Convenion ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Announcement

MOU/Protocol Agreement Signings

This year three agreements were signed at UBCM Convention. These included:

UBCM and Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

The MOU addresses local government participation in the New Relationship with First Nations in BC. The MOU applies similar consultation principles that exist in the treaty process to New Relationship discussions outside treaty. Under the MOU, the Province commits to consulting with local governments early and on-going on New Relationship negotiations with First Nations that may affect local government jurisdiction.

UBCM and Ministry of Community Development

A Letter of Understanding was signed relating to the Province’s commitment to work with UBCM’s Regional District Task Force to identify ways to improve the working relationships between and within regional districts.

UBCM and BC Recreation and Parks Association

A Protocol on Consultation and Cooperation was signed between the two organizations to enhance opportunities for greater collaboration on assisting communities to achieve healthy sustainable environments.

2008 Election Analysis

The results from the 2008 election saw the continuation of a number of trends from preceding elections.

The trend in the number of newly elected officials (persons who did not hold office in their current office prior to the election) was 43% slightly lower than the average percentage of 45% over the previous six elections. This statistic is one of the most constant among the data in recent years. There was a surprisingly large turnover in Mayors during the 2008 election, with a turnover rate of 53.1% (that is, the number of mayors who were either new or were Councillors in the prior term).

Another continuing trend is the public’s preference for candidates with prior experience as an elected official. The vast majority of elected Mayors (79.6%) were incumbents, either as a Councillor or Mayor. The percentage of newly elected Mayors with no prior experience as a local government elected official was a mere 6.2%.

The number of women elected increased slightly over the 2005 election results, moving from 31.9% to 32.9% of those elected or acclaimed. The number of women elected was for Mayors, down from 24% in 2005 to 16%. 79 referendums were held in conjunction with the elections, with voters approving 60 of the proposals. The success rate for referendums mirrors the average of 75% going back to the 1999 election.

The most significant change among overall voting patterns was the percentage of eligible voters who cast ballots. 26.8% of the 2.9 million eligible voters cast ballots in the 2008 election, a result that is a significant drop from the 30.7% of eligible voters that cast ballots in 2005.

Number 225 December 2008

Happy Holidays!

2009 Newly and Returning Elected Officials Seminars

The Local Government Leadership Academy in cooperation with the UBCM is once again offering Elected Officials Leadership Training Seminars following the 2008 local government elections. These seminars are a “must” for all elected officials and serve to provide leadership training at the beginning of the election term.

The 2009 seminars are designed for both newly and returning elected officials and include a new program format and content. The seminars will include plenary sessions for all elected officials attending as well as concurrent sessions to meet the specific needs of newly and returning elected officials. We also invite senior management staff to attend the seminars along with their elected officials.

Program Highlights:

• The seminar program includes sessions on meeting procedures, governance, roles and responsibilities, decision making and priority setting, communications and media, budgeting, financial planning, community planning, affordable housing, local government law, conflict of interest and more…

• Speakers include leading professionals and practitioners from the local government community across BC.

• Content is targeted at both newly and returning elected officials.

• Six different seminars will be held in locations across the Province including Nelson, Kelowna, Parksville and Richmond.

• A special seminar program has been developed to address the needs of electoral area directors.

Register early as space is limited at all seminars. Program content and speakers vary with the seminar location so choose the seminar that best matches your community.

Small Communities population <10,000:
January 21 – 23, Delta Airport, Richmond
AVICC member communities:
January 28 – 30, Tigh-Na-Mara, Parksville
Regional District Electoral Area Directors:
February 4 – 6, Delta Airport, Richmond
SVICG member communities:
February 11 – 13, Grand Okanagan, Kelowna
AVICC member communities:
February 17 – 19, Prestige Inn, Nelson
Large Communities population >10,000:
February 25 – 27, Delta Airport, Richmond
Register at: http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/
For more information go to: www.LGLA.ca

CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Over the years, the UBCM Convention has become the forum where various provincial, and in some instances, federal government announcements are made. The following provides summary of some of the announcements from the 2008 Convention.

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The results from the 2008 election saw the continuation of a number of trends from preceding elections.

The trend in the number of newly elected officials (persons who did not hold office in their current office prior to the election) was 43% slightly lower than the average percentage of 45% over the previous six elections. This statistic is one of the most constant among the data in recent years. There was a surprisingly large turnover in Mayors during the 2008 election, with a turnover rate of 53.1% (that is, the number of mayors who were either new or were Councillors in the prior term).

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Congratulations to all of you who were elected or re-elected in the recent civic elections. Our communities depend upon people like yourselves to step forward, lay out your vision and serve on Councils and Boards. Collectively, we make our communities better places to live.

I am proud to emphasize the fact that local governments are accountable to the people. What this really means is that we can make a difference. Yes, there are obstacles in our path and yes, we will receive plenty of scrutiny and some criticism along the way. What we can do is that as leaders of our communities, we need to have effective governance and work to make our communities better places to live.

The past year has been one of transition and it is also that period of opportunities and challenges that are before us in the year ahead. As we enter our 10th year, UBCM remains proud to have all 100% of local governments as our members. This unity has allowed us to be successful in the past and we must continue to work collectively to ensure that the voice of local government is heard by other orders of government.

In 2007, the UBCM Executive formed a Regional Task Force to address some targeted issues facing regional districts. An update was provided at the Convention and the Task Force will kick into high gear in the coming year. As we move forward it is important to keep in mind one principle that has repeatedly been identified by the Task Force - regional districts are federations comprised of both electoral areas, and municipalities. All members of the regional district are adversely affected by any problems that may exist, so all members must be part of the solution.

It will also be a priority for the Executive for the coming year to return the carbon tax costs back to local governments. In addition, we will continue to be involved in developing the framework for carbon neutral operations in recognition of the Climate Action Charter. In the coming year there are many climate change issues facing our local governments, and in the coming months UBCM will seek input into the design of the conditional grant announced by the Premier at Convention to return the carbon tax costs back to local governments. In addition, we will continue to be involved in developing the framework for carbon neutral local governments.

The Local Government Leadership Academy also recognizes that the learning never ends and in response to this, we have developed a concurrent set of workshops for those returning elected officials. These sessions will be held at the same time and location as the Newly Elected seminars. I should also remind you that a senior administrator from each local government is invited to the workshops. This recognizes the reality that in order to effectively govern our communities we need to have effective partnerships amongst our elected and appointed officials.

Each year the membership elects and appoints members to the UBCM Executive. As one year closes and another begins, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize the service of all of those who return to the board this year, but played a significant role in achieving the following accomplishments this past year:

- secured $1 billion in Gas tax funding for 2010/11 to 2013/14 and federal government announced that Gas tax program is permanent;
- negotiations concluded and agreement reached with the Province on TILMA agreement and British Columbia Sustainability Act;
- established joint provincial-UBCM Green Communities Committee under the BC Climate Action Charter to support local government climate action initiatives;
- negotiations led to signed Communities Component under Building Canada;
- RCMP Contract Renewal – local government working group established;
- new Municipal House construction underway;
- launched Picture BC at the 2008 UBCM Convention; and
- 100% membership maintained for the 29th consecutive year.

Thank you to the following Executive members who are not returning to the Executive but helped us achieve so much over the past year: Brenda Binnie, Past President; Sharon Hartwell, First Vice-President; Terry Lake, Third Vice President; Joe Snopik, First Vice-President (post UBCM Convention); Kim Capri, Second Vice-President (post UBCM Convention); Ella Brown, Small Community Representative; Terry Raymond, Electoral Area Representative; Heath See, AKBLG Representative; Bob Long, LMLGA Representative; Eileen Benedict, NCMA Representative; Herb Pond, AKBLG Representative; Bob Long, LMLGA Representative; Ella Brown, Small Community Representative; Brenda Binnie, Past President; Sharon Hartwell, First Vice-President; Terry Lake, Third Vice President; Joe Snopik, First Vice-President (post UBCM Convention); Kim Capri, Second Vice-President (post UBCM Convention); Ella Brown, Small Community Representative; Terry Raymond, Electoral Area Representative; Heath See, AKBLG Representative; Bob Long, LMLGA Representative; Eileen Benedict, NCMA Representative; Herb Pond, AKBLG Representative; Bob Long, LMLGA Representative; Ella Brown, Small Community Representative.

As a councillor for the City of Castlegar, Brenda first joined the Executive in 2002 as a Director at Large. As a councillor for the City of Castlegar, Brenda first joined the Executive in 2002 as a Director at Large. As a councillor for the City of Castlegar, Brenda first joined the Executive in 2002 as a Director at Large. As a councillor for the City of Castlegar, Brenda first joined the Executive in 2002 as a Director at Large. As a councillor for the City of Castlegar, Brenda first joined the Executive in 2002 as a Director at Large. As a councillor for the City of Castlegar, Brenda first joined the Executive in 2002 as a Director at Large. As a councillor for the City of Castlegar, Brenda first joined the Executive in 2002 as a Director at Large. As a councillor for the City of Castlegar, Brenda first joined the Executive in 2002 as a Director at Large.

Brenda Binnie

As a councillor for the City of Castlegar, Brenda first joined the Executive in 2002 as a Director at Large. She was re-elected to that position again in 2003 and in 2004 was elected to the position of Third Vice President. In 2005, as a result of a vacancy in the
Former Executive

Continued from page 2

Table Officers following local government elections, she moved from Second Vice-President to First Vice President. Then in 2006 she was elected as President of UBCM.

During her six years on the UBCM Executive, Brenda has served on a number of Committees including: Chair and member of the Resolutions Committee, VP Liaison to the Community Safety Committee, member of the Healthy Communities Committee and Chair and member of the Convention Committee. She also served as Chair of the Nominating Committee, member and Chair of the Presidents Committee; Chair of the Excellence Awards program and Vice Chair of the 2005 Regional District Task Force. She also traveled to the Philippines in February 2007 as part of UBCM’s international obligations with FCM and the two Philippine Leagues to build capacity in the area of policy development and advocacy within that country.

Her external appointments have included serving as UBCM’s representative to the FCM National Board of Directors; Order of BC UBCM/BCSTA MOU Working Group; Single Business Licence Advisory Committee; Advisory Committee on Energy Efficiency and Conservation; and the Community Opportunities Task Force.

During her term as President, she led the Presidents Committee through one of UBCM’s biggest transitions - the recruitment and hiring of a new Executive Director.

We thank Brenda for her many years of service and dedication to both UBCM and BC local governments.

Sharon Hartwell

Sharon Hartwell, Mayor of the Village of Telkwa first joined the Executive in 2001 when she was elected to the position of Small Community Representative. She held that position for 5 years. In 2006 she was elected to the position of Third Vice-President, in 2007 was elected Second Vice President and this past year served as First Vice-President.

Over her years on the UBCM Executive she has served and chaired a variety of committees including: Chair and member of the Community Economic Development Committee; Healthy Communities Committee; and Presidents Committee. In her capacity as Chair of the CED Committee, Sharon also served as Chair of the Offshore Oil and Gas MOU working group.

A strong advocate for small, rural and remote communities, Sharon also took her advocacy interests to the FCM where, as a member of the BC Caucus, she served on the Rural Caucus.

We thank Sharon for her contribution to UBCM over the past seven years and wish her all the best.

Terry Lake

As mayor of the City of Kamloops, Terry joined the UBCM Executive in 2005 when he was elected to the position of Director at Large. He served a second term as Director at Large in 2006 and in 2007 was elected by the membership to Third Vice-President. During his 3 years on the Executive Terry served as a member and Chair of the Community Safety Committee; Resolutions Committee member; Community Economic Development Committee member; Convention Committee member; member of the First Nations Relations Committee; member of the Healthy Communities Committee; and Chair of the Community Opportunities Task Force.

During her term as President, she led the Presidents Committee through one of UBCM’s biggest transitions - the recruitment and hiring of a new Executive Director.

We thank Brenda for her many years of service and dedication to both UBCM and BC local governments.

Joe Snopek

Joe Snopek, as mayor of Creston, joined the Executive in 2006 as a director at large. He was re-elected to that position at the 2007 Convention for a second term. At the recent UBCM Convention he successfully ran for the position of First Vice President. However, as a result of the local government elections on November 15th, Joe was not returned to office.

As an Executive member, Joe served on the following committees, Community Economic Development Committee (Vice-Chair); Community Safety Committee and Environment Committee.

We thank Joe for his service on the UBCM Executive and wish him all the best.

Kim Capri

Kim Capri joined the Executive in 2005 when she was appointed to the Executive as the City of Vancouver representative. After serving three years on the Executive, she moved from Second Vice-President to First Vice President. Then in 2006 she was elected as President of UBCM.

During his 3 years on the Executive Terry served as a member and Chair of the Community Safety Committee; Resolutions Committee for the past two years.

In addition to his contribution to the UBCM Executive, Terry was elected to the BC Caucus of FCM to represent our local government interests at the national level.

We wish to thank Terry for the valuable contribution he has made to the UBCM Executive over these past 5 years.

Ella Brown

Logan Lake Mayor Ella Brown joined the Executive in 2003 as a Director at Large. He continued to be re-elected to that position for the following 5 years. During his years on the Executive, he has held a variety of Committee portfolios including Chair and member of the Environment Committee; member and Vice Chair of the First Nations Relations Committee; member of the Community Economic Development Committee as well as a member of the 2005 Regional District Task Force. He also served as a member of the Resolutions Committee for the past two years.

In addition to his contribution to the UBCM Executive, Herb was elected to the BC Caucus of FCM to represent our local government interests at the national level.

We wish to thank Herb for the valuable contribution he has made to the UBCM Executive over these past 5 years.

Continued on page 15
In Memorium

Calvin Kruk

Calvin Kruk, Mayor of the City of Dawson Creek, died of lung cancer on October 19 at the age of 43. Kruk, first elected to council in 1999, had been the mayor of the Peace region city since 2005.

Born and raised in Maple Ridge, Kruk moved to Dawson Creek in 1990 where he was an announcer at CJDC, the local radio station. He left broadcasting to manage the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre. Even prior to serving in elected office Kruk was heavily involved in the community, serving on such boards as the one behind the 1998 Northern BC Winter Games.

Recognized for his leadership and vision, Kruk leaves a legacy that includes completion of the city’s new multi-plex facility and succeeded in putting his community in the spotlight as a leader in energy sustainability. Dawson Creek's completion of the city's new multi-plex facility and succeeded in putting his community in the spotlight as a leader in energy sustainability. Dawson Creek

Dave Wilson

Dave Wilson, a longtime former administrator for the Fraser-Fort George Regional District succumbed to cancer on October 4. He had retired from the regional district in 1997 but had continued to provide consulting services to local governments and the Province on local government matters. He was well known throughout the local government community.

Dave worked for local governments all over the province, both big and small. He was the first administrator of Gold River, one of the earliest "instant towns" in the province. He was the first administrator of the Regional District of Nanaimo, one of the first regional districts to be established. He was also employed at the City of Nanaimo and was the second secretary of the Municipal Finance Authority.

Ed Wampler

Ed Wampler, one of the most well known local elected officials on the North Coast, passed away on September 12. He first got involved on Fort Edward council in the mid 1980s, first as a councillor and later served as Mayor from 1993 to 2003. In 2005, he stepped down from the Mayor’s position but did get re-elected as a councillor, a position he held until his death.

He was the driving force behind many ground breaking projects including a new water treatment plant for Port Edward and the overall “look” of the district. Prior to his death, “Mayor Ed”, as he was affectionately known, was honoured with a "freeman" of the city.

Bill Whalley

UBCM was saddened to learn of the passing of Bill Whalley on October 26, 2008. Bill served on the UBCM Executive in the mid to late 1980s, including a term as President from 1987-1988. He had also served as former NCMA President from 1982-84. He served as the mayor of Mackenzie for 14.5 years and previously served as an alderman for 2 years.

Bill had moved to Mackenzie in 1970 as the High School principal and later became the principal at the elementary school until he retired in 1988. Known for his wonderful sense of humour and storytelling, Bill will be missed by many in the local government community.

Bill Blacklock

Councilor Bill Blacklock passed away on July 1, 2008 at the age of 65 years.

Bill was elected in November of 2005 to the District of Houston council. He served on the following committees for council: Health, Seniors, Housing, Labour Relations & Personnel, Library, Mining, Leisure Services and Public Works. Bill will be missed by his fellow council members and the citizens of Houston.

2009 CONFERENCE DATES

Newly Elected Seminars

- Jan. 21-23 in Richmond (towns with populations of less than 10,000)
- Jan. 28 - 30 in Parksville (AVICC Member Governments)
- Feb. 4 - 6 in Richmond (Regional Districts)
- Feb. 11 - 13 in Kelowna (SILGA Member Governments)
- Feb. 17 - 19 in Nelson (AKBLG Member Governments)
- Feb. 25 - 27 in Richmond (cities with populations of more than 10,000)

Area Association Dates

- Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities: April 3 – 5 – Nanaimo
- Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments: April 23 – 25 – Cranbrook
- Southern Interior Local Government Association: April 29 - May 1 – Osoyoos
- Lower Mainland Local Government Association: May 6 – 8 – Harrison Hot Springs
- North Central Municipal Association: May 6 – 8 – Dawson Creek

UBCM Convention

- September 28 – October 2, 2009 in Vancouver

Other Conferences

- MFA: March 25 – 26 in Victoria
- FCM: June 5 – 8 in Whistler
- GFOABC: May 26 – 29 in Kelowna
- LGMA: June 9 – 11 in Nanaimo
- MIA: September 29 in Vancouver
ENVIRONMENT POLICY IN BRIEF

BC Conservation Data

The Ministry of Environment has updated the BC Species and Ecosystem Explorer. The Explorer is an authoritative source for conservation information on approximately 6000 plants and animals, and almost 600 ecosystems in British Columbia. The improvements include new and simplified search capabilities by species and region, direct links to Google Maps to view mapped known locations of species/ecosystems at risk, and new links to documents including status reports, recovery plans, and best management practices.

The tool can be found at www.env.gov.bc.ca/ccat/_toolintro.html.

Climate Action

In the summer of 2007, UBCM and the Province developed a non-binding Climate Action Charter aimed at fostering collaborative relations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Charter commits local government signatories to: becoming carbon neutral in their operations by 2012; measuring and reporting on their GHG emissions profile; and creating complete, compact, more energy efficient rural and urban communities. To date, 138 local governments have provided UBCM with signed copies of the Climate Action Charter, while several other local governments have notified UBCM of their intent to sign the Charter. For further information on the process for signing the charter, please contact Jared Wright, Senior Policy Analyst by email at jwright@civicnet.bc.ca, or by phone at 604.270.8226 (ext.113).

Community Gardens

In partnership with the Ministry of Community Development, UBCM is developing a best practices guide for local governments on community gardens. The guide will highlight the benefits of community gardens, identify barriers local governments face in developing community gardens, as well as outline the best practices and tools for facilitating the creation of community gardens. The guide will be made available in early 2009.

Finish Aquaculture Waste Control Consultation

The Ministry of Environment is continuing the process of reviewing and revising the Finfish Aquaculture Waste Control Regulation (FAWCR) of the Environmental Management Act (EMA). The FAWCR review process follows the Ministry policy of regularly reviewing and updating regulations.

The Ministry’s objectives and the proposed contents of the amendments are provided in a policy intentions paper for consultation, which describes the aspects of particular concern for protection of human health and the environment and other relevant information. This intentions paper also provides a framework for legal drafting and consultation. A response form is available for review on the Ministry’s website at www.env.gov.bc.ca, under the ‘Policy Intentions Papers’ section.

This intentions paper will provide a framework for legal drafting and consultation. A response form to seek responses and comments from stakeholders and the public is also available on the intentions paper web page.

Additional information on the Cap and Trade Act is also posted on the Ministry’s website and can be accessed by clicking on the address below, or from the Ministry of Environment homepage, by following the Environmental Protection Division and Climate Change links. Please see www.env.gov.bc.ca for more information.

The Ministry has contracted Cindy Bertram of C. Rankin & Associates to manage the information collection process. If you have any questions regarding the information gathering process, visit www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/consultation.htm or contact Cindy Bertram by email at cindybertram@shaw.ca or by fax at 250 598-9948. The deadline for submission of comments is on or before November 28, 2008.

Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Intentions Paper

The Ministry of Environment is in the process of developing the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Regulation (GHG Reporting Regulation) under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Cap and Trade) Act, which received Royal Assent on May 29, 2008. This Act, which will come into force by regulation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, provides the statutory basis for setting up a market-based cap and trade framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from large emitters operating in the province.

The GHG Reporting Regulation will be the first regulation developed in accordance with authority provided by the Cap and Trade Act. The proposed regulation requires facilities and/or entities with emissions over certain thresholds and in most source categories to submit data on greenhouse gas emissions to the Minister of Environment. This data will provide a foundation for the development and implementation of a cap and trade system and other climate policies to reduce greenhouse gases.

The Ministry’s objectives and the proposed contents of the regulation are provided in a policy intentions paper for consultation. This intentions paper is available for review on the Ministry’s website at www.env.gov.bc.ca, under the ‘Policy Intentions Papers’ section.

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Sewerage System Regulation Memorandum of Understanding

At the 2008 UBCM Convention, UBCM, the Ministry of Community Development, and the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Sewerage System Regulation. The MOU is a recognition by all parties that further work is required, and will continue, on key policy and regulatory deliverables contained in an action plan endorsed by the UBCM membership at the 2007 UBCM Convention. It is a commitment to take the following specific actions directly in response to local government concerns:

• update the UBCM SSR action plan, including developing clear timelines around the completion of deliverables;
• deliver on the action plan at the 2009 UBCM Convention;
• provide dedicated resources and staff to carry out the work of the MOU; and
• establish Executive Oversight at the Deputy Minister level within the ministries of Community Development and Healthy Living and Sport and the Executive Director level at UBCM.

Overall, the SSR MOU is a mutual understanding that the SSR will be a priority for all signatories to the agreement, and that sufficient staff resources will be dedicated to identifying practical solutions to onsite wastewater administration in a timely manner.

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

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

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

Provincial Contact Partner: Bill Cox, Partner Tel: (604) 608-5421
Represented internationally by BDO International
Province Releases Draft Trails Strategy for BC

In 2006, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, in partnership with BC Parks and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure undertook to develop a Recreation Trail Strategy for British Columbia. The Province has recently released the draft Trails Strategy for British Columbia for comment and feedback. The Draft Strategy is the result of a multi-phased process. The first phase included research into other successful models in other jurisdictions as well as feedback, input and working in collaboration with a variety of trail users, managers and other interested parties. A Trails Strategy Committee has guided the development to this stage. The current phase includes review and comment on the working draft Strategy. Subsequent phases will involve implementation and monitoring of the final Trails Strategy, once approved by government.

The vision for the provincial trail program as described in the draft Strategy is as follows: A world-renowned network of sustainable trails, accessible to all, which fosters social, cultural, health, economic and environmental benefits for trail users, communities and the province.

The draft Strategy outlines four guiding principles:
1. Build on partnerships and collaboration
2. Foster environmental and cultural stewardship
3. Secure recreation opportunities for all users
4. Provide benefits for communities and the province

Under each of the six identified key components - collaborative planning, good governance, sustainable resources, effective management, comprehensive information and strategic marketing - the Strategy identifies specific actions as well as a proposed implementation plan.

Comments on the draft Strategy are encouraged and feedback can be provided by completing a Trails Strategy Feedback Information Form located on the website. All input will be considered and reviewed prior to releasing a final Trail Strategy for BC, that will be submitted to the provincial government in Spring 2009 for acceptance and implementation.

Or you may be interested in attending one of the 10 public open house meetings that the Trails Strategy Committee will hosting, starting November 18, 2008 and wrapping up on January 27, 2009. Members of the public are invited to attend and learn about the Strategy, and offer comments and feedback. For copies and information about the Strategy process, and the public meeting details go to:

www.tca.gov.bc.ca/sites_trails/Initiatives/Prov_Trails_Strategy/recreation_trails_strategy.htm

MOBILE BUSINESS LICENCE PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

contributed by the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue

A Mobile Business Licence pilot project, undertaken by 17 municipalities in the Okanagan-Similkameen region, has proved to be very successful according to an interim review report released in September 2008, and will be expanded.

The program provides mobile businesses such as electricians, caterers and landscapers the opportunity to purchase a Mobile Business Licence in their home municipality, allowing them to work in all participating municipalities.

The interim report, based on the experiences of business owners and municipal governments, found that the Mobile Business Licence offered mutual benefits to businesses and municipalities. Not only did purchasing a single licence reduce red tape and make it easier and cheaper for entrepreneurs to operate mobile businesses, the program was profitable and created no added burden for municipal workers.

RV Park Development Report Moves to Implementation

In the June 2008 issue of UBCM News, we advised of the release of the Report on RV Park Development. The Report outlines 15 recommendations for consideration by government and industry to create, maintain and expand recreational vehicle park development in the province. A working group co-chaired by the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts and BC Lodging and Campgrounds Association, has been charged with prioritizing and implementing the Report’s recommendations.

The Community Economic Development (CED) Committee received a delegation from Joss Penny of the BC Lodging and Campgrounds Association at their July Committee meeting. The report’s recommendations were discussed, specifically what elements are of interest to local governments. As well, a presentation on the report was provided at the 2008 UBCM Convention during one of the early morning clinics. If you were not able to attend the session and would like more detailed information, the report is online at: www.tsa.gov.bc.ca/tourism/docs/RV_Park_Development_in_BC.pdf.

The CED Committee is represented on the working group as the Province moves to implement the recommendations. We would encourage interested members to review the report and if you have any specific comments that you would like to convey please contact UBCM or the co-chairs of the Working Group as follows:

Michelle Carr
TSA
(250) 952-6024
michelle.car@gov.bc.ca

Joss Penny
BC Lodging and Campgrounds Association
604-945-7676
jpenny@bclca.com

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
RCMP Contract Renewal

The current RCMP police agreements came into effect April 1, 1992, and will remain in effect for twenty years, expiring on March 31, 2032. A proactive approach to contract renewal has been adopted in order to bring certainty to all parties well before the expiry date. To that end, preliminary discussions and issue identification processes between the various Provincial/Territorial and Federal delegations began in 2005.

Currently, there are 32 municipalities that are between 5,000 and 14,999 population and they pay 70% of their RCMP contract costs. There are 27 municipalities over 15,000 population and these municipalities pay 90% of their RCMP contract costs. The federal government pays the remaining 30% and 10%, respectively.

In 2005 the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Deputy Ministers of Justice from the contracting jurisdictions agreed to work together in good faith to approve the terms of the new RCMP Agreements prior to the expiry of the current contracts on March 31, 2012. At that time the Deputies also endorsed an interest-based approach to contract renewal that involves two phases:

- Phase 1: the information sharing and research phase to complete the work for this portion of the renewal process. Federal, provincial, and territorial officials have been working together to learn about each other’s respective concerns, Interests and goals. Potential solutions are also being examined.
- Phase 2: the negotiations phase. The work done in this phase will build upon the work completed in phase one.

The Provincial Police Services Agreement requires there to be a Contract Advisory Committee that is responsible for identifying and resolving any significant issues that may arise in the administration of the contract. This committee is made up of federal, provincial and territorial representatives and acts as the oversight body for the Project Management Committee and Steering Committee that are leading the contract renewal process. B.C. co-chairs the Contract Advisory Committee along with a senior federal representative.

An RCMP contract renewal Project Management Committee was formed in phase one.

RCMP Contract: Local Government Representatives

The UBCM is continuing to work with member local governments and the Province in a collaborative process to identify and flesh out issues that local governments would like to see addressed in the upcoming RCMP contract negotiations. As you are aware, the current RCMP agreement will expire in 2012.

In March 2008, the UBCM Executive appointed a local government representative to the provincial negotiating team and appointed a local government working group that would provide input into contract negotiations on behalf of BC local governments.

The local government working group has met on a number of occasions to discuss RCMP Contract issues of concern to local government and to develop a communication process with member local governments to ensure that the interests of local governments are well understood. The Working Group has also met on three separate occasions with the Assistant Deputy Minister Kevin Begg, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, who chairs the Provincial/Territorial Contract Advisory Committee, to discuss the contract negotiation process and the issues that have been identified by local governments and the local government working group.

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Healthy Communities

Building Healthy Active Communities Starts With Active Transportation

By Cara Fisher and Heidi Redman

Heidi is an associate with LEES + Associates Landscape Architects in Vancouver, BC. Cara coordinates the Built Environment & Active Transportation (BEAT) Initiative through the BC Recreation & Parks Association. Heidi and Cara both ride their bikes to work.

Communities leaders and decision makers can support a healthier population through community design, policy and transportation planning. This means considering all transportation user groups in the planning processes, not just the private automobile. The Built Environment & Active Transportation (BEAT) initiative is working with municipalities and Aboriginal communities to build and strengthen active transportation infrastructure through grants and resources.

Local governments can play a unique role in the healthy communities movement because this is where active transportation planning for walking and cycling take place. Supporting investments in active transportation is vital to both healthy living and a sustainable transportation system.

A growing body of evidence-based research proves the built environment impacts activity levels. Physical inactivity is estimated to cost the BC health care system $211 million in direct costs. Active commuting represents one way people can incorporate physical activity into a daily routine. As a result, many organizations and levels of government are getting involved in promoting healthy built environments.

Active transportation planning achieves multiple goals:

- Foster a healthy society
- Mitigate climate change
- Champion sustainability
- Boost the local economy
- Promote social equity
- Lower infrastructure costs

Integrating active transportation into city planning is a way to tie social, economic, environmental, and quality of life goals for a community together. It can also help move communities a step closer to environmental, and quality of life goals for planning is a way to tie social, economic, environmental, and quality of life goals for a community together.
First Nation Relations

Common Table Treaty Discussions

In January 2008 the BC Treaty Commission committed $400,000 to a common treaty table approach. This approach was in response to issues raised by 60 First Nations who were signatories to a Unity Protocol in late 2006/early 2007. The Unity Protocol called for the creation of a common voice for First Nations to deal with six issues which signatories felt government mandates were prohibiting them from concluding treaties. The six barriers are:

- certainty
- constitutional status of treaty lands
- governance
- taxation
- management of lands and resources
- fisheries

Canada, BC and First Nation leaders met several times earlier this year at the Common Table. Discussions are now complete. The BC Treaty Commission prepared a report for the three Parties identifying a number of opportunities for addressing the six issues. The individual Parties are currently considering the report.

Below is a very brief summary of each barrier brought to the Common Table based on information UBCM staff was able to collect.

Certainty

First Nations involved in the Protocol seek a notion of certainty that does not require the extinguishment of Aboriginal rights, title and identity. They seek recognition of Crown and Aboriginal jurisdiction across their traditional territory, which is neither modified nor extinguished.

Constitutional Status of Treaty Lands

Current federal and provincial mandates seek to create treaty settlement lands (TSL) as private, fee-simple land owned collectively by a First Nation. Protocol members are interested in exploring alternative options to “fee simple” interest.

Governance

Unity Protocol members are concerned that the scope and extent of law making powers will be less than the autonomy they seek.

Regional Community to Community Forum Program

The Regional Community to Community (C2C) Forum program provides grants for dialogue between First Nation and local government elected officials and staff in order to support relationship building and increased communications and to provide opportunities for discussion and action on issues of mutual concern.

To date, more than 130 local governments and nearly 200 First Nations and aboriginal organizations have participated in a C2C event. In 2008/09, UBCM announced two calls for applications – resulting in the approval of more than 40 C2C events.

UBCM has launched a third call for applications and is now inviting applications for C2C events that bring together Councils or Boards that have newly elected officials with neighbouring First Nations. The purpose of this call for applications is to help maintain relations between Councils/Boards and First Nations after local government elections. Engaging newly elected leaders with their First Nation counterparts early in their terms hopefully will lead to improved relationships and understanding of First Nation issues.

Events under this round of funding must take place before March 31, 2009. A simplified application process has been developed.

For more information, please visit the Local Government Program Services section of UBCM’s website or contact Danyala Welch, Policy & Programs Officer, at (250) 356-5134 or dwelch@civicnet.bc.ca.

A Role for Local Government in the New Relationship

The New Relationship is an initiative of the current provincial government, which seeks reconciliation with First Nations not only in the treaty process but outside the process as well. The Province is negotiating land and resource agreements outside the treaty process that can affect local government interests and jurisdiction.

In addition to land and resource issues, the New Relationship addresses social issues like health, education and economic development.

At the pre-Convention session on reconciling aboriginal rights and title, UBCM signed an expanded memorandum of understanding (MOU) on local government participation in the New Relationship with First Nations in BC with the Honourable Mike de Jong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

This MOU builds upon UBCM’s ongoing partnership with MARR that was established through a previous MOU in 1993 that clarified the role of local governments in treaty negotiations. The expanded MOU captures the spirit and commitments in the earlier agreement by extending the principles for consultation to include new Relationship discussions.

UBCM is pleased to receive a commitment from the Province that will see early and ongoing consultation with local governments.

Terry Raymond
Honourable Mike de Jong, Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister, Director Susan Gense and Director

Terry Raymond

Terry Raymond

Terry Raymond

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Regional Community to Community Forum Program

Third call for applications

UBCM staff was able to collect.

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Treaty Related Resources Available

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- Treaty Commission Annual Report 2008 is to be released November 25, 2008

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Continued on page 14
Healthy debate and discussion ensued on over 150 resolutions in the plenary during Convention week. FCM President Jean Perrault and Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Community Development, address delegates during the Mid-Size Communities Forum on Tuesday, September 23rd.

Members of the UBCM Executive and guests enjoy dinner at the Annual Banquet on Thursday, September 25th.

A UBCM member casts his vote for the 2008-2009 Executive Board.

Director Bill Schwarz, Okanagan- Similkameen RD, and Tim Roach, Office of the Fire Commissioner, talk about the UBCM Sprinkler Protection Unit.
President-elect Robert Hobson addresses delegates in the plenary.

A delegate addresses the head table speakers during the Mid-Size Communities Forum.

Jane Sterk, Leader of the Green Party of BC, addresses delegates in the plenary.

Cllr. Bob Curry of Gibsons participates in the discussion during the Electoral Area Director’s Forum.

Members of the 2007-2008 UBCM Executive Board listen to President Gimse’s speech during the Opening Ceremony.

Premier Gordon Campbell poses for photographers with BC athletes from the Canadian Olympic team.

Leader of the Opposition Carole James is surrounded by reporters after her address on Thursday, September 25th.

Delegates jingle tambourines as part of the pre-conference session “Expanding Your Cultural Wealth” on Monday, September 22nd.
2008 Award Recipients

2008 LONG SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

In 1969, UBCM created the Long Service Awards to recognize those in local government who have been an elected official for 25 years. The elected position held could be one or a mix of the following: mayor, reeve, alderman, councillor, chair, director or village commissioner.

Over the years, UBCM has recognized 89 individuals, with a collective experience of over 2,000 years. The following elected officials were nominated and qualified for the award this year:

1. Director Harvey Clark, Fraser-Fort George RD
2. Mayor Hal Weinberg, Village of Anmore
3. Councillor Lou Sekora, City of Coquitlam
4. Councillor Michael Wright, City of Port Coquitlam
5. Councillor Lawrence Kosolowsky, District of Hudson’s Hope (not pictured)
6. Councillor Judith E. Higginbotham, City of Surrey

2008 LIFE MEMBER AWARDS

UBCM Life Memberships were presented during the Annual Banquet on Thursday, September 25th at the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre. This year’s recipients were Minister Ida Chong, former Minister of Community Services, and Director Susan Gimse, outgoing UBCM President.

2008 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

City of Kamloops Mayor Terry Lake (second from right) and Public Works and Utilities Director David Duckworth (second from left) accept an Honourable Mention in the Best Practices category. Kamloops was honoured for its Co-collection of Waste and Recyclables Program. The Honourable Mention was presented by Chair Robert Hobson (left) and Minister Blair Lekstrom (right).

The District of Kent received an Honourable Mention in the Best Practices, Website category at the Community Excellence Awards. Chair Robert Hobson (left) presented the Honourable Mention to (L-R) Councillor Ted Westlin, Mayor Lorne Fisher and CAO Wallace Mah. Minister Blair Lekstrom (right) was also in attendance.

Director Susan Gimse presented a Life Membership to Honourable Ida Chong, for her loyal service as the Minister of Community Services from 2005 – 2008.

Chair Robert Hobson, 2008 – 2009 UBCM President, presented a Life Membership Award to Director Susan Gimse for her loyal service as UBCM President from 2007 – 2008.
President-elect Robert Hobson presented the Community Excellence Awards on Thursday, September 25th at a special breakfast reception honouring all applicants. The audience included winners, applicants, sponsor representatives and Selection Committee members. Audience members heard from Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Community Development; Mr. Paul Hemsley, President of Hemmera; and, Paul Levy, VP of 2010 Olympic Planning, Vancouver Airport Authority.

BEST PRACTICES CATEGORY WINNER:
Town of Creston - Physician Recruitment Program in the Creston Valley

BEST PRACTICES, Annual Reporting Category WINNER:
Town of Smithers

BEST PRACTICES, Website Category WINNER:
City of Pitt Meadows

LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Small Community WINNER:
District of Ucluelet - Sustainability Initiatives

LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Mid-Size Community WINNER:
Cities of Colwood & Langford - Jointly Developed OCP’s

LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Large Community WINNER:
District of Saanich - Municipal Carbon Neutral Reserve Fund

LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Regional District WINNER:
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Naramata Water System

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR INNOVATION & LEADERSHIP:
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Role for Local Government

Continued from page 9

governments on New Relationship negotiations that may affect local government jurisdiction.

The MOU applies similar consultation principles that exist in the treaty process to the New Relationship discussions. The Province commits to consulting with local governments early on and throughout New Relationship negotiations with First Nations that may affect local government jurisdiction. Together local governments and the Province will determine local government involvement in these negotiations.

Regarding treaty implementation, the Province committed to discussing with individual local governments their involvement in implementation. MARR will make every effort to come to an agreement that identifies significant local government issues and how local government will be involved.

The MOU allows local government representatives involved in treaty advisory committees (TACs) or alternate structures, after consultation with the provincial negotiator, to share confidential treaty information with their respective councils and regional district boards, other local governments, TACs and with UBCM on an in-camera basis. A similar confidentiality clause applies to New Relationship discussions outside treaty.

For a copy of the MOU please go to the UBCM website at www.civicnet.bc.ca and click on: Featured Policy Topics/First Nations Relations/UBCM MOUs and Protocols.

Common Table

Continued from page 9

Fiscal Relations and Taxation

Unity Protocol members are seeking the consideration of numerous options in solving the potential stalemate in treaty negotiations surrounding fiscal relations and taxation.

Co-Management of Lands and Resources

The current land selection model advocated by governments requires First Nations to give up title to their traditional territories in exchange for fee simple ownership of treaty lands and limited hunting/fishing rights outside of treaty lands. Supporters of the Unity Protocol are proposing tools and options to meet government interests while enabling First Nations to maintain their relationship to their whole territory.

Fisheries

Protocol signatories seek flexible government mandates that allow a meaningful role for First Nations in managing and protecting fisheries for future generations. They also would like treaties to recognize an Aboriginal right to fish for a moderate livelihood.
Terry Raymond

Terry was elected to the position of Electoral Area Representative in 2006 in his capacity as an electoral area director for the Fraser Valley RD. He was re-elected to that position in 2007. During his two years on the UBCM Executive Terry also served as Chair and members of the First Nations Relations Committee; member of the Community Safety Committee and a member of the 2008 Regional District Task Force.

As a strong advocate for rural directors, Terry lead the way to develop a mid-year EA forum beyond the once a year gathering at UBCM Convention. He was also at the forefront of the recently developed Wiki for ED directors as a means to advance communications and dialogue amongst rural directors.

UCBM wishes to thank Terry for his contribution and wish him all the best.

Heath Slee

Director Heath Slee, East Kootenay Regional District, joined the Executive this past year as the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments representative on the UBCM Executive. Over the past year, Heath served as a member of the Environment Committee, Convention Committee and the Nominating Committee.

We wish to thank Heath for his valuable contribution to the UBCM Executive during the past year.

Bob Long

Bob Long, councillor for the City of Langley served on the Lower Mainland Local Government Association representative on the UBCM Executive this past year. During the year, he served as a member of the Community Economic Development Committee; Nominating Committee and Convention Committee.

Thank you Bob, for your contribution to the 2007-08 UBCM Executive, we wish you all the best.

Eileen Benedict

As a director on the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako, Eileen joined the Executive this past year as the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments representative on the UBCM Executive.

Eileen wishes to thank Terry for his contribution and wish him all the best.

Rod Sherrell

As a director for the Mount Waddington Regional District, Rod served as the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities representative on the UBCM Executive.

During the past year, Rod served as a member of the Community Economic Development Committee and the First Nations Relations Committee.

As a member of the Community Economic Development Committee, Rod served as chair of the MOU working group on Offshore Oil and Gas this past year.

We thank Rod for his contribution to UBCM and wish him all the best in future endeavours.

And a final thanks to Jackie Tegart, Ashcroft and Cord McAdams, Nelson who had been appointed by their area associations to serve on the UBCM Executive for the coming year. As a result of local government elections, neither was returned to office so new appointments for these Area Associations will be forthcoming.

Again, thanks to all of you!  

New UBCM Website

**BACKGROUND:**

The existing UBCM website (www.civicnet.bc.ca) is a key vehicle for communicating with the membership, and is the primary public face of the organization. It was launched in 2003 and, since that time, one major and several minor site reorganizations have been undertaken and a variety of new content has been added (e.g., convention celebration materials, UBCM annual convention materials, program management pages, etc.).

Comments from a recent membership survey suggest that UBCM re-engineer its website to better reflect the mission and core business of the organization and to more effectively reach out to both the UBCM membership and other audiences.

As a result of this survey, it was determined that a new look and design was needed to better facilitate access to information for the UBCM membership, government and public. While much of the content on the site is current and useful, access to that information will be streamlined.

**RFP PROCESS**

The President’s Committee approved a proposal distributed to web design and development agencies for the planning and development of a new UBCM website. The RFP was placed on BC Bid and sent to specific recommended organizations.

A total of thirty-five (35) proposals were received. Reiko Iagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator and Anna-Maria Wijesinghe, Manager of Member & Association Services and Errin Morrison, Independent Consultant, reviewed the proposals.

After conducting reference checks, Atomic Crayon was selected to redesign the website.

**NEW WEB ADDRESS!!**

We will have a new web address www.ucbc.ca. It is felt that this web address will be more recognizable to UBCM members and users of our website, and will lessen confusion.

**CURRENT PROGRESS:**

To-date, staff has been working with Atomic Crayon to fine-tune the positioning of various menu and sub-menu headings. On September 5th, Atomic Crayon provided UBCM with mock-ups of the actual graphic design and page layout.

**YOUR INPUT:**

UBCM staff set up a website preview station at Convention where members viewed the design proposals. Staff are now in the process of fine-tuning and are seeking additional comments and suggestions for the redesign.

**NEXT STEPS:**

Next steps are the most time consuming as all the content from the present website needs to be transferred and tested. There will be a focus group including representation from membership, the UBCM Executive and staff to provide final comments and suggestions. We hope to be launching our new site by the end of February or the beginning of March 2009. Stay tuned!

**About Atomic Crayon**

Formed in November of 1996, Atomic Crayon has worked on all sizes and varieties of websites, growing from a small start-up business to an eleven-person studio. With over 20 years of experience and more than one hundred websites under their belt, they have proven themselves qualified to handle website architecture and strategy consulting, website design and coding, and content management system integration. The City of Pitt Meadows, District of Maple Ridge, Corporation of Delta, City of Burnaby, City of Victoria, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, and Thrifty Foods are examples of large-scale website completed by their team of qualified web designers.

**Convention Announcements**

Continued from page 1

communities through measures such as planning and building active transportation options, greater recreation opportunities, etc.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program

During his presentation at the Green City Awards, the Premier announced a new conditional grant that will be “equal to what local governments pay in the carbon tax”. He noted that the grant is conditional on local governments signing onto the Climate Action Charter, which in turn commits each local government to become carbon neutral by 2012. The Province indicated that it will work in partnership with UBCM to develop a framework to accurately track what local governments pay annually in carbon tax.

Premier’s Address

This year the Premier’s Address focused on a variety of measures of interest to local governments:

- extension and expansion of the Towns for Tomorrow program.
- expansion to include towns with population under 15,000;
- cost sharing for towns < 5000 will be 20/80 and for towns between 5000-15,000 will be 25/75.
- Funding increased from $7 million to $17 million per year beginning this year and subject to legislative approval this will be increased to $20 million for 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- simplified 2 page application process
- Highway 37 electrification
- Province to invest estimated $10 million to restart the environmental assessment process, the first step towards building the Northwest Transmission Line (NTL).
- access and maintenance of resource roads
- provincial Ministers committee to be established (Community Development, Forests and Range and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources) including UBCM to address issues.
- on November 1, 2008, the Premier announced that funding for resource roads will be increased from $1 million to $20 million.
- remote communities access to produce and fresh fruit and vegetables.
- task force to be established comprised of representatives from remote communities, farmers and the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport to “come up with a program that will help us provide produce, vegetables and fresh fruit to remote communities”.
- program expected to be available in advance of 2009 Budget.
- removal of tolls on the Coquihalla Highway

**NEW UBCM WEBSITE**

Continued from page 3

Terry Raymond

...
Introducing the Climate Change Showdown

The Climate Change Showdown could soon be in your town. This fun and interactive workshop helps families make significant contributions to community-wide emissions reduction initiatives. Designed by professional educators for Grades 5 and 6 students, the Showdown features a contest challenging families to participate in reducing their carbon footprints. Last year, the Showdown saved nearly 10,000 tonnes of CO2 in more than 30 towns and cities in BC.

This year, the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) challenged the Showdown to save even more, sponsoring the development of the project in northern communities and increasing workshop delivery throughout the province. For the CAS, the project’s ability to deliver real change at the household level was key.

Teachers have embraced the workshop as a means of delivering several of the prescribed learning outcomes in the Grades 5 and 6 curriculum and have been pleased to find the workshop well aligned with the Province’s new environmental curriculum, too.

To find out how the Showdown can enhance your community’s emissions reduction plans, contact Project Manager David McKee at dmckee@bosa.org.

Climate Change Showdown is a project of the BC Sustainable Energy Association and is sponsored by LiveSmart BC, Ministry of the Environment and the City of Vancouver’s One Day programme. Past sponsors include Richmond, Coquitlam, Environment Canada and VanCity Envirofund.

UBCM Environment Conference 2008

In partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada, UBCM will be holding an environment conference on February 24-25, at the Best Western in Richmond. The conference will build upon the success of the 2007 UBCM Environment Conference, and 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. The conference is intended 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.

Additional conference details, including registration information, will be made available early in the new year.

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Comprehensive Advice and Representation to Local Government

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Physician Recruitment in the Creston Valley

Many rural areas of BC face challenges in recruiting physicians to their communities. However, a physician recruitment pilot project, conducted in partnership between the Regional District of Central Kootenay, the Town of Creston, the Interior Health Authority (IH), local doctors, and the Creston Valley Development Authority offers a best practice model for other rural communities looking to attract doctors.

Recruiting is not normally considered to be an activity of local governments but the recent shortage of physicians in the Creston Valley was felt at all levels of the community. Local leaders felt strongly that they had a role to play in ensuring the health of the community through retaining health services. The pilot project, winner of UBCM’s 2008 Community Excellence Award in the Best Practice category, improves upon the existing recruitment systems. Health Minister John Horgan, in partnership with the Interior Health Authority, facilitated the recruitment of a local government working group. Using a modest budget of $15,000 – $20,000 per year, a recruitment advisor was hired on an as-needed basis to travel the district, discuss with the community to candidates, answer questions and provide information about the community.

Activities of the recruitment advisor included:
- Facilitating housing for locums (both short term and long term)
- Investigating job possibilities for spouses and family members
- Arranging itinerary for visiting doctors
- Finding rental accommodations for relocating physicians
- Developing a recruitment package and website

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Activities of the recruitment advisor included:
- Facilitating housing for locums (both short term and long term)
- Investigating job possibilities for spouses and family members
- Arranging itinerary for visiting doctors
- Finding rental accommodations for relocating physicians
- Developing a recruitment package and website
- Producing welcome packages of local products to attract doctors.
- For more information about this project, please contact Deryn Collier at health@cvda.ca or visit www.civicinfo.bc.ca

UBCM Annual Convention Dates

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<th>YEAR</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Mon. Sept. 28</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
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<td>Mon. Sept. 23</td>
<td>Vancouver Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre</td>
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Local Governments Key to Create Healthy Communities

By Jodi Mucha, Director, BC Healthy Communities and Judy Brounoff, Chair, BC Healthy Communities Steering Committee

“Many would be surprised to learn that the greatest contribution to the health of the nation over the past 150 years was made not by doctors or hospitals but by local government”

-Dr. Jessie Parfitt, BC Ministry of Health Services and the Social Planning and Research Council of BC

The term Healthy Communities has been around since the 80s. How do we define a healthy community? Healthy lifestyles. A vibrant economy. Affordable housing. Protected greenspace. Accessible services. Thriving neighbourhoods. Clean air and water. Cultural diversity. Engaged citizens. A healthy community is all this and more. With a wide range of issues affecting the health and well-being of their communities, what can local elected officials do to understand and plan for their communities to be places to live, work and play not only today, but in the future?

The Healthy Communities Approach

The Healthy Communities approach is one effective way for local governments to begin making the links between the multiple determinants of health- the connections between community issues such as transportation, housing, sewers, environmental protection, water, food security, recreation, economic development, and safety, for example. The Healthy Communities approach also recognizes there is no one-size fits all, and is based on the World Health Organization’s four key foundational building blocks for the success of any healthy community or city: Community Engagement, multi-sectoral partnerships, political commitment and healthy public policy.

Benefits to Local Government

The benefits to local government of integrating the Healthy Communities approach are clear. Adopting the approach will: enhance the ability of elected officials and staff to make good decisions; build strong and diverse public support for local elected officials and staff when faced with tough decisions; support the creation of more vibrant communities; maximize access to the expertise present in the community by building strong collaborative partnerships across sectors; improve the community’s ability to attract business and other investments; reduce costs related to environmental cleanup, community safety and other issues; and enhance local governments’ ability to ensure adequate levels of services to citizens through increased cooperation and coordination of efforts between different sectors and partners, and, in the long term, reduce regional district costs for hospital and other health care services.

Implementing the Healthy Communities Approach

In their roles as employers, service providers, investors, leaders and partners, local governments can work with communities to begin implementing the Healthy Communities approach in the following ways:

1. Conduct a review of existing local government advisory bodies to ensure mandates reflect the Healthy Communities approach.

2. Revise departmental work plans to ensure common goals related to community well-being are identified and are being addressed systematically.

3. Integrate a health impact assessment component into existing review processes for major projects and policies, and develop a framework for comprehensive assessments of projects and policies. This tool is being developed in partnership with other local governments.

4. Create opportunities to foster dialogue between local government and community members through innovative processes such as café conversations, community learning events or community surveys.

5. Ensure annual municipal reports include objectives and measures related to the multiple and interconnected determinants of health.

6. Integrate healthy community goals into annual strategic work plans and incorporate healthy workplace programs for staff.

7. Ensure that Community Planning Committees reflect the Healthy Communities approach to the multiple and interconnected determinants of health.

8. Take steps to increase information sharing and strengthen relationships between local government and health authorities.

9. Apply a full-cost accounting approach across all aspects of community planning.

10. Establish a Healthy Communities Advisory Committee, and ensure it has a diverse and multi-sectoral membership.

Support for Local Government

BC Healthy Communities supports local governments to implement the Healthy Communities approach and provides a range of support and services.

To find out more about how BC HC can help your thinking and planning around healthy, inclusive, sustainable communities please contact:

Jodi Mucha, Director
BC Healthy Communities,
545 Superior Street, Victoria, BC
V8V 1T7
Tel: (250) 356 0930
Email: jodimuchabchc@gmail.com

BC Healthy Communities support local governments

- Provides support for Regional Facilitators located in each of the five regions across BC
- Assists communities in identifying and acknowledging strengths as well as distinguishing gaps (through mapping exercises)
- Provides community engagement and dialogue processes to address broad health issues including physical/behavioral, environmental/infrastructure, cultural and spiritual/emotional (through using an integrated capacity building framework)
- Facilitates inter-departmental and inter-sectoral collaboration and partnerships, building toward healthy public policy

Supports the development of Healthy Communities Committees

- Helps local governments to understand how B C H C can support you
- Provides resources and guidance for implementation
- Identifies and implements capacity building needs for climate change initiatives
2008 RESOLUTIONS CONVEYANCE

UBCM conveyed endorsed resolutions to the provincial government for consideration and comment following the 2008 UBCM Convention. Members will be notified as soon as provincial responses are received and copies of individual responses will be forwarded to sponsors. UBCM expects to receive provincial responses to resolutions in spring 2009, based on the response times from past years. All provincial responses will also be posted to the online Resolutions Database, available on the UBCM website (www.civicnet.bc.ca) under the Resolutions & Policy tab. In addition to the provincial conveyance, 22 resolutions have also been conveyed to various federal government ministers, one to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and eleven to crown corporations and other agencies and organizations. Responses to these resolutions will also be forwarded to sponsors as they are received throughout the coming year, and will also be added to the online resolutions database as they become available.

Please feel free to contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator, if you have any questions regarding the above referrals and follow-up to the 2008 Convention resolutions sessions. Telephone: 604.270.8226, ext. 116; Email: rtagami@civicnet.bc.ca

CRTC Announces Consultation on the National Do Not Call List

On September 30, 2008 the National Do Not Call List took effect across the country. The list was created by the Federal Communications Commission (CRTC) to reduce the number of telemarketing calls people receive.

The registry provides a number of exemptions including candidates running for office in federal, provincial, and local government elections who are members of registered political parties. However, the exemptions do not include those candidates in local government elections who are not members of registered political parties.

At Convention, a Special Resolution was adopted calling upon the federal government to temporarily exempt candidates in the 2008 election from the National Do Not Call List and to amend the Telecommunications Act to exempt all local government candidates from the National Do Not Call List. This resolution was conveyed to the federal government following Convention.

In October, the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) issued a call for comments on potential modifications to some of the Do Not Call List rules. One of the issues identified by the CRTC is as follows: “Should telemarketing telecommunications made by or on behalf of candidates in a federal, provincial or municipal election that are not candidates of a registered political party (non-party candidates) be excluded from the application of the National Do Not Call List?”

UBCM has filed a brief with the CRTC in support of the Special Resolution adopted at Convention.

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE

Eighteen resolutions were referred to the UBCM Executive by the 2008 Convention. Some of these were directly referred to the Executive during resolutions debate and others were automatically referred with the block passage of Section B – Part III resolutions B141-B156 at the end of the resolutions sessions on Friday, September 26.

The Executive will consider these resolutions at its December 5 meeting. The resolutions are as follows:

B68 CANADIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM
B101 TAX BENEFITS FOR AGRICULTURAL USE OF LAND
B119 LOTTERY CORPORATION REVENUE SHARING
B120 MUNICIPAL PENSION RETIREES GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS
B121 MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION
B126 NEW TAX CLASSIFICATION
B129 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
B130 TEN YEAR FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR BC HOSPITAL FACILITIES
B131 PHASED OUT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICTS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
B132 REGIONAL DISTRICT POWERS
B134 MINISTER OF STATE FOR REGIONAL DISTRICTS
B137 PRIORITYIZING AND TRACKING RESOLUTIONS
B139 REGULATORY CONTROL FOR GAS PRICING
B154 HUMANE EGGS PRODUCTION PRACTICES
B155 FAMILY DAY
B156 LINKING OF LITERACY VOLUNTEER WORK TO FORGIVENESS OR REDUCTION OF GRADUATE DEBT LOAD
L1 Lack of funding for services municipalites provide

In addition to these referred resolutions, the Executive will also consider the following seven resolutions endorsed by the UBCM membership at Convention and requesting UBCM action:

B8 NUISANCE BOATS
B19 REGIONAL DISTRICT COMPENSATION FOR HYDRO TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LINES
B41 OCEAN ENERGY STRATEGY
B65 YOUTH CENTRES AND YOUTH SERVICES
B84 TWINING AND AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS RECYCLING
B85 RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS IN PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES
B128 SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION FUND (CHPF) PROJECTS

Finally, the Executive will consider seven resolutions from the NCMA Executive, omitted inadvertently from the 2008 Resolutions Book:

A-1 ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION
A-2 ACCESSIBLE HOUSING
A-3 INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR ACCESSIBILITY
A-4 CENSUS STATISTICS FROM INCOME TAX
A-5 RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY
A-6 PRIMARY CARE
A-7 WATER wastewater CERTIFICATION

Sponsors will receive direct written notification of Executive decisions and action on referred resolutions; and the outcomes of the above resolutions will also be conveyed to the UBCM membership in the Executive Release, sent out following the December meeting.

Please contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator, by telephone 604.270.8226, ext. 115 or by email: rtagami@civicnet.bc.ca if you have any questions about this process.
Municipal Finance Authority of BC

MFABC FINANCIAL FORUM & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

The 2009 MFABC Financial Forum & Annual General Meeting will be held at the Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville Street, Victoria on March 25th and 26th.

On Wednesday, March 25th the MFA Members will begin with a “New Members’ Orientation”, followed with the Opening Reception for all.

On Thursday, March 26th, breakfast will be provided, followed with the Financial Forum, and complimentary lunch. We will conclude the afternoon with the AGM.

March 25th
New Members’ Orientation
3:00 - 4:30*
MFA Members’ Opening Reception
5:00 - 6:30*
Extended to all attending Forum and AGM

March 26th
Financial Forum
8:30 - 1:00*
Presentations and topics currently under consideration
Annual General Meeting
1:30*

*Times are estimated for planning purposes

BCRPA Membership Renewal
Contributed by the BC Recreation and Parks Association

You work hard to ensure your citizens live in a healthy, prosperous, environmentally sustainable community. That’s why you get value from your membership in the BC Recreation and Parks Association as it brings together communities from across our province, along with other stakeholders, to explore new ways to enhance quality of life for everyone. To ensure you and your community continue to have a strong voice on this dynamic team, be sure to renew your BCRPA Local Government or Individual Membership.

BCRPA is the voice of the parks, recreation, physical activity and culture sector. It is the not-for-profit organization that acts as a central resource for our members, providing training and best practices. The Association works with diverse communities across the province to support their efforts to create active, healthy and engaged populations.

Local governments like yours are vital members of this team, contributing valuable knowledge and experience and exchanging perspectives with other community representatives, industry professionals, corporate and educational members and others from across BC. Membership gives your community other benefits, like discounted membership rates for your employees and volunteers, and lower fees for conference registration.

BC RPA h a s reasonable membership rates designed to be sensitive to your community’s budget.

Local Government Membership (to register your community as a member) starts at $256 and increases depending on the size of the community. The fee for an Individual Government/Affiliate Membership (for other elected officials, your staff members and your community volunteers) is $51.

Renew your BCRPA membership and help lead your community and our province into a new era with a high quality of life for everyone.

M e m b e r s h i p application/renewal forms are available on our website: www.bcrpa.bc.ca.

Not a member yet? Visit our website to find out more about the BCRPA and what it can do to help you build a healthier, more active and vibrant community.

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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.
A Clear View of the Legislature

When it comes to real estate, location is king. In the case of UBCM’s new Municipal House, the importance of the building’s location in sight of the provincial Legislature was quite apparent during a recent site tour by UBCM President Robert Hobson and the Minister of Community Development Blair Lekstrom.

“When BC provided the land for Municipal House, it reflected the importance of the longstanding collaborative relationship between UBCM and the Province,” said President Hobson. “UBCM has been around for more than a century, but this is the first time that we have owned land and a building in the Capital. This is a very significant step for us as an organization.”

President Hobson and Minister Lekstrom toured the site along with the site manager and UBCM staff. Hobson and Lekstrom also observed the early stages of construction for the building’s green roof. The new roof, which will incorporate plantings of local grasses, is part of comprehensive storm water strategy for Municipal House that will also include storage tanks, pervious paving and a rain garden. These combined features will cut the amount of storm water from the site in half as well as filter the water that is released into the municipal storm water system.

Local Projects Highlight Gas Tax AER

Cariboo Regional District’s Pine Valley Sewage Treatment Plan is just one of thirty local projects highlighted in UBCM’s 2008 Gas Tax – Public Transit Annual Expenditure Report (AER). With more than 341 projects already underway around BC, many local governments have identified eligible projects in order to utilize funding under the federal Gas Tax Agreement. For local governments that are still determining which priorities to address through Gas Tax funding, the AER provides a sample of projects that are underway or completed in each of the major eligible project categories.

Municipal House Welcomes Newly Elected Officials

With 681 out of a possible 1208 local government officials returning, the recent civic elections saw a turnover of 43%, the vast majority of which are serving in a public office for the first time. By way of welcome to all newly elected officials, UBCM’s Municipal House would like to offer a few “fast facts” about our operations:

• Municipal House is based in Victoria near the Provincial Legislature and houses two funding programs: Local Government Program Services (LGPS) and Gas Tax – Public Transit Management Services (GT-PTMS).
• LGPS administers a suite of provincially funded programs that provide support for a broad range of activities, such local tourism development, health promotion and wildfire mitigation. LGPS currently administers approximately $60 million in funding.
• GT-PTMS administers the federally funded Gas Tax Fund and Public Transit Fund, as well as the provincial Public Transit Infrastructure Program. The Gas Tax Fund will deliver $1.6 billion to BC local governments up to 2014 primarily for infrastructure projects that will lead to cleaner air, cleaner water or reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
• Information on the programs administered by both branches of Municipal House is available at www.civicnet.bc.ca under the “Programs and Services” tab.
ENERGY/GHG NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY ENERGY ASSOCIATION

CEA is the ‘first stop’ for local government leaders addressing climate and energy

2008 Energy Action Awards Winners

The UBCM, Community Energy Association, Ministry of Community Development and BC Hydro congratulate winners of the 2008 Energy Action Awards. The awards were presented at the UBCM Banquet September 25, 2008 by the Honourable Blair Leckstrom, Minister of Community Development.

The City of Castlegar won the 2008 Energy Action Award in the Corporate Operations category for energy efficiency innovations in its new city hall and throughout operations. Castlegar’s new municipal hall saves over 50% of the energy of a conventional building, cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 29 tonnes annually. The City’s operational GHG-reduction activities include composting, recycling, residential water meters, biodiesel for fleet vehicles, no-idling, solar-powered parking lot lights and reuse of treatment sludge for landscaping compost. The Resort Municipality of Whistler won the award in the Community Planning and Development category for development of the Whistler Athlete Village (WAV) as compact, low-carbon, resident-restricted housing with an innovative, district-based alternative energy heating system.

Honourable Mentions were awarded to:

• District of Squamish for its Community Energy Action Plan, including Sustainability Block, and

• District of Saanich for its Municipal Carbon Neutral Reserve Fund.

You can find more information these and past winners on the Community Energy Association website at: http://www.communityenergy.bc.ca/showcase-and-awards/energy-action-awards

New – Community Energy and Emissions Planning Guide

With support from the Ministry of Environment, CEA has produced a brief new guide to support local governments in their planning of energy and greenhouse gas emissions. It provides key elements of a successful plan, including inventories, target-setting, action plan, implementation and monitoring, and funding.

The guide can be downloaded from CEA’s website www.communityenergy.bc.ca and from http://www.toolkit.bc.ca.

New – Renewable Energy Guide modules

The Renewable Energy Guide for Local Governments in British Columbia is now complete. It is comprised of a set of four modules. Together, the modules describe renewable energy technologies, interest to local governments, options for establishing community-owned energy projects and utilities; and policy tools that local governments can use to encourage renewable energy in the community.

Two of the modules, Heating Our Communities and Utilities and Financing, were mailed to local governments by UBCM last winter. The final two, Powering Our Communities and Policy and Governance Tools, will be mailed in hardcopy to all BC local governments by UBCM shortly. (They can all be downloaded from the CEA website www.communityenergy.bc.ca; see Resources for Publications.)

Heating Our Communities describes renewable heating technologies, and opportunities these present to local governments, including:

- Heat recovery
- Ground-, water- and airsource heat pumps (also known as geow-exchange)
- Biomass and biogas
- Solar air and water heating
- District heating

Production of this module was made possible through financial contributions from Infrastructure Canada, the British Columbia Ministries of Environment and Community Development, Terasen Gas Inc., Vancity and the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia. The Cities of New Westminster, Quesnel, Revelstoke and Vancouver, and the District of North Vancouver, were additional project partners.

Powering Our Communities introduces renewable electricity technologies, including:

- Wind
- Solar PV
- Small and micro hydro
- Geothermal
- Tidal, wave and fuel cell

and opportunities these present to local governments. The module also explores how local governments can support the development of renewable electricity in the community. Production of this module was made possible through financial contributions from Infrastructure Canada, the Province of British Columbia, BC Hydro and Fortis BC. The City of Dawson Creek was an additional project partner.

Utilities and Financing describes options for ownership and operation of local government utilities and energy projects, including:

- District energy utilities
- Decentralized utilities
- Municipal electric utilities
- Independent power production.

The module also describes mechanisms that local governments can use to finance renewable energy projects. Production of this module was made possible through financial contribution from Infrastructure Canada, the British Columbia Ministries of Environment and Community Development, Vancity and the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia. The Cities of Coquitlam, Dawson Creek, Quesnel and Surrey were additional project partners.

Policy and Governance Tools presents local government policy options to encourage the development and use of renewable energy throughout the community. It includes:

- zoning and land use policy options
- financial policy options
- administrative policy options.

Production of this module was made possible through financial contributions from Infrastructure Canada, the Province of British Columbia, Vancity, the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, and Terasen Energy Services. The Cities of Coquitlam, Dawson Creek, Quesnel and Surrey, were additional project partners.

Local Government Energy Survey

The Province, BC Hydro, Community Energy Association, and other partners developed a local government survey on district energy, renewable energy and energy planning. The intention of this survey is to:

- Ascertain the level of interest in and understanding of district and renewable energy projects and other sustainable initiatives;
- Find out what existing district and renewable energy systems are in place;
- Identify barriers to the implementation of district and renewable energy projects and other initiatives; and
- Determine the most effective ways to support the development and implementation of sustainable energy solutions.

The survey closed November 20 – our thanks to everyone who has completed the survey. Aggregated survey results should be available by mid-December, and will be posted on the CEA website.

Patricia Bell, Senior Energy Planner, Supports CAEE Communities

CEA has recently hired Patricia Bell as Senior Energy Planner. Pat will be provided local government support throughout the province, including to all communities participating in the Community Action on Energy and Emissions Program (CAEE). Patricia replaces Michael Wilson, who has been with CEA the past three years, and previously supported CAEE communities. Pat brings a wealth of experience having worked as a progressive planner in local governments including Coquitlam, Pitt Meadows, MetroVancouver and Sasketson. Welcome Pat!

SolarBC Communities

On ‘solar communities’ were announced at the UBCM convention – congratulations to Tofto, Kelowna, Saanich, District of North Vancouver, Dawson Creek and West Moberly First Nation. These communities will help lead the way to solar hot water installations, through a SolarBC program, funded by NRCan and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

http://www.solarbc.ca/solar-communities
Courses and Resources

Off to a Fresh Start

Getting elected to a Municipal Council brings with it a sense of jubilation. But the euphoria typically lasts only for a few months at best. Then reality sets in: long meetings, procedural wrangling, political pressures from interest groups, grandstanding or petulant colleagues, tough decisions to make (“You’re damned if you do and you’re damned if you don’t”), and the sobering realization that campaign promises are much easier to make than to keep.

Wanting a different outcome? It can be achieved, but it requires more than just hoping for it. There needs to be a concerted effort to create a clear and compelling sense of purpose for the Council or the Board. Much of the dysfunction that is evident on many public bodies can be prevented by a well planned and well conducted orientation program, followed by efforts to monitor progress and share feedback when things go off course.

A Solid Orientation Program

Starting with an orientation program, here are a few tips:

• The first part of the orientation should be substantive, i.e.: focused on issues. The newly elected Council could start by assessing the short and long term needs of the community. It should review and evaluate past achievements and ongoing strategic initiatives, gather operational input from the staff, and then generate a three year plan (a “macro-agenda”) on how it will advance the community’s interests. Subsequently, the three year plan should be presented to the community for input before being finalized.

• The second part of the orientation should be procedural. There should be discussion on how meetings are run and a review of rules of order and key provisions in the Procedure Bylaw. Additional procedural issues to discuss are conflict of interest, confidentiality, the duty to accept majority decisions and the obligation of each Council member to work as a constructive and engaged partner in decision-making (respecting and boosting other Council members as partners in decision-making).

• The third part to the orientation program should be a discussion of typical council or board dysfunctions, how they can damage the decision making process, and what measures individuals can take to prevent or address them. It should be emphasized that the duty to speak up and point to a problem is not reserved for the Chair, but is shared among the members, functioning as equal and full partners in shared decision-making.

• The fourth part of the orientation program should be a discussion of the relationship between Council and the Administration. Related dysfunctions include micromanagement, crossing the line and giving unilateral orders to staff, attacking staff members in public, etc.

• The fifth part of the orientation program should be a discussion of Council’s relationship with the Community. Related dysfunctions include pre-meeting promises to individual citizens, capitulating to bullying by assertive citizens and community groups, etc.

• A note about attendance: ALL Council members, new and experienced, should attend orientation sessions, so they all hear the same key messages and are partners in the same discussion. The fact that a returning Council member is experienced does not mean that he or she has nothing to learn or teach new colleagues.

• A note about format: Orientation sessions should not take the form of a pure lecture, but should be interactive. The flow of information should be two way from Council members, and brainstorming and other methods should be used to capitalize on their wisdom, insights, and concerns. Sitting through long days is tiring and makes it hard to focus and absorb substantial amounts of information. Remember the phrase: “The human mind will absorb only as much as the human seat will endure.”

Monitoring and Feedback

So you planned and carried out a successful orientation program. Is your work done? Hardly. Understanding roles and responsibilities does not mean everyone will remember them as the term of office progresses. There must be efforts to monitor progress and take corrective measures if Council is off-course or dysfunction sets in. Here are a few tips:

• Every meeting should be evaluated for efficiency, engagement, the quality and depth of discussions, the ability to deal with tough and divisive issues while maintaining civility, decorum and mutual respect, etc.

• Personal self-evaluation forms should be included with meeting packages, with members reminded to complete them just before the meeting ends. Sample questions to ask are: Did I fully prepare for this meeting? Did I complete all my pre-meeting duties? Did I arrive on time and attend the full meeting? Did I avoid being distracted from discussions by side talks and reviewing my e-mails? Did I speak up when I thought my ideas would make a difference? Did I listen to my colleagues, the management team, and the community with an open mind? Did I place the community’s interests ahead of any other interests?

• Everyone should be encouraged to share feedback and concerns in a constructive and respectful manner, while welcoming feedback from others and making it easy to give it.

With a solid orientation program and with ongoing efforts to monitor progress, share feedback and take corrective measures when needed, you’re off to a good start. Good luck!

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’s new book “101 Boardroom Problems & How to Solve Them” is due to be published in the fall of 2008. Eli is also author of four other books on meetings, rules of order, shared decision-making and minute taking. 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 at http://www.elimina.com/insights.
What is an industry product stewardship corporation? It's an organization which combines private-sector efficiencies with a high degree of public-sector transparency and accountability to manage collection and recycling programs for end-of-life products and packaging.

Its unique structure allows Encorp to concentrate on its core purpose of collecting and recycling beverage containers without government involvement, or the diversion of revenues, while ensuring that stakeholder and consumer interests are addressed.

**Transparency is Built In**

Encorp Pacific (Canada) makes public extensive information about its mission, key objectives, operational and financial performance as well as consumer awareness and educational programs.

The governance model is based on TSX guidelines for publicly listed companies in Canada and includes a nine-person Board of Directors representing major sectors of the beverage and grocery industries as well as unrelated directors with no connection to any aspect of the beverage industry.

Four Board committees meet regularly to assist the Board in fulfilling its fiduciary obligations:

- **Audit** – oversees financial reporting, the risk and control environment and evaluates internal and control mechanisms.
- **Human Resources and Compensation** – evaluates the performance and compensation of the CEO, ensures that the company has an appropriate organizational structure.
- **Governance** – ensures that the company fulfills its public duties, adheres to its principles and meets the obligations of its Stewardship Plan.
- **Nominating** – develops criteria for making appointments to the Board and Advisory Committee.

In addition to the four Board Committees, Encorp has an Advisory Committee of non-Board members to provide advice and perspective to the Board. Encorp provides a comprehensive public explanation of its operations through an annual report, its Advisory Committee and other methods, a level of transparency exceeds the requirements of regulation.

**Programs within Encorp’s Mandate**

- **Return-It Beverage**: a consumer-friendly and cost-effective system to recover and recycle beverage containers.
- **Return-It Electronics**: end-of-life electronic products can be dropped off at designated collection sites without charge throughout the province and are shipped for responsible recycling. Encorp manages the program on behalf of the Electronics Stewardship Association of BC, the industry product steward.
- **Return-It Milk**: A voluntary used milk container recycling program operated by Encorp on behalf of the BC Dairy Council.

**Consumer Awareness & Education are Key**

Encorp is committed to continuous improvement through an extensive program of consumer research and awareness amounting to several million dollars annually. New initiatives are designed to address niche markets and specialized circumstances including the innovative Return-It @ Work program which encourages employers and employees to recycle in the workplace. Elementary & High School Recycling Programs promote the recycling of beverage containers at school and Encorp has developed strong partnerships with charities like the Salvation Army and United Way.

Encorp is the leader among industry product stewardship agencies in its interaction with the public and with all levels of government, the transparency of its operations and its efforts to fulfill the environmental expectations of the people of British Columbia. Learn more about Encorp Pacific at encorp.ca.

**Chronology:**

- **1994**
  - Encorp Pacific established to set up and create a province-wide network of depots
  - Containers diverted from retail stores to recycling depots
  - 125 depots opened in first four years

- **1998**
  - Expanded deposits and stewardship regulation increases mandate
  - 200 new producers added
  - New governance structure put in place
  - 25 new Return-It™ depots opened
  - $1.5 Million annual consumer awareness program launched

- **2001**
  - Became Service Provider to BC Liquor Distribution Branch for liquor containers

- **2004**
  - Recycling Regulation
  - Revised stewardship plan submitted October 2006

- **2006**
  - Became Service Provider for Dairy and Electronics

- **2007**
  - Appointed Stewardship Agency by the Beverage Alcohol Containers Management Council

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**The Principles for Product Stewardship**

1. **Producer-User Responsibility**
   - Costs covered by consumers of products and not downloaded to local governments or taxpayers.

2. **Level Playing Field**
   - All producers are treated equitably with no cross subsidization of container or product types.

3. **Results Based**
   - The goal is continuous improvement.

4. **Transparency & Accountability**
   - Financial statements are independently audited and publicly available.

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A unique combination of private-sector efficiency and public-sector transparency.