

# EXECUTIVE RELEASE

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DISTRICT of HIGHLANDS

August 4, 2010

## Highlights of the UBCM Executive Meeting held July 22 - 23, 2010

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To Council  
August 16, 2010

The July meeting is the fourth meeting of the year and signals the year-end for the association. At this meeting the Executive approves the work plan and preliminary budget for the year ahead and considers the Annual Report highlights and audited financial statements. The Executive also reviewed 195 resolutions; reports from 10 committees; and the full Executive met with the new Minister of Community and Rural Development, the Honourable Ben Stewart.

### General Executive decisions:

- received a report on the status of the recommendations of the **Elections Task Force** and discussed next steps including a workshop at the 2010 Convention on the proposed changes to go forward in the Spring legislative calendar.
  - continue to monitor the response of the federal Standing Committee on the matter of the **Infrastructure Stimulus Funding** deadline.
  - received a report on the four **spring conferences** held including: Member Benefits Conference; Electoral Area Directors Forum; IGLA Forum and the Regional District Chair/CAO Forum.
  - continue to consult with local governments on the impact of the proposed *Net Zero Deforestation Act* on British Columbia's communities, and work with the Ministry of Community and Rural Development and the Ministry of Forests and Range to explore and identify opportunities related to the *Act*.
  - monitor the advancement of changes/enhancements to the **Additional Hotel Room Tax** program and continue to advocate for the role of local governments in the decision-making and delivery of local tourism marketing.
  - received a status report on the current provincially funded programs administered by UBCM under the **Local Government Program**
- Services and approved criteria that will be used by UBCM when considering whether to accept funding in the future.
  - establish a local government working group to provide input into the development of the **Off-Road Vehicle** management framework.
  - reviewed the status report on the federally funded **Gas Tax/Public Transit Management Services**, administered by UBCM's Victoria Operations.
  - approved the **Resolutions Process Review Report** and the **Executive Structure Review Report** for member distribution and consideration at the 2010 Convention.
  - received an update from the Nominating Committee on the 2010 Executive **nominations process** - July 30, 2010 being the deadline for nominations.
  - approved the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2010.
  - received a report on the provincial responses to resolutions endorsed at the 2009 UBCM Convention, and approved that further action be taken on select resolutions.
  - received an update from the **Industrial Taxation Steering Committee**, including discussion of an emerging recommendations package from that Committee.

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- approved the following committee appointments:
  - BCSTA-UBCM Working Group on Sale and Disposal of School Lands*
    - Councillor Barbara Steele, UBCM First VP
    - Director Heath Slee, UBCM Second VP
  - Off-Road Vehicle Joint Advisory Group*
    - Mayor Mary Sjostrom, UBCM Third VP
- adopted the 2010-2011 work plan for special projects and the preliminary budget.
- received the annual report on UBCM's compliance with statutory requirements and the annual review of the MOU's, protocols and other agreements.
- received an update on approved **legal assistance** cases.
- advised of the Jeff McKelvey scholarships approved for 2009/2010 and approved \$5,000 be made available for scholarships in 2010/2011.
- received a report on new provincial legislation of interest to local governments.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Presidents

President Nyce presented the report of the Committee and provided an overview of their discussions. He noted that the Presidents Committee also serves as the Audit Committee and they met with UBCM's external auditors to review the 2009-10 financial statements. The Committee also reviewed the proposed budget for 2010-11. In addition the Presidents Committee approved a plan to move forward with a new bulk gas purchasing program; received a report on FCM International Programs; received an update from our Municipal Pension Plan representatives and respective appointments; considered plans for the 2010 Community Excellence Awards; approved the establishment of a new long service award for elected officials with 35+ years of service; and recommended not endorsing referred resolution B96 from the 2009 Convention.

### Convention

Chair Robert Hobson provided an overview of the Committee's discussions. The Committee spent the majority of their meeting making final programming decisions and receiving updates on Convention planning to date. Updates were given on the 2010 catering choices, and details such as the Welcome

Reception, speaker gifts, and banquet entertainment were also discussed. Overall, the Committee is on target for all Convention items to date, surpassing the budget goal of \$140,000 for sponsorships and securing continued participation from core sponsors.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- confirm an Industrial Taxation session for the Tuesday afternoon plenary session and approve the recommendations for clinic and workshops; and
- approve the 2010 Gift Plan which will see funds donated to the following: Trans Canada Trail – Trail Builders, Breakfast Clubs of Canada and the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program.

### Environment

Chair Martin provided an overview of the Committee's discussions. It was noted that the Committee discussed the status of the small drinking water systems working group; the redevelopment of former service stations; the development of a draft memorandum of understanding on collaborative watershed management; the status of the Water Act Modernization Process; funding issues associated with the CCME Municipal Wastewater Strategy; and the implications of a legal case surrounding the Riparian Areas Regulation.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- approve the draft terms of reference for the establishment of a UBCM Small Drinking Water Systems working group with a focus on developing a discussion paper on proposed changes to small drinking water systems, to be submitted to the membership at the 2011 UBCM Convention;
- support the creation of a BC-specific redevelopment of former service stations framework through participation as a partner in the provincial initiative, and ask that local governments self-identify as potential participants in the project's steering committee and working groups;
- support the development of a draft memorandum of understanding and accompanying guidebook for the collaborative management of watersheds, and call on the Collaborative Watershed Governance Initiative Steering Committee to develop an inventory of BC-specific best practices in watershed management;
- write to the Parliamentary Secretary for Water Supply and Allocation requesting that local governments be given the opportunity to review and comment on proposed Water Act Modernization process policy options prior to their submission for legislative drafting; and
- engage in discussions with the Province on the need for provincial funding for the implementation of the CCME Municipal Wastewater Strategy.

### First Nations Relations

Committee Chair, Councillor Murry Krause, provided an overview of the issues discussed. He noted that the Committee met with Trish Balcaen, Executive Director, First Nations Initiatives Division, Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) as well as Mike Furey, ADM, MCRD on the issue of coordinating provincial consultation with First Nations.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- meet with the Integrated Land Management Bureau prior to the November Committee meeting to discuss the Province's guidelines for consulting with First Nations;
- begin discussions with First Nations Summit on the feasibility of pursuing a good neighbour policy, which would identify tools and best practices for engaging neighbours;
- send to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada *UBCM's Response to Canada's New Approach to Supporting the BC Treaty Process*;
- request information from the INAC Minister on work undertaken by his department with respect to additions to reserve with a further request that UBCM be able to provide local government input; and
- work with First Nations Summit to plan a Province-wide Community to Community Forum for November 30, 2010

### Healthy Communities

Chair Richmond provided an overview of the Committee's discussions and advised that the Committee had received delegations from staff at the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport regarding the implementation of the *Public Health Act*, and from Mary Collins, Director, BC Healthy Living Alliance who summarized her organization's work over the past few years.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- engage in discussions with the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport and local governments regarding the implementation of the Public Health Act; and
- not renew the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding on age-friendly planning with the BC Parks and Recreation Association, 2010 Legacies Now and the Ministry of Health, as the parties have established other means for working together.

### Community Economic Development

Committee Chair, Mayor Mary Sjoström advised that the Committee received updates on energy conservation and efficiency initiatives; a report on the new *Clean Energy Act*; and development of a supplementary report to the recently released report on local government practices in the area of economic development. The Committee also met via conference call with Department of Fisheries and Oceans staff on the status of the transition of regulatory authority for aquaculture from the Province to the federal government.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- provide AVICC with an update on the status of negotiations between the Province and the federal government on the transition of aquaculture regulatory authority and share information so that communities that will be affected by this transition will have an opportunity to provide input prior to the transfer of authority in December 2010;
- write to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources on two matters:
  - advising of the interest on the part of Vancouver Island communities to engage the Minister in discussion about gas franchise fees with the impending expiry of the existing agreement; and
  - seek clarification on specific aspects of the new *Clean Energy Act*.

### Community Safety

Councillor Steele provided an overview of the Committee's discussions on the cost drivers behind RCMP services, the introduction of new federal legislation that would allow RCMP members to unionize and the status of RCMP contract negotiations. She also indicated that the Committee had reviewed the final report of the Braidwood Commission and the report by The Honourable John Major into the Air India Inquiry and their implications to local government.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- consider the appointment of three local government representatives to the PRIMECorp Board;
- write the federal government requesting that it bring the costs for RCMP services under control and ensure that these services will be affordable in the future;
- write retired Judge Braidwood thanking him for the report concerning the death of Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver International Airport.

### Resolutions

Chair Gaetz presented the Resolutions Committee's comments and recommendations on the 195 resolutions received by the June 30 deadline. She noted that this total was lower than in 2008 and 2009. In addition, she advised that the Committee had received reports on the Gold Star Resolutions criteria and selection process, as well as updates on 2010 resolutions.

The Executive approved the Resolutions Committee recommendations on the resolutions submitted to UBCM for consideration at the 2010 Convention.

### Rural Resource Roads

Director Heath Slee reported that the Committee is working with the Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and Ray Schultz, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community and Rural Development to improve public access to rural resource roads. The rural resource road network has been developed incrementally over generations and under different approving authorities. A number of options are being explored regarding the future management and use of resource roads. A clinic will be held at the 2010 UBCM Convention to discuss the report on rural resource roads.

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## Meeting with Honourable Ben Stewart Minister of Community and Rural Development

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This was the first opportunity for the UBCM Executive to meet with the new Minister of Community and Rural Development, the Honourable Ben Stewart. Minister Stewart opened the meeting by thanking the Executive for meeting with him, provided an overview of his background and advised that he looked forward to taking part in the upcoming UBCM Convention. The Executive then discussed the following issues with the Minister:

### Elections Task Force

Minister Stewart informed the Executive that Cabinet has approved the Elections Task Force recommendations. He advised that the Province is awaiting the outcome of UBCM resolutions on length of term for local government office and on the date of local government elections before moving forward on these two items. He confirmed that legislation will be brought forward as part of the Spring legislative agenda in advance of the 2011 local government elections.

### Affordable Housing

Minister Stewart raised the issue of affordable housing as a priority and expressed his Ministry's interest in having a discussion with UBCM members on the issue. President Nyce confirmed that the session on affordable housing proposed by the Ministry will be held as part of the Monday pre-conference session offerings.

### Regional District Task Force

Minister Stewart expressed his Ministry's commitment to work with UBCM on improving the function of regional districts. Executive members confirmed their interest in continuing to work with the Province to identify areas where legislative powers could be made available to regional districts, similar to powers that are held by municipalities (i.e. dealing with grow-ops).

### Industrial Taxation

The Executive advised that a steering committee has been formed, which will bring recommendations forward to UBCM Convention. The Executive reinforced local government's position that the Province not introduce tax caps. The Executive also indicated that the industrial taxation issue is part of a larger issue - fiscal imbalance - that UBCM has raised previously.

## REMINDER

### Industrial Tax Meeting

Friday August 13, 2010

9 am - 4 pm

Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond, BC

Go to: [www.ubcm.ca](http://www.ubcm.ca) under *What's New* for further information