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"A common voice  
for local government in  
British Columbia"



"The  
foundation  
of a  
democratic  
society"



Whether do a village of 500 people and a city of over 500,000 or a highly urbanized metropolitan region and a rural district have in common? They share a need for effective and accountable local government – the foundation of a democratic society. They want a way of meeting the needs of their communities in the best way possible.

One of the ways local governments can work toward getting the "tools" to do their job is by joining together with other local governments. Since 1905, the common interests of local government in B.C. have been brought together in the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

Membership in the UBCM is voluntary – but all municipalities and regional districts are members. UBCM works in two ways to meet the needs of members.

## REPRESENTATION

REPRESENTATION of local government concerns to other orders of government.

## MEMBER SERVICES

MEMBER SERVICES that are provided to all members and some services that members select to participate in.

Delegates from member municipalities and regional districts provide the broad direction for the UBCM at its annual convention. Responsibility to carry out that direction is given to an Executive Board that includes representatives of the five area associations.

The UBCM has grown and become involved in more activities than when it was established in 1905, but the tradition of building local government that can best serve our communities remains.



## REPRESENTATION

The UBCM was formed to provide a common voice for local government and this role is as important today as it was when established years ago. The UBCM reflects the truth in the adage "Strength in numbers" - "united we stand - divided we fall."

The UBCM Convention continues to be the main forum for policy-making. It provides an opportunity for local governments of all sizes and from all areas of the province to come together, share their experiences and take a united position.

Positions developed by the members are carried to the provincial and federal governments and others involved in local affairs. Policy implementation activities have expanded from annual presentations to the Cabinet, to the present day where UBCM is involved in intergovernmental committees, regular meetings with Ministers and contact on a daily basis with other orders of government. Direction provided by members is carried forward by an Executive Board and staff secretariat.

In today's ever-changing world, where shifts in other orders of government policies, or in economic, social or political conditions can have an immediate effect on local government, UBCM stands as a "listening post." UBCM initiates, monitors, interprets and reacts where such changes could have an effect on local governments and the communities they serve.

The result is that local government is more effective and B.C.'s communities are the real winners. Through the UBCM local government has many achievements, and the potential is there to achieve even more in the future.

## "Strength in numbers"

## MEMBER SERVICES

### UBCM OFFERS TWO TYPES OF MEMBER SERVICES

- **GENERAL SERVICES** - provided to all members.
- **OPTIONAL SERVICES** - members select to participate in and pay for separately.

### GENERAL MEMBER SERVICES

#### PUBLICATIONS

If you need to know who or how local government operates then you need:

- UBCM Member Book
- Local Government in B.C. - in 160 pages

If you need to know more about UBCM you need:

- Statement of General Policies
- Minutes of Annual Conventions
- UBCM Annual Report and Resolutions Book

#### COMMUNICATIONS BULLETINS

If you want to know about current activities:

- UBCM News Distributed four times a year to all elected officials in B.C. and to subscribers.

#### Circulars

Timely information on current issues and events.

- In the House Up to date information on activities in the British Columbia Legislature with some key federal updates.

- **Member Release** Updates members on the Executive's



### MEMBER SELECT SERVICES

#### GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM

Provides: Group Life Insurance; Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance; Optional Group Life Insurance; Dependent Life Insurance; Weekly Indemnity (Short Term) and Long Term Disability Insurance; Dental and Extended Health Benefits. Nearly 2800 employees are covered, as well as some elected officials, in over 110 municipalities and regional districts.

activities and other policy issues affecting local government.

- UBCM Updates Outlines UBCM activities in a number of policy areas pertaining to local government.

#### CIVICNET™

Check out the UBCM website at [www.civiconet.bc.ca](http://www.civiconet.bc.ca) which includes information such as:

- About UBCM
- Services and Surveys
- Publications
- Resolutions and Policy
- Convention
- Links to local governments and other related sites

#### TRAINING

• Seminars for newly elected officials and other issue-related seminars.

- Professional Development Through the Board of Examiners.
- UBCM Commemorative and Jeff McKevey Scholarship programs.

#### LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Library of Bylaws

• Financial Assistance In appeals of court cases of general application to all local governments.

#### RESEARCH/SURVEYS

- Annual Surveys on a variety of financial matters.
- Ongoing Program of Research on topics of current interest.

#### INFORMATION "HOT-LINE"

- Advice and information always available.



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## UBCM ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE CHANGED THE CIVIC LANDSCAPE OF BC

- Recognition Of Local Government As An Order Of Government - A First In Canada
- Community Charter
- Actual Value Assessment/ Annual Assessments
- Variable Tax Rate System
- Social Assistance Costs Dropped From The Property Tax
- Municipal Insurance Association Of B.C.
- Three - Year Elections Cycle
- Municipal Ticketing And Bylaw Dispute - Adjudication
- Local Government Representation On Provincial Negotiating Teams For Aboriginal Treaty Negotiations
- Premier's Directive That Crown Corporations Will Respect Local Land Use Bylaws
- Twenty - Year RCMP Contract Renewal



#### VOTERS LISTS

Municipal and Regional District voters lists from the provincial voters list.

#### COMMERCIAL VEHICLE LICENCES

Administered on behalf of over 100 participating members the program distributes approximately \$1 million annually.

#### GROUP PURCHASING PROGRAM

Is targeted to save local governments money by using the combined purchasing power of local government.

#### ASSOCIATION SERVICES

Provides administrative services related to association management to allied groups.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNERS & WALL CALENDARS

If you need to know key local government dates.

