

Highlights of the UBCM Executive Meeting held November 26 - 27, 2009

The November Executive meeting is the first full meeting of the newly constituted Executive. Since Convention, there have been some additional changes to the composition of the Executive including the appointment of Councillor Tim Stevenson as the new City of Vancouver appointment and Mayor Greg Moore of Port Coquitlam as the new Metro Vancouver appointment. We welcome both individuals to the UBCM Executive. At the end of this release, a list of the current 2009-10 Executive and the relevant committees are provided for your information.

As part of the two day session, meetings were held for seven committees and Executive members took part in an orientation session; received an update on current program activities and identified priorities for the coming year as well as holding a separate media training session. Executive members also met with the Minister of Community and Rural Development, the Honourable Bill Bennett, as part of their Friday Executive meeting agenda.

General Executive decisions:

- appointed Mayor Mary Sjostrom, Third Vice-President and Councillor Barbara Steele, First Vice-President as the UBCM representatives to the Local Government Elections Task Force. Further discussion was held about the scope, role and timelines for the Task Force as part of the Executive's agenda with the Minister of Community and Rural Development as indicated in a separate sidebar within this release.
- approved the proposed process for developing recommendations in relation to industrial taxation, including the formation of both a Steering Committee and an Advisory Committee. Subsequent to this discussion, Chair Robert Hobson was appointed to the Steering Committee, along with UBCM Executive Director Gary MacIsaac; Gerry Armstrong, consultant; and Mayor Dan Rogers, City of Prince George.
- approved the work plan for engaging members in a

consultation process with respect to amending the resolutions process. Consultations with the members include interviews with the Executive, Past Presidents, and others; a presentation and discussion at the 5 area association conferences in Spring 2010; and online survey available in the Spring 2010. A final report will be presented at the 2010 Convention for member consideration.

- reviewed recommendations developed by the Fire Services Liaison Group regarding the future delivery of fire services and is looking forward to working with the province on this matter.
- supported the following conferences for 2010:
 - Electoral Area Forum
 - Benefits Conference
 - Regional Districts Chair and CAO Forum
 - Environment Conference
 - Local Government Leadership Academy
 - Community to Community Forum
 - RCMP Contract Meeting

Further information will follow as to firm dates and locations for the above referenced conferences.

- confirmed plans to hold the spring Executive Meeting in conjunction with the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG) in April 2010.
- considered the resolutions referred to the Executive

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- from the 2009 Convention and approved referral of relevant resolutions to Executive committees, the Elections Task Force and the Steering Committee on Industrial Taxation. The Executive will consider the remaining resolutions at its meeting in January 2010.
- approved report on conveyance of 2009 resolutions to the provincial and federal governments as well as other organizations, and directed staff to report back to sponsors, the UBCM Executive and the UBCM membership as responses to the resolutions are received.
 - received a status report on Victoria Operations including a status on the current provincially funded programs administered by UBCM under the Local Government Program Services and the Gas Tax / Public Transit Programs.
 - confirmed committee appointments for the coming year. The President will fill any remaining external committee appointments in the coming weeks.
 - received a report on the extensive media coverage obtained at the 2009 UBCM Convention.
 - received a report on the work undertaken during the fifth technical mission to the Philippines as part of UBCM's MOU with the League of Cities and League of Municipalities.
 - confirmed support of the existing policy with respect to awarding Life Memberships.
 - will obtain a legal opinion on the broader implications of the Supreme Court decision supporting a successful nuisance action resulting from the impact of the construction of the Canada Rapid Transit Line along Cambie Street in Vancouver.
 - continue to work with the Province on the development and implementation of changes to the farm assessment process in response to the Report of the Farm Assessment Review Panel. (separate member release issued)

Decision on Resolutions Referred to Executive

The Executive referred the following resolutions to relevant committees or working groups for further research or to be considered as part of processes already underway.

Referred to Community Economic Development Committee:

B127 Closed Containment Aquaculture Technologies

Referred to Environment Committee:

B109 Carbon Tax for Alternate Energy Products & Programs

B112 Carbon Credits

B120 Environmental Fee

B128 Riparian Area Protection on Private Forest Lands

B152 Drinking Water Quality Guidelines

B153 Strata Water Quality Regulation

Referred to Healthy Communities Committee:

B182 Provincial Connectivity Software Systems

Referred to Presidents Committee:

A2 BC Local Government Week

B71 Benefit Plan for Volunteer Firefighters

B77 Proposed Tax Authority Restrictions

B96 Amendments to the Community Charter

B168 Communications Strategy on Infrastructure Funding Gap

Referred to Elections Act Task Force:

B98 Elected Officials as Volunteer Firefighters

B99 Local Government Elections Act

B102 Disqualification of Regional District Employees from Municipal Office

B103 Requirement for Disclosure on "Other Voting Campaigns"

B104 Limits on Campaign Contributions & Expenses

Referred to Steering Committee on Industrial Taxation:

B77 Proposed Tax Authority Restrictions

LR6 Heavy Industry Mill Rate

LR7 Industrial Property Taxes

LR8 Requisition of Major Industry Tax

- indicated support for the proposed new management framework for ORVs and will confirm with Minister Krueger our interest in continuing to work with him on implementation measures. (separate member release issued)
 - in response to the Province's move to implement the HST, advise the Minister of Finance the importance of continued local government involvement in the Additional Hotel Room Tax (AHRT) and Resort Municipality Hotel Room Tax Transfer (RMHRTT) programs. (separate member release to follow on this matter.)
 - continue to monitor the new licensing requirements for home inspectors.
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- continue to work with the Building and Safety Policy Branch to address some of the ongoing concerns identified in the implementation of 6-storey wood buildings.
 - consult with local governments regarding the Landfill Gas Capture regulation and respond with any local government concerns.
 - monitor the implementation of the Controlled Alien Species Regulation to determine if the Regulation poses any challenges for local governments.
 - monitor the impact of the new Wood First legislation and the regulations that are developed to implement to it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Presidents

The Presidents Committee confirmed its Terms of Reference for the coming year; appointed Vice-Presidents to specific portfolio responsibilities and received a general report on status of member services and the group benefits program.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approved the 2010 member visits plan reflecting the addition of specific member visits to the Metro Vancouver and Capital regions;
- will proceed with the preparation of a 2010 Member Satisfaction Survey with a targeted distribution early in the new year; and
- engage in discussions with representatives from Metro Vancouver on their report and recommendations with respect to their relationship with UBCM.

Convention

The Committee reviewed several aspects of the 2009 Convention, including 2009 Delegate Evaluation ratings and comments. Some preliminary 2010 Convention planning was also discussed, with the Committee receiving information on the annual staff work plan and cycle; renewing audio-visual contracting services; firming up plans with future Convention host communities and reviewed costs of some of the meal functions to ensure that fees reflect the full costs to the UBCM.

Environment

The Committee members reviewed the mandate of the Committee, discussed the status of key environment files and priorities for the 2009/2010 year, and provided input on a draft 2010 Environment Conference framework.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approve the 2009/2010 Environment Committee priorities;
- approve the draft 2010 UBCM Environment Conference framework, and hold a conference subject to guaranteed financial support and staff participation by the senior orders of government; and
- respond to the City of Chilliwack's request to include discarded farm plastics in provincial discussions around a product stewardship program for plastics.

First Nations Relations

The Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference and discussed its priorities for the coming year. There was also discussion around the complexities of the Common Table treaty discussions and the recommendation coming from the Electoral Area Directors Forum on the need for public review of treaty negotiations at regular intervals throughout the process.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approved the Committee's Terms of Reference and priorities for 2009/2010;

- write the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation requesting the Province develop a program for treaty adjustment funding;
- request a copy of BC and Canada's written responses to the BC Treaty Commission's report on the Common Table; and
- write the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation in support of the recommendation from the Electoral Area Directors Forum on the BC Treaty Process.

Healthy Communities

The Committee reviewed its mandate and the status of work from 2008/2009, and discussed its goals and priorities for the coming year. The Committee put forward the following recommendations:

- approved their 2009/2010 goals and priorities;
- respond to letters received requesting that UBCM establish a medical marijuana access committee and write to Health Canada to inquire about Health Canada's process for issuing and following up on medical marijuana licenses.

Community Economic Development

The Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference and discussed its work plan for the coming year in the context of its goals and priorities.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approved its work plan for the coming year, including identified priorities;
- received correspondence from the Canadian Wind

Meeting with Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development

The Executive discussed the following issues with Minister Bennett:

Industrial Taxation - Minister reported that discussions between UBCM and Ministry staff are proceeding and have resulted in the proposal to establish a joint UBCM/Provincial Steering Committee that will be supported by an Advisory Committee comprised of local government, provincial and industry representatives. The intention is to bring forward shared recommendations to UBCM and government in 2010.

Elections Review - The Minister discussed the announcement by the Premier at the 2009 Convention that an Elections Act Task Force would be established to review local government elections legislation. The Minister expressed an interest in implementing any changes in time for the November 2011 local government elections. Discussion ensued about the tight timeline and how this might be managed in a manner that would ensure adequate member and public consultation. Discussion also focused on how best to engage members and the public and types of communications (ie. web-based materials) that would allow interested parties to provide feedback. (A separate release on the Task Force was issued on December 4, 2009)

Regional District Task Force - Task Force Chair Robert Hobson provided an update on the Task Force and suggested that the current process did not appear to be meeting the expectations of some UBCM members and discussed how best to address this.

The Minister noted that it was important to balance the expectations of, municipalities, electoral areas and the provincial government. The Minister indicated that he would be interested in measures that would improve regional district operations and balance the interests of all parties involved.

Rural Resource Roads - Minister Bennett reported that at the 2008 Convention the Premier announced that a committee of provincial Ministers and representatives of UBCM would be established to address issues related to resource roads. He reported that due to the challenges in getting all parties together he expressed an interest in taking the lead and working with UBCM on the issue and invited the UBCM Executive to work with him directly. Executive members indicated that they would be open to suggestions as to how to best make the process work.

Energy Association and will be looking to meet with representatives at a future meeting; and

- write to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands with respect to the status of federal – provincial discussions on aquaculture regulation and to reiterate UBCM support for the various local food production/ sustainability initiatives supported by the Ministry.

Community Safety

The Committee reviewed its mandate and discussed its goals and priorities for the upcoming year.

The Committee made the following recommendations

concerning the provincial decision to increase the PRIME-BC levy:

- write the minister indicating its opposition to the fee increase;
- request information on: Who currently is a member of the PRIME-BC board? Why the cost of PRIME-BC is going up at this time? What is driving the costs of this technology? What the future costs of operating PRIME-BC will be? What evaluations have been undertaken on PRIME-BC and the results of any reviews? ; and
- request that a local government representative be appointed to the board governing PRIME-BC to ensure some accountability to the process.

2009 - 2010 UBCM COMMITTEES

Resolutions

Mayor Sharon Gaetz, Chair
 Director Heath Slee, Vice Chair
 Mayor Christopher Causton
 Mayor Greg Moore
 Councillor Barbara Steele, VP Liaison

Nominating

- to be established for 2009-2010
 UBCM Past President and Area
 Association Representatives
 (Presidents or their designates)
 Convention
 Chair Robert Hobson, Chair
 Councillor Wesly Graham, Vice Chair
 Mayor Christopher Causton
 Mayor Mary Sjostrom, VP Liaison

Presidents Committee

(as established in Executive policies)
 Chair Harry Nyce, President
 Councillor Barbara Steele, First
 Vice-President
 Director Heath Slee, Second
 Vice-President
 Mayor Mary Sjostrom, Third
 Vice-President
 Chair Robert Hobson, Past President

Community Safety

Councillor Barbara Steele, Chair
 Councillor Kevin Flynn, Vice Chair
 Mayor James Atebe
 Mayor Sharon Gaetz
 Councillor Tim Stevenson
 Director Heath Slee, VP Liaison

Environment

Director Rhona Martin, Chair
 Director Grace McGregor, Vice Chair
 Councillor Kevin Flynn
 Councillor Wesly Graham
 Mayor Greg Moore
 Chair Al Richmond

Healthy Communities

Chair Al Richmond, Chair
 Mayor Roland Stanke, Vice Chair
 Councillor Murry Krause
 Councillor Tim Stevenson
 Chair Karen Goodings

First Nations Relations

Councillor Murry Krause, Chair
 Mayor Barry Janyk, Vice Chair
 Director Rhona Martin
 Mayor James Atebe
 Chair Robert Hobson, VP Liaison

Community Economic Development

Mayor Mary Sjostrom, Chair
 Chair Karen Goodings, Vice Chair
 Mayor Barry Janyk
 Mayor Roland Stanke
 Director Grace McGregor

Regional District Task Force

Chair Robert Hobson
 Chair Harry Nyce
 Director Susie Gimse
 Chair Al Richmond
 Director Rhona Martin
 Mayor Sharon Gaetz
 Mayor Frank Leonard
 Director Hans Cunningham

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2009-2010 EXECUTIVE

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President | Chair Harry Nyce | Kitimat-Stikine RD |
| First Vice-President | Councillor Barbara Steele | Surrey |
| Second Vice-President | Director Heath Slee | East Kootenay RD |
| Third Vice-President | Mayor Mary Sjostrom | Quesnel |
| Past President | Chair Robert Hobson | Central Okanagan RD /Kelowna |
| Vancouver Representative | Councillor Tim Stevenson | Vancouver |
| Metro Vancouver Rep. | Mayor Greg Moore | Port Coquitlam |
| Small Community Rep. | Mayor Roland Stanke | Clinton |
| Electoral Area Rep. | Chair Al Richmond | Cariboo RD |
| AKBLG | Director Grace McGregor | Kootenay Boundary RD |
| LMLGA | Mayor James Atebe | Mission |
| NCLGA | Chair Karen Goodings | Peace River RD |
| SILGA | Councillor Kevin Flynn | Salmon Arm |
| AVICC | Mayor Christopher Causton | Oak Bay |
| Directors at Large | Mayor Sharon Gaetz | Chilliwack |
| | Councillor Wesly Graham | Creston |
| | Mayor Barry Janyk | Gibsons |
| | Councillor Murry Krause | Prince George |
| | Director Rhona Martin | Columbia Shuswap RD |