UBCM Report Takes Aim at CFIB Claims

A new report produced by the Union of BC Municipalities takes issue with claims advanced by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) in their Municipal Spending Watch and Property Tax Fairness reports. UBCM’s report, Comment on Fiscal Management in British Columbia’s Municipalities, was produced through a partnership with the Local Government Management Association and the Government Finance Officers Association of BC.

“One of the reasons for our report is that local governments work hard to maintain good working relationships with businesses in their communities,” said UBCM President Barbara Steele. “The reports that the CFIB have been putting out fail to do justice to that, so there was a need to set the record straight.”

The UBCM report shows that increased government spending over the past two decades has been driven primarily by rising costs for protective services and parks and recreation. Spending in these areas has been in response to increasing local demand for these services. Over the same period, the portion of total spending related to administrative overhead has actually declined. The report also acknowledges other factors that have contributed to increased spending, including collective bargaining processes and the impacts of downloading.

UBCM Member Visits

Each year, UBCM staff meets with municipalities and regional districts at their offices as part of our ongoing commitment to improve the information flow and understanding between UBCM and our members. These meetings, which are focused at a staff level, help UBCM to better understand the needs of BC communities. While UBCM distributes information on areas of interest and we receive considerable mail and communications in return, nothing replaces face-to-face meetings. The target is to meet at least 25% of members each year.

The purpose is to continually learn about our members’ issues and concerns, and answer questions and explain the work of UBCM. We are hoping to visit 49 local governments this year:

- Alberni-Clayoquot RD
- Port Alberni
- Tofino
- Ucluelet
- West Kelowna
- Central Okanagan RD
- Kelowna
- Lake Country
- Peachland
- Okanagan-Similkameen RD
- Keremeos
- Oliver
- Osoyoos
- Penticton
- Summerland
- Princeton
- Greenwood
- Midway
- Cowichan Valley RD
- North Cowichan
- Duncan
- Ladysmith
- Lake Cowichan
- Comox
- Courtenay
- Cumberland
- Nanaimo RD
- Parksville
- Qualicum Beach
- Comox RD
- Lantzville
- Nanaimo
- Golden
- Invermere
- Radium Hot Springs
- Canal Flats
- Kimberley
- Elko
- Fernie
- Sparwood
- Port Coquitlam
- North Vancouver City
- Surrey
- North Vancouver District
- Pitt Meadows
- Maple Ridge
- Coquitlam
- New Westminster
- Port Moody

“The CFIB has a simple answer for the complexities of local government finance: cut spending,” said Steele. “When you ask what services or programs they would cut, their answer is always vague – they’re not prepared to say whether communities should spend less on protective services, or increase user fees at rec centres. It’s a hollow exercise to lecture about spending before considering the people who rely on the services municipalities provide.”

The report also demonstrates that the CFIB’s focus on the differing ratio between the business and residential tax classifications hides an important point: over the past two decades the share of the property tax paid by businesses has declined slightly while residential owners have seen their share increase by 7 per cent.

The CFIB has advocated on several occasions for a 2:1 tax ratio between business and residential properties. In the absence of public demand for service reductions or additional user fees, the report calculates that the implementation of this policy would result in a tax increase of nearly $230 per year for the average BC homeowner.

“The CFIB has been putting these reports out for a few years now, and we can expect them to continue to do so. As local governments, we need to make sure that we are getting our message out to families and businesses in our community. My hope is that UBCM’s analysis provides a tool that will support local messaging on spending and taxation.”

A complete copy of the report is available at www.ubcm.ca under “What’s New”.

FCM International Program

Representatives from local government associations in Vietnam, Cambodia and Tanzania are shown here on a recent visit to UBCM’s Local Government House in Victoria. The visiting delegates were accompanied by FCM International Program staff.
The same is true here in British Columbia. After attending many Area Association meetings this Spring, it is apparent that all communities in BC face unique challenges. However, it is equally apparent that local governments share many things in common, regardless of our size, geography and location. At UBCM it is our mission to serve as the common voice for BC local governments. We rely on your direction to identify this common voice and we strive to implement the direction that has been established.

One issue that is common to all local governments is the financial pressure impacting our annual budgets. On the front page of this newsletter is an article outlining UBCM’s response to recent reports from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. I won’t repeat the information provided in that article but I will add that the response to date from BC local governments has been extremely supportive.

I would encourage all local governments to review the UBCM response and to be able to respond with local data and examples that reflect your own situation.

The renewal of the RCMP contract remains an important issue for many local governments in BC. We have sent out numerous updates on this file over the past year and will continue to keep you informed as events occur.

The process of the Vancouver Convention Centre recently and the current proposals and feel the future policy direction endorsed by BC local governments and the future of our communities.

I look forward to welcoming you to the 2011 UBCM Convention!
In Memoriam – Director Norm Walter

Popular Area E
Director for the Regional District of East Kootenay, Norm Walter, passed away from a heart attack on December 6, 2010.

Director Walter first joined the RDEK Board in 2003 and served two terms as Vice Chair and one term as Chair. He was in his third term as Director. Remembered as someone who always put people first, Director Walter had a reputation for being a passionate and dedicated representative who took his job seriously. His sudden passing took the community by surprise and those who worked with him say he will be greatly missed. Director Walter is survived by his wife Jane and family.

In Memoriam – Councillor Peter Kut

The Village of Pouce Coupe lost an important member of council on April 7 when long-serving Councillor Peter Kut passed away from a heart attack. First elected in 2002, Councillor Kut served on a number of committees and was also a dedicated volunteer who gave his time to a number of organizations, including the Legion, Senior Citizens and COPs.

Born and raised in Baytree, Alberta, Councillor Kut moved to Pouce Coupe with his wife after retiring from being a life-long farmer in the Baytree area. Councillor Kut had a history of public service before moving to Pouce-Coupe. He served on the Municipal District of Saddle Hills (Spirit River) council for 19 years and was instrumental in developing the Fire Department in Bonanza. Councillor Kut is survived by wife Michelle, sons Norman (Joanne) and Gord (Faith), and grandchildren.

In Memoriam – Director Norm Walter

In Memoriam – Councillor Peter Kut

In Memoriam – Mel Couvelier

UBCM members recently mourned the passing of UBCM Past President and Life Member, Mel Couvelier. Couvelier was first elected as a Saanich alderman in 1974, and in 1997 successfully ran for mayor, a position he held until 1996.

Couvelier served on the UBCM Executive from 1981-1985. The early 1980s were turbulent times with the government implementing significant restraint measures that were felt hard by local governments. In 1985, signs of economic recovery led to a special meeting where then-UBCM President Couvelier announced the Provincial-Municipal Partnership Program. The Program was designed to provide revenue to local governments to compensate for the revenue losses under the restraint program.

In 1986, Couvelier was elected to the provincial legislature where he served as an MLA until 1991. As Finance minister, he worked with UBCM on improving the provincial – municipal financial relationship. The late 1980s saw increased revenue sharing and new funding for infrastructure projects and downtown revitalization.

Described as a visionary by present Saanich mayor Frank Leonard, Mel Couvelier will be missed by many in the local and provincial government communities.

UBCM Bulk Fuel Purchasing Program

UBCM is pleased to partner with Prairie Fuel Advisors (PFA) to develop a fuel procurement program for local governments in BC. The UBCM Bulk Fuel Purchasing Program is an innovative and simple alternative to managing fuel purchases. UBCM will ensure that its program members are purchasing fuel at a fair cost and realize the maximum benefits of the program.

The UBCM Bulk Fuel Program offers the following advantages:

Cheaper Fuel – UBCM Bulk Fuel Purchasing Program is a fuel program that is able to provide cheaper fuel by grouping the purchases of the individual members. This increases the economies of scale, lowering the price of fuel at any of its local partner supplier locations. Also in times of fuel shortage, members will have precedence on remaining fuel.

Elimination of Administrative Hassle – UBCM Bulk Fuel Purchasing Program will pride itself on service. Membership will experience customer service advantages such as fuel purchase management, 24 hour access to price changes and upcoming price changes, invoice tracking, and purchase data.

Flexibility – UBCM members will experience the benefit of joining for free, and the freedom to leave the fuel program at any time, eliminating the hassle of complicated long-term contracts.

Customer Service – UBCM will be your program contact, and in partnership with the PFA customer service team, will seek to continuously improve the quality of service. We will continuously identify and address every members’ requirements, and strive to fulfill expected needs in order to deliver greater member satisfaction.

For more information go to www.prairiefueladvisors.ca or feel free to contact Anna-Maria Wijesinghe, Manager, Member and Association Services at awijesinghe@ubcm.ca.

In Memoriam – Councillor Ike Patterson

The City of Port Alberni was both shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of Councillor Ike Patterson on Sunday, May 1st, 2011. Councillor Patterson’s dedication and commitment to the community was evident in many ways. He was elected to City Council in 2002 and would have completed three full terms this coming November.

At a city level, he was known for his thoughtful contributions and his invaluable input. He was also a well-known local historian and a familiar face at the Alberni Valley Museum. Predeceased by his wife Linda, Councillor Patterson is survived by his three children, Tara (Steve), Kris and Arron (Michelle) and eight grandchildren.
### Area Associations

#### Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Councillor Wesly Graham</td>
<td>Creston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Director Andy Shadrack</td>
<td>Central Kootenay RD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Director Grace McGregor</td>
<td>Kootenay Boundary RD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directors at Large</td>
<td>Mayor Christina Benty</td>
<td>Golden</td>
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<td>Councillor Kirk Duff</td>
<td>Castlegar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Director Rob Gay</td>
<td>East Kootenay RD</td>
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<td>Councillor Debra Kozak</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
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<td>Councillor Christopher Stevenson</td>
<td>Greenwood</td>
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<td>Mayor Gerry Talt</td>
<td>Invermere</td>
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#### Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Chair Joe Stanhope</td>
<td>Nanaimo RD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Vice-President</td>
<td>Councillor Barry Avis</td>
<td>Qualicum Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Vice-President</td>
<td>Mayor Larry Cross</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Mayor Christopher Causton</td>
<td>Oak Bay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electoral Area Rep</td>
<td>Director Mary Marcotte</td>
<td>Cowichan Valley RD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directors at Large</td>
<td>Mayor Darren Inkster</td>
<td>Sechelt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Councillor Claire Moglove</td>
<td>Campbell River</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Councillor Cindy Solda</td>
<td>Port Alberni</td>
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#### Lower Mainland Local Government Association

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Councillor Lorrie Williams</td>
<td>New Westminster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Vice-President</td>
<td>Councillor Barbara Steele</td>
<td>Surrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Vice-President</td>
<td>Councillor Anne Peterson</td>
<td>Delta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Councillor Say Dhaishiwal</td>
<td>Burnaby</td>
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#### Area Association AGM’s

- **AKBLG**
  - April 19-21, 2012
  - Trail

- **AVICC**
  - April 13-15, 2012
  - Ucluelet

- **LMLGA**
  - May 9-11, 2012
  - Whistler

- **NCLGA**
  - May 2-4, 2012
  - 100 Mile House

- **SILGA**
  - April 26-28, 2012
  - Revelstoke

### 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.monkfurniture.ca
Resolutions Update

Many high quality, clearly written and well-researched resolutions have been submitted to the UBCM for consideration at the 2011 Convention. We anticipate more arrivals as the June 30 deadline approaches. Some of this year’s hot topics include:

- funding for policing and community safety programs;
- regulation of scrap metal and dealing with metal theft;
- taxation of BC Hydro;
- seniors’ MSP premiums;
- funding for heritage preservation and public libraries;
- assessment of contaminated land or brownfield sites;
- health care and hospital funding; and,
- water rights, regulation and commoditization.

A reminder memo went out to all UBCM members earlier this month, advising of the June 30 deadline for resolution submissions and the requirement for local governments to ensure that at least one member of their delegation is in attendance at resolutions sessions at Convention. Please contact Reiko Tagami, Information & Resolutions Coordinator, with any questions about the UBCM resolutions process. Email: rtagami@ubcm.ca Tel: 604.270.8226 ext 115.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

UBCM EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

The UBCM Nominating Committee has issued its Call for Nominations for those interested in running for the 2011-2012 UBCM Executive. With amendments to the UBCM bylaws last year there are TWO NEW positions open for Vancouver Metro Area Representatives. If you are an elected official from a GVRD member local government or a GVRD electoral area representative, you are eligible to run for one of these two new positions.

For information please see the UBCM website (ubcm.ca) under Convention / Nominations or contact Marie Crawford, Associate Executive Director. Tel. 604.270.8226 ext. 104 Email: mcrawford@ubcm.ca

2011 Union of BC Municipalities

Community Excellence Awards

Applications for the 2011 UBCM Community Excellence Awards program are now being accepted.

The categories for this year are:

Best Practices, General
Best Practices, Website
Best Practices, Civic Engagement
Leadership & Innovation
Partnerships – Accessibility

Please visit www.ubcm.ca to view the application booklet online.

BULL, HOUSER & TUPPER - LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRACTICE GROUP

Bull, Houser & Tupper LLP is pleased to announce that Kathleen Higgins and Olga Rivkin have joined our Local Government Practice Group as Associate Counsels and Associates respectively making our team of local government lawyers one of the most experienced in the province. We are known for providing strategic, creative and practical legal advice in the areas of municipal regulatory, real estate, environmental, statutory and litigation.

KATHLEEN HIGGINS has over 20 years’ experience focusing on local government, real estate, expropriation and Aboriginal law. She has extensive real estate development experience and has advised on expropriation matters and First Nations issues. She has conducted bylaw prosecutions, injunctions and defences to bylaw challenges in British Columbia’s Provincial, Supreme and Appeal Courts.

Prior to joining Bull, Houser & Tupper, OLGA RIVKIN practiced at a national firm in their Real Estate Group focusing on local government law. Her experience includes advising clients on zoning, planning and building issues, development of reserve areas, and compensation for expropriated property. Olga has also advised First Nations on development and local government related issues.
CLIMATE & ENERGY ACTION NEWS From the Community Energy Association …

The Community Energy Association (CEA) is a collaboration of the Union of BC Municipalities, Province of British Columbia, Planning Institute of BC, transit and energy providers and individual local governments. The organization assists BC local governments to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy through community energy and greenhouse gas planning and project implementation.

CEA Welcomes New Members

Becoming a CEA member connects local governments to other climate action leaders. CEA is pleased to welcome the cities of Vancouver, Castlegar, Kelowna, Campbell River and Dawson Creek as new local government members and Johnson Controls as a new corporate member.

All BC local governments are welcome to join CEA. Through CEA membership, local government representatives have access to information, discussions and leadership opportunities. CEA is co-chaired by Dan Rogers, Mayor, City of Prince George and Richard White, Director of Community Development, City of North Vancouver. For membership information, please contact: Dale Littlejohn, Executive Director / (604) 628 7076 / dlittlejohn@communityenergy.bc.ca

Solar BC grants for local government buildings

In 2010, in partnership with SolarBC, CEA helped 28 BC local governments initiate solar hot water system installations on municipal buildings. CEA would like to recognize these local governments for demonstrating leadership in developing the market for solar hot water and helping to raise awareness its potential.

To find out more, please contact: Peter Robinson, Energy Planner / (250) 769 6978 (Kelowna) / E-mail: probinson@communityenergy.bc.ca

Community Energy & Emissions Planning for Small Communities

CEA was selected by BC Hydro to develop and implement a Community Energy & Emissions Planning (CEEP) program for communities under 20,000. The program was piloted in the communities of Esquimalt, Burns Lake, Peachland, Cowichan Tribes, Invermere, Kimberley and Golden in 2010. Using a Quickstart modeling tool and action guide and innovative facilitation techniques, CEA has achieved excellent outcomes in one or two days. The BC Hydro Power Smart has selected CEA to implement a two year CEEP Quickstart program.

Registration is now OPEN at: www.bchydro.com/powersmart/ps_communities/ceep/ceep_quickstart.html

Accelerating to Zero

With funding support from Environment Canada EcoAction and other partners outlined below, CEA has completed its Accelerating to Zero project.

Two promising initiatives have emerged from the Build to Zero program. First, CEA will offer support to local governments on the development of policies and financial incentives to encourage district energy ready buildings, a project supported by funding from VanCity, Real Estate Foundation of BC and Fortis BC. Second, we will be further investigating a solar hot water retrofit program for single family homes. Studies have shown that local government support of the retrofit process, even without funding, is a significant incentive. The Community Energy Association website has information on Build to Zero: www.communityenergy.bc.ca/

BC Mayors’ Climate Leadership Council

Ten mayors, from large and small communities across BC, have come together to assist, lead, educate and engage other BC locally elected officials on climate action. These mayors have volunteered to mentor up to three locally elected officials for one year because they are passionate about this issue. The BC Mayors Climate Leadership Council is:

- Mayor Mike Bernier, City of Dawson Creek
- Mayor Lawrence Chernoff, City of Castlegar
- Mayor Charlie Cornfield, City of Campbell River
- Mayor Dan Rogers, City of Prince George
- Mayor Bernice Magee, Village of Burns Lake
- Mayor Ken Melamed, Resort Municipality of Whistler
- Mayor Darrell Mussatto, City of North Vancouver
- Mayor Gregory Robertson and Councillor Andrea Reimer, City of Vancouver
- Mayor Sharon Shepherd, City of Kelowna
- Mayor Richard Walton, District of North Vancouver

Regional workshops are being planned for locally elected officials. For more information, please contact any of the above-listed mayors.

Community Energy Association – connecting communities, energy and sustainability

Website: www.communityenergy.bc.ca

Your Invitation for the 2011 Climate & Energy Action Awards

The Community Energy Association, BC Ministry of Environment, BC Hydro, Fortis BC and Union of BC Municipalities are pleased to invite all local governments in BC to participate in the 2011 Climate & Energy Action Awards competition. The awards are offered annually to a municipality or regional district implementing a project or program that integrates energy, climate, planning into community planning and development processes. Awards are offered in three categories:

1. Community Planning and Development
2. Corporate Operations
3. Public Sector Organizations & Local Government Partnerships

And a special category:
4. Best Practices and Innovation in Energy

Awards for projects that demonstrate exemplary achievement in energy and sustainability. From June 1, 2010 to May 1, 2011.

Eligibility

All BC municipalities and regional districts are encouraged to apply. The projects must be located in BC and completed between June 1, 2010 and May 1, 2011. Projects may span a period of time if they achieve the stated goals.

Recognition

Awards will be presented in three categories: Municipality, Regional District and Corporate. All winners will be announced at the 2011 BC Municipalities Conference and a presentation will be made at the Climate & Energy Action Awards.

 oasis hacked
Keep of Prisoner Costs – What is a fair rate of Compensation?

Local government in a recent UBCM survey on Keep of Prisoner (KOP) costs indicated that the current rate paid by the provincial/federal government for prisoners did not cover local government costs. Furthermore, local governments indicated that the cost burden was unsustainable and they could no longer continue to subsidize the costs of provincial/federal prisoners in local jails. In addition, local governments indicated that the costs of operating local jails had been further compounded by the introduction of new security standards by the province and RCMP.

The present KOP rate was set in 2002 and is based on the total provincial prisoner hours per fiscal quarter divided into one quarter of the provincial prisoner budget. Local governments in the survey highlighted the fact that provincial/federal KOP rates did not cover the actual cost of looking after provincial/federal prisoners. Local government recognized that it is difficult to identify the actual cost of keeping a prisoner, however, this problem needs to be addressed and at the very least there is a need to ensure that a fair rate of compensation is paid to local government.

Actual Cost

The survey indicated that there were broad differences between local governments around what the actual costs were for maintaining a prisoner in a local jail. The rate ranged from $45.00 per hour to $10.00 per hour, depending on the costs identified. The costs ranged from staff salary, doctor fees, medical for prisoners, laundry, meals, food supplies, and supplies (Rx, high risk mattress, etc.), maintenance, lighting and heating costs, and upkeep of video and security equipment and other administrative support from IT department and administrative staff. The costs also varied depending on where the community was located in the province, the number of prisoners kept in the local jail and the amount of time they stayed in the jail. As one local government pointed out, the costs ranged from local communities having the costs to keep one prisoner per fiscal quarter divided into one quarter of the local government budget.

RCMP Contract Negotiations – What Direction Now?

The decision by Alberta to endorse a new contract to maintain the RCMP as Alberta’s provincial police force until March 31, 2032, and the likely announcement by Saskatchewan that it will also be endorsing a new RCMP contract, has changed the dynamics of the negotiations for a new RCMP agreement. The Federal government had indicated at the start of RCMP contract negotiations that it was not prepared to enter into separate negotiations with each province, territory or municipality that has a policing agreement.

The announcement by Alberta would appear to signal a change in the federal government’s earlier position on the process for negotiating a new RCMP agreement. Alberta’s action also appears to indicate a break from the approach to negotiations that had been adopted by all the other provinces and territories at the outset. Alberta would appear to have different interests and different motivations in reaching an agreement with the federal government on the provision of RCMP services than British Columbia and the other provinces.

There are a number of differences in the type of policing and the make-up of the police force in Alberta in comparison to British Columbia. For example, Alberta has 20 per cent of all RCMP contract police in Canada and their members are largely engaged in rural policing whereas British Columbia has over 40 per cent of the RCMP contract police in Canada (includes both provincial and municipal RCMP police), and half of those members work in urban areas. There is also a difference in the total make-up of the police force. For example, in Alberta 42% of all police is RCMP, whereas in British Columbia the RCMP makes up about 70 per cent of all police.

From the perspective of the UBCM and the Province of British Columbia, the current contract negotiations with the Federal Government are not complete as there are some key decisions around the “cost base” (e.g. cadet training, pay and compensation, and legal costs) that have yet to be made. These are some of the key cost drivers underlying the agreement and the goal is to contain these costs in the agreement.

British Columbia local governments represent approximately 30% (i.e. 3,250 members) of all RCMP contract policing in Canada. There are currently 61 municipalities that contract with the Province for RCMP police services at a cost of over $500 million. Policing costs represent approximately 25% or more of an average municipality’s operating expenditures and are increasing at an unsustainable rate. Clearly, BC local governments have a large stake in the negotiations and the outcome will have a significant financial impact on local governments in British Columbia.

British Columbia has indicated that it will continue to lead the remaining provinces and territories that are still negotiating with the federal government to achieve their objectives of cost containment, improving accountability and establishing the best partnership with the RCMP that will lead to the renewal of the Federal/Provincial/ Territorial RCMP agreement. Our understanding is that in view of Alberta’s announcement, the Provincial Territorial Contract Advisory Committee (P/T CAC) has met and confirmed its plan to move forward with the negotiations. UBCM will continue to monitor these discussions through our representative on the provincial negotiating team and will provide further updates as the negotiations proceed.

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UBCM NEWS JUNE 2011
Keep of Prisoner Costs

Continued from page 7

“the current rate for Keep of Prisoners is so low that our detention facility must maintain a prisoner rate of 4-5 prisoners per hour just to recover costs. Less than 4-5 prisoners in custody at any given time means that municipal taxpayers are subsidizing the cost of remand of provincial prisoners. Essentially, residents are subsidizing prisoners from outside jurisdictions. The current KOP rate does not adequately reflect the necessary level of due care, attention and diligence attention required to safely manage prisoners to prevent civil and criminal liability.”

Fair Rate of Compensation

When asked in the survey what a fair rate of compensation for a keep of prisoner might be the majority local governments suggested an average range between $10.00 and $20.00 per hour – this is substantially higher than the $7.10 per hour most recently paid by the province. One local government pointed out that “40% of the total prisoner hours logged in 2010 were for the keep of Provincial prisoners. The hourly rate paid to us only reflects a 35% recovery of our costs to keep Provincial prisoners.”

Provincial Standards for Municipal Jails

In the past few years, local government has been faced with the introduction of new standards by the province/RCMP for the operation and maintenance of municipal jails. The new standards have required that local government undertake major capital cost upgrades to local jails, examples of some of these costs are outlined below:

• $350,000 for the installation of audio and visual recording equipment where detained persons have interaction with police personnel.
• $39,000 cameras + $60,000 digital media specialist(est). Keeping video of multiple areas has created a disclosure issue. There is now much more video to be sent to crown counsel than before. This video must be manually extracted, disclosed and archived.
• $265,890 RCMP estimated costs for cells retrofit to meet new standards (one time cost); $70,215 Upgrade to video storage to meet new 2 yr retention standard (one time cost); $10,672.26 IT support required to maintain 2 year retention period (annual).

Local governments are concerned that they are being asked to bear the costs for new security standards set by the province/RCMP. The question that has been raised as to why the Province or Federal Government are not reimbursing these costs. In particular, why the province is not funding the new standards for cameras in local jail facilities given that the province funded the new standards it set for cameras in casinos. The UBCM survey on KOP rates highlighted two major problems. The first problem is the increasing cost that local government faces in looking after provincial/federal prisoners and the fact that the current rates do not cover the basic costs. The second problem identified is the increasing cost that local government faces to meet the new security standards demanded by the provincial/federal government in local jails. The local governments in the survey have suggested that “there is a disconnect between the setting of standards and the paying of the actual total costs.” They are concerned that “the costs are continually going up, and this trend will likely continue into the future.” The survey indicated that the current funding formula and the KOP rate is low particularly in light of the ever increasing security requirements. The provincial/federal government should
 reimburse local government a fair rate of compensation that covers the basic costs for keeping a prisoner in a local jail and should also cover the costs of new security requirements that they establish for the operation of local jails. UBCM has requested a meeting with the provincial government to discuss the KOP rate and the costs of new security standards established for local jails.

Independent Police Investigation Office

The Province introduced legislation on May 17, 2011 (Bill 12 – Police (Independent Investigations) Amendment Act) to establish an independent police investigation office. The office will end the controversial practice of police investigating police.

The Independent Police Investigation office will:

• be able to investigate a civilian who has never served as a police officer;
• conduct criminal investigations into police-related incidents involving death or serious harm, and will be able to do investigations involving other serious incidents;
• be able to investigate members of all B.C. police agencies, including independent all information that is needed to do an investigation. The monitor will be free to raise concerns to the director about the integrity of an investigation and submit a final report within 30 days.

Provincial Dike Policy

The Provincial government in December 2010 outlined its policy for the construction of new dikes and the requirement that local government agree to the government’s agreement before new dike projects are approved. UBCM undertook a survey of local governments in 2011 regarding this policy and has written the province pointing out that it does not support the “strategic principles” outlined in the new provincial dike policy. In addition, UBCM has requested that action be taken to address the ongoing problems associated with the operation and maintenance of dikes – technical assistance, approval process, legal access and the issues related to First Nations land.

Local government, while it is very appreciative of the financial assistance provided by the federal and provincial government for flood hazard management under the Build Canada Fund, there is a need to address some key policy issues related to dike:

• downloading of responsibility for dike management and operations that the province undertook in 2003. The province noted that the strategic principles that one of the reasons it is delegating the responsibility to local government for the operation and management of dikes is that it lacks the resources to undertake the auditing, monitoring and training to support compliance with the dike safety standards that it has set;

• lack of technical and project management support from the province related to flood protection tasks the majority of local governments, who have a population of 5,000 or less, do not have the technical and project management skills to operate and maintain flood protection works;

• approval process for in stream work and maintenance of dikes that is required from the provincial and federal government (Fisheries and Oceans Canada). Local governments are concerned that the approval for in stream work is not always provided in a timely manner and in some cases is refused even though the integrity of the dike may be undermined and local government liability increased in the event of a dike failure;

• legal access to a number of the dikes local government has agreed to operate and manage has not been provided by the province. The province in some cases has built dikes on private land without a legal right-of-way to the property owner and subsequently suggested that local government work out an agreement with the property owner.

• gaps currently exist in the dike system, particularly as it relates to First Nation lands as the federal and provincial government have not reached any understanding on the protection required and the resources needed to maintain and operate flood protection works on reserve lands.

The issues identified need to be addressed as they make it difficult for local government to provide effective dike management and ensure the protection of local residents in the event of a flood.

Independent Police Investigation Office

The Province introduced legislation on May 17, 2011 (Bill 12 – Police (Independent Investigations) Amendment Act) to establish an independent police investigation office. The office will end the controversial practice of police investigating police.

The Independent Police Investigation office will:

• be led by a civilian who has never served as a police officer;
• conduct criminal investigations into police-related incidents involving death or serious harm, and will be able to do investigations involving other serious incidents;

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Victoria, British Columbia Canada V8W 1B3

Continued on page 19
Environment Policy

ENVIRONMENT POLICY IN BRIEF

ALR Residential Guidelines

Earlier this year, the BC Ministry of Agriculture developed a discussion paper that contains a draft set of criteria for developing local government bylaws regarding residential uses in the Agricultural Land Reserve. The criteria is focused on managing the siting and size of residences and residential footprints and do not deal with whether the residential use is permitted. Some local governments have requested this guidance to manage residential uses in farming areas.

The discussion paper describes the issue, framework for developing the bylaw standard, and proposes criteria for developing local government bylaws. Once stakeholder input has been received and incorporated into the discussion paper, the criteria will be sent to the Ministry executive for final approval. Once approval has been received, the finalized information will be distributed to local governments and incorporated into the Ministry’s “Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas.”

In addition to the stakeholders identified in the discussion paper, the Ministry is seeking public input through an online survey. The Ministry is encouraging local governments to post a link to the survey on their local government websites. The “ALR Residential Guidelines Survey” is available on the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands website at www.gov.bc.ca/agri/

Climate Action

In the summer of 2012, 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; reducing corporate emissions and implementing community-wide GHG reduction projects. Local government elected officials are also welcome.

For further information on the process for signing the Climate Action Charter, or on the GCC workshops, please contact Jared Wright, Senior Policy Analyst by email at jwright@civicnet.bc.ca, or by phone at 604.270.8226 ext. 113.

Motor Vehicle Act: Industrial Utility Vehicles

The Province is contemplating several changes to the Motor Vehicle Act through the introduction of Bill 13, the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act No. 2. Under the proposed legislation, golf course owners will no longer be required to register, license or insure their golf carts and utility vehicles through ICBC to operate in parking lots or cross public roads.

Exemptions will also be made to a range of industrial utility vehicles for use in parking lots and driveways, and for certain incidental highway use. Scissor lifts and powered wheel barrows will be defined as “mobile equipment” and will also be exempted from those requirements. In place of ICBC insurance, business owners will be able to cover these vehicles through their commercial general liability insurance. The exemptions for the referenced industrial utility vehicles will be brought into force as soon as safety rules and minimum insurance requirements for industrial utility vehicles are developed.

For more information on the proposed amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act, please visit: www.leg.bc.ca/39th3rd/1st_read/gov13-1.htm.
2011 UBCM Convention

NOMINATION PROCEDURES FOR THE UBCM EXECUTIVE

The ongoing administration and policy determination of the UBCM is governed by an Executive Board that is elected and appointed at the Annual Convention. It includes instructions on how to access additional information on UBCM Executive responsibilities and how to submit a nomination.

JULY 29 – LAST BUSINESS DAY IN JULY

Advance nominations close – all candidates must have their documentation submitted. Following this deadline the Nominating Committee will review the credentials and prepare its report. It is not the role of the Nominating Committee to recommend any one nomination, rather Committee members are to ensure nominations are complete and according to policies and procedures.

MID-AUGUST

The Nominating Committee report will be distributed to all UBCM members which will include:
- names of members and positions;
- photo (to size set by Nominating Committee Chair); and
- biographical information. (The maximum length of such information shall be 300 words. If the information provided is in excess, the Nominating Committee Chair shall return it once for editing; if it still does not meet the maximum, the Nominating Committee Chair shall edit as required). For further information on the nomination and election process contact:

Chair Harry Nyce
Chair, UBCM Nominating Committee
c/o UBCM office
60-10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9
Chair email: eagle1@nlsigaa.net
Chair Ph: 250.615.7766
UBCM Ph: 604.270.8226
UBCM Fax: 604.270.9116
UBCM email: mcrawford@ubcm.ca

The 2011 Nominations PROCESS

JUNE

Nominating Committee circulates a Call for Nominations notice that contains the following information:
- positions open for nomination;
- process for nomination;
- qualifications for office;
- role of Nominating Committee;
- closing date for nominations (prior to the Convention); and
- general duties of an Executive member.

REMINDER

THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS JULY 29, 2011

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED NOMINATION MATERIAL
- INCLUDING CONSENT FORM, PICTURE AND BIO
- to the Nominating Committee c/o the UBCM office.

2011 UBCM Convention Session Proposals Due June 24th

There are two session opportunities for participation in the 2011 Convention: workshops and clinics. Workshops are limited to four sessions of approximately two hours. Clinics are early morning sessions of 45 minutes in length that typically involve a presentation by a group to a small audience of delegates. Up to six clinics are offered on Tuesday and four each on Wednesday and Thursday.

If you are interested in hosting a session at the 2011 UBCM Convention, an online proposal form can be found under the Convention tab of the UBCM website, at www.ubcm.ca. The deadline for proposals is June 24th, 2011.

If you have any questions regarding the session proposal process, please contact Angela Turner (604.270.8226 Ext. 117, aturner@ubcm.ca) or Joyal Young (604.270.8226 Ext. 103, jyoung@ubcm.ca).

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Convention Registration Underway

Registration materials for the 2011 UBCM Convention will be distributed to members by early July. We are pleased to again provide delegates with the opportunity to register online. A registration guide with pre-conference session information will be distributed to members, and will be available on the UBCM website at www.ubcm.ca. Be sure to register before August 12th in order to take advantage of the lowest registration fee.

REMINDER

The Long Service Awards Deadline is:

August 31, 2011

Guidelines and nominating procedures will be distributed to members by email shortly.

Questions can be forwarded to:
Joslyn Young at 604.270.8226 Ext. 103, or jyoung@ubcm.ca.

2011 UBCM CONVENTION

Rethink, Replace & Rejuvenate: The New 3 R’s

There is absolutely nothing to be said in favour of growing old. There ought to be legislation against it. - Patrick Moore

Whether or not we embrace it, this is one of life’s truths – we are getting older. And as the workforce tips the scale toward retirement, local governments must adjust to accommodate this shift.

Local governments currently face increasing challenges with respect to aging populations, workforces and infrastructure. Emerging trends are presenting new challenges, and our ability to anticipate these challenges may determine our capacity to grow and adapt our communities, long-term.

The dynamics of our communities are changing. Concepts that we have long understood – retirement, volunteerism, and community involvement, among others – are being rethought. By engaging these shifts, we can create stronger local governments with deep roots throughout the province.

Now is the ideal time to take a renewed look at our environments, policies and procedures, and rethink the way we serve our communities. There will inevitably be gaps that need to be filled, and facilities in need of repair. But despite shifting demographics, there are also ample opportunities to tap into the potential within our communities.

This week, we will develop the policies that will shape our actions over the coming year, and beyond. We will also take time to expand and hone our knowledge base, and develop approaches for anticipating change and building momentum. And as always, we will rely on one another to share strategies and successes.

At the 2011 UBCM Convention in Vancouver, let us develop a proactive approach to the challenges we face, and turn trends into progress.

2011 CONVENTION INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON UBCM WEBSITE

For the latest information on the 2011 Convention, check out the UBCM website at www.ubcm.ca. Here, along with other information important to members, you will find the Convention Page. The Convention Page will be updated regularly as Convention planning unfolds.

As the Convention approaches, you will find everything from the President’s Message to registration and accommodations information on this page. You will also be able to register online. Currently, the site includes information on location, accommodations and theme. The “Sessions” tab provides information on how to submit a workshop or clinic idea.

Just visit www.ubcm.ca and click on Convention/2011 Convention. We recommend book-marking the site for easy access to the most recent Convention information.
UBCM Community Excellence Awards

2010 WINNER PROFILES

In 2010, the Community Excellence Awards program received 77 entries. With only three main categories and eight winning spots available, the competition was tough. In the end, eight communities took home winning trophies and six honourable mentions were awarded.

For more information, please contact: Grant Loyer, CAO
chongt@portcoquitlam.ca / 604-927-5410

City of Port Coquitlam
BEST PRACTICES, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WINNER

The City of Port Coquitlam is recognized as a local government leader in the use of technology – in particular social media – to engage citizens. The City developed an on-line outreach program to find new ways to increase citizen participation, to create a two-way dialogue with citizens and to reach residents who previously didn’t engage in their local government. Through its website, social media and other online components, the City is engaging citizens on their terms, rather than asking them to participate at the City’s convenience. The result has been a documented rise in citizen involvement and interest in Port Coquitlam civic affairs.

For more information, please contact:
Tony Chong, CAO
chongt@portcoquitlam.ca / 604-927-5410

District of Lillooet
BEST PRACTICES, WEBSITE WINNER

The District of Lillooet initiated a website update project in 2008 and completed the process in 2009. The uniqueness of this project is the content of the website. In addition to municipal information that is provided for our residents, we also use the site to market the municipality. Included in the site is a promotional video; and, to take marketing of our community to the next level, we have included audio of local government. Tell us how you have engaged your community!

For more information, please contact: Grant Loyer, CAO
gloyer@lillooetbc.ca / 250-256-4289

CORRECTION NOTICE
~ March Issue

Please note that in the March issue of the UBCM News on page 11, in profiling Excellence Awards winners from 2010, we incorrectly attributed the Qnet Program to Port Coquitlam, when in fact it is the City of Coquitlam’s program which won the Honourable Mention in the 2010 Best Practices, General category.

UBCM NEWS JUNE 2011
Fish Friendly Pump Station

District of Kent
LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION - 2010 Small Community Winner

In 2003, it was determined that the existing Duncan-Bateson Pump Station was in need of substantial upgrades. There were issues with the infrastructure, which was not in good condition, including inadequate pumping capacity and a lack of mitigation measures for fish protection and transfer. The area is known for its important fish habitat, which includes Coho and Chum salmon; but the historic pump station did not permit fish passage and had a detrimental effect on migrating juveniles.

The new Duncan-Bateson Pump Station was officially opened on August 28, 2009. Funded entirely by the Building Canada plan, the total cost of the project is estimated at $1.4 million. This project was a tremendous achievement for the District due to its scale and scope; however, it was completed with no additional burden to taxpayers.

The new station can now handle severe storms as each of the two pumps is set to automatically switch on at specific water levels. In addition, the new pumps feature a fish pump that allows for migrating fish to bypass the main flood pumps.

The project brought together stakeholders from all levels of government, as well as neighboring First Nations, drainage groups and the local community. The community was invited and educated about the project; and, local property owners and residents were invited to the opening ceremony where information pamphlets were distributed to provide additional public education.

The greatest impact of the completed project to the community is the significant improvement of fish habitat and the safety of the surrounding area by mitigating flood risks.

For more information, please contact:
Clair Lee, Director of Corporate Services
clee@district.kent.bc.ca / 604-796-2235, Ext. 2237

Effluent Water Re-use Project

City of Dawson Creek
LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION - 2010 Mid-Size Community Winner

The “Effluent Water Re-Use” project is an excellent example of innovation, leadership and creative problem solving at the municipal level. The City’s goal was to find a solution on how to reduce the volume of potable water that the oil and gas industry was using from the City’s water system without jeopardizing the economics of business. A feasibility study was done projecting 4,000 cubic meters of effluent could be treated to a standard that would meet the needs of the industry. The oil and gas industry currently uses up to 20% of the treated potable water the City produces for industrial purposes where non-potable water would work just as well.

Through a RFP process, the City of Dawson Creek was awarded with Shell Canada was created which includes the treating of effluent to a standard that allows the reclaimed water to be used in an oilfield application. This new process will minimize the discharge of effluent into the local watershed. In addition, Shell Canada agreed to contribute 9.75 million dollars for the construction of the effluent treatment facility; in addition, Shell Canada committed to building a pipeline to carry the treated effluent to the gas field where it will be used for hydrate cracking and dust control. The total cost of the project is estimated to be 10 million dollars and at the current growth rate, the plant will be able to supply the entire share of Dawson Creek’s water supply until 2035.

This project identifies five important issues, (one) not only does it ensure a long-term water supply for the City of Dawson Creek, benefiting both municipality and citizens, (two) it provides products for industrial users and solutions for the City’s street cleaning and watering of soccer fields, flowers and many facility future uses, (three) the majority of the funding will be provided by the arrangement created, (four) potential revenue stream for additional water produced by the plant, and (five) removing environmental issues identified for our local watershed by allowing the creek to return to its natural state.

Solar Energy Makes Hot Water for Homes

District of North Vancouver
LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION - 2010 Large Community Winner

The District of North Vancouver (DNV) is one of a growing number of solar communities in BC and is ideally located geographically to harness the sun’s energy. Utilizing solar thermal energy to generate hot water for our homes is an excellent way for our community to begin using renewable energy resources.

To better promote this initiative, the DNV collaborated with UBC’s Faculty of Forestry to develop a unique web-mapping application aimed at educating the public of the benefits of solar hot water systems. This new Solar Application contains a unique tool, which calculates the incoming solar radiation for every rooftop in the District. Homeowners can view how effective a solar hot water system would be for their rooftop, and explore installation and incentive options.

While other solar applications use regional information covering large areas, the DNV’s new Solar Application has computed the actual solar values for every rooftop in the District – a truly innovative and one-of-a-kind application. To take a look at this exciting application, check out www.geoeweb.dvn.org.

For more information, please contact:
Shawn McLeod, Section Manager, GIS
mcleods@dvnv.org / 604-990-2332

Passive Destruction of Methane with Microbes

Thompson-Nicola Regional District
LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION - 2010 Regional District Winner

Methane has the global warming potential of 21-times that of carbon dioxide. Filtering landfill-generated methane through biogenic methane beds immediately reduces the global warming impact of landfills. In addition to proven environmental benefits, anticipated is a reduction in long-term monitoring requirements and brownfield remediation costs.

The treatment bed compost provides a natural environment for the biogas. Small landfill beds will be planted with compost and then seeded with native grasses. The composting process will enhance the biomass with organic and nitrogen, creating anaerobic conditions for the microbes to transfer. The area is known for its important fish habitat, which includes Coho and Chum salmon; but the historic pump station did not permit fish passage and had a detrimental effect on migrating juveniles.

The treatment bed compost provides a natural environment for the biogas. Small landfill beds will be planted with compost and then seeded with native grasses. The composting process will enhance the biomass with organic and nitrogen, creating anaerobic conditions for the microbes to transfer. The area is known for its important fish habitat, which includes Coho and Chum salmon; but the historic pump station did not permit fish passage and had a detrimental effect on migrating juveniles.

For more information, please contact:
Patrick Hughes, Director of Environment Services
phughes@tndrd.bc.ca / 250-372-5048

Best Practices

Continued from page 12
LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION Mission Statement:

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

Leadership & Innovation Criteria:
Submissions to this category should reflect leadership and innovation in addressing environmental concerns and regulatory requirements through new programs, policies and plans implemented over the last three years. Joint projects between municipalities will also be considered. Initiatives must be substantially completed and demonstrate measurable results in the protection of BC’s environment (air, land, water, natural resources, etc.) Applications will be evaluated based on their originality, relevancy to current environmental issues and the feasibility for other municipalities to achieve similar results.

For more information, please contact:
Kevin Henderson, Director of Operations
khenderson@dawsoncreek.ca / 250-784-3622
First Nations Relations Update

First Nations Relations Committee Meets New Minister

At the April Executive meeting, the UBCM’s First Nations Relations Committee had an opportunity to meet with the new Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, the Honourable Mary Polak. On the agenda for discussion were the following issues.

Treaty Negotiations and the Cost to Local Government

Committee members expressed concerns about the rising costs to local governments to participate in treaty negotiations and indicated that provincial funding has been decreasing since 2002, to today, where there is no funding. Members asked the Minister to reinstate funding to support the work of TACs, but the Minister advised that she was unable to commit to finding funding for TACs and suggested looking at other ways for the Province to support local governments that don’t involve funding.

2008 MOU on Local Government Participation in the New Relationship

The Committee advised the Minister that UBCM signed an MOU with the Province in 2008 on local government participation in the New Relationship with First Nations in BC, which includes principles for consultation. The three-year review clause applies this year, and members indicated to the Minister that there are instances where UBCM members are not being consulted on agreements involving land and resources. The Minister was advised that UBCM would like to review the MOU with the objective of improving consultation with local governments on non-treaty agreements.

First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act (FNCIDA)

Members indicated that the new legislation was designed to facilitate large-scale development on reserve land by allowing provincial regulations to apply. However, UBCM members have identified a number of local government concerns as the Province moves toward implementation. Members asked the Minister to commit to consulting with UBCM on the implementation of the new legislation. The Minister advised that the intent is to engage with UBCM and LMTAC on FNCIDA. She committed Ministry staff to begin engaging with UBCM and LMTAC as soon as possible.

In follow up to the Minister’s meeting, LMTAC recently received a delegation from federal and provincial representatives to their May 25 meeting at which LMTAC members received an overview of the FNCIDA legislation. LMTAC members also had an opportunity to identify specific interests for local governments with the new legislation and encouraged the provincial and federal representatives to continue to engage local governments in consultations as discussions around FNCIDA implementation continue.

Yale First Nation Celebrates Treaty Legislation

Members of the Yale First Nation celebrated the introduction of Bill 11 into the provincial legislature on May 18, 2011. Yale First Nation members voted 68% in favour of a treaty earlier this year. The treaty will provide Yale with a capital transfer of $10.7 million, economic development funding of $2.2 million and 1,966 hectares of land, composed of 217 hectares of former Yale Indian reserves and 1,749 hectares of Crown lands.

Once the Yale First Nation Treaty Legislation has been debated, and if passed by provincial legislators, settlement legislation must also be approved by the Parliament of Canada. The treaty will take effect on a date agreed to by the parties.

FCM Produces Service Agreement Best Practices Toolkit

FCM has recently released its Service Agreement Best Practices Toolkit. The toolkit has been developed as part of the FCM’s First Nations-Municipal Community Infrastructure Partnership Program (CIPP). The CIPP program aims to foster relationships between First Nations and adjacent municipalities across Canada, encouraging mutually beneficial service agreements – particularly those pertaining to water and wastewater infrastructure. The toolkit is designed to be used by both First Nations and municipalities to provide joint services, particularly related to water and wastewater infrastructure.

The toolkit can be accessed as follows: www.fcm.ca/CMFiles/Toolkit_ENG_HR_Final.pdf

For further information on the Toolkit or the CIPP program please contact: Suzanne Moccia, Program Manager, First Nations – Municipal CIPP, FCM at: smoccia@fcm.ca, 613.907.6323.

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Inaugural Healthy Choices Award Recipient Announced

The North Vancouver Recreation Commission (NVRC) has become the first recipient of the Healthy Choices Award, a new provincial award created by the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) and presented to the Commission during the BCRPA’s 2011 Symposium.

A legacy of the Healthy Food and Beverage Sales in Recreation Facilities & Local Government Buildings Initiative (HFBS), co-led by the BCRPA and UBCM, the award recognizes commitment and action to significantly improve the food environment in recreation and community settings by offering healthy choices in vending and food services, as well as implementing policy changes.

The NVRC received the award for their Play Well Eat Well - Healthy Eating Project. Started in 2009 to increase the availability of healthy food choices in its community recreation facilities, the project was piloted at the Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre but quickly expanded to other recreation centres, programs and government facilities.

The project has been very successful in increasing awareness of the importance of healthy living choices and practices through education, training and a promotional campaign. Promotion included a poster campaign, items in the recNews e-newsletter, a new Healthy Eating section on the NorthVanRec.com website, items in the staff newsletter, press releases to local newspapers and a BBQ event. The Play Well Eat Well - Healthy Eating Project is leading by example. The NVRC adopted a strategy for healthy eating throughout the organization, one that strives to follow the provincial government guidelines of at least 50% Choose Most and up to 50% Choose Sometimes foods in facilities and programs. By working with vendors, the project has succeeded in increasing the percentage of healthy snacks and beverages in machines in recreation facilities to almost 100% healthy choices from previous levels of 25% of snacks and 75% of drinks that met the guidelines. Significant changes were also made to food planning and offerings for recreation programs including birthday parties, day camps, and recreation events. Other healthy food initiatives have been started which complement the Play Well Eat Well - Healthy Eating Project. In 2009, a composting program was started at the Delbrook Community Recreation Centre by the Green Team. That in turn led to the creation of a community garden. Harvesting started in June 2010, and approximately 200 pounds of fresh greens were donated to the Harvest Project and social housing complexes in North Vancouver. The Green Team is working with staff at two other NVRC facilities to plan additional community gardens.

The NVRC’s commitment and action to significantly improve the food environment is providing a great example for other recreation agencies to follow.

Healthy Communities Committee Update

Regional Hospital District Cost Sharing Review

The Working Group continues to meet frequently on the implementation of the recommendations in the 2008 RHD Cost Sharing Review. The implementation approach for each recommendation will be presented in September at the UBCM Convention (with the exception of recommendation 11, which requests an update to legislation to reflect a new definition of capital).

Food Action Framework

UBCM has participated in the development of a food action framework for health authorities, educational institutions, childcare facilities and local governments. This project is led by the Provincial Health Services Authority and provides a broad range of ideas that health authorities, educational institutions, childcare facilities and local governments can take to support healthy eating and local food production. Actions are grouped under 4 main headings: People, Food Services, Land and Land Use Planning, and Reducing Food-Related Waste. This framework will be completed in mid-June with a launch and distribution in the summer.

CONTROL

“The ability to organize and direct various actions to achieve a specific goal.”

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- Moody Park Outdoor Pool
- Oliver Woods Community Centre
- Sechelt & Area Aquatic Centre
- Gibson’s & Area Community Centre
- Nanaimo Ice Centre
- Houston Leisure Facility
- SCRD Administration Building
- Lax Kw’alaams Family Leisure Centre
- Revelstoke Aquatic Centre
- Mission Leisure Centre
- Mission Sports Park
- Nanaimo Aquatic Centre
- Greater Vernon Multiplex
- Cranbrook Recreation Complex
- Nanaimo Aquatic Centre
- Trail Aquatic Centre
- North Vancouver Tennis Centre
- Port Coquitlam Recreation Centre
- Whistler Rink and Pool

TASK CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT INC.
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UBCM NEWS JUNE 2011 15
Community Economic Development

UBCM Responds to BC Hydro’s Integrated Resource Plan Consultation Process

In the March 2011 issue of UBCM News, members were advised of the opportunity to provide input into BC Hydro’s Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The deadline for comment on the IRP was April 30, 2011. The IRP will “establish BC Hydro’s plan for conservation and set its course for acquiring sufficient generation and transmission resources to reliably and cost-effectively meet customers’ anticipated future electricity needs over the coming decades.”

Essentially the IRP is BC Hydro’s long-term utility plan to meet customers’ expectations for electricity services, which includes actions required to meet the future needs of customers for the next 20 years. The IRP is guided by the government of BC’s new Clean Energy Act, that sets out specific new energy objectives for BC Hydro with respect to its long-term electricity plan.

UBCM’s Community Economic Development Committee met in mid-April and reviewed the following key topics that BC Hydro is consulting on as part of the IRP process:
• conservation and efficiency
• electricity generation options
• electrification
• transmission planning

UBCM has consistently supported policy positions that would see greater efforts around conservation and efficiency. And while UBCM did not feel it was their role to drive up demand for electricity, the Committee responded by indicating that UBCM members support clean renewable energy options. However, the Committee noted that actively encouraging fuel-switching was going beyond the normally accepted role of BC Hydro. While we felt it was important to have BC Hydro respond to changing customer demand, we did not feel it was their role to drive up demand for electricity.

Transmission Planning – When considering whether BC should develop transmission plans in response to forecast need or develop long-term transmission plans in anticipation of future need, UBCM indicated support for the latter. UBCM, through its work on the (now disbanded) IPP MC3 Working Group had expressed concerns that one-off IPPs were being approved with no ability to coordinate projects including the transmission requirements. This responsive approach can often lead to a proliferation of transmission projects in areas where activities such as tourism and forestry may often be in competition for land uses, thereby creating conflicts within regions. UBCM has advocated a more proactive approach that would try to minimize and reduce land use conflicts.

Export Market Potential – When considering whether BC Hydro should continue its current traditional approach (e.g. exports [export surplus] during times when excess water in the system) or developing clean generation for the sole purpose of export, UBCM does not have specific policy. However, in our submission, the Committee acknowledged that the issue of exporting BC resources generally has been a controversial topic amongst many members. There have been growing comments and concerns about the role of IPPs, are they required to support domestic need or is it really to address the potential export market? The IRP consultation is specifically asking about IPPs output for export market. Our submission commented on the different definitions of green renewable energy in different jurisdictions and questioned whether IPPs meet the definition in other potential exporting jurisdictions. In other words why would we create surplus if the export markets do not find it acceptable. We also expressed concern about being seen as an exporter of our resources to those markets that may not be undertaking conservation and efficiency activities in order to reduce their own demand first, before accessing our resources.

Electricity Generation Options – When considering the mix of possible electricity options available to meet demand (e.g. run of river, Site C) UBCM has not taken a position on Site C; has supported pursuing alternative energy technologies; expressed concerns about the siting/approvals related to IPP developments and sought clarification about how biomass projects undertaken by local governments fit into the energy mix.

Electrification – When considering whether BC Hydro should be actively encouraging electrification or responding to the fuel switching that is naturally occurring, the Committee responded by indicating that UBCM members support clean renewable energy options. However, the Committee noted that actively encouraging fuel-switching was going beyond the traditionally accepted role of BC Hydro. While we felt it was important to have BC Hydro respond to changing customer demand, we did not feel it was their role to drive up demand for electricity.

A full copy of the UBCM’s Community Economic Development Committee’s submission to BC Hydro can be found on the UBCM website at www.ubcm.ca under Policy and Resolutions/ Policy Areas/ Community Economic Development.

UBCM Rep Appointed to FortisBC Energy’s Advisory Group

In March 2011, FortisBC and Terasen joined under a shared name: FortisBC. Combined, they provide electricity, natural gas, piped propane and alternative energy solutions, delivering almost half of BC’s residential, commercial and industrial energy needs today. In order to plan for a changing energy future, FortisBC is in the process of developing its 2013 Long Term Resource Plan (LTRP) that will look at “improved energy efficiency, reduced carbon emissions and safe, secure energy supply at cost effective rates for years to come.” The plan will look 20 years out to identify energy efficiency opportunities, energy supply requirements and infrastructure needs.

As part of the LTRP process and in response to stakeholder feedback, FortisBC has established a Resource Planning Advisory Group (RPAG) that will meet during the planning process to discuss energy affecting long-term utility plans. UBCM was asked to make an appointment to the RPAG to represent the interests of local governments. We are pleased to advise that Councillor Noreen Guenter of Lake City has accepted an appointment to the RPAG. Councillor Guenter brings a wealth of knowledge to this appointment as she presently sits as the UBCM representative to BC Hydro’s Electricity Conservation and Efficiency Advisory Committee, where she presently chairs one of the working groups.

For further information on the FortisBC LTRP please go to: www.FortisBC.com/irp.

Ferry Fares Advisory Committee Meets Transport Minister

On May 4th, the UBCM’s Ferry Fares Advisory Committee had an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Honourable Blair Lekstrom. Advisory Committee members briefed the Minister on the concerns expressed by communities about the potential price caps that have been driven by 37% over the coming 4 years. Members indicated that continuing to raise ferry fares at this rate was not sustainable and that higher fares would only result in less ferry travel, less tourism and severe economic downturn for many coastal communities who are already experiencing significant challenges.

UBCM representatives impressed upon the Minister the policy positions that have been driven by our membership repeatedly requesting that BC Ferries be funded and administered as a critical component of the provincial highway transportation system in order to provide affordable, accessible and dependable service.

Since our meeting with the Minister, there have been significant developments on this policy file. On May 13th, BC Ferry Commissioner, Gordon Macatee, wrote to the Minister indicating that in light of the public concern over the preliminary price cap decisions that were announced, he was seeking the Minister’s approval and support to undertake a review of the Coastal Ferry Act, “to assess how it has performed to date in achieving the original public policy objectives.” The Commissioner sought funding and a 6-month window within which to undertake the review. On May 18th, the Minister responded by indicating his support for the review, “including making recommendations to government to address concerns around affordability and sustainability.”

On May 24th, Minister Lekstrom introduced Bill 14, Coastal Ferry Amendment Act, 2011. The bill establishes a price cap of 4.15% for all ferry routes beginning next April for a one year period but will allow the Commissioner to undertake the usual price review following that one year period for the remainder of the performance term. And finally the bill authorized the Commissioner “to undertake a review of the Coastal Ferry Act and provide recommendations to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure as to how the Coastal Ferry Act could be amended to allow the commissioner to better balance the interests of ferry users and the financial sustainability needs of ferry operators, and provides that the costs of that review and recommendation process are to be pre-approved by that minister and borne by that minister.”
Gas Tax Fund Program Update

The period of applications under the General Strategic Priorities Fund and Innovations Fund (IF) is now concluded and work is underway to process the applications. A total of over 150 applications were received under both programs - 40 for capacity building and over 110 for capital projects. In keeping with previous years, the funds available were over-subscribed by slightly more than 3:1. The programs, which together make available $157 million in funding, receive funding requests for over $500 million.

A series of working groups are also underway with Tier 2 Gas Tax Fund recipients in advance of applications to the Regionally Significant Projects Fund (RSPF). Under the Gas Tax Fund, Tier 2 is comprised of the Capital, Central Okanagan, Cowichan Valley, Fraser Valley, Nanaimo, North Okanagan, Okanagan-Similkameen and Squamish-Lillooet Regional Districts and their members. The purpose of these staff level consultations is to provide updates on changes to the RSPF and the process for developing funding proposals by Tier 2 recipients. Proposals will be accepted for RSPF funding until September 30, 2012.

Ownership: Determining the Eligibility of Your Gas Tax Project

In a nutshell, there are five basic questions that need to be asked when determining the eligibility of particular project:

1) Does the project fall within one of the eligible categories set out in Schedule A of the Gas Tax Agreement?
2) Does the project lead toward an outcome of cleaner air, cleaner water or reduced GHG emissions?
3) [For Regional Districts] Does the project benefit one or more electoral areas?
4) Will the project result in a capital asset located in BC, primarily for public use or benefit, and will the eligible recipient own it for at least 10 years?
5) Are the costs eligible?

One of the areas in the eligibility criteria that has required clarification is the balancing of considerations of “public use or benefit” with “owned by an eligible recipient”. In order for a project to be eligible, it is important that both aspects be satisfied by the project.

For instance, a community may be considering using Gas Tax funds to support a rebate program for solar panels. While the project will result in reduced ghgs, and will also provide a public benefit, the resulting asset will not be owned by an eligible recipient (i.e., an individual household). On the other hand, a project to install solar panels in a municipal building or a facility owned by one of the other eligible recipients identified in the definitions section of the agreement would be eligible since all criteria have been satisfied.

If you have a question about the eligibility of project your local government is considering, we are here to help. Please contact us at 250-356-5134.

Wood Fueled Heating System Nears Completion

The District of Lillooet is in the final stages of an innovative project to use waste wood pellets to heat Lillooet’s Community Recreation Centre. The new wood-burning boilers will reduce the propane the Recreation Centre consumes by approximately 87%, or 138,000 litres, annually. The upgrades were completed through a grant of $467,000 from the Gas Tax Fund.

The project uses a wood burning boiler system that incorporates the industry’s most advanced combustion technology. By gasifying the wood fuel and controlling the air intake, the boilers provide nearly complete combustion of the fuel, minimizing the emission of particles and reducing GHG emissions by up to 208 tonnes of CO2 per year. The system will be fueled with pellets manufactured from BC waste wood, and will reduce the center’s annual heating costs by an estimated $50,000. The total cost of the project was just over $600,000, with the remainder of funds provided by the District of Lillooet.

“We expect the new heating system to not only reduce operating costs but help the District meet its commitments to reducing its carbon footprint,” said Lillooet Mayor Dennis Bontron. “We hope the success of this project will lead to a further expansion of biomass use in the community replacing high cost propane fired boilers that are prevalent throughout Lillooet.”

Installation of biomass heating system in Lillooet
Many meeting annoyances are caused by agenda-related issues. This article (part 2) discusses additional questions raised by elected officials and professional staff.

1. Is it wise to establish a “curfew time”?

Some Procedure Bylaws specify a “curfew time.” Some Bylaws are strict, such as “Council meetings must end by 11 PM,” while others are more flexible: “Council/Board meetings must end by 11 PM, unless extended by resolution of the Council/Board.” Some Bylaws stipulate that a 2/3 vote or even unanimity is needed to extend a meeting beyond the curfew time.

Curfew times may help prevent meetings from being so long that the ability of voting members to concentrate and make informed decisions is eroded. Conversely, Councils/Boards should not feel obliged to “fill time” and end a meeting at curfew time if it can end early. Beware the phrase: “Work will expand to fill the available time.”

Curfew times should not cause a Council/Board to rush its decision-making process and thereby risk making flawed decisions. If a significant decision is being made and time is running out, and a full and necessary discussion has not occurred, the vote should be postponed. If the issue is time sensitive, the meeting should be extended.

2. Should there be time limits on agenda items?

Meetings should be well paced, so as to engage the participants, and so as to avoid a rush at later portions. To achieve this goal, time should be managed as the meeting progresses.

Time limits on agenda items can be established formally, by a vote on a timed agenda, e.g.: “6 PM Call to order and opening comments, 6:15 Public delegations, 7:00: Bylaws, etc. To help ensure that meetings should be well paced, so as to engage the participants, and so as to avoid a rush at later portions. To achieve this goal, time should be managed as the meeting progresses.

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3. Should there be time limits on speakers?

Time limits on speakers might not have been necessary if all speakers had kept their comments brief and to the point. Unfortunately, this ideal reality does not always exist in a political and sometimes adversarial environment. Therefore, it may be necessary to establish and enforce time limits on individual speakers.

Some Procedure Bylaws specify time limits on individual speakers and on public delegations. For example, a Bylaw might stipulate that Council members may speak up to two times on each motion, each time no longer than three minutes, and members may speak up to two times on each motion, each time no longer than three minutes, and with second time speakers waiting until all first time speakers have spoken. Such limits can help ensure fairness and equality and good time management. However, to be taken seriously, there should be a method of timing speakers and advising them when their time is about to run out.

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

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It is definitely advisable to establish and enforce time limits on public delegations (usually five to ten minutes each, with the Council/Board being able to grant extensions, if needed). It is also a good idea to limit the number of public delegations per meeting, so as to enable the Council/Board members to remain fresh for subsequent agenda items. Some Procedure Bylaws require delegations to provide written submissions, to be reviewed by the Corporate Officer and sent to Council/Board members in advance of the meeting. Lastly, in an active community, it may be a good idea to give the Corporate Officer the authority to decide (based on established criteria) whether a delegation will be heard and, if so, at what meeting.

Delegations should be advised of relevant Bylaw provisions in advance of the meeting at which they wish to speak. It may also be smart to divide public involvement into two segments: formal presentations by community groups (as delegations), as well as an opportunity for questions or brief comments at the start and/or the end of the meeting. Question/comment periods can reasonably be limited to a total of ten or fifteen minutes.

4. How should one interface with guest presenters?

In order to assist in the decision-making process, the Council/Board may rely on presentations by external experts and advisors. Such presentations are not “public delegations” and are therefore not subject to the respective rules and time limits.

Still, the agenda planner should be in touch with such experts in advance of a meeting and clarify the parameters and expectations. For example: What specific issues and questions is the expert expected to address? At what time will the presentation begin? How much time is available for the presentation and the question period? Is the Council/Board comfortable with an extended PowerPoint presentation, or does it prefer a less formal and more interactive approach?

In closing

An agenda is equivalent to a roadmap for a meeting. The tips given in the two parts of this article should help you plan an interesting, engaging, well paced and productive meeting.

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 new 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
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Urban Design and Sustainable Community Development Certificate Programs

SFU City Program is now accepting applications for the Fall 2011 cohort. Participants work through the certificate program courses with a group of peers — a cohort — sharing experiences, knowledge and ideas in a multidisciplinary context. Programs are part-time and designed for mid-career professionals and include eight 2 and 3-day courses over 10-18 months.

Application Deadline: July 15, 2011
Details at: www.sfu.ca/city

Urban Design Certificate
The award-winning Urban Design Certificate Program is a part-time, interdisciplinary, mid-career professional development program, designed for working professionals from diverse backgrounds. Courses are taught by leading urban design professionals and focus on current western Canadian urban design issues.
Details at: www.sfu.ca/city/udc.htm

Sustainable Community Development Certificate
SFU’s City Program and the Centre for Sustainable Community Development offers a certificate designed to give you the practical information you need today, from the most experienced consultants and instructors available.
Details at: www.sfu.ca/city/scd-sustain.htm

What participants say about our programs:
“I am just loving SFU’s program in Sustainable Community Development. It’s packed with brilliant local expertise — real leaders who have been doing great things for sustainability. It’s absolutely inspiring learning alongside my passionate fellow cohort members, I can hardly wait to put all this theory and the numerous powerful tools into practice!” Melissa Chaun, B.Sc., M.A., Environmental Scientist

“The Urban Design Program would benefit any municipal employee in urban design, planning or park planning. It brings together a wide assortment of professionals who have an interest in the challenges that we as society face today. You not only learn from instructors who are passionate about what they teach; you get to build on relevant skills from meaningful assignments and studios.” Scott Watson, Park Planner/Designer, City of Abbotsford

Police Investigation
Continued from page 8

The Office’s director will have the discretion to hire ex-police officers as investigators, as long as they have not served as a police officer in B.C. within the past five years. This will ensure the office has sufficient investigative skills and capacity to achieve its mandate in its initial, formative years while it progresses to a fully civilian investigative agency.

Before Jan. 1, 2015, the legislation addresses all of the Braidwood Commission recommendations with the exception of the recommendation that the provincial Ombudsperson have jurisdiction over the Independent Investigation Office. The province in this case has chosen to give the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner jurisdiction over the Independent Investigation Office.

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

Since 1980 our firm has restricted its practice to acting for local government and providing advice concerning municipal law to other clients.
Targeted recycling programs help Encorp aim higher

Encorp is proud of the high recovery rates maintained in BC every year. But there’s always room for improvement. To continuously increase the already high recovery rates, Encorp develops and implements targeted specialty programs.

RETURN-IT TO WIN-IT™
The annual Return-It to Win-It summer contest is back May 1. This year, one lucky depot customer will win a 2011 Smart Car. Secondary winners will hit the road with a pair of Vespa scooters or a set of mountain bikes. Simply visit a participating depot, drop off your containers and fill out a ballot. Find your nearest participating depot at return-it.ca/winit

BC PARKS PILOT PROGRAM
Encorp has been busy keeping our parks clean. In the summer of 2009, they tested 57 bear-proof beverage recycling bins in three BC Parks: Rathtrevor Beach, Goldstream and Alice Lake. In 2010, Cultus Lake Park received bins as well. The parks receive the deposit refunds and most proceeds are given to their favorite charities. So far 235,800 containers have been collected, refunding over $16,000 back to BC Parks.

SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM
This program helps elementary and high schools raise money while promoting environmental action. Now in its ninth year, the school program continues to grow. In the 2010 school year, Encorp recycling bins were provided to 365 more schools across BC. We have now provided over 8,700 recycling bins to schools. 151,000 students participated in the annual competition to collect the most containers. Last year schools raised over $291,000 in deposit refunds and the winning schools shared $13,500 in prizes.

OUTDOOR EVENTS
Encorp encourages people to recycle away from home by having their street team and mascot, Return-It Man, attend major events. Encorp also provides bins for outdoor spaces. In 2010, the team attended 130 trade shows and outdoor events, reaching more than 115,000 people.

RETURN-IT MAN SCHOOL TOUR
You’re never too young to learn about recycling. Last year, the Return-It Man team gave 33 presentations to nearly 6,000 elementary school students. The presentation features interactive sorting games, full audience participation and a “Recyclator” that shows kids what recycled containers turn into.

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