Happy Holidays!

Resolutions Process Report

A policy paper on amending the resolutions process was presented and endorsed by the membership at this year's Convention.

As a follow up to the endorsement, staff has prepared a workplan and report for the UBCM Executive to confirm the direction and process for engaging members in a discussion on the resolutions process.

Consultation with members will take place at the 5 regional association conferences in Spring 2010. A report will be circulated in advance of the area association conferences for member consideration, and a plenary discussion will be held during the conference. An online survey will also be created for members to choose their preferred options and provide comments. As well, staff will interview the UBCM presidents, past presidents, resolution committee members and other select individuals previously involved in the resolutions process.

A final report will be presented at Convention 2010. More information will be forthcoming after the Executive meeting on November 27, 2009.

UBCM Launches New Website

Two consistent themes in UBCM member feedback have been the need for a better website and a preference for e-mail distribution of notices. UBCM is pleased to announce advances on both fronts.

New UBCM Website – ubcm.ca

UBCM’s new website improves accessibility with a range of features that support access to information, including:

- Re-designed navigation and structure
- Enhanced search capabilities
- RSS feeds for “What’s New” announcements and funding program updates
- Text resizing
- High contrast display option to benefit persons with visual impairment
- “Mobile” display option for viewing with a handheld device

The completely redesigned site also incorporates an events calendar and photo galleries. A new

Record Attendance at 2009 UBCM Convention

The 2009 UBCM Convention was held from September 28-October 2 at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Convention had an “A Province of Champions” theme, and focused on sharing and celebrating the accomplishments of local governments province-wide. The Convention certainly provided ample opportunity for networking and sharing, with a record-breaking 2,035 delegates registered, and 187 UBCM members represented. Comparatively, registration rates for recent conventions are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>1,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>1,715</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Whistler</td>
<td>1,746</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>1,868</td>
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<td>Kelowna</td>
<td>1,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>1,904</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>2,002</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>1,986</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>2,035</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to having the highest attendance on record, this year’s Convention was also rated highly in the delegate evaluation results. The Overall Convention Rating was 4.1/5, in comparison to the 2008 Overall Convention Rating of 3.4. Other categories that ranked highly included accommodations with a score of 4.5, and the Richmond Oval Pre-conference Tour with a score of 4.6. The complete 2009 Evaluation Results and Summary Awards list are included on page 18.

Continued on page 14
**FIFTH TECHNICAL MISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES**

In September of 2005, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with two local government organizations in the Philippines, namely the League of Cities and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines. The MOU committed UBCM to cooperation and capacity building with the Leagues, and provided the foundation for several technical missions to the Philippines.

**UBCM Salutes Former Executive Members**

Each year the membership elects and appoints members to the UBCM Executive. With the close of another year, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize the service of those members of the Executive who are not returning to the board this year, but played a significant role in achieving the following accomplishments this past year:

- extensive intergovernmental outreach undertaken to advocate for federal infrastructure funds to be targeted toward local government priorities.
- total funding received by UBCM under Gas Tax and Public Transit Program reaches $63.5 million
- Picture BC launched at 2008 Convention, the culmination of years of work between UBCM, the Province and Knowledge Network.
- construction completed and new, targeted LEED Gold office building for UBCM officially opens in July 2009
- negotiations lead to signed Communities Component under Building Canada
- traffic fine revenues increase again this year - $61 million flows directly to local government
- third year of Local Government Leadership Academy training – 6 very successful NEO/REO training seminars held over January – February 2009 with record attendance levels
- new, redesigned UBCM website launched in fall 2009; and
- 100% membership maintained for the 30th 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: Susie Gimse, Past President; Noreen Guenther, Director at Large; Malcolm Brodie, Acting Director at Large and Corinne Lonsdale, LMLGA Representative.

Susie Gimse

As an EA director for the Squamish-Lillooet RD, Susie Gimse joined the UBCM Executive in 1999 when she was elected by the Executive to fill the vacancy in the Electoral Area Representative position as a result of the 1999 local government elections. She served as the Electoral Area Representative on the UBCM Executive for 6 years before successfully
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Former Executive
Continued from page 2

being elected to the position of Third Vice-President at the 2005 UBCM Convention.
As a result of the 2005 local government elections, a vacancy in First Vice President moved Susie into the position of Second Vice-President. She was then elected First Vice-President at the 2006 Convention, later becoming UBCM President in 2007-08.
During her 10 years on the UBCM Executive, Susie served on a number of Committees including; Chair, VP Liaison and member of the Convention Committee (at different points during her decade on the Executive); Chair of the Police Financing Task Force, Chair and member of the Healthy Communities Committee; VP Liaison to the Community Economic Development Committee; member of the Environment Committee and the Justice and Protective Services Committee. She also served as Chair of the 2005 RD Task Force and a member of the 2009 RD Task Force. She also served as Chair of the Nominating Committee, and Chair of the Presidents Committee and Chair of the Excellence Awards program.
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; a variety of BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation working groups on IPP development and other energy-related matters.
We thank Susie for her many years of service and dedication to both UBCM and BC local governments as a whole. We will miss your contributions at so many levels.

Noreen Guenther
A a Councillor for the District of Lake Country, Noreen Guenther was elected as a Director at Large at the 2008 UBCM Convention. Over the past year she has served as Vice-Chair of the Convention Committee and a member of the Community Economic Development Committee. As well she was appointed as UBCM’s representative to BC Hydro’s Energy Conservation and Efficiency Advisory Committee where she also chairs one of the policy working groups.
Thank you Noreen, for your contribution to the UBCM Executive, we wish you all the best.

Malcolm Brodie
A s a result of two vacancies left in the Table Officer positions after the 2008 local government elections, the Executive determined it would fill the vacancies by adding two additional Acting Directors at Large to the UBCM Executive as provided for in the UBCM’s bylaws. One of those appointments was Malcolm Brodie, mayor of the City of Richmond.
Malcolm had previously served as the GVRD (Metro Vancouver) appointment to the UBCM Executive in 2005-06. With his experience he provided a valuable contribution to the Executive as a whole, and more specifically, to the Resolutions Committee and the Community Safety Committee over the past year.
All the best Malcolm and thank you for all your work on the UBCM Executive.

Corinne Lonsdale
A fter serving eight years on the UBCM Executive from 1997-2005, Corinne Lonsdale returned to the Executive this past year in her capacity as Lower Mainland Local Government Association President.
Corinne picked up right where she left off three years ago. Her experience and involvement in local government issues served us well as Chair of the First Nations Relations Committee and a member of the Community Economic Development Committee. These were committees that Corinne had previously participated in during her previous tenure on the UBCM Executive.
We wish to thank Corinne for her valuable contribution to the UBCM Executive during the past year and in her previous years of service on the board.

Kerry Jang
As a Councillor for the City of Vancouver, Kerry Jang served as the City of Vancouver appointment to the UBCM Executive this past year. Kerry was an active member of the Convention Committee and the Community Economic Development Committee.
Thank you Kerry for your contribution to the UBCM Executive over the past year, we wish you all the best.
Again, thanks to all of you!

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 2009 Convention.

General Announcements

MOU/Protocol Agreement Signings
This year one Protocol on Consultation and Cooperation was renewed and signed at UBCM Convention:

UBCM and BC School Trustees Association
This Protocol was first signed in 2001, renewed in 2003, 2006 and now in 2009. The Protocol signals both associations continued commitment to work together to achieve the province-wide benefits of collaboration on issues of mutual interest. Areas of collaboration include, but are not limited to; community planning, school sites, shared use facilities, libraries, safe and healthy environments, sport and recreation, etc. UBCM President and BCSTA President, Connie Denesiuk signed the renewed Protocol during the Delegates Lunch.

Other Announcements

Community Wildfire Protection Plan
During Convention, the Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range (MOFR) announced the acceleration of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) program, along with a change in the funding percentage for the Operational Treatment program. Both programs are administered by UBCM under our Strategic Wildfire Initiative.
The acceleration of the CWPP program has been implemented through assignment of an additional 16 staff to the MOFR Wildfire Management Branch for the period October, 2009 through March, 2010.
In Memoriam – Lorna Bissell

I t is with great sadness that UBCM reports the passing of Mrs. Lorna Bissell, Councillor with the Township of Spallumcheen. She was 60 years old.

Mrs. Bissell was a Council member for the Township for five years and will be greatly missed. She has been a dedicated member in local government for over twenty years where she served on Council in Brampton, Ontario, prior to the Township of Spallumcheen. She managed local florist shops and served on the Brampton Safety Council before officially entering politics in 1985 as an alderman. She made the switch to regional councillor in 1991. In 2004, soon after she moved to Armstrong, B.C., she ran in a by-election for council in the Township of Spallumcheen. Her fabulous personality, forward-thinking approach to community and dedication to local government and all her constituents have made her a very popular well-respected community member and leader.

She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Al, her sons Drew and Stuart and new grandchild Evan. Although she will be greatly missed, Mrs. Bissell’s community legacy will continue to touch lives of many.

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Time to Renew Your BCRPA Membership

As a BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) member you are ensuring your community has a strong voice in the parks, recreation, and culture sector of BC. You are also providing your team with access to programs, services, and training opportunities that support them in their role as practitioners and connects them into a professional network of colleagues from around the province.

The work of the BCRPA is aimed at ensuring your citizens, and all those in BC, live in a healthy, prosperous, environmentally sustainable community. The Association brings together communities from across our province, along with other stakeholders, to explore new ways to enhance quality of life for everyone and supports their efforts to create active, healthy and engaged populations.

To continue receiving your benefits and adding your voice and participation to the sector, be sure to renew your BCRPA Local Government or Individual Government/ Affiliate membership. BCRPA has a reasonable membership rates that are designed to be sensitive to your community’s budget. Local Government Membership (to register your community as a member) starts at $266 and increases depending on population. Each level of membership includes supplementary members, and enables additional memberships to be taken out at a rate of $61 each (classified as Individual Government/ Affiliate Membership (for other elected officials, your staff members and your community volunteers)).

Membership 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.

2010 CONFERENCE DATES

AREA ASSOCIATION DATES

- Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
  April 9 - 11 – Powell River
- Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments
  April 22 - 24 – Castlegar
- Southern Interior Local Government Association
  April 28 - 30 – Sun Peaks
- Lower Mainland Local Government Association
  May 12 - 14 – Harrison Hot Springs
- North Central Local Government Association
  May 5 - 7 – Smithers
- UBCM Convention
  September 27 - October 1, 2010 – Whistler

OTHER CONFERENCES

- Municipal Finance Authority
  March 24 - 25 – Victoria
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
  May 28 - 31 – Toronto
- Government Finance Officers Association of BC
  May 26 - 28 – Kamloops
- Local Government Management Association
  May 18 - 20 – Whistler
- Municipal Insurance Association
  September 28 – Whistler

PHILIPPINES

Continued from page 2

five technical missions designed to enhance organizational effectiveness, strengthen intergovernmental relations, improve policy development, and enhance member relations and advocacy strategies with the two Leagues.

The fifth technical mission between UBCM/ FCM and the League of Cities and the League of Municipalities was held between November 1-6, 2009 in the Philippines.

UBCM was represented by Jared Wright, Senior Policy Analyst. The mission concentrated on reviewing and finalizing a joint policy paper on internal revenue allotment, developing an advocacy tool, and applying the advocacy tool to the policy paper. Through a series of UBCM facilitated workshops, staff from both Leagues agreed upon the central arguments of the policy paper, updated the internal revenue allotment paper advocacy plan, and identified member engagement strategies. The Leagues also committed to using the policy paper as part of their election awareness strategy for the May 2010 national elections.

As in the past, UBCM will continue to support the Leagues in their capacity development efforts as per the agreement of all parties to the Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU with the Filipino Leagues is set to expire in March of 2010.
ENVIRONMENT POLICY IN BRIEF

British Columbia Brownfields Renewal Strategy

The Province recently announced $588,000 in funding under the Brownfield Renewal Funding Program for brownfield sites throughout British Columbia, including sites in Victoria, Port Alberni, Ladysmith, Fernie, and New Westminster. To date, approximately $1.6 million in funding has been provided under the program. For more information on the Brownfield Renewal Strategy, visit www.brownfieldrenewal.gov.bc.ca.

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 gases. 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, 176 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.

Cleaner Gasoline Regulation

The Ministry of Environment intends to amend the Cleaner Gasoline Regulation (CGR) under the Environmental Management Act. This Act, which was brought into force in its current form on July 8, 2004, is designed to provide a flexible authorization framework, increase enforcement options and use modern environmental management tools to protect human health and the quality of water, land and air in British Columbia.

The proposed amendment to the CGR will address two issues: allowing for the distribution of automotive ethanol fuel (E85) in BC, as well as phasing out the Reid Vapour Pressure (RVP) waiver, which allows ethanol-blended gasoline in the Lower Fraser Valley (LFV) to exceed the prescribed limits for vapour pressure during warmer months of the year.

The Ministry posted an intentions paper for the proposed amendments in August 2009. Following a review of stakeholder comments, the Ministry has since updated its intentions, specifically with respect to the vapour pressure requirements. These revised intentions have been posted at the Ministry’s website at www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/cgrar/index.htm. The Ministry is also proposing to have the amendments take effect in Spring of 2010 as opposed to January 2010 as originally planned.

Wood Residue Burner and Incineration Regulation

The British Columbia Ministry of Environment (“the Ministry”) intends to amend the Wood Residue and Incineration Regulation and repeal the Rebate of Waste Management Fees Regulation, both of which are under the Environmental Management Act. The ministry’s primary objective is to amend the regulation to include a final shut down date for all remaining beehive burners in British Columbia. The ministry’s objectives and the proposed contents of the amendment to the Wood Residue Burner and Incinerator Regulation along with the rationale for proposing the repeal of the Rebate of Waste Management Fees 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/epd/codes/webt/index.htm.

Building Communities with Renewable Energy

BC communities and renewable energy work hand-in-hand. “Investments made today in established renewable energy technologies can reduce building operating costs, the savings of which can be allocated for instance to community programs.” Municipal buildings are ideally suited, as they are built for the long-term with quality and durability, and social and environmental responsibility in mind.

Renewable energy systems such as GeoExchange (geothermal heat pumps) and Solar Hot Water (“Solar”) are common renewable energy technologies used in commercial scale buildings. They are durable, proven, and low maintenance. GeoExchange harnesses the vast, low-temperature solar radiation stored in the earth’s surface layer to provide ultra-efficient, and emission-free heating and cooling for buildings. Solar captures the sun’s radiation throughout the year (yes, even in cloudy winter days), and excels in applications such as swimming pools and domestic water heating. GeoExchange systems consume up to 75% less energy than their conventional counterparts, and solar systems consume a staggering 99% less energy. These renewable energy systems have a lifetime of 20-30 years that lend municipally owned buildings a solid economic and “future-proofed” advantage.

In June this year, the Renewable Energy retrofit of the Meadow Park Sports Centre in Whistler was featured in local Pique Newsmagazine. Mr. Ted Battiston, Strategic Energy and Emissions Manager for the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW), refers to the combined GeoExchange and Solar retrofit as “a very strong business case”. Long after the simple payback-on-investment of only four years, the municipality will own and reap the benefits of the energy produced at the facility.

While traditional energy upgrades target payback periods of less than five years, renewable energy systems provide much greater, long-term benefits. To best appreciate this, it is recommended that they are evaluated by their lifecycle energy cost, usually in $/kWh. A solar pool system may produce energy starting at $0.02 per kilowatt-hour (kWhr) for 30 years after purchase—this is already more competitive than today’s electricity costs of $0.077 per kWh. As a Climate Action Charter community, RMOW’s retrofit project fulfills their environmental commitment to sustainability. Mr. Battiston says, “We want to make reductions before we have to buy offsets.”

Earlier this year, the Quesnel Arts and Recreation Centre also had a rooftop solar system installed. Facility Manager Gary Stuart explains in an interview with SolarBC, “I just finished a tour up to the roof. It’s minus 25 out and we’re bringing in 150 degree water!” Municipalities that undertake solar retrofit projects today, have access to more than 50% in grants from SolarBC and ecoENERGY.

Buildings that are well suited for solar are commonly aquatic centres, fire halls, hotels, apartment buildings and co-operatives—preliminarily due their vast hot water heating needs. GeoExchange is an energy source of choice to a wide variety of buildings, however site- and building-specific conditions will determine the design options and their economics.

Despite their versatility and adaptability, any renewable energy system must be properly planned in order to maximize benefits. A feasibility study can examine design options, system sizes, economics and associated benefits. It provides a learning opportunity, and a strong foundation and support for any retro-fit or new construction project. Drawing from such knowledge, quality decisions can be made today that help municipalities create vibrant, attractive and resilient communities for the future.

Richard Siegenthaler is a Renewable Energy Specialist with Hemmera, a BC-based environmental and renewable energy consulting firm. For more information, contact Richard at 604-669-0424 or rsiegenthaler@hemmera.com, or visit www.hemmera.com.

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Community Economic Development

BC Communities in Bloom Receives Horticultural Funding

On November 3, 2009 the BC Communities in Bloom received a 3-year grant from the BC Landscape and Nursery Association’s Industry Development Council. This funding will help support BC Communities in Bloom to create a province-wide community connection for the horticultural industry, increase staff capacity for program administration, add additional education for volunteer judges and promote important environmental messages.

The BC Communities in Bloom program recognizes the most attractive and livable communities in the province through an awards program. Many local governments have benefited from the program and received awards for their efforts in beautifying their communities.

If you would like further information contact: Catherine Kennedy at info@bccommunitysinbloom.ca.

Province Takes Action on Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs)

On November 10, 2009 Tourism, Culture and Arts Minister Kevin Krueger announced that the Province would be implementing new rules for off-road vehicle registration and licensing, helmet use, youth safety and environmental measures, over the next two years.

ORV licensing and regulation has been a longstanding resolution request for UBCM members, dating back to the early 1990s. Over the years, UBCM has worked with an ORV Coalition, and led the Grasslands Conservation Council, to request that the provincial government take action to better manage ORVs. The proposed framework is the result of many years of advocacy work by a number of organizations. Under the new management framework, all ORV riders using Crown land will require a one-time registration with a licence plate for their machines, in addition to wearing helmets and using lights at night. Age-appropriate safety measures and adult supervision will be required for young riders.

All ORVs will require registration and licensing at the time of sale and re-sale. As well new standards for mufflers will minimize the noise impact on wildlife and spark arrestors will reduce the risk of forest fires. Additional measures to connect communities and trails will mean licensed ORV riders will be able to cross public roads more conveniently with an annual vehicle licence plate and basic insurance.

Registration and licensing costs will be based on a user-pay approach, comparable to other small vehicles. The Province has indicated that it will be working closely with ICBC to implement service delivery within two years. This timeframe is needed to address matters such as ICBC’s system upgrades and allow for a transition period for front-line brokers.

By requiring licence plates to be displayed on ORVs, conservation officers, park rangers, law enforcement officers, park rangers, property owners and members of the public will be able to monitor ORVs and ensure ORVs are travelling on designated trails. This will mean licensed ORVs will be able to cross public roads more conveniently. An annual vehicle licence plate and basic insurance will be required for ORV riders to cross public roads more conveniently.

The combined operating budget of all BIAs in BC is about $11 million dollars. The BIABC is excited by the strength of the BIA movement in this province, and especially proud of its role in helping to strengthen and grow the BIA network. The BIABC offers outreach services to its members, future members, and local governments. In addition to producing a newsletter and holding annual conferences, BIABC produces manuals and brochures regarding business improvement areas. For more information on the BIA concept go to www.bia.bc.ca or email info@bia.bc.ca.

Business Improvement Areas and Your Community

- contributed by Andre Isakov, Executive Director Business Improvement Areas of BC

Since 1991, Business Improvement Areas of British Columbia (BIA) has facilitated networking among Business Improvement Area (BIA) communities to increase public awareness of BIAs as a community economic development initiative. As a non-profit umbrella organization representing BIAs in BC, BIABC works to champion strong, vibrant and successful downtowns, mainstreets, and commercial districts throughout British Columbia.

A BIA is an area designated by a municipal council in which businesses and property owners can finance effective marketing, promotional and revitalization programs for the area. A BIA provides both the organized structure and the source of funds to enable local business communities to improve their commercial viability. Authority to create Business Improvement Areas is contained in the BC Community Charter.

For businesses, a BIA is an effective way of increasing sales and profits and to organize and finance programs that would not be available to individual businesses by any other means. For the municipal councils, a BIA provides a highly motivated sector of the community with the means to improve their businesses and stimulate the local economy. Above all, BIAs help to improve and beautify downtown and mainstreet shopping districts and that benefits all.

Today, only twenty one years after inception of the BIA concept in BC, over 55 BIAs are operating in British Columbia, with more on the way. The existing BIAs represent over 45,000 individual businesses worth $16.5 billion in land value. The combined operating budgets of all BIAs in BC is about $11 million dollars. The BIABC is excited by the strength of the BIA movement in this province, and especially proud of its role in helping to strengthen and grow the BIA network.

The BIABC offers outreach services to its members, future members, and local governments. In addition to producing a newsletter and holding annual conferences, BIABC produces manuals and brochures regarding business improvement areas. For more information on the BIA concept go to www.bia.bc.ca or email info@bia.bc.ca.

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Affordability & Accountability of Policing

UBCM prepared a policy paper entitled “Police Services in British Columbia: Affordability & Accountability” for the 2009 UBCM Convention. The policy paper looked at two key issues of concern to local government regarding policing namely affordability and accountability of the services provided.

To develop the policy paper, UBCM undertook a survey of local government that looked at the cost of policing and the accountability of the police to local government in the delivery of policing services at the community level. In addition, it examined a number of issues related to the RCMP contract, such as renewal of the agreement and cost-sharing of regional/integrated police teams.

In their responses to questions concerning the cost of policing and accountability of police services, members indicated the following:

- 64% of the local governments policing directly under an RCMP contract indicated that police costs were not affordable. Local governments further indicated that increases in police costs were outstripping increases in inflation, population and expenditures in other local government departments and that current trends were not sustainable. Local governments indicated that police costs were already having an impact on its operations and the increasing costs were limiting the delivery of other services in the community.
- 50% of the local governments policing directly under the current RCMP contract were not fully accountable to local government for the services delivered and supported the introduction of new measures to maintain and enhance police accountability.

In their responses to questions related to the RCMP contract, members indicated the following:
- Over 85% of the local governments that are covered under the current RCMP contract supported renewing the agreement.
- Over 70% of the local governments did not feel that local government should be required to pay for regional/integrated police teams.

In the policy paper entitled “Police Services in British Columbia: Affordability & Accountability” UBCM prepared a policy paper entitled “Police Services in British Columbia: Affordability & Accountability” for the 2009 UBCM Convention. The policy paper looked at two key issues of concern to local government regarding policing namely affordability and accountability of the services provided.

UBCM held a study session at the 2009 UBCM Convention entitled “Policing in British Columbia – Affordability and Accountability”. The speakers at the session were the Honourable Kesh Mehta, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, David Mohart, Deputy Solicitor General, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Kevin Begg, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Murray Dinwoodie, City Manager/Administrator, Surrey and Local Government Representative on the provincial negotiating team for the RCMP contract.

The session provided an opportunity for local government representatives to receive an update on the RCMP contract discussions and to ask any questions they may have about the RCMP contract and other policing issues. The session was also intended to get local government feedback on the 17 issues identified by the RCMP Local Government Working Group that needed to be addressed in the upcoming RCMP contract negotiations. Outlined below is list of the issues:

- Policing Costs
  1. Funding Formula
  2. RCMP Pay
  3. Special Events/Emergency Planning
  4. Financial Planning and Reporting
  5. Accommodations
  6. Equipment
  7. Training Costs
  8. Staffing - Vacancy Rates
  9. Regional Integrated Teams
- Accountability
  10. Community Priorities
  11. Support Staff
- Performance Measures – Standards Policy
- OIC Selection
- Federal Policing (i.e. National Security, Border Patrol etc.)
- Dispute Resolution Mechanism
- Principal Police Contact
- Term of Contract – Length of Agreement

PRIME-BC – Future Cost of Technology

Local governments in British Columbia were formally notified in September 2009 that the levy for the use of the provincial Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME-BC) would increase from $500 per officer per year to $1,000 per officer per year in 2010. The PRIME-BC issue illustrates the ongoing problem that local government has regarding the affordability and accountability of police services.

The Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME-BC) is a project introduced by the Province of British Columbia to replace the 26-year-old Police Information Retrieval System (PIRS). PIRS was only capable of providing a file index and was not a records management system. PRIME-BC provides real-time information to officers on the street and facilitates crime analysis and mapping along with numerous other investigative and officer safety aspects. The efficiency of police operations within a community and its adjacent communities is significantly impacted by the effective collection and dissemination of information.

Ultimately police investigations will be more effective and resource deployment more efficient as a result of the PRIME-BC initiative. The province has implemented the three North Shore municipalities (District of North Vancouver, City of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver) and the City of Richmond at this time has agreed to implement improvements in the delivery of RCMP police services in the community prior to the three North Shore municipalities. The report looks at the costs and delivery of services by the RCMP for police services provided under an RCMP contract. The report looks at the pros and cons of each model and makes some general recommendations as to how the city might improve the delivery of its police services, but does not make any recommendations on which model the city should adopt. The City of Richmond at this time has agreed to implement improvements in the delivery of RCMP police services in the community prior to the three North Shore municipalities.

The North Shore municipalities (District of North Vancouver, City of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver) report provides a detailed review of all North Shore police services. The paper looks at the costs and delivery of services by the RCMP for police services provided under an RCMP contract. The report looks at the pros and cons of each model and makes some general recommendations as to how the city might improve the delivery of its police services.
Healthy Communities

Healthy Communities Update

The Committee continues to work on the implementation for the 2008 Regional Hospital District Cost Sharing Review. UBCM’s role in the review, as stated in the report, is “to monitor the implementation progress... and request explanation of any variances to the workplan”. At Convention this year, it was announced that the Team working on implementing the recommendations would report out to UBCM’s Healthy Communities Committee on a quarterly basis. UBCM will post the updates on the Healthy Communities policy page on the UBCM website, following each Healthy Communities Committee meeting.

Work on the Public Health Act has been set aside for the time being, as Ministry of Health Services staff are involved in H1N1 planning. However, in the next few months, Ministry staff will revive discussions with UBCM and work on the implementation of the Act, and clarifying roles for local government and health authorities.

Food security continues to be a priority for the Committee. Over the summer, a survey was sent to members requesting information on their food security activities and needs for incorporating more food security initiatives in their local government. The survey results will be published in the March newsletter.

A new resource providing guidelines and examples of best practices to help local governments develop age-friendly and disability friendly Official Community Plans (OCPs) will be on the Healthy Communities Committee website shortly. This online resource will give local governments advice on how to use their OCP to make their communities more accessible and inclusive for people of all ages and abilities.

Accessible Community Bylaws Guide

The Accessible Community Bylaws Guide is a vast document covering nine model accessibility by-laws with hundreds of recommendations and one employment policy designed to give BC local governments a practical tool for planning, and to serve as a knowledge resource for anyone wanting a comprehensive understanding of community accessibility. SPARC BC (Social Planning and Research Council of BC) hopes that the Bylaws Guide will serve as a catalyst for positive change and be used to engage the wider community in planning for accessibility.

The Accessible Community Bylaws Guide is available at: www.sparc.bc.ca/the-accessiblecommunity-bylaws-guide.

Quesnel Hosts Province’s First Climate Action Bootcamp

On November 3-4, 2009 the City of Quesnel demonstrated their local leadership to address climate change by hosting the first Climate Action Bootcamp in B.C. The Climate Action Bootcamps are being facilitated by the Community Energy Association and BC Healthy Communities as part of both organizations’ commitment to support local governments on the road to sustainable, healthy and carbon neutral communities.

Approximately thirty participants attended the two day workshop including the Quesnel Mayor, members of council and staff as well as members of the Cariboo Regional District, local community organizations and industry representatives. “The workshop presented an excellent forum to engage, educate, and unite a broad spectrum of community members, politicians and municipal staff on the topic of climate change. The Bootcamp created a common understanding that there is a need to move through this process with an engaged community to create sustainable policies”, commented Mayor Mary Sjostrom.

The first day of the Bootcamp was delivered by the Community Energy Association and covered topics such as Carbon Neutral local governments, carbon offsets, target setting for community-wide emission reductions, and overcoming resistance to climate action. The second day was delivered by BC Healthy Communities and focused on approaches for community engagement in climate action activities. The day supported Quesnel to clarify their role in public engagement and climate action and discuss what climate action looks like in their community.

“There will be many opportunities for community engagement and involvement,” added Councillor. Mike Cave, the City’s Environmental Advisory Committee Chair. “Sustainability must be driven by the community to be successful. I’m eager to see as many people involved in this process as possible.”

For further information about the workshops in Quesnel, please contact:
Matt Wood, Communications Supervisor
Phone: 250.991.7475

To find out more about the Climate Action Bootcamps and how to book one, please contact Kerri Klein, ProVional Facilitator, BC Healthy Communities at: Email: kerri@bchealthycommunities.ca or Phone: 604-874-9433. Website information at: http://www.bchealthycommunities.ca/Content/What%20We%20Do/Workshops.asp
First Nation Relations Update

The Common Table

In 2008, the BC Treaty Commission (BCTC) facilitated the Common Table discussions involving Canada, BC and 60 First Nations who were signatories to the Unity Protocol in late 2006/early 2007. The Unity Protocol called for the creation of a common voice for First Nations to deal with the six barriers to treaty signing which signatories felt government mandates were prohibiting them from concluding treaties: (1) certainty, (2) constitutional status of treaty lands, (3) governance, (4) taxation, (5) lands and resource management, and (6) fisheries. The BCTC prepared a confidential report in the summer of 2008 for the three Parties identifying a number of opportunities for addressing the six issues.

Earlier this year, UBCM completed a discussion paper on the Common Table, which outlined local government interests. The paper was written based on available public information and incorporated feedback from treaty advisory committees. This report was forwarded to the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation with a request for a copy of the BCTC confidential report.

In October 2009, BCTC made its report public. The report is a high level report with the Parties agreeing to explore different options on the six issues. For each topic the report identifies principles or common ground reached by the Parties and opportunities for expediting the conclusion of treaties. The Parties reached more common ground on shared decision-making, constitutional status of lands and governance. Fiscal relations was the most challenging issue discussed.

The BCTC report notes that First Nations are seeking recognition of their pre-existing Aboriginal rights and title in treaties by:

- how First Nations hold title to treaty lands (different than crown grant);
- shared-decision making through the traditional territory; and
- self-government.

The BCTC 2009 Annual report notes that in August of this year Canada and BC provided their initial responses to the Common Table report. The Commission notes Canada’s apparent willingness to consider many of the opportunities identified at the Common Table. The Annual Report also notes the BC government’s willingness to negotiate specific solutions at individual treaty tables on various issues including shared-decision making, governance, fiscal relations and fisheries.

The First Nations Summit has requested that UBCM continue to administer the Regional C2C Forum. Discussions are underway to improve how the funds for 2009/10 are utilized.

Information Links

BC Treaty Commission's Common Table Report: A copy of the report can be found on the Treaty Commission website at: www.bctreaty.net/files/publications.php


UBCM First Nations Relations Grant Programs: For information on these programs go to the UBCM website at: www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/first-nations-relations.html

First Nations Relations Grant Programs

Supporting Treaty Implementation Pilot Project (STIPP)

The Supporting Treaty Implementation Pilot Project (STIPP) program was developed in 2007 with funding from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. The intent of the program was to demonstrate options and provide examples of initiatives that local governments were undertaking to support treaty implementation activities in their communities.

The program provides grants of up to $10,000 for pilot projects that supported treaty implementation through activities such as developing an agreement between a local government and First Nation, establishing a mentoring program or undertaking a community awareness and education campaign. Funds are available on an on-going basis.

One-time Operational Funding for TACs through STIPP

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) approached UBCM about the potential of using STIPP funds to support the operations of Treaty Advisory Committees (TAC) for the 2009/10 fiscal year. MARR communicated to UBCM that due to the current economy it was unable to provide these funds to TACs this fiscal year. UBCM worked with the Ministry to enhance the existing STIPP program in order to support TACs to participate at treaty tables. This has resulted in a one-time, special program that provides the opportunity for TACs and/or local governments that are participating at a treaty negotiation table in Stage 4 or Stage 5, and that meet eligibility criteria, to apply for operating funds for 2009/10.

This one-time TAC funding through the STIPP program will remain available on an on-going basis as funding permits.

Building Governance Capacity

The Building Governance Capacity program was developed in 2007 with funding from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. The intent of the program is to assist local governments and First Nations to collaboratively build governance skills, knowledge and capacity.

Matching grants of up to $25,000 are available to support activities that help local governments and First Nations to work together on common governance-related issues, to participate in capacity building activities and, at the same time, build governance management skills, knowledge, abilities and understanding. Funding permitting, additional applications will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

Treaty Knowledge Exchange Dialogues

The intent of this program was to support dialogue between local governments and/or TACs at an early stage of the treaty process with a local government or TAC that is further advanced. In part due to the challenge of organizing events with participants that may come from distant regions of the province, only one event was funded. This program has been discontinued and remaining funds transferred to the STIPP program.

Regional Community to Community Forum

UBCM continues to administer the Regional C2C Program with funding from MCRD and INAC. The application deadline was November 27, 2009.

Developing options.

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

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

PETER KENWARD
Vancouver
Tel 604-567-6962
pkenward@mccarthy.ca

The right people, the right results.

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Delegates enjoy the Welcome Reception at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel.

Incoming UBCM President Harry Nyce is congratulated by Executive Members following his address.

Delegates take a moment to admire the wood roof during a pre-conference tour of the Richmond Olympic Oval.

Panel members take questions from delegates at the Education, Health and Social Development Cabinet Panel Session on Wednesday, September 30th.

Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development, addresses delegates during the Large Urban Communities Forum.

A UBCM member casts her vote for the 2009-2010 Executive Board.

Delegates listen intently during the Industrial Taxation Session.
Healthy debate and discussion occur in the plenary during a resolutions session.

A delegate contributes ideas during the Rural Development Dialogue Workshop.

President Robert Hobson officially opens the 2009 UBCM Convention, with Past President Susie Gimse and Honourable Bill Bennett looking on.

Premier Gordon Campbell poses with delegates who won the chance to travel to Greece for the Olympic Torch lighting.

FCM President Basil Stewart addresses delegates.

Annual Banquet headtable guests make their way to the banquet on Thursday, October 1.

BCSTA President Connie Denesiuk and UBCM President Robert Hobson renew the BCSTA/UBCM Protocol on Consultation and Cooperation during the Delegates’ Lunch.

Paralympian Kelly Smith motivates the audience as he shares his story of perseverance during the Keynote Address on September 30, 2009.

President Robert Hobson officially opens the 2009 UBCM Convention, with Past President Susie Gimse and Honourable Bill Bennett looking on.
2009 Award Recipients

2009 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 91 individuals, with a collective experience of over 2,000 years. The following elected officials were nominated and qualified for the award this year:

1. Councillor Alan Gordon, City of Cranbrook
2. Councillor Bruce Drake, Village of Belcarra

The following communities were awarded Honourable Mentions in the 2009 UBCM Community Excellence Awards program. Congratulations to all of this year’s winners, honourable mentions and applicants for the outstanding work being done province-wide.

Please visit the Excellence Awards Library on the new UBCM website to download a copy of all Excellence Awards applications.

City of Nanaimo Mayor John Ruttan accepts an Honourable mention in the Best Practices category.

City of North Vancouver Acting Mayor Bob Fearnley and City Manager Ken Tollstam accept an Honourable Mention in the Leadership and Innovation category.

District of Clearwater Corporate Administrator Leslie Groulx, CAO Isabell Hadford, Mayor John Harwood and Councillor Ken Kjenstad accept an Honourable Mention in the Partnerships category.

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Cariboo Regional District Director Mary Sjostrom, CAO Janis Bell, Chair Al Richmond and Vice Chair Ted Armstrong accept an Honourable Mention in the Best Practices Annual Reporting category.

2009 LIFE MEMBER AWARDS

UBCM Life Memberships were presented during the Annual Banquet on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre. This year’s recipients were Minister Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Community Development, 2008 – 2009, Minister Kevin Krueger (not pictured), Minister of Community Development, 2009 and Chair Robert Hobson, outgoing UBCM President.

2009 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

HONOURABLE MENTIONS
President-elect Harry Nyce presented the Community Excellence Awards on Thursday, October 1st at a special breakfast reception honouring all applicants. The audience included winners, applicants, sponsor representatives and Selection Committee members. Audience members heard from Mr. Paul Hemsley, President of Hemmera.

**BEST PRACTICES, Annual Reporting Category WINNER:**
District of North Vancouver

Chair Harry Nyce, North Vancouver District Mayor Richard Walton and CAO David Stewart.

**BEST PRACTICES, Website Innovation WINNER:**
Metro Vancouver, metrovancouverrecycles.org

Chair Harry Nyce, North Vancouver District Mayor Richard Walton and Communications Specialist Peter Cech.

**LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Small Community WINNER:**
Town of Golden, From Page to Stage

Chair Harry Nyce, Mayor Christina Benty and HEMMERA President Paul Hemsley.

**LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Large Community WINNER:**
City of Richmond - Terra Nova Rural Park

Chair Harry Nyce, North Saanich Mayor Alice Finall and Councillors Cairine Green and Peter Chandler.

**PARTNERSHIPS CATEGORY WINNER:**
District of North Saanich - North Saanich Freeride Park

Chair Harry Nyce, North Saanich Mayor Alice Finall and Councillors Cairine Green and Peter Chandler.

**BEST PRACTICES CATEGORY WINNER:**
City of Langford - The Community Safety and Policing Support Initiative

Chair Harry Nyce, Cowichan Valley Regional District Chair Gerry Giles, Director Brian Harrison, Manager of Corporate Planning Jacob Ellis and Director Loren Duncan.

**BEST PRACTICES, Website Category WINNER:**
Cowichan Valley Regional District

Chair Harry Nyce, Cowichan Valley Regional District Chair Gerry Giles, Director Brian Harrison, Manager of Corporate Planning Jacob Ellis and Director Loren Duncan.

**LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Mid-Size Community WINNER:**
District of Lake Country - Lake Country Hydroelectric Generating Station

Chair Harry Nyce, Lake Country Mayor James Baker and Councillors Noreen Guenther, Councillor Bill Scarro and HEMMERA President Paul Hemsley.

**LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Regional District WINNER:**
Regional Districts of East Kootenay / Kootenay Boundary / Central Kootenay - Carbon Neutral Kootenays Project

Chair Harry Nyce, Regional District of East Kootenay Chair Norman Walter, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Chair Marguerite Rotvold, Regional District of Central Kootenay Chair Gary Wright and HEMMERA President Paul Hemsley.
Thanks to our Convention Sponsors...

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Terasen

CONVENTION KITS
BC Hydro

DELEGATES LUNCHEON
Central 1 Credit Union

WELCOME RECEIPTION
City of Vancouver & UBCM

POCKET RE-USABLE BAG
BC Transmission Corporation

REGIONAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTORS FORUM LUNCHEON
Municipal Finance Authority of BC

LARGE URBAN COMMUNITIES FORUM LUNCHEON
Telus

SMALL TALK FORUM LUNCHEON
Spectra Energy

MID SIZED COMMUNITIES FORUM LUNCHEON
Municipal Finance Authority of BC

DELEGATE LOUNGE
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

POCKET PROGRAM
British Columbia Lottery Authority

NAME BADGES
Port Metro Vancouver

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DELEGATE EMAIL SERVICES
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COFFEE SERVICES
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CONTINENTAL BREAKFASTS
BC Professional Firefighters Association, Bull, Houser & Tupper

CONVENTION PROGRAM
BC Assessment Authority, Municipal Insurance Association, Pacific Blue Cross

CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS
BC Automobile Association, Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC, E-Comm 9-1-1, Murdy & McAllister, Recreation Excellence

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Wine Glasses – Terasen
Community Award Plaques – WoodWorks
Notepads – Thunderbird Press Ltd
Pens – Pacific Blue Cross

2009-10 UBCM Executive Committees

Resolutions
Mayor Sharon Gaetz, Chair
Director Heath Ssee, Vice Chair
Mayor Christopher Causton
Mayor Greg Moore
Councillor Barbara Steele, VP Liaison

Nominating
- to be established for 2009-2010
UBCM Past President and Area Association Representatives (Presidents or their designates)

Convention
Chair Robert Hobson, Chair
Councillor Wesly Graham, Vice Chair
Mayor Christopher Causton
Mayor Mary Sjostrom, VP Liaison

PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE
(as established in Executive policies)
Chair Harry Nyce, President
Councillor Barbara Steele, First Vice-President
Director Heath Ssee, Second Vice-President
Mayor Mary Sjostrom, Third Vice President
Chair Robert Hobson, Past President

Community Safety
Councillor Barbara Steele, Chair
Councillor Kevin Flynn, Vice Chair
Mayor James Atebe
Councillor Sharon Gaetz
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Director Heath Ssee, VP Liaison

Environment
Director Rhona Martin, Chair
Director Grace McGregor, Vice Chair
Councillor Kevin Flynn
Councillor Wesly Graham
Mayor Greg Moore
Chair Al Richmond

Healthy Communities
Chair Al Richmond, Chair
Mayor Roland Stanke, Vice Chair
Councillor Murry Krause
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Chair Karren Goodings

First Nations Relations
Councillor Murry Krause, Chair
Mayor Barry Janyk, Vice Chair
Director Rhona Martin
Mayor James Atebe
Chair Robert Hobson, VP Liaison

Community Economic Development
Mayor Mary Sjostrom, Chair
Chair Karren Goodings, Vice Chair
Mayor Barry Janyk
Mayor Roland Stanke
Director Grace McGregor

Regional District Task Force
Chair Robert Hobson
Chair Harry Nyce
Director Susie Girme
Chair Al Richmond
Director Rhona Martin
Mayor Sharon Gaetz
Mayor Frank Leonard
Director Hans Cunningham

New Website
Continued from page 1

correction.

Since many of the pages will be refined over the coming weeks, we have adopted a soft launch for ubcm.ca. Comments or questions about the website are welcome! From any page on the website, click the Contact Us link; or call Reiko Tagami at 604 270 8226, #115.

E-mail Distribution
UBCM is also switching to e-mail distribution of our member notices and releases. This will aid internal distribution by our members and reduce paper consumption. Upon request, UBCM can provide hard-copy notices. To update your contact information for UBCM e-mail distributions, please call Raelene Adamson at 604.270.8226, ext.101.
The change in the funding percentage for operational treatments relates to treatment in non-MPB areas and 50% in mountain pine beetle areas. Previously the program had identified the funding formula to contribute the remainder of the costs of the project, as well as to assist in GIS mapping and spatial data activities related to the program. These staff will primarily be responsible for assisting local governments wishing to access funds for treatment projects in non-MPB areas. Given that the local government development plan – bioenergy, solar, run of river – will “require” the use of wood in public buildings. The Premier announced that Wood First legislation will make it a strengthening part of what we do in our colleges and our young people to get involved, it will make it a strengthening part of what we do in British Columbia to build our public life.”

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARENESS WEEK**

The Premier indicated support for resolution 2009, A2 calling for a Local Government Week in BC. In his address he stated: “With that in mind, I want to let you know that the Province is embracing your resolution to call for a Local Government Week in British Columbia. Local Government Week will not only tell people about what you do; it will ask them how we can do it better. If we can encourage our universities and our colleges and our young people to get involved, it will make it a strengthening part of what we do in British Columbia to build our public life”.

**TASK FORCE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION ACT**

During his address, the Premier also announced the establishment of a task force that will make recommendations on a new Local Government Election Act. “I also know that as we sit here today there’s just a little over two years to go until the next election in 2011. So today I want to let you know that we’ll be forming a task force to make recommendations on writing a new local government election act. It will be stand-alone legislation that will modernize your election rules and create a single, province-wide electoral process for local government elections. It’s in everyone’s interest to update our Local Government Election Act and to create a new, designate a new chief electoral officer as an independent supervisor, administrator and enforcer of common local government election processes. The task force will be co-chaired by the new president of UBCM, Harry Nyce.”

**NORTH WEST CORRIDOR – GREEN DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Premier announced that with a green development plan – bioenergy, solar, run of river – BC will be “supplier of choice”. The Premier also advised that the federal government will contribute $30 million in assistance.

**WOOD FIRST**

The Premier announced that Wood First legislation will “require” the use of wood in public buildings.
PRIME
Continued from page 15

invested $45 million in system infrastructure to develop and implement PRIME-BC and established an agency to manage the system.

Local governments were formally notified on January 1, 2007 that police detachments of departments using PRIME-BC would be assessed a $500 per officer user fee. The PRIME-BC levy was intended as a replacement of the PIRS levy of $485 per officer, that municipalities had been paying since 1981. The province at that time indicated that “the fee for 2008 and beyond had not yet been determined but every effort would be made to mitigate costs while ensuring viability of the system into the future”.

The 100% increase in the cost of PRIME-BC is a substantial increase in costs for a local government. For example, in the case of Surrey, which has the largest detachment in the province, the approximately $600 RCMP officers, it will mean an increase of $300,000 per year. There is currently no consultation with local government on the pricing and cost of the system. Local government has no input into the cost of the PRIME system or how it is managed. It is currently not clear what the cost of PRIME-BC will be in future years.

The PRIME-BC issue is an example of the key problems that local government is facing today in managing the delivery of police services. Local government is expected to pay for the costs of providing new technology to improve the delivery of the service, but it is not provided a clear explanation as to what the ongoing costs of the system may be and has no opportunity to provide input into the process or control the future costs of the system. Local government in the current economic environment does not have the financial ability to pay for the increasing costs of technology that may be introduced by the federal or provincial government to improve the delivery of police services.

The RCMP Executive has sent a letter to the province indicating its opposition to the new PRIME-BC levy. The Executive has also requested detailed information on PRIME-BC operations and its future costs, and requested that a local government representative be appointed to the board to provide some accountability in the system.

Affordability & Accountability
Continued from page 7

UBCM made three key recommendations. The first recommendation focused on the development of a principle based partnership. The second recommendation focused on measures to make policing more affordable. The third recommendation focused on measures to make policing more accountable.

Principles

In the report, UBCM recommended the development of a principle based partnership. The federal government based on a set of established principles (outlined in UBCM General Policy). The following principles were identified:

• Senior government policies and regulations that affect local government should respect the varying needs and conditions of different areas of the province.
• Governments at all levels should be committed to consultation and coordination of their actions to serve the public.
• Local government should be involved in the development and delivery of the programs of other levels of government which are designed to meet local needs.
• Governments should be committed to consultation and joint decision-making whenever they have responsibilities within the same area of jurisdiction.
• Programs that are exclusively determined by senior government should be financed by senior government from their revenue sources.
• Financial assistance should be provided to local governments when their policies over-ride local priorities or impose an additional financial burden on local government and that assistance should be free of added cost burdens.
• Conflicts on matters of public policy between local government and senior government should be settled by negotiation.

A copy of the report and the workshop booklet and backgrounder was e-mailed to each local government to provide a further opportunity for local government input on the 17 issues and other RCMP contract issues. The feedback received to date indicates general agreement with the issues identified and the approach proposed by the Local Government Working Group.

Accountability of Policing

Finally, the report recommended that the federal and provincial government consider increasing direct funding for police services and change the way police services are financed.

• The federal and provincial government pay for the delivery of all regional/integrated police services.

The report recommends that the federal government provide increased funding for mental health treatment, drug rehabilitation, homelessness, and crime prevention initiatives at the community level.

• A study be undertaken by the federal and provincial government to assess the benefits derived from a national/provincial police force today given the increased concerns related to organized crime and international security.

• The federal and provincial government consider increasing direct funding for police services and change the way police services are financed.

The 100% increase in the cost of PRIME-BC is a substantial increase in costs for a local government. For example, in the case of Surrey, which has the largest detachment in the province, the approximately $600 RCMP officers, it will mean an increase of $300,000 per year. There is currently no consultation with local government on the pricing and cost of the system. Local government has no input into the cost of the PRIME system or how it is managed. It is currently not clear what the cost of PRIME-BC will be in future years.

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• Local government should be involved in the development and delivery of the programs of other levels of government which are designed to meet local needs.
• Governments should be committed to consultation and joint decision-making whenever they have responsibilities within the same area of jurisdiction.
• Programs that are exclusively determined by senior government should be financed by senior government from their revenue sources.
• Financial assistance should be provided to local governments when their policies over-ride local priorities or impose an additional financial burden on local government and that assistance should be free of added cost burdens.
• Conflicts on matters of public policy between local government and senior government should be settled by negotiation.

Affordability of Policing

Furthermore, the report identified the following measures to assist in making police costs more affordable to local government:

• The federal and provincial government provide increased funding for mental health treatment, drug rehabilitation, homelessness, and crime prevention initiatives at the community level.
• A study be undertaken by the federal and provincial government to assess the benefits derived from a national/provincial police force today given the increased concerns related to organized crime and international security.
• The federal and provincial government consider increasing direct funding for police services and change the way police services are financed.
• The federal and provincial government pay for the delivery of all regional/integrated police services.

The 100% increase in the cost of PRIME-BC is a substantial increase in costs for a local government. For example, in the case of Surrey, which has the largest detachment in the province, the approximately $600 RCMP officers, it will mean an increase of $300,000 per year. There is currently no consultation with local government on the pricing and cost of the system. Local government has no input into the cost of the PRIME system or how it is managed. It is currently not clear what the cost of PRIME-BC will be in future years.

The PRIME-BC issue is an example of the key problems that local government is facing today in managing the delivery of police services. Local government is expected to pay for the costs of providing new technology to improve the delivery of the service, but it is not provided a clear explanation as to what the ongoing costs of the system may be and has no opportunity to provide input into the process or control the future costs of the system. Local government in the current economic environment does not have the financial ability to pay for the increasing costs of technology that may be introduced by the federal or provincial government to improve the delivery of police services.

The RCMP Executive has sent a letter to the province indicating its opposition to the new PRIME-BC levy. The Executive has also requested detailed information on PRIME-BC operations and its future costs, and requested that a local government representative be appointed to the board to provide some accountability in the system.

Affordability & Accountability
Continued from page 7

UBCM made three key recommendations. The first recommendation focused on the development of a principle based partnership. The second recommendation focused on measures to make policing more affordable. The third recommendation focused on measures to make policing more accountable.

Principles

In the report, UBCM recommended the development of a principle based partnership. The federal government based on a set of established principles (outlined in UBCM General Policy). The following principles were identified:

• Senior government policies and regulations that affect local government should respect the varying needs and conditions of different areas of the province.
• Governments at all levels should be committed to consultation and coordination of their actions to serve the public.
• Local government should be involved in the development and delivery of the programs of other levels of government which are designed to meet local needs.
• Governments should be committed to consultation and joint decision-making whenever they have responsibilities within the same area of jurisdiction.
• Programs that are exclusively determined by senior government should be financed by senior government from their revenue sources.
• Financial assistance should be provided to local governments when their policies over-ride local priorities or impose an additional financial burden on local government and that assistance should be free of added cost burdens.
• Conflicts on matters of public policy between local government and senior government should be settled by negotiation.

Affordability of Policing

Furthermore, the report identified the following measures to assist in making police costs more affordable to local government:

• The federal and provincial government provide increased funding for mental health treatment, drug rehabilitation, homelessness, and crime prevention initiatives at the community level.
• A study be undertaken by the federal and provincial government to assess the benefits derived from a national/provincial police force today given the increased concerns related to organized crime and international security.
• The federal and provincial government consider increasing direct funding for police services and change the way police services are financed.
• The federal and provincial government pay for the delivery of all regional/integrated police services.
2009 Energy and Climate Action Awards – Leadership in Action
Gibsons, Lake Country, Prince George, Delta

A
nnual Energy and Climate Action Awards were presented at the UBCM Convention Banquet on October 1, 2009. The Town of Gibsons won the 2009 Energy & Climate Action Award in the Community Planning and Development category, for development of the Upper Gibsons Neighbourhood Plan. The centerpiece of this neighborhood plan is the new Upper Gibsons Geo-exchange District Energy Utility. The first of its kind in North America, this system, which will be owned and operated by the municipality, will provide renewable earth energy heating to all new buildings in Upper Gibsons, reducing GHG emissions from heating and hot water by an astonishing 96% (1,450 tonnes). This innovative project will result in energy cost savings of $350,000 per year and about 1/3 of that will be returned to residents as energy cost savings.

The District of Lake Country won the award in the Corporate Operations category for the Lake Country Hydroelectric Generating Station, a low impact micro-hydro project that harnesses the power of the existing high elevation water supply system to produce clean, green energy. The municipally-owned and operated hydro project, which is the first of this type to sell power back to BC Hydro, will produce approximately 3900 megawatt-hours of emission-free, renewable electricity per year, enough to power roughly 400 homes.

An Honourable Mention was awarded to the City of Prince George in the Community Planning and Development category. The City of Prince George has implemented a broad spectrum of innovative initiatives demonstrating city-wide dedication and commitment to reducing greenhouse gases, including programs for small and medium-sized business, pilot programs for energy efficiency for both new and existing buildings, and several transit planning programs, including “Free Fare for Clean Air,” a program that provides free transit to the community on air quality advisory days. The “Free Fare” program is the first of its type in Canada.

The Corporation of Delta received the Honourable Mention in the Corporate Operations category for its Climate Change Initiative, a comprehensive, progressive and dynamic climate action strategy. This initiative set a goal of reducing corporate greenhouse gas reductions to 20% below 2006 levels by 2015. Tracking and reporting is integrated into the process and the plan is updated every two years. Energy management has become part of the Corporation’s broader business planning and casing processes. Organizational structures, specifically the Interdepartmental Climate Change Working Group and the Office of Climate Action and Environment, have been established to move implementation forward. The Corporation has also installed a solar hot water system for Municipal Hall. The awards are organized annually by the Community Energy Association in partnership with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, Province of British Columbia and BC Hydro. The awards were presented at the UBCM Convention Banquet by John Yap, Minister of State for Climate Action. “These communities are showing how local governments can be creative in building energy efficient and resilient communities,” said Yap. A record number of entries were received this year and the Community Energy Association extends its congratulations to all applicants in recognition of their significant efforts. As Richard White, Co-Chair, Community Energy Association and Director of Community Development, City of North Vancouver, noted: “The awards celebrate leadership of local governments taking action on climate change and energy. All of the communities that applied for the 2009 awards have demonstrated that energy planning, energy efficiency and renewable energy are possible no matter where you live in the province.”

Community Energy Association 2009 Energy and Climate Action Award Applications:

Through energy efficiency and renewable energy, all applicants are winners!

Community Planning and Development Winner - Town of Gibsons, for the Upper Gibsons Neighbourhood Plan and Upper Gibsons Geo-exchange District Energy Utility

Honourable Mention - City of Prince George, for a broad spectrum of innovative initiatives demonstrating city-wide dedication and commitment to reducing greenhouse gases

Applications:

• Village of Burns Lake, for Community Energy Plan implementation
• City of Colwood, for the Mayor’s Task Force on Energy and Economic Growth, Colwood Community Place, and other community initiatives
• City of North Vancouver, for its 100 Year Sustainability Vision and Concept Plan
• Town of Port Moody, for the Sister Brook Village, a high density complete and sustainable community that uses innovative green technologies
• District of Sparwood, for its Community Sustainability Plan and implementation of LED streetlights

Corporate Operations
Winner - District of Lake Country, for the Lake Country Hydroelectric Generating Station
Honourable Mention - Corporation of Delta, for Delta’s Climate Change Initiative

Applications:
• City of Abbotsford, for the Joint Abbotsford Mission Environmental System (JAMES) Wastewater Treatment Plant
• Capital Regional District, for its green roof/living wall retrofit project
• City of Colwood, for its neighbourhood Zero Emissions Vehicles bylaw and other transportation initiatives
• City of Coquitlam, for the Poirier Recreation Complex District Energy
• City of Dawson Creek, for its On the Path to Carbon Neutral corporate plan
• City of Richmond, for its comprehensive Energy Management Plan
• District of Saanich, for a wide variety of innovative corporate initiatives
• Resort Municipality of Whistler, for the Passive House Whistler demonstration project

Accelerating to Zero

The Community Energy Association has received major funding from the Environment Canada Eco-Action program, for a 2-year project Accelerating to Zero, which will strive to support local governments to significantly reduce emissions from buildings (Build to Zero) and transportation (Road to Zero). It is hoped that, following these pilots in the Lower Mainland and Capital Region, similar initiatives will be offered in other regions of the province:

Build to Zero
Lower Mainland administrators, planners, development and building permit officers and other key staff are invited by the Community Energy Association and the Cascadia Region Green Building Council, to seek ways to accelerate local government adoption of policy, planning and regulatory measures to reduce GHG emissions from existing and new buildings across the Lower Mainland. This initiative will be kick-started by a December 9, 2009 Build to Zero workshop in downtown Vancouver, exploring strategies for action and collaboration across municipalities. The workshop will be followed by one year of facilitated support for interested local governments. Funders include Environment Canada, Vicinity, Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, BC Hydro, CMHC, Terasen and Natural Resources Canada. Other partners include the Province of British Columbia, UBCM, Metro Vancouver, District of Maple Ridge and District of North Vancouver. To register, or for more information, please see the Community Energy Association website, or contact Patrick Bell, Community Energy Planner at (604) 936 0470 or pbell@communityenergybc.ca.
**Table 3: COMPARATIVE RATINGS OF THE CONVENTION**

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<th>Number</th>
<th>Q6: On-site registration conveniences</th>
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<th>Q8: Address general meeting</th>
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**PRE-CONFERENCE PROCEDURES**

1. Registration Procedure and forms
2. Procedures for Submitting and Voting Resolutions
3. Questions for Submitting and Voting Resolutions
4. Food Services
5. Gala Banquet
6. Gala Banquet
7. Gala Banquet
8. Gala Banquet
9. Gala Banquet
10. Gala Banquet

**PROGRAM CONTENT**

1. Economic Sector Forum (Monday)
2. Economic Sector Forum (Monday)
3. Economic Sector Forum (Monday)
4. Economic Sector Forum (Monday)
5. Economic Sector Forum (Monday)
6. Economic Sector Forum (Monday)
7. Economic Sector Forum (Monday)

**2009 CONVENTION SUMMARY AWARDS**

**FIRST PLACE HONOURS:**

**BEST FUNCTION:** Annual Banquet @ 4.5

**BEST PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION:** Richmond Oval Tour @ 4.6

**BEST TUESDAY WORKSHOP:** Practical Pointers on Partnering with First Nations @ 4.2

**BEST THURSDAY WORKSHOP:** Integrating Energy Systems in your Community @ 4.4

**BEST CLINIC:** Sustainable Brownfields – Practices for Today and Resources for Tomorrow @ 4.7

**BEST PARTNER’S PROGRAM:** Three-way Tie: North Shore Tour, Food & Wine Pairing, Larchmount Cruise @ 4.0

**CONTESTERS:**

**BEST FUNCTION:** EA Forum Luncheon @ 4.4

**BEST TUESDAY WORKSHOP:** BC’s Champions in Climate Change Adaptation @ 4.3

**BEST CLINIC:** Community Gardens & Food Security, Wood first @ 4.5

**COMPARISON TABLES:**

Top performers when comparing ratings to past Conventions.

**Most Improved**

**SESSION/EVENT** | **2009 SCORE** | **2008 SCORE** | **Accommodations**
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**Most In Need of Improvement**

**SESSION/EVENT** | **2009 SCORE** | **2008 SCORE** |
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**SCORING:** 5 = Excellent / 4 = Good / 3 = Satisfactory / 2 = Fair / 1 = Poor

**8/5/2009/96**
RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE

During resolutions debate at the 2009 UBCM Convention, two resolutions were referred directly to the UBCM Executive. In addition, four resolutions from the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline were recommended for referral to the UBCM Executive. A further three resolutions that were endorsed by the UBCM membership at Convention request UBCM action on the issues in question. The UBCM Executive will consider all of these resolutions at their November 27th meeting.

Resolutions referred directly to the UBCM Executive by Convention:

A8 DISPOSAL OF SCHOOL PROPERTIES

B68 BC AMBULANCE SERVICE

B95 BUSINESS CLASS EXEMPTION

B96 AMENDMENTS TO THE BUSINESS CLASS EXEMPTION

B97 FARM CLASSIFICATION – HORSE BOARDING, MILK PRODUCTION, FEEDING, PRODUCTION, MEAT, POULTRY, DAIRY, HOMESTYLE, DRY FEED, PRODUCE, AND LIVESTOCK

B98 ELECTED OFFICIALS AS VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

B99 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS ACT

B100 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION DATE

B101 CORPORATE VOTING POWERS

B102 DISQUALIFICATION OF REGIONAL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICE

B103 REQUIREMENT FOR DISCLOSURE ON ‘OTHER VOTING’ CAMPAIGNS

B104 LIMITS ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES

B105 INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR SOLAR POWER GENERATION SYSTEMS

B106 LEGISLATIVE PROHIBITION OF OPEN LOOP THERMAL HEAT PUMPS IN GROUNDWATER PURVEYOR JURISDICTIONS

B107 NEED FOR INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PLANNING PROCESS

B108 SINGLE TRANSFERABLE LICENSE PLATE

B109 CARBON TAX FOR ALTERNATE ENERGY PRODUCTS AND PROGRAMS

B110 LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND INVESTMENT

B111 CLIMATE ACTION SERVICES

B112 CARBON CREDITS

B113 LANDFILL GAS REDUCTION PROJECTS

B114 BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA RECYCLING CAPACITY

B115 INADEQUACIES OF THE BC PRODUCT STewardship RECYCLING PROGRAM

B116 ONE STOP INDUSTRY STEWARDSHIP

B117 PROPOSED TAX AUTHORITY RESTRICTIONS

B118 THROUGH THE REAL ESTATE EXEMPTION

B119 AMENDMENTS TO THE HOMEOWNER PROTECTION ACT

B120 ENVIRONMENTAL FEE

B121 POST-CERTIFICATION MONITORING UNDER THE BC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

B122 SAVING WILD SALMON

B123 CLOSED CONTAINMENT AQUACULTURE TECHNOLOGY

B124 RIPARIAN AREA PROTECTION ON PRIVATE FOREST LANDS

B125 DISPOSAL OF WASTE IN PROVINCE-WIDE FUNDING PROGRAMS

B126 CONTINUATION OF UBCM COMMUNITY TOURISM FUNDING PROGRAM

B127 MOUNTAIN PINE BEEETLE RECOVERY PILOT PROGRAM

B128 LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS.Planning

B129 MEAT REGULATIONS

B130 SHIP TO SHORE POWER AT CONTAINER Terminals

B131 INDEPENDENT SENIORS ADVOCATE

B132 LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS PLANNING

B133 MEAT REGULATIONS

B134 SHIP TO SHORE POWER AT CONTAINER Terminals

B135 SALE OF CROWN LANDS

B136 COMMUNITY WATERSHEDS

B137 INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS

B138 MINING REGULATORY PROCESS

B139 AGRICULTURAL LAND USE CRITERIA

B140 ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES

B141 PRIVATE MOORAGE TENURE

B142 REGULATION AND PROTECTION OF USE OF WATERSWAYS

B143 STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

B144 FOOD FOR EDUCATION

B145 MEASURING UP THE NORTH FUNDING

B146 MEASURING UP THE NORTH – OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLANS

B147 FOR-PROFIT CLINICS

B148 INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATE PROGRAM

B149 TIGHTENING FACILITY PLANNING TIMELINES

B150 REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT FUNDING

B151 MANDATORY FOOD LABELLING FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

B152 DRINKING WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES

B153 STRATA WATER QUALITY REGULATION

B154 HOSPICE CARE – NORthern CANCER STRATEGY

B155 RAIL LINE PROTOCOL USA AND CANADA

B156 A MINOR ROUTES STRATEGY FOR COASTAL FERRY SERVICE

B157 RAILWAY CROSSINGS

B158 MANDATORY LOW TIRES

B159 MANDATORY WINTER TIRES

B160 ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

B161 HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

B162 FUNDING AND REGULATION OF COMMUNITY AIRPORTS

B163 DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOME RENOVATION CHECKLIST

B164 MANUFACTURED HOME REGISTRY

B165 EXEMPT HERITAGE BUILDINGS FROM PROVISIONS OF THE HOMEOWNER PROTECTION ACT

B166 ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS

B167 MEASURING UP THE NORTH – ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

B168 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY ON INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING GAP

Section B – Part III

B174 ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

B175 SPIRIT OF BC DAY

B176 PROVINCIAL INSURANCE REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

B177 ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH FACILITY

B178 SEGWAY PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE

B180 TAXATION TO SUPPORT SPCA

B182 PROVINCIAL CONNECTIVITY SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

Sponsors will receive direct written notification of the Executive decisions and action on the referred resolutions. The outcomes of the above resolutions will also be conveyed to the full membership in the Executive Release, to be distributed and posted to the UBCM website following the November 27th meeting.

Please contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator, by telephone 604.270.8226, ext. 115 or by email: rttagami@ubcm.ca with any questions about this process.

2009 Resolutions Convene

UBCM conveyed 91 member-endorsed resolutions to the provincial government for consideration and comment following the 2009 UBCM Convention. Members will be notified as soon as provincial responses to the 2009 resolutions are received, and copies of individual responses will be forwarded to sponsors. UBCM expects to receive provincial responses to resolutions by late spring 2010, 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 (ubcm.ca) under the Resolutions & Policy tab.

In addition to the provincial convene, 14 resolutions have been conveyed to various federal government ministries, two to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and nine to crown corporations and other agencies and organizations. Responses to these resolutions will 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 contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator, with any questions regarding the above referrals and follow-up to the 2009 Convention resolutions sessions. Telephone: 604.270.8226, ext. 115; Email: rttagami@ubcm.ca
ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION NEWS ...

Continued from page 17

Road to Zero

Early in 2010, a Road to Zero workshop will be launched in the Capital Region, followed by a similar workshop for Lower Mainland municipalities in late-spring 2010. These workshops are intended to build local government capacity and collaboration toward significantly reducing community-wide transportation emissions. Following these workshops will be a year of facilitated support toward implementation of policy, planning and regulatory mechanisms in land use and transportation. Partners include the Capital Regional District, BC Transit, Metro Vancouver, TransLink and the Province. To register, or for more information, please contact Patricia Bell (see above).

Updates

Solar BC grants for operations buildings

SolarBC has a limited number of grants remaining for BC local governments for installations of solar hot water systems on operations buildings such as pools, recreation centres, fire halls and city halls. SolarBC provides an easy one-stop shop for matching grants for up to 50% of costs: up to $40,000 is available from SolarBC (for up to 20 local government installations) and up to $400,000 from Natural Resources Canada. About 15 local governments across BC have indicated commitment from Natural Resources Canada. The Community Energy Association builds climate action capacity in local governments across BC.

For information, contact: 
Peter Robinson, Community Energy Planner, Community Energy Association  
(250) 769 6978 (in Kelowna)  
E-mail: probinson@communityenergy.bc.ca  
Also see SolarBC’s website: www.solarbc.ca/install/local-governments

Off-Road Vehicles

ORVs as including dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles, and will not apply to private lands. Minister Krueger wrote to UBCM President Harry Nyce advising of the new framework, thanking UBCM for its strong support on this matter and advising that the Province will continue to work with UBCM as it moves to develop ORV regulations and policy.

For further information, please contact:  
George Weir, CFO, Community Energy Association  
(604) 628 7076  
Email: fwBrighton@communityenergy.bc.ca

Quest-BC

Quality Urban Energy Systems for Tomorrow (QUEST) is a national initiative promoting an integrated approach to developing sustainable energy systems for communities. The Community Energy Association is part of a core group of organizations including BC Hydro, Terasen, Smart Planning for Communities, developers, several local governments, and ministries, that is actively working to research and remove barriers to integrated community energy systems in B.C. Stay tuned for further developments as the QUEST-BC work teams begin delivering results.

Climate Action Bootcamp - Pilots

Community Energy Association and BC Healthy Communities are partnering to offer a comprehensive series of “bootcamp” workshops for local government staff and elected officials. Two-day workshops provide participants with extensive knowledge for developing and leading a local climate action strategy. The agenda can be tailored to community-wide or operations-specific energy planning. The proposed bootcamps include a significant component on community engagement tools. Recent pilots have been hosted by Qualicum Beach (including neighbouring local governments), Quesnel and Burns Lake. CEA is currently seeking sponsorship to offer the Bootcamps as a regular program, as recent pilots have indicated a great need to build capacity of local governments in this area.

For more information, please contact:  
Dale Littlejohn, Community Energy Association: (604) 628 7076  
dlittlejohn@communityenergy.bc.ca  
Kerri Klein, BC Healthy Communities: (604) 874 9433  
kerri@bchealthycommunities.ca

CEA Local Government Advisory Services

The Community Energy Association builds climate action capacity in local governments across BC. CEA Advisory Services offers this support at a deeper level, working more closely with local governments on community energy plans, community and regional GHG targets, district energy studies, and strategies for carbon neutral operations. Revenues from Advisory Services help fund CEA’s broadly accessible local government support.

To learn more, please contact:  
Dale Littlejohn, Senior Manager  
Local Government Advisory Services  
Community Energy Association  
dlittlejohn@communityenergy.bc.ca  
(604) 628 7076

CEA Welcomes Local Government Members

All BC local governments are now welcome to join the Community Energy Association. UBCM remains the central agency on the CEA Board and Executive. Local government members have access to information, discussions and leadership opportunities. The City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver and FortisBC are CEA’s newest members. The organization is chaired by Dan Rogers, Mayor, City of Prince George and Richard White, Director of Community Development, City of North Vancouver. For membership information, please contact (604) 628 7076 or info@communityenergy.bc.ca or click on ‘join’ on the top tab at www.communityenergy.bc.ca.

Community Energy Association

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V6B 1T6  
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Email: info@communityenergy.bc.ca

Community Energy Association Staff

Vancouver  
Norm Connolly, Executive Director  
Dale Littlejohn, Sr Manager, Advisory Services  
Patricia Bell, Sr Community Energy Planner

Victoria  
Laura Porcher, Manager, Partnership Development

Kelowna  
Peter Robinson, Community Energy Planner

Nelson  
Patricia Dehnel, Community Energy Planner

Warfield  
Adam James, Community Energy Planner

Community Energy Association – connecting communities, energy and sustainability

Website: www.communityenergy.bc.ca

Murdy & McAllister

BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

#1155 – Two Bentall Centre, 555 Burrard Street  
P.O. Box 49059  
Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1C4  
Fax: (604) 689-9029  
Tel: (604) 689-5263

Since 1980 our firm has restricted its practice to acting for local government and providing advice concerning municipal law to other clients.
Applications now being accepted for:
- Building Governance Capacity – applications will be accepted on an on-going basis as funding permits.
- Strategic Wildfire Prevention – accepting applications for the following programs on an on-going basis:
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plans
  - Pilot Projects
  - Operational Fuel Management
- Supporting Treaty Implementation (including 2009/10 and 2010/11 operational funding for TACs) – applications will be accepted on an on-going basis as funding permits.

2. Grant Program Reporting Deadlines:
- Community Tourism 2 – Unless an extension has been granted, final reports are due by December 1, 2009.
- 2009 Community Health Promotion Fund – final reports due by December 31, 2009.
- Age-friendly Community Planning grants (Round 1) – final reports due by December 31, 2009.
- Built Environment & Active Transportation (Round 2) – final reports are due by January 31, 2010.

Cycling and Pedestrian Underpass Opens in Quesnel

A new cycling and pedestrian underpass will connect commuters in South Quesnel with a 12 km trail network with links throughout the community. The underpass, located at the top of Dragon Lake Hill near Racing Road on Highway 97 South, received a total of $1.08 million from the federal Gas Tax Fund, the provincial LocalMotion Fund, and the provincial Public Transit Infrastructure Program, covering the full cost of the project. “This new underpass will provide a safe link for cyclists and pedestrians between South Quesnel and the rest of the Riverfront Trail System,” said Mayor Mary Sjostrom. “It will connect commuters to work, school and recreational services and public transportation networks, waste management, social services and public recreation.”

Prince George Launches “myPG”

A host of community partners are joining forces to develop the first community sustainability plan for Prince George. The first round of public consultations for the “myPG” project was launched with an event in October that attracted 130 participants from across the community. The event jump-started the process of community engagement with an evening that was short on speeches and long on small group conversation and tabletop exercises. “It is important for us to work on the challenges we are facing today while providing the type of leadership that has an eye on the future,” said Mayor Dan Rogers. “myPG is going to help us define that future together as a community and break new ground in issues, including energy security, water and land uses, transportation networks, waste management, social services and public recreation.”

The website incorporates a number of tools to facilitate community engagement and provides a meeting place for the exchange of ideas. The myPG initiative is made possible through $120,000 in funding provided through the Canada-BC-UBCM Gas Tax Fund.
The UBCM supported the Fire Services Liaison Group (FSLG)—which includes representatives from the Fire Chiefs Association of BC, BC Professional Fire Fighters Association, Volunteer Firefighters Association of BC, Fire Prevention Officers Association of BC, and Fire Training Officers Association of BC—in getting financial assistance from the provincial government to undertake a review of the fire service model. In early consultations with the FSLG, UBCM became concerned that the intent of the review was to impose new requirements on local government to provide mandatory delivery of fire/rescue services (fire suppression, first responder services, rescue services etc.) and that a mandatory minimum training standard be introduced for all fire departments. UBCM indicated early in the discussions that local government could not afford the implementation of these types of measures and that they could have a major impact on the delivery of fire services across the province, and withdrew as an active participant in the report being developed by the FSLG looking at a new model for the delivery of fire services.

A draft report entitled “Proposed Fire/Rescue System Model” was released to members of the fire services community on December 15, 2008 and local governments were also requested to provide input into the process. The report contained 36 recommendations, or elements, as they were identified in the document. UBCM requested local governments to respond to the report, and based on the comments received, the following issues were identified as high priority:

- Improved Training Delivery – particularly as it relates to volunteer firefighters;
- Improved Liability Protection – provide liability protection to local government when it is responding to a request for fire services outside its local boundaries;
- New Financial Resources – need to enhance the financial resources available to provide fire services, and recognize that the province and other provincial agencies that are benefiting from the delivery of fire services contribute to the cost of these services;
- Creation of a Fire Services Advisory Board.

There were a number of issues raised in the draft report that UBCM saw a need for further consultation on to ensure a clear understanding around the intent of the changes before any action was taken. These included issues such as:

- expansion of the delivery of fire services to include first responder services, motor vehicle accidents, and rescue services;
- consistent and mandatory fire service standards across the province; and
- changing the underlying responsibility and accountability for the delivery of fire services across the province.

The primary service provided by fire departments currently is fire suppression. If this is to be expanded to include other services, and the role and responsibilities of the various parties is expected to change, it is important to understand whether there is the capacity to undertake these changes. The report recommends addressing some of the concerns raised.

The UBCM Executive has indicated its support for the following recommendations outlined in the report:

- Recommendation 1: Establish A Fire Services Advisory Board
- Recommendation 2: Review and Adjustment of Mandate
- Recommendation 4: Support Training, Recruitment and Retention For Volunteer Departments
- Recommendation 7: Investigate Local And Regional Efficiencies
- Recommendation 10: Update Compensation Agreements For Services To Provincial Agencies
- Recommendation 11: Improve Training Opportunities
- Recommendation 13: Research And Develop Best Practices
- Recommendation 14: Support Training, Recruitment and Retention For Volunteer Departments
- Recommendation 15: Investigate Local And Regional Efficiencies
- Recommendation 18: Update Compensation Agreements For Services To Provincial Agencies
- Recommendation 21: Improve Training Opportunities
- Recommendation 22: Research And Develop Best Practices

The other recommendations in the report will require further discussion and review. UBCM is interested in participating in further discussions through a provincial advisory committee to help identify the issues identified in the report and how they might be implemented in the future. It is anticipated that there will be further opportunity for local government to comment on the recommendations outlined in the report.

Healthy Communities ~ Continued

Planning for the Future: Building Age-Friendly and Disability-Friendly Communities

Submitted by Rebekah Mahaffey, Coordinator, Measuring Up 2010 Legacies Now

Are you planning for all members of our community? British Columbia’s population is aging. Statistics Canada estimates 14% of British Columbia’s population is aged 65, and this percentage continues to rise. Of this group, around 30% of people aged 65-74, and approximately 50% of people aged 75 and older, report living with a disability. The most commonly reported disabilities include visual, hearing and, or a range of mobility-related disabilities, many of which are related to aging.

Communities that plan ahead to ensure everyone is able to contribute to society are more resilient in their response to these social and demographic shifts, and can take better advantage of the resulting economic changes. Residents full participation in community life also influences the wellbeing of the community as a whole, by enabling people to live in their community of choice, shop locally, and contribute their skills and talents locally.

The Union of BC Municipalities completed participatory planning processes to discover what works well locally around accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities and older people. UBCM used the results of these processes, and with the funds and assistance provided, they have prioritized projects that will lead to improvements in their communities.

The District of Port Hardy, for example, has formed an Integrated Community Advisory Committee with representation from the Gwa’sala’Nakwaxda’w/x First Nation, Tourism Port Hardy, Port Hardy Elders’ Society, Port Hardy Literacy Now, Abbeyfield Development Committee, community disability advocates and others.

This committee has supported the District through a six-month planning and assessment process, which included a number of community forums and open houses, and resulted in a list of priorities sorted into short- and long-term projects. These projects have been incorporated into District work-plans and budget processes, and the committee will continue to meet quarterly to review milestones and monitor progress.

Using the grants they received as a pilot community, Port Hardy has completed some of the projects on their priority list. The District has improved access to the community senior’s centre, developed a comprehensive guide to seniors’ services in the area, and installed accessible shower facilities at the community recreation centre. Port Hardy has also created an accessibility guide to local parks and trails, and installed accessible exercise stations and picnic tables at Stink Creek Park and Carrot Park.

The other recommendations in the report will require further discussion and review. UBCM is interested in participating in further discussions through a provincial advisory committee to help identify the issues identified in the report and how they might be implemented in the future. It is anticipated that there will be further opportunity for local government to comment on the recommendations outlined in the report.

For more information on how your local government can get involved in building an age-friendly and disability-friendly community, including tips and resources on how to make your community more accessible and inclusive, visit http://www.measuring_up.ca/measuring_up/ and the Age-Friendly Communities Initiative website http://www.agefriendlycommunities.ca.

For more information on the District of Port Hardy’s continuing efforts to become more disability- and age-friendly, please contact Patti Smedley via email at psmedley@porthardy.ca, or phone: 250-949-6665.
Is Your Mind Open?

By Eli Mina, Board Effectiveness Consultant & Registered Parliamentarian

In recent issues of the UBCM Newsletter, this series discussed bad habits (or “dysfunctions”) that may tempt you over the three year term. For each dysfunction, the series described the damage it can inflict, as well as measures to minimize its occurrences and damaging effects.

This article analyzes only one very significant dysfunction on public Councils or Boards: A closed mind. For a fuller coverage of Boardroom problems, look up Eli Mina’s book “101 Boardroom Problems and How to Solve Them.”

Consider this scenario: A Council member is elected, largely thanks to significant help from a community group that promotes and advocates for a certain agenda, e.g.: a pro-development group, an anti-development group, or a coalition to eliminate tax increases. The group expects that, should he win the election, the individual will advocate vigorously for its causes.

Indeed, during the election campaign, the individual makes pronouncements and promises on how he will vote on issues that affect his group’s agenda. After the election, he essentially functions as an advocate and a proxy for his community group, and everyone knows how he will vote on his “pet issues.” He shows little or no interest in other issues, but in order to not “waste” his vote, he makes deals with other Councillors and trades his vote (in support of their agendas) in exchange for their support of his issues.

Is there a problem here? Read on.

Consider a second scenario: In a small community, after a Council meeting, a Councillor is met by a close friend on her way home, who speaks to her anxiously about an upcoming vote and pressures her to act for what she perceives as the best interest of the community as a whole.

Consider this third scenario: A local Council debates an upcoming vote on the Regional Board. Based on the information they have, Councillors strongly oppose the proposed measure and formally vote to oppose it. At the Regional Board meeting, new details that the local Council was unaware of are presented, which should compel its representatives on the Board to vote in the affirmative. What will they do? Will they vote according to the resolution adopted by their Council, or will they act correctly and vote in favor of the measure?

Lastly, consider a public hearing to receive input on a contentious re-zoning bylaw. Before the hearing, one of the Councillors feels so positive about the proposed bylaw that he pronounces to the media and to anyone who cares enough to listen: “I will vote in favor of this bylaw. It is the right course of action for the community. It doesn’t matter what any citizen says about it during the public hearing. My mind is made up!” After the public hearing, when the bylaw is adopted, opponents sue the municipality and demand that the process be declared invalid, bylaw is adopted, opponents sue the municipality and demand that the process be declared invalid, bylaw is adopted, opponents sue the municipality and demand that the process be declared invalid, bylaw is adopted, opponents sue the municipality and demand that the process be declared invalid, bylaw is adopted, opponents sue the municipality and demand that the process be declared invalid.

The above four scenarios illustrate how Councils and Boards can be severely compromised by closed minds. In each one of these cases, the ability of the individuals in question to act as objective and open minded decision makers, is compromised. Even when they learn things they had not known, their minds may be too closed or they may be too afraid of political consequences, that they may not be able to make correct and informed decisions on controversial issues.

Elected officials should consider that their role is to act as objective and informed decision makers, and that it is their duty to come to meetings with open minds. This does not mean that they are not allowed to have views and biases, but only that they must have the capacity to fully learn from the discussion and adjust – and possibly even reverse - their views based on what they learn. A wise person put it this way: “You must come to meetings with an open mind. It doesn’t mean an empty mind (i.e.: you are entitled to your biases), but an open one.”

Closed minds tend to politicize and constrain the decision-making process and the organization. They also erode public trust and build cynicism among citizens towards their elected officials.

So what is the answer? The open mind principle is very significant to the integrity of a decision-making process. The community is entitled to have its elected officials act in a mature, intelligent, sensible and trust worthy manner. It is entitled to have decision makers who are principled and eager to learn, and who cast their votes with all the information they must consider. It is entitled to have a decision-making body with the strength and backbone to say no to flawed proposals, even if they serve narrow interests or fulfill misplaced promises.

So what should you, as a trusted elected official, do to avoid a closed mind?

1. Change your mode from being, “a single issue advocate” to being an objective, open minded, and eager to learn decision maker. Remember that your role is to cast informed votes on all issues, and not only on those that affect your specific agenda.

2. Avoid giving pre-meeting promises that may diminish your ability to act objectively.

3. If you make pre-election promises at all, make them generic and not specific.

4. Don’t make emphatic, absolute, indignant or emotional statements that convey the impression of a closed mind. Decide how to vote only after the debate ends.

5. Treat professional staff and advisors as partners in decision making, as it is their job to ensure that you have the information you need for making responsible decisions.

6. Treat citizens who make presentations to Council as sources of knowledge. Even if you are convinced that some citizens are speaking from positions of emotion, ignorance and self-interest, treat them with respect and listen for legitimate and useful “gems” that may be hidden within “the fluff” that you think they are presenting.

7. Always remember that you are a trustee for the public good and assets. As a trustee, you must act in a manner that will earn the trust of the citizens and the community as a whole (and not only those who campaigned to have you elected).

8. Learn to say no respectfully but firmly. For example: “I hear you and I understand how you feel about this vote, and you are welcome to apply to make a formal presentation to Council. Having said that, I need to let you know that my duty to the community as a whole is to listen and learn from my colleagues on Council, our professional staff, and public presenters. With this in mind, I cannot possibly make any promises on how I’ll vote. I’ll make my decision when the vote is called, with the benefits of all the information that we receive.”

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” was recently published. Eli is also the author of four other books on meetings, rules of order, shared decision-making and minute taking. Eli can be reached at 604-730-0377. For more information on Eli’s books visit www.elimina.com.
The Return-It™ Electronics program is the only program in Canada that collects television City and computer monitors on a provincial basis.

The program is conducted by the Electronics Stewardship Association of British Columbia (ESABC), an industry led, not-for-profit stewardship company. Encorp Pacific (Canada), a federally incorporated not-for-profit product stewardship corporation, was selected by the ESABC to develop and administer the program.

REDUCING THE COST.

An Environmental Handling Fee (EHF) is applied to the purchase of electronics included in the program to cover the costs of recycling. Fees vary by the type of equipment. On August 1, 2009 fees were decreased by 20%-75% in all but one category. Every penny of the funds collected is used to cover the costs of recycling.

Want to help keep end-of-life electronics out of BC’s landfills? Visit return-it.ca/electronics to find your nearest collection site location and information about drop-off events.

WHAT’S INCLUDED IN THE RETURN-IT™ ELECTRONICS PROGRAM?

- Use two methods to recycle end-of-life electronics.
- Display Devices: Display devices include flat panel and tube technologies (CRT, Plasma, LCD, flat panel, rear projection, etc.)
- Portable Computers: Includes portable computers such as notebook, laptop and tablet PCs.
- Desktop Computers: Includes Central Processing Units (CPUs), cables and other components within the computer. This includes desktop computers, desktop computers acting as servers, and all associated cabling.
- Display Devices: Display devices include flat panel and tube technologies (CRT, Plasma, LCD, flat panel, rear projection, etc.) used for televisions, computer monitors and professional displays.
- Portable Computers: Includes portable computers such as notebook, laptop and tablet PCs.
- Desktop Printers & Fax Machines: For devices designed to reside on a work surface, including laser & LED (electrophotographic), ink jet, dot matrix, thermal, dye sublimation, etc. and “multi-function” devices that perform different tasks such as copy, scan, fax, print, etc.
- Computer Peripherals: Selected manual input devices such as keyboards and/or pointing devices such as mice and track balls. Both wired and wireless technologies apply.

HOW ELECTRONICS ARE RECYCLED.

Currently, the recyclers contracted by Encorp use two methods to recycle end-of-life electronics.

Process 1
Elements that fume, such as lead, zinc, cadmium, tin, germanium and indium, are captured and processed. The silica, iron and aluminum that remain in a slag are converted into value-added products for the construction/cement industry. Aluminum can also be removed and sent for further refining. Plastics, wood and other organics are used to fuel the furnaces that create the heat for the process. Copper and circuit boards are removed at shredding operations and sold to specialty metal refiners.

Process 2
The leaded glass Cathode Ray Tubes in display devices, such as TVs and computer monitors, are removed by hand. Also, plastics, copper and circuit boards are hand-sorted and sent to downstream recyclers. Computers, computer mice and keyboards are sent through shredding processes and plastics are machine sorted. Aluminum, copper and steel are sorted through a mix of hand and machine sorting and sent for further recycling. Plastics are machine sorted and sent to downstream recyclers for further processing.