**Gas Tax Funding Extended Four Years: $1 Billion in Additional Investments for BC Local Governments**

The federal Budget extends the funding commitment for Gas Tax transfer for four years (to 2013/2014) at $2 billion a year. This was the total national funding in the last year of the current agreement. Under the current agreement, BC local governments will receive $245 million in the final years of the current agreement. Assuming BC’s share continues for another four years at that level, it is likely that BC local governments will receive nearly $1 billion in added investments.

An extension to the existing agreement will have to be negotiated. This negotiation will provide the opportunity to revisit the scope of current investments as well as BC’s share of the total federal funding given our increasing population. The federal Budget indicates the funding will be used for municipal priorities including roads, public transportation and water.

Indeed, infrastructure is a major component of the budget under the theme of the “Infrastructure Advantage”. This term was first coined in the Advantage Canada Economic statement released by the federal government last fall and should be understood as the foundation for this budget (see excerpts beginning on page 16).

The components of the Infrastructure Advantage included in the 2007 budget are:

- the extension of the gas tax;
- creating a Build Canada Fund - with spending allocated among provinces and territories on an equal per capital basis. This will support investments in the core national highway system, large-scale projects such as public transit and sewage treatment infrastructure, and small-scale municipal projects such as cultural and recreational facilities. This includes current programs such as MRIF;
- a national fund for gateways and border crossings;
- providing each province and territory $25 million per year for 7 years;
- establishing a federal office to identify and implement opportunities for public/private partnerships in infrastructure. A national fund of $1.25 billion is created to support P3’s. (This idea was introduced in last fall’s Advantage Canada document and it referenced the then recent announcement in BC regarding considering P3’s for large infrastructure investments);
- an enriched Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative, where the increased funding will be used to make additional infrastructure improvements, such as roads, highways, and road-rail grade separations.

Other Items of Interest in Federal Budget – with a BC lens.

- creation of the Canada EcoTrust for Clean Air and Climate Change (BC’s share was announced earlier as $199 million);
- small fund for hazardous materials training plan for first responders;
- new National Anti-Drug Strategy;
- new Vehicle Efficiency Incentive ($2000 per vehicle) and a Green Levy on new fuel inefficient vehicles;
- scrapping program to retire older vehicles;
- extension of public transit credit to electronic fare cards and weekly passes;
- support for safeguarding the Great Bear Rainforest;
- funding for a more efficient implementation of Species at Risk Act;
- a new National Water Strategy (creating new marine protected areas – Scott Islands off northern Vancouver Island);
- tougher, more stringent regulations and controls on municipal wastewater effluents;
- 3 new Coast guard patrol vessels.

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**2007 RESOLUTIONS ALERT**

As we head into Spring, the UBCM is gearing up for the 2007 resolutions process. Area Associations will soon be considering submissions from their members at upcoming annual meetings and several members have already submitted resolutions directly to the UBCM for consideration at the 2007 Convention.

An initial memo was sent to the full membership in mid-February, alerting members to the start of the 2007 resolutions cycle. Submission procedures, a resolution template and drafting guidelines were included in this correspondence. A second memo will be sent out later this Spring, encouraging delegates to ensure that at least one local government representative is always present at resolutions and policy sessions to vote and to introduce and speak to sponsored resolutions once the Chair has introduced them to the floor.

Please see page 5 for additional information and tips on resolutions drafting and please contact Errin Morrison at the UBCM office if you have any questions regarding the submission of resolutions to UBCM or concerns regarding debate procedures at Convention.

See you in September!

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**2007 RESOLUTIONS ALERT**

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See you in September!

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**SUBMITTING RESOLUTIONS FOR 2007**

Check the UBCM website (www.civicnet.bc.ca) under Resolutions & Policy for Submission Procedures, which provides a review of the UBCM procedures and criteria for admission and consideration of resolutions, as well as guidelines on resolutions content and formatting.

The deadline for submission of resolutions to UBCM is June 30, 2006.
What's New on CivicNet?

The following are some of the key updates made over the past few months to the UBCM's CivicNet website (www.civicnet.bc.ca):

Home Page
You may have noticed a new column to the right of the UBCM logo on the CivicNet home page, providing easy access to several of UBCM's ongoing programs and services. These links will change now and then to reflect upcoming action deadlines and activity within UBCM's various programs and we would note that permanent links are always available under the Programs & Services tab. This quick list is not intended to cover the full range of UBCM's programs and services, but rather to facilitate easier access to specific programs on a temporary basis.

Gold Star Resolutions
(File Path = Resolutions & Policy/Gold Star Resolutions)
In an effort to promote excellence in resolutions drafting, a new Gold Star Resolutions page has been added to CivicNet. Please check under the Resolutions & Policy tab for Gold Star resolutions criteria and links to winners from 2003 onward.

Resolutions Database
(File Path = Resolutions & Policy/Resolutions Database)
UBCM's resolutions database has now been updated with provincial, federal and other responses to the 2006 resolutions. Responses have been conveyed directly to sponsors, but you are welcome to check here for responses to all resolutions of interest to your community.

2007 Convention
(File Path = Convention/2007 Convention)
Information on the 2007 UBCM Convention will be posted here as it becomes available over the coming months. Check back often as you plan your Convention experience – from accommodation to Convention sessions, to extra-curricular opportunities.

Local Government Leadership Academy
(File Path = Programs & Services/Local Government Leadership Academy)
The Board of the Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) has now been established and has held its first meetings. Check the LGA page for updates on the activities of the Academy, and stay tuned for the launch of a dedicated LGA website in the coming months.

UBCM Surveys
(File Path = Programs & Services/UBCM Surveys)
UBCM, CivicInfo and LGLA recently launched a revised local government survey system and designated February as Local Government Survey Month. UBCM members have been busy filling in a variety of annual surveys collecting information on fees and charges, staff compensation, elected official remuneration, election data, etc. and results are scheduled for release in mid-March. Look for an improved, user-friendly design and enhanced reporting capabilities – all made possible with the help of our association partners and the cooperation of UBCM members!

100% UBCM 2007 Membership Renewals
District of Sparwood was the first UBCM member to renew its 2007 UBCM membership dues. By March 20 all 185 members had renewed their memberships and full commitment has been given. Does represent 46% of UBCM revenue (the remainder comes from various forms of sales and other revenue sources) and represent an investment of the members in the value of pursuing collective action among BC local government.

UBCM Events
(File Path = Programs & Services/UBCM Events)
Check here for a list of the many upcoming UBCM events and conferences in 2007, including registration forms as these become available.

UBCM Staff
(File Path = About UBCM/Staff)
UBCM has seen a few staffing changes in recent months. Check out our Staff page to refresh yourself on who to contact for what in both the Victoria and Richmond offices.
2007 UBCM Convention Theme: Climates of Change
Gauging Temperatures and Forecasting Opportunities, Local Government in a climate of change

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.

Convention Registration Forms Available in June!

UBCM SPRING CONFERENCES

UBCM is pleased to confirm that it has finalized its Spring Conference Program, which includes a wide range of offerings. For further details on the conferences and registration, visit CivicNet (www.civicnet.bc.ca) and click on “UBCM Events” under the “Programs & Services” tab.

GROUP BENEFITS

May 3 & 4, 2007
May 3: All day (10:00 am - 4:30 pm), with evening function at 6:30 pm
May 4: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Delta Airport Hotel, Richmond BC

Purpose:
The Seminar is 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.

May 3, 2007 will focus on “Benefit Basics”, with presentations from Pension Corporation, WorkSafeBC, Pacific Blue Cross, BC Life & Casualty, Lidstone, Young, Anderson and Towers Perrin (HR Services).

On May 4, 2007 the theme will be “Developing a Culture of Wellness”, including various case studies on organizations implementing wellness programs.

Who should attend?
This seminar will be of interest to staff that are responsible for group benefit and wellness plans.

UBCM Staff Contact:
Anna-Maria Wijesinghe
Mgr. Member and Association Services
604-270-8226 (ext. 111)
awijesinghe@civicnet.bc.ca

Registration information is available on CivicNet.

TREATIES CONFERENCE

May 3 – 24, 2007
May 23: All day, to 12 noon
Best Western Hotel, Richmond BC

Purpose:
1. Educate and inform UBCM members on key elements of the three final treaty agreements (initialled in 2006) and local government interests;
2. Generate discussion among members on how to manage issues, to communicate and to relate to other directors and geographic area is involved in treaty negotiations.

Who should attend?
This conference will be of interest to elected officials, senior staff and planners, particularly from those local governments where a First Nation in their geographic area is involved in treaty negotiations.

UBCM Staff Contact:
Marlene Wells
Policy Analyst
604-270-8226 (ext. 116)
mwells@civicnet.bc.ca

Registration information will be available on CivicNet by March 30.

THE EFFECTIVE ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR

To be held prior and in association with the Provincial Leadership Academy Forum.

June 12-13, 2007
June 12 – evening orientation
June 13 - half-day (6:30am - 1:00pm)
Delta Airport Hotel, Richmond, BC

Purpose:
At the 2006 UBCM Convention “In the Directors Chair” session, Electoral Area Directors expressed a wish for a session that focused on the roles, relationships and the practices of being a more effective Electoral Area Director. This will be the first of what may become a regular forum - not on issues, but on how to manage issues, to communicate and to relate to other directors and regional district staff. Separate registration will allow those attending to just attend this session or to also register for the Provincial Leadership Academy Forum (see below).

Who should attend?
Electoral Areas Directors (and Alternates)

UBCM Staff Contact:
Richard Taylor
Executive Director
604-270-8226 (ext. 105)
rtaylor@civicnet.bc.ca

Registration forms will be available on CivicNet by March 30, 2007.

INAUGURAL PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FORUM

Under the auspices of the Local Government Leadership Academy and organized by UBCM.

June 13 – 15, 2007
June 13: Half-day, 1:30 – 5:00 pm
June 14: All day, Leadership – The Big Picture
June 15: Half-day, 8:30 – 12 noon
Delta Airport Hotel, Richmond BC

Purpose:
Leadership at the local government level is essential to building and sustaining BC communities.
COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS
2007 Application Coming Soon!

The Community Excellence Awards celebrates the best of the best in BC communities. As we enter the fourth year of the program, UBCM looks forward to once again recognizing innovative best practices and sustainable partnerships where BC municipalities and regional districts are leading the way. As visionary leaders that fulfill the needs of their citizens, winners of the Excellence Awards demonstrate what all communities should strive for.

The Excellence Awards recognizes exceptional programs and projects in the following categories:
• Best Practices
• Best Practices, Annual Reporting
• Best Practices, Website
• Leadership & Innovation – Small, Mid-Size and Large Community divisions, as well as a Regional District division
• Past Winners

All applicants to the program are invited to a special breakfast reception held during Convention, which is attended by the Minister of Community Services and other important partners.

Don’t miss the application booklet, which will be sent out by June 2007! More details on category and important partners.

PAST WINNERS
City of Abbotsford
Capital Regional District
Central Okanagan Regional District
District of Chemainus
City of Coquitlam
City of Dawson Creek
City of Duncan
City of Kelowna
Town of Ladysmith
District of Maple Ridge
Regional District of Nanaimo
City of North Vancouver
District of North Vancouver
Town of Osoyoos
District of Pitt Meadows
District of Powell River
City of Revelstoke
City of Richmond
District of Saanich
City of Surrey
City of Trail
District of Ucluelet
City of Vernon
City of White Rock

MEMBER VISITS
Each year UBCM staff visits at least 25% of UBCM members outside of the GVRD and Capital regions. This is a great exchange. It allows UBCM to brief members on our activities but more importantly it updates our staff on what is happening in the regions. It is a great staff development opportunity.

This spring, staff have three tours planned: Spallumcheen, Armstrong, Salmon Arm, Columbia Shuswap RD, Sicamous, Golden, Radium

Continued on page 7

GOLD STAR RESOLUTIONS

A new resolutions season is upon us and, as you prepare your submissions for consideration at the 2007 Convention, UBCM would like to draw your attention to the winners of the 2006 Gold Star and Honourable Mention awards for excellence in resolutions drafting. We encourage our members to consult the Gold Star Resolutions Criteria in preparing resolutions for 2007, and to use the following resolutions as examples of quality drafting.

Gold Star Resolutions Criteria

1) Resolution must be properly titled.
2) Resolution must employ clear, simple language.
3) Resolution must clearly identify problem, reason and solution.
4) Resolution must focus on a single subject, must be of local government concern province-wide and must address an issue that constitutes new policy for UBCM.
5) Resolution must include appropriate references to policy, legislation and regulation.
6) Resolution must, if possible, be submitted to relevant Area Association prior to UBCM.

2006 Gold Star Winners:
A3 Approving Officer
Sunshine Coast RD
A9 Civic Election Term Length in BC
Port Moody
B105 Lead Acid Battery Collection Program
Stewart
B122 Meat Inspection Regulations
AKBLG Executive
B138 Annual Safety Inspections of Commercial Vehicles
Coquitlam

2006 Honourable Mention Winners:
A6 Community Methamphetamine Response
Columbia Shuswap RD
B59 Floodplain Bylaw Fee
Nanaimo RD
B64 Funding for Automobile Occupant Extractions
Surrey
B91 Limiting Characteristics in Establishing Parcel Taxes
Cariboo RD
B98 Provincial Water Testing in Rivers
Grand Forks
B106 Tire Recycling
Peace River RD

To view the full text of these winning resolutions, please visit the new “Gold Star Resolutions” page on CivicNet, under the “Resolutions & Policy” tab.

MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Phone: (250)172-5542
Fax: (250)172-1900
266 - 2nd Ave., Kamloops, BC

This survey is our opportunity to check-in with the membership and your opportunity to provide us with the direction and feedback we need to better serve you.

This survey is designed to tell us three things:
1. Your level of awareness of UBCM activities;
2. How you rate the importance of specific activities; and
3. How you would rate our performance.

So if you have not yet completed the survey, we encourage you to go online and make your views known.

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS to real problems
• Litigation
• Planning and Development
• Contracts
• Statutory Interpretation
• By-law Enforcement
• Risk Management
• Official Marks, Trade-marks and Copyright
• Privacy Issues

Contact: Brian D. Ross
(250) 372-5542
www.fultonco.com
UBCM Resolutions

2006 RESOLUTION SUCCESS STORIES

UBCM would like to draw attention to the following resolution success stories from the 2006 Convention. While not all resolutions result in the timely changes desired by UBCM members, sometimes we do achieve quick success when we speak with one voice on issues of importance to local government.

LR4 Pay Before You Pump

Grant’s Law was announced in October 2006 in order to help protect service station employees working at night. A new WorkSafeBC regulation is targeted for introduction in Spring 2007, and will require a mandatory pre-payment system at service stations in urban areas of the province. WorkSafe BC is also developing new regulations around the health and safety orientation and training of new workers, including those working at service stations.

SR2 BC Building Code Changes

 Shortly after the 2006 Convention, President Binnie received correspondence from Minister Rich Coleman inviting UBCM to work with the Province on ways to establish the acceptable level of risk for slope stability hazards. Since that time, the Ministry Responsible for Housing has implemented a new building regulation that establishes, for geotechnical analysis of slope stability, criterion of seismic hazard and the provincial government has endorsed resolutions to

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Responses to 2006 Resolutions

As reported in the December 2006 edition of the UBCM News, UBCM conveyed 141 member-endorsed resolutions to the provincial government for consideration and comment following the 2006 Convention. Six additional resolutions referred to the Executive for follow-up and were subsequently conveyed to the Province and responses to all 147 resolutions were recently received in the UBCM office.

Responses have been forwarded to resolution sponsors and have been added to the resolutions on UBCM’s online, searchable resolutions database – accessible under the Resolutions & Policy tab on CivicNet. You will also find the full provincial response submission available online in PDF format through the same CivicNet file path.

The overall rate of reply to 2006 resolutions has been excellent, with nearly 90% of the resolutions conveyed by the UBCM to various government ministries and outside agencies having received a response of some kind.

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 regarding the above referrals and follow-up to the 2006 Convention resolutions sessions.

UBCM Resolutions Categorization

The following is an outline of the various categories of UBCM resolutions, as well as procedures for handling the different types of resolutions at a Convention.

Please contact Errin Morrison in the UBCM office (604.270.8226 ext. 115 or emorrison@civicnet.bc.ca) if you have any questions about resolutions submission procedures, categorization of consideration at a Convention.

Resolutions are divided into the following three main categories:

A. Contains resolutions addressing new and/or priority issues that have broad application for local government as a whole.

B. Is divided into three parts.

1) What’s the problem?
2) What’s causing the problem?
3) What’s the best way to solve the problem?

Resolutions should answer the following three questions:

A resolution should be submitted with the resolution.

WHEREAS Resolution

Problem/Solution

A resolution should answer the following three questions:

1) What’s the problem?
2) What’s causing the problem?
3) What’s the best way to solve the problem?

Title

Keep your title as clear and concise as possible. Long titles may be revised by the sponsor.

Preamble

The preamble consists of one or two recital, or “WHEREAS”, clauses. Each clause should be more fully stated in supporting documentation, which can also be submitted with the resolution.

LATE resolutions may be submitted to UBCM up to Friday noon on September 21, 2007. Only those resolutions addressing urgent issues arising since the regular deadline will be recommended for emergency consideration at Convention. All others will be automatically entered into the resolutions cycle for the following year.

RESOLUTIONS FROM OFF THE FLOOR of Convention may be introduced by voting delegates, but a three-fifths majority of the delegates present must also vote in favor of the resolution being considered.

Sponsors of these resolutions must be prepared to distribute print copies to the plenary.

Continued on page 7

UBCM Resolutions Drafting – How To

The following diagram depicts a model UBCM resolution. Note the maximum two “WHEREAS” clauses and the punctuation details. Note also, the resolution-specific sentence structure – try to make your resolution as readable as possible within these guidelines.

MODEL RESOLUTION

SHORT TITLE

WHEREAS

AND WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

*Note: A second ”enactment” clause, if it is absolutely required, should start as follows:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that

Problem/Solution

A resolution should answer the following three questions:

1) What’s what the problem?
2) What’s causing the problem?
3) What’s the best way to solve the problem?

Title

Keep your title as clear and concise as possible. Long titles may be revised by the sponsor.

Preamble

The preamble consists of one or two recital, or “WHEREAS”, clauses. Each clause should be more fully stated in supporting documentation, which can be submitted with the resolution.

Continued on page 7
Community Economic Development

Federal Fisheries Act Released

On December 13, 2006, Federal Fisheries Minister, Loyola Hearn tabled a renewed Fisheries Act in the House of Commons. The federal government is proposing an overhaul to the 138 year-old Act that would modernize the way fisheries are managed and enshrine conservation measures that protect the aquatic ecosystems to ensure long-term sustainable fisheries for Canadian commercial, Aboriginal and recreational fishers.

Some of the highlights of the bill include: expanded roles for fishery participants in decision-making; the adoption of clear principles dedicated to sustainable development; and a new sanctions system to be called the Canada Fisheries Tribunal that is aimed at promoting more responsible fishing behaviour. Further information about the Bill can be found at: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/infocus/2006/20061213.e.htm.

The UBCM’s Community Economic Development Committee, which addressed environmental resource issues, reviewed the renewed Act at their February Committee meeting. A memo was sent to members on February 23 advising the membership of the proposed new Act. The Committee is interested in hearing the comments and feedback from the membership so the Committee can make local governments’ views known to the federal government.

Please direct your comments to:

UBCM
c/o Community Economic Development Committee
Suite 60-10551 Shellbridge Way,
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9
or email to: mcrawford@civicnet.bc.ca.

BC Energy Plan Released

On February 27, 2007 the Honourable Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources announced the BC Energy Plan: A Vision for Clean Energy Leadership. The Plan builds on the 2002 Energy Plan and puts forward 55 policy actions in the areas of electricity; energy conservation and efficiency; alternative energy; skills, training and labour; and with respect to oil and gas, some of the highlights include:

• BC to achieve energy self-sufficiency by 2016;
• acquire 50% of BC Hydro’s incremental resource needs through conservation by 2020;
• clean or renewable electricity generation to continue to account for at least 90% of total generation;
• implement energy efficient building standards by 2010;
• maintain public ownership of BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation;
• BC Hydro and the Province to enter into discussions with First Nations, the Province of Alberta and communities to discuss Site C to ensure that communications regarding the potential project and the processes being followed are well known;
• replace the electricity supplied by Burrard Thermal and the processes being followed are well known;
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• maintain public ownership of BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation;
• BC Hydro and the Province to enter into discussions with First Nations, the Province of Alberta and communities to discuss Site C to ensure that communications regarding the potential project and the processes being followed are well known;
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• maintain public ownership of BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation;
• BC Hydro and the Province to enter into discussions with First Nations, the Province of Alberta and communities to discuss Site C to ensure that communications regarding the potential project and the processes being followed are well known;
• replace the electricity supplied by Burrard Thermal and the processes being followed are well known;
• maintain public ownership of BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation; and
• replace the electricity supplied by Burrard Thermal and the processes being followed are well known.

The Agreement provided for the establishment of an MOU Working Group to:
• identify the interests of local government in relation to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas; and
• explore how the interests of local government could be addressed through the fiscal, regulatory and environmental assessment regimes for the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas.

The term of the MOU was for two years. Based on the recommendations of the MOU working group, the Community Economic Development Committee, the Executive decided to renew the Agreement at their February Executive meeting.

The next working group meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2007. Information presented at these meetings is on line at: www.civicnet.bc.ca under Featured Policy Topics/Offshore Oil and Gas.

MOU ON OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS RENEWED

In March 2005 UBCM signed an MOU with the Province (Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources) on Offshore Oil and Gas. The Agreement provided for the establishment of an MOU Working Group to:
• identify the interests of local government in relation to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas; and
• explore how the interests of local government could be addressed through the fiscal, regulatory and environmental assessment regimes for the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas.

The term of the MOU was for two years. Based on the recommendations of the MOU working group, the Community Economic Development Committee, the Executive decided to renew the Agreement at their February Executive meeting.

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FORESTRY UPDATES

Two forestry issues were discussed at the February meeting of the Community Economic Development Committee - Mountain Pine Beetle Funds and the Log Export Review.

Mountain Pine Beetle Funds

While supportive of the funding that has been available from both the provincial and federal governments to address the Mountain Pine Beetle problem, members expressed concern about funding for private lands. Both of these issues have come forward as areas of concern to many UBCM members. In response, the Committee has written to Minister Coleman and his federal counterpart Gary Lunney, Minister of Natural Resources, seeking clarification that the present funding criteria does not include Western Pine Beetle nor does it provide for any treatment on private lands. As well, the Committee has sought direction from ministers as to whether any existing policy are being amended their existing funding criteria to include these two areas.

Log Export Review

The Community Economic Development Committee also considered a Log Export Review commissioned by the Minister of Forests. The Review, undertaken by previous Deputy Minister of Forests, Don Wright, and former Chief Forester of Western Forest Products, Bill Dumont, put forward a number of recommendations, some of which included:

• establish a fee in lieu of prohibition on the export of high grades of western red cedar and yellow-cedar; but
• group and the existing prohibition on the export of non-high grades of western red cedar and yellow-cedar and of high grades of all other species with an extraordinary fee-in-lieu, starting at 50%, to be phased out over five years;
• introduce measures to stimulate the harvesting of hemlock and balsam; and
• make the recommendations in the Province continue to proceed with its development of a coastal second-growth strategy as expeditiously as possible.

The report also speaks to the new circumstances that BC and Canada finds itself in with respect to the new softwood agreement with the United States.

In response to the recommendations, the Committee has written to the Forests Minister to advise that UBCM has longstanding policy in support of the ban on log exports and has requested that, if changes to existing policy are made, the provincial and federal government provide assistance and work with communities through the transition.

UBCM Participates in Hotel Tax Study

The BC and Yukon Hotels Association invited UBCM to participate in study to examine the effective use of hotel room revenue tax for tourism marketing. The Executive considered their request and has made the following Executive member appointments:

Steering Committee
- Councillor Sharon Gaetz, Chilliwack and Mayor Bev Holland, Victoria;

Best Practices Determination Committee
- Mayor Terry Lake, Kamloops.

The purpose of the project is to create a tool that can be used by stakeholders either to illustrate funding options for a successful Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) or reviewing existing DMO practices if the need arises.

The goals of the study are threefold:
1. To create a document that can be used by several stakeholder groups in discussing establishment of a DMO or reviewing operational effectiveness of an existing DMO;
2. To understand and document Best Practices in a variety of areas of DMO governance, activities and reporting results; and
3. Create a point of reference that takes into consideration the various views, goals and objectives of the key stakeholder groups and document a balanced opinion of key components required to maintain an effective DMO.

Based on the information collected, a report will be prepared that will profile the findings of the study by replacing traditional information models and best practices presently in existence. The report is envisioned as a tool made available to a variety of users, including the tourism industry, accommodation industry, communities and government.

Continued on page 8
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The British Columbia-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) is a groundbreaking accord that will create Canada’s second largest economy. It is the country’s most comprehensive internal trade agreement, and creates a more open, competitive economy where goods, services, workers and investments move freely.

My counterpart in Alberta, Guy Boutetier and I drafted a letter for municipal bodies in our respective provinces in January clarifying the effect of TILMA on local governments. Ministry officials continue to inform and consult with organizations like the UBCM, just as they have done in the years leading up to the Agreement signing last April.

Once the TILMA is fully implemented in April 2009, it will also apply to local governments. During the two-year transitional period between now and then, we will consult with local government bodies in both provinces, including the Union of BC Municipalities and other interested local governments, and negotiate any required exclusions or special provisions.

The need for an economic agreement like this is clear. The Conference Board of Canada published a detailed study called “Death by 1,000 Paper Cuts” in 2006, and in January this year followed up with a four-volume report of The Canada Project. It cites the most common barriers within Canada are overlapping regulations, multiple licensing requirements and local preferences in awarding contracts. These barriers are numerous and costly for workers, business people and consumers. They make us less competitive.

In British Columbia we have realized the Asia Pacific region is where the future of a strong Canadian economy lies. We also realize – globally speaking – we are not a big enough market to make much of an impression on our neighbours across the Pacific. We have our work cut out for us.

The population of BC and Alberta is just shy of 7.7 million people, about one quarter of the total population of Canada. Canada’s total population of about 32 million barely registers in the global marketplace. China’s market alone is 1.3 billion people. How can we hope to make an impression if we are not one market, but 13 separate provinces and territories each with its own set of rules on trade, investment and recognition of professionals and skilled workers?

Under TILMA, such measures will be identified and mutually recognized or reconciled. The result will be less red tape, fewer duplicate costs for workers and businesses, and a stronger economic foundation.

However, nothing in the TILMA requires a municipality or the Province to change laws to match those in the other province, or to match the desires of a business or any other person. If a town or city’s bylaws do not treat BC or Alberta businesses or investors more or less favourably than those of the other province, there is no discrimination and therefore no complaint under TILMA. The vast majority of municipal actions are non-discriminatory and have no restrictive effects on trade, investment or labour mobility and are thereby not affected by TILMA.

Furthermore, under TILMA, there is no requirement for changes to land use decisions applying to areas like sign bylaws, building height restrictions, zoning, agricultural land reserves or parks. The agreement specifically states either province can set policy measures related to what are called “legitimate objectives” thereby not affected by TILMA.

A “legitimate objective” is defined as: protection of the environment; public security and safety; health and social services; conservation and prevention of waste of non-renewable or exhaustible resources; and recognition of professionals and skilled workers?

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Finally, under TILMA’s dispute resolution mechanism, municipalities are not required to defend their own measures or pay monetary awards. Only the provincial governments are subject to the dispute settlement process.

I encourage everyone to check out our web site at www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev, or call our office to learn more about the TILMA agreement.

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**Energy Plan**

Continued from page 6

- electricity from sawmill residuals, logging debris and beetle-killed timber to help mitigate impacts from the provincial Mountain Pine Beetle infestation;

- all new electricity generation projects will have zero greenhouse gas emissions;

- zero greenhouse gas emissions from coal fired electricity generation;

- undertake a pilot project for energy performance labeling of homes and buildings in coordination with local and federal governments, First Nations and industry associations;

- make small power part of the solution through a set purchase price for electricity generated from projects up to 10 megawatts;

- establish an Innovative Clean Energy Fund of $25 million;

- implement a BC Bioenergy Strategy to take full advantage of BC’s abundant sources of renewable energy;

- best coalbed gas practices in North America. Companies will not be allowed to surface discharge coalbed gas water. Any re-injected produced water must be injected well below any domestic water aquifer. Proponents wanting to develop coalbed gas must fully engage local communities and First Nations in all stages of development;

- no nuclear power, and;

- eliminate all routine flaring at oil and gas producing wells and facilities by 2016 (interim goal to reduce flaring by 50% by 2011).

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**Of Specific Interest to Local Governments……..**

The Plan makes reference to the Community Action on Energy Efficiency (CAEE) Program which promotes energy efficiency and community energy planning projects. The Program provides direct policy and technical support to local governments through a partnership with Fraser Basin Council working in collaboration with provincial ministries, UBCM, Community Energy Association and utilities. The Energy Plan is calling for an increase in the level of participation from the existing 29 communities as well as an expansion of the CAEE Program to include transportation actions.

The Green Cities Project is also referenced which was first announced by the Premier at the 2006 UBCM Convention. This Project sets a number of strategies for communities including:

- $10 million/year for four years for the new Local Motion Fund, which will support community projects on a 50/50 basis with municipal governments to build bike paths, walkways, greenways and improve accessibility for people with disabilities;

- establish a new Green City Award program to encourage the development and exchange of best practices by communities, with the awards presented annually at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention;

- set new financial incentives to help local governments shift to hybrid vehicle fleets and help retrofit diesel vehicles; and,

- commit to making new investments in expanded rapid transit, support for fuel cell vehicles and other innovation actions.

With respect to Offshore Oil and Gas the Plan notes that the Province will:

- continue to work to lift the federal moratorium on offshore exploration and development;

- reiterate the intention to simultaneously lift the provincial moratorium;

- work with the federal government to ensure that offshore oil and gas resources are developed in a scientifically sound and environmentally responsible way;

- participate in marine and environmental planning to effectively manage marine areas and offshore oil and gas basins; and

- develop and implement a comprehensive community engagement program to establish a framework for a benefits sharing agreement resulting from offshore oil and gas development for communities, including First Nations.

New Property Tax To Help Fund Police Services

The provincial government in the 2007 Budget confirmed that it would be introducing a new funding formula for policing and that taxpayers in small municipalities with populations under 5,000 and in rural areas will pay up to 50 per cent of the total annual provincial costs for these services.

Legislation:
Amendments to the Police Act were introduced in Bill 12—Municipalities Act and Local Government Statutes Amendment Act on March 7, 2007 (www.leg.bc.ca/38th3rd/1stread/index.htm). The legislation introduces the new police tax for small communities (under 5,000 population) and electoral areas and outlines how it will be implemented. The legislation confirms that it will begin as of January 1, 2007 and that the amount to be raised by police taxes must not exceed 50% of the estimated cost of providing policing and law enforcement services. In addition, the legislation supports the background information support the changes announced by the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General at the 2007 UBCM Convention:
• application of a tax credit in electoral areas from the provincial rural tax of $0.10 per $1,000 (all assessment classes) to offset the new rural police tax; this is intended to recognize the fact that electoral areas currently pay an amount now covering the cost of policing services. This measure will result in a $7.5 million reduction in the property taxes that would have been collected from electoral areas and the adjustment will be made by the Province prior to the rural tax notice being sent out;
• application of an offset for traffic fine revenue to electoral areas and small municipalities—this is expected to further reduce the police tax, as traffic fine revenues, which will be allocated on the basis of policing costs and in the electoral area and small municipality, will be policed according to the police tax allocated to the area. The traffic fine revenue offset received by small communities and electoral areas will not affect the revenue currently being distributed to other local governments, as it represents funds previously retained by the Province and that would have been attributed to those areas.

Implementation:
In the case of regional districts, the Surveyors of Taxes will work with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to ensure that the new police tax is accurately reflected on the rural tax notice and the legislation outlines that the “Police Tax” must be identified as a separate line item on the rural tax notice. Under the legislation, a regional district may have the ability “on or before October 31 of the calendar year before a taxation year are to be applied to the provincial cabinet that the police tax be applied in an alternative fashion in that area.

In the case of a municipality, the new police tax will operate in a similar fashion as the current school tax. Municipalities will need to review their financial systems to determine the changes that will be required to implement the new police tax, particularly in the following areas:

•  Property Tax Notice: the “Police Tax” must be identified as a separate line item on the tax notice.

•  Financial/Accounting System: Municipalities will need to review their tax billing and accounting system to ensure that they can accommodate the new police tax.

The legislation will be sent a notice by the Surveyor of Taxes by May 10 of each year setting out the police taxes payable, similar to that currently received for school taxes. The notice will include information about the net taxable value of land and improvements; the total amount of tax to be collected; and the notice will be sent to the police tax base. The municipality will be required to remit to the Province an installment basis the police tax collected. A similar process will be required to do under the school tax model. Municipalities will receive a $10 million payment from the Province to assist in the changes required to implement the new police tax, and will be able to charge an administrative fee for the collection of the police tax, similar to that charged for the collection of school taxes.

As part of the next steps in this process, the UBCM working group on police costs will be meeting with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to discuss the census figures once they are released, the estimated number of duty officers providing policing and law enforcement in the provincial force and the estimated cost of providing these services.

Traffic Fine Revenues

In 2004 the provincial government expanded the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Program to 100% of revenues collected. The program is based on provincial traffic fine revenues from ticket fines and court-imposed fines on violation tickets. The program has been collected on police departments revenue from ticket fines and court-imposed fines on violation tickets. The program has been designed in conjunction with the federal government’s traffic safety initiatives.

Local governments have been requested to provide the Province with detailed information about their use of the funding provided under the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Grant Program. Local governments have reported that funding has been used for the following measures:
• 62% police officers wages (3% – 4% additional officers);
• 40% capital ($13.6 million – 29% to fund program vehicles, new public safety buildings, etc.);
• 7% civil staff ($9.5 million – civilian complaint officers, school liaison officers, etc.);
• 4% information and technology ($5.5 million – 45% to fund information and technology; 13% to fund dispatch services); etc.

UBCM Contract Resources

UBCM has confirmed that it would be introducing a new police tax for small communities and electoral areas and that taxpayers in the Province for fines and court-imposed fines on violation tickets. The program has been designed in conjunction with the federal government’s traffic safety initiatives.

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UBCM NEWS MARCH 2007

Protective Services

RCMP CONTRACT DISCUSSIONS

A local government meeting was held on Wednesday, March 28, 2007 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond. The session scoped out issues local governments have with the current RCMP contract, which expires in 2012. The meeting provided an opportunity to:
• confirm the need to begin early to scope out the issues that the various parties have on contract policing. The federal Solicitor General is looking at obtaining a mandate to begin negotiations from the federal cabinet in the near future. British Columbia, which employs the largest contingent of RCMP officers in Canada, will act as the lead province in the contract negotiations and has begun discussions with the other territorial and provincial governments to develop provincial mandates for the negotiations.
• UBCM Police Cost Committee acted as the link between the Province and local government in the negotiations and assisted the provincial negotiating team;
• UBCM appointed a local government representative to the provincial negotiating team – Gerry Brewer, Administrator, North Vancouver City and he kept the UBCM aware of the issues at the negotiating table and consulted with other local governments on some specific matters;
• UBCM Executive Director also participated, as a member of the provincial team, in some of the higher level discussions that took place between the federal and provincial Ministers.

The meeting provided an opportunity for UBCM to begin to identify local government concerns related to the RCMP contract. It also provided an opportunity for members to provide UBCM with direction on the process it should use and the framework it should develop to deal with the upcoming RCMP contract negotiations.

additional resources to develop and implement new programs to provide better policing services, crime prevention programs which focus on neighbourhood concerns and the ability to respond to new community safety issues when they arise.
Program Profile: Community Tourism Phase 2 Preparing to Launch

The Community Tourism Program (CTP) was designed to help local governments target funding for a wide range of tourist infrastructure projects: planning, marketing, Visitor Information Centers, small capital improvements, festivals and events and development of new attractions.

The Bulkley Nechako Regional District recognized the potential for destination mountain biking in their area. Building on the experience of the local group “Lakes District Freeriders”, they have used their CTP dollars to explore the opportunities, research the mountain bike destination market, and begin to develop marketing materials.

Coquitlam dug into the cultural roots of their community to develop a number of interesting marketing initiatives. The “Flaunt your Frenchness” program is part of a larger strategy to rebuild the village of Malliardville—the oldest and largest Francophone community in BC.

As Phase 1 of the Community Tourism Fund approaches completion on March 31, 2007, preparation is underway for the launch of Phase 2. In February the Executive approved an outline for Phase 2 that will continue the essential features of Phase 1. Since that meeting, members of the Tourism Task Force and UBCM staff have met with Minister Stan Hagen and the senior leadership of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts to review Phase 1 and share UBCM’s thoughts on the future direction of the program.

At present, LGPS staff are updating the funding formula to include the most recent data on population, tourism traffic and hotel stays. The anticipated launch of Phase 2 will take place later this spring.

LGPS: Telling the Story of Local Government Success

When the Local Government Program Services (LGPS) secretariat was created in the summer of 2004, it marked the beginning of a new set of responsibilities for UBCM. Our first challenge was to design and deliver programs that would balance the funding goals established by the Province of BC with the needs of local governments. Our second challenge was to administer the programs in an efficient and cost effective manner while providing adequate support for local governments during the application process.

Over the course of the 2006, a third challenge began to present itself: what is the best way to tell the story of how LGPS programs benefit local communities? From its inception, LGPS has provided monthly administrative reports on approvals, amounts and applicants to our provincial partners. While these reports provide an accurate summary of activity and uptake within each program, the story of what the funding was achieving in recipient communities remained untold.

Beginning with the Community Tourism Fund Status Report (released in January of 2007), we developed a new reporting format to bring the reader closer to recipient communities. Our first step was to research the key questions that our provincial partners were asking. Those questions helped us to define a series of themes, such as “leveraged funding” or “partnerships”, that we illustrated with stories from local projects. Each story used a combination of photos and a brief narrative to provide a window into the local experience of program success (see the story on Creston’s Greenhouse Pilot Project below). In addition, we created a new statistics section with charts describing the variety of projects underway and a “question and answer” section to address issues of accountability and transparency.

The response to the new format from the Hon. Stan Hagen, Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts and senior staff within the ministry has been enthusiastic. We have employed a similar approach in a report that summarizes all of the programs under our administration that was prepared for Premier Gordon Campbell in February of 2007, and subsequently distributed to all MLAs. Both reports are now available on www.CivicNet.bc.ca under Programs and Services/Local Government Programs and Services/Program Reports.

As LGPS continues to grow into its mandate over the coming years, we will be looking for pictures and stories that will help us to convey the value of the provincial funding that has been allocated through LGPS programs. Local governments have a vital role to play in helping LGPS tell their story. By sharing information about the successful implementation of your projects, you can help us make the case that we are fulfilling the goals entrusted to us by the Province of BC with each program. If you have a great story to tell, please contact Paul Taylor at ptaylor@civicnet.bc.ca or 250-356-2938.
CCME Municipal Wastewater Effluent Strategy

In 2003, Environment Canada indicated that it will develop a regulatory/planning strategy for municipal wastewater effluents under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). The strategy would be designed to provide clarity and certainty in how municipal wastewater should be managed, as municipal wastewater is currently managed through a variety of policies, bylaws, and legislation at the federal, provincial and municipal levels.

In December of 2004, Environment Canada published two instruments in the Canada Gazette related to municipal wastewater and the management of chlorine and ammonia as part of the Canada-wide strategy. The instruments were intended to require local governments to develop a pollution plan to deal with these substances where the volume of effluent discharges is equal to or exceeds 5,000 m³/day by June 15th, 2007, and to complete the implementation plans by June 15th, 2009.

The effect of the regulation would be to require that local governments with populations over 10,000 would have a minimum of secondary wastewater treatment and additional treatment where the receiving waters may require it. The pollution prevention plan requirements would be established under CEPA, while the enforcement requirements for these new standards will be established under the federal Fisheries Act. The strategy for these new regulatory requirements was to be completed by 2006.

Through past correspondence and consultations, UBCM advised the BC provincial government and the federal government of local governments regarding the economic implications of the strategy, and the need for a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities. In particular, amending pollution prevention plans, upgrading treatment facilities, and/or modifying operational practices to meet federal requirements and national standards pose significant cost implications for local governments. UBCM also informed the federal and provincial governments of the need to link the planning requirements under Canadian Environmental Protection Act and the enforcement requirements under the Fisheries Act, and identified the absence of harmonized requirements between existing wastewater management plans in BC and the federal requirements.

In December 2006, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment’s (CCME) initiated consultation on the draft Canada-wide municipal wastewater strategy, and released Options for a Canada-wide Strategy for Managing Municipal Wastewater Effluent: Consultation Document. The Ministry of Environment held a one-day workshop with industry and local government stakeholders on the draft strategy and associated consultation materials in late December.

The draft CCME Canada-wide municipal wastewater effluent strategy is comprised of the following key principles:

- a national standard based on secondary treatment as the baseline treatment;
- a risk-based approach for other substances (e.g. nutrients, chemicals of concerns) based on environmental risk assessments and environmental monitoring;
- a harmonized regulatory framework that provides regulatory clarity and a one-window approach, where those regulated will have a single point of contact for provincial and federal matters; and
- funding options that will ensure successful implementation of the proposed strategy.

Overall, the draft municipal wastewater effluent strategy has recognized and addressed some key local government issues regarding the need for regulatory harmonization, the adoption of a risk-based approach, and need for implementation funding. In terms of implementation timelines and regulatory considerations, the CCME consultation document acknowledges the need for long-term strategic planning and an investment of $8 to $13 billion in order to replace and upgrade wastewater treatment infrastructure across Canada. Given the significant cost implications of the strategy, UBCM has advocated that implementation timelines should not be identified until funding options and mechanisms have been defined.

UBCM will continue to actively monitor and participate in the development of the strategy, and articulate local government recommendations for strengthening the proposed strategy. For further information on the CCME strategy or consultation documents, please see the CCME webpage at www.ccme.ca or contact Jared Wright, Policy Analyst, at 604-270-8226 (ext. 113) or jwright@ubcm.net. Registration information will be available on CivNet by April 14th, 2007.

Contaminated Sites Update

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

UBCM Environment Conference 2007

UBCM is planning to hold an environment conference on June 27-28, at the Best Western Inn in Richmond, British Columbia. The conference will provide regulatory updates, identify existing gaps in the management of environmental issues, and outline tools that local governments can use in decision-making processes. It will aim to foster critical discussion around best practices and innovative community programs, as well as explore the development of effective partnerships amongst all orders of government. Above all, the conference will tackle those environmental issues that have generated significant debate and challenges for local communities within BC.

UBCM will be of particular interest to senior administrators, policy and environmental management staff, and elected officials. For further information, please contact Jared Wright, Policy Analyst, at 604-270-8226 (ext. 113) or jwright@ubcm.net. Registration information will be available on CivNet by April 14th, 2007.
Local Government Legislation 2007

This will not be a monumental year in terms of the volume of legislation affecting local governments. After the years of huge volumes of legislation in the late 1990’s (the Municipal Act Reform period) and then the Community Charter (2003) a period of relative stability is perhaps a welcome sign that the major reforms have been introduced, are being incorporated into the local government system and haven’t raised need for substantial amendments. However, some interesting legislation has already been introduced:

- Police Act – makes the way for introduction of a police cost tax on municipalities under 5,000 population and Regional District Electoral Areas (see both page 9 and Bill 12).
- Resorts and Multiple Phase Development Agreements

Multi-Phase Development Agreements

During the spring of 2006, representatives of the development industry approached the government looking for more certainty about land use regulation during large multi-phase developments. Specifically, one concern was the ability of councils or boards to down zone in a later phase of a development after a significant public amenity had been provided in an earlier phase. This led to consultations with UBCM (including two experienced municipal practitioners, municipal legal council and some surveys of existing local practices).

Bill 11 amends the Local Government by adding a new section “Phase Development Agreements”. These are voluntary agreements. The Agreement will set out:

- that specific zoning bylaw provisions that are amended during the term of the agreement have no effect.
- additional terms and conditions such as amenities to be provided, special features and the phasing of the development.

The legislation prescribes circumstances where zoning amendments would apply such as complying with provincial or federal legislation. The maximum term of an agreement is 10 years, however with the approval of the Inspector, the term may extend to 20 years. An agreement may be reviewed or extended as long as the maximum term is 20 years.

The legislation spells out the process, which includes notice, public hearing and public information requirements. There is also a provision that addresses the amendment process: if the agreement defines...
**Gas Tax Agreement, Public Transit Agreement and Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund**

**New Public Transit Funding for Local Governments**

At the 2006 Convention, UBCM’s membership endorsed a resolution requesting the Province of BC to transfer $52 million of the $119 million federally funded Public Transit Trust to UBCM. On February 20, 2007, the Provincial budget indicates that it will transfer $52.5 million from the federal Public Transit Capital Trust (PTCT) to UBCM in 2006/07. The PTCT will help local governments reduce traffic congestion in urban areas, reduce carbon dioxide and other emissions and invest in public transit infrastructure. UBCM is currently working with the Province of BC on details relating to this funding, with a view to transfer of funds from the Province to UBCM by the end of March.

On February 23, 2007 the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, (on behalf of the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities), the Honourable Ida Chong, BC’s Minister of Community Services, Sidney’s Mayor Don Amos, Chair of the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and Brenda Binnie, President of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) marked the transfer of over $7 million to begin the rapid bus transit system in Victoria. This federal transfer from the Public Transit fund to BC Transit will help with the development of a median busway on Douglas Street from downtown Victoria to Saanich Road, a transition to highway curbside transit operations and station improvements. For more details on this project, visit CivicNet/News & Announcements.

The proposed King’s Station for the Douglas St. Busway in Victoria. (Image courtesy of BC Transit)

**Capacity Building and Integrated Community Sustainability Planning Guide Launched**

UBCM has released a new guide to assist local governments in utilizing Gas Tax Agreement (GTA) funds. Part A of the new Guide assists local governments to fulfill their commitment to undertake Integrated Community Sustainability (ICS) Planning.


**General Strategic Priorities Fund and Innovations Fund Update**

February 16, 2007 marked the deadline for applications to the General Strategic Priorities Fund (GSPF) and Innovations Fund (IF) of the Gas Tax Agreement. There was broad interest demonstrated in both funds, with $272 million of applications for GSPF and $103 million for IF.

The technical review and ranking of GSPF and IF applications will take several months, and our target for funding decisions in early summer, 2007 remains in place. The deadline change for capacity building and ICS planning projects to May 31, 2007 will not affect the timing of funding decisions for capital project applications.

**Multi-Phase Development of Municipal Municipalities**

**Continued from page 12**


This funding program, including eligibility criteria and tax rates. Under this legislation, qualifying municipalities can participate in a new resort municipality revenue-sharing program valued at approximately $10 million annually. These funds, based on a portion of the return of the hotel tax, can be used by these municipalities to develop local tourism under an agreement with the provincial government that specifies the eligible expenditures. Potential eligible municipalities are: Fernie, Golden, Harrison Hot Springs, Invermere, Kimberley, Osoyoos, Radium Hot Springs, Revelstoke, Rossland, Tofino, Ucluelet, Valemount and Whistler.

The amendments: • add specialized governance provisions for newly incorporated mountain resort municipalities; • define mountain and non-mountain resort regions and provide them with specialized finance and land use tools; • enable these local governments to establish development permit areas (in official community plans) to improve the form and character of development to enhance the quality of the resort; and, • allow for the creation of resort associations to promote the resort.

**WANT TO MEET LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKERS AND PURCHASERS?**

at the Annual UBCM Convention September 26th and 27th, 2007

Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre

**City of Pitt Meadows**

City of Pitt Meadows

The Natural Place

Pitt Meadows became a City on January 1, 2007. Originally a part of Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows petitioned for removal and in 1914 was incorporated as the District of Pitt Meadows - now known as The Natural Place.
New Legislation

Continued from page 12

the notice requirements imposed on persons before beginning a mining activity. Persons will now be required to notify private landholders before entering their land and to wait a prescribed period of time after sending a notice before beginning any mining activity. (See March 9 In the House for further details on this Act.) (See Page 9 for further details.)

Bill #17 – Enforcement of Canadian Judgments and Decrees (Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement Amendment Act, 2007
(First Reading – March 15, 2007)
This Act will amend the Enforcement of Canadian Judgments and Decrees Act in order for BC to comply with the provisions of the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement between BC and Alberta (TILMA).

Bill #16 – Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act, 2007
(First Reading – March 12, 2007)
This Act affects the following provincial statutes of interest to local government:
Criminal Records Review Act
Changes will modernize the Act and increase protection of children from physical and sexual abuse through enhanced criminal record checks. Serious criminal offences that were not incorporated in previous checks will now be included, and criminal record checks will now be done every five years instead of just once when someone is hired.

Bill #15 – Forests and Range Statutes Amendment Act, 2007
(First Reading – March 15, 2007)
This Act is intended to strengthen forest stewardship and reduce the risk of forest fires, as well as build government’s New Relationship with First Nations. Under the Act, people will face penalties of up to $100,000 for causing damage that adversely affects an ecosystem (e.g., irresponsible ATV operation in sensitive areas). In addition, the Act will amend the Forest Act, Wildfire Act and Range Act and Forestry Revitalization Act to:
• enable local governments to reduce the threat of interface wildfires to their communities through changes to the Forestry Licence to Cut;
• streamline government’s ability to increase the volume and area of a First Nation tenure, and to protect potential Aboriginal rights and title;

Continued on page 16
Sewerage System Regulation and Subdivision Regulation Update

In May of 2005, the Province repealed the Sewerage Disposal Regulation and enacted the Sewerage System Regulation. Under the new regulation, only “authorized individuals,” or certificated and registered practitioners, are able to design, plan, construct and maintain on-site sewage treatment systems with daily flows under 22,700 litres. The introduction of the Sewerage System Regulation has generated significant implementation challenges in communities across the province. From increased cost to homeowners, to a lack of qualified practitioners and professionals, local governments have increasingly voiced concerns regarding 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 recently distributed a survey assessing local government experiences with the SSR. The survey was designed to assess whether local governments agree with the principles of the SSR, identify the nature and magnitude of the issues arising from the SSR, and extract potential solutions for ameliorating the problems caused by the implementation of the SSR.

UBCM is also in the process of establishing a regional district working group to review the implementation of the Sewerage System Regulation and develop discussions and recommendations for addressing the implementation concerns of local governments. The survey results will inform the composition, terms of reference and direction of that working group.

SSR, and extract potential solutions for ameliorating the problems caused by the implementation of the SSR.

SSR is also in the process of establishing a regional district working group to review the implementation of the Sewerage System Regulation and develop discussions and recommendations for addressing the implementation concerns of local governments. The survey results will inform the composition, terms of reference and direction of that working group.

UBCM Leadership Council (SSLC) also continues to work on addressing local government concerns with the SSR. The SSLC is a multi-stakeholder decision making forum for onsite septic matters composed of representatives from UBCM, the Ministry of Health, health authorities, the British Columbia Onsite Septic Sewage Association, and professional and practitioner associations. The forum is also discussing flexibility provisions within the Regulation, and will be producing communication materials that will attempt to clarify what work homeowners can perform in installing, repairing and maintaining sewerage systems.

Environmental Scan of Community Readiness for an Aging Population

UBCM has just 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. Just over 60 local governments completed this comprehensive web-based survey 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. Preliminary results will be announced at a Seniors Symposium being held by the Ministry of Health on March 27 and a full report will be placed on the seniorsincommunities.ca website when it is available.

Continued on page 23

Health & Seniors

Seniors in Communities Dialogues Agree

Thirty Seniors in Communities Dialogues were held in 2005 and 2006, and more are underway in 2007. The dialogues provided local governments with information specific to the needs of their seniors and built bridges and partnerships between groups. The dialogues provided a fairly representative sampling of seniors needs around the province. They were spread fairly evenly both around the province and among communities of different sizes.

Despite geographic and demographic differences, there was remarkable agreement around the province regarding the issues around seniors housing and health. Seniors in the dialogues identified the following as priorities to address in their communities:

- More services and support services
- More health care providers
- More affordable housing
- More recreation and social opportunities
- More transportation and accessibility
- More support services and planning for walkability and accessibility
- More senior focused legislation

During the fall of 2006 UBCM has been actively working with the seniors in communities. UBCM has just 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. Just over 60 local governments completed this comprehensive web-based survey 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. Preliminary results will be announced at a Seniors Symposium being held by the Ministry of Health on March 27 and a full report will be placed on the seniorsincommunities.ca website when it is available.

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Since 1980 our firm has restricted its practice to acting for local government and providing advice concerning municipal law to other clients.
THE ECONOMIC AND FISCAL UPDATE: ADVANTAGE CANADA – BUILDING A STRONG ECONOMY FOR CANADIANS

Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty gave an Economic and Fiscal Update on November 23, 2006. The economic plan is entitled Advantage Canada. The plan is based on four core principles:

- focusing on government;
- creating new opportunities and choices for people;
- investing for sustainable growth; and
- freeing businesses to grow and succeed.

Specifically with respect to “investing for substantial growth,” it says "Government will invest in and encourage partnerships with the provinces and the private sector in strategic areas that contribute to strong economies — including primary scientific research, a clean environment and modern infrastructure.”

It sets out five areas where Canada could improve its quality of life and be creating its own competitive entrepreneurial advantage;

- tax advantage;
- fiscal advantage;
- entrepreneurial advantage;
- knowledge advantage; and
- infrastructure advantage specifically: Canada’s Infrastructure Advantage will create modern, world-class infrastructure to ensure the seamless flow of people, goods and services across our roads and bridges, through our ports and gateways, and via our public transit.

In the section of the plan dealing in more detail on “modern Infrastructure” there is considerable discussion about the increased use of P3s. This section concludes with these Policy Commitments:

Policy Commitments

Canada’s New Government will work toward a comprehensive plan for infrastructure that includes:

- Long-term predictable funding;
- A fair and transparent use of provincial allocation for a program envelope to support: (1) improvements to the core national highway system, (2) large-scale provincial, territorial and municipal projects such as public transit and wastewater management, and (3) small-scale municipal projects;
- Separate national infrastructure funds, accessible on a merit basis, to support: (1) P3 projects, and (2) gateways and border crossings, particularly projects selected pursuant to a new national gateway and trade corridor policy.
- A requirement that provinces, territories and municipalities consider P3 options for all larger projects receiving funding from the program envelope and the national infrastructure fund for gateways and border crossings; and
- The establishment of a federal P3 office to help facilitate the increased use of public-private partnerships in Canadian infrastructure projects.

Obviously the policy commitment to long-term infrastructure investment is something local governments will be very interested in seeing. But there are some notes of caution. We cannot assume this commitment to “infrastructure” necessarily includes the full scope of municipal infrastructure. The types of infrastructure used as examples are: movement of goods and people, roads and bridges, ports, gateways, borders, public transit, fostering trade and exports for foreign markets. The Advantage Canada report clearly signaled the policy commitments that underly the March federal budget.

2007 PROVINCIAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

On February 20th, the provincial government released the 2007 provincial budget. The fiscal targets for the budget were to avoid crowding out housing and tax cuts, as it contained eleven initiatives for housing and a ten percent (10%) cut in personal income tax for those earning up to $100,000. Overall, the budget outlined $2 billion for the purchase of two areas, of which approximately $500 million is new in funding and $1.5 billion in new tax cuts.

The provincial budget included $169 million over four years to strengthen BC communities through investments in infrastructure and transportation. This funding included the previously announced LocalMotions, Spirit Squares, Towns for Tomorrow, and an increase in small community and regional grant.

The provincial budget also included several other expenditures of interest to local governments including: $22 million in capital funding for the purchase of 121 buses in 25 communities; and $52.5 million transferred to UBCM from the federal Public Transit Trust to help local governments reduce traffic congestion and invest in public transit; $12 million in additional funding to implement the PRIME system; An additional $25 million over three years for traffic fine revenue sharing; $15 million for park upgrades; and $14 million for air quality initiatives which includes retrofitting diesel buses and incentives to reduce the use of conventional wood stoves.

For more information on the provincial budget, please see the February 19th member circular on the UBCM website at www.civicnet.bc.ca under Publications/In The House/2006/Feb. 21 – Provincial Budget.

New Legislation

Continued from page 14

- provide woodlot operators with greater operational flexibility to improve their economic stability; and
- make changes to provisions governing cutting permits to facilitate the prompt harvesting of mountain pine beetle-attacked timber.

Members’ Bills

Bill #M203 – Motorcycle Noise Control Act

First Reading – March 8, 2007

This Act requires that motorcycles be equipped with mufflers that ensure exhaust gases are expelled without excessive noise and makes it an offence to operate a motorcycle so as to create excessive noise in an area where the posted or unposted speed limit is 60 km per hour or less.

Bill #M204 – Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Amendment Act, 2007

First Reading – March 13, 2007

This Act would amend sections 42 and 44 of the Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act by:

- requiring that a park owner, at the time of eviction, provide 12 months notice of eviction when redeveloping land under any form of tenancy agreement;
- requiring that a park owner, at the time of eviction, pay a tenant 12 months rent, or $10,000, whichever is greater, for relocation expenses; and
- requiring that a park owner pay those tenants who are unable to relocate their manufactured homes because of local building standards an amount equal to the fair market value of the manufactured home, as compensation.

ENVIRONMENt CONFERENCE

June 27 – 28, 2007

June 27: All day
June 28: All day
Best Western Hotel, Richmond BC

Purpose:
The UBCM Environment Conference will provide regulatory updates, identify existing gaps in the management of environmental issues, and outline tools that local governments can use in decision-making processes. It will aim to foster critical discussion around best practices and innovative community programs, as well as explore the development of effective partnerships amongst all orders of government.

Who should attend?
The conference will be of particular interest to senior administrators, environmental management staff, and elected officials.

UBCM Staff Contact:
Ermn Morrison
Information & Resolutions Coordinator
604-270-8226 (ext. 115)
emorrison@civicnet.bc.ca

Registration information will be available on CivicNet by March 30.

See also page 14 for detailed preliminary program.

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First Nations Relations Update

REGIONAL COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM UPDATE

A
other successful year of regional Community to Community forums as reported in the March 2007 UBCM News. The forums have more events completed than any previous year. A total of 48 forums have been approved for the 2006/07 program year – the previous record was 39. The Regional Community to Community Forum program is funded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Ministry of Community Services and administered by the UBCM and the First Nations Summit (FNS).

Under the program, First Nations and local governments can apply for funding to hold events that bring elected officials from neighboring communities together to build their intergovernmental relationship and tackle common issues. Regional Community to Community Forums are an excellent venue for local governments and First Nations to:

• open up the lines of communications;
• formalize their working relationships;
• learn about each other’s day-to-day operations;
• build cultural understanding and awareness;
• discuss in-detail specific topics of mutual interest or concern; and
• form mutually beneficial partnerships.

The first forum held at a regional level this year included: servicing, joint land management, coordinated and joint community planning, economic development and capacity building, and infrastructure and recreation initiatives. Several local governments and First Nations also signed formal government-to-government agreements, such as Protocols and Memorandums of Understanding. Highlights from the 2006/07 Program can be found in the insert below.

As with this year, there also saw an increase in the number of First Nation applicants and a number of larger, multi-day events – a trend that could be attributed in part to the fact that repeat applicants are now moving in to more substantive discussions on one or more areas of mutual interest. Many applicants expressed a desire to apply for funding in the new program year.

The UBCM and the FNS anticipate continued funding for the Regional Community to Community Forum Program from the federal and provincial governments and will send out new application packages for 2006/2007 to all members as soon as funding is confirmed.

Final reports on many events from this and previous years are available on the UBCM website at www.civicnet.bc.ca (under Featured Policy Topics / First Nations Relations / Community to Community Forum Program / Regional Community to Community Forum). Additional reports will be posted there as they become available, as will future program application information.

TREATY NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

On the December issue of UBCM News it was reported that Lheidli T’enneh initiated a final agreement with Canada and BC, the first one under the BC Treaty process. Following that, in December 2006 (after the deadline for the December 2006 issue), Tsawwassen First Nation and Maa-nulth First Nations also initiated their respective final agreements with Canada and BC. For each of these tables the next step is for the First Nation community to vote to ratify the agreement. On successful ratification, the BC Legislature and federal parliament must then give their assent for the treaty to take effect.

Tsawwassen Final Agreement

The final agreement includes a land package that consists of approximately 724 hectares, including 372 hectares of provincial crown land and 290 hectares of Indian reserves over which Tsawwassen First Nation will have jurisdiction and 62 hectares of additional lands that will remain under the jurisdiction of the Corporation of Delta. When the treaty comes into effect, Tsawwassen will own their lands in fee simple and there will be no more Indian reserves.

The final agreement contains law-making powers for matters related to lands, resources, and other areas of governance. Tsawwassen First Nation will

UBCM CONFERENCE ON FINAL TREATY AGREEMENTS

UBCM will be holding a conference on May 23-24, 2007 in Richmond, BC on the three final treaty agreements that were initiated this past fall. The purpose of the conference will be to:

• educate and inform UBCM members on key elements of the three final treaties and local government interests;
• generate discussion among members on how local government interests have been met; and
• inform UBCM of member priorities and interests.

This conference will be of interest to elected officials, senior staff and planners particularly from those local governments who have a First Nation in their geographic area involved in treaty negotiations.

Do you have a project in mind that you would like to partner on with the Chief and Council from the neighbouring First Nation? Are you interested in talking with your neighbouring First Nation but are not sure how to go about doing it? Learn how other local governments and First Nations in BC are doing exactly that in the C2C Connect newsletter. C2C Connect features stories about local governments and First Nations working together. The winter issue is now available and copies can be mailed to you by contacting Marlene Wells at the UBCM office by e-mail at nwells@civicnet.bc.ca or by telephone at 604.270.8226 ext. 116. C2C Connect can also be viewed on the UBCM website at www.civicnet.bc.ca (under Publications).

UBCM is producing a report of the Lheidli T’enneh, Tsawwassen and Maa-nulth initialled final agreements. The

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2007
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Continued from page 17

become a ‘First Nation’ member of the GVRD and appoint a director to sit on the GVRD board who must be an elected member of the First Nation government. Tsawwassen will pay for core mandatory services in the same manner as other member local governments and may enter into a local services agreement with the Greater Vancouver Water District.

Financial components include a one-time capital transfer of $13.9 million dollars over ten years less outstanding negotiation loans. The agreement provides for one-time funding of $15.8 million to support start-up and transition costs. Ongoing funding in the first fiscal financing agreement will be $2.8 million per year for programs, services, and incremental implementation and governance activities. This fiscal agreement will be negotiated every five years. As well, Canada will provide Tsawwassen with $2 million in consideration of the release by Tsawwassen of the rights to the mines and mineral under previously surrendered reserve lands.

Maa-nulth Final Agreement

The Maa-nulth First Nations represent five First Nation communities with a combined population of over 2000 members. They are located along the west coast of Vancouver Island. The agreement includes a land package that consists of approximately 24,550 hectares, including 22,375 hectares of provincial crown land, 2,084 hectares of reserve land and 92 hectares of private land purchased from willing sellers. When the treaty comes into effect, Maa-nulth will own their land in fee simple and there will be no more Indian reserves.

The final agreement will set out law-making authorities that Maa-nulth may exercise on their lands. For ten years following the effective date each Maa-nulth First Nation may sit on the applicable regional district board on a non-voting basis. After the tenth anniversary, the applicable Maa-nulth First Nation will become a member of that regional district and will appoint an elected member to the board. Each First Nation will participate in and pay for services in the same manner that other member local governments do.

Financial components include a capital transfer of $73.1 million over ten years less outstanding negotiations. Over a 25-year period Maa-nulth will receive annual resource revenue sharing payments, which will vary depending on provincial stumpage revenue. Under the fiscal financing agreements, Maa-nulth First Nations will receive $9.86 million for delivering agreed upon programs and services and $47.3 million to support treaty implementation activities. These fiscal agreements will be negotiated every eight years.

MARR Funding for Local Governments in Treaty Negotiations

At the UBCM Convention, the Honourable Mike De Jong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation announced that the Province would support local governments in the treaty process by providing in 2006 an additional $100,000. It brought provincial support to approximately $640,000 in 2006. UBCM received the funding and disbursed it to relevant treaty advisory committees and local governments using a principled process.

NCMA PARTNERSHIP TO MEASURE UP THE NORTH

B.C.'s North Central Region is ready to take part in British Columbia's lasting legacy of building accessible and inclusive communities. This creates the condition where all people can equally share in our community, can participate in the tourist, business and human resource sectors and engage in everyday activities.

That's why the North Central Municipal Association and the BC Paraplegic Association have partnered on Measuring Up The North, an innovative new project to implement the 2010 Legacies Now Society's Measuring Up tool.

2010 Legacies Now Society works with communities, government, corporations and non-governmental organizations to create social and economic opportunities for British Columbians. The work of 2010 Legacies Now Society and Measuring Up has given every community in B.C. the opportunity to measure their levels of inclusiveness. This powerful tool can be applied to create lasting benefits to municipalities and Regional Districts in BC.

The Measuring Up The North project, which is being facilitated by the North Central Municipal Association and the BC Paraplegic Association, along with supporting partner the BC Healthy Communities Initiative, has already received much support. The vision is to bring forward the opportunity for local governments in Northern B.C. to shape their communities as inclusive and accessible for the benefits of social and economic wellbeing. More than 20 NCMA Members have expressed their support for this project, including communities such as Williams Lake, Hazelton, and Prince George.

“The City of Prince George was very pleased to support the Measuring Up The North project,” says Mayor Colin Kinsley. “The tools offered through the program will certainly give municipalities more options to ensure all people have equal opportunity to enjoy full participation in community life. On a more practical note, this project will build on the many successes we have seen in our community thanks to Council’s Special Needs Advisory Council.”

BC Land Title and Survey Authority

B33 BC LAND TITLE AND SURVEY AUTHORITY

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the Land Title and Survey Authority of BC establish a process to refer any application for a natural boundary adjustment to the local government within whose jurisdiction the property lies for comment, and that local government comments be considered by the Surveyor General’s office when adjudicating the application.

In its response to resolution 2006-B33, the BC Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA) has advised UBCM that, in addition to its practice of referring every application under Section 94 of the Land Title Act to the Crown, it has a long-standing policy of inviting any local or regional government to have their boundaries adjusted to reflect these changes. LTSA advises current practice indicates some local governments do not favour routine referral of this type of application, particularly as the Integrated Land Management Bureau normally alerts local governments of affected tenure or significant issues as part of routine procedure.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has also advised UBCM of a recent meeting between the Surveyor General, the Registrar of the Association of BC Land Surveyors and the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCCK) to review the process for confirming changes in property boundaries that might arise through natural accretions. The basis for this discussion is that a landowner has common-law right to own accreted lands and statutory right under the Land Title Act to have their boundaries adjusted to reflect these natural changes.

Three specific actions came out of this meeting:

• LTSA has agreed to institute a pilot project with the RDCCK to include its comments on applications for accretion requests;
• LTSA has agreed to provide some guidance to the RDCCK staff within this approval process; and
• LTSA is adjusting the information available on its website respecting accretion applications to note that notice of accretion applications will be provided to those local governments who have requested the Surveyor General Division to send notification of such applications on a routine basis.

Continued on page 20
In an adversarial Council, a Councillor rolls his eyes or throws his pen on the table when another Councillor speaks. Although some view this behaviour as normal reality in a political setting, it shows disrespect for the office that the individual occupies. It sends a message that individuals are not listening to one another, making judgments before hearing people out, and reacting to the sources of ideas instead of the ideas themselves. This behaviour can show Council as an ineffective and immature governing body, and should be avoided.

Enthusiastic Greeting
Prior to a public hearing on a contentious issue, the Mayor sees an old friend, greets him warmly and gives him a big hug. Later, when the individual makes an impressed plea for a controversial proposal, citizens may wonder whether the Mayor has made up his mind on the issue, or how difficult it may be for him to vote against his close friend’s wishes. It is better to remain formal when in the public eye, especially when facing tough decisions.

Passing Notes
In the midst of a discussion, Council members routinely pass notes to others. To the observer, the process seems to be less than transparent. An impression of hidden conspiracies and “front room deals” may be conveyed.

In closing
Appearances may convey undesirable messages. What you do privately is up to you, but when you occupy a Councillor’s position, you must act with dignity and stature. Consider these questions: Do my appearances convey commitment, integrity, professionalism, maturity, sophistication, and respect? Am I acting in a manner that the community will trust?

Eli Mina, M.Sc., P.R.P., is a Vancouver based consultant, meeting mentor and Registered Parliamentarian. Since 1984, Eli has served his clients by chairing contentious meetings, demystifying and humanizing the rules of order, preventing and dealing with organizational dysfunctions, building better Boards and Councils, and advising on minute taking standards. Eli is the author of “The Business Meetings Sourcebook”, “Mina’s Guide to Minute Taking” and other books on meetings, rules of order and shared decision-making. Eli can be reached at 604-730-0377 or by e-mail at eli@elimina.com. He has numerous articles posted on his web site is http://www.elimina.com.
The MFA hosted another successful Financial Forum on March 14th, 2007 and its 36th Annual General Meeting March 15th, 2007, at the Four Season Hotel in Vancouver. The two day event was well received by over 200 delegates, ranging from local government staff and elected officials to individuals from private industry.

The Forum’s morning session provided lively presentations on the very hot topic of Public Private Partnerships (P3s). Representatives from EPCOR, CUPE and Corix Group spoke candidly on their view of working with P3s and the differing view points from which these projects can be valued. The afternoon included topics on local government charters with Industrial Classification and Major Industry Taxation and presentations from economists on outlooks for Canada and British Columbia.

Copies of all presentations from the Forum can be obtained through the MFA website at: www.mfa.bc.ca/presentations.htm. Thank you to all our sponsors and all who attended to make this a successful event.

The MFA Annual General Meeting, held on the following morning, was again well attended. The Chair Frank Leonard acknowledged yet another successful year for the organization noting that the MFA had reached record activity in debt issuances, the pooled investment funds, yet another successful year for the organization noting that the MFA had a successful event.

Thank you to all our sponsors and all who attended to make this a successful event.

NCMA PARTNERSHIP

Continued from page 18

Committee, which has been a tremendous advocate for those with special needs for more than 15 years.” The Village of Hazelton Council strongly supports the Measuring Up The North project, particularly since the Upper Skeena area is recognized as one of the neediest areas of British Columbia,” said Hazelton Mayor Alice Maitland. “This area lacks accessibility in all areas of service delivery, including health, recreation and education. Our transport system is spotty and expensive, putting assistance beyond the reach of many. We recognize and understand the impact a project of this scope can have on small and remote communities. It can change lives and further a community’s goals of economic development, community stability and enhanced quality of life for all, regardless of the types of challenges encountered. We welcome the opportunity to ‘put our money where our mouth is’ by contributing to the Measuring Up The North project. We encourage and challenge all northern municipalities with populations fewer than 5,000 to meet or beat our contribution towards this very worthwhile project.”

Northern municipalities and Regional Districts can fulfill their official community plans and show leadership in completing the measuring up process by discussing the issues of disability support services, access to information, economic participation and community contribution. Measuring Up The North will work towards meeting the needs of every citizen who wishes to live, work and participate in their community of choice.

The goal of the project is to create achievable plans to improve equality. This, in turn, is good for business and development and will allow a greater number of people to work and stay in the region.

For more information contact:

Pat Harris, Regional Rehab Supervisor
BC Paraplegic Association
250-563-6942

Maxine Koppe, Executive Director
North Central Municipal Association
250-564-6585

Cynthia McEwan, Dir, Measuring Up
778-840-5169

People, Plants and Pride...Growing Together

Communities in Bloom is a community-driven program fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification within set criteria. It is a valuable initiative for promoting all that is good in a community and is a terrific motivator for positive change. The CiB program works especially well as a collaborative effort engaging citizens of all ages, service groups, businesses and associations in a public-spirited effort to succeed and be recognized within the community. Each year ends with a friendly competition between BC communities of similar population size at the fall Awards Ceremony.

Communities are evaluated by two trained judges on the eight program criteria of: Environmental Awareness, Landscaped Areas, Tree/Urban Forest Management, Turf & Groundcover, Natural & Cultural Heritage Conservation, Tidiness, Floral Displays, and Community Involvement. The Judges provide feedback in a detailed report after evaluating the community for a day in the summer months of July or August. The evaluation report with a bloom rating certificate is presented at the Awards Ceremony. Additional recognition with a trophy for outstanding performance in one of five of the eight criteria was presented to deserving communities for the first time last year by our BC CiB Sponsors.

Begun in 1995, the CiB program has evolved into several participation levels. Starting provincially, a community often spends 2 to 4 years working to improve their bloom rating. Once achieving the top 5-bloom rating, communities are invited to compete nationally with communities of similar population sizes across the country. The top national participants can then go on to compete at the international level with communities throughout the world!

In 2006 BC communities such as Kent, Westbank, Clinton, Castlegar, Dawson Creek, Gibsons, and Harrison Hot Springs were recognized provincially as well as Armstrong, Parksville, Trail, Prince George and Kelowna with Summerland were recognized nationally and Kamloops internationally. Whether a community is large or small the Communities in Bloom program has helped strengthen inter-community networking and mentoring, increased pride in its citizens, and raised its profile to the rest of BC, Canada and the world.

Participation deadline for the 2007 BC Communities in Bloom program is March 31st. We invite all interested parties to contact Catherine Kennedy at (604)576-6506 or c.kennedy@telus.net for more information.
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 year and a half, taken on the provision of reference services to UBCM members. We encourage you to call or email Errin with your questions (emmorrison@civicnet.bc.ca or 604.270.8226 ext. 115). If she doesn’t know the answer offhand, she’ll do her best to find it for you!

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

1) Who are the local and provincial elected officials for Kitkatla – a small community southwest of Prince Rupert and near Dolphin Island?

This information can best be located through the Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District website (http://sqcreg.bc.ca). If you click on the “Regional Maps” link from the homepage and open the “High Detail Regional Map,” you’ll see that Kitkatla falls within electoral area “C”. From here, you can use the SQRCD website to locate Director Karl Bergman, Vice-Chair of the regional district board and representative for Area “C”. Next, go to the Local Government Assembly website (www.lgd.bc.ca) and use the “MLA Finder – By Community” feature, which notes Gary Coons as the MLA for the North Coast provincial constituency.

2) I am looking for information on local government and Public-Private-Partnerships (P3s) for a university research project.

The following are some online resources on the topic of P3s:

- P3 Websites
  - Partnerships BC: www.partnershipsbc.ca
  - Canadian Council for Public Private Partnerships: www.pcppcouncil.ca

- BC Ministry of Community Services Publications
  - Public Private Partnership: A Guide for Local Government
    www.cserv.gov.bc.ca/lgd/policy_research/public_private_partnerships.pdf
  - Best Practices for Moving Toward Change in the Delivery of Local Government Services
  - Development Finance Choices Guide
  - Report of the Task Force on Community Opportunities

Other Resources

UBC - Subject Resources for Public Private Partnerships
http://toby.library.ubc.ca/subjects/subjpage2.cfm?id=404

3) Does the UBCM website have information for local governments on tracking electrical usage rates in the interest of identifying marijuana grow ops?

From the homepage of the CivicNet website (www.civicnet.bc.ca) click on the “Featured Policy Topics” drop-down box at the bottom left corner of the page. Click on the “Marijuana Grow Ops” link in the list. This should pop up a new window containing a mini library of information on this topic. Included here is a model bylaw and Residential Electrical Safety Tools links (containing BC Hydro application forms).

UBCM Staff – Arrivals and Departures

Departures

In February we said goodbye to Alison McNeil after nearly eleven years of service. Alison was Senior Associate, Policy and Programs, providing staff support to the Healthy Communities Program, MRIP Program and Canada-BC Infrastructure Program, as well as managing the Community Health Promotion Fund. Alison has been appointed by the City of Richmond as the Senior Manager of Policy Development.

In December, UBCM said goodbye to Eric Kowalski, Director for BC Healthy Communities (see note below). Eric has returned to his home in Vernon where he will be the Program Officer for Multicultural Programs for Canadian Heritage.

Arrivals

In December, UBCM welcomed Paul Taylor into the new position of Relationships and Communications Advisor. This new position is focused on the communications and reporting functions of the Gas Tax / Public Transit Agreements and Local Government Programs.

In January, we welcomed Iris Hesketh-Boles into the new position of Gas Tax / Public Transit Management Services Administration Support. Iris arrived just in time to assist in the initial processing of the GSPF and IF applications.

In February, we said hello to the newest member of team at Municipal House, Bev Crooks. Bev is the new Administrative Assistant for Local Government Program Service and, upon completion of her orientation, will be the first point of contact for LGPS.

In March, Jodi Mucha was appointed as the director of BC Healthy Communities (see note below). Jodi has worked with Healthy Communities since January 2006 and will direct the implementation of the BC Healthy Communities strategic plan.

UBCM is the body providing the management, hosting and administrative services. See www.bchealthycommunities.ca for more information.

Development Finance Choices Guide
Report of the Task Force on Community Opportunities

Local Government Leadership Academy Update

The Board of the Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) has now been established and has begun the process of planning Academy activities.

Members of the Board include:

- Councillor Brenda Binnie (Chair): UBCM (two-year term)
- Director Susan Gimse: UBCM (one-year term)
- Dale Wall: MCS (one-year term)
- Gary Paget: MCS (two-year term)
- Steve Berne: MFA (two-year term)
- Isabell Hadford: LGMA (two-year term)

At its inaugural meeting on January 18, 2007, the Board decided to launch the LGLA with a Provincial Leadership Forum to be held June 13-15, 2007. At its inaugural meeting on January 18, 2007, the Board decided to launch the LGLA with a Provincial Leadership Forum to be held June 13-15, 2007. The following is a sample of the types of forums that the LGLA initiative was sent to UBCM members and other stakeholders earlier this month, and details on the upcoming Provincial Leadership Forum can be found on the CivicNet website and on Page 3 & 14 of the Newsletter.

Stay tuned for the launch of a dedicated LGLA website in the coming months.

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2007
More on Safety & Justice

Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy
The City of Surrey, on February 26, 2007, announced a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to reduce crime. The city in its strategy attempts to identify a combination of programs that it is currently implementing in a number of different areas and new initiatives that it would like to undertake.

The Crime Reduction Strategy is broken down into four components:
1. Prevent and Deter Crime;
2. Apprehend and Prosecute Offenders;
3. Stabilize and Reintegrate Offenders;

Outlined below is a sample of some of the actions identified in the report.

The City, as part of its new strategy, is proposing to give the public more information about the resources available and to involve the public directly in the implementation of the new Crime Reduction Strategy (CRS):

• establish a Crime Reduction Board – to develop and oversee the implementation of the strategy and employ a “Crime Reduction Strategy Manager”;
• establish a CRS website – central depository of information about the strategy, crime reduction activities in the City and criminal activity (The website would provide database/links to agencies which connect individuals with jobs, deliver life skills training, provide job education and job skills training, provide second stage/transitional housing services, provide licensed treatment and recovery facilities, inventory of supportive housing available for people with mental health and other disorders);
• establish a pilot project that allows the public to report crimes via the internet or CRS website;
• establish Community Action Groups – to work with the RCMP to develop strategies to address neighborhood issues such as graffiti, vandalism, drug dealing, drug houses etc.;
• establish a zero tolerance for graffiti – adopt by-laws that result in owners of properties in City being accountable to remove graffiti promptly from their property;
• establish the Homelessness and Housing Foundation – $8.4 million non-profit foundation to provide sustainable funding for homelessness and housing programs.

The City also proposes to involve the business community in the strategy through the following initiatives:

• application of environment design/target hardening (CPTED) principles into all new developments/renovations and require that every applicant of a new business license undertake a CPTED audit;
• expand the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program to include hotels and motels;
• develop a strategy for the use of closed circuit television (CCTV) – invert existing cameras being used by the private sector and encourage the expanded use of cameras by the private sector;
• provide bonus density options for developers to encourage the creation of additional social housing units – 300 beds by 2008.

Continued on page 23

Justice Transformation Strategies
The Ministry of Attorney General, in its 2007 Service Plan, makes reference to a number of potential changes to the justice system that may be introduced in the next few years:

• a community court
• a community court

UBCM understands that the Ministry of Attorney General is in discussions with the City of Vancouver regarding the implementation of a pilot Community Court. It is expected that a court may be established sometime in 2007. UBCM will be following up with the Ministry of Attorney General to get more details about the type of changes that are being proposed and local governments’ role in these changes.

New Net•work•book Coming Soon—end of April!
The Net•work•book is a comprehensive directory including contact information for the following:

• provincial and federal governments;
• Ministry of Community Services;
• local governments;
• municipal and regional government listings of elected officials and senior staff;
• select provincial agencies and commissions;
• other organizations with ties to local government;
• professionals offering services to BC local government.

For more information and a copy of the order form go to www.civicnet.bc.ca/Publications/NetWork/Book or use the order form on the next page.

Surprise – No One Goes Over 5,000
The preliminary 2006 Canada Census figures were released on March 13, 2007. It was anticipated that some or all of the following municipalities might go over the 5,000 population threshold, which would mean that these communities would have to pay 70% of their RCMP policing costs:

Metchosin 4,795 pop.
Creoson 4,826 pop.
Peachland 4,883 pop.
Fernie 4,217 pop.
Kent 4,738 pop.
Duncan 4,996 pop.
Vanderhoof 4,064 pop.
Osoyoos 4,752 pop.
Fort Nelson 4,514 pop.

The census numbers also showed that two municipalities fell below the 5,000 in population threshold, which means that they will no longer have to pay for 70% of their police costs as outlined in the federal RCMP Agreement, but will fall under the new police finance model for small communities and rural areas introduced by the province in 2007:

Mackenzie 4,539 pop.
Spallumcheen 4,960 pop.

According to the census figures, only one municipality went over the population threshold for policing costs and that was the 15,000 population threshold, which means its policing costs will rise from 70% to 90% of the costs:

Pitt Meadows 15,745 pop.

As the numbers show, none of the smaller communities that were expected to go over the 5,000 population threshold level for policing costs under the RCMP agreement did so. Given that the preliminary census figures are collected every five years, this means that none of the smaller municipalities identified will need to consider paying for policing costs under the federal RCMP agreement until new census figures are announced in 2012. Only one community in British Columbia will face an increase in policing costs under the federal RCMP contract as a result of the new census figures.

Attorney General’s Ministry Releases Green Paper on Limitation Periods
One part of the UBCM liability reform package is under review and a Green Paper sets out the options that might be considered.

This Green Paper looks at possible reforms to the Limitation Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 266. The Limitation Act sets limitation periods or deadlines by which to sue. While many other laws set limitation periods, the Limitation Act sets the default regime. Unless another law sets the applicable limitation period, the Limitation Act applies. Reform to the Limitation Act is being considered by the Ministry for a number of reasons, including:

• the Limitation Act is over 30 years old and has not been comprehensively reviewed since its introduction;
• it is out of step with statutes of limitations set by the provinces that have modernized their limitations laws;
• the Uniform Law Conference of Canada put forward a model legislation statute as a suggested framework to develop a harmonized (consistent) approach to limitations law across the country;
• independent law reform bodies in BC recommended reform in 1990 and again in 2002;
• individuals and organizations have been calling for change;
• some of the key questions in the Green Paper include:
  • How long should limitation periods be?
  • Should people be permitted to change them by agreement?
  • How should the limitation periods set by the Limitation Act be?


Comments are requested by April 23, 2007. The longstanding UBCM position has been a 10-year ultimate limitation period. The Executive will review this position at its next meeting.

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2007
Building Effective Regional Districts

UBCM Convention Workshop

On October 23, 2006, at the annual UBCM Convention, the Ministry of Community Services and UBCM held a facilitated, 90-minute workshop to identify additional efforts to consider. The workshop, titled Building Effective Regional Districts, was attended by approximately 150 elected officials and administrative staff.

The centrepiece of the workshop was a Participant Workbook, a copy of which was provided to each participant. The Workbook provided overviews of, and questions related to, four specific topics that have been raised consistently by regional directors:

- the challenge for regional directors to “think regionally”;
- inter-jurisdictional relations within regions;
- connections between regional districts and their members; and
- the provision of assistance and advice to regional districts.

Over the course of the workshop, the facilitator took the participants through the four topics. For each one, the facilitator provided a brief introduction, and then invited participants to comment, from the floor, on specific points and questions. Following the comments, participants responded, individually, to the written questions in the Workbook. The responses have been tabulated and a short summary report on the feedback has been produced. At the last Executive meeting, the Minister of Community Services, Honourable Ida Chong, and UBCM President Brenda Binnie agreed to jointly convey the results to councils and regional boards. Their joint letter and a copy of the workshop report has been sent to all UBCM members.

The letter requested member feedback on the findings. During its review of the report, the Executive were particularly interested in any feedback on four topic areas:

- development of RD Tool Kit second edition
- development of RD Advice Teams and assistance for individual RDs
- development of educational opportunities for elected officials and senior staff on key RD issues
- investigate opportunities to provide support to RD boards for team building processes.

The report will also be posted on CivicNet.

Regional District Chairs and CAO Forum

The annual Regional District Chairs and CAOs Forum was held March 13, 2007 and again in conjunction with the MFAAs Annual Financial Forum. Approximately 60 people attended. The one-day event consists of presentations and discussions of topics raised by the Regional Districts such as:

- First Vice-President Susan Gimse and Second Vice-President Chair Robert Hobson. UBCM presented on:
  - Sewage System Regulations;
  - Rural Subdivision Regulations;
  - Police Act Amendments.

UBCM Electoral Area Representative Director Terry Raymond chaired the forum.

Sewage System

Continued from page 15

In addition, the Standards Practice Manual, which contains the Ministry’s guidelines for system installation and maintenance, is currently being revised. The revision, in part, stems from complaints regarding the cost of system installations and the unnecessarty nature of some of the Regulation’s standards and technologies. The revisions will emphasize using necessary technologies, as opposed to preferred or desirable technologies, which will have the effect of reducing system costs for homeowners in several circumstances.

UBCM has identified the Sewage System Regulation as a key concern, and will continue to work with the implementing agencies to rectify the implementation challenges that local governments face.

Subdivision Regulation Amendments

As a result of the enactment of the Sewage System Regulation, the Subdivision Regulation (SR) requires consequential amendments. The Subdivision Regulation requires amendments to update the Regulation to meet the intent and outcomes of the Sewage System Regulation and to make the necessary infrastructure choices for the development of lots. The requirement for amendments arises from the fact that the prescriptive Subdivision Regulation currently refers to an outcomes based Sewage System Regulation. The Subdivision Regulation is administered by the Ministry of Community Services (MCS) and enforced by the Ministry of Transportation (MoT), and applies to lands outside of municipal boundaries.

The Ministry of Community Services struck a committee in January of this year to devise the consequential amendments. The committee is comprised of representatives from MCS, MoT, MoH, regional health authorities and UBCM. While the committee is at a preliminary stage in the development of amendments, it is anticipated that the Provincial Government will engage in consultation with local governments on amendments in spring of this year.

UBCM will be actively monitoring and advising on the development of the consequential amendments, and will be working with the committee to ensure local government consultation. UBCM will keep local governments apprised of committee developments, and will provide consultation information once it has been developed.

Crime Reduction

Continued from page 22

The Crime Reduction Strategy identifies a number of initiatives that will require the cooperation and support of the federal and provincial governments:

- establish a Problem Oriented Policing Action Team – coordinate key service stakeholders to assist in identifying the “problem” on the street to access social support networks and wrap around services (i.e. housing, medical attention, treatment etc.);
- establish Prolific Offender Management Teams (POMT) – work in conjunction with Probation, Social Services, FFA, Attorney General, Solicitor General and RCMP to follow an offender through the criminal justice system processes and address factors that cause the offender to commit crime;
- develop a strategy for the use of closed circuit television (CCTV) – in and around identified crime hot spots;
- establish a Recovery House Accreditation Board – work with the Ministry of Health to develop programming requirements, housing and care standards for a “tiered system” of recovery homes;
- advocate for a Night Court – means to increase courtroom capacity to reduce delays in the criminal justice system;
- establish a model for a “hand over system” – work with the Attorney General, Office of the Chief Judge and Court Services to implement a problem-solving based sentencing process for juvenile and adult offenders (the process would also include the creation of a Community Justice Resource Team (e.g. police, Crown Counsel, Defense Counsel, court judges, etc.).

Surrey, in developing its strategy, involved more than 100 individuals representing over 50 local authorities, key groups and organizations as well as all three levels of government. It hopes to implement a number of the new and innovative programs identified in its strategy over the next year.

Regional Districts

Results of 2006 UBCM Convention Workshop

The Ministry’s other presentations included:
- Community Opportunities Task Force;
- Service Establishment by Law Approval Reduction Plan; and
- First Nations Treaty Update.

UBCM President Brenda Binnie attended the event, along with Regional Districts First Vice-President Susan Gimse and Second Vice-President Chair Robert Hobson. UBCM presented on:
- Sewage System Regulations;
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- Fair Compensation for Hydro Transmission Lines;
- Grant Discussion RHD Capital Grants Provincial Grant in Lieu; and
- Fencing Responsibility under the Railway Safety Act.

During the morning session, UBCM and the Ministry of Community Services presented on “Building Effective Regional Districts”.

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2007 23
Rezoning Clears Way for a Permanent Home for UBCM and Local Government in Victoria

The City of Victoria approved a rezoning and Development Permit application on March 22, 2007, clearing the way for the site of the first permanent home for local government in the province's capital.

At the 2005 Convention, Premier Gordon Campbell said: "To enhance our growing partnerships, I want to assure that UBCM has a new presence in Victoria. For years you have been looking to replace the current Municipal House with a new heritage-style building on a different site near the Legislature. In recognition of 100 years of service at the UBCM, I can tell you today that the province will donate the land required for a new Municipal House in Victoria. Today we have 525 Government Street in mind. If that doesn't work, we will find another site that does work for the UBCM as we create a stronger presence and a more lasting partnership. I'm confident that Municipal House will reflect the best of your communities. Let's highlight B.C. products, and most importantly, let's build Municipal House in Victoria with the best building product in the world – B.C. wood. And to make it even more interesting, let's make sure we're using pine beetle-enhanced wood from British Columbia, Canada."

The Premier agreed that the site would only be transferred to UBCM if it could be rezoned. With that completed, detailed drawings can begin.

MUNICIPAL HOUSE PROSPECTUS

A “NEW MUNICIPAL” HOUSE: BACKGROUND

525 Government Street is a provincial government owned property that is currently being used as a parking lot. Working with architect Tony James, UBCM has been developing siting, general floor plans and some ideas on external design.

The site is actually quite small (50 x 100 feet). The general exterior design will have a residential character that will reflect some of the features of neighbouring buildings.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The building has been registered with the Canadian Council on Green Buildings for LEED certification. A target of silver was established. A first meeting of the consultant team has been held and it appears we could achieve gold status and accordingly we are going to see what steps we might take to achieve this ranking.

We are planning on a building of about 5,200 square feet gross. As designed, the building has capacity excess to UBCM’s specific needs so we are involving:

- AVICC;
- Gas Tax Management Services;
- Local Government Program Services; and
- BC Healthy Communities.

BUILDING OVERVIEW

The building is on three levels and provides:

- office space for a minimum of 15 people with room for expansion;
- meeting space for all occupant groups; and
- flexibility for hosting small gatherings with government officials (using boardroom, foyer and lounge).

The main floor is level entry – and, to further ensure accessibility, the building will have an elevator and accessible washrooms. It will also be fitted with a sprinkler system inside.

The central design feature is a two-story atrium over the lounge with skylight.

The following are a list of building components:

- 14-13 individual offices
- 1-2 large offices
- large board room (20 person) for meetings, workshops
- medium size meeting room
- 2 production/open work areas
- foyer/lounge
- staff room
- caretaker suite
- 3 washrooms including handicapped washroom and shower
- basement storage (filing and storage spaces for all organizations, UBCM archives, staff lockers)
- minimum one on-site parking.

The Premier was quite specific about the use of BC wood - particularly pine beetle wood. The boardroom, foyer and lounge plus exterior offer prime opportunities to be a showcase. Since LEED principles emphasize local products the building will use local materials and the site will feature native plantings.

MUNICIPAL HOUSE AS A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Municipal House is also to show leadership and demonstrate best practices. It will showcase:

- the close relationship needed between local and provincial governments;
- partnerships between local government ‘servicing’ groups;
- green buildings, accessibility and sprinklers;
- use of BC building products;
- creation of an affordable housing unit;
- employee health promotion; and
- retention of jobs in the Victoria core area.

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