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BC Representatives to FCM Board

At the recent Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference held in Calgary, the following representatives were chosen to serve on the National Board of Directors for 2007-2008.

British Columbia Regional Committee: Councillor Suzanne Anton, City of Vancouver Councillor Brenda Binnie, City of Castlegar Mayor John Dooley, City of Nelson Mayor Sharon Hartwell, Village of Telkwa Councillor Marvin Hunt, City of Surrey Mayor Frank Leonard, District of Saanich Mayor Herb Pond, City of Prince Rupert Director Susan Gist, UBCM Representative Mayor Frank Leonard and Councillor Brenda Binnie were subsequently elected chair and vice-chair respectively of the BC Regional Committee.

National Board of Directors: President: Councillor Gord Steeves, City of Winnipeg, Manitoba First Vice-President: Mayor Jean Perrault, Sherbrooke, Quebec Second Vice-President: Mayor Basil Stewart, Smithers, B.C. Third Vice-President: Director Hans Cunningham, Regional District of Central Kootenay

New Name to an Area Association

During their spring annual meeting, the Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association (OMMA) resolved to rename the association the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA).

and UBCM would be forced to “down tool” on the training and focus on advocating for the members’ interests. So in part, the genesis of the LGLA was to establish a body that would set the number one priority and was never competing for attention with other objectives.

As UBCM approached the 2005 Convention and its 100th Anniversary, it shared this thinking with the Premier. UBCM also shared with him the dilemma – it may be a great idea, but where would the funding for the creation and management of such an organization come from?

A few weeks later, during his annual address to the UBCM Convention, the Premier announced that he was solidly behind the proposal and, as a symbol of how deep that commitment was, he announced that the provincial government would commit $1 million to the establishment of the Local Government Leadership Academy.

The Premier’s announcement underscores that quality of life in our communities is linked to good governance and good governance is linked to leadership and that leadership doesn’t just happen— it comes from people having the skills it takes to be the best leaders they can be.

With the vision of what UBCM wanted to accomplish and a huge down payment on the work to build the organization began in two ways.

First was the development of the Charter for the LGLA and the establishment of its governance structure.

Second, UBCM began to raise additional funds by approaching some of the organizations it has had a hand in creating over its 100-year history. Each of them responded positively:

- BC Assessment Authority;
- Municipal Finance Authority;
- Municipal Insurance Association; and
- Local Government Management Association.

UBCM also asked the membership if they shared the vision and if they wanted to help mark UBCM’s centenary by making a contribution to the LGLA initiative. To date UBCM has received over $51,000 from 72 municipalities and regional districts. Additional details on governance and funding can be found on the new LGLA website at www.lgla.ca.

The new LGLA Board was established in January of this year and the Board members had two immediate goals: to show what LGLA could offer and to develop a three-year plan for local government/First Nations leadership training. The first goal was accomplished through the recent Forum. The second goal, the three-year plan, will be unveiled at the 2007 UBCM Convention.

The LGLA is now officially up and running; it has showcased what it can do – and has done so to the satisfaction of its audience. The first Forum was a solid success – and the foundation for a bright future.

Attention now shifts to work on a three-year training program, which will be presented at the 2007 UBCM Convention.

See page 20 for further coverage of the LGLA’s inaugural BC Local Government Leadership Forum.

Launched to Rave Reviews

The newly established Local Government Leadership Academy’s first program – the BC Local Government Leadership Forum – was an outstanding success and the foundation for a bright future.

Held June 13–15, 2007 at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, over 140 people took part in the 14 sessions offered. The event was planned to showcase the purposes of the Academy and the types of programs it might offer. The overall rating of the Forum was 4.6 out of 5 and some of the comments from delegates were:

“...an excellent academy. A perfect mix of learning new skills, increasing knowledge, networking and relaxing. I enjoyed the camaraderie and the scheduling.”

“Rex Murphy was inspiring. Worth our time.”

“One of the best UBCM officiated events I have ever attended.”

The popularity of the Forum also demonstrates the real interest among local elected officials, senior staff and First Nations leaders for this type of programming. It proves the vision for the Academy. Let’s take a moment now to step back and reflect on the origins and objectives of the Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA).

UBCM has had a good record for organizing training programs for newly elected officials – holding 18 series of these seminars and, in the last series, holding six seminars reaching over 450 people. From time to time, UBCM has also held specialized workshops for Chief Executive Officers and seminars on topics such as strategic planning. These were not set in the context of an organized training program, which will be presented at the 2007 UBCM Convention.

UBCM’s top priority is advocacy; and so it should be. The organization’s number one priority is to represent the members’ interests. Quite often when these were not set in the context of an organized training program, which will be presented at the 2007 UBCM Convention.

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COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2007 PROGRAM

The UBCM Community Excellence Awards has become the benchmark awards program for municipalities and regional districts in BC. As the foremost award a local government can receive, our program has also been researched as a sample of “what to do” by the Provincial government in development of the Green City Awards. Winning communities feel proud to list their UBCM award next to global accolades received, such as Ucluelet’s mayor did in the March issue of Forum Magazine when being interviewed about her city’s UBCM award.

Through the creation of successful partnerships, UBCM has been able to identify key areas of concern for local governments. While identifying what our members want to work on, we have also been able to profile the excellent programs and issues being delivered. It is this attention to knowledge sharing that has made the Community Excellence Awards a great example of a program that gives credit where due, but also contributes to the continued development of BC communities.

The 2007 awards program will offer the following categories, as in years past:

- BEST PRACTICES
- BEST PRACTICES, Website
- BEST PRACTICES, Annual Reporting
- LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Small Community
- LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Mid-Size Community
- LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Large Community
- LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Regional District

In addition to the above-mentioned categories, the PARTNERSHIPS Category is also available, but with a different focus each year. In the past, we have focused on First Nations, School Districts, and Healthy Living. The PARTNERSHIPS Category focus for 2007 will be on Tourism, which will be an exciting category with the upcoming Olympic Games having provided inspiration to many of our member communities.

Don’t miss this opportunity to share your successes with other BC communities. Applications will be available on the UBCM website by June 25th at www.civicnet.bc.ca/Programs & Services/Community Excellence Awards Program. If you have any questions about making an application, please call Joslyn Young, Executive Coordinator at 604-270-8226, Ext. 103.

We look forward to receiving your applications.

UBCM THANKS OUR 2007 PARTNERS:

Environment: This allows our Committees to reach out to members and discuss some of the important, current policy issues. We are also working with the provincial Office of Building Policy. Area Associations and others to deliver a series of eight regional consultations on reforming the approaches to enforcing the building code. Climate Change is another of our challenges. The Executive has a special meeting with the Premier on July 3 to discuss the provincial Climate Change action plan and its implications for local government. More information will appear on our website and in the August newsletter. It’s going to be a big week and one where we will bring together our work at the local, provincial, national and international levels. I look forward to seeing you there.

Councillor Brenda Bombe
President

UBCM NEWS JUNE 2007
Member Visits – June 2007

Each year, UBCM staff are deployed to various regions of the province to meet with local governments and listen to the issues, concerns and insights that arise from your communities. Experience has shown that the visits are a win-win. For local governments, the visits provide a chance to offer direct feedback to UBCM on issues that matter locally and meet some of the staff that advocate or administer funding on your behalf. For our staff, the visits are a chance to reflect on the current initiatives and practices of UBCM through the eyes of local governments. The visits also provide a vivid demonstration of both the commonality and variety of issues that exist among our broad membership.

This year we visited 37 local governments with three different staff teams:

Columbia-Shuswap / East Kootenay May 7-10
- Spallumcheen
- Armstrong
- Salmon Arm
- Columbia-Shuswap RD
- Sicamous
- Golden

Okanagan: May 29 – June 1
- Peachland
- Okanagan-Similkameen RD
- Summerland
- Midway
- Lake Country
- Keremeos
- Kelowna

Mid-Island: June 11-14
- Nanaimo RD
- Nanaimo City
- Lantzville
- Port Alberni
- North Cowichan
- Ladysmith

Thank you to all of the above local governments who have contributed to the development of our corporate knowledge this year.

BC/FCM Travel Fund

In 1989, BC local governments established a travel fund for five BC Directors on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Board. It is funded by an annual 1 ¾¢ per capital voluntary contribution from British Columbia local governments.

The eligibility is:
- Five FCM Directors from B.C. representing members at large (not Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby or UBCM) and FCM table officers from BC (President paid by FCM only). Committee members that are not Board members are not eligible.
- Costs may be reimbursed for the (three) regular Board meetings (and associated Committee/Task Force meetings) but not for the Board meeting held immediately prior to or immediately following the Annual Conference or for Committee meetings not held in conjunction with regular Board meetings.
- Airfare & accommodation expenses will be reimbursed for days when the Board is in session. All other expenses, including food, ground transportation, parking, etc. are the responsibility of the individual Director and his/her local government.

Thank you to all of the above local governments who have contributed to the development of our corporate knowledge this year.

Three New Municipalities

Westside had a two-stage vote. The first vote which passed by a 84% majority was to support a change in governance. The second vote, which passed by 51.5%, was to form a new municipality rather than join Kelowna.

The two other votes were in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District with Clearwater voting 64% to incorporate and Barriere voting 55%. It is expected that council elections will take place in November and the incorporation dates will be early December. This will increase the number of municipalities to 160 and the total local governments to 188.

Greenwood Town Hall

Oliver Town Hall

UBCM NEWS JUNE 2007 3
Area Associations

Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities
- President: Director Rod Sherrell
- 1st Vice President: Mayor Barry Janyk
- 2nd Vice President: Mayor Christopher Causton
- Past President: Councillor Bea Holland
- Electoral Area Rep: Director Barbara Price
- Directors at Large: Councillor Rob Johnson, Chair Joe Stanhope, Councillor Barry Avis

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Lower Mainland Local Government Association
- President: Councillor Rob Long
- 1st Vice President: Councillor Corrine Lansdale
- 2nd Vice President: Councillor Rob Howard
- Past President: Councillor Sharon Gaetz
- Directors at Large: Councillor Mike Little

Executive Officers
- President: Heath Slee
- 1st Vice President: Joe Snopik
- 2nd Vice President: Art Benzer
- Past President: Janis Dahlen
- Directors at Large: Christina Bentley, Grace McGregor, Ramona Turrctt, Tom Mann

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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UPDATE

Sewerage System Regulation

In May of 2005, the Province repealed the Sewerage Disposal Regulation and enacted the Sewerage System Regulation (SSR). Under the new regulation, only “authorized individuals,” or certified practitioners and professionals, are able to design, plan, construct and maintain an onsite sewage treatment systems with daily flows under 22,700 litres. The introduction of the Sewerage System Regulation has generated significant implementation challenges in contrast to the past experience across the province. From increased cost to homeowners, to a lack of flexibility in septic system installations, 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 designed to: assess implementation challenges, and communicate, and flexibility issues identified by local governments.

UBCM has requested that the Ministry of Health and British Columbia Onsite Sewage Association (BCOSSA) outline the measures they have taken to address local government concerns at this panel discussion. UBCM has recognized the importance of the SSR to our members, and continues to seek solutions to the challenges caused by the implementation of the Sewerage System Regulation.

Contaminated Sites

In February 2007, the Ministry of Environment held a series of consultation sessions and released several new documents pertaining to the site profile process for contaminated sites. The new draft documents released by the Ministry include: a protocol for processing site profiles, and a procedure for defining the boundaries of a site, a protocol for classifying sites according to risk, supplemental guidance for risk assessments, and guidance on soil vapour investigations.

Under the proposed site profile process, the decision process of determining whether a site investigation is required largely remains the same as the current process. The fundamental change being proposed is the mechanism by which site owners and project proponents may request release of certain local government permits prior to receiving a ministry instrument.

The current release process relies on ministry staff to facilitate between the proponent and local government, a set of mutually agreeable release provisions, and generally relies on the local government to confirm compliance with terrain conditions. The proposed process will be less facilitative and will require that the proponent agree to a set of specific conditions which ensure the ministry’s release of local government permits.

The proposed site profile process has raised several concerns amongst local governments regarding clarity and liability exposure. Specifically, the proposed interim site profile process lacks clarity on what constitutes a low-risk site, and the current version fails to extend existing community based government staff that are undertaking reviews of low risk release letters. The conditions proposed in the release of low risk release letters also appear to favour the Ministry and the proponent, as local governments lack a reasonable ability to require remediation for onsite and offsite contamination.

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

UBCM held a “Local Government and the Environment” conference on June 27-28th, at the Best Western Richmond Hotel and Convention Centre in Richmond. 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, regulation, and community programs. Provincial interest in this conference was particularly high – the Honourable Barry Penner made a closing address, and the deputy minister and several assistant deputy ministers from the Ministry of Environment were in attendance throughout the conference.

The conference presentations will be posted on an FTP site shortly, and an announcement regarding the FTP site will be made on the UBCM website. For further information about the conference proceedings, please contact Jared Wright, Senior Policy Analyst, at 604-270-8226 (ext. 113) or jwright@civicnet.bc.ca.
“Innovation and Transparency”

“Innovation and Transparency”

“Municipal progress, like so many matters, is cumulative: one improvement sets the stage for another. The UBCM has been very instrumental as a means of encouraging the conception, incubation and promotion to fruition of countless good ideas to improve the lot of local government.” - Alan Emmott, UBCM President 1965-66

UBCM has always been an organization on the move. From our first convention in 1905, we have used the power of a common voice for local government to improve the lives of British Columbians in the communities we serve. Through the activities of debate, cooperation, policy formation and advocacy we have built an organization that innovates with a balance of courage and caution.

Over the years, many of UBCM’s principle undertakings have altered how local governments relate to the Province of BC. The legislation of the Community Charter in 2004 is just one of many examples of collaborative work with the Province that has contributed to the evolution and definition of municipal powers and accountabilities.

UBCM’s own relationship with the Province has evolved and changed over the years as well. In the same year that the Community Charter came into effect, UBCM began to administer provincial funding to local governments for the first time. To a few who wondered if UBCM would end up serving two masters, this seemed to be an unusual step. The majority of our members, though, understood the move was another example of the organization responding to the needs of members through innovation – in this case, by extending the scope of our capabilities.

The success of early programs like Sprinkler Protection Units and Emergency Planning laid the foundations for the formation of the Local Government Program Services (LGPS), the UBCM administrator of provincially funded programs. The creation of the LGPS allowed UBCM to take on the role of funding administrator without altering our core purpose: policy development and advocacy on behalf of BC local governments. Through careful planning, design and the addition of new staff, UBCM is doing everything we did before and more.

With a commitment to innovation requires an equal commitment to transparency, we are providing details on the organization of the LGPS, which you may read in the article “LGPS: Three Years and Counting”. As you will read on every other page of this newsletter, UBCM remains focused on our core task of advocacy. Our Committees, the Executive and the Board are dedicated to this effort. At the same time, we want to continue to improve in our administration of funds, and welcome your feedback on ways to streamline our service.

by Brenda Binic, UBCM President

“LGPS: Three Years and Counting”

“I n April of 2004, the attention of many local governments in BC was focused on the implications of the Filmon Report recommendations that had been endorsed by the provincial government. That same month, UBCM was awarded funding to develop Community Structural Protection Units (SFPUs) specific to BC’s needs. Working with a multi-agency design team, specifications were developed and equipment procured in time for the 2004 fire season. Within days of delivery, the units were deployed to their first event to save structures at risk in the Chilcotin. The quick turnaround was the first evidence that UBCM’s administration of a provincial program could offer unique advantages to both our members and the Province.

What began with SFPUs and other Filmon related initiatives such as emergency planning and wildfire prevention, expanded over the following months to include programs for government interests and our streamlined decision making systems. While adapting to the new role would not dilute our efforts to influence provincial policy and legislation. By creating the Local Government Program Services – a new unit with new staff - the Executive adopted six measures to safeguard the independence of our advocacy work:

1. An operational firewall for staff was created with a clear division of responsibilities between those staff responsible for advocacy and those who administer LGPS programs.
2. A physical firewall was introduced by having the LGPS secretariat housed in the Victoria office and advocacy staff in Richmond.

Continued on page 10

LGPS At-A-Glance

For detailed information on all funding programs administered by Local Government Program Services, please view our webpage at www.civicnet.bc.ca or call 250-356-5134.

Community Tourism:
- Phase 1 deadline was March 31, 2007
- Phase 2 program now available

Emergency Planning
- 2007 programming fully subscribed
- 2007 Status Report now available on CivicNet

Strategic Fuel Management
- Funding is available for all wildfire protection programs on an ongoing basis

West Nile Prevention Initiative
- 2007 program deadline has passed. If your community has not yet made application to this program, please contact the LGPS office at 250-356-5134 as soon as possible to make arrangements for late application.

Seniors Housing & Support Initiative Dialogue Program
- 2007 funding available until November 30, 2007 for events before December 31, 2007. Please visit www.seniorsincommunities.ca for information
- 2007 Status Report now available on CivicNet

School Community Connections
- Step 1 deadline: April 1, 2007
- Step 2 & 3: December 1, 2007

Community Health Promotion Fund
- In 2007, 70 Community Health Promotion pilot projects were approved in communities throughout BC. LGPS is looking forward to learning from the successes and challenges of each project as progress reports are submitted this summer
- 2007 Status Report now available on CivicNet

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

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

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

Provincial Contact Partner: Bill Cox, Partner Tel: (604) 688-5421

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Continued on page 10

UBCM NEWS JUNE 2007

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM SERVICES - What’s New?
**Community Economic Development**

**Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) Update**

Over the past few months, UBCM has received a number of letters, opinions and motions by community representatives with respect to TILMA. The update details the implications of the agreement, which came into effect on April 1, 2007, between the provinces of BC and Alberta to liberalize trade, investment and labour mobility between the two provinces. Although local governments are not a party to TILMA, their measures will be subject to the agreement on April 1, 2009. However, there is a two-year transitional period which provides time to consult and negotiate required special provisions or exclusions for local government.

Members have requested UBCM to take the lead and undertake a review of the agreement and its potential implications for local government. We have done just that.

In early March UBCM requested Don Lidstone, municipal lawyer of Lidstone Young Anderson to undertake an analysis of TILMA. A memo was circulated to UBCM members on March 28, 2007 with a reference to Mr. Lidstone’s analysis which has since been posted to the UBCM website. The memo and analysis can be found at www.civicnet.bc.ca under Featured Policy Topics / Independent Power Projects or on the Ministry website at www.em.gov.bc.ca/AlternativeEnergy/Alt_Energy_Home.htm. under Contents.

A copy of the guide can be found on the UBCM website at civicnet.bc.ca under Featured Policy Topics / Independent Power Projects or on the Ministry website at www.em.gov.bc.ca/AlternativeEnergy/Alt_Energy_Home.htm. under Contents.

**Ministry Releases Mini-Guide to IPP Development**

The purpose of the mini-guide is to assist local governments and the general public identify where there are opportunities for participation in provincial IPP regulatory processes. Specifically the guide identifies the provincial IPP regulatory processes for water licensing (under the provincial Water Act), Crown land tenuring (under the provincial Land Act) and environmental assessment certification (under the provincial Environmental Assessment Act).

For communities that have independent power producer projects proposed for their area, this guide will provide you with information about the tenuring process and opportunities for local government input.

**Province Proposes Single Business Licence**

At the UBCM Executive meeting in February, Honourable Rick Thorpe, Minister of Small Business and Revenue met with board members and indicated that the Province would like to have a harmonized business licence framework in place by 2008. He invited UBCM to participate on an Advisory Committee to provide input and guidance to the staff working group. Subsequent to the UBCM meeting, Councillor Brenda Bunnie, UBCM President and Mayor Ella Brown, Small Community Representative were appointed. The working group was also established comprising the Ministries of Small Business and Revenue, Community Services, Economic Development, Finance, BizPal, One Stop Business Registry and UBCM.

Following the February meeting, the Province indicated that not only did the Ministry wish to have a framework in place, but even more ambitious targets were established – the goal was to develop a province-wide single business licence by March 2008 that would allow businesses to operate in any municipality in the province with one business licence.

In March, the UBCM President expressed concerns to the Minister about the scope (all businesses, not just mobile businesses), timeline (within 1 year) and deliverable (a single business licence for all municipalities, not just a framework for discussion). Work has continued on the development of a single business licence model and Ministry staff has begun to engage local governments in discussions. As a local elected official you may have attended one of the consultation sessions, either at your Area Association meeting or other venue.

**2008 Forest Capital of BC**

The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABCFP) is inviting forest-dependent communities in British Columbia to apply to be named the 2008 Forest Capital of British Columbia.

This program, established in 1988 is an important opportunity to celebrate the central role forests play in shaping our unique BC experience. It is a chance for the people of BC to celebrate the economic, cultural, natural and historic contributions forests make to community life and the health of the province. Communities named the Forest Capital host a full year of forest-themed events such as art competitions, interpretive forest walks and loggers sports shows.

The deadline for applications is November 15, 2007. The winning community will be announced in early December. For further information please go to: www.abcfp.ca.

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UBCM NEWS JUNE 2007
Community Safety

New Police Tax Effective in 2007

Until now, small municipalities have not contributed to policing costs and rural area property owners have paid an amount towards these costs through the provincial rural tax. Municipalities with populations of more than 5,000 and policed by the RCMP pay 70% to 90% of their policing costs. The province has amended the Police Act and made a number of other regulatory changes required to implement the new police tax. Municipalities have been sent a $1,000 credit from the province to assist in the administrative changes required to implement the new tax (i.e. computer program changes, tax notice forms etc.).

The new police tax is intended to help pay for 50% of the policing costs in municipalities with populations of less than 5,000, and in rural areas. The actual police tax charged on the 2007 property tax notice is less than 50% due to:

- provincial traffic fine revenue sharing initiatives,
- a reduction in the rural police tax rate to recognize the contribution made through the provincial rural tax – a tax credit has been applied in electoral areas of $1.10 per $1,000 across all assessment classes.

The Surveyor of Taxes has made the administrative changes needed to implement the new police tax and forwarded the information required by municipalities to complete their property tax notices. The Surveyor of Taxes when sending out the rural tax assessments included a notice about the police tax to all rural taxpayers. The Surveyor of Taxes will be responsible for determining the allocation of the administration of the new police tax.

For further information on the financing of local police services, please refer to: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/police_services/publications/index.htm#financing.

RCMP CONTRACT RENEWAL

The federal and provincial/territorial governments are in the early stages of the RCMP contract renewal process. They have agreed on a 2 Phase Approach:

- Phase 1 – information sharing and research;
- Phase 2 – negotiation.

The following principles have been adopted to guide the renewal process:

- Continuation of RCMP is beneficial to all;
- All aspects of the agreements need to be reviewed;
- Agreement will be clear and flexible;
- All parties to work together in good faith to approve agreements before 2012;
- RCMP to continue providing service until agreement is reached.

There are currently three RCMP policing agreements in BC that will be affected by these negotiations:

- Federal/Provincial agreement entitled – Provincial Police Services Agreement;
- Federal/Provincial master municipal agreement entitled – Municipal Policing Agreement;
- Individual Provincial/Municipal agreement entitled – Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA).

Justice Transformation Update Early Solutions, Faster Justice

by Ministry of Attorney General

BC’s justice system is being transformed to address delays, high costs, unwieldy processes and social pressures (such as increased addictions rates) so that it can respond in ways that are meaningful and effective for everyone involved.

The Ministry of Attorney General, along with other justice, health and social service ministries, has embarked on a three-year plan to ensure the justice system meets the needs of individuals, families, businesses and communities — in a more cost effective, timely and meaningful way. The three-year plan is built around the concept of early solutions and faster justice.

In a practical sense, this means that the ministry and other agencies are working to bring together integrated teams of justice, health and social service providers to deliver supports in a holistic way, build partnerships for joint solutions, update legislation and practice and take other necessary steps to improve justice services.

The approach is multi-faceted, for a very complex justice system. The changes aim to help people find new ways of resolving disputes and doing so earlier in the process. They will help chronic offenders deal with the issues that push them into a life of crime. They will lead to a justice system that is easier to understand and use and where the time and cost needed to obtain an outcome are proportionate to the value of the problem. And they will seek to reduce and prevent crime.

To this end, a number of innovative pilot projects are underway:

- The Nanaimo Family Justice Services Centre pilot project opened in April, in partnership with the Legal Services Society. The centre offers a range of services to families undergoing separation and divorce, including dispute resolution, limited legal advice, self-help resources and information, needs assessment and referral and more. See www.nanaimo.familyjustice.bc.ca/index.htm for more information.
- Justice services centres, or information and services “hubs,” will be piloted over the next three years. The centres will provide clients with integrated services for family and civil matters, such as debt, consumer, housing and any other civil matter in the courts. Some services will be located in or close to the centres – people will be connected to these services in a more integrated way, based on individual needs. Work is underway to develop the structure of these centres and the services to be offered. The first pilot justice services centre is expected to open in January 2008.
- The criminal justice reform secretariat has been formed jointly with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Ministry of Children and Family Development to lead the development and implementation of provincial crime reduction and prevention strategies. Key to the strategies is taking a problem-solving approach, with integration of services at the front end and case management to hold offenders accountable more quickly and effectively. One example is the community court being piloted in downtown Vancouver. Local governments are important partners in the effort to reduce and prevent crime and the secretariat is liaising with the City of Surrey and others as the strategies are developed.

Local governments have a significant role to play in the rollout of these and other projects. For example, Vancouver’s Downtown Community Court team is working with that city to identify community work projects for offenders. The ministry is also liaising with the City of Nanaimo regarding the family resource centre may link in with city projects on homelessness, addictions and other issues that impact families. The ministry will continue to connect with local governments and UBCM as pilot projects, strategies and legislative changes progress.

UBCM NEWS JUNE 2007

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Continued on page 9
RESOLUTIONS UPDATE

So far this year, upwards of 175 resolutions have been submitted to the UBCM for consideration at the 2007 Convention. We anticipate more arrivals as the June 30 deadline approaches and expect that we will once again reach or exceed the 200 mark. Some of this year’s hot topics include:

- TILMA;
- highway safety;
- funding for flood mitigation works;
- funding for emergency infrastructure;
- child care funding;
- Wildfire Act amendments;
- support for community social planning;
- Pine Beetle epidemic;
- regional district Charter;
- Crown leases;
- school district/local government consultation;
- climate change;
- policing/RCMP issues;
- drinking water safety;
- vacant and derelict building sites; and
- health authority governance.

A reminder memo went out to all UBCM members earlier this month, advising of the June 30 deadline for resolution submissions and encouraging local governments to ensure that at least one member of their delegation is in attendance at resolutions sessions at Convention.

Please feel free to contact Errin Morrison in the UBCM office (604.270.8226 ext. 115 or emorrison@civicnet.bc.ca) if you have any questions about the UBCM resolutions process.

RCMP Contract Renewal

WorkSafe BC – Coverage of Volunteer Firefighters

WorkSafe BC is looking at whether or not it should expand its coverage of the activities performed by volunteer firefighters. A discussion paper was developed to look at the additional volunteer firefights related to emergency response duties and public relations and how this was covered in other parts of Canada. The report suggested that these activities were covered in a number of other jurisdictions in Canada. In the policy paper WorkSafe BC outlined three options – Option #1 - no change in policy be made; Option #2 – the policy be amended on a broad basis; Option #3 – policy be amended to cover a limited range of activities.

The UBCM Executive and the Volunteer Firefighters’ Association of BC both recommended that the policy be amended on a broad basis and that the policy be updated:
- Clarify that coverage provided during authorized off-site training sessions which include a strong practice component.
- That coverage be provided in cases of emergency when the volunteer firefighter commences travel on public roadways unless the injury is due to a property of preparation for travel.
- Expand coverage to include emergency response duties and public relations when there is a sufficient employment connection.
- Reflect commonly used terminology in reference to volunteer firefighters.

WorkSafe BC is currently looking at the response to the policy paper and what action it should take on the issue.

Affordability/ Contract Certainty

- Cost of policing should be paid for in a higher ratio between senior governments due to the nature of police work now – given the volume of public security, now and in the future, policing should be more of a responsibility of the federal and provincial governments.
- Cost certainty – What is included?; What are the cost escalators? Perception is that cost escalators can be generated unilaterally by the RCMP (i.e. accommodation requirements) or jointly by the Province and RCMP (i.e. PRIME and other technology) without consultation with those paying (i.e. municipal taxpayer).

WorkSafe BC – Coverage of Volunteer Firefighters

A meeting was held on March 28, 2007 in Richmond to discuss local government concerns with the current RCMP contract and to begin to identify issues to be addressed when discussing the renewal of the agreement, which expires in 2012.

A full report on issues raised by the local government at the meeting “RCMP Contract Discussions Issue Identification” is available on the web at www.civicnet.bc.ca under Featured Policy Topics RCMP Contract Discussions, the document is entitled “Summary Report on RCMP Contract Discussions”.

Outlined below is a brief summary of some of the concerns identified by local government:

- Ability to be part of senior NCO posting – community must be part of decision making on senior RCMP postings within local detachments.
- Reporting/accountability on policing priorities (i.e. municipal input) – current process for communication on policing priorities is more “informative” driven than “collaborative” driven. Municipalities need a voice in setting the priorities and need to be shown how the RCMP have done in meeting those objectives.
- Accountability – discussion of proposed increases in police costs so that communities can prepare; total costs within per member cost; consultation for service charges, support to “E” Division administrative costs etc.

Financial Accountability

- Cost control – evidence that cost savings are being put in place and no downloading of costs; portion of officer time doing office work is at issue.
- Certainty of budget – knowing budget requirements at appropriate time and phase-in of large increases; opportunity to provide input on budget.

Service Delivery

- Meeting authorized strength with experienced members (balance).
- “A guarantee” of appropriate manpower/delivery of service – lack of officers to fill vacant positions, we only get new recruits, experience lacking.
- Lack of visible police on duty and retention of experienced police officers.

Staffing/Training

- Lack of trained staff in rural areas – new recruits should be a shared salary cost during probationary period.
- Clearer language around support staff – What is “appropriate” level and how is this determined;
What’s New on civicnet?

The following are some new additions and key updates to the UBCM’s CivicNet website (www.civicnet.bc.ca):

Local Government Program Services
In recent weeks, several status reports have been posted to the Program Reports page under Programs & Services/Local Government Program Services. These include reports on Emergency Planning, Seniors Housing & Support Initiative Pilot Projects and Community Health Promotion. In addition, a full financial report on the Local Government Program Services to March 31, 2007 is now available on the Financial Reports page through this same web path.

Nominations & Elections
The 2007 Call for Nominations to the UBCM Executive has been posted to the Nominations & Elections page under the Convention tab. Please check this page for information and guidelines related to the UBCM nominations and elections process.

Guide to Info Services
An updated Guide to UBCM Information Services is available under the Publications tab. This document contains a list of all UBCM and UBCM-related publications, reports, briefs, etc. – including links to those documents available online.

Staff
UBCM has had some staffing changes over the past few months. Please check the updated Staff page under the About UBCM tab to see who has taken over from whom and to review which staff members handle UBCM’s various policy and other portfolios.

BC Area Associations
Please check the BC Area Associations pages under the Area Govt Links & Info tab to review the new Area Association Executive Boards, as well as dates/locations for the 2008 spring conferences. And here are a few reminders of services we offer on an ongoing basis through CivicNet:

UBCM Resolutions Database
When drafting resolutions for the 2007 Convention, remember to have a look at the UBCM historical resolutions database, available under the Resolutions & Policy tab for online searching. Use this resource to research UBCM policy positions based on past resolutions, or to assist in your own resolutions drafting by providing examples of past resolutions

LGPS: Three Years and Counting
Continued from page 6
3. The Committees of UBCM remained focused on advocacy, with input to funding programs limited to design recommendations.
4. Both the Executive and Committees are uninvolved in funding decisions. The Executive provides oversight for the LGPS by developing staffing policies, monitoring progress and receiving reports.
5. Most importantly, all of UBCM’s policy and advocacy work remains financially independent from the province. Even if UBCM lost all of its program funds for administration, its policy

“LGPS: Three Years and Counting”
Continued from page 6
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5. Most importantly, all of UBCM’s policy and advocacy work remains financially independent from the province. Even if UBCM lost all of its program funds for administration, its policy

and advocacy operations would continue unchanged.
6. All LGPS programs are part of the financial statements posted quarterly by UBCM on CivicNet. Where there are unexpected funds from program administration or interest earnings, the Executive has instituted policies to return these to programs to benefit our members.

In the past year, UBCM has conducted two surveys with local governments to test how we are doing, and the results have been gratifying. In early 2007 we surveyed local governments on their experiences of the Community Tourism Program. Of those who responded (76% on average for all of LGPS programs), LGPS had an approval rate close to 100% for the clarity of the application guide, the application process, the timeliness of LGPS response to comments affirmed all of the qualities that we strive for in program administration: responsiveness, quick turnaround on approvals, flexibility and availability to provide assistance during the application process.

Similarly, our Membership Survey from early 2007 indicated a high level of awareness of LGPS programs (76% on average for all funding programs over $100,000), with some indicators for desired improvement in our application guides and a caution that UBCM continue to not use provincial funding for core operations. Detailed statistics and comments from both surveys are available from the LGPS office.

As we approach the third anniversary of the LGPS, the feedback received affirms that we are on the right track with offering a valuable service to local governments. We are still looking for ways to improve. This year we embarked on an ambitious effort to dramatically enhance our reporting format. You can view the results on the LGPS section of CivicNet under “Reports”. With the continuing feedback from our members and our provincial partners, we look forward to making further improvements in coming months.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRE SERVICES MODEL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

What is the British Columbia Fire Services Model Development Project? The Fire Services in British Columbia are undertaking a very challenging project to develop a new Fire Service Model for the province to address current and future challenges of the fire service. The project is being undertaken by the Fire Services Liaison Group (“FSLG”).

What is the FSLG? The FSLG is chaired by the BC Fire Chief’s Association and is comprised of representatives from the BC Fire Training Officers Association, Fire Prevention Officers Association of BC, Volunteer Firefighters Association of BC, BC Professional Firefighters Association and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The FSLG was formed to present a united voice on issues and initiatives regarding the Fire Services in British Columbia.

Why is the Fire Services Model Development Project Needed? The BC Fire Service, including local government, has determined that the current model for fire service delivery is deficient in a number of areas. The FSLG identified areas of concern at the 2005 UBCM Convention whose members unanimously approved the concept of the British Columbia Fire Services Model Project.

The Model Project will address many long standing issues that prevent the delivery of high quality, consistent fire services throughout British Columbia in areas such as service coverage gaps, regionalization and uniformity of service, First Nations emergency services, inter-operability and inter-agency issues.

Who is Undertaking the Model Development Work? The key project work to develop the Model is being undertaken by seventeen Task Groups made up of team members drawn from representatives of the six organizations that make up the FSLG.

What are the Areas of which the Task Groups are Working? The work areas to which the individual Task Groups have been assigned are:

1. Definition of a Fire Department
2. Governance/Legislation/Code Enforcement
3. Funding
4. Training/Certification/Standards
5. Fire Record Management System
6. Investigations
7. Inspections
8. Service Coverage Gaps
9. Inter-operability/Inter-agency Issues
10. Fire First Responder/Rescue
11. Regionalization and Uniformity of Service
12. Firefighter Safety/WorkSafe BC
13. First Nations
14. Communications/Dispatch/911
15. Fire-Related Disasters and Major Events
16. Public Education
17. Diversity, Recruitment, Retention

How is the Project Funded? The BC Solicitor General has stated his support for the development of the Model and directed the Office of the Fire Commissioner to take the lead in securing funding, and identified ministries and agencies to contribute to the Model as part of government’s overall public safety and readiness strategy. The FSLG has determined that they will require $1.5M in order to complete The Model within two years.

What is Expected Outcome? The Goals set for the Project are:

1. To develop a model that will address the current and future needs of the BC Fire Service.
2. This model will achieve the highest possible degree of consensus from each of the fire service stakeholders.
3. The model will be endorsed and approved by the various stakeholder groups.
4. The model will be endorsed and approved by local, regional and provincial levels of government.
5. Required legislative changes to define and authorize this model will be proposed and approved by the appropriate levels of government.

When will the Project be Completed? The Model Development Project will run through to early 2008. At that time the elements of the recommended Model will have been finalized. Work on the project will still be required to finalize the elements for submission to governments and other stakeholders.

Modernization – Building Code Enforcement

In January 2006, the provincial government launched the Modernization Strategy, an initiative to improve the effectiveness of the building safety regulatory system. Over 150 individuals - building owners, developers, designers, builders and trades, local governments, and consumers - have been actively involved in discussions to shape the Modernization Strategy. Through these discussions, the Strategy has developed proposals that:

• Clearly assign responsibilities and define processes for applying and enforcing the Building Code; and
• Provide new tools to support Code-related decision making.

The proposed Modernization Strategy and its proposals are intended to clarify the regulation of building construction to result in:

1. Increased Public Safety

Required inspection of public buildings under construction in rural areas (i.e. resorts and lodges etc.) and of high risk areas of buildings generally.

2. Certainty in Code Enforcement and Delivery of Building Inspection Services

Province-wide enforcement of the Building Code by local governments or other third parties, such as the BC Safety Authority or a private-sector agency.

LEGISLATION

UBCM has been tracking the following legislative developments over the past few months. Please see the last two in the House releases and the March newsletter for further details.

In the House - March 9, 2007
• Police Act amended to facilitate introduction of new police tax for small municipalities and electoral areas.
• Mineral Tenure Act amended to expand notice requirements before entering private land and/or beginning mining activity.

In the House - May 3, 2007
• Expansion of the scope for revocation tax exemptions.
• Financial plans must now include objectives and policies on revenue sources, distribution of taxes among classes subject to taxation and use of permissible tax exemptions.
• New valuation process for short-term occupancy tourist accommodation, ports and ski hills.
• Changes to governance responsibility for BC Assessment Authority.

March UBCM News
• Multi-phased development legislation.
• Resort developments/resort municipality finance and governance.
• Legislation to prohibit smoking in public places.
• In addition to the above developments, the Homeowner Protection Act has been amended to strengthen regulation.
Residents of BC are saying something in our environment is changing - we are seeing longer droughts, followed by heavier rains or snows; we are experiencing intense wind storms but overall milder weather. Change is underway.

We are seeing the results of these changes, for instance, in flooding of communities and transportation systems; in the devastating pine beetle epidemic that will reshape BC's economy for decades; and in higher energy prices and periodic droughts.

But it is not just the natural environment where change affecting communities is being experienced - we are seeing equally significant changes in our social, cultural and economic climates. We are seeing:

• a tsunami of an aging population - which is impacting the health care system on the one hand, and having the echo effect of labour shortages on the other hand.
• an even more diverse cultural climate, as immigration becomes the predominant driver of population growth and the Asia Pacific potential is realized; while at the same time achieving reconciliation with First Nations.
• an economic climate where the benefits of growth and high employment are reflected in quality of life issues such as affordable housing, accessibility and social equity and inclusion.
• Today, all climates - social, cultural, economic and environmental - are changing and community leaders must understand those changes and predict where those changes may lead. Community leaders are also part of a changing political climate with increased demands for accountability, public engagement and collaboration.

Leaders must renew their vision of the ideal "climatic conditions" and the opportunities and actions that can lead us to sustainability. This conference is an opportunity to:

• take the temperature of our climates - the weather report;
• understand the outlooks - the weather forecast; and
• explore the opportunities to change for the better our social, economic, cultural, environmental and intergovernmental climates.

**NOMINATION PROCEDURES FOR THE UBCM EXECUTIVE**

The ongoing administration and policy determination of the UBCM is governed by a 19-person Executive Board that is elected and appointed at the Annual Convention.

There are ELEVEN elected positions:

- President
- First Vice-President
- Second Vice-President
- Third Vice-President
- Director at Large (five positions)
- Small Community Representative
- Electoral Area Representative

There are EIGHT appointed positions:

- Immediate Past President
- Vancouver Representative
- GVRD Representative
- Area Association Representatives – AKBLG, AVICC, LMLGA, NCMA, and SIGLA

Nominating Committee - is appointed under provisions of the UBCM bylaws and is composed of the Immediate Past President and representatives of the five Area Associations. The Nominating Committee is responsible for overseeing the nominating and election process.

Members of the 2007 Nominating Committee include:

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

The 2007 Nominations Process

May

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

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

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

July 31 – Last Business Day in July

Advance nominations close – all candidates must have their documentation submitted.

**Convention Registration Underway**

UBCM's 2007 Convention registration dates affecting pricing, we found it too complicated for electronic registration - plus people were often duplicating registration with a combination of electronic, faxes and mail. Register before August 10th for the lowest costs.

Following this deadline, the Nominating Committee will review credentials and prepare its report. It is not the role of the Nominating Committee to recommend any one nomination, rather Committee members are to ensure nominations are complete and follow the proper policies and procedures.

Mid-August

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

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

For further information on the nomination and election process contact the Chair, UBCM Nominating Committee, Councillor Marvin Hunt at:

Councillor Marvin Hunt
Chair, UBCM Nominating Committee
City of Surrey
7752, 166A Street
Surrey, BC
V4N 0L3

Cell: 604.889.4313
City Phone: 604.591.4635
City Fax: 604.591.4481
Email: jmhunt@surrey.ca

REMINDER:
The deadline for nominations is July 31, 2007.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED NOMINATION MATERIALS – INCLUDING CONSENT FORM, PICTURE AND BIO – TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE c/o the UBCM OFFICE
Monday Study Sessions/Tours

Agricultural Study Tour ~ 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

With the theme of ‘Planning for the New Agricultural Entrepreneur’, the tour will focus on some new directions in agriculture, and the challenges your local government may face in planning for them. In the eastern part of the GVRD, we will visit farms operating which are diversifying, focusing on value-added product, or agri-tourism. Examples may include:
- a farm with housing for international seasonal agriculture workers;
- a fruit winery;
- a berry farm with a bakery as part of its direct farm marketing operations;
- a vegetable farm with a large washing/packing/grading line.

Lunch will be provided, and there will be opportunities to purchase local farm products. Please dress for the weather. Partners/spouses are welcome to register for the tour.

Pine Beetle Conference ~ 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

The Ministry of Forests and Range projects that ‘80 per cent of the merchantable pine in the province’s central and southern Interior could be killed by 2013, and well over half that pine could be dead by the summer of 2007’. (Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan 2006 - 2011). These are staggering statistics that have serious economic and environmental implications for BC.

This session will examine the science behind the pine beetle epidemics (mountain and western) presently challenging our province. We will report out the latest projections as to the extent of the pine beetle damage and what the long-term economic outlook is for BC and our forest sector.

Addressing a problem of this magnitude requires the combined resources of all levels of government. We will hear from provincial and federal government representatives on what work has been undertaken to date and where funds have been allocated. We will also focus on the work that is being undertaken at the local level through the various regional beetle action coalitions to combat the pine beetle within our communities.

What can be done to make the best use of the combined resources? This session will provide as much information through panels and discussions, but we are looking for your insights and ideas as to how to best address this epidemic.

Port of Vancouver Tour ~ 8:30 am & 1:00 pm

AM Tour - New Westminster to Steveston; Fraser River Port Tour

The Lower Mainland port authorities invite you to tour the majestic河 lower Fraser River, the largest freshwater port in Canada. The tour begins at the Westminster Quay in New Westminster, where participants will get a unique perspective on some of the river’s major cargo terminals in neighbouring Surrey and Delta. The tour will then travel downstream along this working, living river to picturesque Steveston, in Richmond. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Participants meet at the information kiosk in the VCEC lobby, where groups will depart by Skytrain to New Westminster. Skytrain tickets are compliments of Translink.

A complimentary shuttle will return delegates to the VCEC after the tour.

PM Tour - Vancouver Harbour and Burrard Inlet Tour

The Lower Mainland port authorities invite you to tour spectacular Burrard Inlet and Vancouver’s bustling harbour. The tour covers the north side of Burrard Inlet including Vancouver, Burnaby, as well as the District and City of North Vancouver. Participants will be rewarded with an up-close perspective of Canada’s busiest harbour, along with some of its key terminals. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Participants should meet at the information kiosk in the VCEC lobby.

Working w/First Nations ~ 9:00 am - 12 noon

Today more and more local governments are working collaboratively with their First Nations neighbours. What are the ingredients for developing a good working relationship? Building on the great work that has been done at the local level, UBCM, the First Nations Summit, the Ministry of Community Services, and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation are developing a guidebook to Community to Community Forums that is designed to assist communities in taking the first steps. This session will provide members with an overview of the Forum Guide and discuss practical tools and approaches for working with First Nations.

Climate Change ~ 9:00 am - 12 noon

Climate Change and global warming is at the forefront of the public policy agenda. This session will:
- review some of the science and the potential impacts for BC and BC communities,
- examine federal and provincial policies.

Continued on page 16
Gas Tax / Public Transit Management Services

1. Leveraging Gas Tax Funding

As we prepare for the July release of Community Works funds (details below), many local governments are considering ways to leverage funding. A number of options being employed by local governments include:

1. Applying to application based funds within the Gas Tax program.
2. Accumulating community works funding over multiple years and focusing on a single project.
3. Combining Gas Tax funding with other internal and external funding sources (including external grant programs and private contributors).

Over the longer term, other considerations come into view. Consider the future: what will secure funding beyond the current horizon of commitments by the federal government?

1) Investments that are consistent with solid sustainability and management plans.
2) Maximised outcomes in current projects. By attaining superior outcomes, local governments are building the case to help negotiate future agreements that are advantageous to the needs of BC local communities.

As we move forward in the Gas Tax Agreement, the most powerful case local governments can make for increased flexibility and adaptability in the agreement is our current success. Thank you to all who are working locally to bring about innovative infrastructure improvements that increase the sustainability of our communities.

2. Gas Tax Funding Updates

GSFP/IF

The deadline for applications under the General Strategic Priorities Fund (GSFP) and the Innovations Fund (IF) was February 16, 2007 for capital project categories (i.e., public transit, community energy systems, water, wastewater and solid waste), and May 31, 2007, for capacity building, integrated community sustainability planning (ICSP) and community assessment projects.

We received 135 applications with grant requests of $282.8 million from GSFP and $105.4 million from IF. The Gas Tax Agreement allocates $67.3 million and $31.8 million to the two funds respectively. Review and technical evaluation of these applications is now underway.

We hope to be in a position to make funding decisions on all GSFP and IF applications received by the February 16 deadline in early July. Funding decisions on those applications received by the May 31 deadline are targeted for August.

Community Works Update

The first installment of 2007 Community Works Funding payments is expected to be released to all Tier 1 and Tier 2 local governments in late July. All Tier 1 and Tier 2 local governments are reminded to submit their annual reports by the July 1st deadline so that the first installment may be released.

Management Committee approves use of Funds for Employee Costs

At its June 1, 2007 meeting, the Management Committee made a “blanket” approval for incremental “own force” labour costs where employees are engaged in undertaking a capacity building or integrated community sustainability planning (ICSP) project. Since capacity building projects are intended to increase a local government’s capacity, the Management Committee felt that having a local government undertake these projects internally may be an effective way to build this capacity.

Consequently, local governments wishing to use part of their Gas Tax funds to recover the incremental cost of employee salaries and other employee benefits where employees are working directly on a capacity building or ICSP project may now do so. This approval does not extend to capital project categories – local governments wishing to recover employee or equipment costs when these resources are engaged in a public transit, community energy system, water, wastewater or solid waste project should seek the prior approval of the Management Committee. For further information, please contact the Gas Tax / Public Transit Management Services office.

3. Community Works Highlights:

Community Energy Projects

A number of local governments in BC are making sustainable investments in municipal and community buildings by developing infrastructure for geothermal heating and cooling. In 2006, Houston used Community Works funding to incorporate a geothermal energy system in a new leisure facility. Along with other projects that include walking trails and storm sewers, Houston is considering expanding its current geothermal capacity into a district heating system, incorporating other municipal and public buildings.

Cycling Trails and Pathways

The City of Quesnel is using its Community Works funding from 2006 and 2007 to expand its existing cycle path network by building a new trail to the College of New Caledonia and an underpass beneath busy Highway 97 to connect suburban Quesnel with the downtown. Not only will the expanded path network provide new green transportation options, the enhanced trail network will increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

RCMP Contract

Continued from page 9

Who determines this?

• Continuity of officers in community – officers rotate too often, must have a sense of the community

Accommodation Costs

• Clear definition of accommodation – What is included? – computer support mandated from another detachment by headquarters, called part of ‘accommodation’;

Prime, laptops in cars called part of accommodation
• Sharing costs of housing and support with senior levels of government
• Application of cost formula for building

The UBCM will be using this information and additional information from and on-line survey to:

• develop a mandate for RCMP contract negotiations and distribute it to local government for review.
• appoint local government representatives to a working group focused on the RCMP contract renewal.
• appoint a local government representative to provincial negotiating team established for renewal of RCMP contract.

For more information, please contact the UBCM News office at 250-383-744 or via email at info@ubcm.bc.ca.
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Lheidli T‘enneh

Lheidli T‘enneh community members failed to ratify their treaty settlement in a community vote in March 2007. Successful community ratification is a requirement for all treaties before the BC Legislature and federal parliament give their assent for the treaty to take effect. The Lheidli T‘enneh final agreement required that 50 per cent plus one of all eligible voters approve the agreement while the Lheidli T‘enneh Community Treaty Council required 70 per cent of those voting to approve the agreement. Community members voted to reject the treaty settlement by a vote of 123 to 111 with 273 members eligible to vote.

The BC Treaty Commission is undergoing an independent assessment to find out why the community rejected the settlement. The Commission would like to know if more time and information would have made a difference, or if there was misunderstanding and misinformation among community members. The Treaty Commission will present its findings to the Lheidli T‘enneh leadership who will then decide what to do.

Tsawwassen and Maa-nulth

Tsawwassen First Nation and Maa-nulth First Nations initialled their respective final agreements with Canada and BC in December 2006. Like Lheidli T‘enneh, the next step is for the First Nations communities to vote to ratify their agreements. Tsawwassen First Nation is scheduled to vote on their treaty settlement in late July 2007 and the Maa-nulth First Nations on Vancouver Island are expected to vote in the fall.

Other Treaty Tables

The BC Treaty Commission reports in its April Issue Update that Sliammon First Nation, Yale First Nation and Yekooche Nation are set to become the next group of First Nations to conclude treaty negotiations. In addition, In-SHUCK-ch Nation has completed their Agreement-in-Principle, which they have signed with the Province. The federal government has yet to sign.

CURRENT ISSUES UPDATE

First Nations Relations Committee meets with Minister de Jong

The UBCM First Nations Relations Committee met with the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation on April 19, 2007 in Victoria. Discussions focused on the failed ratification vote by the Lheidli T‘enneh community, overlapping land claims and funding for local governments in treaty negotiations.

R e g a r d i n g overlapping land claims, the Minister indicated that the Province would take a more active role in the future in consulting with other First Nations. When the BC Treaty process was set up, the three Principals agreed that First Nations would resolve overlap issues amongst themselves. Generally, First Nations with overlapping claims have had dialogue but it has been inexact. The Province recognizes its need to consult with First Nations before making decisions. The Committee expressed an interest in having a transparent approach to funding local government participation in treaty negotiations. The Minister indicated his interest in having a long-term funding regime in place that plans for a longer term than 12 months. He also indicated the Province has an interest in disbursing resources strategically to those geographic areas that are priorities in BC.

The UBCM First Nation Relations Committee meets with Minister de Jong.

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UBCM CONFERENCE – FINAL TREATY AGREEMENTS: EXAMINING LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERESTS

UBCM held a successful conference at the Best Western Richmond Hotel on May 23 – 24, 2007. The funding will support three potential streams of activities:

• the exchange of knowledge and experience between local governments involved in the Lheidli T‘enneh, Tsawwassen and Maa-nulth final agreements. Delegates learned how local government interests were addressed in these final agreements and what role local governments played in negotiations. Delegates also had an opportunity to discuss among themselves the content of the final agreements and the applicability of the three approaches in their areas. In addition, participants also reflected on their experiences in the treaty process and shared best practices and lessons learned. Delegates also received a presentation from the First Nations Leadership Council and the provincial government on the New Relationship.

Minister’s Announcement

At the conference, on May 23, 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:

• increasing the awareness of the successes in implementation of treaties; and

• activities that begin to develop successful dispute resolution between the City and the First Nation.

This long anticipated agreement (draft) was made public at the conference! It can be downloaded from the UBCM website at www.civicnet.bc.ca (under Featured Policy Topics/First Nations Relations/Treaty Related Policy Papers).
In partnership with the First Nations Summit, UBCM is continuing to encourage dialogue and relationship building between BC’s First Nations and local governments through the Community to Community (C2C) Forum program. After a tremendously successful 2006/07 funding cycle, applications are now under review for the 2007/08 year. The goal of a regional C2C Forum is to increase understanding and to improve overall relations between First Nations and local governments. These issues may relate to economic development, land use planning, natural resource management, service delivery and other areas of common responsibility or interest. In past years forums have helped communities develop and sign community agreements, MOUs and service agreements and have provided a venue for celebration, communication and community development. As we enter the 2007/08 funding year, we are excited to see the body of forum topics expand once more to include community interests such as tourism, health, and youth. Since 1999, as a result of continued support from the provincial Ministry of Community Services and the federal Department of Indian Affairs (BC Region), over 130 regional C2C Forums have been held in communities across the province. The forums have provided an opportunity for First Nation and local government leaders to learn with and from one another and to develop the relationships that one participant described as the “foundation” on which the “future will be constructed out of respect and honour.”

Some C2C Participant Feedback

“It is the age-old concept of give and take, compromise, respectfulness and treating each other as equals that creates the framework for successful relationships and countless opportunities for future partnerships.”

“Each event lessens the distance between the communities, which physically are very near to each other, but sometimes socially are very distant.”

“I cannot recall being involved in anything more significant in my career. Building peoples’ futures rather than building ‘things’ is much more satisfying.”

Community to Community Forum

UBCM has released its analysis of the three final agreements – Lheidli T'enneh, Tsawwassen and Maa-nulth – to UBCM members. The report, titled UBCM Comparative Analysis of 2006 Final Treaty Agreements and Local Government Interests, assesses how the final agreements address local government interests. A copy of the report can be found on the UBCM website at www.civnet.bc.ca (under Featured Policy Topics/FIRST Nations Relations/Treaty-Related Policy Papers).

Community to Community Forum Guide

UBCM has received funding from the Ministry of Community Services and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to produce a Community to Community (C2C) Forum guide. UBCM is working in close collaboration with Community Services and First Nations Summit to develop the guide. The guide will capture the experiences, innovations and successes of local governments and First Nations who have held C2C forums. These forums have been successful in bringing local governments and First Nations together to begin developing relationships. For some communities, though, there are various challenges to holding a C2C forum, including lack of resources. The guide will target these communities and work to encourage additional participation in the C2C Program.

We are planning to launch the guide at Convention in September.

Monday Study Sessions/Tours

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• specifically look at the implications of the provincial government’s new climate change policy and what it means for local government; and
• profile the climate action plans of some local governments to show what they are already doing to reduce greenhouse gases.

Local Government Funding ~ 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Confused by the range of funding programs available to local government? Is staff overwhelmed by applications? This practical session will provide a road map to the funding available. It will also demonstrate how you can develop synergies between various programs. Learn about resources to help build capacity to access funding. Learn from the funders about what it takes to develop a winning application.

TILMA ~ 1:30 - 4:30 pm

On April 28, 2006 the Province of BC and the Province of Alberta signed the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA). The Agreement took effect between the two provincial governments on April 1, 2007 but there is a two-year transitional period, ending to April 1, 2009 before it is applied to local governments.

UBCM has entered into discussions with the Province about local governments’ interests with respect to TILMA. The Province has committed to consulting with UBCM to “negotiate any required special provisions, exclusions and transitional provisions…” UBCM has also secured local government representation on the provincial negotiating team.

This session will provide members with an overview of TILMA, its implications for local government, and a status report on the areas of interest for BC local governments that will form part of our discussions/negotiations with the Province.
Healthy Communities

Local Governments and Food Access

We consider how community design and the built environment impacts population health, the issue of food access also needs to be considered. Local governments undertaking health promotion in their communities can promote healthy eating and physical activity but must work to ensure that all members of their community have access to nutritious and affordable food in their environment. The built environment can serve to either support or restrict access to food in a number of ways.

Common food access problems involve limited access to grocery stores where fresh produce is available and affordable. In particular, low-income areas typically have one-third fewer grocery stores than middle- and high-income areas. Lack of transit routes serving grocery stores may also play a role. Cooking skills may also limit the use of fresh and nutritious food, in which case education can contribute to increasing healthy eating habits. Special attention should be given to children’s access to healthy foods as they may be unable to determine their own purchases and should be provided with healthy options at schools and community centres. A number of communities across the province have already looked at how their facilities can serve to promote healthy eating habits by reducing the availability of “junk food”.

In support of this direction, at their February meeting, the Healthy Communities Committee considered the participation of UBCM in the Community Food Action Initiative (CFAI) brought forward by the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA). The goal of the CFAI is to increase food security for the BC population. PHSA coordinates this initiative at a provincial level and helps Regional Health Authorities in the implementation of CFAI objectives. The PHSA has expressed strong interest in partnering with UBCM on the development of a resource for local governments.

At the April meeting of the Committee, they reviewed and approved the Terms of Reference from PHSA for the Local Governments and Food Access Resource Project and UBCM’s participation as a partner with both PHSA and BC Healthy Communities.

Funding was also committed to the project from the Community Health Promotion Fund, as the project was consistent with the goals of the fund. This Resource Project is expected to be complete in the fall and will provide Local Governments with an important resource. The guide will provide an overview of strategies and approaches that local governments can use to improve access to healthy foods, as well as case studies that examine success stories across the province.

Improving access to healthy foods will continue to become more important as a tool in reducing rates of obesity and chronic diseases in our communities.

Seniors Housing & Support Initiative

The ‘Seniors Housing and Support Initiative’ was launched in 2004 through a one-time grant from the provincial Ministry of Community Services. The intent of the program is to assist communities to prepare for BC’s aging population and to provide local governments with the knowledge and skills to exchange information and find community-based solutions that best support the increasing needs of senior populations. This goal is being met by UBCM through funding for seniors’ dialogue and pilot projects as well as by research and knowledge development.

For example, UBCM has recently completed a major survey of local governments’ current practices in the area of seniors housing and support services. The Environmental Scan of Community Readiness for an Aging Population surveyed just over 60 local governments using a comprehensive web-based tool which covered a broad range of topics including planning, in-kind aid, support services, housing, transportation, fitness, health, nutrition and safety.

The survey was based on a major survey of American local governments and adapted for the BC context. The results provide an increased knowledge of the spectrum of services, programs and planning in providing this service.

Subsidized housing is available for seniors in 59% of the communities we surveyed and local governments play a role in providing this service 23% of the time.

In 64% of the responding communities safe and accessible side walks and street crossings are provided. 61% of local governments play a role in providing this.

Emergency and evacuation plans for seniors are provided by 74% of local governments and 79% of responding communities have such plans in place.

These preliminary results were presented at the Seniors Symposium held by the Ministry of Health in March 2007. The survey results are available using the data collected as part of the Environmental Scan to aid in the development of their Age Friendly strategy.

UBCM’s presentation of the preliminary data, and other reports, documents and resources, is available on UBCM’s ‘Seniors in Communities’ website, www.ubcm.org/seniorscommunities, in the ‘Document Library’ under the ‘Resources for Local Governments’ section.

UBCM Council did not complete the survey for the Environmental Scan in 2007 as there was the opportunity to do so. Simply visit the ‘Seniors in Communities’ website, click on ‘Links’ under the ‘Resources for Local Governments’ and click on the link to the survey.

Update on Health Authorities and Local Governments

At the 2006 Convention, UBCM members referred Resolution B157 to the Executive Committee. Resolution B157 called for a provincial forum to discuss and review the health authority framework and ensure that the public is well served by the current model. This resolution came on the heels of an online survey of the membership that sought information on the types of activities, consultations and other initiatives that had been jointly pursued by local government and regional health authorities. A session at the Convention was dedicated to discussing the survey results along with best practices in communication and consultation that could be used to improve these relations.

Since the 2006 Convention, the membership has continued to express numerous concerns regarding the current provincial health authority framework and local government relations with the health authorities. The Healthy Communities Committee was directed by the Executive to follow up on this resolution in December 2006. At the February meeting of the Healthy Communities Committee, two actions were recommended: the Committee should meet with the Leadership Council of the Health Authorities (which includes the CEOs of each Health Authority and the Deputy Minister of Health) and hold a session at the 2007 Convention to focus on mechanisms to improve the communication between health authorities and local governments. UBCM is in the process of arranging a meeting with the Leadership Council of the Health Authorities for the July meeting of the Healthy Communities Committee.

Members are also advised that a session at the 2007 Convention will be held in order to discuss how to improve communications between local government and the health authorities. Details of the session will be available as it approaches.
WHO DRIVES YOUR AGENDA?

It’s been said: “If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will take you.” This phrase has special meaning when Municipal Councils and Boards work with persistent and assertive interest groups. Such groups may be well organized and use diverse methods to advance their agendas. How can you balance these agendas with those of the community as a whole?

To start, consider the topic of community involvement. With the goal of being transparent, accountable and responsive to the public, Councils and Boards make concerted efforts to listen to the community and consider what it wants. They do this formally by allowing public delegations to speak during open meetings. They also gather public input informally, by establishing advisory committees, reviewing citizen letters and media reports, and so on.

The concept of community involvement raises two interesting questions:

1. Just who is the community? Is it only the people who take the time to speak up and are confident in front of a microphone? Is it only the people who sit in the public gallery and occasionally applaud or heckle speakers? Indeed, it is natural to respond to those who are in front of you, but the role of an elected official is to consider the full community. The larger community includes many people who do not have time to attend meetings, do not understand how the public input process works, lack the confidence to speak in public, and do not have the skill to get organized in order to advance specific agendas.

2. Is the community always right? Suppose there was a way to definitively determine what the entire community wants on every issue. Should the community set its proactive long-term vision and priorities, it will not be swayed by narrow interests, unless those interests are supportive of its vision. It will not be distracted by minutiae and side issues, and will spend more time and resources on advancing its vision and priorities for the community. And one more thing: If you involve the community in setting your vision and keep the media informed of these discussions, more people will expect and demand that you do adhere to this plan, and will complain if you don’t. Interest groups may thereby be compelled to adjust their agendas to conform to publicly embraced agendas.

To sum up: It is critical for your Council or Board to proactively establish its long term agenda and priorities. The best time to do this is at the start of your term of office. But even if this was not done, it is never too late to bring common sense into your term of office. But even if this was not done, you will probably get there sooner if you do it. Not every road will take you there. But even if this was not done, it is never too late to bring common sense into your term of office.

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 shows.

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

Nomination 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

UBCM Reference Corner

Did you know that the UBCM has a professional librarian on staff? Errin Morrison, your Information & Resolutions 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 (emorrison@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.

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Regional districts (with the exception of the Central Okanagan Regional District) have no business licensing function/authority. This means you don’t need a business license to open up a B&B in an electoral area. However, you need to check in with the regional health authority and fire authority as well as make sure the building is up to the building inspection standards of the regional district. You might also want to register the B&B with Tourism BC or a B&B association, in which case they may have other standards you need to meet. As well, you’ll need to charge the Hotel Room Tax, which means registering with the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue (www.rev.gov.bc.ca/cb/).

2) I need some information on disqualified candidates lists — those kept by the provincial government as opposed to those kept by individual local governments for inclusion in annual reports.

The following link will take you to the Ministry of Community Services’ list of disqualified candidates: www.cserv.gov.bc.ca/lgd/gov_structure/elections/disqualified_candidates.htm

This list only includes candidates that are disqualified for failing to file the required campaign disclosure statement by the applicable deadline. The list is kept centrally because these folks are disqualified from holding office in that local government. So, for example, a person could be disqualified in Fraser Lake until the next general election, but could run in a by-election in Smithers that occurred before the next general election. There is therefore not the same need to keep a record of these disqualifications centrally.

3) Do you have any information on flag protocol for half-masting? I’ve been able to get information about the Canadian flag, but nothing so far on the BC flag and local government flag. Should all of them come to half-mast at the same time, or only the Canadian flag?

Some local governments have their own unique policies on half-masting and others likely choose to follow federal policy. A search through the CivicInfo Society’s document library (www.civicinfo.bc.ca/13.asp) turns up several sample local government policies on flag protocol.

The BC Protocol and Events Branch (www.protocol.gov.bc.ca) provides the following information on BC flag protocol.

The Federal Government and the provinces have established policies regarding half-masting. This practice is not mandatory for individuals or organizations, but is an adaptation of international usage and reflects long-standing custom in Canada. It dictates that flags across the country are automatically half-masted upon the death of an immediate member of the Royal Family, and a current or former Governor General or Prime Minister.

Flags in respective provinces are half-masted upon the death of a current or former Lieutenant-Governor or Premier.

Other days upon which British Columbia flags are automatically half-masted are:
- April 28, Workers’ Mourning Day
- Last Sunday in September, Police and Peace Officers’ National Memorial Day
- November 11, Remembrance Day
- December 6, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Flags at individual ministry or regional facilities may be half-masted in cases of lives lost while at work, or other tragic events, at the discretion of the minister responsible.

For more information please see www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccsp/berne-halfmasting/index_e.cfm on the Internet.

As well, here are some links to federal flag protocol:
- Canadian Heritage - Rules for Flying the Flag (www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccsp/etiquette/2_e.cfm)
- Canadian Heritage - Half-masting of Flags (www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccsp/sc-e/occasion_e.cfm)

2007 UBCM GROUP BENEFITS SEMINAR WAS A SUCCESS!

UBCM hosted the 2007 UBCM Group Benefits Seminar on May 3–4, 2007 at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, in Richmond.

The Seminar was intended to inspire new ideas and provide a learning opportunity for local government staff and others who are responsible for group benefit and wellness plans.


The second day, May 4, 2007 the theme was focused on “Developing a Culture of Wellness,” including various case studies on organizations implementing wellness programs and steps involved in making a wellness program successful with presentations from 2010 Legacies Now, PGI-Shepell, Local Government Employees Health Promotions Project, Towers Perrin and Pacific Blue Cross.

There was an excellent turnout and interest in this event as there were 104 participants, over a 23% increase from the last time we held this seminar in 2005!

Here are some of the comments found on the evaluation forms from a few participants:

“Great seminar! Excellent presenters. I was able to take away something from each session that I will be able to implement in the workplace. Each session was interesting and provided practical and useful information concerning benefit costs and particularly corporate wellness.”

“Provided a lot of good information to bring back to the workplace. A very good, well put together event. Thank you!”

“Thanks to the organizers for hosting such an enjoyable event. Packed agenda..... Lots of interesting information.”

If you are interested in any of the handouts please contact Anna-Maria Wijesinghe, Manager, Member & Association Services at amwijesinghe@civicnet.bc.ca.
Local Government Leadership Academy

The first Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) event focused on three key leadership essentials and devoted one day to each theme. The first afternoon explored leadership strategies for dealing with current issues. The second day was devoted to leadership in the context of external and internal relationship building. And the last morning focused on individual leadership skills development. Please see below for a photo record of this very successful inaugural LGLA event.

A dedicated LGLA website was launched in conjunction with the BC Local Government Leadership Forum. Find out more at www.lgla.ca.