



## Provincially Funded Programs

*Administered by UBCM*

# 2008 PREMIER'S REPORT

January 2009



Prepared by the Union of BC Municipalities



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## Acronyms & Terms Used in this Report

### General

**LGPS** – Local Government Program Services

**MPB** – Mountain Pine Beetle

**TAC** – Treaty Advisory Committee

**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 initial 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.

**Closed** – applications that did not meet final reporting requirements and that were closed by LGPS with or without complete payment of the grant. It is important to note that all applicants with closed files were given multiple notices regarding reporting requirements and due dates.

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

**Extended** – applications 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.

**Withdrawn** – Applications that were approved or approved in principle but subsequently withdrawn by the applicant without expending any funds.

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.



# Background

*A summary of Local Government Program Services since its inception  
in 2004.*

*"If it were not for funding programs administered through UBCM, our rural community would not be able to offer the range of programs that we currently do."*

- Mayor Ron Toyota, Town of Creston

Local Government Program Services (LGPS) administers programs funded by the Province of British Columbia that deliver grants and other services to BC local governments. In 2008, LGPS managed 16 active grant programs. These programs were designed to assist municipalities, regional districts and, in some cases, other applicants, to address community issues in locally meaningful and efficient manner. To support this, UBCM, through LGPS, provided dedicated staff with specialized knowledge of local government to ensure responsive programming for our members. Through the use of existing UBCM infrastructure, administrative costs were minimized and maximum value was provided to communities.

LGPS was implemented in 2004. Since that time, staff have reviewed more than 2,600 applications that met basic funding eligibility. As outlined in Table 1, this has resulted in nearly 1,500 completed projects.

**Table 1: LGPS Grants Since 2004**

Application Status	# of Applications
Completed	1,499
Approved or AIP	989
Pending	54
Closed/Withdrawn	63

In addition, since the launch of LGPS in 2004:

- More than \$84.3 million, including the \$25 million contributed for the Community Tourism Program, has been committed to projects throughout the province. Of this, more than \$57.3 million has been disbursed.
- Almost every local government in the province, including Barriere, Clearwater, Westside, the Comox Valley Regional District and the Strathcona Regional District has accessed one or more funds.
- Numerous applications from applicants other than local governments have been considered. These include:
  - More than 260 applications from Boards of Education for the 2005 and 2008 School Community Connections programs.
  - Close to 300 applications from First Nations, Aboriginal organizations or Treaty Advisory Committees have received funding, or have applications under review, through programs such as West Nile Virus Risk Reduction, Emergency Planning, Regional Community to Community Forums and Building Governance Capacity.
  - Approximately 45 applications from community organizations, including colleges and universities, health authorities and non-profit organizations, received funding, or approval or approval in principle, through a number of LGPS programs.



## Programs Administered in 2008

2008 was another busy year for LGPS. Four new programs were offered to our members and 12 additional programs continued from 2007 and/or previous years. As in past years, staff worked diligently to ensure a responsive turn-around time on all applications. Over the calendar year, more than 800 eligible applications were received, resulting in 137 projects being completed; 614 projects underway; and 93 applications under review.

Details on the 16 programs managed in 2008 are included in following sections of this report. In addition, four appendices are included with this report:

- Appendix 1 – a summary of 2009 LGPS programs (as of December 2008).
- Appendix 2 (*on CD only*) – LGPS grants to local governments.
- Appendix 3 (*on CD only*) – LGPS grants to non-local government recipients.
- Appendix 4 (*on CD only*) – LGPS grants by program.

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

- Status Reports from LGPS programs.
- Past Premiers' Reports.
- Financial statements.

## Purpose of this Report

This report provides an overview of the LGPS programs managed on behalf of the provincial government in 2008. The intent is to share tangible results that these funds have provided in communities as well as to highlight the ancillary benefits that have developed across the province. In addition, by including community stories, this report shares the tales of success, lessons learned and promising practices that have emerged throughout BC through support from LGPS 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.

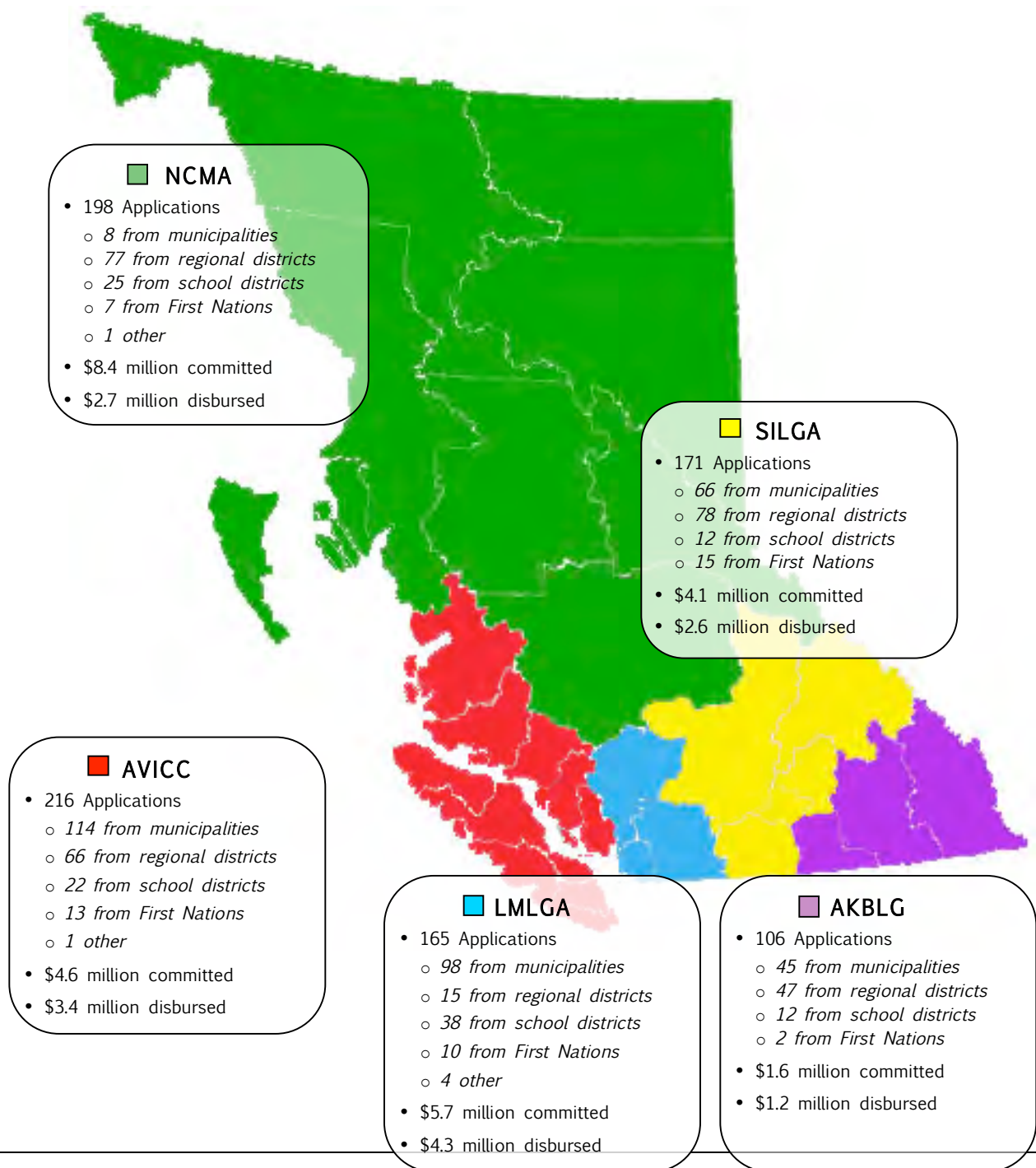


# Highlights of 2008

*Distribution of grants and the administration of Local Government  
Program Services in 2008.*

## 2008 Grant Distribution by Area Association

In all programs, and especially in competition-based programs, LGPS staff review applications with an eye to ensuring adequate representation in all areas of the province. This helps to ensure that local governments and communities in each Area Association are benefiting through LGPS. The following map provides a summary of the distribution of applications that were submitted in 2008 and that were approved, approved in principle or are under review.



## Administrative Effectiveness

More than 800 eligible applications were reviewed in 2008. Throughout the year LGPS maintained a high level of effectiveness and we are pleased to report that:

- **Minimal application/reporting requirements** – As new programs, and new phases of existing programs, were made available to members in 2008, LGPS staff attempted as best as possible to keep application forms to no more than 2 pages and to provide electronic forms for all required reports.
- **Effective evaluation processes** – for many LGPS programs, staff from the funding Ministry or agency sat on the evaluation committee and helped LGPS staff in grant adjudication.
- **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.
- **Flexible program design** – In order to accommodate member feedback, all LGPS programs are designed to ensure modifications and refinement of program guides and criteria can be considered, especially when the program is offered in more than one phase.
- **Minimal administrative costs** – Modest administration costs help to ensure that provincial funds are directed to communities.
- **Promoting LGPS opportunities** – Workshops and materials outlining current LGPS grant opportunities were made available at Area Association meetings, UBCM's 2008 Convention and through visits to our members. Individual programs were also promoted at relevant events such as:
  - Active Aging Symposium
  - Age-friendly Leadership Network
  - BC Healthy Communities Conference
  - BC Rural Network
  - Columbia Mountain Institute's "Wildland Urban Interface Fires, Fuel Management and Ecosystems"
  - Economic Development Association of BC
  - Government Finance Officers Association Conference
  - Local Government Leadership Academy
  - Local Government Management Association
  - Thompson Okanagan Interface Committee

*"We sincerely appreciate the work of the UBCM ... and particularly, the work of staff in managing some of the grant access processes. They have been an invaluable resource to our community"*

- Mayor  
Teunis  
Westbroek,  
Town of  
Qualicum  
Beach

## Accountability

LGPS is committed to delivering grant programs that are administered on behalf of the provincial government in an accountable and transparent fashion. For example, in 2008:

- **Informed MLAs** – Each MLA received a quarterly bulletin outlining grants that had been approved in his or her riding. A similar report was sent monthly to the Public Affairs Bureau.
- **Routine reporting** – All targets for reporting to the Premier, ministries and ministers were met.
- **Accessible Information** – All Program & Application Guides, forms, status reports and quarterly financial statements were posted on UBCM's website and other relevant on-line locations.
- **Member communications** – Member bulletins announcing current and new funding were routinely issued to our members and year-end grant activity summaries were mailed directly to each local government. Our partner agencies also played a vital role in advertising LGPS programs to their memberships.
- **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:

- **Experience with multiple ministries** – LGPS provides a vital bridging role in instances where programs have relationships with more than one ministry and/or agency.
- **Multiple objectives** – Many LGPS programs fund projects that are addressing multiple provincial priorities, such as food security, reduction of greenhouse gases and relationship building with neighbouring First Nations.
- **Informed local governments** – LGPS staff provide information to local governments across the province regarding funding opportunities that are available outside of UBCM, including through the Funding & Capacity Building session, Creating Synergies in Local Government Planning workshop and other sessions that were offered at the 2008 UBCM Convention.

# **New Grant Programs**

*Including programs with new phases of funding in 2008*

# Built Environment & Active Transportation

## Community Planning Grants

*Administered with the BC Recreation & Parks Association on behalf of the BC Healthy Living Alliance*

The BEAT program provides community planning grants to local governments in order to support the development of new plans or the amendment of existing plans for active transportation infrastructure. The intent is to better position local governments to secure and more effectively utilize existing infrastructure funding opportunities offered through provincial and federal government programs, and other funders, that require local governments to have a plan in place.

### Program History

- Started in 2008 with a \$425,000 from the BC Healthy Living Alliance.
- 10 projects funded in Phase 1. Ten additional grants will be awarded under Phase 2 of the program in early 2009.
- Close to \$218,000 has been committed to Phase 1 projects.

### Distribution of Funds

Table 2: BEAT Phase 1 Grant Recipients

Local Government	Description	Funding
Colwood	Develop Active Transportation plan.	\$18,000.00
Golden	Develop Active Transportation Plan	\$13,020.00
Invermere	Develop Active Transportation Network Plan	\$25,000.00
Kent	Update Kent and Harrison Hot Springs Bicycle Network Plan	\$25,000.00
Nanaimo RD	Incorporate Active Transportation Plan and implementation strategy in OCP for EA 'A'	\$24,969.00
Prince George	Develop Pathways Master Plan	\$22,500.00
Qualicum Beach	Development of Cycling plan.	\$20,000.00
Quesnel	Update the Bicycle Network Plan	\$25,000.00
Roseland	Develop an Active Transportation Plan	\$22,000.00
Sparwood	Consultation process to improve active transportation	\$22,500.000



## Key Messages

Phase 1 of the BEAT program has demonstrated how important active transportation planning is to communities in BC; more than 60 Expressions of Interest were received for the 10 grants that were available.

- Communities of every size benefit from more opportunities for residents, employees, students and others to be able to walk or cycle as a means of daily travel.
- Active transportation helps meet other local government and provincial goals, such as reducing greenhouse gases, by reducing the number of vehicles on the road.
- In a province as diverse as BC, creativity is key to providing active transportation opportunities. Projects funded to date have moved beyond traditional active transportation infrastructure to consider other opportunities, such as blueways (paddling routes) and whiteways (winter trails for snowshoeing and cross country skiing), as elements of active transportation networks.



*“Through leadership, community partnership and the active transportation network plan, we hope to achieve a healthy, accessible and sustainable community. This grant helps us achieve our ends while building an informed community.”*

*- Kerry Hiltz,  
District of Kent*

## Improving Planning for Active Transportation

Although the City of Colwood has detailed information about the 120 km of roads within the community, it has lacked a detailed inventory of sidewalks, walkways, park trail connections, bicycle facilities and other active transportation assets in the city. This gap in Colwood’s database hampered efforts to set priorities for improvements to the City’s active transportation infrastructure.

To address this gap, Colwood is using a BEAT grant to develop an asset inventory and clarify the links between various active transportation modes available in the community. The project will result in a detailed plan that includes all modes of active transportation and will provide guidance for future infrastructure investments. This innovative project has resulted in the development of an Active Transportation Checklist incorporating details on land use, pedestrian facilities (with attention to the needs of people with disabilities), cycling facilities and bus stops.

# Community Health Promotion Fund

*Administered on behalf of the Ministry of Healthy Living & Sport*

The Community Health Promotion Fund (CHPF) was started in 2005 through a \$5 million contribution from the provincial Ministry of Health. It was created to support health promotion projects and activities in communities through a focus on healthy living and chronic disease prevention. The CHPF supports the goals of ActNow BC of BC leading the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness and building community capacity to create healthier, more sustainable and economically viable communities.

## Program History

- Started in 2005 with a \$5 million contribution from the Ministry of Health.
- 42 projects active in 2008 and 50 pilot projects funded in 2007.
- 24 pilot projects approved and 3 projects approved in principle for 2009.
- To date more than \$4.5 million has been committed to pilot projects and approximately \$3.9 million has been disbursed.
- Unless additional funds are made available, 2009 will be the final year of the CHPF as the original contribution will be fully expended.

## Distribution of Funds

In general, the distribution of CHPF grants has been fairly even across the province. Table 3 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 3: Distribution of CHPF Funds**

	2006 (29)	2007 (50)	2008 (42)	2009 (27)	Overall (149)
AKBLG	3 (10%)	7 (4%)	7 (17%)	1 (4%)	18 (12%)
AVICC	7 (24%)	11 (22%)	7 (17%)	7 (26%)	32 (22%)
LMLGA	7 (24%)	11 (22%)	12 (29%)	9 (33%)	39 (26%)
NCMA	7 (24%)	12 (24%)	7 (17%)	5 (19%)	31 (21%)
SILGA	5 (17%)	9 (18%)	9 (19%)	4 (15%)	27 (18%)

## Key Messages

The Community Health Promotion Fund has been one of the most popular funding programs administered by LGPS.

- The ability to offer CHPF funding for 4 consecutive years has provided communities with the security of a stable funding opportunity for local health promotion projects.
- Local governments have a role to play as key agents of community and individual health promotion.
- Many projects funded through CHPF are meeting other local government and provincial goals, including the many projects focused on local food production, food security and age-friendly communities.
- Grants with broad guidelines and no requirement for matching and/or leveraged funds are well received by local governments.

*“Essential community initiatives ... would be impossible without this financial support.”*

- Town of Creston CHPF final report

## Providing Recreational Outreach in Penticton

One of the greatest challenges for recreational programs is to provide services that reach the whole community. After a local study confirmed that residents would be more likely to access services if they were less structured, were neighbourhood-based, and offered at low or no cost, the City of Penticton used a CHPF grant to bring flexible recreational services into neighbourhoods throughout the community.

In order to provide expanded services, Penticton recruited and trained a host of new volunteers to run a range of neighbourhood based programs at no cost throughout the summer months. The new programs achieved the goal of reaching out to residents who previously had not accessed services. In addition, the program brought together managers from recreation, engineering and public works to discuss how the built environment influences community health – new relationships that will yield long term benefits as capital improvements are undertaken.



The program managers also discovered that the recruitment, training and management of volunteers is vital but time intensive. Sustaining the program over the long term will require community partnerships to provide vital volunteer support and to champion the programs. To date, Penticton has developed relationships with the RCMP and school district and has secured support for recreation programs in local middle schools.

# Healthy Food & Beverage Sales

## in Recreation Facilities & Local Government Buildings

*Administered with the BC Recreation & Parks Association for the BC Healthy Living Alliance*

The Healthy Food & Beverage Sales (HFBS) grant program was designed to assist local governments with the development and implementation of plans, programs and policies that support the sale of healthy food and beverages in recreation facilities and local government buildings.

### Program History

- Started in 2008 with approximately \$600,000 for 3 program phases:
  - Phase 1: 9 grants, to a maximum of \$12,500 each and totalling \$112,500, were distributed to local governments in April 2008. One application was subsequently withdrawn.
  - Phase 2: 18 grants, to a maximum of \$7,500 each and totalling \$127,442, were distributed in December 2008.
  - Phase 3: 30 grants, to a maximum of \$7,500 each, will be available to local governments in 2009.

### Distribution of Funds

As with all competition-based grants administered by LGPS, an effort is made to ensure that all regions of the province benefit from funding. Table 4 provides detail on the distribution of Phase 1 and Phase 2 HFBS grants.

As the HFBS program depended, especially in Phase 1, on variables such as community readiness, the extent of existing facilities and local government buildings and current contracts for vending and concession services, it was more difficult to ensure balanced geographic distribution.

**Table 4: Phase 1 & Phase 2 HFBS Grants by Area Association**

	AKBLG	AVICC	LMLGA	NCMA	SILGA	<i>Total \$</i>
<b>Phase 1</b>	1 (11%)	3 (33%)	2 (22%)	1 (11%)	2 (22%)	\$124,650.00
<b>Phase 2</b>	0 (0%)	6 (33%)	6 (33%)	4 (22%)	2 (11%)	\$127,442.00

## Key Messages

Changing vending and concession offerings can be a significant challenge requiring both social marketing and efficient business planning. The local governments that have been funded through the HFBS program to date have played a leadership role in demonstrating that the provision of healthy food and beverage choices can happen.

- There is significant interest from local governments and communities alike to develop policies, plans and programs that support healthy eating habits.
- Healthy food and beverage choices are clearly linked to broader community and individual health promotion.
- As programs and plans for healthy choices are further developed in recreation centres, local government buildings, schools, provincial buildings and First Nation facilities, community members will be provided with more healthy options and a better understanding of the foods and beverages they should be choosing more often.

*“Government leaders have the unique ability to ... promote important community issues and support policies that create environments in which citizens, children and their families can have healthy choices.”*

- City of Nanaimo HFBS Application

## Implementing a Nutritional Health Policy

*“I like the direction the City of Prince George is heading... I look forward to the transition to a healthier workplace and facility” – comment in final report.*

Funding through Phase 1 of the HFBS program allowed the City of Prince George to undertake a thorough community consultation in order to develop a municipal nutritional health policy that was adopted by Council. Implementation of the policy led to a public awareness campaign combined with stakeholder conversations with vending machine operators and recreation facility managers to ensure greater access to healthy food choices and decreased access to less healthy options.



Five recreational facilities in Prince George are moving ahead with implementation, with two of the five changing their concessions and vending machine options within a month of the policy being adopted by Council.

# 2008 School Community Connections

## Strengthening the Connection

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

*“As a new municipality the bonds created between the school and local government through these applications are extremely valuable.”*

- Mayor Carol Kulesha, Village of Queen Charlotte

The 2008 School Community Connections (SCC) - Strengthening the Connection program was designed to support co-operative programming that would build upon relationships developed during the original 2005 SCC program. It is funded by the Ministry of Education and intended to support projects that benefit both the board of education and the community at large.

### Program History

- The School Community Connections program was started in 2005 with a \$10 million contribution. See the ‘Continuing Programs’ section for details on the 2005 program.
- The 2008 Strengthening the Connection program was launched in 2008 and more than 100 projects are underway across the province.
- The 2008 SCC program allows each board of education to apply for up to three grants of \$8,000 each.
- A website profiling the SCC program is available at [www.schoolconnections.ca](http://www.schoolconnections.ca).

### Distribution of Funds

Table 5 highlights the type of projects currently underway. As can be seen, a broad range of projects are being undertaken – all for the purpose of encouraging community use of school facilities and creating stronger links between boards of education and local governments.

**Table 5: Themes**

Theme	%
Early Learning	17
Safer, Greener Communities	9
Healthy Kids and Families	32
Food Security and Nutrition	9
Community Schools	15
Libraries and Literacy	17
Other	1

Some specific examples of projects that have been funded include development of community trails, upgrades to sports fields and playgrounds, community and family literacy projects, first aid certification for students, purchase of books and equipment, creation of a ‘Welcome to Kindergarten’ program, development of a community garden, and the planning of an outdoor activity course.



## Key Messages

The relationships built between school trustees and local government elected officials during the original SCC program were critical to the success of the 2008 Strengthening the Connections program.

- The needs of communities and boards of education vary widely across the province. This is demonstrated by the diversity of projects being conducted under the SCC program.
- A strong working relationship has been developed with the Ministry of Education and BC School Trustees Association.
- Co-operative programming between schools and communities optimizes the use of school assets and can result in savings in energy and other resources.

*"What a wonderful way of supporting communities and building connections with schools... I just wanted to say thank you for such a great opportunity."*

- Leanne  
Hammond  
Komori,  
Central  
Okanagan  
Foundation

## Providing Real Life Learning in Castlegar

One of the advantages for communities that are able to leverage funding programs is the opportunity to share personnel to create a unique program. School District 20 combined SCC funding with an existing Fuel Management grant to launch a unique work experience project for eight at-risk aboriginal students. The project, developed in partnership with Apex Forest and Wild Fire Services, the Castlegar Fire Department and Shaw Cable, provided mentoring relationships between the students and staff in the partner organizations.

Over a three-week period, eight students received training in fire fighting, equipment usage, safe work procedures and documentary filmmaking. At the end of the project the students felt a sense of accomplishment for both their newly acquired skills and the contribution made to their community. As in integral part of the project, the students and mentors were able to share their experiences with the wider community by screening their documentary about the project at the theatre in Castlegar.



# Seniors' Housing & Support Initiative

*Administered for the Ministry of Community Development and Ministry of Healthy Living & Sport*

Launched in 2004, Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative (SHSI) was created to assist local governments to prepare for an aging population. In the initial phases of the program grants for 'Seniors in Communities Dialogues' were available to local governments. Feedback and analysis of these initial grants led to the creation of pilot project funding, which was available to local governments in 2006, 2007 and 2008. In the fall of 2008, Age-friendly Community Planning Grants were made available as the fifth round of SHSI.

## Program History

- Launched in 2004 through a \$2 million contribution and enhanced in 2007 with an additional contribution of \$0.5 million.
- Since 2005, 48 'Seniors in Communities' dialogues have been held and 52 pilot projects have been undertaken. To date, 9 Age-friendly Community Planning grants have been approved or approved in principle and 3 additional applications are under review.
- A second call for Age-friendly Community Planning grants will be announced in early 2009. Unless additional funding is made available, this will be the final round of grants under the Seniors' Housing & Support Initiative.

## Distribution of Funds

As demonstrated by Table 6, SHSI grants, including dialogues, pilot projects and community planning grants have generally been well dispersed throughout the province.

**Table 6: SHSI Grants by Area Association & Funding Year**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
AKBLG	2	5	3	5	0	13%
AVICC	5	7	7	3	3	22%
LMLGA	3	4	5	12	5	26%
NCMA	7	5	6	9	2	26%
SILGA	4	5	2	2	2	13%
	21	26	23	31	12	113



## Key Messages

As BC's population continues to age, local governments will be increasingly called upon to develop community plans, support appropriate development and offer meaningful programming that encourages older adults to remain active while they age in place.

- Documents developed by the World Health Organization and Public Health Agency of Canada are available to help local governments determine the age-friendliness of their community.
- The 'Seniors in Communities' website ([www.seniorsincommunities.ca](http://www.seniorsincommunities.ca)) is administered by UBCM to provide additional resources for local governments and communities.
- Since 2007, SHSI has been a three-way partnership between UBCM, the Ministry of Community Development and the Ministry of Healthy Living & Sport.
- Age-friendly communities support people of all ages and the Seniors' Housing & Support Initiative has many synergies with other community programs such as Measuring Up.

*"This project has been a wonderful learning experience for our community. We hope that this is the start of a process to make our valley more age-friendly."*

- Town of Creston final report

## Connecting Seniors With Employment in Victoria

More people are living longer and the costs associated with living – particularly housing, but also food, social outings and personal care – continue to rise. As a result, a growing number of seniors across the province are finding themselves in circumstances where they need paid work.

In response to this growing need, the City of Victoria entered into a partnership with Silver Threads to develop "Experience Works:" a pilot project to connect seniors with employers looking for mature employees.



Along with providing training in resume writing, skill assessment and follow-up support, the program hosted a job fair that attracted more than 200 seniors.

With more than 400 seniors and over 50 businesses registered in the program, "Experience Works" has led to over 200 client-to-employer referrals.



# Continuing Programs

*This section provides an update on each of the LGPS programs that were initiated prior to 2008 and that were active in the past calendar year.*

## Community Tourism Program - Phase 2

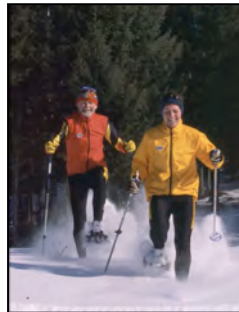
*Administered for the Province of British Columbia*

*“New restroom facilities developed through the Community Tourism program have made Hazelton a preferred stopover for two bus charter companies. The local business generated through this development would not have happened without funding from the program.”*

Kelly Mattson,  
CAO, Hazelton

The second phase of the Community Tourism Program Phase 2 (CTP2) was launched in October 2007 in order to disburse the remaining \$12.5 million of the initial \$25 million allocated for local government tourism initiatives.

CTP2 was designed to build on the accomplishments realized during Phase 1. CTP1 created a new capacity within local governments to support community tourism, particularly in smaller communities. Plans were created, destination-marketing organizations established and partnerships developed. These projects paved the way for even greater successes during Phase 2 of the program. In addition, while CTP1 primarily supported projects that were broad in scope, CTP2 has tended to support projects that demonstrate a specific focus on a tourism sector (such as eco-tourism).



Communities have benefited from the Community Tourism Program in many ways. First and foremost, many communities have come to recognize the vital role for local governments in tourism development. By looking at their communities through the lens of the travelling public, many local governments recognized assets that could be marketed to visitors. For example, Canal Flats, used CTP2 funding to construct a path to the headway of the Columbia River – opening access to a unique and beautiful tourism destination.

Local governments also identified niche markets, established marketing programs, developed festivals and events, prepared for the 2010 Olympics and repaired and enhanced tourism infrastructure. All of these activities resulted in an improved experience for visitors to our communities, our regions, and ultimately to the province - bringing us another step closer to the provincial goal of doubling tourism by 2014.

## Emergency Planning Programs

### ***Emergency Planning - Administered for the Provincial Emergency Program***

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 program has been in place since 2004 based on funding from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. A total of \$3 million was provided to facilitate the original EPP as well as the Integrated Emergency Planning Program.

The EPP was designed to help communities upgrade and exercise community plans and train staff for emergency management. This was a very successful program with 279 emergency planning projects undertaken since the program was launched. The program is now fully subscribed.



*“The Emergency Planning Grants from the UBCM have allowed the ESS Team in Coquitlam to completely restructure and rewrite our ESS plan to the BCERMS model.”*

- Barry Elliot,  
City of  
Coquitlam

### ***Integrated Emergency Planning - Administered for the Provincial Emergency Program & Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation.***

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, which is nearing completion, was developed to provide neighbouring local governments and First Nations with the resources required to work together to improve and integrate emergency response or recovery capability. To date 21 groups of communities have implemented an integrated project. These projects have resulted in a number of integrated plans, and, more importantly, lasting relationships between neighbouring communities.

### ***Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal - Administered for the Investment Agriculture Foundation and funded by the Minister of Agriculture and Lands***

This granting program was designed to support local governments wishing to amend their emergency plans to deal with situations, such as Avian Flu outbreaks, as well as address dead stock arising from natural disasters. These plans are intended to allow for a timely and efficient disposal of dead stock in order to minimize the impact on human, environmental and farmed animal health.

The City of Surrey utilized funding to assess quarantine issues, identify disposal methods, select disposal sites, identify transportation options for dead stock, develop a communications plan to address public concerns and develop a process for sharing timely information between affected stakeholders. Surrey's updated plan also identifies the City's role when dealing with other agencies such as the Provincial Emergency Program, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Ministry of Environment and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

## School Community Connections - 2005

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

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.

Fifty-five of the 60 boards of education participated in the program and 54 projects have advanced to the third phase of the program.

## Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiatives

*Administered for the Ministry of Forests and Range*

The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program (SWPP) was developed in response to the 2004 Filmon Report. The SWPP provides funding support for developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), conducting fuel management pilot projects and/or implementing larger-scale fuel management projects for local governments. It also provides funding for fuel management projects for First Nations.

The Ministry of Forests and Range provides technical expertise in support of the program, and in the case of First Nations projects, First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) provides technical, communications and administrative expertise. LGPS works with both the Ministry and FNESS to raise community awareness of strategic wildfire issues across the province.





Forest health has been affected by climate change, insect infestation and fire suppression activities over the course of many years and heavy fuel loads in the wildland urban interface pose a significant threat to community safety. This has required local governments to learn about forest fuel management and develop the capacity to analyze and mitigate the threat.

When the program was first launched in 2004, the focus was to educate communities about the wildland urban interface and encourage the development of CWPPs - more than 90 plans have been developed. In 2008 we are pleased to note that the majority of the work being done is to implement plans and remove fuel from the interface. At present, 131 fuel management projects involving either local governments or First Nations are either completed or underway.

## West Nile Virus Risk Reduction Initiative

*Administered for the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport*

The West Nile Virus Risk Reduction Initiative (WNVRI) has been offered annually since 2005. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to local governments and First Nations wishing to implement programs directed at mosquito control - with the intent of reducing the risk of the spread of West Nile Virus. Funding formulas are based on population and risk factors with additional funding provided for mitigation programs on adjacent crown land.

The program was designed in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and with input from the Health Authorities. Health Authorities also provide technical input into the grant approval process. Projects include activities such as mapping, habitat modification and larvicide application and can vary from year to year dependent on weather. The program also encourages regional cooperation. Fraser Valley Regional District, for example, managed the West Nile Prevention activities on behalf of 7 local governments and 29 First Nations.

In 2008, 77 projects covering more than 174 local governments and First Nations communities were undertaken. In addition, 28 projects were conducted on crown land.





# First Nation Relations Programs

*Over the course of 2008, LGPS developed and launched 3 new programs, in addition to the Community to Community Forum program, to support local governments to initiate and grow relations with neighbouring First Nations.*

## Building Governance Capacity Pilot Project Program for Shared Local Government & First Nation Initiatives

*Administered on behalf of the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation*

The Building Governance Capacity (BCG) program was developed in 2007 with the intent to assist local governments and First Nations that have an established working relationship to address specific capacity gaps related to governance issues. Matching grants of up to \$25,000 are available to support activities that help local governments and First Nations to work together on common governance-related issues, to participate in capacity building activities or events that address the issues and, at the same time, build governance management skills, knowledge, abilities and understanding.

To date, four applications have been funded and two others are under review. The program allows for on-going application review.



An excellent example of the type of initiatives being funded through the Building Governance Capacity program is the work being undertaken by the City of Williams Lake, Cariboo Regional District and the Northern Shuswap Treaty Society. Working together, the three partners used a BGC grant to create a new liaison staff position to facilitate joint initiatives among the three partners.

Working with a Steering Committee, the new liaison has been coordinating a Community to Community Forum that will provide vital input for the development of First Nations/Local Government consultation protocol for land use issues. The new position has also provided support to First Nations communities on specific referrals regarding rezoning/subdivision and development permits. This joint initiative has proven so successful the Williams Lake is applying for additional funding to create a similar position with another neighbouring First Nation.

## Regional Community to Community Forum Program

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

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.

Over the course of the 2007/08 fiscal year, 48 applications were received to host more than 60 dialogue events across the province. Of these, 39 events were held.

For the 2008/09 year, 42 applications for 60 events were received. Twelve of these dialogues have been completed to date; however, the majority were scheduled for the first quarter of 2009.



2008 also saw the development of new program under the banner of the Regional Community to Community Forum – the Newly Elected C2C program. The intent of this new program is to provide an opportunity for local governments that have newly elected officials (following the 2008 civic elections) to engage with neighbouring First Nations. The purpose of the meetings is to meet each other in order to ensure continuity of relationships, to learn about issues in relationships between the First Nations and local governments, and to strengthen existing relationships and maintain and forge links between First Nation and local government elected officials and staff.

Staff will review applications for the Newly Elected C2C program on an on-going basis until June 2009.

## Supporting Treaty Implementation Pilot Projects

*Administered for the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation*

The intent of the Supporting Treaty Implementation Pilot Project (STIPP) program is to demonstrate options and provide examples of initiatives that local governments are undertaking to support treaty implementation activities in their communities.

The program is available to Treaty Advisory Committees (TACs) and local governments affected by a signed or initialled final agreements and those local governments who are involved in the negotiation of a final agreement. Ten grants of up to \$10,000 are

available for pilot projects that support treaty implementation through activities such as developing an agreement between a local government and First Nation, establishing a mentoring program, or undertaking a community education and awareness campaign.

To date, four STIPP applications have been approved, although LGPS staff will review additional applications on an on-going basis (as funding permits). One of the initial four grants was awarded to the District of Ucluelet in order to develop service agreements, community forest application, land-use harmonization with the Toquaht First Nations.

## **Treaty Knowledge Exchange Dialogues**

*Administered for the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation*

The Treaty Knowledge Exchange (TKE) Dialogue Program was developed in 2007 to provide small grants to encourage the exchange of knowledge, information and experience between Treaty Advisory Committees (TACs) and/or local governments that have participated in advanced stages of the treaty process and those TACs/local governments that are involved in earlier stages of the process.

An TKE Dialogue is a jointly organized meeting between staff and/or elected leaders from TACs and/or local governments that provides a venue for the exchange of knowledge, information and experience related to the treaty process. Dialogue events provide a time and place for conversation and presentations on issues related to the treaty process and may relate to any of the activities at any stage of the treaty process.

Five applications were initially received for the TKE program and four of these have been approved in principle. Due to the logistical challenges of organizing multiple dialogues – with a limited number of participants each – across the province, LGPS is looking at the potential of using TKE funds to host a provincial TAC event in the spring of 2009.

# Non-Grant Programs

*Programs administered by LGPS that provide services and supports to local governments instead of grants.*

## Community Structural Protection Units

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

*"[The crew] did  
an excellent job  
going over  
some of the  
basic  
components.  
We spent the  
afternoon  
setting up a  
roof sprinkler  
system using a  
pump system  
and hydrant  
system. Great  
hands on!"*

Lee Lax, Deputy  
Fire Chief,  
Fairmont/  
Windermere

The Community Structural Protection Unit (SPU) program was developed to create a community protection tool in the event of wildfire threat. SPUs 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.

\$1 million was provided in 2004 to design, produce and manage the units. Management of the units is achieved in partnership with the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the Ministry of Forests and Range Protection Branch. This original contribution was fully spent by the end of 2007, and a cost recovery process now sustains the program.

Although the SPUs were not required for service in 2008, they remained strategically deployed around the province. An SPU was displayed at the UBCM Convention and 14 training sessions were provided to fire departments around the province. It is estimated that more than 300 individuals were able to take advantage of training in 2008.



## Picture BC

*Developed with the Knowledge Network for the Province of BC*

In the 2004 Provincial Throne Speech, the Province of British Columbia outlined a vision for Picture BC: an online gateway to a library of images and words that would convey the beauty of BC to all its citizens and to people around the world. At the 2004 UBCM Convention, Premier Campbell awarded the development of the site to UBCM.

In the development of the website, UBCM has worked in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts and the Knowledge Network to develop a resource that will serve both the interests of individuals and the needs of the tourism industry. Picture BC invites visitors to explore and share the natural beauty of the province via a variety of media resources, including video, images and writing. Interactive maps allow visitors to tour through each region of the province. The website also features over 150 community pages customized to showcase the tourism assets of each community and provide a forum for local perspectives. Through a Creative Commons license, the website will also allow individuals and businesses to download, share, remix and reuse high quality, professionally photographed images.



As the Premier's Report was being prepared, Picture BC had passed through a test launch and was being made ready for its public launch at the 2009 BC Tourism Industry Conference.





# **Looking Ahead to 2009**



As Local Government Program Services enters into its sixth 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 2009 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 2009 begins, LGPS staff are looking forward to the continuation of the following grant programs.

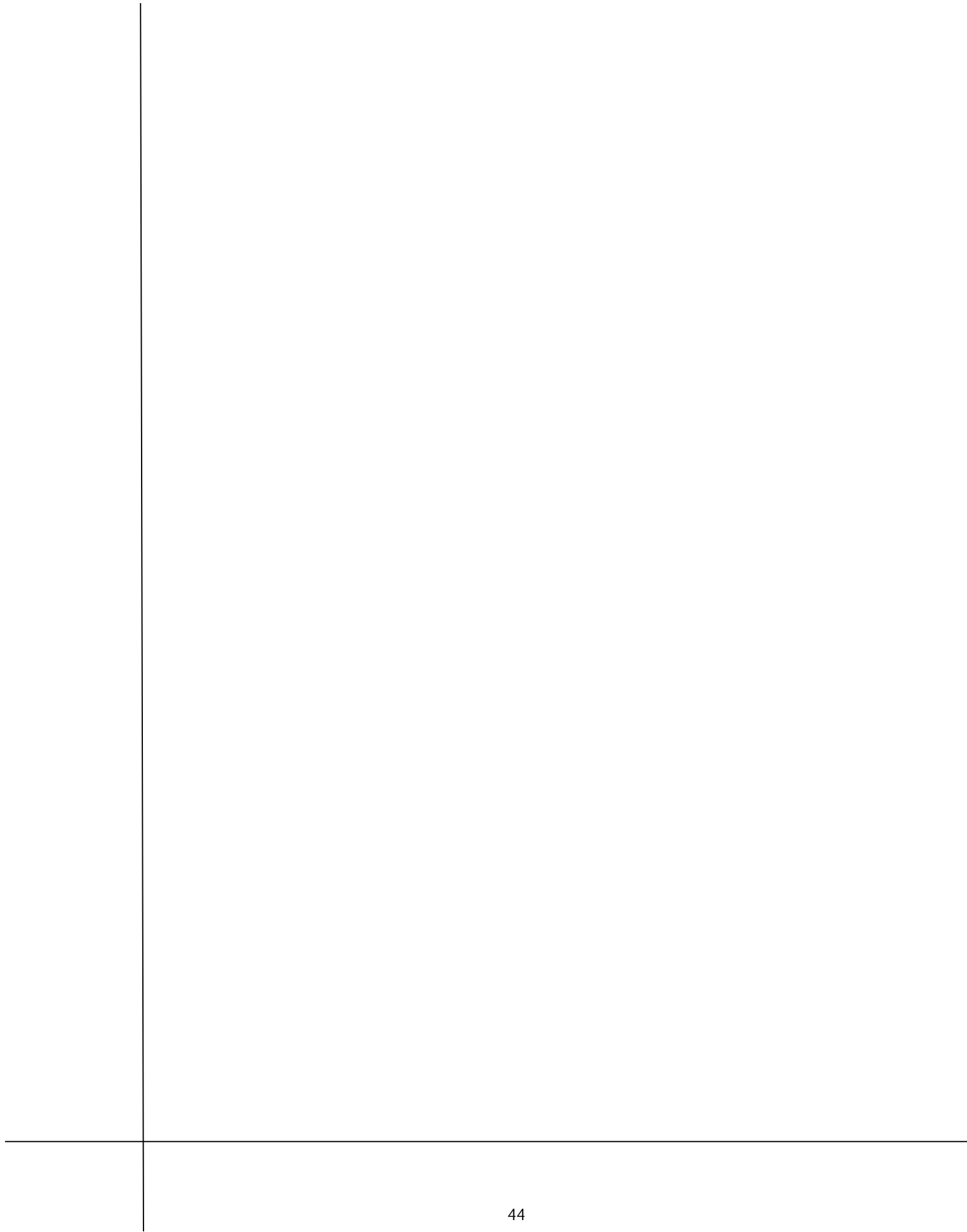
- Age-friendly Community Planning Grants – *as part of the Seniors' Housing & Support Initiative 12 grants have been approved or approved in principle for 2009 and a second call for applications will be announced in the spring.*
- Built Environment & Active Transportation Community Planning Grants – *Expressions of Interest for Phase 2 of the BEAT program are due by January 30, 2009 and staff are expecting substantial interest in this program.*
- Healthy Food & Beverage Sales – *18 of projects have been approved under Phase 2 of the HFBS program and Phase 3 of this program will be available in early 2009.*
- Newly Elected Community to Community Forum – *As funds remain available, staff will review applications for the Newly Elected C2C program until June 2009.*
- Regional Community to Community Forum – *Pending confirmation of funding, the 2009/2010 program will be available in April 2009.*
- Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiatives – *applications for all elements of the program will be accepted on an on-going basis throughout 2009.*

## Conclusion

As we enter our sixth year of operations, LGPS staff will continue to learn from our first five years and to consolidate the experiences and lessons into all aspects of future programming. The continuing development of our program and services, reporting and communications will reflect the quality and importance of our relationships with our members and the provincial government.



**APPENDIX 1:**  
**Summary of 2009 LGPS**  
**Programs**





## Union of BC Municipalities

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM SERVICES

### Grants Available as of January 2009

Local Government Program Services provides administration for programs that are designed to assist local governments and that are funded by the Province of British Columbia. Municipalities, regional districts and, in some cases, First Nations can access funding 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.

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#### **Age-friendly Community Planning**

*Administered for the Ministry of Community Development & Ministry of Healthy Living & Sport*

As part of the Seniors' Housing & Support Initiative, this new grant program provides grants for the development of policies and plans that support seniors to age in place and facilitate the development of age-friendly communities. A second call for applications will be announced in early 2009.

#### **Building Governance Capacity**

*Administered for the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation*

Matching grants of up to \$25,000 are available to support activities that help local governments and First Nations to work together on common governance-related issues and build governance management skills, knowledge, abilities and understanding. To apply, contact UBCM.

#### **Built Environment & Active Transportation – Phase 2**

*Administered for the BC Healthy Living Alliance*

Grants of up to \$25,000 are now available for the development of active transportation plans that were eligible for infrastructure programs offered by the provincial and/or federal governments. The deadline for Expressions of Interest is January 30, 2009.

#### **Healthy Food & Beverage Sales – Phase 3**

*Administered for the BC Healthy Living Alliance*

Grants to assist local governments to develop plans, policies and/or programs to provide healthy food and beverage choices in recreation centres and other local government facilities. Phase 3 will be announced in 2009.

#### **Newly Elected Community to Community Forum**

*Administered with the First Nations Summit for the Ministry of Community Development and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (BC Region)*

Funding for local governments with newly elected officials to maintain and/or build relationships with neighbouring

First Nations. Applications will be reviewed on an on-going basis until June 9, 2009.

#### **School Community Connections – 2008 Strengthening the Connection**

*Administered for the Ministry of Education by UBCM and the BC School Trustees Association*

The 2008 program supports partnerships between boards of education and local governments with modest grants to address local issues and provide direct benefit to students, their families and the community. A second intake is now available with an application deadline of March 31, 2009.

#### **Strategic Wildfire Protection Initiatives for Communities**

*Administered for Ministry of Forests and Range*

Funding support for strategic wildfire prevention initiatives, including wildfire protection plans, fuel management pilot projects, or larger scale fuel management projects. Ongoing applications for these programs can be made online at <http://ground.hpr.for.gov.bc.ca>

#### **Supporting Treaty Implementation Pilot Project**

*Administered for the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation*

To demonstrate options for local governments that are undertaking treaty implementation activities in their communities. Open to local governments affected by a signed or initialled final agreements and those that are involved in the negotiation of a final agreement. To apply, contact UBCM.

#### **Treaty Knowledge Exchange Dialogues**

*Administered for the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation*

Dialogues between local governments and/or Treaty Advisory Committees (TAC) involved in different stages of the treaty process. To apply, contact UBCM.