



## Provincially Funded Programs

*Administered by UBCM*

# 2007 PREMIER'S REPORT January 2008



Prepared by the Union of BC Municipalities

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# Background

*"We sincerely appreciate the work of UBCM with the Provincial and Federal governments to source funding for communities and particularly, the work of your staff in managing some of the grant access process. They have been an invaluable resource to our community"*

Mayor  
Westbroek, Town  
of Qualicum  
Beach

Local Government Program Services (LGPS) administers programs that are funded by the Province of British Columbia. These programs are designed to assist local governments to address various issues in a locally based and community specific manner. UBCM provides dedicated program staff and specialized knowledge of local government requirements to ensure responsive programming for members. By using existing UBCM infrastructure, administrative costs are minimized, ensuring maximum value to communities.

LGPS was implemented in 2004. Since that time, we can report the following details:

- Over 1,500 grant applications have been reviewed and approved, approved in principle or are pending.
- More than \$42.8 million dollars has been committed to projects throughout the province. Of this, more than \$33 million has been disbursed.
- Every local government in the province has accessed one or more fund.
- Other applicants that have received grants include:
  - 55 boards of education have partnered with local governments and received funds through the School Community Connections program.
  - More than 115 First Nations or Aboriginal organizations have applied as the lead applicant in programs such as West Nile Virus Risk Reduction, Emergency Planning and Regional Community to Community Forums. Numerous others have worked in partnership with local governments to benefit from LGPS funding.
  - Approximately 40 community organizations have received funding through the Community Methamphetamine Response program.

## Programs Administered in 2007

In 2007, 12 programs were administered by LGPS. The majority of these programs provided grants to local governments in BC, and, in some cases, other applicants such as First Nations and boards of education, while the Community Structural Protection Units provided a direct service to communities threatened by wildfires.

A summary of each program is included in the '2007 LGPS Programs' section of this report. In addition, three appendices are included with this report:

- Appendix 1 – a summary of 2007 LGPS programs (as of December 2007)
- Appendix 2 (on CD only) – Active LGPS grants in each local government in 2007. Please note this list does not include the School Community Connections program.
- Appendix 3 (on CD only) – 2007 LGPS grants listed by program.

As well a number of other documents that provide information on 2007 activities are also available on UBCM's website. These include:

- Sprinkler Protection Unit Status Report (November 2007)
- Community Methamphetamine Response Program Status Report (October 2007)
- Community Health Promotion Fund Pilot Project Update (August 2007)
- 2006/07 Regional Community to Community Forum Status Report (Aug. 2007)
- School Community Connections Status Report (August 2007)
- 2006/07 Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program Status Report (July 2007)
- Seniors Housing & Support Initiative Pilot Project Status Report (June 2007)
- Emergency Planning Program Status Report (May 2007)
- Community Health Promotion Fund Status Report (March 2007)

*"Providing community based projects and initiatives is one way of 'giving back to the people,' with immeasurable health and education benefits to those who participate"*

Mayor Snopek,  
Town of Creston

## Purpose of this Report

This report provides an overview of the LGPS programs managed on behalf of the provincial government in 2007. The intent is to share tangible results that these funds have provided in communities as well as to highlight the ancillary benefits, such as regional and local partnerships and collaboration, that have developed across the province. In addition, through the community stories included in each of the grant summaries, this report shares the tales of success, lessons learned and promising practices that have emerged throughout British Columbia through support from Local Government Program Services and the provincial government.

It is important to note that the purpose of this document is to report on the distribution of funds to local governments in the province through each LGPS program. In addition to the funds that are disbursed directly to local governments and other eligible applicants, administrative fees are also charged by UBCM for most LGPS programs. As the administrative fees vary by program, they are not included in this report. However, they are included in the quarterly LGPS financial statements that are available on UBCM's website.

# Acronyms & Terms Used in this Report

## General

**LGPS** – Local Government Program Services

**UBCM** – Union of BC Municipalities

## Area Associations

**AKBLG** – Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments

**AVICC** – Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

**LMLGA** – Lower Mainland Local Government Association

**NCMA** – North Central Municipal Association

**SILGA** – Southern Interior Local Government Association

## Grant Status

**Approved** – applications that meet the program guidelines and funding criteria and that have received grant payment.

**AIP** – (Approved in Principle) Applications that meet the general requirements for approval but that require additional information before they can be approved in full.

**Completed** – applications that have completed project activities, submitted required reports and received complete payment of the grant.

**Extension** – application that have received a formal extension to the project end date and/or final report deadline.

**On-going** – Applications that have not completed final report requirements and have not applied for a formal extension.

Another important distinction to note is the use of the terms “committed” and “disbursed” in this report. For the majority of LGPS programs, eligible grant recipients are awarded grants in two payments: first at the approval of the grant and second when all grant activities are completed and the reporting requirements are met. For this reason, the full grant amount is “committed” to the recipient although only the first portion is “disbursed” when the grant is approved.

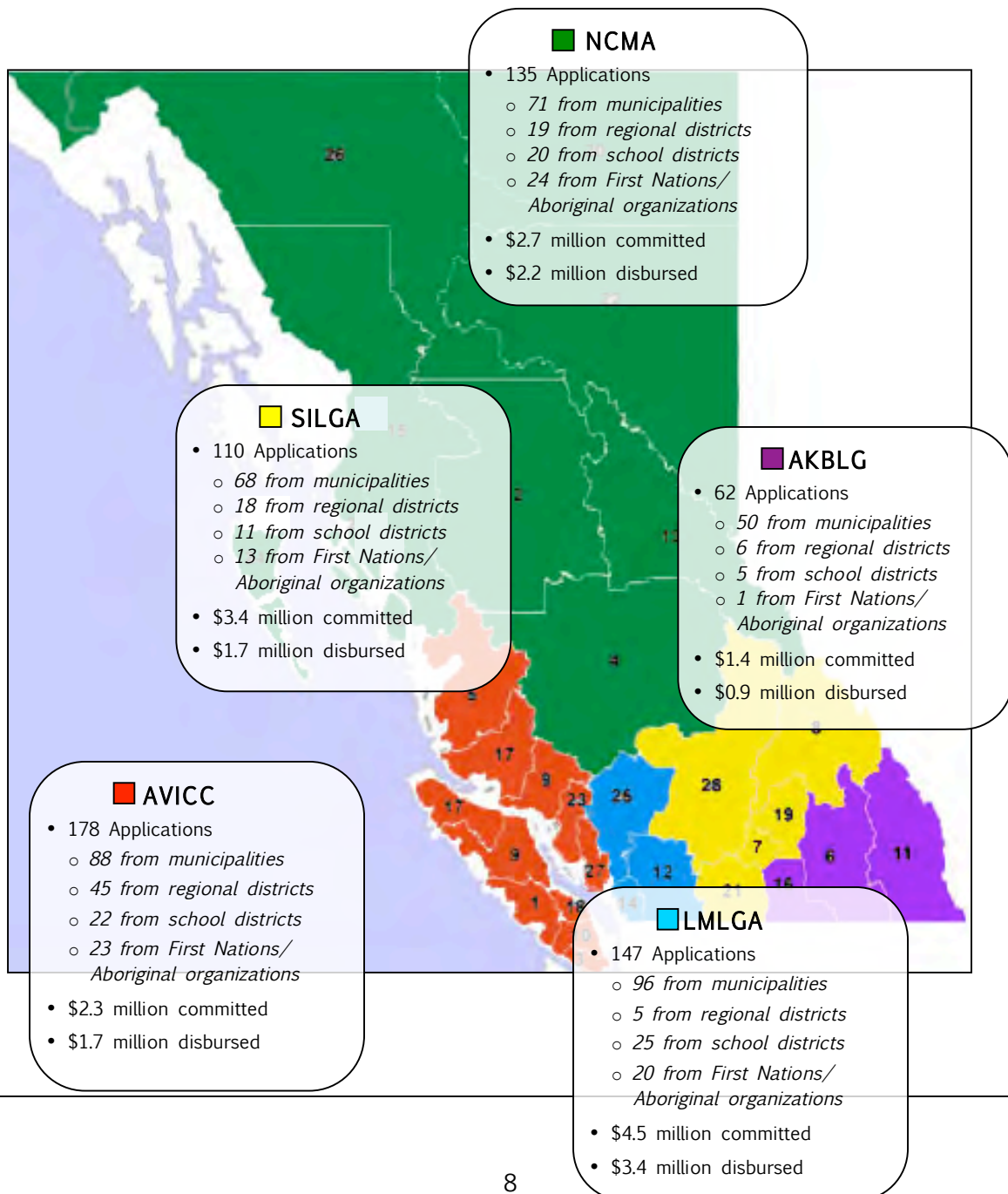


# **Highlights of 2007**

2007 has been a busy year for LGPS. A large number of applications were received and staff worked diligently to ensure a responsive turn-around time. This section provides an overview of the highlights of 2007, including a summary of grant disbursements in the province as well as a look at the administration of Local Government Program Services.

## 2007 Program Highlights by Area Association

One way to consider the volume of grant applications in 2007, and the funds that have been disbursed, is through the five provincial Area Associations. Please note this does not include grants under Community Tourism Phase 2.



## Administrative Effectiveness

More than 450 applications were reviewed in 2007. Throughout the year, LGPS maintained a high level of effectiveness and we are pleased to report that:

- **Minimal administrative costs** – modest administration costs help to ensure that provincial funds are directed to communities.
- **Expedited approval times** – most applications were reviewed within two weeks and the majority of grants were disbursed within the time lines outlined in the program guides.
- **Member satisfaction** – our members have expressed a high level of satisfaction with program administration.
- **Responsive management** – LGPS staff levels were increased in 2007 and much work has been done to develop internal capacity for proactive application management through policies, database development and reporting templates and timelines.
- **Flexible program design** – in order to accommodate member feedback, all LGPS programs are designed to ensure modifications and refinement of program guides can be considered.
- **Promoting LGPS opportunities** – workshops and materials outlining current LGPS grant opportunities were made available at Area Association meetings, UBCM's 2007 Convention and at the Local Government Leadership Academy. Individual programs were also promoted at relevant events, conferences and meetings and through member visits.

Reviewing and approving LGPS grants is, at times, a time consuming and complex process. In many cases, committee and/or external review is required before grants can be approved (or approved in principle) and many applicants require individual attention to ensure that application materials are accurate and received on time. In addition, the development of new grant programs, or refinement for new phases of existing programs, can be a significant undertaking. However, this time is a worthwhile investment as it ensures relevant and high quality projects are funded.

## Accountability

LGPS is committed to delivering grants that are administered on behalf of the provincial government in an accountable and transparent fashion. For example, in 2007:

- **Routine reporting** – all targets for reporting to the Premier, Ministries and Ministers were met.

*"Staff at UBCM are very knowledgeable, quick to respond and very helpful in dealing with the application process."*

*Andrew Yeates,  
Village of Queen  
Charlotte*

- **Accessible Information** – all program guides, application materials, status reports and quarterly financial statements are posted on UBCM’s website.
- **Informed MLAs** – each MLA was provided with a year-end summary of grants that were awarded in their constituency.
- **Member communications** – member bulletins announcing current and new funding were routinely issued to UBCM’s membership and year-end grant activity summaries were circulated to each local government.
- **Financial accountability** – the majority of funding programs involve a holdback of some approved funds to ensure that projects are undertaken as they have been approved and that qualitative and financial reporting is received.

## Shared Priorities

Local Government Program Services provides administration for programs that “address provincial-local shared priorities.” LGPS is able to successfully undertake this role for a number of reasons, including:

- **Informed program design** – LGPS staff have a specialized knowledge of local government requirements that helps to ensure responsive programming for members and the programs that are complimentary to provincial objectives.
- **Existing financial and administrative systems** – by using existing UBCM infrastructure, administrative costs are minimized – ensuring maximum value for communities.
- **Effective information sharing** – LGPS has established two-way communications with both our provincial partners and local governments in all aspects of program delivery – from design to final evaluation.
- **Experience with multiple ministries** – LGPS provides a vital bridging role in instances where programs have relationships with more than one ministry.
- **Informed local governments** – LGPS staff provide information to local governments across the province regarding funding opportunities that are available outside of UBCM, including the Local Government Funding session that was offered at the 2007 Convention.

# **2007 LGPS Programs**

# Community Health Promotion Fund

*Administered on behalf of the Ministry of Health*

*"[The grant] allowed us to run a Volunteer Transportation Network pilot project. The pilot was a success, and will result in a permanent public transportation system for those without a vehicle or cannot drive due to medical or disability reasons."*

Alyson Hagan-Johnson,  
North Island  
Community  
Services

The Community Health Promotion Fund (CHPF) was announced in April 2005 as a tool to support health promotion projects and activities in communities through a focus on healthy living and chronic disease prevention.

CHPF supports ActNow BC's goals of the province leading the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness and of building community capacity to create healthier, more sustainable and economically viable communities.

## Program Highlights

- Started in 2005 with a \$5 million contribution from the Ministry of Health.
- 50 pilot projects active in 2007 and 29 projects completed in 2006.
- 26 pilot projects approved and 18 projects approved in principle for 2008.
- To date close to \$3.9 million has been committed for pilot projects and \$2.8 million has been disbursed.

## Distribution of Funds

In general, the distribution of CHPF grants has been fairly even across the province. Table 1 provides an overview of the grant distribution in each year of the program by Area Association. The "Overall" column provides the percentage of grants provided to each Area Association over the lifetime of the program.

**Table 1: CHPF Grants by Area Association**

	2006	2007	2008	Overall
AKBLG	10.3%	14.0%	15.9%	13.8%
AVICC	24.1%	22.0%	15.9%	20.3%
LMLGA	24.1%	22.0%	27.3%	24.4%
NCMA	24.1%	24.0%	15.9%	21.1%
SILGA	17.2%	18.0%	25.0%	20.3%

## Lessons Learned

Partnerships are a required element in all CHPF projects and all applicants are required to work with a school district, First Nation or other community organization. Over the course of the CHPF, numerous lessons have been learned about the value of community relationship building, partnerships and collaboration, including the following comments shared by pilot project coordinators in 2007:

- *“When partnerships between local government and community agencies are backed by community support, there is great potential for positive accomplishments”* – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- *“Collaborating with several local governments and other agencies develops a higher quality product”* – City of Colwood
- *“With partners specializing in health, activity, social assistance and multicultural groups our committee is able to see the health of our community on every level”* – District of Kitimat

## Key Messages

- Local governments have a role to play as key agents of community and individual health promotion.
- ActNow BC is well branded in the province and local governments are looking for creative ways to meet its targets.
- Grants with broad guidelines and no requirement for matching and/or leveraged funds are well received by local governments.

## *Kicking it Up in Kitimat*



*Canada Day parade hosted by Kick It Up Kitimat.*

*Kick It Up Kitimat* began with an Active Communities Plan that identified local demographics, concerns, cultural barriers, plans for event development and time lines to focus on the main objectives – to bring health and an active lifestyle to the citizens of Kitimat.

Following this a number of initiatives were started, including: development of a Good Food Box program; creation of age- and culture-appropriate workshops, events and resources; growth of community partnerships; and the hiring of a programmer to oversee the project.

# Community Methamphetamine Response Program

*Administered for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General*

*“The knowledge and experience shared among participants in our [Forum] will make a significant contribution to public health in our region.”*

Suzanne Johnston,  
Northern Health

The Community Methamphetamine Response Program (CMRP) was established to provide communities with resources to respond to local concerns regarding methamphetamine use and/or production. Although many communities took differing approaches to address local issues, the objective of CMRP - to encourage development of awareness-raising and educational strategies or to build capacity for a community response to the issue - was apparent in each project.

## Program Highlights

- Implemented in December 2005 with \$2 million from the Ministry of Solicitor General through the Crystal Meth Secretariat.
- In total, 150 projects were funded and more than \$1.8 million was disbursed.
- Grants were awarded to established programs (5), local governments or organizations supported by local government (68) and First Nations or Aboriginal organizations (77).
- All applications were reviewed with the Crystal Meth Secretariat and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to ensure high quality programming

## Distribution of Funds

**Table 2: Funded Activities**

Activity	%
Education/awareness	60.6%
Presentations/workshops	16.9%
Prevention	7.5%
Task Force/Committee	4.4%
Meth Watch program	3.1%
Research	2.5%
Crystal Clear program	2.5%
Training	2.5%

CMRP funding was applied to a variety of activities across the province based on the community need. Some communities chose to use or adapt available methamphetamine response programs and others focused more broadly on prevention initiatives. Research, training and the development of task forces or committees were also common activities. However, by far the most popular theme of the funded CMRP projects was general education and awareness raising.

Table 2 outlines the percentage of applications that undertook each activity.



## Lessons Learned

Community programs varied widely across the province. Variables such as community size, rural or urban location, extent of the local methamphetamine issue, and community awareness ensured that there was not a single response that could be applied in each community. Based on this, CMRP was designed to be as flexible as possible and program guidelines were developed to allow local governments and other applicants to determine what type of programming would be of the most benefit in their community.

## Key Messages

- Leveraged funding, the dedication of volunteers and extensions from LGPS allowed many projects to continue after the program deadline.
- The CMRP granting program was fully subscribed. The level of participation illustrates the strong interest of communities in dealing with substance abuse prevention.
- The Crystal Meth Secretariat and UBCM held workshops during 2007 and are exploring potential future opportunities such as information and resource sharing to support community-based substance abuse prevention in the future.

## *Fighting Meth Use in the Okanagan*



*Event poster developed  
by the Central Okanagan  
CMTF*

The Living Positive Resource Centre spearheaded the *Central Okanagan Crystal Meth Task Force* (CMTF) with support from the City of Kelowna and the Central Okanagan Regional District. The task force was modelled after the successful three pillars approach: education, treatment, and enforcement.

Community and public awareness, education resources and a youth sub-committee to liaise with students were developed. A comprehensive chart of services and recommendations for improved services were also created. A by-law committee assisted in the development and implementation of by-laws to deal with clandestine labs, costs of policing and other issues of concern for local governments. A Meth Watch Program is also underway. The Task Force is passionate about their cause and their efforts are continuing.

# Community Structural Protection Units

*Administered for the Office of the Fire Commissioner and Ministry of Forests and Range*

*"The professional help, guidance and support [provided by the SPU crew] was invaluable at a time when fear and panic were around the corner."*

Lila Strand,  
North Slocan  
Resident

The Community Structural Protection Unit (SPU) program was developed to create a community protection tool in the case of wildfire threat. SPU's are a configuration of sprinklers, hoses and other equipment designed to efficiently protect structures threatened by wildfire in rural and urban interface situations. They are made available during the wildfire season once an evacuation alert is in effect.

This program does not provide direct funding to communities, but programming includes training and orientation opportunities as well as educational programming.

## Program Highlights

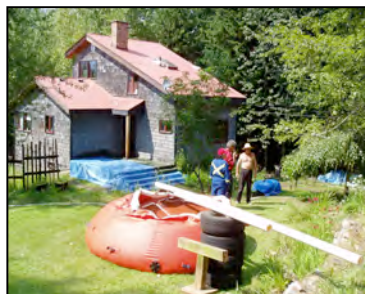
- \$1 million was provided in 2004 to design, produce and manage the units.
- Due to the cost recovery process nearly \$400,000 is still available for administrative costs, equipment maintenance and training.
- In 2007, units were deployed in Prince George, Kamloops, Castlegar, Meadow Creek/Argenta, North Slocan/Springer Creek, Needles/Penstock and Trail/Nelway for 41 days and 125 structures were protected.
- Training was delivered in 8 communities with an estimated 250 people taking advantage of the program during 2007.

## 2007 Deployments

Structural protection crews provide a number of services for the owners of homes threatened by wildfire in the interface.



*Crews and equipment muster for deployment*



*Setting up structural protection using a water bladder*



*Conducting a risk assessment and setting up roof top sprinklers*

## Lessons Learned

The SPU program is committed to continuous improvement. At the end of each fire season, a de-briefing is conducted and the lessons learned during the season are reviewed. For example the “first generation SPU” was found to be too heavy for traditional towing methods and modifications were done to the trailer and inventory levels were adjusted to manage the weight. This winter a more extensive review will be conducted to determine the condition of existing equipment and projected lifespan; potential modifications or reconfiguration of equipment for maximum effectiveness; and effectiveness of existing training and communications programs.

## Key Messages

- By working on a cost recovery basis, SPUs are adequately maintained and updated – helping to ensure a long life for the program.
- To date more than 186 structures have been protected.
- Feedback from homeowners who were provided SPU protection is enthusiastic and reflects positively on the program and those involved in it.
- The SPU program encourages the acquisition of similar equipment on a local level and encourages implementation of FireSmart recommendations.

## ***Saving Homes in the Kootenays***

While the protection of assets is the primary objective of the SPU program, the human element and community impact are important as well. Feedback from residents who have had their homes protected by the SPUs and SPU crews helps to illustrate the impact these units make on residents across the province:

*“The [SPU] Crew did a wonderful job – not only setting up the appropriate protection equipment ... but also giving me very useful advice ... with regard to further FireSmart actions I can take to protect my home.”* Paul Gibbons, Springer Creek

*“This is a wonderful service which we are fortunate to have, and for which you and those responsible in the government are to be warmly thanked.”* Cole Harris, Slocan Valley



*SPU crew member on site at Slocan Valley wildfire.*

# Community Tourism Program - Phase 1

*Administered for the Province of British Columbia*

*"The [CTP] allowed us to create three products that capitalized on our brand - a "lure piece," a showcase wall in our Visitor Centre, and a brand stewardship guide."*

John Wilsgard,  
Town of Golden

The first phase of the Community Tourism Program (CTP) was designed to assist communities to enhance tourism activities in their community or region. The goal of the CTP was to help local governments in increasing tourism activity that, in turn, would build stronger economies.

Funding was originally announced at the 2004 UBCM Convention and applications for Phase 1 were reviewed by LGPS from July 2005 to March 2007. The first phase of the program is now complete and LGPS is in the process of reviewing final reports.

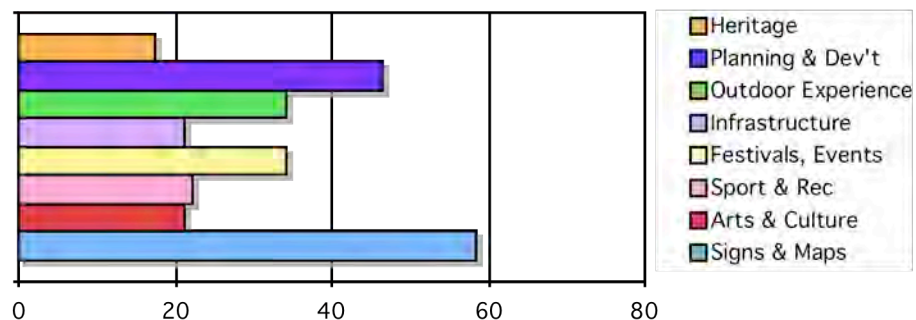
## Program Highlights

- This allocation based program provided funding for every local government in British Columbia to embark on tourism projects designed to enhance local tourism opportunities
- 182 communities took advantage of the program – resulting in a commitment of more than \$12 million.
- The CTP not only supported communities where tourism is a significant economic contributor, but also offered an opportunity for others to review potential opportunities and develop tourism planning tools.

## Distribution of Funds

Improvements to Visitor Information Centres and marketing initiatives were very common CTP activities in Phase 1. Chart 1 provides an overview of other common tourism initiatives that were undertaken.

Chart 1: Common Activities in CTP Phase 1



## Lessons Learned

Local governments across the province are at different stages of tourism development and face different challenges when marketing to the region, the province, and the rest of the world. There is natural beauty throughout the province, but weather, distance, and transportation options create challenges to maximizing opportunities in some areas. Design of the CTP had to recognize these challenges and not only assist those for whom tourism already plays a significant role in their economy, but also encourage local governments with limited tourism involvement to evaluate and act on their tourism potential.

## Key Messages

- The design of CTP recognized the diversity of each community and allowed local governments to determine where tourism dollars would be most effective.
- Funding formulas recognized the challenges faced by smaller, more remote communities.
- An allocation-based program with a broad time range for applications encouraged careful needs assessment prior to application.
- An impressive range of projects has been undertaken, ranging from tourism planning to small capital projects. These projects will support the goal of the province to double tourism by 2015.

## ***Celebrating the Arts on the Sea-to-Sky***

Often, the most successful festivals and events draw on the assets of the area. For example, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District used CTP funds to enhance and promote their signature summer event - "Copper & Fire." 2007 was the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the event and, with CTP funds, a curated art exhibit was added - resulting in 21% more paid visitors and twice as many artists and performers.

The event also allowed the BC Museum of Mining to extend the focus of mining and the arts well into October. In addition to the art exhibit, visitors were treated to interactive exhibits and art demonstrations such as copper sculpting, glass shaping, pottery, jewellery making, blacksmithing - all activities that require fire or metal to create fine treasures.



*Visitors experience gold panning at the "Copper and Fire" event.*

# Community Tourism Program - Phase 2

*Administered for the Province of British Columbia*

*“The investment provided through the Community Tourism program will have long-term benefits to Westside businesses and residents.”*

Mike Scarlett,  
Westbank  
Chamber of  
Commerce

When the Community Tourism program (CTP) was announced at UBCM’s 2004 Convention, Premier Campbell noted the express purpose of the program was to help local governments to increase tourism activity and to thereby strengthen the local economy. One of the immediate benefits of the program was that it created new capacity within local governments to support community tourism, particularly in smaller communities. The new plans, destination marketing organizations, and partner relationships established in Phase 1 have prepared the way for even greater program success in Phase 2.

## Program Highlights

- Phase 2 was launched in October 2007 with \$12.5 million allocated for local government tourism initiatives.
- Since launching, 48 communities have had projects approved and nearly \$1.6 million has been committed. Phase 2 applications will be accepted until November 30, 2008.
- This is the second phase of CTP. Once all allocations have been committed, the full \$25 million will be expended.

## Lessons Learned

Communities overwhelmingly agreed that the design of Phase 1 of CTP met local needs and that a similar program design for Phase 2 would allow local governments to build on recent successes. Based on this feedback, Phase 2 was designed to mirror Phase 1 as much as possible. This has allowed local governments to access Phase 2 funds through an application process that they are familiar with and has allowed many communities to continue activities that were started under Phase 1.

## Key Messages

- With 182 local governments participating in Phase 1, the initial learning and growth in each community will be capitalized on in Phase 2.
- Planning investments from Phase 1 are now ready for implementation with Phase 2 funding.
- Many local governments are leveraging funding by collaborating on marketing strategies and developing regional tourist attractions.



## ***Making BC the Best Place on Earth***

***Coal Discovery Trail*** - In a joint project between Fernie, Sparwood and the Regional District of East Kootenay, community partners are investing funds in the recently opened Coal Discovery Trail. Winding through the heart of the Elk Valley, the 35 km trail is family friendly, with options for hiking, cycling, skiing, snowshoeing and equestrian riding. Phase 2 CTP funding will assist with the creation of a trail map, development of a promotional website, and upgrades to the trail and signage.



*The Coal Discovery Trail*

***Tourism Foundations Plan*** - The City of Langley provides a good example of a community using Phase 2 funding to build on work started under Phase 1. Under Phase 1 Langley developed a *Community Tourism Foundations Plan*. Following on the successful incorporation of Tourism Langley and the appointment of a new executive director Langley is now utilizing Phase 2 CTP funding to implement the new marketing strategy outlined in the plan. By focussing on the market of Metro Vancouver and visitors generated by the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Langley is ideally positioned to market key local attractions such as Fort Langley, the Sendell Gardens, and five recently developed wineries.



*The Sendell Gardens*

***O'Keefe Ranch*** - The City of Vernon will capitalize on Phase 1 investments in the O'Keefe ranch by focusing on capital and marketing improvements in Phase 2. Upgrades to the shingle roof of the O'Keefe family home will protect a key tourism asset, while upgrades to the water system will provide improved drinking water and fire protection capacity. Funding will also be used to hire a marketing coordinator to help implement a five-year marketing plan for the Ranch.



*The O'keefe Ranch Mansion*

# Emergency Planning Program

*Administered for the Provincial Emergency Program*

*“Working within an extremely limited tax base, the Central Coast RD relies heavily on the EPP. The projects delivered to our widespread population would not be possible without the EPP’s results-oriented support.”*

Stephen Waugh,  
Central Coast RD

The Emergency Planning Program (EPP) was developed as part of the provincial response to the firestorms that ravaged British Columbia during the summer of 2003. The purpose of program is to provide access to funding assistance for local governments and First Nations wishing to update emergency plans, exercise existing emergency plans and/or provide emergency personnel training.

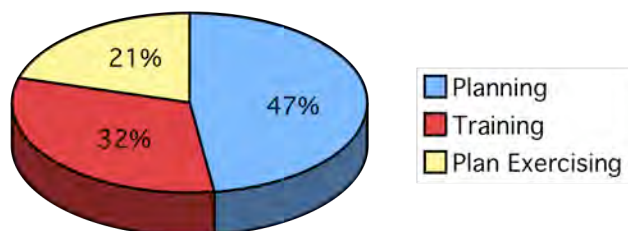
## Program Highlights

- Started in 2004 with \$1 million from the provincial government and extended with \$1.5 million from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in 2005.
- An additional \$0.5 million from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation was injected in 2006 to support First Nations involvement in both the regular and integrated emergency programs.
- In 2007 over 30% of applications were from First Nations communities.
- Sixty-eight projects were approved in 2007 resulting in a total commitment of approximately \$404,000 in the 2007 funding year alone.

## Distribution of Funds

Chart 2 demonstrates how funding was utilized in 2007. The planning activities that were funded included, but were not limited to, updating and/or enhancing existing plans, conducting Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analyses and developing evacuation mapping. Training opportunities were also funded. Examples included training at Emergency Operations Centres and with Incident Command systems. These were conducted as tabletop exercises and full-scale enactments.

Chart 2: Activities Funded in 2007





## Lessons Learned

The Emergency Planning Program is extremely popular with both local governments and First Nations. Funding levels are modest, but provide communities with resources to complete key emergency planning activities such as plan exercising and staff training. During extreme weather events over the last few years, such as the wildfires in the Kootenays and flooding on many major rivers in BC, the ability of communities to handle local emergencies has demonstrated the success of the EPP.

## Key Messages

- Emergency plans require constant updating and should be exercised each year. Training must also be provided on a regular basis to ensure new staff have an opportunity for training and to keep senior staff knowledge current.
- Often “real emergencies” affect a community’s ability to complete planning activities by program deadline. To address this, flexibility in reporting deadlines has been built into the program.
- The Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) staff are involved in program design and LGPS staff work cooperatively to ensure communities have access to expertise from PEP staff when required.

## ***Enhancing Safety in Okanagan-Similkameen***

The Regional District of Okanagan - Similkameen (RDOS) has been instrumental in creating a coordinated emergency planning partnership with Osoyoos, Oliver, Keremeos, Penticton, Summerland, and Princeton and all eight electoral areas.

RDOS is using EPP funding to stage a series of five exercises that are designed to test Emergency Operation Centre procedures in order to address identified hazards in the community.

Each exercise provides an opportunity to build relationships between communities, local organizations, and volunteer teams.

The collaboration among local governments following each event will mean that a robust, comprehensive, tested emergency plan will be presented the RDOS board in the spring of 2008 for adoption.



*SkaHa Park, Penticton, after Nov. 2007  
Windstorm*

# Integrated Emergency Planning Program

*Administered for the Provincial Emergency Program & Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation*

*“The review process in consideration of integrating the emergency plans of our four member municipalities and two First Nations partners has strengthened our relationships on all levels - time well spent, which would not have occurred without this grant opportunity”*

Jim Martin,  
Regional District  
of Fraser-Fort  
George

The Integrated Emergency Planning Program (IEPP) was launched in the fall of 2006 and was designed to encourage a regional approach to emergency planning for both local governments and First Nations. The program is intended to provide neighbouring local governments and First Nations with the resources required to work together to improve and integrate emergency response or recovery capability.

## Program Highlights

- The Ministry of the Solicitor General, through the Provincial Emergency Program, and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, provided funding.
- This was a two-phase program. Phase 1 allowed facilitated meetings between local governments and First Nations communities to determine whether there was an issue or project they wished to work on as an integrated project. Phase 2 provided funding to implement that project.
- To date, 25 groups of communities have completed a Phase 1 project and 23 of these have applied to and been approved for Phase 2.
- Overall, a total of \$676,000 has been committed under the program.

## Distribution of Funds

Chart 3: Approval Distribution by Area Association

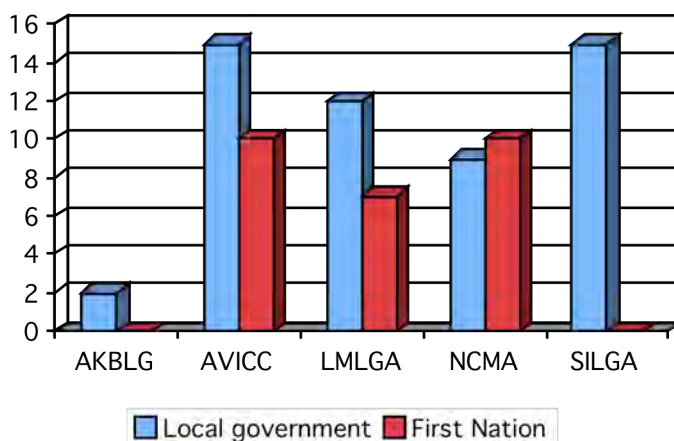


Chart 3 provides an overview of the disbursement of funds to local government and First Nation applicants.

As the number of municipalities, regional districts and First Nations varies in each Area Association, participation in IEPP also vary.

## Lessons Learned

IEPP is complex in nature as it can require cooperation from many local government and First Nation communities across a large geographic area. If similar programs are contemplated, program design will need to allow additional time to accommodate multi-stakeholder planning meetings and travel. That said, the work being done under this program is of high quality, and has the potential to drive future cooperative regional emergency planning processes.

## Key Messages

- Severe weather events are more common in recent years and very often affect a number of communities. Projects underway are exploring ways of working together to maximize resources and enhance community safety.
- Through IEPP local governments and First Nations have had the opportunity to focus on relationship building for the purpose of emergency planning.
- Projects underway have involved 47 local governments and 49 First Nations in developing a coordinated approach to emergency planning.

## ***Working Together in the North***

The feasibility of an emergency response and recovery plan for the entire regional district, including local governments and First Nations, is being explored in the Fraser Fort George Regional District (FFGRD). When this project was first considered, the McLeod Lake Band did not have a plan and the plans in Prince George, Mackenzie, McBride, Valemount and the Lheidli T'enneh Band were not integrated with the FFGRD plan.

To overcome this, a pilot project was envisioned to determine “whether a region-wide approach to emergency planning and response will create economic efficiencies, utilize staff resources more efficiently and manage response and recovery from an emergency or disaster more effectively”.

Analysis will also include, in part, potential modifications to existing plans to include region-wide context, recommend locations for Emergency Operations Centres, identify potential costs and revenue streams, and identify appropriate staff resources.



*2007 ice jam on the Nechako has kept Prince George in a state of local emergency since mid December 2007*

# Regional Community to Community Forum Program

*Administered for the Ministry of Community Services and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (BC Region)*

*"The forum has put a human face on the various organizations in our community. Now that we have met, we understand each other better and see how we can help each other."*

Councillor Dan  
Saul, Simpcw  
First Nation

The Regional Community to Community (C2C) Forum program provides funding for dialogue between elected leaders and staff from neighbouring First Nations and local governments on issues of mutual interest and concern. The goal of the program is to increase understanding and to improve overall relations between First Nations and local governments.

## Program Highlights

- In partnership with the First Nations Summit and with support from the Ministry of Community Services and Indian & Northern Affairs Canada (BC Region), over 170 C2C Forums have been held to date.
- More than 130 local governments and close to 200 First Nations and First Nation organizations have participated.
- Over the 2006/07 and 2007/08 funding years, over \$250,000 was committed and approximately \$140,000 has been disbursed.
- In 2007 the *Guide to Community to Community Forums in British Columbia* was produced and the C2C program was promoted at UBCM's Final Treaty Agreement conference and at a First Nations Relations session at Convention.

## Distribution of Funds

Table 3: C2C Event Hosts by Type & Year

Host	2006/07	2007/08
First Nation	12 (32%)	15 (38%)
Local Government	25 (68%)	25 (62%)
City	9	6
Town	1	4
District	9	5
Village	3	4
Regional District	3	6

For the past few years, local governments and First Nations have both had the opportunity to apply for C2C funding.

Table 3 provides an overview of the applicants for the 2006/07 and 2007/08 funding cycles.

## Lessons Learned

The C2C program is a wonderful example of how relationship building and local government/First Nation partnerships can be developed with very modest grants. In general, grant requests are around \$3,200 per event (although up to \$5,000 has been permitted for a single event and up to \$8,000 for multiple events) with the requirement that the host contribute 50% of the cost of holding the event.

It has been the local commitment to the dialogue process that has ensured that the small sums of money have translated into very tangible outcomes, such as the signing of MOUs and accords, the development of joint committees and working groups and the dedication to move forward on joint initiatives.

## Key Messages

- The C2C Forum program is well branded in the province and an increased number of applications are received each year.
- Each year, an increased number of First Nations are applying to organize and host an event.
- More than 130 local governments and close to 200 First Nations and Aboriginal organizations have participated.

## *Connecting Communities in the Cariboo*

On September 10, 2007 the Nazko First Nation hosted the Cariboo Regional District and City of Quesnel at a Community to Community Forum.

The event provided an opportunity for participants to discuss current issues and build awareness of history and culture. Following a presentation about residential schools and the effect on the Nazko community, participants worked in smaller groups to discuss what can be done to move the community forward.

Specific outcomes included a commitment by the Cariboo Regional District to work closer with Nazko First Nation to provide house numbers, streetlights, a fire hall, and a coordinated emergency response program on reserve. A Communications Protocol will also be developed.



*Staff from the Nazko First Nation, City of Quesnel and Cariboo RD at C2C forum.*

# School Community Connections

*Administered with the BC School Trustees Association for the Ministry of Education*

*"The residents, especially the children of Houston will benefit from the collaborative approach to financing our new tennis and basketball court. The Provincial Government, School District #54 and the District of Houston have all contributed to make this important project a reality"*

Mayor Smith,  
District of  
Houston

Launched in September 2005, the goal of the School Community Connections (SCC) program was to develop under-utilized schools into centres for community activities and services. The program required the collaboration of local governments, boards of education and community partners and was comprised of three funding steps that were designed to support partnerships between boards of education and local governments in order to "make," "develop" and "complete" their connections.

## Program Highlights

- Started in September 2005 with \$10 million.
- 55 of the 60 Boards of Education participated in the program and 54 projects have moved forward to Step 2 and 3.
- The deadline for application to all phases of the program has now passed, although deadline extensions have been approved for partnerships that have been delayed.
- The Association for Community Education in BC was involved with communities considering the community school model as an element of their SCC project.

## Distribution of Funds

Step 1 provided local governments and boards of education with an opportunity to come together to identify a project.

In Step 2, concrete plans began to form and a number of themes in the types of projects being undertaken began to emerge. Table 4 provides an overview of these themes, as of August 2007.

In most communities, Step 3 funding will be subsequently used to begin the plan identified in Step 2.

**Table 4: Step 2 Themes**

Theme	%
Fields, gyms & playgrounds	46%
After school, daycare or preschool programs	32%
Community kitchens or gardens	25%
Community organization, meeting space or office	25%
Music, arts & culture	18%
Emergency preparedness	11%
Literacy program	7%



## Lessons Learned

The primary goal for the SCC program was for communities to better utilize school assets - and local projects have demonstrated that the goal is being achieved. Another important achievement is the number of community partnerships, often beyond the board of education and local government, which SCC has been a catalyst for. For example, service clubs, First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, health authorities, provincial ministries, colleges and universities and other groups have become involved in SCC planning.

## Key Messages

- Relationship building between school trustees and local government elected officials has been a valuable by-product of the SCC program.
- Available school assets and needs of communities vary widely across the province. This is demonstrated by the wide variety of projects underway across the province.
- A strong working relationship has been developed with the Ministry of Education and BC School Trustees Association.
- Cooperative programming between schools and communities optimizes the use of school assets and can result in savings in energy and other resources.

## ***Growing Together on the Sunshine Coast***

School District 46 and the Sunshine Coast Regional District have partnered to develop a Model-School Community Garden on unused areas of school property. Elements of the project include providing meals to the community, developing a program to teach students about gardening, supporting an inter-generational component (where seniors share their gardening knowledge with students), and producing vegetables for use in the school cafeteria.

The School and Regional District also intend to develop a “How To” manual that will assist other communities in developing similar programs. On completion of the program it is hoped that an upgrades will be made to the kitchen and a culinary arts program will be established at the school.



*Student & teacher in the kitchen  
at Elphinstone Sec. School*

# Seniors' Housing & Support Initiative

*Administered for the Ministry of Community Services and Ministry of Health*

*"The senior's transit service pilot project has been a big success and helped us to better understand the transportation needs of seniors in our community."*

Mayor Barnett,  
District of 100  
Mile House

The aim of the Seniors' Housing & Support Initiative (SHSI) is to provide local governments with the knowledge and skills to exchange information and find community-based solutions that support the ability of seniors to age in place in communities across the province. The program meets this goal through two grant opportunities: pilot projects and dialogue events.

Pilot projects support innovative responses to challenges in the provision of housing, transportation, social services, and Age-Friendly planning. The 'Seniors in Communities' dialogue program provides small grants for organized exchanges between local government leaders, seniors and others involved in the delivery of seniors' services.

## Program Highlights

- Launched in 2004 through a \$2 million grant from the Ministry of Community Services
- During the summer of 2007 the Ministry of Health contributed an additional \$0.5 million towards SHSI in order to incorporate an Age-Friendly focus.
- In 2007, 16 pilot projects and 9 dialogue events were funded – resulting in a commitment of more than \$390,000.
- In September 2007, a call for applications was announced for 2008 pilot projects and dialogue events. 24 of pilot projects have been approved, or approved in principle, and dialogue applications will be reviewed on an on-going basis throughout 2008.

## Distribution of Funds

Table 5: 2007 Pilot Project Themes

Theme	#
Food security & nutrition	2
Health & safety	4
Housing	4
Recreation & education	3
Seniors' planning	5
Social Services	4
Transportation	2

It is interesting to note the variation of topic areas that were addressed in both pilot projects and dialogue events in 2007.

As indicated in Table 5 seniors' planning – such as mapping of seniors' residences in comparison to services or the preparation of a Seniors' & Elders' Plan – was the most common theme.



## Lessons Learned

Pilot projects and dialogues funded under SHSI in 2007 provided a number of lessons that local governments can learn from. For example, the ability to create programs that integrate seniors into existing initiatives – such as adding a therapeutic gardening program at an existing greenhouse – supports the efficient use of existing capital and expertise and allows for community and intergenerational connections.

## Key Messages

- BC's population is aging and local, appropriate solutions are required. SHSI is one tool to support local governments to meet this challenge.
- As of 2007, the Seniors' Housing & Support Initiative is a three-way partnership between UBCM, the Ministry of Community Services and the Ministry of Health.
- 'Age-Friendly' projects are eligible for funding in 2008 and the 'Age-Friendly' concept was introduced to delegates through the "Creating Accessible, Inclusive and Age-Friendly Communities" workshop at the 2007 Convention.

## ***Becoming Age-Friendly in BC***

LGPS staff have worked closely with the Ministry of Health to incorporate an Age-Friendly focus into the 2008 SHSI program. Building on the success of previously funded SHSI pilot projects in Lumby and Saanich (both of which were also Age-Friendly demonstration communities) the 2008 program is providing the opportunity for local governments to use the newly developed Age-Friendly community guides (that have been developed for cities and for rural and remote communities) as a tool to undertake planning or programming that will assist local seniors to age in place.

It is exciting to note that 14 of the 24 pilot projects that will be undertaken in 2008 will incorporate, in whole or in part, a focus on Age-Friendly planning. For example, in Abbotsford, a Seniors' Transportation Initiative will use the transportation chapter of the *Age-Friendly Cities Guide* to develop four transportation programs that will benefit seniors. In Warfield, a comprehensive seniors' program, including a senior's drop in centre, Home Safety Check program, exercise classes and Healthy Eating cooking groups, will benefit from numerous chapters in the *Age-Friendly Rural and Remote Guide*.



*Seniors utilizing fitness facilities in the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District*

# Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiatives

*Administered for the Ministry of Forests and Range*

*“Wildfire funding has assisted Prince George in completing 2/3rds of its wildfire fuel reduction measures in the high fire hazard areas of the City.”*

Mark Ferchow,  
City of Prince  
George

The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program (SWPP) was developed after the fires of 2003 and in response to the Filmon Report. It provides funding support for strategic wildfire prevention initiatives, including developing community wildfire protection plans (CWPP), conducting fuel management pilot projects, or implementing larger-scale fuel management projects. To ensure communities have access to current and accurate information the Fuel Management website (<http://ground.hpr.for.gov.bc.ca/>) was created in cooperation with the Ministry of Forests.

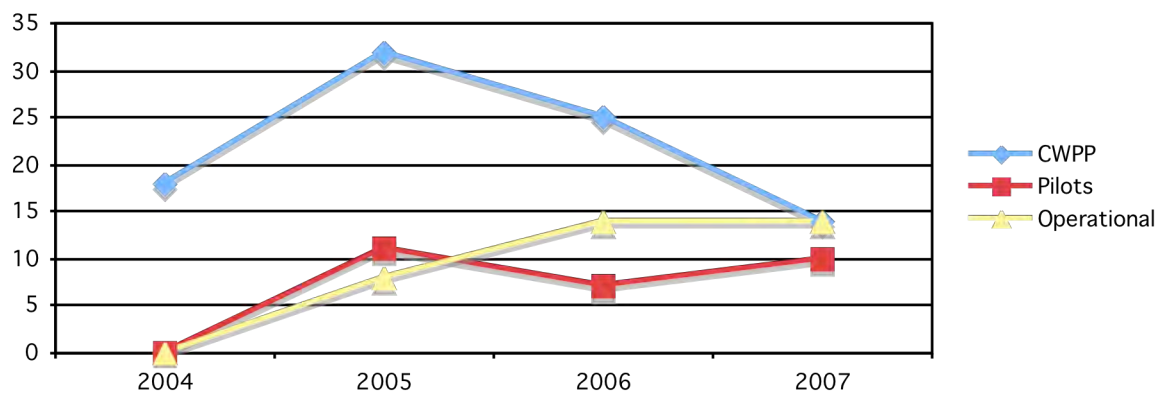
## Program Highlights

- SWPP began in 2004 with the launch of the Community Wildfire Protection Program. In late 2005 the program was expanded to include funding to conduct pilot projects and embark on operational fuel management initiatives.
- Funding for operational fuel management projects in Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) affected stands is available for both local governments and First Nations. To ensure First Nations have access to these funds, the First Nations Emergency Services Society provides technical expertise.
- Funding provided for operational fuel management more than doubled in 2007.

## Distribution of Funds

Funding for all elements of the SWPP is on-going. As communities complete CWPPs there has been an increase in applications for pilot and operational projects, and a resulting decrease in the number of additional CWPP applications.

Chart 4: Number and Type of Applications



## Lessons Learned

Programs funded under the SWPP are very technical in nature and are impacted by conflicting values in the urban interface. Concerns such as riparian areas, green space and wildlife habitat can compete with local protection values, making the community education and consultation process critical to the success of the program. Resolving these conflicts can be time consuming and cause delays in the completion of CWPPs; however, this is a critical step during the planning process is essential for success in moving forward into operational fuel management activities.

## Key Messages

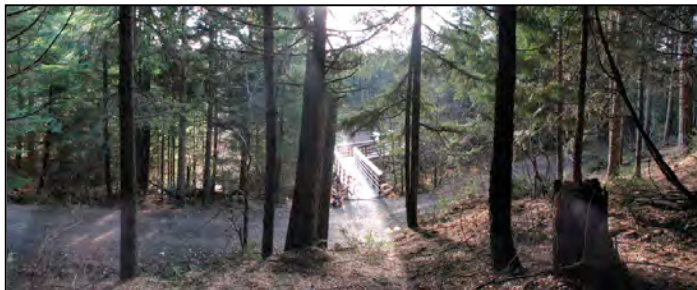
- LGPS provides program administration services for the SWPP; the Ministry of Forests Protection Branch conducts technical review of projects.
- When the SWPP was first introduced, wildfire prevention was not top of mind for most local governments. Since then, 84 CWPPs have been funded.
- Climate change and the resulting MPB infestation have increased the risk of fire in the urban interface. Given the extent of beetle kill in the province, risk mitigation will require a long-term commitment.
- To date, over \$20 million has been made available for strategic wildfire initiatives in MPB and non-MPB stands. 10% of the MPB funds are earmarked for First Nations.

## ***Advancing Wildfire Prevention in Whistler***

The Resort Municipality of Whistler is a good example of a community that has worked through all three steps of SWPP and is now in the process of conducting an operational fuel treatment project.

Whistler was one of the first local governments to apply to do a CWPP, which was completed in late 2004. In 2006, a fuel management pilot project was conducted and thinning was used to reduce wildfire risk and enhance biodiversity in Lost Lake Park. When pilot project wrapped up in 2007 the community was ready to embark on a larger scale fuel management program.

The project will treat approximately 100 ha of land containing high hazard fuels and will take about 3 years to complete.



*Monitoring plot after thinning in Lost Lake Park*

# West Nile Virus Risk Reduction Initiative

*Administered for the Ministry of Health*

*"[This program] has helped local governments identify mosquitoes in their jurisdiction that could potentially carry WNV, and develop plans to control these mosquitoes should this virus arrive in BC."*

Dr. Murray Fyfe,  
Vancouver Island  
Health Authority

The West Nile Virus Risk Reduction Initiative (WNVRI) provides financial assistance to local governments and First Nations to implement programs directed at mosquito control, with the intent of reducing the risk of the spread of West Nile Virus. Funding is available for communities across British Columbia, with funding formulas based on population and risk factors. Additional funding is also available for mitigation programs on Crown Land.

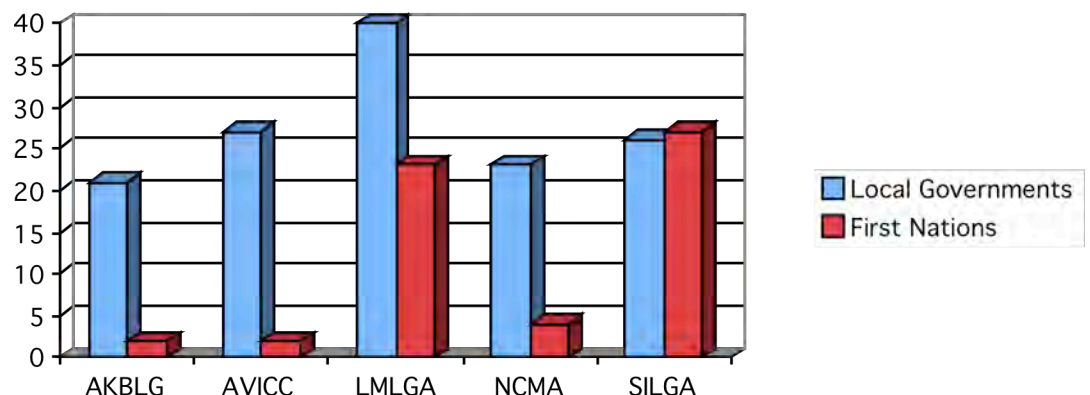
## Program Highlights

- Administered by UBCM since 2005.
- In 2007, 73 projects covering more than 150 local governments and First Nations communities were undertaken – resulting in a total commitment of more than \$3 million (including projects on crown land).
- Program designed in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and with input from the Health Authorities. Health Authorities also provide technical input in the grant approval process.

## Distribution of Funds

Chart 5 indicates the number of local government and First Nation applications by Area Association. It is of interest to note that it has been the result of co-operative programming that SILGA and LMLGA has both had an increase in the number of First Nation applications.

Chart 5 - Local Government and First Nations  
Distribution of Funds by Area Association



## Lessons Learned

The WNVRRRI has been available to local governments and First Nations through UBCM annually since 2005. With a stable funding source, communities have been able to develop regional initiatives and build them into their annual budgets and work plans.

## Key Messages

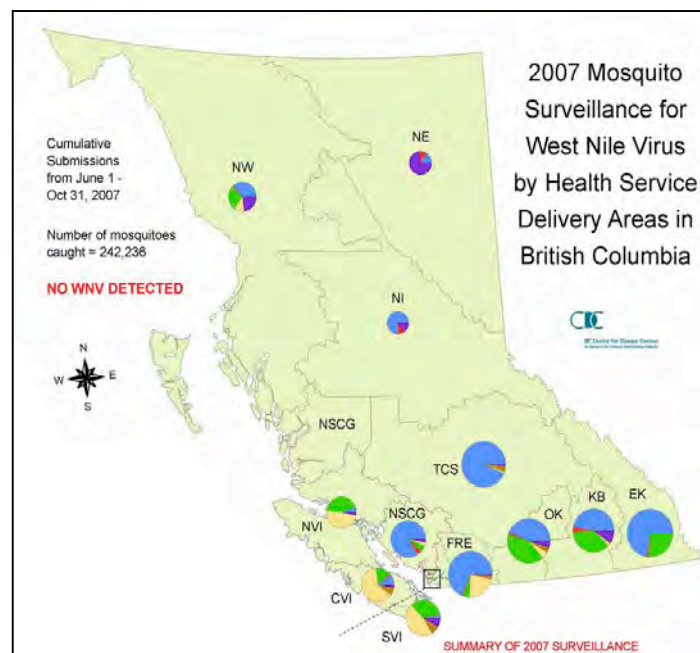
- Many local governments and First Nations have developed a regional approach to mosquito mitigation and are supported by the WNV program.
- Severe weather events in the past few years have led to increased snow pack and mountain pine beetle devastation. These in turn have led to increased high spring run-off and increased mosquito hatch.

## *Mitigating WNV Risk in BC*

To date, the West Nile Virus has not been detected in BC. WNVRRRI funding has allowed local governments to engage in such activities as habitat mapping, trapping and identification of species, habitat modification and the application of larvicide (when necessary).

Recent occurrences of West Nile Virus in humans in neighbouring Alberta, Montana and Oregon have emphasized the need for continued vigilance in mitigation activities. Increased flooding events also increase the risk of incidence of the virus in BC communities.

The long-term mosquito mitigation strategies that have been developed by communities thanks to the WNVRRRI will be a critical component in reducing the risk of West Nile Virus occurrences in the coming years.



*Summary of 2007 mosquito surveillance as published by BC Centre for Disease Control*



# **Looking Forward to 2008**

As Local Government Program Services enters into its fifth year of operations, we continue to look forward to opportunities to enhance and expand program delivery to local governments. The programs under LGPS administration in 2008 will include a number of on-going programs and the addition of several new programs reflecting provincial and local government shared priorities.

## Continuing Programs

In many cases, grant programs span multiple years for a number of reasons. For example, allowing communities the time to research and prepare for a funded project can often take time. Multi-year grant programs also allow LGPS staff to select high-quality applications and to support and encourage applications.

As 2008 begins, LGPS staff are looking forward to the continuation of the following grant programs.

- Community Health Promotion Fund – *45 pilot projects have been approved or approved in principle for 2008.*
- Community Tourism (Phase 2) – *applications will be accepted until November 30, 2008.*
- Regional Community to Community Forum – *the program will be available in the spring and fall of 2008 pending confirmation of 2008/09 funding.*
- Seniors Housing and Support Initiative – *24 pilot projects have been approved or approved in principle for 2008 and dialogue applications will be reviewed on an on-going basis.*
- Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiatives – *applications for all elements of the program will be accepted on an on-going basis throughout 2008.*

## New Programs

During the course of 2007, LGPS staff worked with a number of ministries to develop a number of new grant programs that will be available to local governments in 2008:

- Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency Planning – *to allow local governments with significant farmed animal production to update their emergency plans to include mass carcass disposal.*
- Healthy Food & Beverage Sales – *will provide funding for local governments to develop strategies for healthy food and beverage sales in recreation centres and other local government facilities.*

*"The City of Prince George is please to have the opportunity to work with [LGPS] on programs ... that are bringing benefits to communities all across the province."*

Mayor Kinsley,  
City of Prince  
George



- Active Transportation – *to assist local governments to develop active transportation plans that can be used to access funding cycling, walking and other active transportation infrastructure.*
- School Community Connections – *LGPS is working with the Ministry of Education on a second grant program to fund broader community use of school facilities.*
- Treaty Knowledge Exchange & Dialogue Program – *With funds from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, this fund will provide opportunities for local governments in early stages of the treaty process to meet with and learn from local governments that are more advanced.*
- Supporting Treaty Implementation Pilot Project Program – *The intent of this program is to demonstrate options and provide examples of initiatives that local governments are undertaking to support treaty implementation activities. It will be available to communities that are affected by a signed or initialled final agreement or that are involved in the negotiation of a final agreement.*

*"We support UBCM's continuing role in administering Provincial-local government funding agreements"*

Gwen Mason,  
District of Logan  
Lake.

## New Communications

Following upon our efforts in 2007 to enhance our reporting format for each program, in 2008 we will expand our communications with Members of the Legislative Assembly. Our year-end constituency report will be replaced with a quarterly report emailed directly to each MLA. With more frequent updates, each MLA will have information that reflects the current state of program uptake in the communities they serve.

## Conclusion

As we enter our fifth year of operations, LGPS has been able to consolidate the learning from previous years into all aspects of our administration. The continuing development in our services, reporting and communications reflect the quality of our relationships with local governments and provincial partners. As we move forward into 2008, we are appreciative of the ongoing collaboration with local governments and the province that has contributed to the growth of LGPS.

