

# Where we meet: Conventions

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

## BUSINESS OF CONVENTION

UBCM was born at a Convention in 1905, a two-day affair held in New Westminster's City Hall and attended by 33 local politicians from around the province. It included speeches from government figures, Executive elections, lectures and discussions on policy issues and resolutions, as well as a "lantern lecture," or slide show.

Today, UBCM Conventions last a full week and include clinics, workshops, meetings with provincial officials, policy and resolutions sessions, Executive elections, keynote speakers, and forums for similar-sized communities, with attendance levels nearing 2,000 people!

What has not changed is that resolutions are the primary business of Convention and that Conventions are a place to come together to exchange ideas and innovations, strengthen relationships and enhance communications. They are also a place to identify issues of common importance and emerging priorities and to work together to effect change. And in this respect they are as purposeful now as they were in 1905!

## SOCIAL SIDE OF CONVENTION

Convention banquets are a time for celebration and a social occasion for delegates and partners. Social events have come to be an important part of Convention and the opening reception and banquet are highlights of each Convention.

Social events for partners have been planned since at least the 1940s. At first these were designated as the "Ladies' Programmes" and involved events such as fashion shows, teas and shopping tours. As more women moved into municipal politics, these events became "Partners' Programs" and came to involve a variety of events.

## LOCATION

Historically, Annual Conventions provided delegates the opportunity to visit different communities and thereby become more familiar with different areas of the province. Now, fewer places are able to host Conventions due to the number of delegates attending so it alternates between Vancouver and a few other places elsewhere in the province.