Local Government Elections in October 2014

Presently, local government elections are held every three years on the third Saturday in November. However, when the Local Government Elections Task Force was undertaking its review of elections legislation in the spring of 2010, the election date came up as an issue that the membership wanted to address. In its final report, the Task Force commented as follows:

“During the Task Force’s work, changing the date of general voting day was suggested fairly frequently. Written submissions argued that moving the date to October would make better weather for voting day more likely; increase accessibility of voting for some people who travel during the winter; and provide longer daylight hours for campaigning candidates and their supporters. The UBCM’s current policy position is against changing general voting day; however, if a new policy in favour of moving the date is endorsed by UBCM members at their annual convention, moving the date should be considered.”

At the 2010 UBCM Convention, the membership endorsed resolution A3 which requested that the date for local government elections be moved to the third Saturday of October and that those elected take office on November 1. In response to the endorsement of A3, the Ministry responded by indicating that it will propose legislative changes to move the date of local general elections to the third Saturday in October. Associated time frames, including the date locally elected officials take office, will also be addressed.

The Province has indicated that it will be bringing forward elections legislation in response to the recommendations put forward in the report of Local Government Elections Task Force. The date change to October, along with the other proposed amendments are expected to be in place for the 2014 local government elections.

Provincial Budget 2012 Highlights

The 2012 Provincial Budget introduced by Minister Kevin Falcon contained a few measures that directly impact local government.

The Budget allocates $2.6 million to establish the office of the Auditor General for Local Government.

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Over the past two months I have had the distinct pleasure of traveling to various parts of British Columbia to participate in the Local Government Leadership Academy forums for newly elected and returning elected officials. Approximately 600 local government leaders have taken part in these ambitious and highly successful events. It has been wonderful to see so many new and returning elected officials and their strong enthusiasm to serve their communities.

A short while back UBCM distributed a Member Release to local governments advising of two reviews that have been initiated by the Provincial Government. The first is the Expert Panel Review of Business Taxation. Local Governments were not involved in the establishment of this review, nor are we represented on the Expert Panel. At our February meeting, UBCM Executive expressed our concerns to Minister Chong about a lack of local government consultation and representation.

The second initiative that is in the works is a Local Government Revenue Sources Review. The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development provided UBCM with a draft terms of reference for the review. We responded that a joint steering committee drawn from the Ministry and UBCM should be established to develop the terms of reference and provide oversight to the review. Joint reviews, like the Local Government Elections Taskforce, have been common practice for matters of broad interest to local government. They have also proven highly effective in producing recommendations that have been endorsed by the provincial government and local government. The Ministry has responded that they are not in support of this approach. UBCM will be monitoring these reviews closely and provide updates once substantive information is available. The Local Government Revenue Sources Review is expected to be complete by July 31, 2012, and Expert Panel is required to report by August 31, 2012.

On a more positive note UBCM has had ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Children and Family Development regarding pilot projects for a new child poverty strategy. The Ministry has been fully engaged with our Healthy Communities Committee and is committed to ongoing dialogue with UBCM. In addition UBCM has also been fully involved in discussions with the Ministry of Transportation regarding terms of reference for the review of BC Transit that was announced last year.

As I write this, we are about six weeks away from the start of the Area Association meetings. I will be attending all five events around the province and look forward to hearing your thoughts on the issues that matter in your community. I will also be speaking about the files referenced above and others that are of greatest interest to local government.

Long Serving Staff Member Retires

UBCM would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Ted Willmer, who retired after serving 16 years as UBCM’s Manager of Finance and Operations. Known as a shrewd negotiator and as someone who managed UBCM finances as though they were his own, Ted provided loyal and valuable service to the organization. His wide-ranging portfolio included everything from accounting, budgets, IT systems and audits to contributing to the Convention and President’s Committees. Consistent with small-office culture, Ted did jobs both big and small – from packing up the office for convention to negotiating high-level contracts and ensuring our organization remained on stable financial ground. Known for his love of hockey and travel (not to mention the office snack box!) Ted and his wife Gladys are celebrating his retirement with a long-planned trip to New Zealand and Australia. We wish him good luck and many more fantastic holidays!

Kathleen Spalek

With the recent retirement of Ted Willmer, UBCM is pleased to welcome Ms. Kathleen Spalek as the new Manager of Finance and Corporate Operations within our Richmond office. Kathleen joined UBCM on February 27, 2012 and has taken on the responsibilities and duties previously held by Ted Willmer.

Kathleen is a Certified General Accountant with extensive senior management experience, most recently with BCIT as their Director, Administration Services and Financial Accounting. Prior to BCIT Kathleen worked as a Business Consultant for UBC and held several financial positions including Revenue Accountant with the City of Richmond. She brings expertise in the development and implementation of financial policies and procedures, budgets, forecasting and financial analysis. Returning to her local government roots, Kathleen is looking forward to her new role at UBCM and having the opportunity to meet the membership in the coming months.

UBCM News March 2012
Local Government Awareness Week 2012

This initiative is a partnership between UBCM, CivicsInfo BC, Local Government Management Association, Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Ministry of Education, Public Works Association, and BC School Trustees Association. The goal for the week is to generate awareness and educate the public about the roles and responsibilities of local government, and encourage the public to participate in local government processes.

Check out our new and improved website, www.lgaw.bc.ca to find out more information about LGAW, browse the resources on the site, and download information to help you get started. Also, tell us about your plans for LGAW 2012, and we will post them on the website weekly for others to see.

And finally, we will again be offering an Excellence Award for Best Practices, Best Civic Engagement. If your local government plans to participate in LGAW, please tell us what you did and how you engaged your community. Look for the Excellence Awards application package on the UBCM website starting early June.

Local Government Spotlight: City of Burnaby Activities

As part of Local Government Week 2011, the City of Burnaby undertook a project called ‘Be Heard: Vote Local’. This project focused on encouraging community residents to learn more about their local government and to vote in the 2011 local government election. The project derived its name from the ‘buy local’ and ‘eat local’ movements. Burnaby activities included:

- Issuing a City proclamation recognizing 2011 May 15 – 22 as Local Government Awareness Week in Burnaby.
- Developing a ‘Be Heard: Vote Local’ quiz, distributed through the City website and Facebook page. Compartments were submitted for a draw of recreation day passes at a City facility.

Indoor Tanning

At the 2011 UBCM Convention, the membership considered and endorsed a resolution that was put forward by the Township of Esquimalt and the City of Kamloops which requested that the provincial government introduce legislation to ban indoor tanning for youth under the age of 18.

In early October, a working group was convened to review the issues of youth and indoor tanning and included representatives from the UBCM, BC Cancer Agency, Joint Canadian Tanning Association, Office of the Provincial Health Offer, Ministry of Health, BC Centre for Disease Control and Canadian Dermatology Association.

A final report of the working group was provided to the Minister of Health on December 9, 2011. This report did not reach consensus on the ban for minors. Two options were submitted for consideration - the first option supported a ban for minors under the age of 19 (supported by all parties on the committee with the exception of the tanning industry), and the second suggested a ban for children under the age of 14 and a requirement for parental consent between the ages of 14-18 (supported only by the tanning industry). UBCM fully supported the ban for minors, which was consistent with the policy position adopted by the membership at the 2011 Convention.

Recently, Minister De Jong announced that the Province will be bringing in new rules to regulate tanning-bed use by young people, however, they have not decided if youths under 18 will be banned from using tanning beds, or if they will need parental consent. The Province will release the report of the Indoor Tanning Working Group in March, and receive public feedback and discussion, prior to making a final decision on the issue.
GOLD STAR RESOLUTIONS

The Gold Star and Honourable Mention awards encourage excellence in resolutions drafting. Check out the award winning resolutions from 2011 and consult the Gold Star Resolutions Criteria as you prepare your 2012 resolutions.

Gold Star Resolutions Criteria

1) Resolution must be properly titled.
2) Resolution must employ clear, simple language.
3) Resolution must clearly identify problem, reason and solution.
4) Resolution must have two or fewer recital (WHEREAS) clauses.
5) Resolution must have a short, clear, stand-alone enactment (THEREFORE) clause.
6) Resolution must focus on a single subject, must be of local government concern province-wide and must address an issue that constitutes new policy for UBCM.
7) Resolution must include appropriate references to policy, legislation and regulation.
8) Resolution must be submitted to relevant Area Association prior to UBCM.

2011 Gold Star Winners

B89 Illegal Dumping
   Sunshine Coast RD

B110 Public Telephone Access
   Cariboo RD

B146 UBCM Resolutions Session Participation
   Peace River RD

2011 Honourable Mention Winners

B76 Reduction of Sheriffs' Escort for Prisoners
   Fort St. John

B155 HST Exemption
   Houston

B157 Age Restrictions on Indoor Tanning
   Quesnel

B168 Federal & Provincial Environmental Assessment Processes
   Williams Lake

The full text of all winning resolutions is available on the UBCM website under Resolutions & Policy/Resolutions/Gold Star Resolutions.

Resolutions ABC’s

Organisation of Resolutions

Resolutions are organised into three sections within the Resolutions Book, described below.

Section A

resolutions address priority issues relevant to all local governments.

Section B

is divided into three parts:

Part 1: Resolutions that support established UBCM policy
Part 2: Resolutions on new issues, or those considered previously but not endorsed, within the jurisdiction of local government
Part 3: Resolutions on new issues, or those considered previously but not endorsed, outside the jurisdiction of local government

Section C

contains resolutions that are referred to similar resolutions in the Resolutions Book; to policy papers, reports, or special sessions at Convention; or to Area Associations.

Order of Consideration

Section A and B resolutions are introduced for debate in the order in which they appear in the Resolutions Book.

Selected Section B resolutions are considered as a block. Any voting delegate may withdraw a resolution from a block to speak in opposition or propose an amendment.

Section C resolutions are not admitted for debate.

Other Types of Resolutions

Two other types of resolutions may also be dealt with at Convention.

Late resolutions are those submitted to UBCM after June 30 and before 12:00 noon on Friday, September 21, 2012. Late resolutions addressing urgent issues that arise after the June 30 submission deadline may be recommended for emergency consideration at Convention. All others will be entered automatically into the resolutions cycle for the following year.

A resolution arising after noon on September 23 may only be presented to the 2011 Convention as a resolution off the floor. Any voting delegate may introduce such a resolution, which requires assent from a three-fifths (60%) majority of the delegates present to be admitted for debate. The Resolutions Committee requests sponsors of such resolutions to distribute print copies to the plenary.

For information about any part of the resolutions process, contact:

Reiko Tagami
Information & Resolutions Coordinator
Email: rtagami@ubcm.ca
Tel: 604.270.8226 ext. 115

UBCM NEWS MARCH 2012
Responses to 2011 Resolutions

As reported in the December 2011 edition of the UBCM News, UBCM conveyed 137 member-endorsed resolutions to the provincial government for consideration and comment following Convention. Provincial responses to the majority of these resolutions have been received and conveyed to the resolution sponsors, and are available on the UBCM website under Resolutions & Policy>Resolutions>Resolutions & Responses.

The UBCM anticipates receiving provincial responses to the remaining few resolutions in late spring 2012. UBCM will convey the remaining responses to the resolution sponsors and make the responses available on the UBCM website at that time.

Some responses have been received from federal government departments and other organizations. These responses are conveyed to the resolution sponsors as they are received.

For information about the above referrals and follow-up to 2011 resolutions contact:

Reiko Tagami
Information & Resolutions Coordinator
Email: rtagami@ubcm.ca
Tel: 604.270.8226 ext. 115

Drafting Effective Resolutions

Use the Sample Resolution

Write your resolutions to match the following template. Note the maximum two “WHEREAS” and “BE IT RESOLVED” clauses, specific punctuation, and sentence structure. Craft your resolution to be as readable as possible within these guidelines.

Sample Resolution

CURTAIL JUMPING OVER DOGS City of Green Forest

WHEREAS the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog;

AND WHEREAS the lazy dog does not enjoy games of leapfrog;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the quick brown fox will refrain from jumping over the lazy dog.

[A second “enactment” clause, if absolutely required:]

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the future the quick brown fox will invite a different partner to participate in games of leapfrog.

Title

Make the title clear and short, no more than three or four words. UBCM may revise long titles for clarity and brevity to print in the Resolutions Book.

Problem – Cause – Solution

A resolution should answer the following questions:

(a) What is the problem?
(b) What is causing the problem?
(c) What is the best way to solve the problem?

Preamble

The preamble begins with “WHEREAS”, and is a concise sentence about the nature of the problem or the reason for the request. It answers questions (a) and (b) above, stating the problem and its cause, and should outline, clearly and briefly, the reasons for the resolution.

The preamble should contain no more than two “WHEREAS” clauses. If explaining the problem requires more than two clauses, then provide supporting documents to describe the problem more fully. Do not add extra clauses.

Enactment

The enactment begins with the phrase “THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED”, and is a concise sentence that answers question (c) above, suggesting the best way to solve the problem. The enactment should propose a specific action by UBCM.

Keep the enactment as short as possible, and clearly describe the action being requested. The wording should leave no doubt about the proposed action.

Tips

• address one subject in the text of the resolution
• use simple, action-oriented language and avoid ambiguous terms
• provide factual background information
• construct a brief, descriptive title
• check legislative references for accuracy
• focus on issues that are province-wide

For further guidance, refer to the 2011 Gold Star & Honourable Mention Resolutions, and consult the Gold Star Resolutions Criteria, both available on the UBCM website under Resolutions & Policy/Resolutions/Gold Star Resolutions.
There are three interconnected Agreements (“the Agreements”) that are being addressed in the negotiations:

1. Provincial Police Services Agreement (PPSA) - this is the parent agreement between the Federal Province agreement the RCMP as the provincial police force.
2. Municipal Policing Agreement (MPA) – based on the PPSA, this provincial-federal Agreement is the master municipal agreement that defines how municipal policing can be carried out using the RCMP in the Province.
3. Municipal Police Unit Agreements (MPUA) – this municipal-provincial Agreement allows municipalities with populations in excess of 5,000 people, if they choose, to contract through the Province for the delivery of local police services by the RCMP.

Once the agreements have been ratified by the Province, municipalities over 5,000 population will be sent a copy of the Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA) and a companion document outlining how the agreement is intended to work. The 64 local governments that are subject to an MPUA will be asked to approve the new RCMP agreement for municipal policing services. The current RCMP agreement is set to expire on March 31, 2012, it is anticipated that policing services will be continued to be provided even though not all of the municipalities may have approved the agreement by this date.

There were three key areas that the Province and local governments were hoping to see improvements under the new contract. These areas were:
- Accountability/Transparency;
- Governance and;  
- Affordability/Cost Containment;

These issues were all highlighted in a UBCM survey on policing issues that it undertook in 2009. The outcome of this survey was outlined in a policy paper entitled “Police Services in British Columbia: Affordability and Accountability” that was endorsed at the 2009 UBCM Convention. Local government in the survey identified the following issues as key elements that needed to be addressed in a new RCMP agreement:
- Establishment of a Formal Report on the Delivery of Police Services to Local Government and Approval of the Local Community Goals & Priorities established
- Development of 5 year Financial Plan by Police Force
- Local Government Role in the Appointment of OCR (Commanding Officer)
- Establishing a Formal Dispute Process
- Establishment of an Independent Public Complaints Process (both the federal and provincial government have introduced legislation to the this area that can be reached)

All of the issues related to increased Accountability/Transparency and Governance have been addressed to some degree in the new RCMP agreement. However, it is not clear at this point the extent to which the concerns related to Affordability/ Cost Containment have been dealt with. There have certainly been some measures introduced into the new agreement which will assist in this process, such as a move to towards actual costs for certain cost items rather than fixed sums (CPF, cadet training etc.); the decision to include Lower Mainland Integrated Teams as part of the Provincial Force, which will mean that they will be cost-shared at 70/30; and the ability for Directed Reviews and Operational Effectiveness Assessments to be undertaken. These are all steps designed to help deal with Affordability/Cost Containment issues, however, it is to early in the process to determine whether or not they will be effective in dealing with the concerns identified by local government.

Other measures have also been introduced that may help to address local government concerns about the future costs of RCMP services. One is the creation of an RCMP Contract Management Committee at the federal level, which will have local government representative on it. A second is the establishment of a similar Committee at the provincial level, which will have broad local government representation on it and the representatives will be appointed by the UBCM. These Committees should provide an opportunity for the federal and provincial government to discuss potential cost increases with local government prior to their implementation. This new process should provide local government with an opportunity to provide input into the process at an early stage, to better manage RCMP cost increases in its budgetary process, and to avoid future surprises.

The new RCMP agreement, while it may not address all of the issues that local governments wanted, it may be better than nothing if it is continued by the federal government for the continued provision of RCMP services during this period of fiscal restraint. Particularly, given that the province was operating under an ultimatum from the federal government to make a decision by November 30, 2011 as to whether or not it wished to continue to use the RCMP services. The provincial government has indicated that it intends to undertake public discussions on the development of a new policing strategy in British Columbia.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General has announced $5.5 million in new funding for community projects that address and prevent youth involvement in gangs and gang violence. One-time grant funding of up to $210,000 is available under the new initiative.

The new funding is possible due to exceptional growth in the civil forfeiture program’s proceeds. The Civil Forfeiture Act came into effect in April of 2006 with the goal of targeting the profit motive behind illegal activities. Under the legislation property can be forfeited where it has been proven that it has been acquired as a result of unlawful activity or has been used for unlawful activity. Proceeds from the sale of assets (e.g. houses, cars, or boats) are paid into a special account that can be used for a number of specified purposes, one of these purposes is to support the prevention or remediation of crime.

Year to date, the Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) has taken in $10.8 million - more than double the $4.8 million in all of 2010-11, and more than is needed to sustain the self-funding program.

Overall the CFO has concluded more than 400 cases - most with ties to drug trafficking and organized crime. High-value, notable cases concluded in 2011-12 have involved:
- A number of Victoria homes and cash seized from a kilogram-level drug dealer.
- $340,000 forfeited by a self-proclaimed “holistic healer” and paid out to five medical fraud victims, including a woman nearly killed by arsenic poisoning and rendered quadriplegic.
- $400,000 police seized as a result of a money laundering scheme used by a known drug trafficker.
- The CFO and the BC Securities Commission worked together to date 37 Canadians with $190,121 they lost to fraud through a Ponzi scheme.
- An unregistered Bell helicopter seized from suspected drug traffickers.
- $316,000 seized at the Canadian border from an individual possessing 57 kg of cocaine.
- An Abbotsford grow-operation with more than 400 plants and $191,000 of proceeds.
- A Vancouver grow-operation with more than 500 marijuana plants.

The civil forfeiture program in British Columbia has become a key tool in dealing with the ongoing problem of marijuana grow-ops, 62% of the cases are related to this issue, and in going after the assets associated with illegal gang activities. Proceed through this program are being used to provide funding for a number of community initiatives, such as violence against women and children and crime prevention measures.
What Changes are needed to the Justice System?

The Ministry as part of its justice reform initiative has:

- released an internal audit of the Justice System in British Columbia undertaken by the Ministry of Finance;
- outlined a Deputy Minister’s review of the justice system that found that BC appeared to have one of the highest costs per case of any province; determined that the system was fragmented, and that no one group or individual manages the system; found that there are no integrated performance measures and resourcing requests have not been tied to system performance;
- requested that the Legal Services Society conduct a thorough review of B.C.’s legal aid system to determine if the costs of delivering the system can be reduced so that the savings can be used to expand legal aid services;
- appointed Geoffrey Cowper, QC to consult with B.C.’s criminal assessment process to determine whether or not it is the most effective model for making prosecution decisions. British Columbia is one of three provinces that use Crown prosecutors to make decisions on whether or not people who have been the subject of a police investigation should be charged with criminal offences;
- appointed Gary McCuaig, QC to review B.C.’s system would be able to manage its current court costs should be declining and the justice system in British Columbia.

The Green Paper is intended to identify practical ways to promote continuous improvement within British Columbia’s justice system. The review will be focused on what structural or institutional changes should be made to enable the system to work better and will make recommendations on:

- the appropriate ways to safeguard independent decision-making authority within the system;
- the most appropriate ways to safeguard and allocate financial decision-making authority;
- the need for consultation with other participants regarding the independence and best expenditures;
- the areas in which the justice system should have shared or collaborative decision-making authority;
- practical and effective means by which consultation and shared decision-making can best take place; and,
- the steps, including legislation if any, within the constitutional authority of the province that would be needed to implement the recommendations.

However, the justice system appears at the present time to be under stress and unable to manage the process in an efficient and effective manner:

- people are held awaiting trial much longer, increasing the remanded population – despite fewer admissions, the overall jail population has grown consistently;
- people on bail await trial much longer – the total bail population awaiting trial today is twice what it was a decade ago;
- charges related to violations of court orders are growing;
- most cases resolve quickly, but a small percentage are taking longer – for the past eight years the Provincial Court has consistently moved 75% of all cases to conclusion within a half a day (or less) of actual court time. However, in that period the number of cases that take three or more days of court time – while a small percentage of the total – has increased by two thirds;
- the system is costing more in real terms every year – expenditures on adult criminal justice personnel and processes have risen significantly in the past six years, increasing by 35% since 2005.

The Green Paper is also intended to identify practical ways to promote continuous improvement within British Columbia’s justice system. The review will be focused on what structural or institutional changes should be made to enable the system to work better and will make recommendations on:

- the most appropriate ways to safeguard independent decision-making authority within the system;
- the most appropriate ways to safeguard and allocate financial decision-making authority;
- the need for consultation with other participants regarding the independence and best expenditures;
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- practical and effective means by which consultation and shared decision-making can best take place; and,
- the steps, including legislation if any, within the constitutional authority of the province that would be needed to implement the recommendations.

Enter the following information into the website: http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/public/justicesystemReviewGreenPaper.pdf

Continued on page 10
Environment Policy

ENVIRONMENT POLICY IN BRIEF

Agricultural Waste Control Regulation

The Ministry of Environment is continuing the process of reviewing and revising the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR) of the Environmental Management Act (EMA). The AWCR review process follows the Ministry policy of continuous improvement and commitment to review its regulations on a regular basis and to update them as appropriate.

The Ministry’s objectives and the proposed contents of the amendment are provided in a policy intentions paper for consultation (intentions paper). This intentions paper is available for review on the Ministry website at www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrialregs/ag_waste_control/index.htm. The intentions paper also describes the aspects of particular concern for protection of human health and the environment and other relevant information. This intentions paper will provide a framework for legal drafting and possible further consultation. A response form to seek responses and comments from stakeholders and the public is also available on the website indicated above. Comments should be submitted by March 31, 2012.

Additional information and links to related legislation are posted on the Ministry of Environment’s website www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/main/ema.htm. The Ministry is also planning to host one or more webinars in early March to review information presented in the intentions paper and methods for providing comment on the Ministry’s intentions. If you have any questions regarding the information-gathering process, check the Ministry website at www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/index.htm or contact Cindy Bertram at cindybertram@shaw.ca

Climate Action Charter: SMARTTool

As part of their work supporting local government signatories to the Climate Action Charter, the Green Communities Committee (GCC) has recommended SMARTTool for use by local governments. SMARTTool is a web-based, carbon emissions inventory and reporting tool that provides a standardized approach to calculating and reporting an organization’s corporate greenhouse gas emissions. As an incentive, the GCC will provide local governments who sign on to use SMARTTool before June 29th, 2012 with a 50% reduction in their 2011/12 on-boarding year costs. For further information on the benefits of SMARTTool, the GCC incentive, and how to sign up to receive the incentive, please visit www.toolkit.b.c.ca/smarttool-recommendation.

Product Stewardship: Packaging and Printed Paper

In May 2011, the Recycling Regulation was amended to include packaging and printed paper. The amendment shifts financial and administrative responsibility for managing these materials from local governments to the producers of packaging and printed paper (PPP). In response to local government concerns and issues with the inclusion of packaging and printer paper, UBCM has been working with the Ministry of Environment in supporting the creation of a Packaging and Printed Paper Working Group. The Working Group is designed to support a smooth transition in the responsibility of managing packaging and printed paper to producers.

Following UBCM Executive consideration of local government nominees, the Working Group was convened in February 2012. The Packaging and Printer Paper Working Group is designed to provide a voice for local government on their expectations of an industry product stewardship program for PPP; provide information to build capacity in local government understanding of Extended Producer Responsibility as it applies to packaging and printed paper; and build local government capacity to effectively negotiate community interests with the producers.

In addition, Multi-Materials BC (MMBC) has posted two reports on the websites of the Recycling Council of British Columbia and BCStewards.com for stakeholder review. The first report, Current System for Managing Residential Packaging and Printed Paper in British Columbia, presents information compiled during a recent data gathering process on the current collection and recycling system operating in BC. The second report, Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Program Design Options, presents information on a range of possible program design options for the stewardship packaging and printed paper program. MMBC is a not-for-profit agency established under the British Columbia Society Act formed in anticipation of the requirement to develop, submit and implement a stewardship plan for packaging and printed paper. MMBC’s intention is to assume the role of a stewardship agency in order to discharge the obligations of packaging and printed paper producers (brand owners and first sellers) under Schedule 5 of the Recycling Regulation.

Species at Risk: Local Government Discussion Paper

In February, UBCM reviewed the Species at Risk Local Government Working Group discussion paper, Working Together to Protect Species at Risk. This paper was designed to raise awareness, align resources for shared priorities, outline options for local government engagement, and identify tools for species at risk protection. The paper identifies some key concerns around local governments and species at risk protection, and offers a series of recommendations to the Province under five key strategies:

• Increase local government awareness of species at risk.
• Facilitate use of effective tools and techniques.
• Identify and collaborate on shared responsibilities.
• Conduct ecosystem mapping and encourage data sharing.
• Engage landowners in species at risk habitat protection.

Continued on page 10
ENVIRONMENT POLICY IN BRIEF

Continued from page 9

Within these strategies, there are also several recommendations that highlight what UBCM could do to help facilitate species at risk protection.

The Executive endorsed the recommendations in the paper, and will be convey to the Province the need for provincial leadership in both enacting strong species at risk protection legislation and providing the necessary resources for addressing species at risk protection; and the need for provincial monitoring of the cost incurred by local governments in implementing any of the strategies contained with the species at risk discussion paper should local governments choose to implement said strategies.

The discussion paper is available online at http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/SAR%20Paper%20January%202011%20FINAL.pdf or you can find it on the Ministry of Environment website under Ecosystems Branch, Stewardship Information “Read the discussion paper” link.

To date, 13 regional districts and 35 municipalities have been contacted and 60 local government staff and elected officials have joined the working group. For more information please contact Lynn Campbell (250) 387-9676, Lynn.Campbell@gov.bc.ca or Jennifer Heron (604) 222-6759, Jennifer.Heron@gov.bc.ca

Society Act Review Underway

A new discussion paper on the Society Act invites discussion on the governance of B.C. societies and possible directions for reform. A review of the Society Act was launched by the Province in 2009 to identify legislative obstacles that may be preventing societies from operating most effectively and to ensure continued protection of the public interest.

The first round of consultations invited stakeholder comments resulting in submissions from more than 200 individuals and organizations. The discussion paper puts forward a number of proposals based on the feedback received. The Province notes that the proposals try to recognize the unique nature of societies and aim to balance societies’ need for flexibility with broader concerns of accountability and integrity. The paper is intended to encourage discussion and provide interested parties with the opportunity to comment on possible directions for reform to the Society Act.

The Society Act outlines the rules that govern more than 26,000 BC societies. Societies are non-profit corporations organized primarily for social purposes. They make valuable contributions to communities, ranging from small community-based organizations to large charitable foundations. Legislation is targeted for 2013 at the earliest.

If your community-based organizations are not aware of the review you may wish to draw their attention to the web link noted below. The official deadline for submissions is April 30, 2012. To view the discussion paper or make a submission please go to: www.fin.gov.bc.ca/cep/fscp/society_act_discussion.htm
An ad-hoc committee was formed with representatives from the local Neighbourhood House, elementary school, childcare facilities, Parks and Recreation, Public Health Unit, Military Family Resource Centre and the Library. We were determined to build on our community’s assets to help our children reach their capacity. As the first local early year’s group in the Capital Regional District, we have worked to collaborate to highlight services in our community. We have been supported with a small grant from Success by 6 annually to enable us to hold quarterly network meetings, conduct Strategic Planning and support local early year’s events.

We have highlighted community needs to Esquimalt’s Official Community Planning process and ensured Esquimalt’s children were planned for during the process. Today we continue to collaborate together and find that sharing information on programs available in our community stretches available funding further. We are advocates for the young and work with our local government to ensure Esquimalt is truly the best place for young children to grow and develop. To create a healthy community, we need to start with healthy children; Esquimalt is proud to be doing that.

The Esquimalt Early Years Coalition began after the first Early Development Instrument (EDI) was used with BC’s Kindergarten children in 1999, and results were presented throughout the province. The resulting BC neighbourhood mapping showed that Esquimalt’s children faced many challenges in their readiness for school and the neighbourhood was portrayed poorly in the press. This was disturbing to those of us who work with Esquimalt’s children and families.

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Healthy Families BC Communities

The Healthy Families BC Strategy (HFBSC) was launched on May 24, 2011 and is a $68 million health promotion program with 4 key areas: Healthy Lifestyles, Healthy Eating, Healthy Start and Healthy Communities. Local governments are included in the Healthy Families BC Communities initiative.

Consultations with local governments on the initiative will take place between February and May 2012. For the dates and locations of the consultations, please visit: http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/resolutions/policy-areas/healthy-communities.html

The objectives of the consultation are to:

- Provide designated elected and non-elected officials an overview of the proposed HFBC Communities Initiative
- Receive feedback from local governments on the proposed HFBC Communities Initiative
- Facilitate discussion between local governments and health authorities to identify how they can build on their existing partnership to reduce chronic disease and obesity risk factors

For those that are unable to attend one of the consultation sessions, a discussion guide and video are available on the HFBC Communities website: http://healthyfamiliesbc.ca/communities-initiative/index.php

Poverty Planning

Following the child poverty workshop at the 2011 Convention, the Healthy Communities Committee has been in conversation with the Ministry of Children and Family Development on a Regional Community Poverty Reduction Strategy. This strategy will be a community-based initiative to address the needs of families living in poverty and will include participation from the Province, the municipal government, the voluntary sector and the business sector. Staff will provide the membership with more information on this initiative as it becomes available.

An Example of Local Government Taking Action to Protect Children and Families (submitted by: Meagan Brame, Councillor, Township of Esquimalt)

The Esquimalt Early Years Coalition began after the first Early Development Instrument (EDI) was used with BC’s Kindergarten children in 1999, and results were presented throughout the province. The resulting BC neighbourhood mapping showed that Esquimalt’s children faced many challenges in their readiness for school and the neighbourhood was portrayed poorly in the press. This was disturbing to those of us who work with Esquimalt’s children and families.

Resolution 2011-B101 Urban Farms

At the 2011 Convention, the membership endorsed resolution, 2011- B101, which requested that UBCM encourage local governments in BC to undertake an inventory of public land for urban agriculture; and that UBCM encourage local governments to review procurement and business licensing policies to enhance the viability of urban agriculture.

To address this resolution, the Healthy Communities Committee has chosen to:

- share examples of other jurisdictions that have undertaken inventories of public land for urban agriculture
- share the new resource document, Promoting Healthy Eating and Sustainable Local Food in BC: An Action Framework for Public Institutions - Health Authorities, Educational Institutions, Childcare Facilities, and Local Governments
- and propose to the Convention Committee a session and/or tour at the 2012 Convention on food security and urban agriculture

Both of the above mentioned documents are now available on the UBCM website, under Resolutions and Policy, Healthy Communities Committee.

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In May 2011, the Minister of Transportation, the Honourable Blair Lekstrom responded to the expressed concerns by bringing forward Bill 14, which in part requested that the BC Ferry Commissioner undertake a review of the Coastal Ferry Act. In undertaking its review, the commissioner and deputy commissioner conducted a public consultation process, including 40 meetings in 27 communities, involving about 2,000 people. The public was also invited to comment on nine topics on the BC Ferry Commission’s website, and comments and concerns that have been expressed are considered appropriate, to provide oversight on the arrangement, and to make orders as necessary to ensure that all funds contributed by a local government are used for the exclusive benefit of the intended routes.

In the fall of 2010, reports of significant ferry fare increases in the upcoming 2012-2016 term caught the attention of Vancouver Island members prompting the UBCM Executive to establish a Ferry Fares Advisory Committee. Over the past year the Advisory Committee made representations to the Minister of Transportation, his staff, and the Ferry Commission directly. Our Committee conveyed to all parties the policy position of UBCM members which has repeatedly requested 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.

Community Economic Development

New Off Road Vehicle Management Framework Nears Completion

For over a decade UBCM members have called on the provincial government to better regulate the use and operation of off road vehicles (ORVs). In 2009, the Province announced that would be developing a new ORV management framework to address issues related to safety, age of use, compliance and enforcement, licensing and highway crossings. Due to UBCM’s longstanding advocacy on this file, the Minister invited our participation on the ORV Joint Advisory Group (JAG) comprising ICBC, other provincial ministries and interested stakeholder groups (ie. conservation, recreation and trail user groups). Our representative on the JAG has been Mayor Mary Sjostrom, UBCM First VP and Chair of the Community Economic Development Committee. Recognizing the diverse interests of local governments on this issue, UBCM established a local government ORV working group to provide their input and feedback to our JAG representative Mayor Sjostrom.

Work is progressing and Ministry staff have advised that they are beginning to move forward on development of the new management framework. However, in advance of new framework the Province has made a change to one area, highway crossings. The following information is posted on the ORV website.

The framework is being implemented in phases starting on January 1, 2012. Snowmobile and snow vehicle operators will no longer need to obtain a police-issued operation permit if making a direct crossing across a highway where there is a stop sign or traffic control signal. All other Motor Vehicle Act requirements on highways have not changed. When in doubt, ORV operators should contact local law enforcement to inquire about whether an operation permit is required.

The Province is also considering legislative changes to the Motor Vehicle (All Terrain) Act around areas of compliance and enforcement based on feedback from our stakeholder associations. As a result, the ORV Management Framework is expected to be fully implemented by fall 2012.

UBCM’s ORV local government working group is continuing to meet and provide input on specific aspects of the proposed framework of direct interest to local governments. UBCM would like to thank all of the local government representatives who have contributed their time and comments through the working group.

For further information on the ORV initiative please contact Vera Vukelich at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations at: Vera.Vukelich@gov.bc.ca or for further information go to: www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/orv-qa.htm

 Commissioner Recommends Changes to the Coastal Ferry Act

In the fall of 2010, reports of significant ferry fare increases in the upcoming 2012 - 2016 term caught the attention of Vancouver Island members prompting the UBCM Executive to establish a Ferry Fares Advisory Committee. Over the past year the Advisory Committee made representations to the Minister of Transportation, his staff, and the Ferry Commission directly. Our Committee conveyed to all parties the policy position of UBCM members which has repeatedly requested 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.

The report is now in the hands of the provincial government. The response by the Province to the report will determine what, if any changes to the Coastal Ferry Act will be forthcoming. UBCM, in cooperation with the Coastal RD Chairs group, will respond accordingly, once the Province has signaled its direction.

To review the full report and recommendations please go to: www.bcferrycommission.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/12-01-24-BCFC-CTA-Regulatory-Review-FINAL.pdf
Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) Update

At the 2010 UBCM Convention, UBCM members endorsed the following resolution on CETA:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request:

• a briefing from the Province of BC on the scope and content of trade negotiations with the European Union;
• the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to provide sector-by-sector analysis of the potential impacts on municipal functions and powers of the procurement regime that the European Union is seeking;
• the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to urge the government of Canada not to provide the European Union with access to sub-national government procurement; and
• that the provincial government negotiate a clear, permanent exemption for local governments from CETA.

To that end UBCM has acted upon the members’ direction. The purpose of this article is to update members on activities undertaken by UBCM on this policy file.

In April 2011 our UBCM Executive received a briefing from provincial staff on CETA; provincial staff conducted a CETA workshop at the 2011 UBCM Convention and discussions have been continuing between UBCM and provincial staff since Convention. As well, our Executive has reiterated the request for a clear, permanent exemption for local governments from CETA to provincial minister responsible for trade, the Honourable Pat Bell.

Provincial Front

At our recent meeting with provincial staff in January 2012, UBCM was advised that an agreement has not been reached. The last full round of negotiations were held in October 2011 but no further rounds have been announced. However, we are aware that discussions continue between provincial-territorial governments and federal trade negotiators. Provincial staff indicated that they have conveyed and made known to federal officials that local governments in BC are not supportive of being included in CETA. Provincial staff also indicated that unlike TILMA and previous provincial trade agreements, the federal government is responsible for international trade treaties. The negotiations are occurring between the federal government and European Union officials, with provinces and territories participating in sessions that pertain to their jurisdiction and providing positions and input to the federal team.

Federal Front

At the federal level, UBCM continues to monitor the activities of the Joint Working Group on International Trade between FCM and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). In August 2011, FCM adopted seven principles on government procurement and shared these with the federal government. The response from the federal government to those principles was received and that correspondence is posted on the FCM site at: www.fcm.ca/home/issues/more-issues/international-trade

Clearwater Completes a Community Economic Development Plan

The District of Clearwater’s new Community Economic Development Plan is opening doors to new opportunities for the area. While recognizing the continuing importance of natural resource industries, the plan was guided by the community’s desire for a more diverse economy. The new plan lays the foundation and provides a timeline and a road map for community growth, prosperity, and sustainability.

Building on the community’s assets and strengths in the economic activities, the plan identifies a number of new and related areas for expansion. Rather than a silver bullet, the idea is to grow a number of integrated sectors and opportunities that lead them to control local development and development. As a result, the community will be less susceptible to large industry closures in the future.

The plan also moves the community toward more value-added production and manufacturing, and combines this with a more sophisticated approach to marketing and distribution. The plan integrates opportunities across a large number of sectors with regional priorities and initiatives, effectively ‘scaling up’ the local focus to amplify the benefits to Clearwater and to the region.

The process to develop the plan started with the community and community’s priorities. Clearwater and area residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations were all involved with identifying the priorities and contributing to the development of the action plans. As a result, implementation is moving ahead quickly.

The District of Clearwater’s key assets, its people and the land, provide a strong foundation for the future. The Community Economic Development Plan will be a living document that evolves to continue to take advantage of opportunities that can benefit the community and the region.

For this project, the District of Clearwater worked with the Community Development Institute (CDI) at the University of Northern British Columbia. Clearwater has had a long working relationship with the CDI because the CDI ‘lives here’. They understand small communities and rural areas, have extensive knowledge of interior and northern economies, have strong networks across the province that can assist communities in moving forward, and start with the community’s questions and priorities, not an academic research question. The CDI is now working with Clearwater to move forward on one of the priorities identified in the Community Economic Development Plan; renewed services, starting with a seniors needs assessment funded through UBCM’s Age-Friendly Grants program.

Visit: www.distofclearwater.com or www.uncbc.ca/cdi

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Federal Additions to Reserve Policy

Late last year, the First Nations Relations Committee wrote the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, John Duncan to enquire about the status of work being undertaken by his department on the federal Additions to Reserve Policy. The Minister recently advised in his February 15th letter that his department is currently revising the Additions to Reserve Policy and has established a joint working group with the Assembly of First Nations to develop policy change recommendations. A new interim Additions to Reserve policy for Specific Claims Tribunal decisions is expected to be launched shortly. Minister Duncan noted that work is also underway this year to improve the efficiency of internal procedures and systems.

UBCM will report out once further details on the new policy are forthcoming.

LMTAC Restructuring

At its meeting on October 19, 2011, the Metro Vancouver Board endorsed the consolidation of the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC) with Metro Vancouver’s Aboriginal Relations program, effective January 1, 2012. LMTAC was the largest TAC representing local governments within Metro Vancouver, Squamish-Lillooet RD and the Sunshine Coast RD.

Metro Vancouver has since established its Aboriginal Relations Committee and in recognition of the fact that some claims and interests extend beyond Metro’s boundaries the other two regional districts have been invited to participate on the new Metro Committee as non-voting members.

With respect to the future of LMTAC, a decision has yet to be made by the existing LMTAC members whether it will continue or wind-up its activities. A decision was not forthcoming at a February meeting of LMTAC representatives but a second meeting is planned for March.

Whatever direction is taken, the provincial government has advised that it will continue to engage and consult on treaty and non-treaty matters with affected local governments regardless of whether they are part of a TAC or not.

2008 MOU on New Relationship

In November 2008, UBCM and Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation signed an MOU on Local Government Participation in the New Relationship with First Nations in BC. The MOU built on previous agreements local government participation in treaties to include the negotiation and implementation of a full range of agreements encompassed by the New Relationship (ie. land, resource and economic development agreements). Specifically the agreement:

• confirms the process for local government participation in the negotiation and implementation of treaties;
• consult and exchange information with local governments on other agreements outside the BC treaty process;
• consult on matters of mutual interest including those matters that will have a significant impact on local government jurisdiction.”

The First Nations Relations Committee is in the process of reviewing the feedback from some local governments with respect to their non-treaty agreement experiences. While the Committee is in the process of working with the Ministry on renewing the MOU, there is also a recognition that more work needs to be done to educate our members and provincial officials about the consultation commitments within the MOU. To that end, the Committee has included the following elements within its workplan around MOU renewal:

• Undertake an education initiative to ensure that both UBCM members and provincial ministries involved in non-treaty agreement negotiations are aware of, and familiar with the content and consultation provisions outlined in, the MOU.
• Develop a communications protocol to guide ministry interactions with local government during the negotiation of non-treaty agreements with First Nations.
• Confirm that MARR is taking a lead role in monitoring/coordinating the non-treaty agreement interactions of all provincial ministries with affected local governments.
• Ensure that some of the primary local government concerns with non-treaty agreements are understood by the various provincial ministries (e.g., servicing agreements, bylaw enforcement, taxation issues).

The Committee hopes to meet with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation as part of their Committee meeting deliberations in May.
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 Inviting New Members**

Becoming a CEA member connects local governments to other climate action leaders. 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 chaired by Mike Bernier, Mayor, City of Dawson Creek. For membership information, please contact:

Dale Littlejohn, Executive Director  
(604) 628 7076  
dlittlejohn@communityenergy.bc.ca

**BC Mayors’ Climate Leadership Council**

Existing and potential new members of the Council will be contacted shortly to discuss new initiatives for 2012. More regional peer-to-peer workshops are being planned for locally elected officials throughout the Province including Dawson Creek and Castlegar in late March as well as possibly the Capital Regional District.

For more information, please contact Mayor Mike Bernier, City of Dawson Creek.

**2012 Climate & Energy Action Awards**

The CEA awards are offered annually to a municipality or regional district implementing a project or program that best integrates energy and climate action planning into community planning processes and development/collaborative strategies. The invitation to apply for a 2012 award will be released in May/June. All BC municipalities and regional districts are encouraged to apply. Winners come from all sizes of communities — leadership demonstrated to surmount challenges is an important judging criterion.

**Solar BC**

CEA is continuing to support implementation actions for 32 solar communities across BC. Current research is focusing on how local governments can use solar installations in their communities to reduce their corporate offset costs, as per the project profile offset methodologies established by the Green Communities Committee. Other areas of focus include an interest in monitoring existing installations and using innovative technology.

To find out more, please contact:  
Peter Robinson, Energy Planner  
(230) 769 6978 (Kelowna)  
E-mail: probinson@communityenergy.bc.ca

**Community Energy & Emissions Plan Research**

To find out what attributes support the successful implementation of a community energy and emissions plan (CEEP), CEA has reviewed 30 plans from across Canada and conducted interviews with 23 of those communities. Preliminary results show that successful implementation results from dedicated staff resources, support and leadership from other local government staff and elected representatives, incorporation of energy and emissions into everyday decision making, community and stakeholder engagement, reliable funding and clear communication on the numerous co-benefits from conducting actions on energy and emissions. This project is co-funded by NRCAN and BC Hydro.

**Community Energy & Emissions Planning for Small Communities**

CEA is delivering Community Energy and Emissions Planning QuickStart for small communities on behalf of BC Hydro. Plans were developed for Sicamous, Armstrong, Alert Bay, Port McNeil, and Qualicum Beach in 2011. In January and February this year, workshops were completed for Lake Country and Taylor and, in March, CEA will be running QuickStart programs with Valemount and McBride. Using the QuickStart modeling tool, action guide and innovative facilitation techniques, CEA achieves excellent outcomes, with a focus on practical actions, in 1.5 days. REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN AT: http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/ps_communities/ceep/ceep_quickstart.html

**Carbon Neutral Kootenays**

The Carbon Neutral Kootenays (CNK) team is preparing for energy audits of wastewater treatment plants for four participating CNK communities. Year three of the project will also include support for a transition to SmartTool and a regional offset governance model. Eighteen Carbon Neutral Action Plans have been completed and several more are scheduled. Throughout 2012, CEA will be launching other collaborative actions for participating local governments.

**District Energy (DE) Ready Buildings**

CEA is working with Kelowna, District of North Vancouver, Township of Langley and City of Fort St. John to explore and establish policies and tools to support DE-ready buildings. Interest in the project remains high, projects will soon be initiated with the City of Richmond and District of Peachland. This project is funded by a BC Real Estate Foundation/ Green Building Grant and a FortisBC contract.

**Transitioning to Electric Vehicles (EVs) in Metro Vancouver**

Initiated under Road to Zero Metro Vancouver, the EV-ready project focuses on supporting regional infrastructure and collaboration to increase deployment of electric vehicles. CEA has just completed the Metro Vancouver EV Primer, which explores EV projections, different approaches to public charging points and the role of EV’s in government operations. A grant from the Bullitt Foundation supporting continued work with Translink, Metro Vancouver, municipalities and stakeholders will be used to provide an April workshop on transitioning to electric vehicles in Metro Vancouver, to be held at the BC Hydro Decision Theatre at the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability at UBC. The workshop will support a collaborative approach to implement regional charging infrastructure as well as other region-wide issues related to EV implementation.

For more information on either of these projects, contact:  
Patricia Bell, Sr. Energy Planner  
(604) 936 0470 (Coquitlam)  
pbell@communityenergy.bc.ca

**Community Fire Interface Biomass Utilization for Heating Fuel**

This project is a collaborative effort between UBC’s Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning, the Green Heat Initiative, and CEA. Communities reducing their fire risk in the interface zone will have available biomass, which can be used for energy projects within the communities. Sicamous, Invermere and Burns Lake are participating in the project.

**CEA Vancouver Office**

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Patricia Dehnel, Energy Planner  
Megan Walsh-Lohmann, St. Energy Planner

**Warfield**

Adam James, Energy Planner

**Community Energy Association – connecting communities, energy and sustainability**

Website: www.communityenergy.bc.ca

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**UBCM NEWS MARCH 2012**

**ENERGY & CLIMATE ACTION NEWS**

**From the Community Energy Association**

The first stop for local government leaders addressing climate and energy sustainability...
Vietnam Visit

President Heath Slee travelled to Vietnam from December 12 to 16 as part of FCM’s Municipal Partners in Economic Development program. The program is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, and supports knowledge sharing between Canadian local governments and local government associations and their counterparts in several developing countries. President Slee worked with both elected and staff officials from the Association of Cities of Vietnam to finalize details of our collaboration over the next year, and to help ACVN plan member training and development programs. For more information on the FCM program, please see www.fcm.ca.

**ATTENTION**

ORDER YOUR 2012 Net•work•book NOW!

The Net•work•book is a comprehensive directory of who’s who in BC local government including:

- local government elected officials and senior staff
- BC Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
- federal cabinet and BC MPs
- selected provincial agencies and commissions
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Yes! I want to order the 2012 Net•work•book (prepayment by cheque or credit card required)

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**2012 Net•work•book**

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Phone: 604.270.8226 ext. 100;  Fax: 604.270.9116;  Email: phayes@ubcm.ca

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**Tea Festival**

President Slee with local children
Funding Programs

New Wastewater System Boosts Development Potential in Barriere

The District of Barriere will be taking a major step towards achieving the development goals in its Official Community Plan by constructing a new wastewater system with $6.7 million from the Gas Tax Fund.

“This is welcome news to our community,” said Mayor Bill Humphreys. “This funding will allow Barriere to move forward with the long awaited plan to revitalize the town core. It will also provide timely infrastructure relief for many of the businesses and residents that in the near future would have experienced costly septic problems. This is a perfect example of multiple levels of government working together to serve the citizens of our communities.”

The new wastewater system will connect the entire downtown core, replacing septic fields. Residents that are not directly connected to the system will be able to pump and dispose wastes at a septic receiving are in the plant. Previously residents had to transport wastes nearly 70kms to the closest treatment facility in Kamloops.

The sewage plant will incorporate a solar-paneled greenhouse where living plants will assist the treatment process. The treated water will be used to irrigate the adjacent parks and baseball diamonds, helping to conserve Barriere’s supply of potable water. It is anticipated that the funding will cover the entire cost of the project.

“It’s good to see the Gas Tax Fund supporting innovative approaches to wastewater treatment,” said Kamloops-North Thompson MLA Terry Lake. “Funding partnerships are about making such large projects possible, while emphasizing green, environmentally sustainable solutions.”

MP Cathy McLeod joined with Mayor Humphreys and UBCM cVP Rhona Jackson to announce the funding in a packed Council chamber.

New Intake Gas Tax Funding Applications for 2012

UBCM is pleased to advise that applications are now being accepted for funding under the Gas Tax General Strategic Priorities Fund (GSPF) and the Innovations Fund (IF) programs, with an application deadline of May 31, 2012.

The available funding for these programs is $35.4 million for GSPF and $16.9 million for IF, or roughly half the amount of funding made available through the 2011 intake. Eligible recipients are advised that this is the likely the last call for applications for the 2010 to 2014 extension period of the current Gas Tax Agreement.

Further information about the programs, including separate program guides and application forms for capital projects and capacity building/integrated community sustainability planning projects are available on our website at (www.ubcm.ca).

If you would like further information about the GSPF and IF programs and application process, please contact Gas Tax/Public Transit Management Services by email at gt-pthubcm.ca or by phone at 205 356-5134.

Solar Upgrades Coming to Delta Pools

The Corporation of Delta will be adding solar hot water systems at three of its recreational pools thanks to support from Canada’s Gas Tax Fund.

“Delta continues to build on the success of our solar hot water system at Municipal Hall,” said Lois E. Jackson, Mayor of Delta. “We are so pleased to have the support of the federal government and UBCM to build on our success and bring greater attention to this technology throughout our community. It is critical we continue with initiatives that demonstrate sustainable and renewable energy such as solar hot water technology.”

The Corporation of Delta will use $348,000 from Canada’s Gas Tax Fund to integrate solar hot water systems into the pools. In May 2010, the Province of British Columbia officially designated Delta as a Solar Community.

“Our government is proud to deliver permanent annual infrastructure funding for local governments through Canada’s Gas Tax Fund,” said Kerry-Lynne Findlay, MP for Delta-Richmond East and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice. “Investing in infrastructure creates jobs and economic growth, and the Gas Tax Fund delivers long-term funding to provide greater certainty and flexibility for communities to choose their own infrastructure priorities.”

UBCM Past President Barbara Steele joined with Mayor Jackson and MP Findlay to announce the funding. Councillor Steele emphasized the importance of all levels of government working together to replace aging infrastructure and improve the efficiency of recreation facilities.

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In Conversation

Elected leaders know the value of communication. As communication tools continue to multiply, we are becoming more connected, more engaged, and more involved. Community members want a say in how neighbourhoods are built, what our road networks look like, and what local governments spend tax dollars on. People in our communities are looking for information, and a connection to elected representatives in order to influence change.

Communications that are highly developed and ever changing is the way of the future. Through blogging or tweeting, community consultation via Facebook, or podcasts and online video of key announcements, there are more ways than ever to connect with the community.

As local governments explore the potential of these tools, the basic questions of good governance remain: are we hearing what the community is saying, and does the community hear what we are saying?

This year’s Convention theme is around communication. Whether it’s with local residents, other levels of governments, or our teenager at home, this year’s focus will be on improving these relationships by examining how we relay our messages and how we receive feedback.

As we gather in the Capital this year, we can also put our minds to our partnerships, relationships and communications with the provincial government as we strive for effective and clear messaging – in conversation.

The conversation has begun, and together we will see where it leads.

Delegates enjoyed visiting booths during the 2011 Municipal Marketplace

Councillor Sav Dhaliwal and Mayor Greg Moore discuss a resolution

Councillor Murry Krause and Director Jerrilyn Schembri being introduced on stage in the plenary at the 2011 Convention

Singer Mark Donnelly with Councillor Marvin Hunt in the background, singing the national anthem

Local Government In British Columbia

Union of British Columbia Municipalities
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2012 UBCM CONVENTION THEME

In Conversation

Local Government in British Columbia: A Community Effort

Local Government in British Columbia: A Community Effort has been extensively revised in January 2012 with an entirely new layout and updated text, which reflects recent changes in legislation and the most recent facts and figures.

This booklet provides an excellent overview of local government in BC in an easy to read, colourful, graphically illustrated format. If your community is in need of a succinct guide to how local governments operate and how community members can get involved, this bulletin may be just what you need. Perfect for newly elected officials, the general public, schools or presentations.

Note: A printable pdf version of this booklet is available online at: www.ubcm.ca/Resources & Links/UBCM Publications

Local Government in British Columbia: A Community Effort

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A few years ago I observed an exceptionally efficient municipal council meeting, lasting less than an hour. Afterwards, I overheard two citizens. One said: “Wow. That was quite an efficient meeting!” The other responded: “There is something you don’t know. The meeting ended quickly because they had made all the decisions beforehand. Politicians do this all the time…” Unfortunately this sentiment is not uncommon, even when it may be unfounded.

The trouble is Transparency can be inconvenient and annoying. It forces elected officials to operate in the open and places them “under the microscope.” This can be uncomfortable when issues are politically challenging or publicly controversial. The transparency requirement may cause additional annoyances, such as: embarrassing facial expressions being shown on television or the internet for the world to see; private conversations and dealings. As a more serious consequence, the public scrutiny, a decision making body is more likely to act hastily and emotionally and thereby make flawed decisions. Lastly, without public accountability, citizens’ trust and confidence may be eroded. Costly litigation against the public body may be launched.

With transparency, public understanding of contentious decisions will likely rise. Complaints about decisions may still exist, but they will likely relate to the substance of the decisions, instead of casting doubt on the integrity of the decision-making process. With the public’s knowledge and understanding of the issues at hand, citizens are more likely to come forward with helpful information and nuggets of wisdom that may improve the quality of decisions or their implementation.

Specific Habits to Embrace or Avoid

With the above analysis in mind, below are four good habits that will help you boost transparency, followed by four bad habits that will likely erode it:

Good habit: Before opening the debate on an issue, the Mayor/Chair should briefly explain in non-technical terms the nature of the issue and the general intent of any motion. This would boost transparency, as many citizens may otherwise be confused by technicalities.

Good habit: Motions should be written up before a meeting, included within the pre-meeting package, and displayed (in large and readable font) on an overhead screen as they are considered. In addition, before a vote is taken, the Chair should repeat the motion. These steps would promote genuine transparency by ensuring that citizens are apprised of impending decisions.

Good habit: Issues (especially contentious ones) should be publicly debated before any votes are taken. The elected body should resist the temptation to rush things through without the average observer understanding what decisions are being made and why.

Good habit: Faced with an assertive presenter who demands immediate financial support, Council members should resist the temptation to make a motion granting the money “on the fly.” Instead, such items should be referred to the staff for input, with decision-making options considered at a subsequent meeting. This cautious and measured approach would ensure that the community is duly notified and that transparency is maintained.

Bad habit: Suppose a controversial motion, which was not advertised with the meeting’s notice, is presented after opponents left the public gallery. Would citizens be faulted for feeling they were ambushed? How much damage might this inflict on public trust? And could this faulty process lead to a formal challenge, alleging a lack of procedural fairness?

Bad habit: Prior to a meeting, a member exchanges promises with another: “I’ll second your motion if you second mine…” or, worse yet: “I’ll vote with you on your issue, if you vote with me on my issue.” Sound like decisions and minds were made up before the meeting? Will these elected members be open to changing their minds based on the discussion? And how much damage might this deal-making inflict on public trust?

Bad habit: Suppose Member A does not like member B. He rolls his eyes and sighs loudly when Member B speaks. Will he listen and learn from valid input, or was his mind made up that Member B has no useful information to offer (possibly based on personal animosities)? Might this erode transparency and diminish public trust?

Bad habit: Suppose elected members abstain instead of raising their hands to vote in favor of a motion. They may do this because the motion is controversial, and because, under the B.C. Community Charter, a member who does not indicate how he or she votes is counted as having voted in the affirmative. Are all citizens aware of this provision in the Charter? Even if this voting procedure is not incorrect, it is genuinely transparent?

In Closing

Transparency is one of the pillars of open government and public decision-making. Instead of tolerating it as a necessary evil, embrace and celebrate it. Always ask: Is our process as open and as transparent as our community deserves for it to be?

Eli Mina, M.Sc., P.R.P., is a Vancouver based consultant, meeting mentor and Registered Parliamentarian. Since 1984, Eli has served his clients by chairing contentious meetings, preventing and dealing with disputes and dysfunctions, building better Boards and Councils, demystifying and humanizing the rules of order, and advising on minute taking standards.

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

Return-It Depots leading the way in province-wide milk container recycling program

In the past five years the volume of milk cartons collected by participating Return-It Depots has nearly tripled. Last year alone, the 166 participating depots throughout the province received over 360,000 kilograms of milk cartons as well as 250,000 kilograms of plastic milk jugs, bringing the total recycled weight to over 610,000 kilograms.

The BC Dairy Council is the trade association for the province’s dairy processors – the companies that convert raw milk into finished dairy products. Registered in 1972, the Council represents 10 member companies including Island Farms, Saputo, Avalon and Lucerne. Collectively, these companies process more than 600 million litres of milk per year and market a full range of dairy and related food products.

Although plastic jugs are the most popular form of packaging for milk in BC, polycoat milk cartons (paper and plastic) are also widely used. This type of carton, commonly referred to as “gable-top” in the industry, is usually not accepted in curbside blue-box programs. In 2006, the BC Dairy Council contracted Encorp Pacific to manage a voluntary, industry-run recycling program where consumers could drop off empty milk containers, at no charge, at any of the 117 participating locations. Today there are a total of 166 Encorp Return-It Depots province-wide accepting milk containers for recycling.

The good news is that today, more people are returning empty milk containers than ever before. Over 15 million jugs and cartons were spared from BC landfills in 2011. When you consider that the average BC household goes through 6½ milk containers every month – and that there are over 1.8 million households in the province – the potential impact on our environment is significant.

There are now 166 participating Return-It Depots throughout the province that accept milk cartons and jugs. “With an increased number of Return-It Depots, and a continuing consumer awareness effort on how to recycle milk containers properly, the program has substantially increased the recovery rate of polycoated milk cartons and plastic milk jugs,” says Mike Dick, President of BC Dairy Council.

People happy with milk recycling service at Return-It Depots

When it comes to recycling milk empties, the customer satisfaction across Return-It Depots has also jumped by 13% in the last 2 years. The main reasons for this increase are the knowledgeable staff and clear instructional signage.

Recycling milk cartons saves trees

All milk containers recycled through participating Return-It Depots get put to good use. Plastic jugs are cleaned, pelletized and used to make dozens of practical items, including new bottles, plastic buckets and pails. The high quality paper fibre in milk cartons is turned into pulp and used to make household tissue products, cardboard boxes and writing papers. Tonnes and tonnes of paper pulp are recovered from recycling milk cartons and for every tonne of paper pulp recycled, approximately 17 trees are saved.

For most households, the recycling of newspapers, paper products, cans and bottles has become second nature. But not everyone is sure what to do with milk empties. In fact, only 59% of British Columbians know how to recycle milk cartons properly – so there’s still a lot of work left to be done.

There’s no refund on milk empties (because you didn’t pay a deposit), but you’ll have the satisfaction of knowing you are doing the right thing. All milk, cream, and milk substitute (soy and rice) beverage containers – whether they are plastic, cartons or jugs – are recyclable and accepted at participating Return-It Depots.

Return-It Depots take milk empties

Milk containers cannot be returned to the grocer, nor should they be thrown in the trash. In British Columbia the only way to guarantee that milk cartons and jugs get recycled is to bring them to a participating Return-It Depot along with your refundable beverage containers.

To find the Return-It Depot nearest you, call 1-800-330-9767 or visit www.return-it.ca/milk

Environment

Year over year, the weight of recovered milk containers has increased by 6%. That’s over 583,000 more kilograms that were recycled in 2011 and kept out of landfills.

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