purpose of the MOU is to establish a process by which the BC Offshore Oil and Gas Team will consult with local governments regarding offshore development. More specifically, the MOU states goals are to:

• developing best practices to coordinate efficient project reviews through harmonization of provincial and local review processes;
• working to ensure that local, regional and provincial interests are appropriately considered in the review of projects and to work toward harmonization of provincial and local government project review mechanisms including the Waterpower Project Guidebook, provincial operational policies, Land and Resource Management Plans, Sustainable Resource Management Plans, Regional Growth Strategies and local government planning and zoning processes.

Local governments are represented on the joint – provincial working group by:

• Director Susan Gimsie, UBCM representative, Squamish-Lillooet RD;
• Steven Olmstead, Director of Planning, Squamish-Lillooet RD;
• Hugh Sloan, Director of Planning, Fraser Valley RD; and
• Douglas Holmes, CAO, Sunshine Coast RD.

Provincial representatives include staff from the Ministries of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services, Sustainable Resource Management, Energy, and Mines, Land and Water BC, as well as ex-officio members from Small Business and Economic Development and Water, Land and Air Protection.

A steering committee of associated Deputy Ministers and UBCM’s Executive Director, Richard Taylor has also been established to oversee the project.

Working group members have met twice and are developing a work plan and terms of reference. Specifically, UBCM representatives have expressed the need for early and ongoing consultations as IPP applications are being considered.

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CITIZENS’ ASSEMBLY REPORT RELEASED
REFERENDUM UPCOMING

The Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform concluded its meetings on provincial electoral reform after releasing its final report on December 10, 2004. The Assembly has recommended a new proportional electoral system – a version of the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system specific to BC. Under the BC-STV system, voters rank candidates by number on the ballot paper. The Assembly asserts that the system “is designed to make every vote count and to reflect voter support for candidates and parties as fairly as possible.” The Assembly settled on the BC-STV system after nearly 10 months of study, research and debate, plus 50 public hearings and 1,603 written submissions from the public.

The final report of the Citizens’ Assembly is now available for download (in English, French, Chinese, and Punjabi) at www.citizensassembly.bc.ca. Also available on the Assembly website are various fact sheets and important affordable planning tools, including a referenda info to provide information about the referendum. In March, the Office will provide access to a designated toll-free line and will mail a brochure to households around the province.

The Province has established a Referendum Information Office and a website (www.gov.bc.ca/ referendum info) to provide information about the referendum. In March, the Office will provide access to a designated toll-free line and will mail a brochure to households around the province.

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Local Government Guides to Improve Affordable Housing in your Community
Submitted by Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services

The Housing Policy Branch of the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women’s Services is in the process of publishing two practical guides for local governments on how to improve affordable housing in their communities. The guides present illustrations of how local governments across BC are making positive changes to increase the supply and affordability of housing. The guides include:

- Secondary Suites: A Guide for Local Governments (Pending, Spring 2005); and

The guides highlight innovative practices and provide practical information for elected local government officials, planners, and others to consider when embarking on new affordable housing initiatives. Topics covered in the guides include: current and important affordable housing themes, land-use planning tools, community planning initiatives, financial incentive programs, housing design considerations and case studies to help local governments develop and implement second-chance programs. A companion document, Planning for Housing, 2004 was recently published, and documents key housing planning tools and practices and how they are being used by local governments in BC. To obtain a copy, please visit the Housing Policy Branch website at www.macas.gov.bc.ca/ housing/planhouse/2004/index.htm. Secondary and the Local Government Guide for Improving Market Housing Affordability will be available late spring, 2005. For copies of any of these documents please contact the Housing Policy Branch at 250.387.7088 or hsgpolbr@gov.bc.ca.

Their constituencies are thousands of kilometers apart on opposite sides of the country, but when they took office, Vancouver Mayor Larry Campbell and Moncton Mayor Lorne Mitton were quick studies when assessing their municipalities’ workplace-education programs. Advocates from the outset, time has only deepened their commitment to the programs as a low-risk investment providing healthy returns, both to the workplace and to the greater community. Unique in their history, design and execution, Vancouver’s and Moncton’s experiences with workplace education offer valuable insights for any organization interested in learning more about the potential scope and span of such a program.

Moncton developed its program in response to a challenge by the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA), which urged municipalities across the country to re-invest in their workforce through workplace education. The city took up the call with a computer-based program designed to provide its workforce with a reading and writing “tune-up” that included either one-on-one sessions or small-group sessions in which employees at different levels, and with different educational objectives, could progress together. The program was launched in 1996 when the city discovered that many of its new residents were restricted in their ability to get a municipal job or build seniority because of limited reading and/or writing skills in either English or French.

Moncton’s program began in 1998 with the aim of upgrading the essential griped that time taken up in the job by employees would undermine their productivity. As well, some Vancouver employees balked at the structure, initially resenting the idea of learning from coast to coast.

WORKPLACE EDUCATION:
PIONEERING PROGRAMS SHOW THE POWER OF LEARNING FROM COAST TO COAST

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Don’t forget to get your resolutions to the UBCM office on time!

REMINDER

2005 Resolutions Deadline is June 30, 2005.
Colin Kinsley, mayor of Prince George, was recently recognized for his outstanding contribution to British Columbia’s wood products industry.

Kinsley received the Community Leader Award at the Canadian Wood Council – Wood WORKS! Excellence in Wood Awards Gala last month. The Prince George mayor received an exquisitely hand-carved wood trophy as recognition for the work and effort he has put into promoting and advancing BC wood products over the past number of years.

The Wood Excellence Awards was sponsored by Wood WORKS!, an initiative of the Canadian Wood Council. The Gala, held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver, honoured winners of eleven different categories, encompassing project specific awards and individual awards.

The Community Leader Award noted that the forest products industry is a vital and important part of the provincial economy and it is key for community leaders to be actively involved in the forest products industry. Criteria for the Award stated the award “be presented to an individual who supports the future of the forest and wood products industry in British Columbia.”

This is not the first time the mayor’s efforts have been applauded. He received the Minister of Forests Award of Excellence for his outstanding contributions to forestry in British Columbia. He was recently recognized by Premier Gordon Campbell for his efforts to ensure wood was used in the northern medical program building at the University of Northern British Columbia.

“It is no secret that the mayor frequently gives up his weekends and holidays in order to travel and meet with ministers and other government leaders, both at home and abroad in his on-going efforts to ensure wood is used wherever possible,” Tracey said. “It doesn’t matter where he is, or what he is doing, he is always thinking of the importance of the forest and wood products industry in British Columbia.”

“Mayor Colin Kinsley was indeed a very worthy recipient,” Tracey noted. “I’m pleased to say that Mayor Kinsley was a very worthy recipient, he has gone far beyond the call of duty, working on behalf of the wood products industry in this province. His dedication and commitment to the economy has been outstanding.”

Tracey noted that in addition to advocating the use of wood in his own city, the mayor promotes wood throughout the province and overseas. He has spearheaded initiatives to pass ‘Build with Wood Resolutions’, initially in Prince George, then through NCMA, UBCM and FCM. He has served on the Wood WORKS! provincial steering committee and has been extensively involved in softwood lumber negotiations.

“One example of his commitment to BC’s number one industry is evidenced in the fact that anytime the mayor visits another city or country, his gifts are made of wood,” Tracey said. “It doesn’t matter where he is, or what he is doing, he is always thinking of the importance of the forest and wood products industry in British Columbia.”

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Wood has been used as building material for centuries. For so long, perhaps, that some people have begun to take its key advantages for granted. The truth is, however, that if wood could be reintroduced to the world today as a ‘new’ product, everyone would be amazed by its qualities.
BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVIDES NEW TOOLS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

By: Ted G. Bochan: A.A.S., C.F.O.

Following the devastating fire losses of the 2003 fire season across North America, fire services professionals and emergency planners gathered to study the “lessons learned”. The loss of over twenty lives and four thousand structures prompted a series of political inquiries, studies and litigation into the events of those horrible days and nights. Many positive recommendations dealing with fuel reduction strategies, building codes, emergency communications systems and emergency planning were mandated.

One of the most positive tactical recommendations came from the province of British Columbia who suffered the most severe fire season in the province’s history. The Filman Report commissioned by the British Columbia government recommended the increased use of protective sprinkler systems as a tool to prevent home ignition. On April 17, 2004, Premier Gordon Campbell of British Columbia announced that the province would provide one million dollars in support of the sprinkler protection program. Through a memorandum of agreement between the Government of British Columbia and Union of British Columbia Municipalities, a working committee was put into place to make recommendations for implementation of the program by July 15, 2004. Agencies participating on the working group are:

- Union of British Columbia Municipalities
- Project Manager – Doug Allan
- Office of the Fire Commissioner
- Ministry of Forests
- Association of British Columbia Fire Chiefs
- Provincial Emergency Programs
- Thompson/Nicola Regional District
- Project Technical Consultant – E-Max Emergency Services Consultants Ltd.

It was agreed to look at the sprinkler protection programs of both Alberta and Ontario who are considered leaders in this field. A brief overview of each program was provided to the committee members. Ontario’s program is known as the “Mobile Values Protection Unit” and comes from a long history of protecting structures in the interface area. Ontario’s expertise in the values protection area was very evident in both Montana in 2000 and British Columbia in 2003 when Ontario successfully defended numerous structures using their sprinkler equipment.

In Alberta a similar process has evolved with three 18-foot cargo type trailers strategically located at three locations within the province. These units can be dispatched through the Provincial Fire Control Center in Edmonton to any required location. Assignment of these units to a WUI fire is accompanied by a Structural Protection Coordinator who can act as an Incident Branch Director or Interface Section Chief dependent on the complexity of the incident.

The use of protective sprinkler systems evolves from a sound scientific principle which says “wet fuel is less likely to ignite than dry unprotected fuel”. Research also confirms that structural ignition is most likely to ignite than dry unprotected fuel. The most spectacular battle occurred at Crazy Bear Lake where an elaborate sprinkler system and back burn saved a fishing lodge and cabins. Firefighters evacuated to a nearby island to watch as the fire approached the buildings with flames reaching 130 feet into the air. By late August all three Structural Protection Units were assigned to interface fires across the province.

Unquestionably the success of the program is due to the strong support and leadership provided by the Office of the Fire Commissioner. In addition to providing training to both wildland and municipal firefighters, the Office of the Fire Commissioner took the lead role in the deployment of the Structural Protection Units when requested by the Ministry of Forests. The program will continue into 2005 when the committee will consider additional trailer units and implementation of a community sprinkler program.

In spite of their obvious success, protective sprinkler systems are not a magic bullet which can save all structures from wildfire.

Other tactical operations such as mechanical fireguard, aerial suppression and retardants, hand burnout and aerial ignition, protective operations with Class “A” foam and gel engine company operations all play an important role in protecting structures from wildfire.

About The Author:

Ted Bochan is a thirty-six year veteran of the fire service with operational experience in both structural and wild land firefighting. Since his retirement as Deputy Chief of Operations with the City of Lethbridge, he has provided consulting services to the insurance industry, municipal, provincial and state governments in both Canada and the U.S.A.

Ted holds as Associate Degree in Fire Science from Spokane Community College and a diploma in Fire Prevention and Investigation from the Lethbridge Community College. Ted is a Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) and was awarded the Chief Fire Officer Professional (CFO) designation from the Canadian Association of Fire Chief’s in 2000. Ted is also a Life Member of the Alberta Fire Chief’s Association.