

What We've Done: Achievements

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

FORMATION OF OTHER BODIES

BC Assessment Authority

UBCM played a major role in achieving independent actual value property assessment in BC. UBCM helped form the Royal Commission which recommended the establishment of the Assessment Authority and actual value assessment.

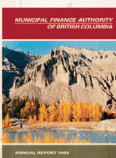


Municipal Insurance Association

UBCM was the driving force behind the formation of the Municipal Insurance Association (MIA). A task force formed at the 1985 Convention to look at liability issues recommended the idea of insurance pooling and the formation of the MIA. The MIA was established by the UBCM in 1987.

Municipal Finance Authority

UBCM also played a role in the shaping of the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA). Minister of Municipal Affairs Dan Campbell conceived the MFA in response to repeated UBCM resolutions asking the Province for assistance in financing local government projects. He worked closely with UBCM in setting up the new organization.



Local Government Management Association

The UBCM was directly responsible for the establishment of the Local Government Management Association (previously the Municipal Officers Association (MOA)) via a resolution at the 1919 Convention. The MOA met in conjunction with the UBCM until 1930.

WELFARE COSTS THREE-YEAR ELECTIONS



Welfare costs were originally a municipal responsibility but, during the Depression, they absorbed up to one quarter of municipal taxes, bankrupting three municipalities and placing many near the brink. UBCM held an emergency session in Victoria and petitioned the Legislature for relief. By 1919, the Province had taken over 80% of welfare costs. Finally, in 1932, the Province assumed full responsibility for welfare.



As early as 1912, UBCM resolved to extend the term of elected officials beyond one year; in 1947 the term became two years. Three-year terms were proposed in 1961. In 1990, all local government elections were for three-year terms, providing greater stability in local government.

MUNICIPAL ACT EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT



The 1912 Royal Commission on Municipal Affairs, chaired by UBCM Past President Mayor Keary of New Westminster, proposed a revised *Municipal Act*. The new Act, passed in 1914, was the basis for municipal powers until the consolidated *Municipal Act* of 1957, which UBCM also had a hand in shaping. The UBCM worked closely with the provincial government to craft both the revised *Local Government Act* of 2000 and the *Community Charter* of 2001.

Through its annual resolutions and submission to Cabinet since 1905, UBCM has achieved hundreds of amendments to the Act, allowing local government to respond to changing public expectations and growth.



UBCM has led the way in encouraging local government to be more professional and efficient. Standard municipal accounting, assessment reform, training of elected officials, municipal inspections, creation of a Ministry of Municipal Affairs, public libraries, building inspections, public health, eradication of tuberculosis, improved road construction, sewerage and drainage are but a few of the topics discussed in early years which led to changes in provincial and municipal policies.

RECOGNITION AS AN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT NEW DEAL - GAS TAX TRANSFER



In 1998, after over a decade of UBCM advocacy, the Province passed Bill 11, which recognized local government as an independent, responsible and accountable order of government. It gave local governments an unprecedented level of control over their own affairs. The *Community Charter* further refined and elaborated the roles of the Province and municipalities.



In 2005, BC became the first province to sign an Agreement in Principle for the New Deal, which shared federal gas taxes with local governments. This historic agreement marked the first time that UBCM, and thus local government, was a signatory to an agreement with the provincial and federal governments. UBCM's direct role in the administration and distribution of funds from the federal government to the local governments was also unique.