CLIMATES OF CHANGE – A CALL TO ACTION

The 2007 Convention theme – Climates of Change – embraces social, economic, cultural and political climates of change, as well as environmental aspects of climate change. However, in the area of environmental climate change, there is the potential for some significant steps to be made at the 2007 Convention. In July, the UBCM Executive met with Premier Campbell and Minister Chong to discuss the provincial government’s climate change and Green Communities initiatives and the involvement of, and implications for, local governments.

The Premier spoke of the Province’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 33% below current levels by 2020 and stated that the BC government would be carbon neutral by 2010. He stressed that the government was very committed to reaching these goals but the Province couldn’t do it alone and would need to work in partnership with others. He would like to see local governments establish targets as well. He discussed a number of specific initiatives, such as the green Building Code, smart planning, a climate change registry, reduction of landfill emissions, realigning grant programs to assist projects that reduce greenhouse gases, and denser, more compact development.

Out of that meeting came an agreement to explore the development of a Climate Change Charter under which the Province, UBCM and its members could signal their commitment to work jointly towards climate change objectives. At the July Convention, the Province’s Climate Change Action Plan was released at the opening session.

The Convention is about many things, such as setting policy and learning new ideas that can help communities with the challenges facing them. It is also an important time each year to hear from provincial government and other leaders about policies and directions that will affect communities and local government.

A strong provincial presence is a hallmark of UBCM Conventions. A number of ministers will be involved in sessions that highlight local-provincial partnerships on the Monday and Tuesday afternoon – such as building code enforcement and new green building.

Provincial Leaders Confirmed for 2007 Convention

T he Convention, now in its fifth year, brings together communities interested in learning about policy and directions that will affect communities and local government. It is dedicated to provincial government interest in a variety of important issues and again means that we can look forward to a busy and productive policy forum at this year’s Convention.

UBCM members submitted a total of 261 resolutions by the June 30 deadline this year – 35 more than last year, which was the previous record holder at 226. The annual average over the past 15 years has been about 180 resolutions, increasing to an average of 215 over the past five years. At 261 resolutions, 2007 has certainly boosted the average! Convention resolution sessions provide a crucial opportunity for UBCM members to set the policy of the organization and, indeed, the annual resolutions process is fundamental to UBCM’s ongoing advocacy work on behalf of BC’s local governments. The large number of resolutions submitted over the past several years signals ongoing and increasing local government interest in a variety of important issues and again means that we can look forward to a busy and productive policy forum at this year’s Convention.


**New UBCM Executive Director Appointed**

UBCM President Brenda Binnie is pleased to announce the appointment of Gary MacIsaac as the new Executive Director of the Union of BC Municipalities.

"We conducted a national search and Mr. MacIsaac was agreed to by the Search Committee and all groups we consulted with to be the next leader for the UBCM secretariat", said President Binnie. "Gary brings leadership and vision to the position."

Mr. MacIsaac has most recently served as Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of the County of Colchester, Nova Scotia, a position he has held for the past nine years. He guided the municipality through a major leadership change, a leader, including winning a Municipal Innovation Award in 2003. His previous appointment was in the Clerks Office at the City of Vancouver.

MacIsaac was appointed in July to begin the recruitment process, and to what he thought were the challenges at the local level, he took up the mantle and outlined the many activities already at work in communities throughout the province being lead by local governments. We talked of what the two orders of government could do together and how we might formalize a joint commitment to action on climate change and the Premier suggested to the Prime Minister the formation of the Partnership of the Union of BC Municipalities.

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2007 UBCM Community Excellence Awards

The following 38 communities are leading the way across BC in Best Practices, Leadership & Innovation and Partnerships. A total of 59 submissions were received this year.

City of Abbotsford
City of Campbell River
City of Castlegar
City of Colwood
City of Coquitlam
City of Chilliwack
City of Dawson Creek
City of Kamloops
City of Kelowna
City of Langford
City of Langley
City of Nanaimo
City of New Westminster
City of North Vancouver
City of Pitt Meadows
City of Prince George
City of Pitt Meadows
City of North Vancouver
City of New Westminster
City of Prince Rupert
City of Prince George
City of Port Coquitlam
City of Port Moody
City of Powell River
City of Revelstoke
City of Richmond
City of Rossland
City of Saint John's
City of South Surrey
City of Squamish
City of Squamish
City of Surrey
City of Thunder Bay
City of Trail
City of Vancouver
City of Victoria
City of West Vancouver
City of Whitehorse
City of Williams Lake


EffectiVe Electoral area direct or Workshop Proposes New DirectionS

Good attendance and an uninhibited spirited discussion characterized the first ever stand alone session for Electoral Area Directors outside of the UBCM Convention.

NearlY 60 Electoral Area directors attended the June 12 - 13, 2007 session, which is about one-third of the total Electoral Area Directors in BC. Chaired by UBCM Executive Electoral Area Representative Director Terry Raymond, the session was a follow-up to a request for such a session at the last UBCM Regional District Day. Expertly facilitated by Gord McIntosh, he modified the agenda during the session to meet the interests of those attending. They then engaged in developing an action plan for addressing the interests of Electoral Area Directors.

As a consequence, the session ended up with extremely good ratings and a strong candidate to become a permanent part of the UBCM annual meeting calendar. It's that in 11 of the last 24 years there has been no dues increase. Historically our dues increases are below inflation.

The pre-eliminary budget will be presented to the 2007 Convention.

Jeff McKElvey SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Financial Statement – as at June 30, 2007
Balance June 30, 2006 $99,636.06
Interest Income: 3,179.96
2005 - 2006 scholarships to be paid pending supporting documentation $480.00
Scholarships Approved For Payment - 2007 ($4,465.00)
June 30, 2007 Bank Balance $98,831.02
2005 - 2006 scholarships to be paid pending supporting documentation ( 480.00)
Balance After Scholarships $ 99,351.02

AKBLG Convention Dates Changed

Dates for the 2008 Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government Annual General Meeting have been changed, the new dates are April 17 - 19, 2008. Please mark your calendars!
**Healthy Communities**

**Health Authorities and Local Governments**

Local governments have continued to express concerns regarding on-going challenges in their relations with Health Authorities. UBCM has been pursuing this topic since 2005. The focus has been on issues of communication, consultation and accountability between the Health Authorities and local governments, including Regional Hospital Districts (RHD). There also continues to be concerns around the issue of capital cost sharing between Health Authorities and Regional Hospital Districts. Despite a review of the Capital Cost Sharing process in 2003, commissioned by the Ministry of Health Services, RHDs continue to express concerns in this area.

UBCM conducted a survey of all local governments, Regional Hospital Districts, and Health Authorities in 2006. The survey focused on activities and initiatives between Health Authorities and local governments, and communication and consultation mechanisms. The results of the survey were presented at the session on health issues at the 2006 Convention.

During the 2006 Convention, the membership referred resolution B157 to the Executive Committee. This resolution called for a provincial discussion and review of the current health authority framework. Since Convention, the Healthy Communities Committee has been pursuing this issue. Recently, Director Susie Gimsse approached and asked to facilitate a meeting between Regional Hospital District Chairs to discuss a number of issues, particularly related to capital planning and communications. This meeting was held on August 2, 2007 with participants from fifteen of the 23 RHDs.

The purpose of the Regional Hospital District meeting was to prioritize the issues in advance of planned discussions with the Ministry at the 2007 Convention. Meeting participants noted that in many cases, relations have been slowly improving since Health Authority restructuring in 2001. Participants agreed that discussions with the Ministry and the Health Authorities are needed, and identified priority issues as Long Term Planning/Funding, the Funding Formulas, Budget Cycle and Cash Management. The meeting concluded with a decision to prepare a report based upon the recommendations of the 2003 Regional Hospital District Capital Cost Sharing Review. The report will serve as an update to the 2003 Review and discuss how the Review’s recommendations have or have not been incorporated into practice from the RHD perspective. The RHDs would be recommending to the Minister to undertake a joint Ministry, RHD and HA review of the progress in implementing the 2003 recommendations and what needs to be done if the recommended directions have not been achieved.

The meeting participants also asked UBCM to collect copies of the Memorandum of Understanding and/or protocol agreements signed by Regional Hospital Districts. These agreements will be posted on the UBCM website as a resource tool for other Hospital Districts.

The Healthy Communities Committee is currently planning a Tuesday afternoon session at this year’s Convention on the topic of relations with Health Authorities. Further details on this session will be forthcoming.

**First Responders**

The Healthy Communities Committee reviewed the report “First Responders, Fire Services and Pre-hospital Emergency Care in British Columbia” at their July meeting. This report was originally presented to the Emergency Health Services Commission in March 2007. The report focused on the role of first responders in the provision of pre-hospital care and more specifically on the role of fire services in providing first response services. It contains 30 recommendations regarding the role of the Emergency Health Services Commission, as well as measures intended to resolve problems and to improve the provision of first response service to the public.

The BC model of pre-hospital care sees first response as a local government responsibility while “higher level” pre-hospital care and transportation to hospital is funded by the province, governed by a provincial commission and provided by the provincial BC Ambulance Service. The First Response program is not a replacement of BCAS services, but rather a support for it. First Response is offered by many local government agencies because they feel it is a service that should be offered to their residents. They are authorized to offer it by subsection 8 (2) of the Community Charter, whereby a “municipality may provide any service that the council considers necessary or desirable”. Regional Districts may also offer First Response services under a similar provision from subsection 2(b) of the Local Government Act.

The report’s recommendations covered a broad range of issues. Three themes are of particular importance to local governments as providers of First Response services: the medical oversight of First Responders (FRs); training, testing and licensing requirements for FRs; and recruitment and retention. The following themes were covered:

- **Higher level** ambulances: Ambulance Services.
- **Lower level** ambulances: First Responders.
- **Community Collaboration**: The importance of working in collaboration with local communities.

To follow up, at the November 2006 Executive Meeting, the Healthy Communities Committee recommended conveying the results of the survey to the Minister of Health. As well, UBCM urged the Minister to provide financial support for ambulance worker training through local course delivery or fee and travel assistance for ambulance workers. UBCM also requested that the Province review the impacts of current pay rates for rural and remote ambulance workers and its effect on the retention and training of ambulance workers. These requests were made with a view towards increasing the rates of retention of trained ambulance workers in these communities.

UBCM received responses from Minister Abbott and Fred Platteel, CEO of BC Ambulance Service (BCAS). Minister Abbott and Mr. Platteel outlined the following initiatives to improve ambulance service in BC:

- Local and regional BCAS staff are working in communities with paramedic shortages to attract qualified individuals to BCAS.

**Amulance Service**

At their July 2006 meeting, the Healthy Communities Committee directed staff to conduct a survey of small rural and isolated communities regarding ambulance service. Several communities had already communicated their concerns regarding staff training and retention. The survey was sent out in August 2006 and the results presented at the Electoral Area Directors Forum at Convention. Furthermore, at that Convention, members endorsed resolution B48 “therefore be it resolved that there be no distinction in the pay category of standby ambulance attendants in rural and remote communities, and that all areas of BC be entitled to equal service.”

During convention, the Ministry of Health issued a release, which advised that pay rates for ambulance service attendants were established as part of the collective agreement between the government and ambulance workers.

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- Local and regional BCAS staff are working in communities with paramedic shortages to attract qualified individuals to BCAS.

**Celebrate your forest pride and nominate your community to be the 2008 Forest Capital of BC**

The Forest Capital program

Each year, the ABCFP selects one community to be the Forest Capital of BC. This program, established in 1988, is an important opportunity to celebrate the central role forests play in shaping our unique BC experience.

Make 2008 the year to celebrate forests in your community

The Forest Capital designation is an excellent way to get your whole community involved in a celebration of the important contributions forests have made to your community’s heritage. Communities named the Forest Capital host a full year of forest-themed events such as art competitions, interpretive forest walks and logger sports days.

Nominate your community today

Every community in BC is eligible to be nominated. The nomination process is outlined in the Forest Capital Nomination Package available on the ABCFP website at: www.abcfp.ca

Nominations Deadline: November 15, 2007

The ABCFP will evaluate nominations based on a community’s relationship to its surrounding forests and the strength of the bid proposal. The winning community will be announced in December 2007 and will carry the Forest Capital of BC title from January 1 to December 31, 2008.

Visit the ABCFP website for more information: www.abcfp.ca
SEWERAGE SYSTEM REGULATION: UPDATE

The legislation governing the activities surrounding on-site sewage disposal systems in British Columbia changed on May 31, 2005 from the Sewage Disposal Regulation to the Sewerage System Regulation (SSR). The change marked the departure from a very prescriptive regulation to an outcome-based, industry accountable, administrative regulation.

The Sewerage System Regulation has raised implementation challenges for several local governments throughout the province. From increased costs to homeowners, to a lack of flexibility in septic system installations, to liability issues, to an absence of qualified practitioners and professionals, local governments have increasingly voiced concerns over the Regulation.

UBCM has been actively working with the Regulation’s implementing agencies over the past year and a half to identify and address implementation challenges, and minimize the impact of the SSR. As part of its advocacy efforts, UBCM distributed a survey that was designed to assess local government implementation experiences with the SSR, as well as to identify specific issues and potential solutions for ameliorating the problems caused by the SSR. Overall, the survey results demonstrated that there was a lack of support for the key principles of the SSR, and that the Regulation has caused implementation problems provincially.

In order to elevate discussions on the SSR, the

UBCM “Local Government and the Environment” Conference - June 27 & 28

UBCM hosted a two-day conference on June 27th and 28th at the Best Western, Riccarton, entitled “Local Government and the Environment.” This year’s environment conference built upon the success of, and recommendations received at, the 2005 UBCM Environment Conference. It provided regulatory updates, identified existing gaps in the management of environmental issues, and outlined tools that local governments could use in decision-making processes. The conference fostered critical discussion around best practices and innovative community programs, as well as explored the development of effective partnerships amongst all orders of government.

The conference tackled some of the most pressing environmental issues facing communities across the province, including climate change, contaminated sites, sewerage systems, alternative energy and water stewardship. The conference program also included opportunities for delegates to speak with senior provincial and federal staff on environmental policies, regulations, and community programs.

Provincial interest in this conference was particularly high — the Deputy Minister, three (3) assistant deputy ministers, and (2) executive directors from the provincial Ministry of Environment were in attendance throughout both days of the conference.

Over 160 delegates from local government, provincial and federal ministries, and non-governmental organizations attended the conference, with participation from 61 municipalities and regional districts. The conference had 14 sessions with over 50 speakers, including Pradeep Khare, Regional Director General, Pacific & Yukon Region, Environment Canada, and Chris Trumpy, Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Environment. The conference was a joint partnership between Environment Canada, the Georgia Basin Action Plan, the BC Ministry of Environment, the BC Ministry of Health and the provincial Ministry of Community Services.

Conference presentations are now available on the UBCM website. For further information about the conference, please contact Jared Wright, Senior Policy Analyst, at 604-270-8226 (ext. 113) or jwright@civicnet.bc.ca.

Electronic Waste Product Stewardship Program Launched

On August 1st, 2007, the Electronics Stewardship Association of BC (ESABC) launched their province-wide, industry-led electronics stewardship program. The program is designed to reduce the amount of e-waste going into municipal landfills.

ESABC has contracted Encorp Pacific to deliver their program in B.C., in which Encorp will collect and recycle computers, monitors, desktop printers and TVs. ESABC represents the majority of electronics producers selling products in BC although other organizations are also submitting recycling and reuse plans for Ministry of Environment approval.

The new e-waste stewardship program will be funded by an industry-set environmental handling charge paid by consumers on the purchase of new electrical and electronic equipment.

For further information on BC’s electronic stewardship plan, visit www.recycling.gov.bc.ca. For information on ESABC’s program, such as collection points and depots, please visit Encorp’s website at www.encorpinc.com/electronics.


continued on page 6

BC Transit – On the Right Route

After the Governance and Funding Review

The Minister of Transport, Honourable Kevin Falcon called for reviews of both Translink (transit and other regional transportation services in GVRD) and of BC Transit (transit within the rest of the province). The provincial response to the first report was in part presented in form of legislative amendments to the GVTA structure during the spring legislative session this year. This spring the UBCM Presidents Committee met with Minister Falcon to discuss the outcome of the BC Transit review. They agreed that it would be important to report out to the local governments on the key findings. The following is a report prepared by the Ministry of Transportation. The year-long Governance and Funding Review has confirmed that BC Transit’s operations compare favourably with, and in many instances exceed, the performance of transit systems in other jurisdictions.

Goverance

Favourable analysis and comparisons are due, in large part, to the corporation’s shared-services business model. When compared to other jurisdictions, on average the BC Transit systems have:

• Higher efficiency and lower operating costs per service hour
• Higher effectiveness and higher ridership performance
• Lower fare box revenue contributions
• Lower municipal government contributions
• Higher provincial government contributions

Given the positive results of the review the government may consider relatively minor governance adjustments such as developing a provincial transit policy focus of the Ministry of Transportation by establishing the role of “Director of Public Transit”.

Funding

The government has authorized the use of $15 million from land sales and GST refunds to BC Transit for funding of core transit services. Also, the February 2007 Provincial Budget outlined additional public transit funding:

• $22.4 Million (federal Public Transit Capital Trust) to flow directly to BC Transit over the next 2 years to fund the provincial share of vehicle purchases for high-priority service expansion
• $52.5 Million (federal Public Transit Capital Municipalities and regional districts. The conference had 14 presentations with over 50 speakers, including Pradeep Khare, Regional Director General, Pacific & Yukon Region, Environment Canada, and Chris Trumpy, Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Environment. The conference was a joint partnership between Environment Canada, the Georgia Basin Action Plan, the BC Ministry of Environment, the BC Ministry of Health and the provincial Ministry of Community Services. Conference presentations are now available on the UBCM website. For further information about the conference, please contact Jared Wright, Senior Policy Analyst, at 604-270-8226 (ext. 113) or jwright@civicnet.bc.ca.

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Continued on page 6
On the Right Route

Railway Safety Act Review

Transport Canada in its review of the Railway Safety Act has indicated that it will be looking at the legislative and regulatory framework that the Act operates; the environmental concerns with respect to railway transport of dangerous goods; and accidents; the interface with non-railway users and railway safety initiatives. The two-day conference serves to highlight the ongoing working relationship that exists between rail and local government - economic development, land use development, transportation and public safety to name a few.

Outlined below is a summary of some of the key issues that have been raised by local government regarding railway operations, through resolutions and feed back to the UBCM:

Railway Crossings

- Railway operators be required to work with local governments to ensure that rail crossing initiatives provide effective public safety (signage, fencing etc.).
- Railway operators be required to work with local governments to develop appropriate separation buffers in urban areas and measures to protect and support pedestrian users of rail crossings.

Emergency Planning

- Require railway operators to work with local governments to ensure that local emergency plans are designed to address possible hazards that could occur in their jurisdictions;
- Require railway operators to fully compensate local government for any local resources utilized when responding to an emergency within municipal boundaries - railway derailment, chemical spill etc.;
- Ensure access to railway lands when an emergency occurs - derailment, chemical spill etc.

Environmental Issues

- Ensure that railway operators are required to contain the emission of coal dust from rail cars transporting coal;
- Require railway operators to implement an Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) to control noxious weeds along rights-of-way;
- Require that the environmental impact of railway operations is minimized by ensuring that rights-of-way are properly maintained

Infrastructure Funding

- Railway operators are required to fund infrastructure, such as fencing at critical locations and improved grade crossings for pedestrians and cyclists in urban areas;
- Ensure that railway companies are required to properly fence their lands to protect the public. In the case of agricultural land the rail operators pay for the maintenance and materials for fencing of rail lines through private property.

Building A Safer Community

BCM is organizing a two-day crime prevention conference entitled: “Building A Safer Community: Gang, Drug and Domestic Violence Issues.” The conference is being held on October 31 and November 1, 2007 at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond.

The conference is a partnership between the UBCM, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the RCMP, the Ministry of Community Services and the Criminal Justice Reform Secretariat. One of the goals of the conference is to work towards the ongoing development of an educated and active network of local governments all working together to address local crime issues. A further goal of the conference is to enhance the capacity of local governments to take a lead role in the prevention of crime at the local level.

The conference will provide local government with information on the overall crime situation in the province and the new measures that the province is looking to implement to prevent crime reduction strategies local governments might adopt to deal with local concerns and new tools they might use in dealing with gang issues, drug problems and domestic violence issues in the local community. There will be an opportunity for local governments to provide feedback into provincial initiatives and to share information with others in the same network.

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Vance, Senior Policy Advisor at 604.270.8226 (Ext. 114) or kvance@civicnet.bc.ca.
Building Code Changes

Continued from page 6

- staff, cost to expand building inspection network, financial cost to local residents in small communities/rural areas.
- BCAS and the Ministry of Community, Social and Rural Development (MCSRD) is the only public sector agency to provide mandatory "building inspection" for public buildings and high-risk areas.
- A number of local governments in the consultations noted that in some cases local governments have been withdrawing from building code enforcement because they face a liability burden disproportionate to their actual responsibility for defective buildings. As one local government described the problem:

  Under joint and several liability, any person found responsible for even a small degree of fault can be called upon by the successful plaintiff to pay 100% of the damages. In a typical defective building case, such as a leaky condo, defendants would include the architect, the builder, the subcontractors and the suppliers of materials. All of the private sector defendants are capable of paying for themselves from judgements through numbered companies, minimal income, public bankruptcy, etc. whereas the municipality has essentially unlimited and no possible assets in perpetuity. If a court finds that negligible municipal inspections were responsible for 5% of the damages, the municipality can be called upon to pay 100% of the damages if the other defendants have no ability to pay. A number of local governments raised the need to ensure the competency of the "building inspectors" and it was suggested that if this was improved it would reduce the number and frequency of inspections that are currently undertaken. It was pointed out that the BC Safety Authority or a private sector agency.

Sewerage System

Continued from page 5

UBCM Executive also approved the establishment of a working group of regional districts to review the implementation of the Regulation with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community Services.

The UBCM Sewerage System Regulation working group was recently struck with a mandate to review the SSR and address local government on-septic system issues through the identification of policy changes and/or regulatory amendments where appropriate.

The UBCM Sewerage System Regulation working group met three times in June and July. The first meeting focused on approval of the scope and mandate of the group via approval of the terms of reference, as well as local government implementation issues. It also reviewed the UBCM SSR survey results, identified the key issues of concern, and identified potential solutions for addressing local government concerns. The second meeting of the working group focused on reviewing and agreeing on a draft action plan, which outlines a series of deliverables that stakeholders will be called upon to secure prior to the September UBCM Convention. The action plan will be founded on the working group’s discussions and efforts.

The third meeting reviewed progress on developing an action plan deliverables.

UBCM President Brenda Bennie and UBCM Executive Director Richard Taylor have also been in attendance at the working group meetings, and will continue to attend to ensure the expeditious identification of solutions. The working group is expected to meet in early September, prior to the UBCM Convention.

As part of its awareness efforts, UBCM also included a panel discussion on the Sewerage System Regulation at its June 27/28 “Local Government Annual Conference” held at the Best Western Inn in Richmond. The panel featured local government representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Community Services, and the British Columbia On-site Sewage Association, and focused on outlining measures that have been taken to date to address local government implementation concerns.

In short, UBCM has identified the Sewerage System Regulation as a key concern, and will continue to work with the Province on rectifying the implementation of the Regulation and addressing local governments face.

For further information on the working group, please contact Jared Wright, Senior Policy Analyst at jwright@civicnet.bc.ca.

UBCM NEWS AUGUST 2007

7

Ambulance Service

Continued from page 4

• BCAS is discussing with Health Authorities and the Ambulance Paramedics of BC recommendations, solutions, such as integrating paramedics into situations where their skills can help meet the broader health needs of small communities;
• BCAS is looking at considering ways to improve access to training, closer to the communities;
• BCAS provided $6 million in funding in 2006/2007 for paramedic continuing education;
• BCAS provided one-time funding for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Bridging courses for 124 individuals to move from Occupational First Aid level to EMR level, working towards meeting the demand for work with BCAS; and
• The Province provides $1.1 million annually to subsidize paramedic training through the Justice Institute of BC.

Minister Abbott and Mr. Plateel both acknowledged that recruiting and retaining qualified individuals is not a new issue, nor is it unique to BCAS.

Members continue to express concerns that there is not adequate staffing in underserved areas. There are demands for ambulance service, and that pay levels may not be adequate to retain or attract trained personnel, particularly where they may be in demand by local government. This topic will continue to be pursued by the Healthy Communities Committee.

Discussions Continue on the Single Business Licence Initiative

D i s c u s s i o n s continue between the Province and UBCM members on the Single Business Licence Initiative. The Ministry of Community and Social Development (MCSD) and the British Columbia Ambulance Services Commission (BCAS) have provided updates on the implementation of the Initiative.

The F r e s t R e s p o n d e r s

Continued from page 4

is an overview of these issues and the related recommendations.

The Emergency Health Services Commission (EHSC) is responsible for providing medical oversight to pre-hospital care services and does not regulate the Ambulance Paramedics and First Responders. Medical oversight consists of standards, guidelines and protocols for pre-hospital care. In practice, the EHSC has not formally communicated its medical oversight to First Responder agencies. In many cases, the protocols and procedures have been communicated to the FR agencies through BCAS paramedics and volunteers that operate as First Responders. The report recommends that the EHSC work to provide the appropriate medical oversight to FR agencies.

On the issue of training, testing and licensing, the report recognizes that the cost of training for FRs in rural/remote areas is substantial, both in time and financial aspects. Further, in rural and remote areas there may be a greater potential for delays in paramedic resources. In some cases, further training for first responders may be beneficial, however these locations also pose the greatest difficulty in acquiring paramedic training. The report recommended that the EHSC prioritize Community Paramedics forFRs in rural and remote communities where no recognized training courses are offered locally. A policy for bursaries or tuition assistance should also be created to cover the costs of EMR bridging courses in specified areas that would particularly benefit from EMR-trained responders.

The report considered the value of upgrading the minimum requirements for a First Responder to the EMR level as the fee for advancement. Against this change it may lead to the loss or reduction in the FR rank in some areas of the province.

For rural and remote agencies, particularly volunteer agencies, there is not a number of difficulties in attracting and retaining the FR agencies. The cost to train and equip personnel is high. Individuals interested in volunteering may be discouraged by the training time and costs involved. The report noted that the FR/ population ratio is far lower in the north than in other areas. The report recommended that the EHSC prioritize these Cape Grade agencies in northern BC, and will continue to work with the FR agencies to increase its service in underserved areas, particularly in northern BC, and will continue to work with the FR agencies to increase its service in underserved areas, particularly in northern BC.

First Responders

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At its July Executive meeting, the Healthy Communities Committee recommended expressing our support for these recommendations of the Ministry of Health and request that the Province recognize that these recommendations have been involved in any further consultations around the provision of pre-hospital care services in underserved areas, particularly in northern BC, and will continue to work with the FR agencies to increase its service in underserved areas, particularly in northern BC.
MINISTER MAKES CHANGES TO REGIONAL DISTRICT STRUCTURES

Recently the Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services, made three announcements that began a shift, in her words, “to helping individual regional districts resolve their particular challenges”. One was to visit the Comox Strathcona Regional District to two regional districts. The other was to integrate the Northern Rockies Regional District and Fort Nelson into a regional municipality with the powers of a district, regional district and regional hospital district. The latter re-organization has been talked about for many years. Finally, she invited the three Okanagan Regional Districts to discuss regional governance structures.

Mandatory Assessment Averaging

M inister of Small Business and Revenue, the Honourable Rick Thorpe, has asked UBCM for its views on a system of assessment averaging that would be mandated throughout the province. In the late 1980s, two studies looked at the tax impacts of large, particularly residential assessment increases. These studies were the joint UBCM-provincial government “Financing Local Government” report and the “Property Tax Review” - a four person panel of two Ministers, the UBCM resident and a member of the public. Recommendations in those reports led to the Municipal Act and the Vancouver Charter to allow municipalities to choose one of two things:
- average assessment over the current and two previous years (three year averaging); or
- provide for the phase-in of significant increases in assessments.

The City of Vancouver adopted three year averaging. No other municipalities have adopted either approach to mitigating assessment increases.

While these options are available for municipalities, there is no corresponding provision for unincorporated rural areas where taxes are levied by the provincial Surveyor of Taxes.

Under the Minister’s suggestion, residential and commercial assessments, both municipal and rural, would be averaged. The proposal would create a staff report on the proposal at its next meeting. The views of members would be welcomed.

The new direction will involve the division of the CSRD into two separate regional districts. The two new regional districts will be focused on the Comox Valley area (CVRD), and the Stratocum-Campbell River area (SCRD), respectively.

The Minister proceeded to outline a number of specifics of the new direction with CVRD:
- CVRD to develop a Regional Growth Strategy;
- CVRD to create a regional water survey system;
- municipalities asked to relax current policies to facilitate water treatment projects; areas beyond their boundaries facing serious water quality and on-site sewage disposal issues;
- harmonize development cost charges.

The target date for implementation of these critical elements is December 31, 2007. In both new regional districts, two electoral areas would be merged and that element would be effective at the next local government elections. Finally, the Minister committed funding to provide for the implementation and transition strategies.

Climate Change/Green Communities Joint Committees Proposed

M inister of Community Services, Honourable Ida Chong, and the UBCM Executive have agreed in principle to establishing three staff groups to support joint provincial-provincial districts on the goals of reducing greenhouse gases and of building green communities.

The first would be a steering committee with responsibilities for overall coordination, initiating, tracking initiatives in other ministries such as the green building code; landfill methane gas capture; increased density along transit lines; and assessment and fees for small unit, secondary housing. Currently they are looking to maximize the opportunities offered by the upcoming UBCM Convention sessions in order to ensure relevance to the Ministry’s initiative in the municipalities.

The group will also work on more fundamental issues, including:
- describing what is a small “green” community or a “green” rural community;
- considering if local government has the right tools to pursue the goals and what new tools might be needed in land use planning for instance;
- defining the meaning of a carbon neutral local government.

Initially, two “action” working groups have been formed. These working groups have thematic practice areas but are also pursuing a number of specific initiatives identified in the Throne Speech, the Budget and the Premier’s 2006 speech to UBCM and by UBCM itself.

Capacity Building Working Group - Building Capacity for local government to meet the goals.

- The purpose is to build capacity of local governments to meet the goals of greenhouse gas reduction and build green communities.

Information is a logical first step but the working group would also analyze the information to determine what is not being done and why.

UBCM and Province to Sign TILMA Consultation Agreement

UBCM and the Ministries of Economic Development and Community Services have entered into a Consultation Agreement on how local governments will be consulted on the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA). The Consultation Agreement is the result of a request by the UBCM Executive to the Minister responsible for TILMA, the Honourable Colin Hansen, during their meeting in April 2007.

The Minister signaled his support for the development of the Agreement pursuant to section 277 of the Community Charter. This section of the Charter provides for a Minister to enter into an arrangement with UBCM respecting consultations on “interprovincial, national or international issues or agreements, or other matter that affects local governments or the Province”.

The purpose of this Consultation Agreement is outlined as follows:

- “...to establish an effective intergovernmental mechanism to obtain and share information with the Parties, in order to inform negotiations to extend the TILMA to local governments in BC. This Consultation Agreement establishes the framework by which the Parties will consult and make any proposed special provisions, exclusions and transitional provisions related to the required negotiations with Alberta.”

- “...it is noted that the Agreement not only provides a mechanism for consultation but confirms a second commitment made by the Minister at the April meeting – a UC representative has been invited to participate in the negotiation table and be part of the negotiations involving matters concerning the extension of the TILMA to local governments. Similar status was granted to UBCM during the RCPM contract negotiations and more recently as part of the UBCM negotiations process.

With the framework for discussions and consultation established with the Agreement, UBCM will begin to enter into discussions with the Province on issues of interest to local governments. Once we are able to definitively determine what the potential impacts will be for members we will begin to bring forward issues to negotiate any proposed special provisions, exclusions and transitional provisions. There is a two-year transitional period to engage the Province in these discussions.

A special UBCM pre-conference session on TILMA will be held on Monday, September 24, 2007 at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Climate of Change

Continued from page 1

Executive meeting, the Minister and Executive considered a working draft Climate Charter. The Charter would emphasize the common goals of greenhouse gas reduction. It would also be a document that individual local governments could sign on to and make their specific commitments.

The Charter would establish a joint Provincial-UBCM Green Communities Working Group and provide a mechanism for consultation. Working Groups.

The Minister and Executive reviewed proposals for a terms of reference for the Joint Liaison and a “Capacity Building” and “Pilot Projects” Working Groups.

Work is in progress on the draft Charter and UBCM will be writing to all members to request that they have replied to this some time on their Council or Board agenda prior to the UBCM Convention and to consider the draft Charter.
Special Convention Newsletter

We know that advance information on the Convention is important to our delegates. That’s why we continue publishing the Convention Bulletin series and why we have again published this special pull-out section of the newsletter this year. We have tried to include in some of the information that will assist you in making your plans.

Delegate Office Services, UBCM On-site Convention Office

For OUTGOING faxes, please use the Lidstone, Young, Anderson Delegate Office Services located in the Foyer of the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre (VCEC). A delegate EMAIL service provided by Shaw Cable will be located in the VCEC Foyer. To use this service, delegates are reminded to ask their voice providers or email administrators for instructions on how to retrieve their email messages from a remote location.

UBCM Temporary On-site Office at the 2007 Convention

8:30 am Monday, September 24, until noon, Friday, September 28
Room 20
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
Phone: 604 647 7440
Fax: 604 647 7442

Please direct all non-urgent business to the permanent UBCM Office number, 604.270.8226, where voice-mail will be operational and checked regularly.

Message Centre Discontinued

After two years of monitoring usage, the UBCM Executive have decided, because of low usage and high costs, that the Message Centre service at the Convention will be discontinued.

The prevalence of cell phone, Blackberry type devices, Shaw’s email service and other connectivity has seen usage of the UBCM Message Centre plummet in recent years.

Last year only 43 incoming calls were received (28 not retrieved) along with 41 incoming faxes. This is a huge drop from the previous year.

The Message Centre was an important feature of the Convention, helping delegates to stay connected with colleagues and clients.

For OUTGOING faxes, please use the Lidstone, Young, Anderson Delegate Office Services located in the Foyer of the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre (VCEC).

The continued decline in usage of the Message Centre has seen a plummet in recent years.

Outgoing faxes will continue to be accepted at the Delegates Office Services, sponsored by Lidstone Young Anderson. Office Services will accept incoming faxes too, but the sender is responsible to notify the recipient that a fax has been sent to them.

Bookings Government Appointments

Instructions on booking meetings with provincial Cabinet during UBCM Convention week were circulated from the Premier’s office to all UBCM members.

APPOINTMENTS FILL FAST!! DON’T BE DISAPPOINTED – BOOK EARLY!

Convention Online

Visit the CivicNet website at www.civicnet.bc.ca for important information on the 2007 UBCM Convention, including:

- General Information – on Convention dates, location, facilities, accommodations, etc.
- Registration form – to print out and submit to the UBCM office.
- Publications – Convention Program, etc.
- General Convention Business – including information on resolutions, voting privileges, elections and provincial participation.
- Schedule – including the Convention Program in brief.
- Session Information – an overview of pre-convention sessions, forums, clinics, workshops, etc.
- Events – networking opportunities and social occasions scheduled during Convention.
- Partners Program – a description of the excellent tours and events available to delegates’ spouses and partners during Convention.

Use this convenient online resource to assist you in planning for this year’s UBCM Convention.

2007 Nominations for UBCM Executive

The 2007 Nominating Committee issued its call for nominations and the results were circulated in a report to members in mid-August. The report contains the names and biographical information of the candidates nominated for the 11 elected positions on the UBCM Executive. The role of the Nominating Committee is to review credentials and prepare a report of duly nominated candidates. It is not the role of the Nominating Committee to recommend any one nomination. Any further nominations will be received at the appropriate time from the floor of the Convention. Members of this year’s Nominating Committee include:

- Councillor Marvin Hunt, Chair, Immediate Past President, City of Surrey
- Councillor Janis Dahlens, Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments
- Councillor Bea Holland, Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
- Councillor Bob Long, Lower Mainland Local Government Association
- Director Eileen Benedict, North Central Municipal Association
- Director Rhona Martin, Southern Interior Local Government Association

At the close of nominations on July 31, 2007 the following nominations were received:

Name

Director Susan Gimsie
Councillor Robert Hobson
Mayor Sharon Hartwell
Mayor Terry Lake
Mayor Larry Taylor
Councillor Sharon Gaetz
Councillor Wayne Hunter
Councillor Jael Marhas
Director Harry Nyce
Mayor Herb Pond
Councillor Mary Spodrom
Mayor Joe Snelge
Councillor Shannon W Atkins
Mayor Ella Brown
Mayor Ronald Stanke
Director Terry Raymond

Position

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
3rd Vice President
Director at Large
Director at Large
Director at Large
Director at Large
Director at Large
Director at Large
Director at Large
Small Community Rep.
Small Community Rep.
Electoral Area Rep.

Man. / RD

Squamish-Lillooet RD
Kelowna
Telkwa
Kamloops
Chilliwack
Saanich
Nanaimo City
Kitsimat-Stikine RD
Prince Rupert
Quesnel
Creston
Port Moody
Logan Lake
Invermere
Fraser Valley RD

Nominations from the floor will be accepted during designated times at the Convention. Please refer to the Nominating Committee report for details. For further information please contact the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Marvin Hunt.
# Convention Program

## Monday, September 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Study Tours (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Agricultural Study Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Port of Vancouver (AM Tour)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Pine Beetle Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Working with First Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Port of Vancouver (PM Tour)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Local Government Funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Tuesday, September 25

### 6:30 am - 4:30 pm
- Fraser Basin Council Breakfast
- Regional Forum Workshops (2)
- Electoral Area Directors Forum (continues)
- Small Talk Forum (continues)
- Provincial policy sessions

### 7:00 am - 4:30 pm
- Registration
- Forum Clinics (6 concurrent)
- Small Talk Forum
- Mid-Sized Communities Forum
- Forum Lunches
- Forum Afternoon Sessions:
- AGM
- Provincial policy sessions (4 concurrent)
- Welcome Reception

## Wednesday, September 26

### 6:30 am - 4:30 pm
- Fraser Basin Council Breakfast
- Registration
- Delegates’ Continental Breakfast
- Clinics: (4 concurrent)
- CONVENTION OPENING SESSION
- O Canada
- Invocation
- President’s Opening Address
- ANNUAL MEETING

## Thursday, September 27

### 7:00 am - 6:30 pm
- Delegates’ Continental Breakfast
- Election for Executive Positions
- Provincial policy sessions

### 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm
- Welcome Reception

## Friday, September 28

### 7:00 am - 9:00 am
- Delegates’ Continental Breakfast
- Election for Executive Positions
- Provincial policy sessions
- Regional Forum Workshops (2)
- Electoral Area Directors Forum (continues)
- Small Talk Forum (continues)
- Provincial policy sessions
- Regional Forum
- Welcome Reception

## Convention Highlights: Plan Your Week

The general format for the Convention remains the same as in previous years:
- **Monday:** pre-conference sessions
- **Tuesday:** Electoral Areas, Small Talk, Mid-Sized and the Large Urban Communities Forums
- **Wednesday to Friday:** main business sessions

### MONDAY Study Tours and Study Sessions

Five study sessions and three study tours are being offered. The ever-popular, all-day agriculture study tour is featured again this year. These sessions are listed on page 12 and pre-registration is required.

### TUESDAY Special Focus

Four forums dealing with specific focus for:
- Electoral Area Directors (featuring "In the Director’s Chair")
- Small Communities (pop. under 5,000)
- Mid-Sized Communities (5,000 – 20,000)
- Large Urban Communities (> 20,000)

## WEDNESDAY

The Municipal Marketplace opens for a two-day run. Morning sessions basically focus on UBCM policy development. The Minister of Community Services’ annual address will kick off the afternoon and be followed by three events related to climate change. All five Area Associations will sponsor lunches.

## THURSDAY

After a full morning of “early bird” clinics and policy debate, delegates will adjourn to the Delegates Luncheon. A total of five concurrent workshops are on the agenda for the afternoon.

## FRIDAY

After a final round of clinics, an engaging presentation by keynote speaker Dr. Thomas Hornsby Dixon and a policy plenary, the Convention wraps up with Premier Gordon Campbell speaking at 11 am.

We look forward to seeing you at Convention!

**UBCM Convention Committee:**
- Councillor Mary Sjoström, Chair
- Director Susan Gisme, Vice-Chair / VP Liaison
- Councillor Craig Caruso
- Councillor Janis Dahlen

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The annual banquet, scheduled for the evening of Thursday, September 27, promises to be an enjoyable event. After the usual array of announcements and a fine dinner, be prepared to leave your seats and get moving to the tunes of Chevy Ray and the Fins. Highly recommended by the folks at AVICC, this band promises to keep you on your feet until the clock strikes twelve! So wear comfy shoes with your business attire or semi-formal frock, and don’t forget to grab your drink tickets at the door!
2007 Annual Report and Resolutions Books

In accordance with UBCM Bylaws, copies of the Annual Report and Resolutions to be considered at the 2007 Convention should have been mailed to all members by the third week in August. If you have not received your copy, contact your municipal or regional district office or, in the event that your office has not received copies, contact the UBCM office.

Please be sure to bring your copy of the Annual Report and Resolutions Book with you to the Convention. Copies will not be available at Convention.

This year’s Annual Report will provide a concise overview of UBCM activities and events over the past year, including Executive and Committee highlights. The report will be followed by an overview of Local Government Program Services activities and a summary of the Federal Gas Tax and Public Transit Funding program. The Annual Report will be considered during the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 26 at the UBCM Convention.

The Resolutions Book contains 261 resolutions: 8 Section A; 60 Section B1; 104 Section BII; 37 Section III and 52 Section C. The resolutions will be considered at three different sessions during the Convention. See the green page in the Annual Report and Resolutions Book for scheduled times of resolutions sessions – and be sure to confirm the times in your official Convention Program where the preliminary schedule is subject to change. At 261, 2007 is a record year for resolution submissions. Previously, our highest intake was in 2006, when we received 226 resolutions. This year we will be relying on delegates to be as efficient as possible in discussion of resolutions so that we will once again be able to consider all resolutions within the time allowed.

Members will note that resolutions in the Resolutions Book have been divided into the following categories:

1) Speaking to a Resolution:
   - name
   - municipality or regional district
   - The resolution sponsor has three minutes to speak.
   - Spokes from the floor have up to two minutes to speak.
   - No one delegate may speak more than once on any resolution until everyone else who wants to speak has had an opportunity to do so.

2) Voting on a Resolution:
   - Can vote on a resolution:
     - Elected representatives from member municipalities or regional districts.
   - At Convention there are three types of voting:
     - Roberts Rules of Order govern the proceedings.
     - Use floor microphones when speaking.
     - Address the Chair and be recognized before speaking.

Types of Resolutions

Resolutions in the Resolutions Book

1) Section A Resolutions: resolutions highlighting issues of significant interest to members across the province.
2) Section B Resolutions:
   - Part I – previously considered and endorsed resolutions (previously approved by UBCM policy). These resolutions will be considered as a block.
   - Part II and Part III – resolutions for individual consideration on topics not previously considered or not previously endorsed/or local or regional significance/or national significance to be considered by FCM. Part II contains those issues considered within the jurisdiction of local government. Part III contains those resolutions on matters of interest to local communities that are considered not within the jurisdiction of local government.
3) Section C Resolutions: resolutions that have been consolidated or grouped with other resolutions in Sections “
   - previously considered and endorsed resolutions; or
   - resolutions that have arisen since the resolution submission deadline was addressed at the Convention on Friday morning.

How are late resolutions dealt with?

- Late resolutions are those received after the June 30 deadline. You will receive a copy of these resolutions at Convention.
- Late resolutions identified as “emergency” issues that have not previously been considered for debate will be put out again and delegates will be asked to vote by standing for or against.
- Voting by ballot: if standing vote is questioned by 50 or more delegates. Present voting card to scrutineers to vote by ballot.

*Remember that you are voting on the resolution and not the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee.

Late and Emergency Resolutions

Please note that only late resolutions of urgency are deemed appropriate for debate at Convention. To be considered for an “emergency” admission, a resolution must address a topic that has arisen since the June 30 submission deadline. In order to be considered for an emergency admission, it must be proven that the matter arose after the deadline, the Executive will not recommend that the resolution be admitted for debate. Late resolutions not classified as emergency and not admitted for debate will be carried over to the 2008 resolutions process and will be referred to the relevant Area Associations for their recommendations prior to the 2008 UBCM Convention.

Late and emergency resolutions must be received at the UBCM office by noon on Friday, September 21 in order to provide all appropriate consideration and presentation to the 2007 Convention in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline.

The Chair’s decision by standing. The question will be put out again and delegates will be asked to vote by standing for or against.

- Voting by ballot: if standing vote is questioned by 50 or more delegates. Present voting card to scrutineers to vote by ballot.
Monday/Tuesday Sessions

Monday, September 24 Pre-Convention Study Sessions/Tours

Eight Pre-Conference Study Sessions/Tours being offered through advance registration are shown opposite. Please refer to the Convention registration package for descriptions and fees or visit the Convention portion of the CivicNet website for program descriptions.

UBCM members may register to attend Tuesday Forums without being a full Convention delegate, space permitting (Convention delegates take priority). Please submit a regular registration form and payment for only the Forum you select on the form.

Tuesday: Many Choices – Plan Ahead

The Tuesday program is full of choices:

- six clinics;
- four morning forums;
- rural and regional district afternoon forums;
- two concurrent afternoon workshops;
- four provincial policy presentations; and
- at least two receptions, including the Welcome Reception at the Vancouver Aquarium.

So plan ahead before to select which sessions you or your colleagues will be attending.

Here are the big blocks for Tuesday:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Content</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 7:30 – 8:00 | 6 Clinics:
| 9:00 – noon | 4 Forums, Forum Lunches                  |
| noon – 1:30 | 3 Sm Talk & EA Director Con’t, Two Urban Workshops |
| 1:30 – 3:00 | Regional Hospital District Forum, Provincial Policy Presentations |
| 3:15 – 4:45 |                                         |

Tuesday Afternoon Session Overview

Set of Concurrent Provincial Policy Sessions (3:15 – 4:45 pm)
- Single Business Licence Initiative
- Asia Pacific Opportunities "Twinning Initiative

New Times for Municipal Marketplace

The popular Municipal Marketplace component of the Convention is sold-out. Over 140 exhibitors (with 180 booths) will be attending the two-day event on Wednesday and Thursday. This year’s show includes a special feature - the 2,000-square-foot ActNow interactive display. A listing of trade show participants will be available on CivicNet shortly.

This year the Convention Committee has decided to shorten the hours with a view to providing exhibitors more focused show hours. The Municipal Marketplace will open from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm on Wednesday and 10:00 am to a finale at 2:30 pm on Thursday. The early morning continental breakfast will continue to be available at clinic sessions and in the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre Ballrooms.

Tuesday Clinics ~ 7:30 - 8:30 am VCEC

Six clinics are currently being organized to precede the Tuesday forums. The subjects are:

- How Highway Maintenance Affects You
- Agriculture Grows Vibrant Communities
- Forecasting Change in BC’s Fire Services Environment
- Changing Climates: Residual to Resources
- Illuminating the Brownfield Black Box
- The Reusable City: Heritage and Sustainability

Mid-Sized Communities Forum

The Mid-Sized Communities Forum is entering its third year at the UBCM Convention. This year’s session, aimed at communities with populations between 5,000 and 20,000, will provide an opportunity to share ideas and best practices, discuss common problems and identify solutions. Knowledgeable speakers will provide ideas and practical advice based on their experiences and a consideration of the needs and challenges of mid-sized communities.

On July 13, a memo was sent out requesting session topics for discussion, and several communities have already submitted ideas.

The Mid-Sized Communities Forum will be held on Tuesday, September 25 from 9:00 am – 12 noon in Ballroom C of the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre.
**Small Talk**

This year marks the 10th anniversary for the Large Urban Forum. The session will be held on Tuesday September 25, 2007, Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre.

On June 28, 2007, Small Community Representative, Mayor Ella Brown, issued a memo seeking your topics for discussion at this year’s Small Talk Forum and advising of a new format and process for this year. In order to make better use of time during the Forum, we would like to distribute the issues in advance of the session so that you can come prepared with your input and assistance. We will also attempt to respond to some of your issues in advance of the Forum, so that we don’t devote too much time to items that may already be resolved. In addition, we will spend some time discussing best practices and/or success stories that you would like to share with your fellow Small Talk delegates.

We would also note, in response to longstanding requests from previous Small Talk participants, we will be extending this year’s Forum to 3:00 pm. In past years, there hasn’t been enough time to get through all the issues, ideas and successes that delegates have come to share, and we hope that this change in format will provide time for a truly thorough discussion.

If you are from a village or small community under 5,000 in population, you are encouraged to submit your issues and your success stories to UBCM for inclusion at the Forum. With the assistance of our facilitators, and other advisors as necessary, we will coordinate the session to ensure that you get as much out of your Small Talk time as possible. If you have not yet sent in your items, you are encouraged to submit two issues and, if applicable, a success story or best practice to UBCM via fax at 604-270-9116 or email at ubcm@civicnet.bc.ca.

This is your opportunity to meet with delegates from similar-sized communities to share experiences, discuss problems and identify solutions. A ticked lunch will follow the session to allow you to network with your colleagues in a more informal setting.

**LGLA Program Development Underway**

For more than a year now, the Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) Board has been assessing the training needs of elected officials in BC, researching the training programs of other organizations, and seeking input from UBCM members and partner agencies on potential program offerings. The Board will be meeting in August to consider this background research, along with feedback from the inaugural Leadership Forum, held this past June in Richmond. This work will feed into the development of the three-year program plan, which will outline the training topics, timing and overall program during the Leadership Academy. The Board will be considering various forms of training, ranging from regional to provincial scale events as well as online information sharing and program offerings.

The Board will present its three-year plan at the upcoming UBCM Convention in September. We hope to see you at this program launch and continue to welcome your input and feedback on training you would like to see offered through the LGLA. Please contact Allison Habkirk, LGLA Program Manager, at ahabkirk@civicnet.bc.ca with your ideas.

**LARGE URBAN FORUM**

This year marks the 11th anniversary for the Large Urban Forum. The session will be held on Tuesday September 25, at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre. On July 20, 2007, a memo was sent out seeking topics for discussion at the Forum. The session is intended to give elected officials in larger communities (those over 25,000 pop.) and communities located in urban areas an opportunity to share discussion and questions with speakers and delegates on issues of concern, seek solutions, share ideas and find out what other communities are doing on common issues; development relationships and contacts with other members working on shared issues in large communities; and provide direction to UBCM on going-forward policy work on urban issues.

**Clinics:** 7:30 am to 8:15 am

Clinic description will be available on CivicNet by August 30

**TOPIC STREAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Training</td>
<td>* Land Conservation Mitigates Change</td>
<td>* Improving Citizens’ Health Outcomes</td>
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<td>* Water Quality Challenges Facing Managed Forest Land</td>
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<td>* Mining Impact on Communities</td>
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<td>* Innovations</td>
<td>* Early Solutions, Faster</td>
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<td>* Towards Solar Cities</td>
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<td>* Partnerships</td>
<td>* Health Effects of Air Quality in BC</td>
<td>* Flex-Plex Housing Project</td>
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<td>* Emergency Prep: Farmed Animal Disposal</td>
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**Policy Papers to be Considered at the 2007 UBCM Convention**

UBCM Convention sets policy through two main vehicles:

- specific resolutions (in which the order of 260 plus were submitted this year); or
- policy papers on topics where the range of recommendations tend to be more comprehensive.

Resolutions come from the members; policy papers come from Executive-initiated processes. UBCM has made use of policy papers to respond to the complexity of issues. Their effectiveness is also noted in many legislative changes that resulted from them. This process was very active in the 1990s and resulted in huge gains. The process was dormant in the early 2000s as were consumed by the Community Charter. UBCM has some new issues to deal with and we are now proposing to reinvigorate the policy papers process. This year’s convention will consider a somewhat reduced number of papers. Among the papers to be considered will be:

- * Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA)*
- * Environment Action Plan and Modernization of the Building Code (Enforcement)*

**ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTORS FORUM**

Tuesday September 25, 2007; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

A s in previous years, this Forum, also known as “In the Director’s Chair”, will address topics of current concern to EA directors.

A focused discussion on septic system regulation will be featured. The open discussion is facilitated problem-solving session where the group can respond to a specific issue or concern raised by an individual member. Ideas for the open discussion were solicited through a survey sent to regional districts in late June. Some of the topics that EA members would like to raise relate to:

- municipal boundary expansions
- greenhouse gas reduction strategies
- “imported” contaminated soils
- trails along railway rights of way

Submission of suggested issues for discussion can be faxed to UBCM on the survey form provided and must be received by August 31, 2007.

**URBAN SYSTEMS**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPECIALISTS**

Our strength as problem solvers for over 50 municipalities and regional districts lies in our combination of engineering, planning, urban design and local government management skills. We act as part of your organization - in tune with your financial and political needs.

The result: practical, creative, and workable solutions to immediate and long-term challenges.

- Community and Regional Planning
- Transportation Planning and Engineering
- Landscape Architecture
- Local Government Finance
- Local Governance
- Municipal and Environmental Engineering
- Community Enhancement and Revitalization
- Parks and Trail Planning
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Digital Information Management and Retrieval

**KERRWOOD LEIDAL ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1975**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civil Engineering</th>
<th>Water Supply, Treatment, Risk Management &amp; Conservation</th>
<th>Wastewater Collection, Treatment, System Rehabilitation &amp; I&amp;I Reduction</th>
<th>Stormwater Management, Hydrology &amp; Creek Hazard Mitigation</th>
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<td>Engineering Excellence since 1975</td>
<td>Infrastructure Analysis &amp; Planning</td>
<td>Project Management</td>
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<th>Kelowna</th>
<th>Fort St. John</th>
<th>Kamloops</th>
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A GREEN CONVENTION

With the focus on green communities, green power and green buildings UBCM asked itself: do our policies and practices contribute to a green Convention? We found that, in addition to many of our written policies we had many practices some long standing, that contribute to making the Convention green. But, just like our theme, we had other policies that were equally important, such as ensuring accessibility and meeting dietary choices.

Some of UBCM’s green policies and practices include:
- **all materials** produced by the UBCM Convention must be printed on recycled paper
  - this includes the Annual Report and Resolutions Book and registration materials;
- **kits** should be selected for their re-use potential (e.g., back-packs, tote bags);
- **minimize** the number of paper-based promotional materials included in kits;
- **all paper** and cardboards from kit stuffing is recycled;
- **encourage name badge “recycling”**
- **provide the option** to receive materials electronically;
- **no plastic** bag usage;
- **all materials** to be re-usable (china/glassware);
- **no Styrofoam coffee** cups or plastic cutlery or stir sticks;
- **re-use of standard Convention signs** (e.g., registration area, directional signs, lunch sponsor signs, banners). UBCM also looks at ways to continually improve our performance. For instance, at the June 27-28, 2007 Environment Conference:
  - all paper was 30% post-consumer government certified recycled paper;
  - signage was made from recycled material that was again recycled after the conference;
  - presentations were available for download rather than printed for participants;
  - high quality carbon offsets were purchased for the estimated travel impacts of all delegates attending;
  - local produce, including BC fresh strawberries, were served to the extent possible and organic produce was included in menu planning;
  - food waste was minimized.
- **other policies** touch on responsible conference hosting, such as:
  - preference shown to BC food products (e.g., boxe apple juice, wild salmon, BC fruit);
  - organic greens served in salads as available;
  - exclusive use of BC wines;
  - all facilities accessible and accessible transportation available when required;
  - food wastage minimized through making conservative guarantees for meals and by donation of leftovers to local charity organizations;
  - no host bars and free non-alcoholic beverages always available;

Continued on page 22

2007 Convention Wednesday Afternoon Session Revised

W ednesday afternoon is the part of the Convention that focuses on the provincial government. This will continue and will be followed, as always, by the Province of BC Reception.

This year, the afternoon will begin with the traditional address by the Minister responsible for the Environment, Minister of Community Services, and the Honourable Ida Chong. The afternoon will also include a presentation of Green Community Awards. Tentatively scheduled are Climate Change Charters and a Cabinet Climate Change Panel.

Cabinet Panels Suspended

The four or five panels with members of the provincial cabinet have been suspended this year by the provincial government in order to make a statement about the importance of climate change and building green communities.

We still expect significant participation by Cabinet in Convention through individual meetings and general networking events. As well, Ministerial participation is being incorporated into many sessions. As an example:
- Minister Coleman will take part in the Monday Pine Beetle Conference;
- Minister Hansen will speak at the Monday TILMA session;
- Minister de Jong will be at the Monday working with First Nations study session;
- there will be three provincial policy sessions on Tuesday afternoon:
  - Single Business Licence (Minister Thorpe);
  - Asia Pacific Twinning (Ministers Chong and Hansen);
  - Building Code Enforcement and the Green Building Code (Minister Coleman);
- Ministers will also be participating in some clinics such as Minister Pat Bell in a Friday clinic to make an announcement on funding for emergency planning for mass animal carcass disposal.

UBCM Resolutions Sessions

Continued from page 11

- **late resolutions** not identified as “emergency” will not be debated by delegates.
- **some late resolutions** may be referred to the Executive.

Can resolutions be raised on the Convention floor?

- Any delegate may bring forward a motion which, if seconded, will be presented to the floor by the Chair.
- A three-fifths majority vote must be achieved before the motion can be put forward for discussion.
- The sponsor may have to provide copies of the resolutions to delegates.

What are extraordinary resolutions?

- Amendments to UBCM Bylaws;
- Notice of extraordinary resolutions to be submitted for consideration at Convention will have been given to the Executive director no later than 75 days before Convention.

Note: Resolutions originating at a Convention workshop or seminar will be referred to the UBCM Executive.

*When preparing to come to Convention, make sure to pack your Resolutions Book! Be sure to keep it with you throughout Resolutions sessions so you can keep track of deliberations.

Green Community Awards

T he first ever Green Community Awards will be presented as a part of the afternoon program on Wednesday September 26th at the UBCM annual Convention. The Awards were announced in conjunction to a challenge issued by Premier Gordon Campbell to local governments to increase urban densities, reduce building costs and create positive environmental and health outcomes (build smaller, faster and smarter).

The awards have eight categories based on population. Cities with populations that fall between 0-1499, 1500-4999, 5000-9999 will be eligible to win $25,000; cities with a population between 10,000-24,999 will be eligible to win $50,000; cities with a population between 25,000-99,999 will be eligible to win $100,000; and, cities with a population greater than 100,000 will be eligible to win $200,000. Regional Districts also have an opportunity to win a Green Community Award either in the Regional District- Electoral Area category with a prize of $25,000 or in the Regional District- Regional category with a prize of $50,000.

All local governments in BC are eligible for Green Community Awards. Nominations will only be accepted through a “self-nomination” process where each municipality may nominate itself once per year. Regional districts may nominate themselves for both the Electoral Area and Regional categories annually.

This year’s deadline was June 1st, 2007 and we await the first award announcement with anticipation.

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

We regularly advise on many of the largest transactions in Canada and around the world. With a significant presence in all major financial centres in Canada as well as in London U.K., McCarthy Tétrault is Canada’s premier law firm.

PETER KENWARD
Vancouver
604-643-7962
pkenward@mccarthy.ca

The right people. The right results.

McCarthy Tétrault
UBCM NEWS AUGUST 2007 15

Convention Social Highlights

GVRD becomes Metro Vancouver

In late July, the Greater Vancouver Regional District Board of Directors adopted Metro Vancouver as a new identity that provides a better and more understandable description of the organization and its role. Unlike regional districts, which most often include to rural areas, the “Metro” concept is well understood to represent large urban centres.

The name change embodies the evolving interests of Metro Vancouver as it builds upon its traditional role as a service provider. It will encourage greater recognition of the organization’s operational, planning and leadership successes, and will support the ability of elected representatives to exercise influence at the local, national and international levels.

Please celebrate with us as we launch Metro Vancouver at this year’s LGLMA luncheon at the UBCM Annual Convention.

Special Needs

UBCM will do its best to assist with any special needs that delegates may have during Convention week. We ask that you make your requests IN WRITING to the UBCM office (faxes accepted at 604-270-9166). Our main Convention venues, the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre and the Waterfront Hotel are wheelchair accessible. We must be advised if we will need wheelchair accessible buses reserved for tours.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Late requests will be accommodated if possible.

Daycare is not available. Hotels may provide babysitting services/lists.

Partner’s Program

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Program #1 - “City Sightseeing Tour” 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Program #2 - “The Art of Scrapbooking” 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Program #3 - “Museum of Anthropology/Granville Island” 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Program #4 - “North Shore/Grouse Mountain Tour” 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Program #5 - “Survival Guide for Partners of 9:30 am - 11:30 am”

Program #6 - “Scenic Tour Luncheon Cruise” 1:00 pm - 4:00 am

NOTES:

• Please check-in at the Partner’s Program Registration Desk.

• TOURS - Please be at the lobby in the Conference Centre 15 minutes prior to tour time, as buses will leave on time. If you miss the bus, you will miss the tour and no refunds will be issued. Please wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Umbrellas and cameras are recommended.

UBCM Member Services at Convention

For information on UBCM Services including:

• Group Benefits Program
• Commercial Vehicle Licences
• Local Government Planners & Wall Calendars
• Petro-Canada SuperFave Rebate Program
• Information Subscriber Service
• NetWork Book

And much more!

We would be pleased to answer your questions!

Delegates’ Social Program

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

• Vancouver International Airport Reception
Parkview Terrace, VCEC 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

• Welcome Reception
Vancouver Aquarium 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm (busing available)
Included in Delegate fee. Fee for Partners/Guests: $35

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

• Fraser Basin Council Breakfast
Parkview Terrace, VCEC 6:30 am

• Area Association Luncheons
12:00 noon See next column for locations. Pre-registration required.

• BC Government Reception
Parkview Terrace 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Invitation in delegate kits

• BC Hydro Reception
Waterfront Hotel 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

• CUPE BC
Renaissance Hotel Harbourside 8:00 pm – 12:00 am

Thursday, September 27, 2007

• UBCM Annual Banquet
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre 6:30 pm – Reception, Ballroom A 7:30 pm – Annual Banquet, Hall A 9:00 pm – Entertainment

Banquet Reservations

Pre-registration for banquet seating will be available this year. For group registration, please have ONE designated representative from your group fill in the BANQUET RESERVATIONS form which was included in your registration package. Send it to the UBCM office with your completed Convention registration forms and payment (no faxes will be accepted). Reservations will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. Seating can be arranged on-site at the Convention up until Wednesday, September 26.

Several groups external to UBCM have indicated that they will be hosting hospitality suites and/or receptions during Convention week. Events that are open to the entire delegation will be publicized in the delegate program (which you will receive upon check-in at the Convention).

Area Association Luncheons at Convention

12:00 noon Wednesday, September 26

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
Ballroom A, VCEC

Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments
Room 2/3, VCEC

Lower Mainland Local Government Association
Ballroom A/B, Waterfront Hotel

North Central Municipal Association
Ballroom C, Waterfront Hotel

Southern Interior Local Government Association
Room 1, VCEC

Please Pre-Register…so your Association is not guessing at the number of meals to order.

CLIMATE CHANGE/GREEN BUILDING

Continued from page 8

Tasks:

• Expand and link inventories of current local government practices.
• Disseminate this information.
• Review the practices to identify gaps — e.g. certain types of communities that have not made progress in given areas — and consider how those gaps could be filled.
• Specifically review with local governments areas where provincial government policies, programs or practices are impeding local government from pursuing the overall goals.

Green Community Pilot Projects Working Group

This working group will take a number of specific proposals and suggestions that have been made and develop plans for how they could be implemented. The group will also make recommendations needed to facilitate their implementation.

The initial list of proposals to be piloted include:

• opportunities to fast track green developments;
• OCP provisions for supportive housing;
• OCP and other bylaw provisions for greenhouse gas reduction;
• opportunities to encourage higher density integrated developments with more variety and affordable housing;
• incentives to encourage smaller lot sizes and smaller homes.

Finally, three initiatives will be managed as separate tasks:

• community forests;
• community gardens;
• “greening” of development cost charges (supportive housing). This is being pursued through the existing Development Finance Review Committee.

Lasting Creations

Maureen & Jack Cresser

See you at Convention, stop by our booth and participate in the Pin Trading Board!!
UBCM Annual Convention Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>UBCM HOTEL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Mon. Sept 22 to Fri. Sept 26</td>
<td>Penticton Trade &amp; Convention Centre</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Mon. Sept 28 to Fri. Oct 2</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Mon. Sept 27 to Fri. Oct 1</td>
<td>Whistler Conference Centre</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Mon. Sept 19 to Fri. Sept 23</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Mon. Sept 24 to Fri. Sept 28</td>
<td>Kelowna</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Mon. Oct 20 to Fri. Oct 24</td>
<td>Victoria Conference Centre</td>
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<td>Penticton Trade &amp; Convention Centre</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Mon. Sept 23 to Fri. Sept 27</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
<td>Waterfront Centre</td>
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Economic Opportunities in Asia Pacific

The Case for International Twinning Arrangements

Why is everybody talking about Asia? Why is Asia important to BC municipalities? What is the business case for twinning?

The Asia Pacific region is home to over one-third of the earth’s population, has the world’s fastest growing economies with a US$10 trillion market and $2.5 trillion in foreign reserves for investment.

Join a panel of three BC mayors who are leading their cities in establishing and maintaining economically robust sister city “twinning” relationships.

Please join us at the Economic Opportunities in Asia Pacific workshop:

Tuesday September 25, 2007
3:15 - 4:45pm

Commit to this now on behalf of your community!!

Sponsored by UBCM and the Ministries of Community Services and Economic Development

BC Green Building Code Initiative

On February 13, 2007, the Throne Speech announced the development of a unified BC Green Building Code by early 2008. The goals of the green building code are:
1) to identify and remove barriers within provincial codes and regulations
2) to identify and propose new provisions for green building regulations
3) to support implementation through an administrative framework, education and training

The green building code regulation will consider a range of sustainability issue such as:

- Sustainable sites - including landscaping, site orientation, storm water management, servicing infrastructure
- Water conservation - reducing water use through low-consumption fixtures, reusing waste water
- Energy - reducing energy consumption, optimizing energy performance, increasing levels of on-site renewable energy
- Materials and resources - re-using existing buildings, reducing construction waste, using sustainable building materials
- Indoor environment - enhancing air quality, reducing air contaminants, e.g., low-emitting adhesives and sealants
- Innovation and design process - facilitating green building through administrative processes e.g., inviting industry green code change proposals, creating green permit submissions requirements, third party inspections, etc.

While many in local government will welcome the intent of this initiative there are some associated matters to consider such as liability for requiring new technology and the capacity of local officials in small jurisdictions to enforce new and unfamiliar requirements. A Tuesday afternoon session at the Convention will include an update on this initiative.

UBCM acknowledges the contributions of the following Sponsors of the 2007 UBCM Convention:

UBCM BANQUET RECEPTION & ENTERTAINMENT
Terasen
CONVENTION KITS
BC Hydro
DELEGATE’S LUNCHEON
Credit Union Central of British Columbia
WELCOME RECEPTION
UBCM & City of Vancouver
PERSONAL TRAVEL CASE
BC Transmission Corporation
REGIONAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTORS FORUM LUNCHEON
Municipal Finance Authority of BC
LARGE URBAN COMMUNITIES FORUM LUNCHEON
Telus
SMALL TALK FORUM LUNCHEON
Spectra Energy
MID-SIZED COMMUNITIES LUNCHEON
Municipal Finance Authority of BC
POCKET PROGRAM
British Columbia Lottery Corporation
LANYARDS AND BADGE HOLDERS
Vancouver Port Authority
DELEGATE OFFICE SERVICES
Lidstone Young Anderson
DELEGATE EMAIL SERVICES
ShaW Communications
UBCM DAILY NEWS
Staples McDonnell Stewart
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
ICBC
COFFEE SERVICES
British Columbia Lottery Corporation
BC Safety Authority
Energy Savings BC
Municipal Insurance Association of BC
CONTINENTAL BREAKFASTS
Alliance for BC Climate Change Solutions
BC Professional Firefighters
Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation
Corix
CONVENTION PROGRAM
UBCM & City of Vancouver
UBCM Convention:
Welcome Reception
Municipal Finance Authority of BC
Authority, North Fraser Port Authority
Terasen – wine glasses
Woodworks - Community Award Plaques
Broadway Printers - Notepads
Cruise Prize - Cruise BC, Fraser River Port Authority
Port Authority

UBCM & City of Vancouver
UBCM Convention:
Welcome Reception
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Port Authority

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Authority, North Fraser Port Authority
Terasen – wine glasses
Woodworks - Community Award Plaques
Broadway Printers - Notepads
Cruise Prize - Cruise BC, Fraser River Port Authority
Port Authority
Information Sharing and Relationship Building Activities

At the treaties conference in May 2007 the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, the Honourable Mike de Jong, announced a grant of $300,000 to UBCM.

The funding will support three potential streams of activities:
- the exchange of knowledge and experience between local governments involved in the Heiltsuk, Tseawassen and Maa-nulth negotiations and other local governments;
- activities that begin to develop successful implementation of treaties; and
- initiatives to increase awareness of the successes in building relationships at the local level.

UBCM is continuing to develop a proposal for the use of this funding. Members will be advised once the design is completed.

2007 Strategic Wildfire Report now available on line.

The recently released Strategic Wildfire Report provides success stories and highlights of prevention activities being conducted throughout the province. It also provides valuable information for communities considering participating in the program.

This session will provide members with an overview of the Forum Guide and discuss practical tools and approaches for working with First Nations. With the help of Bob Joseph, a professional trainer and president of Indigenous Corporate Training Inc., members will leave the session with a number of tips to assist them in working collaboratively with First Nations. Mr. Joseph has provided strategic council and training on Indigenous or Aboriginal Relations since 1994. Before starting his consulting business Bob worked with BC Hydro providing Aboriginal cross-cultural training. His training program is designed to help individuals and organizations work more effectively with Aboriginal Peoples by getting beyond awareness to practical skills that can be applied everywhere. His Canadian and international clients include all levels of government, Fortune 500 companies, small and medium sized corporate enterprises, financial institutions, including the World Bank, and Aboriginal Peoples.

Bob is an Aboriginal person, or more specifically a status Indian, and is a member of the Gwa-wa-a’ineuk Nation. The Gwa-wa-a’ineuk is one of the many Kwakwaka’wakw tribes located between Comox and Port Hardy, in the adjacent mainland of British Columbia.

TREATY NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Tsawwassen First Nation

On July 20, 23 and 25, 2007, the Tsawwassen First Nation members voted on their final agreement. The ratification process required a positive endorsement from 50%, plus one of the members on the registered voters list. Of 187 registered voters, 69.5% voted “yes” to accept the terms of their final agreement and ratify British Columbia’s first urban treaty. The treaty provides a transfer of $13.9 million and 724 hectares of land. It also defines the rights and responsibilities of the Tsawwassen on their traditional territory, which covers approximately 25%-600 hectares of land, including the waters of the southern Strait of Georgia.

Over the coming months, the Province will introduce Tsawwassen settlement legislation. Following that, the treaty will be put before the Canadian House of Commons for approval to become an official treaty.

Maa-nulth

The Maa-nulth First Nations are made up of five First Nations located along the west coast of Vancouver Island with approximately 2000 members. One of these communities, the Huxu-uy-alt First Nation, voted on July 28, 2007 to approve the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement. Of the 303 ballots cast, 90%, or 272 votes, were in favour of the treaty. The remaining four Maa-nulth First Nations will vote on the Final Agreement in October 2007. Once the agreement is ratified, it will be put before the BC Legislature and the Canadian House of Commons for approval to become an official treaty.

The treaty provides for a transfer of $73.1 million, annual resource royalty payments averaging $1.2 million for 25 years and a land transfer totalling approximately 24,551 hectares to the five First Nations.

Other Final Agreement Treaty Tables

The BC Treaty Commission reports that Shaminon First Nation, Yule First Nation and Yekooche Nation are set to become the next group of First Nations to conclude treaty negotiations. In-ShucK-ch Nation is yet another community in stage five, final agreement negotiations.
Municipal Finance Authority of BC

Notice of the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia
2007 Semi-Annual Meeting of the Members

Notice is hereby given that the Municipal Finance Authority of BC (MFA) Semi-Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on September 25, at 4:30 pm at the Fairmont Waterfront (Ballroom), 900 Canada Place Way, Vancouver.

This meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention and is expected to last for approximately 60 minutes. At the meeting, Mr. Stéfane Marion, Assistant Chief Economist with National Bank Financial, will be a guest speaker to give an update on the latest economic happenings. Any interested local government staff, elected officials and individuals are welcome to attend; seating will be available.

Due to the UBCM Convention being well attended, please make accommodation arrangements soon, directly with a Vancouver hotel. You may also visit the UBCM website for their blocked booking of rooms at www.civnet.bc.ca, under “Convention”, drop down menu “2007 Convention” and click on “Accommodations”.

The MFA will be at the UBCM Tradeshow (booth no. 202) located in the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre, on Wednesday, September 26 and Thursday, September 27. Staff welcomes you to drop by!

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact Allison Boyd.

Direct Line: 250 380 0432 (ext 234)  
Email: Allison@mfa.bc.ca  
MFA Reception: 250 383 1181

Thank you.

-MFA Staff

Federal Cabinet Changes
– Continuity for BC Local Governments

Prime Minister Harper announced changes to the federal cabinet on August 14, 2007. A line of 31 cabinet ministers were reassigned. The number of cabinet ministers from British Columbia remains at 5, the only change is Chuck Strahl who has been moved from Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Given the importance of aboriginal issues in British Columbia it is a positive measure to have a minister from the province dealing with this issue.

Other measures of a positive note is that the Honourable Lawrence Cannon remains as Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities ensuring that the momentum that has been established in the negotiation of the extension gas tax agreement will continue.

The federal cabinet ministers from British Columbia are:

• The Honourable David Emerson, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics
• The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
• The Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources
• The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety
• The Honourable Jay Hill, Secretary of State and Chief Government Whip

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A Three-Way Dance

Imagine this scenario: A prominent and influential citizen addresses a Municipal Council and applies for funding on behalf of a community group. He is articulate and persuasive and demands immediate action. He infers subtly that if Councillors delay the decision by sending it to Management for input, they may suffer consequences at the upcoming election. When he concludes his presentation, a Councillor promptly moves that the grant application be approved. After seconding and minimal debate the vote is taken and the motion is adopted.

Is there a problem here? Of course. In its haste to make a politically popular decision, Council fails to obtain professional input on the advisability of the grant and on whether it fits within the municipality’s budget. In addition, a precedent may be set for the future, when other advocacy groups will be tempted to employ similar strategies to achieve what they want.

The above example illustrates the three pillars of governmental decision-making: First, the elected Council, second, the Administration; and third, the Public. Prior to finalizing a significant, complex or controversial decision, Council should consider the PD, PE and PI.

1. PD stands for Policy Direction, which the Council should set at the start of its term of office. A newly elected Council should establish what it wants to accomplish over its three-year term and also set a schedule for achieving its goals. The PD will function as a compass by which to determine the appropriateness of an impending decision.

2. PE stands for Professional Expertise, provided by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) along with managers and consultants. The PE should deliver knowledge in finance, law, engineering, architecture, operational and administrative matters, to help ensure that Council’s decisions are anchored in reality and can be implemented.

3. PI stands for Public Input, which is provided by citizens and stakeholder groups that may be affected by Council’s decisions. The more contentious the decision, the more important it is to give the public substantial and meaningful opportunities to be heard.

In the above example, a decision is made by Council on the spur of the moment and appears to be largely driven by the need for political popularity. It is reached after hearing from one prominent citizen and without any professional input. All parts are flawed: The PD is probably dominated by thoughts about the next election rather than a deliberately conceived strategic plan. The PE is absent altogether. The PI is based on the input of one citizen, and may or may be a true representation of the pulse of the community as a whole. For better results, the matter should have been referred to staff for input, despite the potential political backlash.

An effective interaction between the PD, PE and PI can best be described as a three-way dance. For the dance to produce quality outcomes, all partners must know their respective roles. Each must know when to lead and when to follow, when to speak and when to be silent and listen. Here are examples of bad dancing and good dancing:

• Some Council members hold the belief that public input is useless, and some even describe it as “fluff.” Individuals who hold this belief are not likely to listen genuinely and show respect for citizens who approach the Council. It is a Councillor’s duty to listen to input from citizens – even when most of it is driven by ignorance, emotion and self-interest – and look for gems of wisdom that may be buried in “the fluff.”

• Rather than complain about the quality of the PI, Council may wish to make efforts to educate the public (or teach the citizens to dance better). Such efforts are likely to boost the quality of public input and make it more objective and usable.

• Some CAOs, managers and advisors hesitate to provide their PE if it might offend or annoy their “political masters.” They may therefore dilute the strength of their “professional” advice, so they are less likely to incur the wrath of Council or some of its vocal members. Such an approach is clearly bad dancing, as it shortchanges the ultimate master – the community – to which everyone (Council and Staff) is accountable.

• To facilitate a good PD-PE dance, it must be stressed that professional staff and advisors are duty-bound to provide pure professional advice, untainted and undiluted by speculation over how Council might react to it. Conversely, it is Council’s duty to make it safe and easy for staff and advisors to provide honest advice, without fear of any repercussions.

• If all parties (Council, Management and the Public) dance well together, the combination of the PD, PE and PI will likely generate decisions that are visionary (based on PD), realistic and sustainable (based on PI) and responsive to the community (based on PI).

So, are you ready to dance?

UBCM Reference Corner

Did you know that the UBCM has a professional librarian on staff? Errin Morrison, your Information & Resolution Coordinator, is in fact a qualified librarian and has, over the past couple of years, taken on the provision of general reference services to UBCM members. We encourage you to call or email Errin with your questions (errinmorson@civicnet.bc.ca or 604.270.8226 ext. 115). If she doesn’t know the answer, she’ll do her best to find it for you!

The following is a sample of the types of questions that have come in over the past few months – from members and others – along with answers and resources provided in response.

1) In general, do local governments have to
BC’s 1st Stop for Local Governments on Climate and Energy

The Community Energy Association (CEA) is pleased to announce the launch of the 1st Stop for Local Governments on Climate and Energy including the new CEA website at www.communityenergy.bc.ca and a new limited-access listserve at governments-and-energy@lists.onenw.org.

Vanderhoof Wins Community Energy Association Website Launch Contest

The Community Energy Association extends congratulations to the District of Vanderhoof as winner of the CEA website launch contest. Local government contest participants were requested to log in to the new CEA website, including several attachments. One attachment was the District of Vanderhoof Community Energy Plan, adopted June 2007. This plan was highly regarded by the contest judges, and together with their opening page, led to selection of Vanderhoof as the contest winner. The District was awarded a cheque from CEA for $470, to cover the basic registration fee for a Vanderhoof representative to attend the 2007 UBCM Annual Convention.

CEA At Your Service – Booth # 503 at the UBCM Convention Trade Show

Please come visit the Community Energy Association booth # 503 at the UBCM Convention Trade Show. Be sure to pick up a copy of the hot guide Funding Your Community Energy and Climate Change Initiatives, and find out about our new Renewable Energy Guide. Local governments who entered the CEA website launch contest are reminded to pick up a consolation prize from the CEA booth.

By working closely with its partners - UBCM, the Province of British Columbia, transit and energy service providers and professional organizations - CEA has been serving the needs of BC local governments for more than a decade. CEA can help secure funding, identity partnership opportunities and put you in touch with the right people. CEA extends appreciations to each of the local governments that created a page (on the CEA homepage, see Hot Topics, Local Government Submissions - in your own words). Local government contest participants were requested to log in to the new CEA website, including several attachments. One attachment was the District of Vanderhoof Community Energy Plan, adopted June 2007. This plan was highly regarded by the contest judges, and together with their opening page, led to selection of Vanderhoof as the contest winner. The District was awarded a cheque from CEA for $470, to cover the basic registration fee for a Vanderhoof representative to attend the 2007 UBCM Annual Convention.

2007 Energy Aware Award

Entrance for the 2007 Awards closed on August 13. Winners of the 2007 Energy Aware Award, sponsored by the Community Energy Association, Province of British Columbia and Union of BC Municipalities, will be announced at the September UBCM Convention banquet.

What are the costs of PRIME?

PRIME-BC (Police Records Information Management Environment) is the records management system developed by the province and currently being used by the RCMP in the province. A number of local governments have raised questions about the costs of PRIME.

In an effort to clarify this issue UBCM raised a number of questions about PRIME and its costs with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and outlined below is some of the information provided.

Who pays the training costs for PRIME? What are these costs?

Costs associated with training police officers/staff in the use of PRIME is the responsibility of the participating agency. It is understood that the training is being accommodated within existing budgets for RCMP municipal detachments.

The RCMP undertook a detachment by detachment review of the estimated training needs based on the number of staff and anticipated types of training. The RCMP developed a hub or pod delivery model (using 37 training centres) to ensure that costs were minimized to approximately $185 per day per officer, which is consistent with other training provided through-out the RCMP.

What equipment is required to implement PRIME? What are the equipment costs for PRIME?

PRIME? Who pays these costs?

PRIME supports a Records Management application ( RMS – licence fee $901), Computer Aided Dispatcher application (CAD), Mobile Work Station over the wireless network (MWS – licence fee $1,429), and Operational Communication Centre (OCC – licence fee $3,600). Workstations connect to the application via a land based network. The province has paid for the capital costs of the servers and server environments (facilities, provisioning, hardware, server software and application licensing).

What is the ongoing levy per officer for PRIME?

The ongoing levy per officer for PRIME is $500 and it came into affect on January 1, 2007 for those departments currently using PRIME and will be pro-rated for those coming on the system in 2007. There will be no overlap of the PIRS and PRIME-BC system and municipalities will only be responsible for a single user fee. The user fee for 2008 and beyond for PRIME-BC has not yet been determined.

What are the technical requirements and costs for implementing PRIME? Who pays these costs?

The respective agencies are responsible for the cost of upgrading and administering their own workstations. The work stations previously utilized for PIRS, both RMS and mobile, can be utilized for PRIME. Other agency costs associated to PRIME could include bar code readers, drivers licence scanners and readers for document imaging/scanning. These additional features are agency specific and although they enhance the capability of PRIME are not considered core components of the system.

The RCMP to reduce the overall cost of equipment purchase has adopted a common bulk purchase approach and centralized some services (transcription). PRIME has also facilitated a bulk procurement process that agencies can take advantage of to reduce costs.

A copy of the detailed response about the costs of implementing PRIME has been circulated to the local governments directly affected.

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

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Since 1980 our firm has restricted its practice to acting for local government and providing advice concerning municipal law to other clients.
BC Healthy Communities: People, Place, Potential

The Healthy Communities Approach

BC Healthy Communities (BCHC) has three overarching goals: to increase awareness and understanding of the healthy communities approach and of BCHC (as a provincial resource/‘as an organization’); to expand and develop the capacity of communities to address complex issues and to enhance community and public policy; and to enhance community capacity to implement the healthy communities approach. BCHC facilitates work closely with recipients to put the healthy communities approach into action. Phase II of the program was launched in November 2006, with twenty-one successful applicants from across the province. A call for applications for Phase II was announced in June 2007 and twenty-two applications were received. A menu of similar learning events is currently being designed, which includes: integral capacity building, collaborative leadership and community change, collaboration with local government, tools for action: working together. Over 250 participants attended the regional forums overall, and BCHC received many requests for feedback. BCHC plans to hold regional forums in June and August 2008.

Regional Forums

Between November 2006 and April 2007 BCHC hosted five successful regional forums in Duncan, Squamish, Kamloops, Smithers and Abbotsford. Four forums were invited to attend a day of learning, networking and dialogue. Each forum used a similar format: introduction to BC Healthy Communities, learning workshop and discussion with local leaders. The learning workshops and discussion included: integral capacity building, collaborative leadership and community change, collaboration with local government, tools for action: working together. Over 250 participants attended the regional forums overall, and BCHC received many requests for feedback. BCHC plans to hold regional forums in June and August 2008.

Learning Events

In May 2008 BCHC held an Appreciative Inquiry Learning Event with more than thirty participants from around the province. A menu of similar learning events is currently being designed, which includes: integral capacity building, collaborative leadership and community change, collaboration with local government, tools for action: working together. Over 250 participants attended the regional forums overall, and BCHC received many requests for feedback. BCHC plans to hold regional forums in June and August 2008.
The Royal City Jewellers Verdict and the Implication for Local Government

By James Yardley
Murdy & McAllister

The July 26, 2007 ruling of the B.C. Court of Appeal in Royal City Jewellers and Loans Ltd. v. City of New Westminster (2007 BCCA 398) is significant for its discussion about the limits on the powers of municipalities to regulate pawnshops and second hand goods dealers. The court applied the decision on other matters involving local governments, including the authority to undertake various types of “surveillance” activities, remain unclear.

Background

At issue in the Royal City Jewellers case were provisions of New Westminster’s Second Hand Dealers Bylaw that required operators of pawnshops and second hand shops to obtain identifying information about persons pawning or selling goods, and then forward that information to the local police on a daily basis. The B.C. Supreme Court dismissed a challenge of the bylaw by the pawnshop.

What the Court of Appeal Decided

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal by the Appellant pawnshop operator. The Court cited two main reasons for its decision. The first was that the requirement in the bylaw that personal information about the Appellant’s customers be automatically provided to the police was beyond the City’s powers under the Community Charter, and section 59(1)(b). The Court did not accept that the automatic provision of the information was implicit or necessarily incidental to the City’s authority. While the Court of Appeal accepted that the deterrent effect of listing goods would be minimal if the identity of the person delivering the goods was not “obtained, verified and recorded”, and that recording such information may be “necessarily incidental” to the powers granted in section 59(1)(b), the Court also found that there was “no evident link” between automatically transmitting to the police the identity of customers, and the preventive or deterrent purpose of section 59(1)(b).

Implications of the Decision

The decision in Royal City Jewellers has implications for all bylaws enacted under section 59(1)(b) of the Community Charter, although the extent to which the decision applies to those bylaws depends on the degree of similarity between those bylaws and New Westminster’s bylaw. The decision approved of the collection and transmission of information about pawned and second hand goods. It also permits the collection by businesses of some level of identifying information about individuals who pawn goods; however, the precise limits and extent of that information remain unclear. The decision clearly prohibits the automatic transmission about personal information of individuals in “bulk” form to the police. However it reaffirms that local governments may take steps to prevent crime and the creation of conditions that foster crime.

The decision in Royal City Jewellers may create challenges for local governments dealing with pawnshops, second hand dealers, and related matters such as the regulation of transactions involving scrap metal. Notwithstanding these decisions, we believe that viable options remain available to local governments, depending on the objectives of the local government in question.

A Green Convention - Con’t

Continued from page 14

• use of the most advanced audio visual equipment to reduce power usage (e.g., digital projectors).

A Green Convention Centre

The Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre also strives to be one of the greenest convention centres in the world. As a leader in green conferences, VCEC has an extensive program for recycling (recycles an average 180,000 kg of materials annually), energy conservation and food and beverage management. It has won BOMA’s GO Green Certificate of Achievement in 2008 for its environmental best practices. It was designated a Power Smart Convention Centre by BC Hydro after converting to state-of-the-art energy efficient lighting, HVAC, and energy control systems. VCEC purchases “Green Power” certificates, electricity generated in BC from only renewable/ sustainable sources. VCEC also operates a “scratch” kitchen, avoiding the use of pre-packaged and canned goods.

The Expansion of the Convention Centre

One of the challenges has embraced “Green Design Features” such as the six-acre “living roof”, housing a variety of 400,000 indigenous plants. It will contain drainage and water recovery systems that collect and use rainwater as irrigation. Additional Green features include: seawater heating and cooling and on-site water treatment; fish habitat built into the building foundation; grey and black water recycling systems and measures to utilize natural lighting, ventilation and energy conservation; expansion built to qualify for the standard of the green buildings industry: LEED Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

Transforming Communities through Tourism: Investing Your Provincial Tourism Dollars Wisely

March 9-14, 2008 Squamish BC

A must-attend opportunity for local government decision-makers involved with tourism development.

This five-day residential professional development program is being held in the heart of the Sea-to-Sky corridor, a perfect tourism laboratory. The program delivers what it promises and is intended to assist individuals involved with their UBCM-supported community tourism program initiatives. In their own words, here’s what BC local government officials said about their experiences at this year’s inaugural program in Tofino:

• “This was one of the best courses I have attended – I learned a lot of useful, implementable material”

• “Thanks for a memorable week – the presenters were a wealth of information and I learned so much – The program was very good for those of us who aren’t involved in tourism – but soon will be”

• “I loved it! I thought the week was a complete success. So much information was provided as well as adequate take-home material”

• “Very informative – as someone with no background, I’ll be able to use the experience (and networks) from the program to develop a tourism strategy for my community”

How you and your community will benefit from the March 2008 offering:

• Meet top industry leaders and obtain current knowledge on how the tourism industry works – and opportunities presented by the 2010 games.

• Learn about effective guidelines for successful community tourism planning.

• Walk away with new tools and techniques and a better understanding of local government’s role in destination development.

• Obtain ideas and resources to ensure your UBCM community tourism program investment is set up for success. Learn about other programs available to support community tourism economic development.

• Benefit from a thorough overview of destination development principles.

• Enjoy the opportunity to network with other local government participants, and to go “behind-the-scenes” with program study excursions focusing on destination development in Whistler and in the Sea-to-Sky corridor.

• Take away a practical, information-rich 110 page handbook “Transforming Communities through Tourism: a Workbook for Community Champions”.

Offered through: Coast Mountain Centre Lead Institution: Capilano College; Academic Partners: Royal Roads University, Tourism Research Innovations Project, BC Centre for Tourism Leadership and Innovation Industry and Government Partners & Guest Faculty from: UBCM, Tourism British Columbia, Council of Tourism Associations, 2010 Legacies Now.
Gas Tax / Public Transit Management Services

Community Works Funds Released

The first installment of the 2007 Community Works funding totaling $15.4 million was released to 161 local governments in BC on July 27. The funding for the Community Works fund (CWF) is released semi-annually and will provide $190.9 million to BC local governments over five years. Funding through the CWF is available to all local governments outside the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). In keeping with a GVRD request, all federal gas tax funding within GVRD is pooled and federal gas tax funding will provide $9.9 million in funding which will provide energy efficiency upgrades at all eight of the recreational facilities in the valley. The upgrades will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but will also lower operating costs for the facilities.

- The Regional District of Central Okanagan combined their application with that of City of Kelowna General Strategic Priorities application and together the two local governments will be receiving $11 million in funding to begin a Bus Rapid Transit System that will link Kelowna and surrounding communities.
- The Regional District of North Okanagan will be receiving $2.6 million in funding. The projects to be funded include a new regional yard waste composting facility, a residential drop-off facility at the Greater Vernon Landfill, and a new regional growth strategy and transportation model for all the communities of the North Okanagan.

Regionally Significant Project Fund Announcements

The first Regionally Significant Project fund (RSFP) announcements within the 2005-2010 Gas Tax Agreement were made through July and early August.
- Nanaimo Regional District will be receiving $6.8 million in funding for the Greater Nanaimo and French Creek Pollution Control Centres. The funding, which includes a component from the Innovations Fund, will provide two additional gravity thickeners and a cogenesis plant at the Nanaimo station while French Creek will use its funding for secondary treatment upgrades. Cowichan Valley Regional District will be receiving $9.9 million in funding which will provide energy efficiency upgrades at one of the recreational facilities in the valley.
- The Regional District of North Okanagan combined their application with that of the City of Kelowna General Strategic Priorities application and together the two local governments will be receiving $11 million in funding to begin a Bus Rapid Transit System that will link Kelowna and surrounding communities.
- The Regional District of North Okanagan will be receiving $2.6 million in funding. The projects to be funded include a new regional yard waste composting facility, a residential drop-off facility at the Greater Vernon Landfill, and a new regional growth strategy and transportation model for all the communities of the North Okanagan.

SECURING THE EXTENSION TO THE GAS TAX AGREEMENT IS A PRIORITY

More recently, the President has again written federal Minister Lawrence Cannon to invite him to the Convention to finalize the Gas Tax extension. UBCM is aware that the federal government has a framework to bring all infrastructure programs under one overall agreement and that it is a priority to complete. Under that agreement, various specific infrastructure program agreements would be negotiated. Nevertheless UBCM remains hopeful that we will see an agreement in principle on the extension at the Convention.
UBCM Structural Protection Units (SPU) prove their value in the Kootenay region.

The UBCM Structural Protection Units (SPU’s) proved their worth in the Kootenay’s this summer. With three interface fires burning in the area, all units were deployed to protect structures in the interface. Five km east of Slocan, the 980 ha Springer Creek fire threatened 22 homes. Further east, near Kaslo, the 760 ha Hamill Creek fire put 47 homes at risk. The third SPU was deployed to the 315 ha Penstock fire near Needles, where 12 homes required protection.

We applaud the efforts of all of the firefighters who were involved in the suppression of these wildfires, and particularly wish to commend the crews who manned the UBCM SPU’s. One resident of the area stated: “…professional help, guidance, and support was invaluable at a time when fear and panic is just around the corner…. I couldn’t praise the crews enough. I can only wonder at the training and organization and funding needed to make this service available to us”. Another individual said, “the Structure Protection Crew did a wonderful job – not only setting up the appropriate protection equipment (sprinklers, pump, etc.) but also giving me very useful advice, after the danger was passed, with regard to further Fire Smart actions I can take on my own home.” Feedback such as this is a true indicator of the value of this program.

The SPU equipment is managed cooperatively between the UBCM, the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), and the Ministry of Forests Protection Branch (MOPP). Units are deployed on request from the Incident Commander and an evacuation alert must be in place. While these three units are deployed in the Kootenay the extra inventory was strategically deployed to Kamloops. In the event of another interface fire, this inventory would be shipped on pallets to the incident.

The Structural Protection Units program was developed in 2004 to design and produce three SPU’s and an extra set of inventory for community protection when a wildfire threatened the community interface. Funding was provided by the Province of BC.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM SERVICES PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

For program details go to www.civicnet.bc.ca. Look under Programs and Services/Local Government Program Services

Applications are now being accepted for:

Community Tourism Phase 2
Accepting applications until November 30, 2008
School Community Connections
Accepting applications for step 2 and 3 until December 1, 2007
Seniors Dialogues
Accepting applications until December 1, 2007 for dialogues before December 31

Strategic Wildfire Prevention
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- Pilot Projects
- Operational Fuel Management

Accepting applications on an on-going basis

Local Government Reporting deadlines

Community Health Promotion Fund
Progress reports should be submitted ASAP and final reports by December 31, 2007

Community Tourism (phase 1)
Reporting deadline is February 1, 2008

Crystal Methamphetamine Response (2005)
Final reports are due

Emergency Planning (2007)
Reporting deadline is August 30, 2007

Integrated Emergency Planning (2006/07)
Reporting deadline is March 31, 2008

Seniors in Community Pilot Projects
Pilot Projects - Progress reports should be submitted ASAP and final reports by January 31, 2008

Dialogues – final reports are due by December 31, 2007

West Nile Virus Prevention (2007)
Reporting deadline is November 30, 2007

Program Highlights – New Reports now on our website

Emergency Planning
Seniors In Communities
Strategic Wildfire
School Community Connections

Saving to energize your community.

Your local government is helping lead the way to a better BC by taking part in the BC Hydro Turn It Off Challenge – conserving energy and creating a culture of conservation. To learn more, and to make a difference today, visit bchydro.com.