Election Results Show Voters Favour Experience

Overall, the 2011 results also show a drop in turnover across all offices, with an overall rate of 35%. This result backs a trend going back over seven general local government elections in which the turnover percentage averaged 44%.

In other statistics of note, the percentage of women elected continued its upward trend, reaching nearly 34%. Voter turnout also increased over the 2008 elections, with an increase of 2.7%, to a total of 29.5% of eligible voters.

Program Highlights

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

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

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

- Eight different seminars will be held in locations across the Province including Nelson, Kelowna, Parksville, Richmond and Prince George.

- A seminar has been added in Prince George to accommodate NCLGA members.

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

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

Small Communities population <10,000:
January 11 - 13, Delta Airport, Richmond
SILGA member communities:
January 18 – 20, Grand Okanagan, Kelowna
AVICC member communities:
January 24 – 26, Tigh-Na-Mara, Parksville
January 25 - 27, Tigh-Na-Mara, Parksville


turnover across all offices, with an overall rate of 35%. This result backs a trend going back over seven general local government elections in which the turnover percentage averaged 44%.

Overall, the 2011 results also show a drop in turnover across all offices, with an overall rate of 35%. This result backs a trend going back over seven general local government elections in which the turnover percentage averaged 44%.

In other statistics of note, the percentage of women elected continued its upward trend, reaching nearly 34%. Voter turnout also increased over the 2008 elections, with an increase of 2.7%, to a total of 29.5% of eligible voters.

Program Highlights

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

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

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

- Eight different seminars will be held in locations across the Province including Nelson, Kelowna, Parksville, Richmond and Prince George.

- A seminar has been added in Prince George to accommodate NCLGA members.

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

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

Small Communities population <10,000:
January 11 - 13, Delta Airport, Richmond
SILGA member communities:
January 18 – 20, Grand Okanagan, Kelowna
AVICC member communities:
January 24 – 26, Tigh-Na-Mara, Parksville
January 25 - 27, Tigh-Na-Mara, Parksville

2011 Convention Announcements

The 2011 UBCM Convention marked the first UBCM convention for the provincial government under the new Premier, Christy Clark. As in previous years, the provincial government maintained a strong Convention presence with provincial government staff and Cabinet meetings, Cabinet Panels, government reception and as has been tradition, the Premier’s address to delegates on Friday morning. The focus of the Premier’s address was on promoting the government’s new jobs strategy – Canada Starts Here. The following is an extract of the Premier’s address:...
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: Harry Nyce, Past President; Mike Bernier, NCLGA representative; Christopher Causton, AVICC Representative and Kevin Flynn, SILGA representative.

As well as a result of the local government elections, the UBCM Executive recently lost four members: Barry Janyk, Third Vice-President; James Atebe, Director at Large; Norreen Guenther, incoming SILGA representative and Mel Kositsky, Vancouver Metro Area representative. The following is our expression of thanks to these dedicated individuals.

Harry Nyce

As a director and Chair of the Kitimat Stikine RD, Harry joined the UBCM Executive in 2005 when he was elected to serve as a Director at Large. He served as a Director at Large until 2008 when he was elected to the position of Third Vice-President. In November of 2008, local government elections resulted in two vacancies within the Table Officers, and Harry became UBCM’s First Vice-President. At the 2009 UBCM Convention, Harry was elected as the First Nations President of UBCM.

During his 6 years on the UBCM Executive, Harry served on many Committees including: Chair and member of the Presidents Committee; member of First Nations Relations Committee; Environment Committee; Convention Committee and Resolutions Committee. As well he served as Chair of the Nominating Committee during his term as Past President.

His external appointments have included serving as UBCM’s representative to the FCN National Board of Directors; Order of BC; and Harry also served as co-Chair of the joint Local Government Elections Task Force with the then Minister of Community Development, Bill Bennett.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Harry for his many years of service and his contributions to the UBCM Executive.

Mike Bernier

Mike Bernier, mayor of Dawson Creek served on the UBCM Executive over the past six years as the representative and President of the North Central Local Government Association. During his year, Mike served on the Resolutions Committee in 2010 he again returned to serve as a Director at Large. At the 2011 UBCM Convention, Barry was acclaimed as Third Vice- President. However as a result of the local government elections on November 19th, Barry was not returned to office.

Throughout his tenure on the Executive, Barry served as a member of the Community Economic Development Committee, ran for the First Nations Relations Committee. With his Island counterpart, Christopher Causton, Barry spearheaded the establishment of the Ferry Fares Advisory Committee. The Committee made representation to the Minister of Transportation and the Ferry Commissioner advocating that ferries are an extension of the provincial highway system, and as such, need to be funded and administered accordingly.

We wish Barry all the best, and thank him for his valuable contribution to the UBCM Executive.

Barry Janyk

Barry Janyk of Gibsons, joined the UBCM Executive in 2008 as the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities representative to the board. In 2009 he was elected to a Director at Large position and in 2010 he again returned to serve as a Director at Large. At the 2011 UBCM Convention, Barry was acclaimed as Third Vice- President. However as a result of the local government elections on November 19th, Barry was not returned to office.

Continued on page 3
Around the Province

Former Executive Members
Continued from page 2

Over his three years on the Executive, Christopher served on the Resolutions Committee, Convention Committee, Community Safety Committee and Nominating Committee, on behalf of his Area Association. In addition, Christopher served as a member of the 2009-2010 Executive Structure Review Committee. This past year, with his Sunshine Coast counterpart Barry Janyk, he was instrumental in the establishment of the UBCM’s Ferry Fares Advisory Committee. The Committee made representation to the Minister of Transportation and Ferry Commissioner advocating that ferries are an extension of the provincial highway system, and as such, need to be funded and administered accordingly.

All the best Christopher, and thank you for your contribution to the UBCM Executive.

Kevin Flynn

As the President of the Southern Interior Local Government Association, Kevin Flynn, from Salmon Arm, served as their representative to the UBCM Executive for the past three years commencing in 2008. During his years on the Executive, Kevin served as both a member and Chair of the Community Safety Committee and member of the Environment and Convention Committees.

As Chair of the Community Safety Committee, Kevin provided key input to the RCMP contract file and worked directly with the RCMP contract management committee in ensuring the interests of local governments are being heard by both provincial and federal officials.

We wish to thank Kevin for his contribution to the UBCM Executive and wish him all the best.

James Atebe

James Atebe from Mission joined the Executive in 2009 as the President of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association. After serving a year in this capacity, James ran for a Director at Large at the 2010 Convention and was elected. He was acclaimed Director at Large for a second term at the 2011 UBCM Convention. However, as result of the local government elections on November 19th, James was not returned to elected office.

Over his years on the UBCM Executive, James was a valuable member of the Community Economic Development Committee, First Nations Relations Committee, and Community Safety Committee. James also served on the Ferry Fares Advisory Committee this past year, representing the interests of local governments concerned about ferry rates and service levels.

UBCM extends their thanks and best wishes to James for his valuable contribution.

Noreen Guenther

As incoming Southern Interior Local Government Association President, Noreen Guenther from Lake Country had been appointed to serve as their representative to the UBCM Executive for the coming year. However, as result of the local government elections on November 19th, Noreen was not returned to elected office.

Prior to this year, Noreen had previously served on the UBCM Executive and continued to serve as UBCM’s external appointment to two energy conservation and efficiency working groups. Her contributions to both these working groups will be missed especially by members of the Community Economic Development Committee, to which Noreen reported.

We thank Noreen for her contributions and wish her all the best.

Mel Kositsky

Mel Kositsky from Langley Township had been elected as one of two new Vancouver Metro Area representatives on the UBCM Executive at the 2011 UBCM Convention. Mel too, had previously served on the UBCM Executive prior to this year. However, as result of the local government elections on November 19th, Mel was not returned to elected office.

We wish Mel all the best.

Again, UBCM extends its thanks to all of you for your dedicated service on behalf of all local governments across the province.

2011 - 2012 UBCM EXECUTIVE

President
Director Heath Slee
East Kootenay RD

First Vice-President
Mayor Mary Sjostrom
Queensel

Second Vice-President
Director Rhona Martin
Columbia Shuswap RD

Third Vice President
Vacant *

Past President
Councillor Barbara Steele
Surrey

Vancouver Representative
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Vancouver

GVRD (Metro Van) Rep.
Mayor Greg Moore
Port Coquitlam

Small Community Rep.
Mayor Galina Durant
Stewart

Electional Area Rep.
Chair Al Richmond
Cariboo RD

Vancouver Metro Area Representatives
Councillor Sav Dhaliwal
Burnaby

Vacant *

AKBLG
Councillor Wesly Graham
Creston

LMLGA
Councillor Lorrie Williams
New Westminster

NCLGA
Chair Art Kaehn
Fraser-Fort George RD

SILGA
Councillor Harry Kroecker
Merritt

AVICC
Chair Joe Stanhope
Nanaimo RD

Directors at Large
Mayor Sharon Gaetz
Chilliwack

Mayor Dave Pernarowski
Terrace

Councillor Murry Krause
Prince George

Director Jerriilyn Schembri
Tumber Ridge

Vacant *

* As a result of the November 19th Local Government Elections, there are three vacancies which will be addressed in the coming weeks.

2011 Convention Announcements
Continued from page 1

Infrastructure Funding – Recreation Facilities

As part of her address to delegates the Premier also announced a new infrastructure funding program for recreation facilities.

Today I’m pleased to announce that we will be doing something that will create jobs and strengthen families in communities across British Columbia. We will be helping local communities open the doors to new or improved recreation facilities in the communities where they live. We are creating a $30m fund for local governments to apply for capital projects that will improve and promote healthy living in your communities. We will partner with you to invest up to 80% of the funds for recreational facilities. These projects and their construction will create jobs, but more importantly, it will allow families to spend time together. It will bring communities closer, knit them together, having fun and getting healthier.

Further to this announcement, UBCM has determined that the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development is administering the grant program. Eligible recreation projects will include sports facilities, community recreation spaces, fitness facilities, trails, bike paths, walkways, playgrounds and other indoor or outdoor recreational centres. Program details indicate that priority will be given to small communities, many of which lack the capacity to fund infrastructure. Applications submitted between Oct. 14 and Dec. 28, 2011 will be considered for project approval, with the limit of one application per community. Regional districts will have the opportunity to submit up to three applications.

Announcements of successful applicants and funding will be made by March 31, 2012. Further program information is posted on the ministry website at: http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/1gd/finance/grants.htm

2111-2012 UBCM Executive

2011 convention announcements

Infrastructure funding – recreation facilities

As part of her address to delegates the premier also announced a new infrastructure funding program for recreation facilities.
RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE

During resolutions debate at the 2011 UBCM Convention, the UBCM membership referred five resolutions directly to the UBCM Executive. In addition, due to time constraints, nine resolutions were referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for consideration, in accordance with Section 30 of the Conference Rules & Procedures for Handling Resolutions. Moreover, a further five resolutions that were endorsed by the UBCM membership at Convention request UBCM action on the issues in question. The UBCM Executive considered these resolutions at their November 25 meeting.

Resolutions referred directly to the UBCM Executive by Convention:
- SR1 Medical Marihuana
- B128 Riparian Area Regulation Variance Protocol Update
- B131 Carbon Neutral Obligations
- B139 Fuel Management Prescription Program
- B148 School District Board Transparency

Resolutions referred automatically to the UBCM Executive, due to time constraints:
- B166 Allocation of Pacific Halibut to Sport Fishing Sector
- B169 Incandescent Light Bulb Ban
- B170 Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- B171 Trapping Regulations
- B172 Carbon Taxing of the Coal Industry
- B173 Tuition Fees
- B175 Provincial Income Assistance Rates
- B176 Cuts to Family Reunification Program

Endorsed resolutions that request UBCM action:
- B100 Consultation with Local Government Regarding Resource Management
- B101 Urban Farms
- B115 Improvement of Accountability Measures
- B142 Travel Expense for Participating in UBCM Committee Meetings
- B147 UBCM Name Change

Sponsors will receive 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 25 meeting.

For further information about this process, please contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator. Tel: 604.270.8226, ext. 115; Email: rtagami@ubcm.ca

In addition to the provincial conveyance, 26 resolutions have been conveyed to various federal government ministries, nine to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and 15 to crown corporations and other organizations. Responses to these resolutions will be forwarded to sponsors and added to the online resolutions database as they are received throughout the coming year.

For further information regarding the above referrals, or follow-up to the 2011 Convention resolutions sessions, please contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator. Tel: 604.270.8226, ext. 115; Email: rtagami@ubcm.ca

UBCM conveyed 137 member-endorsed resolutions to the provincial government for consideration and comment following the 2011 UBCM Convention. Members will be notified as soon as provincial responses to the 2011 resolutions are received, and individual responses will be forwarded to sponsors. UBCM expects to receive the provincial responses by late spring 2012, based on 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 conveyance, 26 resolutions have been conveyed to various federal government ministries, nine to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and 15 to crown corporations and other organizations. Responses to these resolutions will be forwarded to sponsors and added to the online resolutions database as they are received throughout the coming year.

For further information regarding the above referrals, or follow-up to the 2011 Convention resolutions sessions, please contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator. Tel: 604.270.8226, ext. 115; Email: rtagami@ubcm.ca

2011 RESOLUTIONS CONVEYANCE

UBCM conveyed 137 member-endorsed resolutions to the provincial government for consideration and comment following the 2011 UBCM Convention. Members will be notified as soon as provincial responses to the 2011 resolutions are received, and individual responses will be forwarded to sponsors. UBCM expects to receive the provincial responses by late spring 2012, based on 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 conveyance, 26 resolutions have been conveyed to various federal government ministries, nine to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and 15 to crown corporations and other organizations. Responses to these resolutions will be forwarded to sponsors and added to the online resolutions database as they are received throughout the coming year.

For further information regarding the above referrals, or follow-up to the 2011 Convention resolutions sessions, please contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator. Tel: 604.270.8226, ext. 115; Email: rtagami@ubcm.ca

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE

During resolutions debate at the 2011 UBCM Convention, the UBCM membership referred five resolutions directly to the UBCM Executive. In addition, due to time constraints, nine resolutions were referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for consideration, in accordance with Section 30 of the Conference Rules & Procedures for Handling Resolutions. Moreover, a further five resolutions that were endorsed by the UBCM membership at Convention request UBCM action on the issues in question. The UBCM Executive considered these resolutions at their November 25 meeting.

Resolutions referred directly to the UBCM Executive by Convention:
- SR1 Medical Marihuana
- B128 Riparian Area Regulation Variance Protocol Update
- B131 Carbon Neutral Obligations
- B139 Fuel Management Prescription Program
- B148 School District Board Transparency

Resolutions referred automatically to the UBCM Executive, due to time constraints:
- B166 Allocation of Pacific Halibut to Sport Fishing Sector
- B169 Incandescent Light Bulb Ban
- B170 Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- B171 Trapping Regulations
- B172 Carbon Taxing of the Coal Industry
- B173 Tuition Fees
- B175 Provincial Income Assistance Rates
- B176 Cuts to Family Reunification Program

Endorsed resolutions that request UBCM action:
- B100 Consultation with Local Government Regarding Resource Management
- B101 Urban Farms
- B115 Improvement of Accountability Measures
- B142 Travel Expense for Participating in UBCM Committee Meetings
- B147 UBCM Name Change

Sponsors will receive 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 25 meeting.

For further information about this process, please contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator. Tel: 604.270.8226, ext. 115; Email: rtagami@ubcm.ca

In addition to the provincial conveyance, 26 resolutions have been conveyed to various federal government ministries, nine to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and 15 to crown corporations and other organizations. Responses to these resolutions will be forwarded to sponsors and added to the online resolutions database as they are received throughout the coming year.

For further information regarding the above referrals, or follow-up to the 2011 Convention resolutions sessions, please contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator. Tel: 604.270.8226, ext. 115; Email: rtagami@ubcm.ca

2011 RESOLUTIONS CONVEYANCE

UBCM conveyed 137 member-endorsed resolutions to the provincial government for consideration and comment following the 2011 UBCM Convention. Members will be notified as soon as provincial responses to the 2011 resolutions are received, and individual responses will be forwarded to sponsors. UBCM expects to receive the provincial responses by late spring 2012, based on 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 conveyance, 26 resolutions have been conveyed to various federal government ministries, nine to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and 15 to crown corporations and other organizations. Responses to these resolutions will be forwarded to sponsors and added to the online resolutions database as they are received throughout the coming year.

For further information regarding the above referrals, or follow-up to the 2011 Convention resolutions sessions, please contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator. Tel: 604.270.8226, ext. 115; Email: rtagami@ubcm.ca
ENVIRONMENT POLICY IN BRIEF

Climate Action Charter: Carbon Neutrality

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 reporting on the Charter. To date, 179 local governments have provided UBCM with signed copies of the Climate Action Charter.

The joint Provincial – UBCM Green Communities Committee (GCC) has been working with local governments to assist them in achieving these goals, including developing a common approach for local governments to become carbon neutral by 2012. As part of this work, a draft step-by-step guidebook called Becoming Carbon Neutral – a Guidebook for Local Governments in BC has been developed that outlines the four key steps to achieving carbon neutrality: measuring, reducing, offsetting, and/or balancing and publicly reporting. The guidebook now includes 4 project profiles that local governments can use to measure GHG reductions resulting from these GHG reduction projects. Each of the project profiles contains an embedded spreadsheet for determining the annual emissions reductions associated with each project. The guidebook can be found on the BC Climate Action Toolkit Website at www.toolkit.bc.ca/carbon-neutral-government.

As part of a series of regional workshops and webinars held throughout the province in June, local governments were invited to comment on the idea of a ‘making progress toward carbon neutrality’ proposal. The intent of this approach would be to provide some flexibility for those signatories who were uncertain of being able to fully achieve the 2012 carbon neutral target date.

Following from these consultations, the GCC has determined that ‘making progress toward carbon neutrality’ will be supported as part of the common approach under the Climate Action Charter. The ‘making progress toward’ approach will provide that in the short-term, if some local governments are only able to achieve some of the steps to carbon neutrality (e.g. they measure, reduce and report on corporate emissions), this will demonstrate making progress toward carbon neutrality. In addition, through the carbon neutral reporting process, local governments will be asked to report on corporate and community-wide actions they have undertaken that may be more difficult to quantify in terms of reduced greenhouse gases, but are equally important for progress toward the Climate Action Charter goals (e.g. anti-idling bylaws, bike and walking path networks, ‘green’ zoning bylaws).

Local governments who are ‘making progress toward’ will not be able to claim carbon neutrality for the purposes of the Climate Action Charter. However, this approach would demonstrate local government progress and commitment toward carbon neutrality, as well as allow local governments to report on and publicly celebrate actions that support the broader spirit of the Climate Action Charter. Local governments that have the capacity and resources to achieve all four steps of carbon neutrality by 2012 will lead the way for others.

In addition, as part of their work supporting local government signatories to the Climate Action Charter, the Green Communities Committee (GCC) has recommended SMARTTool for use by local governments. SMARTTool is a web-based, carbon emissions inventory and reporting tool that provides a standardized approach to calculating and reporting an organization’s corporate greenhouse gas emissions. As an initiative, the GCC will provide local governments with sign on to use SMARTTool before February 24, 2012 with a 50% reduction in their 2011/12 on-boarding year costs. For further information on the benefits of SMARTTool, the GCC incentive, and how to sign up to receive the incentive, please visit www.toolkit.bc.ca/smarttool-recommendation.

Environmental Management Act

The Ministry of Environment is proposing to introduce a Small Electrical Power Generating Facilities Code of Practice under the Environmental Management Act (EMA). The objective of the proposed Code of Practice is to ensure that small facilities that combust fuel in order to generate electrical power for commercial applications are regulated under the same standards as other facilities – including those that combust fuel to generate electricity or to generate heat energy for other uses (such as heating green houses or drying lumber).

Currently under the Waste Discharge Regulation, establishments that are engaged in the production of electricity by the combustion of fuel, and have a rated production of less than 5 megawatts under peak load do not require an authorization to discharge waste into the environment. The Ministry intends to amend EMA to include these facilities and develop a Code of Practice to regulate the discharge of waste into the Environment from these facilities. The Ministry’s objectives and the proposed content of the amendments are provided in an intentions paper for consultation. The intentions paper is available for review at www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/sepgf/index.htm.

Product Stewardship: Beverage Containers

The Ministry of Environment is conducting consultation on the beverage container product category in the Recycling Regulation. The consultation will focus on the influence of the prescriptive measures in the Beverage Container Product Category, Schedule 1 of the Recycling Regulation. The provisions from Schedule 1 that are under review are: deposit-refund levels (e.g.: 5, 10 and 20 cents); retail collection requirements (e.g.: 24 containers per day per person); and container design and management requirements (e.g.: containers must be refilled or recycled).

This consultation process will be limited to the above provisions that are intended to support and improve performance in industry’s approved product stewardship programs. A consultation workshop is scheduled for November 23, 2011 in Vancouver at the Downtown BCIT campus. For those unable to attend the workshop, written comments can be sent by November 30th, either by e-mail to epb@victoria1.gov.bc.ca or by mail to the Ministry of Environment, Industry Product Stewardship, PO Box 9351 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8V 9M1.

A draft report, summarizing the consultation findings, will be publicly available for review and comment in early 2012. These comments will be included in the final Stakeholder Consultation Summary Report.

Water Act Modernization: Water Sustainability Act

The Province has been engaging local governments and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) on the Water Act Modernization (WAM) project since 2008 through regional workshops, discussion papers, UBCM-sponsored forums, teleconferences and the Living Water Smart Blog. In December of 2010, the Province released a policy proposal on the new WSA and received almost 1400 written submissions including over 30 submissions from local government.

Over the summer, MOE staff reviewed the public input, further refined the proposed policies and assessed implications. Throughout the engagement process the Province received suggestions and ideas on an unprecedented scale and quality. Many local governments and British Columbians requested an opportunity to review and comment on the detailed policies and legislation. In response, the Province has committed to take more time to engage on the draft legislation before it is finalized and introduced into the Legislature.

Product Stewardship: Beverage Containers

The Ministry of Environment is conducting consultation on the beverage container product category in the Recycling Regulation. The consultation will focus on the influence of the prescriptive measures in the Beverage Container Product Category, Schedule 1 of the Recycling Regulation. The provisions from Schedule 1 that are under review are: deposit-refund levels (e.g.: 5, 10 and 20 cents); retail collection requirements (e.g.: 24 containers per day per person); and container design and management requirements (e.g.: containers must be refilled or recycled).

This consultation process will be limited to the above provisions that are intended to support and improve performance in industry’s approved product stewardship programs. A consultation workshop is scheduled for November 23, 2011 in Vancouver at the Downtown BCIT campus. For those unable to attend the workshop, written comments can be sent by November 30th, either by e-mail to epb@victoria1.gov.bc.ca or by mail to the Ministry of Environment, Industry Product Stewardship, PO Box 9351 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8V 9M1.

A draft report, summarizing the consultation findings, will be publicly available for review and comment in early 2012. These comments will be included in the final Stakeholder Consultation Summary Report.

Water Act Modernization: Water Sustainability Act

The Province has been engaging local governments and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) on the Water Act Modernization (WAM) project since 2008 through regional workshops, discussion papers, UBCM-sponsored forums, teleconferences and the Living Water Smart Blog. In December of 2010, the Province released a policy proposal on the new WSA and received almost 1400 written submissions including over 30 submissions from local government.

Over the summer, MOE staff reviewed the public input, further refined the proposed policies and assessed implications. Throughout the engagement process the Province received suggestions and ideas on an unprecedented scale and quality. Many local governments and British Columbians requested an opportunity to review and comment on the detailed policies and legislation. In response, the Province has committed to take more time to engage on the draft legislation before it is finalized and introduced into the Legislature.
Back alleys don’t recycle unwanted electronics

Environmental

Consumers and businesses in British Columbia have an environmentally sound recycling option. You can drop off a range of acceptable products at designated Collection Sites throughout the province without charge (see “Acceptable Products” list for details).

The Electronics Stewardship Association of British Columbia (ESABC), a not-for-profit extended producer responsibility program set up by the major producers and retailers of electronics in British Columbia, delivers a recycling program to recover regulated electronic products from consumers and recycle them in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

Encorp Pacific (Canada) has been contracted by ESABC to manage the electronics stewardship program. You probably know them best through their Return-It system.

Since the start of ESABC’s program in 2007, more than 61 million kilograms of unwanted electronics have been recycled. That’s over 61 million kilograms that didn’t end up in our landfills and were not exported illegally to become someone else’s problem.

How Electronics Are Recycled:
Electronics collected in BC are sent to five approved primary recyclers in North America. The items are broken down using various manual and mechanical processes. Products such as batteries and mercury lamps, which require special processing to recover materials, are removed. The remaining products are separated into their individual components for recovery. Through a variety of refining and smelting processes, the materials reclaimed from unwanted electronics are used as raw materials in the manufacturing of new products.

It’s the Responsible Thing to Do:
Those useless electronics in your basement contain valuable resources. Steel, leaded glass, copper, aluminum, plastic and precious metals can be extracted and recycled into new products.

Province Wide Network:
The 125 permanent Return-It Electronics™ Collection Sites cover over 97.4% of the province. Drop-off events are organized and held in convenient locations in the communities where Collection Sites have not yet been established.

How to Find a Collection Site:
There are 125 convenient locations in BC. To find a Collection Site or drop-off event near you, visit return-it.ca/electronics/locations.

Those useless electronics in your basement contain valuable resources.

The following items can be recycled free of charge at any Encorp Return-It Electronics™ Collection Site:
- Display Devices
- Desktop Computers
- Portable Computers
- Computer Peripherals (Keyboards and Mice)
- Computer Scanners
- Printers and Fax Machines
- Non-Cellular Phones and Answering Machines
- Vehicle Audio and Video Systems (Aftermarket)
- Home Audio and Video Recording/Playback Systems
- Personal or Portable Audio and Video Recording/Playback Systems

Find a full list of acceptable products at return-it.ca/electronics/acceptable.

THERE’S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RECYCLING AND RECYCLING RESPONSIBLY

All electronic products collected in the ESABC program are recycled by processors that meet the Recycling Qualification Program (RQP). This standard effectively prevents illegal export to developing countries and unnecessary landfilling of regulated electronic products. The RQP can be viewed online at rqp.ca.

An audit is conducted by an independent third party and takes eight to twelve months to complete. It ensures that processors:
- Use sound environmental practices – recyclers must handle the materials they receive in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Do not allow prison labour or shipping of unwanted electronic scrap or products offshore to developing, non-OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries.
Healthy Communities

Healthy Communities Committee Update

Healthy Families BC Communities Initiative

On September 17, the provincial government announced that comprehensive consultations would take place with local governments around British Columbia on the Healthy Families BC Communities Initiative (www.healthyfamiliesbc.ca).

According to the Ministry’s press release, this Initiative is focused on promoting healthier lifestyles and preventing chronic disease. And as a part of this Initiative, provincial health authorities would work with interested communities to develop plans to make their city or town healthier. Planning could take place in such areas as physical activity, healthy eating, tobacco reduction, healthy-built environments and priority populations.

Earlier this year, UBCM provided recommendations to the provincial government on their consultation strategy. Consultations will take place around the province between January and May 2012. Some of the topics to be discussed include:

- Partnerships between the Province, local governments and health authorities.
- Development of community health profiles and community baseline assessments to identify priority actions.
- Recognition of communities that have made a commitment to develop priority actions to improve the health of citizens.
- Targeted health authority intervention to support local actions to address measurable improvements in the health of communities.
- Community events to celebrate success.

Stay tuned for more information about the consultations in your region!

Child Poverty

At the 2011 UBCM Convention session on child poverty, Honourable Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development, referred to a commitment to develop priority actions to improve the health of citizens.

This is an exciting development, as child poverty has been a priority issue for the Committee for the last several years. UBCM is currently in discussions with the Ministry on how to advance this objective.

Renewed Agreement on Community Health Promotion

In 2011, UBCM and BCRA renewed their Protocol on Consultation and Cooperation for another 3-year term. This Protocol represents a commitment by both organizations to work together on:

- Increasing the understanding and awareness of the importance of community health promotion;
- Advocating to the provincial and federal governments for support in planning and building active transportation options;
- Promoting accessible and inclusive recreation, parks and cultural facilities and programs;
- Promoting healthy and active lifestyles.

Joint initiatives could include: a provincial trails strategy, physical activity strategy, provincial recreation and sport infrastructure program, health and the built environment, active transportation, and accessibility for seniors and disabled.

Leading the Way

Submitted by Holly-Anne Burrows, Communications Manager, BC Recreation and Parks Association

The Parks, Recreation, and Culture sector is changing the health of our Province. The sector builds healthy individuals, connects and engages communities, supports and fosters strong and diversified economies and sustainable environments. Its role has evolved from one of service provider to that of a province-wide leader and strategic partner in enhancing the quality of life of the people of BC.

This evolution also resulted in the creation of The Way Forward, the first ever sectoral strategic plan. The intent was to unite the sector, providing it with a collective strategy to move it forward.

Much has been done since the implementation of The Way Forward and in May the BC Recreation and Parks Association created a video summary (Sectoral Strategic Plan in Action) highlighting the breadth of work done in by all those involved in this sector, from municipalities and local governments, to stakeholders such as UBCM and BCHLA, and the provincial government.

The video reminds and informs us of the important work our parks, recreation, and culture departments do within our own communities and the impact that work has in relation to the Province as a whole.

The video is available for viewing online at: www.youtube.com/user/bcrpa

INDOOR TANNING WORKING GROUP

At the 2011 Convention, the membership endorsed resolution 2011- B157, which requested that UBCM lobby the provincial government to introduce legislation to ban indoor tanning for youth under the age of 18.

The Province has since established a working group to review the issues of youth and indoor tanning. The working group is reviewing existing research, sharing information, discussing issues and developing recommendations for the Minister of Health to consider regarding potential regulatory actions to protect the health of minors from the harmful effects of UV radiation from indoor tanning beds.

The working group has representation from the following parties: Joint Canadian Tanning Association, BC Cancer Agency, Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Canadian Dermatology Association, BC Centre for Disease Control, Union of BC Municipalities, BC Health Authorities Division, Ministry of Health Protection Branch, Ministry of Health.

The Working Group has been meeting throughout the Fall and will finalize a report to the Minister by the end of the year. 
Wood WORKS! BC 2011 Community Recognition Award Winners

Wood WORKS! BC Community Recognition Awards were presented to local government representatives at the Union of BC Municipalities conference in Vancouver for their demonstration of leadership and vision by adopting Wood First commitments in their communities or regional districts since 2009.

Thirty-seven local governments have passed a Wood First bylaw, resolution and/or policy in support of the province’s Wood First Act, and were recognized by Wood WORKS! BC at the local area luncheons during the UBCM conference, with each elected representative receiving a special limited edition collector’s pin. The Wood First Act aims to increase demand for wood products by requiring provincially-funded projects to use wood as the primary building material within the BC Building Code.

Wood WORKS! BC proudly presented the 2011 Community Recognition Awards to the following:

**AVICC -- Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities**
- Campbell River
- Gibsons
- North Cowichan
- Port Alberni
- Port Hardy
- Sechelt

**AKBLG -- Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments**
- Castlegar
- Cranbrook
- Fruitvale
- Kaslo
- Midway
- Nakusp

**NCLGA -- North Central Local Government Association**
- 100 Mile House
- Cariboo RD
- Chetwynd
- Fort St. James
- Hazelton
- Houston
- Prince George
- Queen Charlotte
- Quesnel
- Terrace
- Williams Lake

**SILGA -- Southern Interior Local Government Association**
- Armstrong
- Chase
- Columbia Shuswap RD
- Enderby
- Kelowna
- Lumby
- Merritt
- North Okanagan RD
- Princeton
- Revelstoke
- Spallumcheen

**SMLGA -- Lower Mainland Local Government Association**
- Squamish
- Surrey

The Wood WORKS! BC Community Recognition Awards are presented annually to communities that have been exemplary advocates for wood. This may be demonstrated through the specification of wood in a community project and through visionary initiatives that work toward building a community culture of wood. Wood WORKS! BC adopted a Wood First theme for the 2011 UBCM conference, and made a decision to recognize local governments which have made their own commitments to building with wood.

“We are very excited as we approach the milestone of 40 local governments adopting Wood First commitments,” explained Mary Tracey, executive director of Wood WORKS! BC. “We congratulate each and every one of these local governments for being leaders and visionaries. They clearly recognize Continued on page 21
The 2011 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Excellence Awards were presented at the 108th annual Convention in Vancouver on Thursday, September 29th. The annual awards are designed to showcase the municipalities and regional districts that "lead the pack," take risks to innovate, establish new partnerships, question established ways of doing business and pioneer new customer service practices.

Award applications were received from communities throughout the province, with 10 winners and six honourable mentions being awarded for the outstanding projects and programs that will now serve as examples to other local governments around the world.

"The Community Excellence Awards program recognizes ideas that rise above challenges with vision, creativity and teamwork," said Community Excellence Awards Chair and East Kootenay Regional District Director, Heath Slee. "This year’s winners represent a showcase of world-leading communities and ideas and we’re very pleased to be able to recognize their accomplishments."

Winner Photos are on pages 8 and 12. Honourable Mention winner photos are to the right.

The Best Practices category recognizes a local government in BC that has improved or revised upon an existing program or service.

**Best Practices, General**

**WINNER:** Metro Vancouver Regional District, Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation Tenant Association Program

**WINNER:** City of Queanell, Interactive Web Mapping Sites & Interactive Tutorials

**HONOURABLE MENTION:** Capital Regional District, Saanich Peninsula Thermal Energy Recovery Project

**Best Practices, Website**

**WINNER:** City of Surrey, Surrey Website Redesign: Vision and Implementation

**HONOURABLE MENTIONS:** District of Sparwood, District of Sparwood Website City of Port Coquitlam, Corporate Website

**Best Practices, Civic Engagement**

**WINNER:** City of Campbell River, Sustainable Campbell River Township of Langley, Municipal Awareness Day City of Prince George, 2015 Canada Winter Games Bid Engagement Plan

The Leadership and Innovation category recognizes regional districts and municipalities that have demonstrated environmental excellence in successfully implementing programs, policies and plans that have benefited a BC community.

**Leadership & Innovation**

**Small Community WINNER:** Village of Pemberton, One Mile Lake Nature Centre

**Mid-Size Community WINNER:** District of North Saanich, Whole Community Agricultural Strategy

**Large Community WINNER:** City of Port Coquitlam, Waste-Reduction Strategy

**Regional District WINNER:** Thompson-Nicola Regional District, North Kamloops Library Square Project

The Partnerships category recognizes two or more partners who have collaborated on a joint venture or initiative with outstanding results. This year, the Partnerships category focused on Accessibility and Inclusion.

**Partnerships - Accessibility and Inclusion**

**WINNER:** City of Trail, City of Trail Supported Employment Program Town of Ladysmith, Ladysmith Community Services Centre

**OVERALL EXCELLENCE**

**WINNER:** City of Surrey
Members of the 2010 - 2011 UBCM Executive and guests gathered for a photo before the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 28th at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

Honourable James Moore (above) being introduced by media and addressing delegates (right) on Friday, Sept. 30th.

Minister Ida Chong addressing the audience during the Municipal Auditor General plenary session on Tuesday, Sept. 27th.

UBCM delegates packed the room during the Municipal Auditor General session.

2010 - 2011 UBCM President, Councillor Barbara Steele.

Leader of the Official Opposition, Adrian Dix.

Education, Health and Social Development Cabinet panel.

UBCM Life Members were just a few of the attendees at the Delegates’ Lunch on Sept. 29th.

Councillor Sav Dhaliwal and Mayor Greg Moore discuss a resolution in the plenary.
**108th ANNUAL CONVENTION**

Banquet Entertainment was provided by Robin Chestnut.

Mayor Mike Bernier and Councillor Wesly Graham (left) performed with dance band “The Pids” (above), after the Annual Banquet.

Premier Christy Clark spoke to delegates on Friday, Sept. 30th.

Minister Terry Lake and Councillor Andrea Reimer.

UBCM staffer Anna-Maria Wijesinghe at the UBCM booth.

UBCM staffer Iris Hesketh-Boles assisting a delegate at the registration table.

Director Rhona Martin showed her support for a resolution.

Director Heath She and keynote speaker David Foot.

Local Government elected officials voted on over 180 resolutions this year.

Voting for UBCM board positions.

Director Heath She and keynote speaker David Foot.

Premier Christy Clark spoke to delegates on Friday, Sept. 30th.

Minister Terry Lake and Councillor Andrea Reimer.

UBCM staffer Iris Hesketh-Boles assisting a delegate at the registration table.

UBCM staffer Anna-Maria Wijesinghe at the UBCM booth.

The Pro and Con mics give a clear view of delegate preferences.

The new “West Building” of the Convention Centre.

FCM President Berry Vrbanovic.

Local Government elected officials voted on over 180 resolutions this year.

Premier Christy Clark spoke to delegates on Friday, Sept. 30th.

Minister Terry Lake and Councillor Andrea Reimer.

UBCM staffer Iris Hesketh-Boles assisting a delegate at the registration table.

UBCM staffer Anna-Maria Wijesinghe at the UBCM booth.

The Pro and Con mics give a clear view of delegate preferences.

Director Rhona Martin showed her support for a resolution.

Banquet Entertainment was provided by Robin Chestnut.

Mayor Mike Bernier and Councillor Wesly Graham (left) performed with dance band “The Pids” (above), after the Annual Banquet.

Premier Christy Clark spoke to delegates on Friday, Sept. 30th.

Minister Terry Lake and Councillor Andrea Reimer.
Over the years, UBCM has recognized close to 100 individuals, with a collective experience of over 2,000 years. This year, President Barbara Steele and First Vice-President Heath Slee presented awards to elected officials who were nominated and qualified for the award at the Annual Banquet.

**2011 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 close to 100 individuals, with a collective experience of over 2,000 years. This year, President Barbara Steele and First Vice-President Heath Slee presented awards to elected officials who were nominated and qualified for the award at the Annual Banquet.
2011 CONVENTION SUMMARY AWARDS

Listed below are the events and sessions that were rated the highest overall by UBCM delegates. While other events may have received the same score, the percentage of "excellent" and "good" ratings determined which event had the highest rating overall.

BEST FUNCTION: Welcome Reception @ 4.3
RUNNER-UP: Annual Banquet @ 4.3

BEST PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION: Flower Auction @ 5.0
RUNNER-UP: Agricultural Tour @ 4.9

BEST TUESDAY WORKSHOP (tie): RCMP Contract Negotiations @ 4.1
Emergency Management: Zen in 10 @ 4.1

BEST THURSDAY WORKSHOP: Child Poverty @ 4.1
RUNNER-UP: Small Water Systems @ 4.1

BEST CLINIC: Rising Oceans and Raising Dikes @ 4.5
RUNNER-UP: Social Media: Tips for Elected Officials @ 4.4

BEST PARTNER’S PROGRAM: Vancouver Architectural Gastown Walking Tour @ 5.0

COMPARISON TABLES
Top performers when comparing ratings to past Conventions.

Most Improved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>2011 SCORE</th>
<th>2010 SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flower Auction Tour</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(last held in 2009)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keynote Speaker</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-site Convention Registration</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most In Need of Improvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>2010 SCORE</th>
<th>2009 SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner’s Program Desk</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Program Booklet</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCORING: 5 = Excellent / 4 = Good / 3 = Satisfactory / 2 = Fair / 1 = Poor

Special Long Service Awards

In recognition of 35+ years of local government service

In 2010, the UBCM Executive created the Special Long Service Award to recognize long serving elected officials whose work as a public servant has reached or surpassed 35 years. The inaugural award was presented to Mayor Alice Maitland for reaching a pinnacle in career by serving the Village of Hazelton for 35 years – 34 of those years as Mayor. After that award was given, UBCM had the pleasure to learn of more elected officials who have also reached this impressive milestone. This year we recognized the following five individuals:

Mayor Gerry Furney
Town of Port McNeill
1966 - 1976;
1978 - 2011

Mayor Jim Ogilvie
City of Kimberley
1965 - 2002;
2005 - 2011

Councillor Harold Steves
City of Richmond
1968 - 1975;
1977 - 2011

Councillor Merle Olaf Hanson
Village of Salmo
1965 - 1999;
2008 - 2011
(not shown)

Councillor William Moncrief
Village of Cumberland
1967 - 1993;
1997 – 2011
(not shown)

2011 LIFE MEMBER AWARDS

UBCM Life Memberships were presented during the Annual Banquet on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011 at the Vancouver Convention Centre. This year’s recipients were:

1. Ben Stewart, Minister of Community and Rural Development, 2010
2. Minister Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, 2010 - 2011 (not shown)
3. Dale Wall, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, 2008 to 2011
4. Councillor Barbara Steele, 2010 – 2011 UBCM President

Ben Stewart, Minister of CRD, 2010, received his award from UBCM President Barbara Steele and incoming President, Director Heath Slee.

Dale Wall, CRD Deputy Minister from 2008 to 2011, received his award from UBCM President Barbara Steele and incoming President, Director Heath Slee.

President Barbara Steele received her award from fellow board member and UBCM First Vice-President Heath Slee.
The ability to organize and direct various actions to achieve a specific goal.*

**TASK CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT** is a proven performer in providing controlled solutions to complex building projects. Our experience in public building projects combined with our Fast Track expertise guarantees successful project completion. Our area of expertise is ‘true’ construction and project management. We are specialists in public recreation facilities, hotels and conference centres.

---

### REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT THE 2011 CONVENTION

The registration for the One Hundred and Eighth Annual Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities held in Vancouver, BC, September 27 – 30, 2011, was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UBCM MEMBERSHIP</th>
<th>Represented at Convention</th>
<th>Number of Voting Delegates</th>
<th>Number of Non-voting Delegates</th>
<th>Number of Partners</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49 Cities</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 Districts</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Towns</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 Villages</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Regional Districts</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>194</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>1,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Representation</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHERS</th>
<th>Number of Delegates</th>
<th>Number of Partners</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal MPs/Senators</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Staff</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial Ministers &amp; MLAs</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial Staff</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observers &amp; Others</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Guests</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBCM Staff/Contracts</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| GRAND TOTAL | 1,956 |

---

*The ability to organize and direct various actions to achieve a specific goal.*
On October 29th, the National Battlefields Commission hosted the 17th Edition of the Communities in Bloom National Awards Ceremony in Québec City, honouring municipalities from Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, the United States of America, and Japan.

Communities in Bloom is a Canadian non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement and the challenge of a national program, with focus on the promotion of green spaces in community settings.

National Chair Claudette Savaria – on behalf of the National Committee, Judges, and Sponsors – sincerely thanks and congratulates all the communities for their involvement in the program. “Within the context of climate change and environmental concerns, they can all be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions that benefit all of society.”

**National Award Winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 1,500:</td>
<td>Denzil, Saskatchewan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,501 to 3,000:</td>
<td>Killarney-Turtle Mountain, Manitoba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,001 to 7,500:</td>
<td>Stettler, Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,501 to 10,000:</td>
<td>New Glasgow, Nova Scotia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,001 to 20,000:</td>
<td>Summerside, Prince Edward Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,001 to 50,000:</td>
<td>Campbell River, British Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 50,000:</td>
<td>Canadian Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Communities:</td>
<td>CFB Petawawa, Ontario</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Circle of Champions**

The City of Stratford, Ontario in the Large population category, and The Town of Goderich, Ontario in the Small population category, were the winners in the Circle of Champions, a category where past winners compete amongst themselves.

**International Challenge**

The City of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island in the Large population category, and The Village of Tallanstown, Ireland in the Small population category, were the winners in the International Challenge, a competition between winners of various national programs.

**Outstanding Achievement Awards & Special Awards**

- **Canada Lands Company Sustainable Development Award**: Campbell River, British Columbia
- **Home Hardware Community Involvement Award**: Goderich, Ontario
- **Communities in Bloom Environmental Action Award**: Stettler, Alberta
- **Scotts Best Community of Gardeners Award**: Kawartha Lakes, Ontario
- **National Capital Commission Floral Displays Award**: Brandon, Manitoba
- **Scotts Turf Builder Turf and Groundcovers Award**: Chatham-Kent, Ontario
- **Communities in Bloom Foundation Youth Involvement Award**: Wood Buffalo, Alberta
- **Communities in Bloom Urban Forestry Award**: Killarney-Turtle Mountain, Manitoba
- **Canadian Nursery Landscape Association Landscape Award**: Strathcona County, Alberta
- **Communities in Bloom Tidiness Award**: Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia
- **The Butchart Gardens Best Land Reclamation Award**: Tallanstown, Ireland
- **Town Square, Hampton, New Brunswick**

For further information and to obtain photographs, please contact: Communities in Bloom National Office bloom@cib-cef.com 514-694-8871

Thank you to our National Sponsors and partners:

- Canada Lands Company
- Home Hardware • Scotts
- National Capital Commission • Beauti-Tone • CN Tower
- Nutrients for Life • Teck • Ball Horticultural Company
- Miracle-Gro • Scotts EcoSense • Scotts Turf Builder • RoundUp
- Canadian Nursery Landscape Association • Zaunserh Roberts Blair Inc
- Municipal World • VIA Rail Canada
- Lifestyle Information Network • Compost Council of Canada

People, Plants and Pride...Growing Together/Citoyens et espaces verts en harmonie...une société florissante

112 Terry Fox, Kirkland (Québec) H9H 4M3 Tel: (514) 694-8871 Fax: (514) 694-3725

www.communitiesinbloom.ca * bloom@cib-cef.com
ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION NEWS – From the Community Energy Association ...
... the first stop for local government leaders addressing climate and energy sustainability

The Climate & Energy Action Awards: Celebrating Climate Action from 1998 to 2011

On September 28, the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment presented Climate & Energy Action Awards to Vancouver, Dawson Creek and Colwood at the annual UBCM Convention. The 2011 awards were sponsored by the Province of British Columbia, the Union of BC Municipalities, BC Hydro and FortisBC.

Vancouver won the award in the Community Planning & Development category for the Greenest City Action Plan. Plan goals are ambitious and creative and the City has shown strong leadership in implementing the plan. Dawson Creek won the Corporate Operations award for its Internal Carbon Fund of $100/tonne, which will be used to implement both corporate and community emissions reduction projects. Colwood won the award for Public Sector Collaboration. The Solar Colwood Initiative is a partnership between the City, Royal Roads University and BC Hydro that targets a community wide transition to renewable energy sources.

The Community Energy Association created the awards program in 1998 to celebrate BC communities taking action on energy and climate change. Since then, 19 BC communities have won an award, over 20 have received honourable mentions and more than 120 applications have been received. With the addition of the Public Sector Collaboration category in 2011, the number of award applications received in one year reached an all-time high of 26.

Notably, communities of all sizes have received an award, from the District of Ucluelet with a population of just 1,000 to the City of Vancouver at almost 600,000. A key criteria when selecting winners is what has been achieved with the resources available. Applications throughout the years demonstrate that small communities are also very effective in moving forward with innovative solutions.

While achieving GHG emission reductions at the community level is more challenging, award applications reveal that many local governments in BC have been going beyond planning to action for some time – by implementing a wide variety of community-oriented initiatives such as district and renewable energy, alternative modes of transportation and improved energy efficiency in buildings.

And as the graphic below illustrates, progress on climate action in BC has been steady and growing – from both the number of communities taking action and the sophistication of actions being taken – and momentum has been accelerating since 2007. When it comes to moving forward on mitigating climate change, the future is bright for BC communities.

Other News

The BC Mayors Climate Leadership Council met with Environment Minister Terry Lake during the Union of BC Municipalities conference. Minister Chong (Community, Sport and Cultural Development) and Parliamentary Secretary for Clean Technology, John Yap also attended the Council’s annual breakfast meeting. The Council is made up of Mayors representing cities and towns from every corner of BC. All are members of the Community Energy Association and have committed to mentoring other mayors, councillors and regional directors on climate action.

In support of the Council, CEA has conducted two peer-learning workshops, thanks to funding from Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The first workshop was held in Kelowna on September 9 and the second in Campbell River on October 11.

CEEP Quickstart Program Continues

Small communities within the BC Hydro service territory and with populations up to 20,000 are eligible for a FREE Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) through the CEEP: QuickStart initiative. QuickStart supports local governments in achieving the greenhouse gas reduction and energy conservation targets that they have set in their Official Community Plans or Regional Growth Strategies. Interested communities should register at: http://el.bchydro.com/ceep/ or by going through the BC Hydro website: www.bchydro.com.

Community Fire Interface Biomass Utilization for Heating Fuel

The Community Energy Association, in collaboration with UBC and Green Heat Initiative, will be working with several BC communities over the next year to assess the volume of fibre that can sustainably be removed from fire interface zones and how much of that can be used for district and building-scale heating in the community.

CEA Vancouver Office
4308 – 402 West Pender St., Vancouver, BC
V6B 1T6
Tel: (604) 628 7076
Email: info@communityenergy.bc.ca

CEA Staff
Vancouver
Dale Littlejohn, Executive Director
Patricia Bell, Sr. Community Energy Planner
Margaret Halsey, Financial Administrator
Kelowna
Peter Robinson, Community Energy Planner
Fernie
Megan Lohmann, Sr. 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

Make your workplace a little healthier and breathe easy.

Suzanne Pimentel-Gluss is our LEED® Accredited Professional at Monk Office Interiors. She has a thorough understanding of green principles and products that can help you create a healthy, high-performance office space. Go green and start breathing a little easier knowing you’re minimizing your impact on the environment.

Now that’s helpful.

www.monkfurthure.ca
2011 Climate and Energy Action Awards

Are you a BCRPA Member? - contributed by the BC Recreation and Parks Association

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 initiatives, 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 the citizens of your communities, and all those in BC, live in a healthy, prosperous and sustainable province. BCRPA advocates at all levels of government and to private industry the benefits of recreation, parks and culture in terms of quality of life, health and wellness, gaining attention and action to address key issues such as community delivered programs and services and recreation infrastructure renewal.

The Association brings together communities from across BC, 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.

The BCRPA has 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 $278 and increases proportionally based upon population. Each level of membership includes supplementary members, and enables additional Government/Affiliate memberships to be taken out at a rate of $60 each, for other elected officials, your staff members and your community volunteers.

Membership application/renewal is available on our website: www.bcrpa.bc.ca

Are you a BCRPA Member? 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.
**Community Safety**

**RCMP Contract Negotiations - Where do we stand?**

Solicitor General Shirley Bond updated local governments on the status of the RCMP contract at the 2011 UBCM Convention. She indicated that the RCMP contract negotiations had been suspended as a result of the federal election and that the province was attempting to re-start the negotiations with the federal government.

Provincial Deputy Minister Lori Wanamaker met with the Deputy Ministers of the other 8 Provinces and Territories (i.e. Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island) still involved in RCMP contract discussions in late September, to confirm their collective positions on the contract issues and the strategy that they will follow going forward. A Provincial/Territorial proposal for a new RCMP agreement was forwarded to the federal government on October 14, 2011.

The Provincial/Territorial (PT) negotiating team identified a number of areas in the Public Safety Canada proposed Agreement that require further negotiation. In the proposal that the Provinces/Territories forwarded to Public Safety Canada on October 14, 2011, the following issues were identified:

1) Non-contentious Items - PTs have identified changes to PSC’s proposed language that they feel should be non-contentious because the changes:
   - Provide clarity around the management of the agreement;
   - Provide clarity around the intent and/or meaning of the language;
   - Will enable the technical operation of the Agreement;
   - Are consistent with the control/oversight cost control mechanisms contained in other parts of the Agreement; and,
   - Return the proposed Agreement to language that was Agreed in Principle by all parties prior to Alberta and Saskatchewan breaking away from the block.

2) Clarification of Cost Items - PTs are requesting that program budgets be clearly described in the Agreement.

3) PT Cost Control Mechanisms – Generally speaking, PTs have inserted mechanisms to contain cost increases or improve RCMP accountability and PT oversight over costs they are incurring.

4) Directed Reviews – PTs want the Minister to have the authority to specify what Directed Reviews will be undertaken, and the scope, subject matter, timing, etc. of the Directed Reviews, including the caveat that they will be conducted by an independent third-party.

A meeting between the Provincial/Territorial (PT) negotiating team and the federal government took place in the week of October 31 to discuss the issues identified by the Provincial/Territorial negotiating team. A further meeting is scheduled for the week of November 21, 2011 at the Deputy Minister level to discuss the outstanding issues in the development of a new RCMP contract and determine how these measures will be addressed.

Given that the federal and provincial negotiating teams are again meeting, it would appear that local government efforts, in co-operation with the province, to re-open negotiations on the RCMP contract were successful. There is some optimism that the federal government is willing to consider some of the measures put forward by the Provincial/Territorial negotiating team and that further confrontation can be avoided on this matter.

---

**METAL THEFT**

The provincial government has responded to local government and industry requests to regulate the scrap metal industry by introducing new legislation (Bill 13 – Metal Dealers and Recycling Act). The new law is designed to help to deter and prosecute metal thieves, minimize regulatory costs for the recycling industry and protect the personal information of those who sell metal to scrap dealers. Under it:

- Those who deal in high-value metals like copper, which are targets for metal thieves, will be required to record details including the weight and type of metal purchased, any distinguishing markers on it, and where the seller sells the metal.
- Dealers will share these details with local police on a daily basis and must keep their records for a minimum of one year.
- Dealers will also record each seller’s personal information, including their full name, current address, telephone number and date of birth, as well as vehicle or pick-up address details.
- To protect sellers’ privacy, dealers will assign a unique code to each customer from whom they buy metal. This code will accompany purchase information supplied to the police. Dealers will only release a seller’s personal information to police who present a court order for that information.
- The law will prohibit dealers from buying regulated scrap metal from any seller unable or unwilling to provide required information.
- The proposed legislation avoids the financial and administrative burden of licensing, but will create a dealer registry and a system of compliance and enforcement by appointed inspectors. More specific details - including the types of metal to be regulated, and the penalties for failing to comply with the law - will follow when the Province develops complementary regulations.

UBCM has endorsed a number of resolutions dealing with the regulation of the scrap metal industry. The most recent case being at the 2011 UBCM Convention where it endorsed two resolutions: B7-Scrap Licensing & Regulation which requested that the province implement a system to regulate the scrap metal industry by introducing new legislation; and B77-Provincial Legislation Regarding Metal Theft which requested that the provincial government create a provincial regulation governing pawnshops, second-hand dealers and recyclers. The Provincial government in introducing this new legislation would appear to be responding to local government’s request for measures to license and regulate the scrap metal industry in an effort to deter metal theft.

---

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

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

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

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

Represented internationally by BDO International

![BDO Dunwoody LLP](image) Chartered Accountants Management Consultants
Ayjoomixw Promotes Better Intergovernmental Relations

The newest publication from the BC Treaty Commission entitled Ayjoomixw was launched at the 2011 UBCM Convention to encourage better intergovernmental relationships between First Nations and local governments. Ayjoomixw means ‘good, clear ground,’ and refers to the Sliammon First Nation area located near Powell River. The publication details the relationship between the Sliammon First Nation and Powell River over the past eight years. The publication tells the story of a sea walk that once divided the communities and then became the catalyst for an intergovernmental agreement. The agreement is intended to bring economic and social benefits to both governments.

The City of Powell River handed over $1.6 million budget for the sea walk project to the Sliammon First Nation in 2002 after city workers disturbed cultural sites including petroglyphs and shell middens. In June 2004, Sliammon First Nation and Powell River signed a protocol agreement to protect and promote the culture and heritage of the region and to explore joint economic ventures.

Today, the Sliammon First Nation flag flies alongside the flags of Powell River and British Columbia at a city landmark and in city council chambers and government-to-government discussion are held six times a year.

For more information on the publication or to obtain copies please contact: Brian Mitchell at the BC Treaty Commission 604-482-9215 or 604-788-5190 or bmitchell@bctreaty.ca

BC Treaty Commission Releases 2011 Annual Report

Has there been a sufficient return on investment in the BC treaty process given the time and money spent? Has it been worth it?

These were the two lead questions posed by the Chief Commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission, Sophie Pierre, when she released the Commission’s 2011 Annual Report on October 12, 2011. Chief Commissioner Pierre indicated that no one should be satisfied with the progress being made in treaty negotiations in British Columbia.

She went on to state that as we approach the 20th anniversary of the BC treaty process in 2012 it is time to realize a return on the significant investment that has been made to achieve treaties.

The Treaty Commission sees the potential for 16 treaties in the near term, noting that another 26 First Nations are active in treaty negotiations. The Treaty Commission has indicated it will continue to focus on the catalysts to move treaty negotiations forward:

• seeking a 20th anniversary recommitment to the BC treaty process;
• promoting the economic benefits of treaties for all British Columbians;
• promoting interim measures agreements, including Incremental Treaty Agreements, that provide benefits to First Nations now, and are directly linked to treaties;
• helping to resolve territorial issues among First Nations; and
• helping with human resource capacity development to strengthen and prepare First Nations for governance after treaty.


Building Communities, Building the Future

Seen below (left) is speaker Sophie Pierre, Chief Commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission, who gave the keynote address at the Local Government - First Nations pre-conference session at the UBCM Convention. The session also included a panel on developing successful service agreements.

MURDY & MCArLLISTER

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.
Funding Programs

Annual Report on the Gas Tax Fund

On September 30, 2011, UBCM released the Gas Tax Annual Expenditure Report covering the 2010 funding year.

The Gas Tax Agreement is a tri-partied agreement between the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and UBCM in which federal funding is transferred to local governments and other eligible recipients to be used towards sustainable infrastructure and capacity building projects. The GTA, signed on September 19, 2005 and extended through agreement on March 17, 2008, provides $1.63 billion of federal funding to March 31, 2014 to BC communities for capacity building projects or sustainable infrastructure projects that reduced greenhouse gas emissions, or result in cleaner air or cleaner water.

Program Highlights

In 2010, UBCM transferred over $116 million in funding to local governments and other eligible recipients for sustainable infrastructure and capacity building projects across British Columbia.

Along with the continued commitment of Community Works funding, the two application-based programs – General Strategic Priorities Fund and Innovations Fund – accepted applications until April 2011. Over the next few years, these two programs will commit $150 million for capacity building and infrastructure projects across the province that are larger in scale or regional in nature, or apply an innovative approach to achieving the program outcomes.

For Tier 2 regions, Regionally Significant Project Fund working groups have been established. The working groups are tasked with developing proposals for projects which are larger in scale or regional in impact, and promote regional collaboration. The RSP fund will provide over $62 million for Tier 2 regions.

For the Tier 3 region, the Strategic Priorities Fund continued to invest in TransLink transit infrastructure within the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

Projects Funded

The 2010 reporting year saw an increase in spending in all Gas Tax program areas.

Spending by recipients was reported as $146 million – an increase from $122 million the previous reporting year. Total spending by recipients on Gas Tax projects since 2005 is over $470 million.

Recipients reported on over 477 projects in this reporting year. Of those, 318 were identified as new infrastructure or new capacity building projects. As of December 31, 2010, 1300 Gas Tax infrastructure and capacity building projects have been reported in BC. Project categories include public transit, local roads and bridges, active transportation infrastructure, community energy systems, water and wastewater, solid waste and capacity building.

Some of the projects highlighted in the 2010 Annual Expenditure Report include the East Mission Heritage Greenway Trail, the Valleyview Interchange Multi-Use pedestrian and cyclist access in Kamloops, the Duteau Creek Water Treatment plant in the Regional District of North Okanagan and the addition of a centrifuge sludge handling unit for the Village of Keremeos.

The entire Gas Tax 2010 AER can be found on the UBCM website www.ubcm.ca under Funding Programs/Gas Tax Fund

The Regional District of North Okanagan used funding to construct the Duteau Creek Water Treatment plant. The new facility will supply approximately 60% of the domestic and irrigation water to the homes and businesses of the Greater Vernon area. The first stage of construction includes a 160-million-litre reservoir.

By using Gas Tax funds to add a centrifuge sludge handling unit, the Village of Keremeos eliminated the need to maintain outdoor drying beds, which were inefficient, labour intensive and a source of odour.
that a wood culture will lead us to a more sustainable way of life in the future of this province.” She continued, “By recognizing the benefits of wood and embracing its use, they are addressing climate change, supporting our forest industry and ultimately enhancing prosperity not only in their own communities but for all of us living in BC.” It’s estimated that 85,000 families depend on the forest and wood products manufacturing sector for their livelihood in BC, primarily in rural BC, but the industry is also recognized to be a strong economic engine for urban prosperity in the province. The City of Surrey is one of the award recipients.

“Wood is one of the most sustainable, natural and renewable building materials on the planet, and it’s beautiful,” said Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts, whose community passed a Wood First policy in November 2010. Surrey is the largest centre to date with a policy. “We will consider the use of wood in all city-funded capital projects wherever it makes economic and practical sense. It’s one way that we can create healthier communities across the city.”

“By making their own commitments to use wood, these communities are playing an integral role in supporting BC’s forest industry, economy and the vitality of their own communities,” said Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation. “This is just one of the many ways BC communities can be partners in job creation.”

Wood WORKS! is a national industry-led initiative of the Canadian Wood Council, with a goal to support innovation and provide leadership on the use of wood and wood products. Through workshops, seminars and case studies, Wood WORKS! provides education, training and technical expertise to building and design professionals and local governments involved with commercial, institutional and industrial construction projects throughout BC. For the past 11 years, Wood WORKS! BC has facilitated practical, efficient, versatile and cost-effective building and design solutions through the use of wood — the most sustainable, natural and renewable building material on Earth.

Notable projects with Wood WORKS! BC involve include the international award-winning Richmond Oval – the largest of the 2010 Winter Olympics venues. The Oval’s six-acre free spanning “wood wave” roof made with “beetle-kill” wood is a precedent-setting example of BC’s and Canada’s advanced wood engineering and prefabrication capabilities. Wood WORKS! BC was also involved with the new Vancouver Convention Centre, and has also worked extensively with municipalities on projects ranging from fire halls to arenas to recreation centres.

“We are asking communities to continue to contact Wood WORKS! BC as they pass Wood First policies, bylaws or resolutions, or if they need support to take the final step,” concluded Ms. Tracey. “Not only would we like to recognize these communities, but we’d also like to offer them technical expertise, training and education to help make way for versatile, beautiful and cost-effective building and design solutions.”

Wood WORKS! BC is a recognized resource to help BC communities with the new “build with wood” requirements on publicly-funded projects, and its expertise is available free-of-charge.

Contact:
Mary Tracey, Executive Director
1.877.929.9663

Elected officials used electronic voting devices for the first time at the UBCM Convention with great success. The electronic voting system enabled quick and accurate tabulation of close votes.
2012 WINTER/SPRING WORKSHOPS COMING TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

Leadership and Management - The Essential Foundations
This workshop is designed to help new or existing managers increase their abilities to lead teams. They will gain skills to assess team dynamics and to improve trust and influence with those they are leading. At the completion of this workshop participants will be equipped with the necessary tools to motivate their team to achieve desired results.

Personalities at Work - Communication Made Easy with MBTI
Understanding the various personality styles and their impact on workplace dynamics helps people communicate and work successfully with others. Utilizing the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), this workshop will provide participants with a personal assessment, equip them to understand personality styles which are different than their own and provide strategies to effectively interact with.

Assertive Communication
Effective communication requires us not only to be aware of ourselves, but also to be responsive and aware of others. Being assertive in communication is the ability to express positive and negative ideas and feelings in a transparent, welcoming and direct way - to state clearly and without defensiveness what one needs. Participants of this workshop will build an awareness of their communication patterns and learn to deal confidently with people around them.

Conflict Resolution Skills
Many conflicts would not spiral out of control if people used conflict resolution techniques that are easy to learn and utilize. This workshop will teach participants to understand the dynamics of conflict and equip them with the skills needed to respond confidently when faced with situations of conflict.

Dealing with Difficult People
This workshop will analyze what is happening in exchanges with difficult people and demonstrate how people can adapt their strategies to bring about more productive conversations with those they find difficult. The effect of intervention styles will be explored, in particular, how different styles interact with each other. Participants will also learn how to change their interactions with difficult people in order to influence their behaviour, resulting in more positive outcomes.

Mediation - An Informal Process for Conflict Resolution
Vancouver - June 12-13, 2012
When people involved in conflict cannot resolve it on their own, a third party facilitator may be what is needed to resolve the dispute. This skills based workshop is designed to give participants the understanding to work with disputing parties to identify interests, clarify issues and work towards options for resolving the conflict. Participants will have the opportunity to experience scenarios that will help prepare them for intervening in various conflict situations.

FOR REGISTRATION AND WORKSHOP FEE INFORMATION:
www.achievecentre.com ◊ 1.204.452.0180 ◊ info@achievecentre.com

2012 WINTER/SPRING PUBLIC WORKSHOPS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

De-escalating Potentially Violent Situations™
Vancouver: February 22; Victoria: February 23; Kelowna: February 24
This workshop is designed to teach people to de-escalate potentially violent situations through assertiveness and interpersonal communication. The training will explore how anger and violence interplay, including opportunities for self-assessment of personal styles.

Violence Threat Assessment - Planning and Response
Vancouver: June 14
This workshop provides a communication and decision-making model to help businesses, schools, organizations and communities become more effective in their management of threats. Participants will learn strategies to help them identify, assess and manage individuals who may be escalating towards violence.

Understanding Mental Illness
Vancouver: April 18
Victoria: April 19
This workshop is designed for managers, human resource professionals, social service providers and anyone seeking a better understanding of the complexities that surround mental illness. Participants will learn about common adult mental illnesses and their symptoms, causes and treatment.

FOR REGISTRATION AND FEE INFORMATION:
www.ctrinstitute.com 204.452.9199 info@ctrinstitute.com
The Voices You May not be Hearing

A short version of this article was included in a recent copy of Eli Mina’s on-line newsletter, Deliberations. On request by several readers from local government, the article was expanded and is published here.

Increasingly, public Boards and Councils solicit the views of citizens on current issues. Public input is an important part of decision-making processes. Indeed, citizens who take the time to speak to their elected bodies should be listened to with genuine curiosity and an appetite for learning. However, a public body must also consider other voices before finalizing its decisions.

A Scenario to Consider

Imagine this scenario: A community group, which is very familiar with the public input process, arranges for its most eloquent advocate to deliver a passionate plea for funding to its Municipal Council. In order to increase the pressure on elected officials, the group arranges for many of its supporters to sit in the public gallery. If needed, this audience will cheer and applaud people who agree with it and heckle those who do not.

While listening to these voices, the Council may be tempted to be popular and give the group what it wants. However, these dynamics are equivalent to capitulating to the street’s bully. Put differently, while listening to the group’s voices, the Council may be ignoring other important voices that must be considered for good decision-making.

Whose voices might the Council be missing? The answer is intriguing.

First: The Voices of Quiet Council Members

While paying much attention to an eloquent presenter, Council may end up missing the voices of some of its own members. When confronted by an eloquent speaker and a determined and well-organized group, some elected officials may retreat and remain silent. Of course, they shouldn’t do this, but sometimes they do. With their voices not being heard, the likelihood of flawed and unbalanced decisions increases.

To ensure that the voices (and wisdom) of quiet Council members are heard, the meeting environment must be safe. At the start of the meeting, the Mayor should clarify that order must be kept and that cheering, heckling and clapping would not be tolerated. In addition, Councillors should be made aware that they must be guided by the merits of proposals and by budgetary priorities. They should have the strength to not be distracted by the eloquence of a presenter or by the number of his or her supporters seated in the public gallery.

Second: The Voices of Professional Staff and Advisors

While paying a lot of attention to the voices of the advocates, Council may end up missing or trivializing the voices of its staff and advisors. Their duty is to provide objective professional advice, which is especially important for complex and controversial issues. If their voices are not heard, or ignored, the Municipality could incur risk and liability.

To ensure that the voices (and professional expertise) of staff and advisors are heard, Council should firmly institute the practice that, before debating and voting on a proposal, input must be sought from the professional staff and advisors, so as to minimize risk and liability. With rare exceptions, no substantive motions should be crafted “on the fly” and under pressure, and no important votes should be taken unless prior notice is given to the public. These measures will ensure an objective, responsible, and organized decision-making process.

Third: The Voices of ALL Citizens and Affected Parties

Citizens who attend meetings and speak to their Council should be commended for their engagement with local decision-making. However, if Council is overly attentive to them, it may end up missing the voices of ALL citizens and parties affected by its decisions. If forty citizens in the public gallery are pushing in favor of or against certain outcomes, consider the forty thousand citizens who don’t have the time to attend a public Council meeting, and who may be adversely affected if their interests are not considered.

Fourth: The Voices of Future citizens

Elected officials may be tempted to make decisions that will help them get re-elected. With this in mind, they may want to please (or avoid displeasing) today’s citizens, especially those who have the right to vote in an upcoming election. But what about the voices of the citizens who were not born yet and who may be affected by today’s decisions?

To be effective decision-makers and leaders, Councillors must not be short-sighted or self-centered. They need to consider not only the short-term impacts of their decisions, but also the legacy (positive or negative) that they are leaving for future generations.

Fifth: The Voice of the Natural Environment

Some Council decisions affect not only people, but also have environmental impacts. The natural environment and wildlife cannot articulate their views. However, they must also be considered, so that Council can act responsibly, and so it does not leave behind a legacy of environmental damage and neglect.

Closing Thoughts

To achieve responsible decision-making while avoiding public anger, it is essential that elected leaders make concerted efforts to educate the community on the principles of effective decision-making. If so educated, an increasing number of citizens will abandon self-interest in favor of long term community interests. Attempts to manipulate the decision-making process by stacked meetings and a great deal of noise will be frowned upon by the community. With such a principled community, future Councils will know that dysfunction must not be tolerated.

In a recent conversation, a colleague shared this idea with me: To ensure that all voices are considered, his group placed a few empty chairs in the centre of its meeting room, to remind members of the voices of absent parties. From time to time, a member would say: “I am wondering what ... would think about this issue.” How about this idea for your Council?

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, preventing and dealing with disputes and dysfunctions, building better Boards and Councils, demystifying and humanizing the rules of order, and advising on minute taking standards.

This article is based in part on Eli Mina’s book "101 Boardroom Problems & How to Solve Them". Eli can be reached at 604-730-0377 or eli@elimina.com. For more information on Eli’s work visit www.elimina.com.

Courses and Resources

Courses and Resources

Fifth: The Voice of the Natural Environment

Some Council decisions affect not only people, but also have environmental impacts. The natural environment and wildlife cannot articulate their views. However, they must also be considered, so that Council can act responsibly, and so it does not leave behind a legacy of environmental damage and neglect.

Closing Thoughts

To achieve responsible decision-making while avoiding public anger, it is essential that elected leaders make concerted efforts to educate the community on the principles of effective decision-making. If so educated, an increasing number of citizens will abandon self-interest in favor of long term community interests. Attempts to manipulate the decision-making process by stacked meetings and a great deal of noise will be frowned upon by the community. With such a principled community, future Councils will know that dysfunction must not be tolerated.

In a recent conversation, a colleague shared this idea with me: To ensure that all voices are considered, his group placed a few empty chairs in the centre of its meeting room, to remind members of the voices of absent parties. From time to time, a member would say: “I am wondering what ... would think about this issue.” How about this idea for your Council?

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, preventing and dealing with disputes and dysfunctions, building better Boards and Councils, demystifying and humanizing the rules of order, and advising on minute taking standards.

This article is based in part on Eli Mina’s book "101 Boardroom Problems & How to Solve Them". Eli can be reached at 604-730-0377 or eli@elimina.com. For more information on Eli’s work visit www.elimina.com.

Courses and Resources

Fifth: The Voice of the Natural Environment

Some Council decisions affect not only people, but also have environmental impacts. The natural environment and wildlife cannot articulate their views. However, they must also be considered, so that Council can act responsibly, and so it does not leave behind a legacy of environmental damage and neglect.

Closing Thoughts

To achieve responsible decision-making while avoiding public anger, it is essential that elected leaders make concerted efforts to educate the community on the principles of effective decision-making. If so educated, an increasing number of citizens will abandon self-interest in favor of long term community interests. Attempts to manipulate the decision-making process by stacked meetings and a great deal of noise will be frowned upon by the community. With such a principled community, future Councils will know that dysfunction must not be tolerated.

In a recent conversation, a colleague shared this idea with me: To ensure that all voices are considered, his group placed a few empty chairs in the centre of its meeting room, to remind members of the voices of absent parties. From time to time, a member would say: “I am wondering what ... would think about this issue.” How about this idea for your Council?

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, preventing and dealing with disputes and dysfunctions, building better Boards and Councils, demystifying and humanizing the rules of order, and advising on minute taking standards.

This article is based in part on Eli Mina’s book "101 Boardroom Problems & How to Solve Them". Eli can be reached at 604-730-0377 or eli@elimina.com. For more information on Eli’s work visit www.elimina.com.

Courses and Resources

Courses and Resources

Fifth: The Voice of the Natural Environment

Some Council decisions affect not only people, but also have environmental impacts. The natural environment and wildlife cannot articulate their views. However, they must also be considered, so that Council can act responsibly, and so it does not leave behind a legacy of environmental damage and neglect.

Closing Thoughts

To achieve responsible decision-making while avoiding public anger, it is essential that elected leaders make concerted efforts to educate the community on the principles of effective decision-making. If so educated, an increasing number of citizens will abandon self-interest in favor of long term community interests. Attempts to manipulate the decision-making process by stacked meetings and a great deal of noise will be frowned upon by the community. With such a principled community, future Councils will know that dysfunction must not be tolerated.

In a recent conversation, a colleague shared this idea with me: To ensure that all voices are considered, his group placed a few empty chairs in the centre of its meeting room, to remind members of the voices of absent parties. From time to time, a member would say: “I am wondering what ... would think about this issue.” How about this idea for your Council?

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, preventing and dealing with disputes and dysfunctions, building better Boards and Councils, demystifying and humanizing the rules of order, and advising on minute taking standards.

This article is based in part on Eli Mina’s book "101 Boardroom Problems & How to Solve Them". Eli can be reached at 604-730-0377 or eli@elimina.com. For more information on Eli’s work visit www.elimina.com.

Courses and Resources

Courses and Resources

Fifth: The Voice of the Natural Environment

Some Council decisions affect not only people, but also have environmental impacts. The natural environment and wildlife cannot articulate their views. However, they must also be considered, so that Council can act responsibly, and so it does not leave behind a legacy of environmental damage and neglect.

Closing Thoughts

To achieve responsible decision-making while avoiding public anger, it is essential that elected leaders make concerted efforts to educate the community on the principles of effective decision-making. If so educated, an increasing number of citizens will abandon self-interest in favor of long term community interests. Attempts to manipulate the decision-making process by stacked meetings and a great deal of noise will be frowned upon by the community. With such a principled community, future Councils will know that dysfunction must not be tolerated.

In a recent conversation, a colleague shared this idea with me: To ensure that all voices are considered, his group placed a few empty chairs in the centre of its meeting room, to remind members of the voices of absent parties. From time to time, a member would say: “I am wondering what ... would think about this issue.” How about this idea for your Council?

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, preventing and dealing with disputes and dysfunctions, building better Boards and Councils, demystifying and humanizing the rules of order, and advising on minute taking standards.

This article is based in part on Eli Mina’s book "101 Boardroom Problems & How to Solve Them". Eli can be reached at 604-730-0377 or eli@elimina.com. For more information on Eli’s work visit www.elimina.com.
One billion containers are recycled every year

Encorp Pacific is one of North America’s leading product stewardship corporations

With over 180 depots and mobile collectors across BC, the Return-It™ system in British Columbia is a British Columbia success story. Thanks to BC residents, 80% of the beverage containers sold in the province are recovered and recycled into something new. That’s over one billion containers kept out of our landfills.

Encorp Pacific (Canada) runs the Return-It system. As one of BC’s largest product stewardship corporations, Encorp’s mandate is to develop and manage a consumer-friendly and cost-effective system to recover end-of-life consumer products and packaging for recycling.

Encorp monitors and estimates greenhouse gas emissions associated with its recycling activities. This helps reduce their carbon footprint and maximize their net benefit to the planet.

The numbers speak louder than words

In 2010, more than one billion containers were recycled. That’s approximately 365 million aluminum cans, 355 million plastic bottles, 215 million glass bottles, 82 million drink boxes and cartons, and 10 million other containers of varying types.

“One billion containers weigh around 97,000 metric tonnes. That’s about the size of an aircraft carrier,” adds Encorp’s President and CEO, Neil Hastie. “Imagine if all our landfills had to accommodate that in addition to everything else that’s thrown out.”

It all started with soft drinks

First established in 1994, Encorp created a network of province-wide recycling depots to ensure soft-drink containers were recycled. The system expanded in 1998 when the provincial government expanded the recycling regulations to include water, juice and alcohol containers. Today, consumers pay a deposit on all ready-to-drink beverage containers sold in BC, except for milk. Encorp’s Return-It Depot system collects containers from consumers and returns them for recycling on behalf of more than 1,000 beverage brand owners.

“When Encorp first started, we were recycling about 300 million containers. Over the past 16 years, that number has just kept growing and growing,” says Hastie.

Milk and electronics too

As product stewardship has expanded over the years, so has Encorp. They also manage the recycling of milk containers on behalf of the Dairy Council of BC and electronics for the Electronics Stewardship Association of BC (ESABC). “In just over four years, 55 million kilograms of electronics have been diverted from landfills and recycled responsibly in BC. It's one of the highest rates of e-waste diversion in North America,” says Tyler Garnes, Encorp’s Logistics Manager.

Transparency is a priority

The details of Encorp’s financial system are available to the public, including audited financial statements.

Revenues include the sale of collected materials to recyclers, unredeemed container deposits and, if required, a Container Recycling Fee (CRF).

Expenses include deposit refunds, handling fees to depots, transportation and processing of collected containers, consumer awareness and administration.

No government funding

Encorp is 100% industry operated and receives no government funding. They combine private sector efficiencies with a high degree of public sector transparency to manage collection and recycling programs. You can view Encorp’s annual report at return-it.ca/ar2010

Taking responsibility creates a world-class recycling system

BC’s product stewardship model is one of North America’s best. The model shifts responsibility for managing end-of-life products and packaging from local governments and taxpayers to producers and consumers. The Recycling Regulation, under authority of the Environmental Management Act, sets out the requirements for product stewardship in BC. Returning your products through the collection systems established by any of BC’s stewards guarantees they will be recycled safely and responsibly.

PRINCIPLES FOR PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

1. Producer-user responsibility – Costs are shifted from taxpayers to producers and users, not downloaded to local governments.

2. Level playing field – Producers are accountable for stewardship responsibilities. Consumers have reasonable and free access to collection facilities.

3. Results-based – Methods and programs are developed by the corporation and measured by the results achieved.

4. Transparency and accountability – Financial statements are independently audited and publicly available.

It’s Worth It. return-it.ca