

# History

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

## FORMATION

In 1905, British Columbia was growing rapidly, with new settlements springing up throughout the province, filled with immigrants from all over the world who had been drawn by opportunities in resource-rich BC.

The rapidly growing municipalities felt constrained by the limited powers allotted them by the Province and wanted more say in their own governance. The most contentious issue was the necessity to pay for health, education, law enforcement and welfare out of the limited funds they received from property and improvement taxes, statute labour, trade licences, fines and local improvement rates.

In addition, municipalities were finding making amendments to the 1996 BC *Municipal Clauses Act* time-consuming, expensive and chaotic, with one municipality fighting hard to win an amendment, only to see it overturned in the next legislative cycle. Not to mention that there was little confidence in the Premier, which was on its seventh Premier in 10 years. The new government found the province near bankruptcy, prompting the suspension of all other projects and a reformulation of school cost-sharing with

A common voice was needed to represent the concerns of the municipalities to the Province. Mayor C.S. Stevens of Kamloops saw this need and took action. He sent a letter to all 41 existing municipalities asking whether they should form a union; 36 replied, all in favour.

Mayor Stevens and Mayor Keary of New Westminster then organized a Convention in New Westminster during the Dominion Fair, on September 29th and 30th, 1905. Thirty-three delegates from 22 municipalities attended. After they were accredited, Mayor Buscombe of Vancouver "moved" that the delegates now present do form a Union of the Municipalities of British Columbia, and in a strong appeal, urged that the time had now arrived to take concerted action." The motion passed unanimously and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities came into being.



Mayor C. S. Stevens  
Kamloops  
PRESIDENT



Mayer G. H. Barnard  
(Victoria)  
VICE PRESIDENT



Mayor W. H. Keary  
(New Westminster)  
HONORARY SECRETARY-  
TREASURER



Reeve W. H. Ladner  
(Deputy)  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Reeve L. W. Paisley  
(Chiliwack)  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Rerve C. F. Spont  
(Burnaby)  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Mayor George Bell  
(Enderby)



Mayer Fred Bascombe  
(Narragansett)

## EVENTS THAT HAVE SHAPED UBCM AS AN ORGANIZATION



- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1910 | UBCM represents 7% of the population   |
| 1912 | UBCM hires a Solicitor/Parliamentary Agent   |
| 1914 | Office of Inspector of Municipalities created  |
| 1919 | Municipal Officers Association of BC formed (now LGMA)   |
| 1934 | Department of Municipal Affairs created  |
| 1949 | 91 of 101 municipalities are members of UBCM   |
| 1954 | First Executive Director is hired and UBCM moves to a staffed organization with offices in New Westminster City Hall |
| 1955 | North Central Municipal Association formed - last of the five BC Area Associations to do so                          |
| 1959 | UBCM Incorporated  |
| 1960 | UBCM moves to its own offices in New Westminster   |
| 1961 | UBCM begins advising members on labour issues  |
| 1964 | Department of Municipal Affairs gets first full-time Minister  |
| 1965 | UBCM establishes member services program; regional districts created   |
| 1967 | UBCM newsletter published for first time   |
| 1969 | Membership in UBCM offered to regional districts   |
| 1970 | Municipal Finance Authority formed   |
| 1972 | UBCM introduces additional member services   |
| 1974 | BC Assessment Authority formed   |
| 1979 | UBCM achieves 100% membership  |
| 1983 | UBCM Group Benefits Plan and Tax Notice Service introduced   |
| 1986 | UBCM moves to Richmond; becomes a more policy-based organization   |
| 1987 | Municipal Insurance Association established  |
| 1991 | Municipal House opens - UBCM's office in Victoria  |
| 2004 | UBCM takes on new role in program administration   |

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