

**Association of
Vancouver Island and Coastal
Communities**



MINUTES OF THE THE 61st ANNUAL CONVENTION

**Powell River, BC
April 9 - 11, 2010**

AVICC 2009-10 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Mayor Christopher Causton District of Oak Bay
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Chair Joe Stanhope Regional District of Nanaimo
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Councillor Barry Avis Town of Qualicum Beach
ELECTORAL AREA REPRESENTATIVE	Director Mary Marcotte Cowichan Valley Regional District
DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE	Councillor Ronna-Rae Leonard City of Courtenay Councillor Merv Unger City of Nanaimo Councillor Kenn Whiteman City of Port Alberni
PAST PRESIDENT	Mayor Barry Janyk Town of Gibsons

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**ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND
AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES
MINUTES OF THE
SIXTY FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION
POWELL RIVER, B.C.
APRIL 9, 10 AND 11, 2010**

CONVENTION OPENING SESSION

President Christopher Causton called the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities to order at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 9, 2010 in the Evergreen Theatre of the Powell River Recreation Centre. The AVICC Executive was introduced to the delegates in attendance. Following the video presentation titled "Coast Salish Suite" Ms. Charlotte Bowes led the assembly in singing "O Canada".

Chief Councillor Clint Williams of the Sliammon First Nation welcomed delegates and Honoured Elder Dr. Elsie Paul provided a blessing. Nicholas Simons MLA, Powell River-Sunshine Coast, Mayor Stewart Alsgard, City of Powell River and Chair Colin Palmer, Powell River Regional District welcomed delegates to Powell River. The Mayor thanked delegates for coming to Powell River and expressed his hope that all would enjoy their time while in the community.

President Causton briefly reviewed the program for the weekend and highlighted some of the key topics and sessions including Les Leyne, Times Colonist columnist who would provide the keynote address, addresses by the Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development, UBCM President, Harry Nyce and Ms. Carole James, Leader of the Official Opposition; the opportunity to discuss proposed changes to the UBCM Resolutions Process; the choice of three concurrent workshop sessions on Saturday afternoon; and a presentation by Dr. Briony Penn on the topic of Conserving Natural Areas for Climate and Community Health. President Causton also took a moment to thank and recognize the sponsors and exhibitors. He also noted that delegates and guests were in for an entertainment treat at 7:00 p.m. as part of the Welcome Reception.

FIRST REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Past President Barry Janyk presented the Nominating Committee Report for the positions on the 2010-11 Executive, directed delegates attention to the Convention program for times of nominations and elections, that elections if required would take place in the foyer, and advised that there would be a call for nominations from the floor for the Table Officer positions at 4:40 p.m.

Nominations received in advance were:

President	Mayor Christopher Causton, District of Oak Bay
First Vice-President	Chair Joe Stanhope, Nanaimo Regional District
Second Vice-President	Councillor Barry Avis, Town of Qualicum Beach
Director at Large	Councillor Bob K. Day, town of Lake Cowichan
	Mayor John Fraser, District of Tofino
	Mayor Darren Inkster, District of Sechelt
	Councillor Ronna Rae Leonard, City of Courtenay
	Councillor Merv Unger, City of Nanaimo
	Councillor Kenn Whiteman, City of Port Alberni
Electoral Area Representative	Director Mary Marcotte, Cowichan Valley Regional District

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Mayor Christopher Causton introduced Les Leyne, columnist with the *Victoria Times Colonist*. Mr. Leyne spoke for approximately 40 minutes highlighting the changes he's observed over his time on the island and commented on politics and the political environment from his perspective. Carol Greaves, Terasen Gas as sponsor of the keynote address, thanked Mr. Leyne and presented him with a gift.

The Convention adjourned briefly at 3:15 p.m. for a refreshment break sponsored by BC Ferries and reconvened in the Evergreen Theatre at 3:30 p.m.

ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE BILL BENNETT, MINISTER OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Christopher Causton introduced the Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development who provided a 30 minute address to delegates. Minister Bennett's speech is annexed to these minutes as Appendix A. Mayor Causton thanked Mr. Bennett for his address and presented him with a gift.

PRESENTATION ON NEW ENERGY TECHNOLOGY - BC HYDRO

Councillor Kenn Whiteman introduced Mr. Ted Olynyk, Community Relations Manager for BC Hydro and thanked him for BC Hydro's continued sponsorship of the delegates' kits. Mr. Olynyk advised that BC Hydro has a display booth and that there would staff around for the next couple of days to answer questions. He then introduced Helen Whittaker, Senior Strategic Technology Specialist who presented a session on new energy technology. The handouts from Ms. Whittaker's Powerpoint presentation can be downloaded from <http://avicc.ca/2010-minutes/>. Director Marcotte again thanked Mr. Olynyk for BC Hydro's ongoing sponsorship and support and Ms. Whittaker for her presentation and presented them both with a gift.

ANNUAL MEETING

ADOPTION OF CONFERENCE RULES AND PROCEDURES

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the Conference Rules and Procedures as printed in the Annual Report and Resolutions Book were adopted.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the Minutes of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities held in Nanaimo, April 3-5, 2009 were adopted as printed and distributed.

ANNUAL REPORT

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the Annual Report was adopted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chair Stanhope presented the Audited Financial Statements of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities for the year ending December 31, 2009 (Appendix D). On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the statements were adopted. The budget, as approved by the Executive, was circulated to the membership for information.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Executive be authorized to appoint auditors for the year commencing January 1, 2010 was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Executive be authorized to appoint the following as Scrutineers:

- Ms. Linda Adams, Islands Trust
- Mrs. Frances Ledret, Powell River RD
- Mr. Brian Reardon, Strathcona RD

was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Executive be authorized to appoint Lorena Staples as parliamentarian was adopted.

2011 AGM & CONVENTION LOCATION

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Town of Sidney be awarded host community for the 2011 AGM & Convention was adopted.

SECOND REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR TABLE OFFICERS

The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Past President Janyk, called for nominations from the floor for the positions of Table Officers in addition to those already placed in nomination. Those nominated at the close of the nominations for Table Officers were:

President	Mayor Christopher Causton
First Vice-President	Chair Joe Stanhope
Second Vice-President	Councillor Barry Avis

At the conclusion of nominations, Past President Janyk declared the positions of President, First Vice President and Second Vice President be elected by acclamation.

BC FERRIES UPDATE

Councillor Unger introduced Mr. Mark Stefanson, Vice President, Public Affairs with BC Ferries and thanked him for BC Ferries sponsorship. Mr. Stefanson provided an update on BC Ferries operations including investments in capital, the Olympic experience, recent traffic trends, new initiatives and priorities going forward. The handouts from Mr. Stefanson's Powerpoint presentation can be downloaded from <http://avicc.ca/2010-minutes/>. Councillor Leonard thanked Mr. Stefanson for attending and making the presentation to the AVICC members and presented him with a gift.

WELCOME RECEPTION

The Welcome Reception sponsored by Vancouver Island University was held in the Cedar Room. This provided an excellent opportunity for the sponsors to mingle with the delegates. Delegates thoroughly enjoyed the exceptional food provided by the Laughing Oyster and at 7:00 p.m. were entertained with

Song and Dance – A Musical Montage choreographed by local entertainer CarolAnn Leishman and performed by approximately 60 local performers of all ages.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010

A Continental Breakfast sponsored by the BC Transmission Corporation was served Saturday, April 10th in the Cedar Room. The Convention re-convened at 8:30 a.m. in the Evergreen Theatre.

MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Mayor Christopher Causton introduced Mr. Keith Gibson, Risk Manager with the Municipal Insurance Association and thanked MIA for their continued sponsorship of the hot breakfast on Sunday morning. Mr. Gibson spoke on the topic of Municipal Claims Trends. The handouts from Mr. Gibson's Powerpoint presentation can be downloaded from <http://avicc.ca/2010-minutes/>. Councillor Unger thanked Mr. Gibson for attending and making the presentation to the AVICC members and presented him with a gift.

RESOLUTIONS

The first Resolutions session began with Mayor Christopher Causton, Chair of the Resolutions Committee reviewing the rules for the order of business and the resolutions process during the Annual Meeting.

ADDRESS BY CHAIR HARRY NYCE, PRESIDENT, UNION OF B.C. MUNICIPALITIES

Councillor Barry Avis introduced UBCM President Harry Nyce. President Nyce's remarks are annexed to these minutes as Appendix B. Chair Joe Stanhope thanked President Nyce for his update on UBCM activities and for joining the AVICC delegates in Powell River and presenting President Nyce with a gift.

RESOLUTIONS RESUMED

The Convention then commenced consideration of the resolutions. Mayor Christopher Causton assumed the Chair and was joined at the head table by Resolutions Committee members Councillor Barry Avis, Director Mary Marcotte, Councillor Merv Unger and parliamentarian Lorena Staples.

RR1 DERELICT VESSELS

Sooke

WHEREAS the sixty-five year old tugboat, Florence Filberg, British Columbia, became grounded in November 2007 within the Sooke harbour after breaking loose from its mooring and being abandoned by its owner;

AND WHEREAS the District of Sooke has requested assistance from the provincial and federal governments with regards to the safe and efficient removal of the Florence Filberg, British Columbia with no success;

AND WHEREAS the Florence Filberg, British Columbia was the target of arsonists on the evening of Friday July 3, 2009 causing it to burn fiercely, thus causing potential air quality and environmental issues and causing a further navigational hazard;

AND WHEREAS the estimates to remove what remains of the Florence Filberg, British Columbia from the Sooke harbour are approximately \$120,000;

AND WHEREAS there are approximately twenty abandoned derelict vessels in the Sooke harbour and basin and other coastal communities in Canada can be or have been faced with the same predicament such as the Florence Filberg, British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia negotiate directly with the Government of Canada to determine which of those two orders of government has appropriate jurisdiction in these matters;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities negotiate with the Province of British Columbia to continue to work with the federal government in addressing this outstanding issue affecting all coastal communities in BC;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the removal of derelict vessels be at no cost to local government.

ON MOTION was ENDORSED

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that the order of resolutions be amended to allow RR1, R4, R5 and R6 to be considered at the same time was endorsed.

The Chair then called for consideration of resolutions R4, R5 and R6.

R4 DERELICT VESSELS

North Saanich

WHEREAS derelict and abandoned boats, vessels and structures anchored near Vancouver Island coastal communities are an increasing problem;

AND WHEREAS the safety hazards, the risk of environmental contamination and the visual pollution caused by derelict and abandoned boats is a growing concern to all coastal communities affected by this issue:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities strongly petition the Province, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to take immediate action to remove any derelict vessels that have been unoccupied for a period of three months or longer from the coastal waters and harbours of any communities requesting such action.

R5 DERELICT AND ABANDONED VESSELS, BARGES & DOCKS

Islands Trust

WHEREAS UBCM has previously endorsed resolutions on the topic of derelict vessels in 2005 and 2009 and the issue of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges, and docks continues to be a growing problem for local governments in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS there are many derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks that pose a threat to human safety, have an impact on aquatic habitats, and/or are generally unsightly:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to develop a coordinated approach to the timely and adequate removal of all types of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks in all situations and consider the following strategies:

- funding mechanism(s) such as a fee on vessel registrations or a surcharge on marine fuel to fund the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks;
- designated disposal areas where owners can take their unwanted boats and structures to provide an alternative to abandonment on public property; and
- establishment of fibreglass boat recycling centres.

R6 DERELICT VESSELS

Sechelt District

WHEREAS harbour authorities on the west coast of Canada face ongoing issues with vessels being abandoned by owners and in most cases these derelict vessels can no longer be linked to a specific owner so their removal must be managed by the harbour authority at substantial cost;

AND WHEREAS these vessels create environmental and safety issues and limit other recreational boaters' use of the harbour authority's infrastructure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and Union of BC Municipalities work with the Province of British Columbia to petition the Government of Canada to make legislative changes that would streamline the process for removal of abandoned or derelict vessels from its harbours at little to no cost to the harbour authority.

ON MOTION, R4, R5 and R6 were ENDORSED

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded that Executive as the Resolutions Committee, in consultation with the respective sponsors, be tasked with drafting a single resolution incorporating all of the salient points of RR1, R4, R5 and R6 to be forwarded to UBCM was endorsed.

The Chair then called for resolution R1.

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that R1 and R2 be joined was endorsed.
The intent is that a single resolution is to be forwarded to UBCM.

R1 ARTS & CULTURE FUNDING

**Powell River City
Powell River RD**

WHEREAS arts and culture are universal goods which represent a very important part of the social fabric of all communities;

AND WHEREAS the Province's Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services has recommended that the Province restore funding for arts and culture organizations to the 2008/2009 levels:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AVICC call on the Province of British Columbia to restore funds to the community arts and culture organizations to the 2008 / 2009 levels.

R2 SUPPORT FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL FUNDING

North Saanich

WHEREAS arts and culture contribute to the economic viability, sustainability and social diversity of British Columbia communities;

AND WHEREAS the recent cutbacks to cultural services and cultural funding grants could have serious economic and social impacts affecting every municipality:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities petition the Province to restore funding for the arts to their 2008-09 levels.

ON MOTION R1 AND R2 AS A JOINED RESOLUTION was ENDORSED

WHEREAS the Province’s Meat Inspection Regulations are having an adverse effect on the local economy of rural communities due to the hardship they impose on small scale producers and processors;

AND WHEREAS the regulations are also negatively impacting local food security and sustainability due to the distances local producers are required to transport livestock, the stress it places on the animals, and the additional greenhouse gas emissions that result:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities petition the Province to tailor the Meat Inspection Regulations to allow local, and / or mobile small-scale abattoir facilities to operate under less stringent facility regulations, without the requirements for a meat inspector on site when slaughtering, and that any meat processed in such a manner will be allowed to be sold locally to the public.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “without lowering health and safety standards” be added to the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The motion, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities petition the Province to tailor the Meat Inspection Regulations to allow local, and / or mobile small-scale abattoir facilities to operate under less stringent facility regulations without lowering health and safety standards, without the requirements for a meat inspector on site when slaughtering, and that any meat processed in such a manner will be allowed to be sold locally to the public.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

The Convention adjourned briefly at 10:05 a.m. for a refreshment break sponsored by Private Forest Landowners Association, TimberWest and Islands Timberland and reconvened at 10:20 a.m. in the Arbutus Room.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS PROCESS REVIEW WORKSHOP

Mayor Causton joined by UBCM Executive Director Gary MacIsaac conducted a one-hour workshop providing members with an overview of the discussion paper and process to date, the proposed changes for 2010 and 2011 and an opportunity to complete the survey. The discussion paper and handouts from the Powerpoint presentation can be downloaded from <http://avicc.ca/2010-minutes/>.

THIRD REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR DIRECTOR AT LARGE

The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Past President Janyk, called for nominations from the floor for the positions of Director at Large in addition to those already placed in nomination. Those nominated at the close of the nominations for Director at Large were:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Director at Large | Councillor Bob K. Day, Town of Lake Cowichan |
| | Mayor John Fraser, District of Tofino |
| | Mayor Darren Inkster, District of Sechelt |
| | Councillor Ronna-Rae Leonard, City of Courtenay |
| | Councillor Merv Unger, City of Nanaimo |
| | Councillor Kenn Whiteman, City of Port Alberni |

Past President Janyk declared that there would be an election and invited candidates to come forward to provide a short speech. Each candidate then spoke. Past President Janyk then advised that ballot papers would be available and balloting would occur from 1:45-2:00 p.m. and again from 4:15-4:30 p.m. in the front foyer noting that results will be communicated at 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

TERASEN GAS

Director Marcotte introduced Gord Schobert, Senior Manager, Government Relations Department with Terasen Gas and thanked Terasen Gas once again for sponsoring the keynote speaker and the delegates' luncheon that would follow at the Powell River Town Centre Hotel. Mr. Schobert briefly highlighted policies and projects that Terasen is working on. Councillor Kenn Whiteman thanked Mr. Schobert and presented him with a gift.

The Convention adjourned for lunch at 12:15 p.m. with buses transporting delegates to the Powell River Town Centre Hotel.

DELEGATE'S LUNCHEON

The Annual Delegate's Luncheon sponsored by Terasen Gas was held at the Powell River Town Centre Hotel. Life members Mary Ashley and Gerry Furney were recognized as being in attendance.

The polling station for election of Director at Large opened from 1:45-2:00 p.m. in the main foyer of the Recreation Centre.

The Convention re-convened in the Evergreen Theatre at 2:00 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS RESUMED

Resolutions resumed with Chair Joe Stanhope in the Chair and joined at the head table by Resolutions Committee members Councillor Kenn Whiteman, Councillor Ronna-Rae Leonard and parliamentarian Lorena Staples.

R7 CANADA GOOSE POPULATION

North Saanich

WHEREAS non-migratory Canada geese have been rapidly increasing in numbers for the past twenty years;

AND WHEREAS the geese are having an increasingly severe impact on food production from the damage they cause to crops;

AND WHEREAS legal methods of resolving the problems associated with Canada geese are largely ineffective in the long term:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities petition the federal government and Canadian Wildlife Service to implement changes to the regulations under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and make effective mechanisms available to local governments in dealing with the problems associated with overpopulation of Canada geese.

ON MOTION was ENDORSED

Chair Stanhope requested Mayor Causton to assume the role of the Chair for the debate of Resolution R8 in order that he could speak to the resolution.

R8 RIPARIAN AREA PROTECTION ON PRIVATE FOREST LANDS

Parksville

WHEREAS the study of ecosystem services as they relate to water is still developing and scientists are working to understand human impacts on water and the functions of fresh-water ecosystems in storing, filtering and purifying water;

AND WHEREAS the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* does not impose ecosystem-based riparian regulations and permits selective harvesting to the water's edge on all water courses including fish-bearing streams and community drinking water sheds:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities request the provincial government amend the *Private Forest Management Land Act* to adopt the Suzuki Foundation's recommendations for riparian reserves as defined in its publication "A Cut Above" (a no-harvest zone on each bank of the stream, two times the length of the tallest, site-specific, mature tree in width) with the goal to maintain and restore the productivity and resiliency of riparian ecosystems by maintaining along a stream or river all the biological and physical characteristics of an undisturbed forest, including both buffering and connectivity.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase "to adopt the Suzuki Foundation's recommendations for riparian reserves as defined in its publication "A Cut Above" (a no-harvest zone on each bank of the stream, two times the length of the tallest, site-specific, mature tree in width)" be deleted was endorsed.

The motion as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities request the provincial government amend the *Private Forest Management Land Act* with the goal to maintain and restore the productivity and resiliency of riparian ecosystems by maintaining along a stream or river all the biological and physical characteristics of an undisturbed forest, including both buffering and connectivity.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the amended resolution be further amended to include the phrase "and where Riparian areas have already been daylighted, that replacing and restoration of riparian areas be undertaken immediately" added to the enactment clause after "connectivity" was defeated.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

Chair Stanhope resumed the role of the Chair.

R9 SOUTHERN STRAIT OF GEORGIA NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA RESERVE

Islands Trust

WHEREAS the Southern Strait of Georgia in British Columbia is an ecologically, economically, and culturally rich area that contains the critical habitat of the endangered southern resident orca and is being harmed by a variety of human activities;

AND WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia and Parks Canada agreed in 1995 under the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy to undertake a study to assess the feasibility of protecting and managing this area as a National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR) under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*, and have been engaged in the feasibility study since 2004:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM supports the establishment of a large, ecologically zoned NMCAR in the southern Strait of Georgia from the proposed southern end of Haro Strait, up to and

including, Gabriola Passage, and urge immediate action from the provincial and federal governments to proceed on this initiative while respecting First Nations interests in the area.

ON MOTION was ENDORSED

R10 PARKLAND DEDICATION

Metchosin

WHEREAS Section 941 of the *Local Government Act* grants all municipalities the ability to acquire 5% dedication for park land during the subdivision process (or monies in lieu of park land);

AND WHEREAS Section 941 in subsection 5(b) does not apply to a subdivision by which the smallest lot being created is larger than 2 hectares;

AND WHEREAS rural communities often have land zoned for a minimum lot size greater than 2 hectares and as a result are not able to avail themselves of this provision:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that provincial legislation be amended to increase the size of the smallest lot in Section 941 5(b) to be larger than 4 hectares.

ON MOTION was ENDORSED

R11 COMMUNITY FARM MARKETS

North Saanich

WHEREAS local community farm markets build communities, have re-vitalized the local economies of urban and rural communities, and can provide food security with a lower carbon footprint;

AND WHEREAS local farm markets require funding to cover start-up costs for infrastructure, promotion and insurance:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities petition the Province to provide funding to contribute to the start-up costs for communities to establish new local farm markets.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the word “permanent” be added to describe the type of farm markets was defeated.

ON MOTION was DEFEATED

R12 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS the BC Association of Emergency Managers was unable to secure grant funding for Emergency Management training for the 2010/2011 fiscal year despite the withdrawal of sponsored training from the Provincial Emergency Program budget in March 2009;

AND WHEREAS it is imperative that all local governments have access to emergency management training in order to respond to emergency situations and safeguard the lives and property of the people of British Columbia;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities urge the Solicitor General to reinstate core funding for emergency management training.

ON MOTION was ENDORSED

**R13 EXPANSION OF INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAMS TO
INCLUDE MAJOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

Central Saanich

WHEREAS numerous local governments throughout British Columbia are experiencing significant issues and challenges in relation to local government facilities, in terms of aging infrastructure and inadequate space and functionality;

AND WHEREAS many, if not all, major infrastructure grant programs do not contain significant funding components for the extensive upgrading, renovation, reconstruction and new construction of essential local government facilities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AVICC urge the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to lobby the Government of the Province of British Columbia and the Federal Government of Canada for the addition of significant funding components in the infrastructure grant programs to assist local governments with major facilities projects such as municipal halls, fire halls, public safety buildings and public works yards.

ON MOTION was ENDORSED

R14 INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS FUND

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS concern has been expressed that local governments across the country will be unable to meet the deadline of March 31, 2011 for completing projects approved under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund;

AND WHEREAS the implications for local governments unable to complete projects on schedule is unclear:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government be requested to extend the completion deadline for Infrastructure Stimulus funded projects from March 31, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the date March 31, 2012 be amended to October 30, 2011 was defeated.

ON MOTION was ENDORSED

R15 TREATY SETTLEMENT COSTS

Colwood

WHEREAS open and principled community based agreements with Aboriginal people (treaties) may encompass multiple local governments, but the availability of the land component may be vastly different from one local government to the next;

AND WHEREAS there is a real long-term cost associated with the removal of lands from local government jurisdictions, which may place a burden solely on the land-owning local governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to include a formula to fairly compensate any local government for the loss of land as a result of settlement agreement with Aboriginal people so that all the parties who benefit from the agreement share the costs and benefits of the agreement equally.

ON MOTION was ENDORSED

R16 JUSTICE SYSTEM LEGISLATION

Parksville

WHEREAS elected officials have a responsibility to provide for the protection and safety of the citizens of all communities and only the federal government has the ability to change the necessary justice system legislation;

AND WHEREAS the diminishing effectiveness of the Canadian criminal justice system to control crime and the public's loss of confidence in the system has resulted in the subsequent deteriorating effectiveness of our policies agencies to control crime:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government petition the federal government to review the Canadian criminal justice system, with input from the RCMP, towards:

1. finding ways to limit the court's ability to interpret laws to benefit lawbreakers, to the detriment of victims;
2. Crown Counsel to be more open to approving charges beyond those that have a substantial likelihood of a conviction;
3. improving sentencing guidelines to ensure that the legislated maximum penalties are imposed for lawbreaking convictions;
4. emphasizing the protection of society and the responsibility of individuals for their criminal behaviour; and
5. emphasizing the rights of law abiding citizens over that of criminals.

ON MOTION was DEFEATED

R17 PRIME BC

North Cowichan

WHEREAS the Police Records Management Environment (PRIME) is the provincially-approved system for all police agencies in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS PRIME was established, and user fees increased in 2010 by 100%, with no consultation with local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Province of British Columbia to hold user fees for PRIME BC at 2009 levels and consult with local governments before implementing further fee increases that affect local government budgets.

ON MOTION was ENDORSED

R18 RCMP INVESTIGATION COST SHARING

Campbell River

WHEREAS British Columbia local governments can now be subject to unexpected costs as a result of investigations not covered by the RCMP contract;

AND WHEREAS these unexpected costs have the potential to create financial hardship for local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC members establish a collective fund that would be used to pay the costs of RCMP investigations not covered by their individual RCMP contracts.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the word "municipalities" be added after member was defeated.

ON MOTION was DEFEATED

R19 RELEASE OF LICENSED MEDICAL MARIJUANA SITES INFORMATION

Sooke

WHEREAS Health Canada licences medical marijuana sites in communities and has no provision to notify local authorities to provide information on these sites;

AND WHEREAS the District of Sooke recently experienced an incident at a licensed medical marijuana site that protective services would not have attended if they had known it was a registered site;

AND WHEREAS, due to the safety risks imposed on both occupants and local authorities and the difficulty in monitoring fire and safety standards on these sites due to lack of information, local authorities should receive regular information as to registered medical marijuana sites:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and the Union of BC Municipalities urge the federal government:

- a. to require those persons applying for a medical marijuana site be required to comply with local building code and inspection requirements prior to Health Canada issuing the licence, and
- b. to release the information as to registered medical marijuana sites to local authorities.

ON MOTION was ENDORSED

The Convention adjourned briefly at 3:00 p.m. for a refreshment break. It reconvened at 3:15 p.m. with delegates choosing one of three concurrent sessions.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Three concurrent workshops were held from 3:15-4:15 p.m. The workshops were on the topics of:

- HST and the Impact on Local Governments and Their Communities presented by Randy Decksheimer, KPMG in the Arbutus Room
- Carbon Neutral Local Government Update provided by Ben Finkelstein, Manager, Green Communities, Carbon Neutral Government and Climate Action Outreach held in the Evergreen Theatre
- Comox Valley's Agricultural Strategy and How It Was Implemented presented by John Watson, Executive Director, Invest Comox Valley held in the Elm Room

The handouts from the three Powerpoint presentations can be downloaded from <http://avicc.ca/2010-minutes/>.

The afternoon sessions adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The polling station for election of Director at Large re-opened from 4:15-4:30 p.m. in the main foyer of the Recreation Centre.

ANNUAL AVICC BANQUET AND DANCE

In the evening, the Annual Banquet for delegates and guests was held at the Dwight Hall. Once again delegates and guests thoroughly enjoyed the exceptional food provided by the Laughing Oyster. The evening included a short program that incorporated high praise and reiterated thanks to the City of Powell River for going above and beyond in planning and hosting of the 2010 AGM & Convention including a

special presentation to Lori Blackman; thanks was extended to the Powell River Regional District for sponsoring the evening's reception; and brief comments from the Association for Mineral Exploration BC and Mining Association of BC as sponsors of the Annual Banquet.

As the entertainment sponsor, Catherine Matheson, Public Affairs Manager of the BC Lottery Corporation then introduced the evening's entertainment. Delegates and their guests were swept away by the musical program choreographed by Don James, Artistic Director and Founder of the Powell River Academy of Music and the performers of the Powell River Academy of Music including the Academy Chamber Choir and the Powell River Trad Band. A dance followed the banquet with music provided a DJ.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2010

A hot breakfast sponsored by the Municipal Insurance Association was served in the Cedar Room. The Convention reconvened at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 11, 2010 in the Arbutus Room.

FOURTH REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR

Councillor Barry Avis, Acting Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the elections results for:

Director at Large: Mayor John Fraser, District of Tofino
Mayor Darren Inkster, District of Sechelt
Councillor Ronna-Rae Leonard, City of Courtenay

A motion, duly moved and seconded, to destroy the ballots, was endorsed.

Councillor Avis then called for nominations from the floor for the position of Electoral Area Representative in addition to those already placed in nomination. Those nominated at the close of nominations for Electoral Area Representative were:

Electoral Area Representative Director Mary Marcotte, Cowichan Valley Regional District

At the conclusion of nominations, Councillor Avis declared Director Mary Marcotte be elected Electoral Area Representative by acclamation.

The Convention adjourned at 8:07 a.m. and reconvened at 8:45 a.m. in the Evergreen Theatre.

CONSERVING NATURAL AREAS FOR CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Councillor Barry Avis introduced Dr. Briony Penn, Climate and Conservation Coordinator with the Land Trust Alliance of BC. Dr. Penn provided an overview of BC's land trusts, their tools to steward and protect lands in local communities, case studies and an introduction to the opportunities available to protect lands using the offset market as a financial support. The handouts from Dr. Penn's Powerpoint presentation can be downloaded from <http://avicc.ca/2010-minutes/>. Councillor Leonard thanked Dr. Penn and presented her with a gift.

LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Mayor Christopher Causton introduced Carole James, Leader of the Official Opposition. Ms. James's remarks are appended to these minutes as Appendix C. Ms. James responded to a number of questions from the Convention floor. Chair Stanhope thanked Ms. James and presented her with a thank you gift.

RESOLUTIONS RESUMED

Resolutions resumed with Mayor Christopher Causton in the Chair and was joined at the head table by Resolutions Committee members Councilor Avis, Councillor Marcotte and parliamentarian, Lorena Staples.

R20 SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM

Sechelt District

WHEREAS many communities no longer have an assigned provincial judge and therefore have inadequate means to promptly resolve criminal issues;

AND WHEREAS the shortage of judges results in members of the public being poorly served and delays in due process;

AND WHEREAS many communities use community justice mechanisms to deal with first time offenders, reducing court time and helping to seek resolutions to matters in a more expeditious manner:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be urged to adequately fund the services the community justice programs provide to communities and the now very overloaded court systems.

Upon request, the chair agreed to add the word “strongly” before “urged” as a friendly amendment.

The motion then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be strongly urged to adequately fund the services the community justice programs provide to communities and the now very overloaded court systems.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

R21 BC FERRIES SUBSIDY

Metchosin

WHEREAS children suffering from serious illnesses such as cancer who reside on Vancouver Island and in coastal communities may require treatment at the BC Children’s Hospital in Vancouver;

AND WHEREAS the ferry subsidy to access non-emergency medical specialist services not available in their own community helps alleviate the financial burden incurred while travelling for reasons associated with the children’s health conditions;

AND WHEREAS the ferry subsidy is restricted to the patient (and an escort under certain conditions), and does not cover the cost of parents travelling back and forth from their home to Vancouver during the extended period of their child’s treatment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government, through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and BC Ferries, recognize these prohibitive pressures and seek to help families by subsidizing the ferry fares of immediate family members incurred when travelling back and forth on BC Ferries during the extended period of their child’s treatment.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure be changed to Ministry of Health Services and the phrase “ these prohibitive pressures and seek to help families” be replaced with the phrase “the financial challenges for some families and provide help” was endorsed.

The motion as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that BC Ferries and the provincial government, through the Ministry of Health Services, recognize the financial challenges for some families and provide help by subsidizing the ferry fares of immediate family members incurred when travelling back and forth on BC Ferries during the extended period of a child's treatment.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

R22 SUPPORT FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Sechelt District

WHEREAS there are many communities that have inadequate support for citizens with mental illness and those who have dual diagnosis with addiction issues in need of mental health services, and have a higher risk of homelessness and other health related issues;

AND WHEREAS many members of our communities are unable to function and participate safely and fully in society and require a safe haven such as a drop-in centre:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be urged to expand services and funding for people with mental illness and addictions, especially in small and midsize communities, where seed monies to fund "not for profit", day programs, street support workers, recreation programs and nutrition programs are critically lacking.

ON MOTION was ENDORSED

REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE

Mayor Christopher Causton presented the Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline:

A. EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS: ADMIT FOR PLENARY DEBATE, SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2010 AS ISSUES EMERGING SINCE THE FEBRUARY 26, 2010 DEADLINE:

LR2 BC FERRIES FARE INCREASES

B. LATE RESOLUTIONS: NOT APPROPRIATE FOR DEBATE
(Issues known before the February 26, 2010 deadline for resolutions.)

LR1 PROPOSED PRIVATIZATION OF BC AMBULANCE SERVICES

LR3 BASE LEVEL HARM REDUCTION

LR4 ALCOHOL REDUCTION STRATEGY

LR5 MEDICAL CANNABIS

LR6 DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT FOR B.C.

LR7 ALLOCATING A LARGER PROPORTION OF FEDERAL GAS TAX REVENUE TO MUNICIPALITIES

LR8 LEGAL AID FOR B.C.

LR9 AMENDMENT TO THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

LR10 ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES DEEMED CONTAMINATED

LR11 PHYSICAL ACCESS FOR DISABLED PASSENGERS

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline be amended to admit resolution LR11 for debate was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the motion be further amended to admit LR9 for debate was defeated.

The Report then read:

A. EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS: ADMIT FOR PLENARY DEBATE, SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2010
AS ISSUES EMERGING SINCE THE FEBRUARY 26, 2010 DEADLINE:

- LR2 BC FERRIES FARE INCREASES
- LR11 PHYSICAL ACCESS FOR DISABLED PASSENGERS

B. LATE RESOLUTIONS: NOT APPROPRIATE FOR DEBATE
(Issues known before the February 26, 2010 deadline for resolutions.)

- LR1 PROPOSED PRIVATIZATION OF BC AMBULANCE SERVICES
- LR3 BASE LEVEL HARM REDUCTION
- LR4 ALCOHOL REDUCTION STRATEGY
- LR5 MEDICAL CANNABIS
- LR6 DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT FOR B.C.
- LR7 ALLOCATING A LARGER PROPORTION OF FEDERAL GAS TAX REVENUE TO MUNICIPALITIES
- LR8 LEGAL AID FOR B.C.
- LR9 AMENDMENT TO THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT
- LR10 ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES DEEMED CONTAMINATED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline as amended was endorsed.

LR2 B.C. FERRIES FARE INCREASES

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS the B.C. Ferry Corporation continues to escalate fares to our coastal communities that are well in excess of all provincial and national cost of living and income increases;

AND WHEREAS B.C. Ferries current corporate mandate and operating model does not consider two of the fundamentals of our communities' sustainability, i.e. the social and economic implications;

AND WHEREAS it is apparent that any changes to this upwards spiral rests with the Province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT UBCM form a task force with the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure to explore ways and means to eliminate these extreme annual hikes.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase "prior to the Province entering into the third contract term with the Corporation" be added to the enactment clause was endorsed.

The motion as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT UBCM form a task force with the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure to explore ways and means to eliminate these extreme annual hikes prior to the Province entering into the third contract term with the Corporation.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

LR11 PHYSICAL ACCESS FOR DISABLED PASSENGERS

Parksville

THAT the City of Parksville, on behalf of Parksville’s Measuring Up Committee, lobby the Provincial & Federal governments through the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities that Canadian public transportation providers be required by law to provide physical access for disabled passengers in Canada similar to the United States "Americans with Disabilities Act" which was adopted in 1990.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that LR12 and LR13 as motions from the floor and distributed to all members in attendance be admitted for discussion was endorsed.

LR12 RAIL TERMINUS IN NANAIMO

AVICC Executive

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT AVICC support the establishment of the main rail terminus in Nanaimo and the proposed two train early morning southbound schedule as a first step in providing improved rail service on Vancouver Island, and encourages VIARail to increase the operating subsidy necessary for this to occur.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED UNANIMOUSLY

LR13 COASTAL DOUGLAS FIR MOIST MARITIME LAND USE

AVICC Executive

WHEREAS a logging application has been submitted to Calvin Ross at South Island Forest District in Port Alberni to log the Nanoose Wetland Forest (DL33).

WHEREAS even small parcels like DL33 make important contributions to conservation of coastal Douglas Fir and contains the only remaining intact watershed of any tributary supplying Nanoose Creek, a wild salmon stream.

WHEREAS BC Environment Ministry confirm that nearly every type of Old Growth Douglas Fir Forest on BC dry coastal plain is now rare or endangered.

WHEREAS the coastal Douglas Fir ecosystem that once dominated the Georgia Basin now teetered at the brink of extinction and most of what does remain is the responsibility of British Columbians.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT AVICC request that the Ministry of Environment to allow for the Coastal Douglas Fir Moist Maritime land use order to follow its proper public consultation and ministerial development course and process.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

INSTALLATION OF NEW EXECUTIVE

Mayor Christopher Causton introduced the 2010-11 Executive and extended congratulations to them:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| President | Mayor Christopher Causton, District of Oak Bay |
| First Vice President | Chair Joe Stanhope, Nanaimo RD |
| Second Vice President | Councillor Barry Avis, Town of Qualicum Beach |
| Electoral Area Representative | Director Mary Marcotte, Cowichan Valley RD |
| Directors at Large | Mayor John Fraser, District of Tofino |
| | Mayor Darren Inkster, District of Sechelt |

Past President

Councillor Ronna-Rae Leonard, City of Courtenay
Mayor Barry Janyk, Town of Gibsons

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Causton thanked everyone for their support and encouraged members to bring forward issues to their Executive that they would like AVICC to concentrate on for the coming year.

CONVENTION CLOSING

President Christopher Causton closed the 61st Annual Convention. The Convention adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Certified Correct

Iris Hesketh-Boles
Executive Coordinator

**Address by the Honourable Bill Bennett,
Minister of Community and Rural Development**

Thank you very much Chris and ladies and gentlemen, thank you for inviting me here this afternoon. I appreciate that. It's my practice to give fairly short speeches actually. I've always found that people like short speeches. But maybe it won't be short enough. We'll have to wait and see. I will try not to make an exception today.

I did want to acknowledge President Chris Causton. Also Powell River Mayor Stewart Alsgard – I think he's in here somewhere. We had lunch together today. This is my first time in Powell River and I'm so impressed. I've lived my whole life in small towns and I know that Powell River, like a lot of communities, is going through some difficult transitions and somehow I didn't really expect to see such a vibrant, beautiful, well kept, exceptional community, and I admit that. I've been really impressed with what I've seen so far. It's a great community and a great place to have your conference here this weekend.

I did want to introduce my colleague and your former Minister of Community Development, Ida Chong. She has come all the way from Victoria to be here to support you and to support me, so Ida why don't you please stand up and be recognized.

Is Graham Bruce still in the house? I want to introduce Graham Bruce and his lovely wife, Anneke. They were wonderful people to be with for four years when I first got into politics and I caught some of Graham's presentation today and he still has that fire and enthusiasm to do community work and to work for people so Graham, it's great to see you again. Thanks for everything you've done for British Columbia.

How about Les Leyne. Is he still here? He's one of the good guys. Is he still here though? I would like to know. He is one of the good guys. I have to tell you, sitting there I enjoyed Les's presentation, but I have to tell you I felt some trepidation when I saw that I was going to have to follow Les Leyne. I'm really grateful for the 20 minute break just so that everyone can forget about how entertaining he was and then there's me.

I've been through nine years of politics, and this isn't part of my speech, but Les makes me think about this. He is absolutely correct the way he describes the shift in BC politics. From a journalist's point of view, it's not as interesting. The province is probably better managed as he said, but it isn't as interesting for journalists. Having gone through a couple of different things as a politician and many of you will be able to identify with this. In one case I made a stupid mistake. Basically I told a guy to “go to hell” in an email and trust me he deserved it, but you can't do that, right. I did that early in my career and it was embarrassing and humiliating and the coverage was horrible for about a week. Then I had another situation not that long ago where I actually didn't do anything wrong and I was accused of something and, you know to see my family's picture in the front page of the paper, my wife and two boys – they have got nothing to do with what I do for a living. But to see them there, I tell you what it does, as a politician it makes you want to not get that kind of coverage. We don't want to be that kind of interesting. So that's part of the explanation as to why I think it is blander than it used to be.

Some of the other comments that Les made about the way things are different today in politics, I actually agree with him and there's some things I can maybe talk to you about over a glass of

wine that I won't say here through the microphone, but generally speaking the main reason that we're not as interesting to cover is the media, other than a few good people like Les Leyne, are pretty tough and they take no prisoners. If you do make a mistake or even if you are perceived to make one, many of you will be able to identify with that. In fact I was speaking with a good friend of mine and I'm not going to tell you who it is; a lot of you will know who it is, a local government politician in the Kootenays where I live. He was telling me about this quotation in the newspaper from him and when I asked, "Did they misquote you?" and he said "No, that's really the problem." They really didn't misquote me, they quoted me exactly as I said it and so there again I made a few of these myself and I know a few others have made a few of those verbal missteps that we do sometimes.

We're all trying to do the right thing; we're all in this for the right reason. It doesn't matter what political party you are with, provincially or federally; it doesn't matter what your ideological or philosophical beliefs are, we're all there because we think we've got something to offer and I believe, again what Les said, is most people are in public life for all the right reasons. So to make us all feel a little bit better, I'm going to start off here today by giving you some of the former President's best quotations.

When I say former President, I'm talking about the former President of the United States, George W. Bush, who incidentally has a degree from Yale and is an accomplished fighter jet pilot, so this can happen to anybody, but I thought this would make us feel better. So here are a few things that the former President has said: "The vast majority of our imports come from outside the country." "If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure." "I have made good judgments in the past, I have made good judgments in the future." "The future will be better tomorrow." "We're going to have the best educated American people in the world." I like this one, "I stand by all the misstatements that I have ever made." And here's another good one for our Elections Task Force, Harry I don't know if you are still here, this is one we can use for the next Local Government Elections Task Force, "A low voter turnout is an indication of fewer people going to the polls." "Quite frankly, teachers are the only profession that teach our children." And here's one on the environment, "It is isn't pollution that's harming the environment, it's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it." A couple more: "It's time for the human race to enter the solar system." Any my personal favorite, "Public speaking is very easy." So, if it can happen to an accomplished fighter jet pilot, who has a degree from Yale and two terms of President of the United States, surely we can be forgiven if we do a few of those things ourselves.

And I know being a local government politician and serving your constituents is not an easy task and I know again that you do it for the right reasons. Of course, you do want to factor in how much you get paid. There's that in your favour, or not? The task of local governments has always been to find a way of getting to innovative solutions to your local challenges and I'm a believer that necessity is the mother of invention and I think that's particularly true when it comes to smaller communities. Necessity really is the mother of your inventions. It's the basis of your creativity. And we're standing in a community that I'm going to talk a little bit about here in a second, that has just come up with a pretty creative solution to a big, big issue that they face. Particularly, during these times that we're hopefully coming out of right now, it's taken a lot of creativity I know for communities, for local government to deal with the challenges that you've had.

I do want you to know that, on behalf of Minister Chong, who's here, myself and my colleagues in the BC government, even though it might not feel like this all the time, we do value the strong

partnership that we have with local government. It is very important to us. We've had a strong partnership with UBCM and with local government for the most part, for the nine years that we've been government and we want to continue that—we want to have that kind of constructive relationship with you. As Minister for a little bit less than year, I am blown away by how constructive and positive my relations are everybody that I've come into contact with in local government. A lot of you have been down to Victoria to meet with me. I've met lots of you at the UBCM Conference. I work with UBCM folks on the Local Government Elections Task Force. It is, I believe, we have a relationship between the Provincial government and the local government organization that is the envy of the rest of the country — I really believe that. We're proud of that and we want to keep it that way, even though we know we're not always going to agree on everything. So I want to cover, quite briefly, what I think are the major issues that we're all dealing with right now. There's just two or three of them.

The first one is obvious—it's the economy and linked to that the Provincial Budget. We've had to make some difficult decisions because we are in difficult times. We're no different really than you are in local government except we're allowed to do deficits and you're not—that the big distinction. We don't like deficits, but at least we have the luxury of that or the temptation to do deficit financing. We think we're coming out of a global recession right now. We're pretty sure that we are—that's what the experts tell us. But we're also pretty sure that we're not going to end up with the same circumstances that we had when we went into this recession. We think we're going into a world that is far more competitive than it was just a few year ago and there's a lot of evidence of that. A lot of experts are saying that. You've got incredible growth even during the recession in the Asian economies. While we were losing ground in North America and Western Europe, they were growing in China and India. They were not growing as fast as they had been, but they were in India still growing in double-digit figures.

We're going to be facing, as we come out of this recession, a world where you've got hyper competition and the markets that we were normally selling our goods into, and particularly out natural resources, are going to have other competitors with lower costs. I've talked to Mr. Garneau from Catalyst today about the costs of running a pulp mill in Canada, here in BC in particular. They've got a pulp mill in Arizona, of all places, and their costs are just way, way less than they are in BC so that's the nature of the world that we live in. But we're Canadians and we're resourceful and we're well educated, and we don't really need to take a back seat to anybody. We're going to be able to compete with the world, but we just need to understand what the game is and it is, I think, going to a little tougher. All of us are going to have to do our part to make sure that we are as competitive as possible in order for us to get our share of investment and investment, of course, that leads to jobs.

We think that there are three basic things that we can do as a government that will help you and your communities and help you have the kind of strong economy that we all want to have. The first thing that we can do, and have done, is to lower taxes for individuals and small business. I won't give you the party line in terms of the lowest taxes in Canada; well I just gave it to you I suppose. The second lowest tax rate in the country for small business, soon to the lowest — second lowest corporate tax rate in the country. That's important in terms of where people decide they are going to live — which province, where they're going to invest — that's important. The second thing we can do is to improve our competitive position through using taxation on job creating businesses. I personally characterize business, even big business, as job creators because they are. It's okay to say the big, bad corporation did this or didn't do that, and there's

a history, especially in this province, of big, bad corporations not doing the right thing, but generally speaking, with our rules and regulations today, they have become intrinsically important to our communities and they are the job creators, so if there's anything that we can do to streamline their business or to help them reduce their costs so that they decide to stay open and stay located in our communities, I think as a Provincial government that we need to do that.

I'm not going to talk to you about HST, you'll probably be relieved to hear. I'll just say one thing about HST – that HST is going to save the mining industry, the construction industry, the forestry industry, the oil and gas industry, all of our big employers in this province, hundreds of millions of dollars. Will it cost consumers a few more dollars? Yes. I'm not trying to hide that. Our government's not actually trying to hide that – we believe what will happen here is the same thing that happened in the Maritimes which is within the first year of the transition, you will have at least 75% of the savings that businesses have realized passed along to consumers. That's what the CD Howe Institute said happened in the Maritimes. Enough on HST.

The third thing that I think we can do and that we are doing, is that we can improve our infrastructure in the province. It will help keep people employed first of all which is important especially now. Stronger infrastructure also puts you in a stronger position to take advantage of these better markets that are going to come as the economy improves. If you don't have good roads, good bridges, good airports, good railways, good ports, you really can't take advantage of the opportunities that are coming our way.

And those three things don't amount to anything particularly fancy and you've heard people from our government talk about these things in the past. They're not fancy, they're just good solid economic ideas that have worked everywhere in the world that they've been tried and they are working in British Columbia. You are always going to have some of this. It goes up and it comes down. You are always going to have that cyclical stuff in the economy, but if you remember back to about 2000-2001, we had ten years of pretty tough sledding while the rest of Canada was actually doing fairly well, so the policies that we have implemented are not perfect. We will always have ups and downs, but we are in a pretty good position right now. The Conference Board of Canada thinks we are going to grow more than any other province in the country, partly because of the Olympics, but also partly because of those fundamentals that I just talked about.

In terms of infrastructure I was given a list of just some examples of infrastructure investments in your region. There's the Nanaimo Airport, that was \$3.4 million. There's \$700,000 that went into Myrtle Pond water system for Powell River, right here. There was \$2 million that went into the Sunshine Coast South Pender Water Treatment Plant. \$2.7 million in to the Campbell River Airport runway expansion – somebody thanked me for that today. I come from Cranbrook. As you know we expanded our airport and it has made a huge, huge difference to our tourism industry and it will on the north island as well. \$400,000 for the Craig Street downtown revitalization in Duncan. Then down by Victoria, you've got a new ER at Victoria General. You've got training of physicians at UVic. It doesn't maybe sound like much, but its going to be a big deal because what we've discovered with the University in Northern British Columbia in Prince George, is that when you train physicians and nurses in an area like Prince George, they tend to stay there after they graduate. So training physicians in Victoria means that they are more likely to stay on the island which is, of course, what we want. New Royal Jubilee Hospital, and then of course, the Nanaimo Cruise Ship Terminal – all those are infrastructure investments that are happening or have just happened in your region. We're going to see more of that in the coming year.

APPENDIX A – ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT –
THE HONOURABLE BILL BENNETT

We were able to work I think really well with the federal government over the last few years on joint infrastructure projects. One of Premier Campbell's greatest assets, I think, is his ability to work with whoever is in Ottawa. He worked well when Paul Martin was Prime Minister. He has worked well with Prime Minister Harper. He will work well with whoever is there, I think. His focus is British Columbia, not on partisan politics. I think we've done well. BC has done well with that type of approach. Last September, we made the single largest infrastructure funding announcement in the history of the province – it was a big deal. It was \$719 million announcement. All of the projects have been announced. Most of them have contracts in place. Most of those projects need to be finished by March 30th, 2011. You're aware of that I think. These projects will employ your citizens, your constituents, and they will improve your community's prospects.

That announcement was part of the \$14 billion capital infrastructure program which we think will generate 88,000 jobs and help build vital public infrastructure across this whole province. I just want to remind you that the federal BC community local government infrastructure projects do have that one string attached and that is that the projects have to be done by 2011 need to be substantially completed by March 30, 2011. Our indications are that the federal government is, and that is the federal government criteria, are indicating that they're not particularly interested in changing that, so that if you need help – you're running into problems, I've had a couple of communities contact us, they've got some issues. Let us know, let my Ministry know and we'll do the best we can to help you make sure that you meet that deadline.

The third sort of big issue that I want to touch on is industrial taxation which has special meaning as a topic in this town. It has special meaning in a number of towns, not only on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast, but also actually where I come from in the Kootenay's – there's Castlegar, places in the north, McKenzie and other places like that. I have to tell that I've been very impressed with what I've seen from the leaders of small communities on this issue. The mayor of Castlegar, the mayor of Powell River, the mayor of Port Alberni – it has been really tremendous to see people who have instead of just, you know, getting angry and saying bigger taxes and I don't want to talk to you until you do. They've said, "Pay your taxes, but we'll still talk to you." There's a big difference between those two different kinds of approaches I think. Our position and the position that I have consistently laid out publicly is that companies have to pay their taxes. Taxes are due. They have to pay their taxes. I will not deviate from that; neither will anybody else in our government.

But I think that we probably all know that's not the only thing that needs to be said about industrial taxation and industrial taxation rates. Taxes shouldn't scare investment away to other provinces or other countries. There's a level that you cannot go below and we all know that, but taxes shouldn't be something that makes uncompetitive and it shouldn't be a reason why we're losing jobs. On the other hand, taxes have to be sufficient to provide local government with the opportunity and capacity to provide adequate services to their citizens. That's the balance. In the end, we need both. So it has been a balancing act for all of us, I think—particularly you. On one hand, we know that we need to create an attractive investment climate, but on the other hand, we also know that we have an obligation, a moral obligation, to ensure that our citizens have access to essential services.

So you know, its tempting to take it easy on residential taxpayers. I know, I'm a politician, I understand the dynamics of politics and I think over the past 50 years, gradually in some places,

not everywhere, we've really taken it easy on the residential taxpayers, maybe even the small business taxpayers. In some cases, we've ended up putting too great a reliance on this one group of taxpayers—the industrial taxpayer, and I think what we're learning is that wasn't a particularly wise long-term strategy. I think, at one time, it was fine. When we had mill towns and they were making lots of money, it worked pretty well, but again back to my comment about how competitive the world is today, it's changed so we're going to have to change with it. Many of you will be aware that we have created a Task Force between UBCM and some business groups and my Deputy Minister Dale Wall sits on that Task Force to explore what can be done to help communities to address the issue of industrial taxation and that Task Force will work through the summer. It has been indicated to me that it will have some recommendations to present at UBCM in the fall for you to consider, but let me tell you this about industrial taxation and what I think as Minister.

I think that what is happening in this town and what they're trying to do in Port Alberni and what they're trying to do in Castlegar is the only way to solve this problem. I am personally not excited about senior government, that's us, imposing a one-size fits all solution to address the industrial taxation issue. Every single community in the province has a different circumstance.

We have a different history—just everything is different about each community. Every single different company has a different set of circumstances. Even every mill within the same company, is different. Industries are different. The mining industry right now is making lots of money—nobody's asking to have their taxes reduced in the mining industry although that after I've said that, they will. But you know the pulp industry is not making lots of money right now. So every industry is different, every town is different, every mill is different.

What is happening here to the credit of His Worship and his Council and frankly to the credit of Mr. Garneau and Catalyst is that they've sat down and they've said “How can we form this mutually beneficial symbiotic relationship whereby our mill functions, our people are working and they're paying enough tax, we're getting enough out of this that we can actually return the services to our community that they expect?”—sounds easy, doesn't it. It's not easy, in fact it's incredibly difficult and the mayors involved in this exercise right now would be the first ones to tell you that, but they've come up with this scheme involving some shared services, in a sense, some waste treatment issues and some other issues that I'm extremely impressed with and I say that knowing that they're coming to us asking for money. That's going to be tough—that's going to be real tough for us because, you know I don't know what the number is, but if the numbers are \$10 or \$15 million or even \$5 million, then it's \$10 or \$15 million or even \$5 million for Port Alberni, Castlegar, North Cowichan and who did I forget, Campbell River.

It's going to be a difficult thing to respond to adequately from our perspective; however, having said that you're doing the right thing—you're taking the right approach, you are trying to solve the problem yourselves—you're being creative about it. We have to find a way to support you and we will work really hard. I hope the Mayor is here from Powell River and Charlie are you here? Charlie Cornfield. Charlie is sitting right there and I hope all of the mayors are here. We will try our hardest to help. It's not going to be easy, but because of the work that you're doing, the innovation and commitment, and you're not just complaining and holding out your hand to the Province to give us a \$100 million to transition us into a different world. That's not what you're doing—good on you! And now, in the very near future, the pressure will be on us and perhaps I'll be shifted to a different Ministry and won't have to worry about it—especially having said that Charlie.

Elections Task Force – we already talked about that this morning. I thought I was giving this speech this morning and the Elections Task Force this afternoon, so I had a little piece in Elections Task Force. I hope you didn't miss the presentation this morning—it was fantastic.

A couple of other quick things I just want to mention. Local government grants – you know we've got the small community grants and the traffic fine revenue sharing – everyone's probably aware of this, but we gave half for this fiscal year out last year, so half of what we owe you for this year, you already have. The other half will come soon. The cheque is not yet in the mail, but it will come soon. Let me say, this summer, it will come. That wasn't easy because it is a grant and we have gone through a interesting process in government how not to spend money – a lot of great ideas on how to spend the taxpayer's money. Fortunately, our government recognized the importance of these grants to communities, especially small communities, and they were not reduced by one penny, so I like to say that is the opposite of downloading – we kept our commitment on that and I believe that we'll continue to do that.

Community Development Trust is a program that is drawing to a close. Many of you in your communities have seen laid off resource workers who haven't been able to transition into retirement because of this program or you've seen them avail themselves of some sort of training because of this program, or you've seen them actually working on some relatively short term job opportunities. We've done lots and lots of things on the island and here on the Sunshine Coast, we've spent about \$40 million of the Community Development Trust in your region.

Here are some of things that we've done. In total we've actually helped about 9,000 laid off resource workers in the province. We've upgraded more than 504 recreation sites—that's good for our local economies and good for tourism. We have either built or restored 4,700 km of trails in the province. We really focused a lot the first year on that sort of thing. We have felled and burned over 8,300 beetle-killed trees – I don't know who came up with that number, but it says 8,300 beetle-killed trees, but it's in the neighbourhood of 8,000 – 8,500 beetle-killed trees. We've also worked on fuel-management projects totalling over \$14 million – also very, very important to small communities. I don't know what the situation here is. It's a little wetter here than where I come from, but it's a big, big issue in a lot of the province – in the Cariboo, in the north, over in the Kootenays. This fuel management projects are a matter of survival in lots of communities. So those projects have made a real difference to all of our communities and the ideas for these projects came out of your towns and cities. That's where they came from. They didn't come from government. We said, “Tell us what your ideas are and we'll give you some money.” That's the way it worked. I think it was a fabulously successful program.

So, to conclude -- Let me thank you again for listening to me and for inviting me here today. I appreciate it very much. You have all stepped up to the plate during these difficult times and that makes a difference – not just in your communities, but together collectively it makes a difference here in the province. We need to keep this momentum going. We need to build on the momentum. We feel we'll do that if we continue to work together, if we're open with each other, if we can disagree when we need to, but find a way to agree as much as possible, be as constructive as possible. My door, as a Minister, is open to you. It has been and will continue to be. I really enjoy working with all of you so have a good Convention – what's left of it. Thank you again for inviting me and do watch out for your quotations. Thank you.

**UBCM President's Address to AVICC Delegates
Harry Nyce, Chair, Kitimat-Stikine Regional District
9:00 AM, Saturday, April 10, 2010**

Greetings

- Nisga'a greeting
- We gather today in the traditional territories of the Sliammon First Nation.
- It is a great honour to join with you for the 2010 AVICC General Meeting. Powell River's hospitality demonstrates the dedication of your planning committee. Mayor Alsgard, Council, the Regional District and the Sliammon First Nation have all made important contributions to this year's event. I also understand that Lorie Blackman in has been tireless in attending to local arrangements. Let's show our appreciation to all involved.
- When I was inducted at last year's convention, I committed to a shared model of leadership. I believe that by sharing responsibility we build strength and cohesion in our organizations.
- I want to express my thanks to our Executive for their support of a shared leadership model, and in particular, your AVICC representatives, Mayor Causton and Mayor Janyk. Christopher sits on our Convention and Resolutions committees, while Barry is part of the First Nations and Economic Development committees. I am fortunate to work alongside such dedicated and creative leaders – please join me to thank them for their work on your behalf.
- AVICC has always been a strong contributor to UBCM, particularly through the efforts of Past-Presidents Frank Leonard and Jim Abram. With their years of experience they are great assets to AVICC and UBCM – let's give them a hand.

Industrial Taxation

- This morning I want to provide you with an update on some of the issues at the forefront of UBCM's agenda.
- Last year at this time, many of your communities were experiencing the fallout from the housing and banking crisis in the United States. Many of our communities were facing lay-offs by major employers along with downturns in sectors such as tourism and construction.
- For some of our communities, the impact of the recession was magnified by the decisions of Catalyst and Timber West to withhold taxes and present court challenge regarding tax rates. While the court's decisions in the cases with Catalyst upheld the right of local governments to set rates, the upheaval created through these trials along with references in the Throne Speech made it evident that further work was needed.
- With this understanding, the 2009 Convention adopted a special resolution to provide a framework for UBCM to engage with the Province and industry. The resolution affirmed five points:
 - (1) the fundamental importance of local government control of taxation policy;
 - (2) the need to gather data to support improvements to the taxation system for industrial properties;
 - (3) the need to involve representatives from local governments and industry;
 - (4) the effect of industrial property taxation on local revenues; and
 - (5) the expectation of local governments for fair compensation if the principle of local autonomy is set aside in any instance.
- Following the adoption of this resolution, we joined with the Province and the Business Council of BC to announce a review of major industrial taxation.
- Recently, our Past President Robert Hobson and UBCM staff traveled the province to consult directly with a number of local governments impacted by this issue.

- Class 4 properties include a broad range of industries across our province. In AVICC communities, this classification covers primarily forest-based industry. In other regions the balance may be towards mining, coal or oil and gas. One of the challenges facing the working group is the need to develop recommendations that reflect the regional diversity for this classification.
- We can expect that this process will result in new proposals. We will bring forward the recommendations of the Industrial Tax Steering Committee to our Convention in Whistler.

Elections Taskforce

- The Elections Task Force is another high priority file for UBCM. Minister Bennett and I presented on this during the pre-conference program, so I will touch on a few key points for those who missed it.
- The composition of the Task Force was announced towards the end of 2009. Minister Bennett and I will co-chair a group that includes Councillor Barbara Steele and Mayor Mary Sjostrom on behalf of UBCM.
- The first challenge for Task Force was the reporting deadline of May 30, 2010. This date was necessary in order to amend legislation in advance of the next local government elections. Given the short timeframe, we needed to focus on the topics of greatest importance, such as:
 - Campaign finance issues;
 - Enforcement processes;
 - The role of B.C.'s chief electoral officer in local government elections;
 - The term of office; and
 - The Corporate vote.
- Earlier this month we held a consultation with interested members that included over 100 mayors, councilors and directors from across the province. We reviewed each of the main topics in detail, and the feedback provided was very constructive.
- The Task Force is considering several points that are established in UBCM policy. As your representatives on the taskforce, our role is to advocate for these policies. We have been very clear with the Province regarding our approach on these issues, and they appreciate our need to represent the will of our members.
- The March consultation also provided an opportunity to discuss the topics that fall outside UBCM policy. The group's feedback clarified our direction in these matters.
- For those who did not take part in the consultation, there is a website through which you can make direct submissions. If you have not done so, you have until April 15th to provide your input.
- The report from the task force along with the proposals for legislative changes will be available by May 30 of this year. We will be communicating with you at that time to provide a link to the report and an update on the next steps in the process.

Infrastructure

- I want to shift now to provide an update on the infrastructure file.
- Last year at this time we set a goal to ensure that a fair share of the funding announced in the 2009 federal budget was committed to local government priorities. Pursuing this goal was the focus of our efforts through the spring and summer, and led to the announcement of \$243 million in new funding prior to last year's convention.
- As many of you are aware, one of the conditions of *Infrastructure Stimulus Funds* and *Building Canada Communities Component top up funds* is that all projects must be completed prior to March 31, 2011.
- With the late announcement of funding decisions here in BC, our communities had only one construction season to complete projects.

- With this in mind, UBCM will be making a presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. To build our case, we launched an online survey earlier this week to solicit feedback from communities accessing these programs. We will also be coordinating our submission in consultation with FCM.
- I should emphasize, though, that we continue to hear that the federal government remains strongly committed to the March 2011 deadline. In order to safeguard funding awarded through these programs, it is prudent for our communities to do whatever possible to meet the deadline.

Resolutions Process and Structural Review

- I want to shift now to a couple of internal matters. The processes by which we develop policy and undertake advocacy are integral to UBCM. These processes and structures have been effective over the years because they have evolved along with our membership.
- One of the processes we are currently looking at is the resolutions process. Our work on this area follows on feedback received at last year's convention.
- The Resolutions Committee and Executive have invested a lot of time to consider adjustments to the process. Time has been set aside later in the agenda to share these ideas and hear your views, so for now I will simply note that the work is advancing on this front.
- The other area where further attention is being directed is UBCM's structure.
- Last November, the Executive received a request from Metro Vancouver that UBCM review its structures. Executive takes all such request very seriously, and decided to strike a committee that includes:
 - the last four, active past Presidents, with the Immediate Past President serving as Chair;
 - the Metro Vancouver representative; and
 - the five Area Association representatives.
- The committee will review the composition of the current UBCM Executive to ensure that it effectively reflects all regions of the province. The committee will also review the history of the Executive structure, Metro Vancouver's report and other correspondence on this topic.
- Throughout its history, UBCM has amended its structure bylaws a number of times, and there are established procedures for the process. UBCM's structures may be amended through an Extraordinary Resolution that is adopted by a three-fifths majority at Convention.
- The committee will report back to the Executive to ensure sufficient notice is provided for potential changes.

Regional District Taskforce

- Let's move now to a project that has been ongoing for the past couple of years.
- The Regional District Taskforce published its final report in January and I am pleased to say that their work is now complete.
- You have received updates on this file many times, and will be familiar with the issues being addressed.
- From the outset, the Taskforce recognized that the needs of regional districts vary considerably from region to region. The challenge was to provide resources adaptable to local needs.
- The taskforce also took the view that it was best to build upon the existing system and introduce refinements that address specific challenges.

APPENDIX B – ADDRESS BY UBCM PRESIDENT HARRY NYCE

- The report is intended to empower local governments by identifying additional tools to address a targeted set of concerns. To safeguard local autonomy, the decision to implement these tools is entirely a local matter.
- As a next step, pilot projects will be used to test some of the tools outlined in the report. There will be further communications to share the findings from these projects once they are available.

Additional Hotel Room Tax

- The final policy area that I want to discuss with you is the Additional Hotel Room Tax, or the AHRT.
- The initial proposal for the Harmonized Sales Tax called for the elimination of the AHRT. Nearly 40 local governments and related organizations participate in the current program, so the potential impact on our membership was considerable.
- We asked for your feedback and heard two key messages:
 - the AHRT is irreplaceable, and
 - local governments should continue to have a say in how these revenues are used for tourism marketing.
- UBCM raised these concerns with the Minister of Finance in December of last year, and received assurances that the program would continue until July of 2011.
- Following this, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & the Arts released a Green Paper to outline changes for the use of AHRT revenues. UBCM advised the Ministry that the proposed changes had the potential to erode local government autonomy. We also expressed concern that level of consultation with local governments was insufficient.
- UBCM followed up on this meeting with a formal submission to Minister Hansen in advance of the 2010 provincial budget. We were glad to see the Budget included a commitment to extend the program beyond 2011.
- We are now seeking clarity from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts on the details for the renewed program. UBCM is watching this file closely and will provide an update once further information is available.

Concluding Comments on Advocacy

- The AHRT story is a good place to conclude today because it demonstrates in brief how UBCM fulfills its mission.
- Our job is to keep watch on your behalf, to consult with you and the province, to research the facts and propose solutions that address the interests of communities.
- It is the work of a hundred small details, but it concerns matters on the greatest importance to our communities and regions:
 - economic development,
 - environmental regulation,
 - health and safety,
 - First Nations relations,
 - governance, taxation, and
 - the provision of services.
- It is a great honour for me, as your President, to advocate on your behalf to support your effort to build vibrant, sustainable communities.

Convention in Whistler

- As you can tell from this brief outline, there will be much to discuss when later this year we meet in Whistler for Convention.
- As you consider the resolutions that you will be directing to Convention, I would like to leave you with an affirmation.

APPENDIX B – ADDRESS BY UBCM PRESIDENT HARRY NYCE

- We all know that convention is a great place to get things done for our communities. Many of us head to Convention because we know we can arrange a meeting with a Minister, or discuss a local matter with provincial staff.
- We also go to Convention because that is where we demonstrate our unity as the Union of BC Municipalities. Our strength as an organization is grounded in our participation at Convention – and most importantly, in the resolution sessions.
- Let me share an example. Several times when I have been in a meeting with provincial counterparts, when it comes to discussing a resolution that we have passed, our colleagues ask about the split on the vote or how many people were on the Convention floor.
- The attention the province gives to these points tells me that our resolutions process is a powerful tool, and that we weaken this tool if we are not in the room for the vote.
- The 2010 Convention is coming. My hope is that each of us will renew our commitment to fully participate in the resolutions sessions, and that we will encourage each other to do so. I assure you, your commitment will strengthen our ability to get things done for BC communities.
- Thank you for this opportunity to provide this update; I look forward to meeting with you over the course of your AGM.

Carole James, Leader of the BC NDP
Address to Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
April 11th, 2010

Notes for a speech
Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
April 11, 2010

Thank you so much for that warm welcome. It's a pleasure to be here.

Let me start by offering my congratulations to Chris Causton, the AVICC Executive and staff.

Also let me give my thanks to the Mayor, Council and staff here in Powell River, for hosting this year's AGM.

For 60 years, AVICC has been a strong voice for island and coastal communities.

You have been tremendously effective advocates.

I know from talking with folks here today that this year's conference has been both successful and productive.

I want to take a moment to introduce a few members of my Island Caucus who are here with me today.

They've been a strong and outspoken team on the issues that matter to your constituents...

...Whether it's pressing to reduce ferry fares, fighting the giveaway of our forest land, or shining a light on cuts to education and community services...

... They're working hard to represent island and coastal communities.

Here they are:

Scott Fraser, MLA for Alberni-Pacific Rim and Opposition critic for Community and Rural Development.

Maurine Karagianis, MLA for Esquimalt-Royal Roads.

Nicholas Simons, MLA from Powell-River Sunshine Coast.

And Claire Trevena, MLA for North Island.

About this time last year, it was the eve of the provincial election.

And I was here speaking with you about the state of our province.

I talked about what was at stake in that election.

And I talked about a government that had become disconnected from the people they were elected to serve.

This time last year, the government insisted the deficit would be \$495 million dollars – maximum.

They promised NOT to introduce the HST.

And they promised to protect public services like education and health care.

What a difference a year makes.

Today, BC faces a \$1.7 billion deficit.

We're in the middle of the fight against the HST...

...a regressive tax that will burden families and small businesses at the worst possible time.

And communities are reeling from the latest round of government cuts...

Cuts to community gaming grants for not-for-profits... and arts and culture groups.

Cuts to programs and services for people with disabilities and people on income assistance.

And cuts to funding for early childhood programs like Success by Six.

The government can find hundreds of millions of dollars for cost overruns on the Vancouver Convention Centre...

But they can't find the funds to help build school playgrounds. To support community programs. To help the most vulnerable.

British Columbians want things to be done differently.

They're looking for fair, open and accountable government...

...that provides opportunities for families and sustainable growth in our economy...

...all while protecting our environment.

That vision is needed now more than ever.

Because we're facing tremendous challenges.

The global recession has hit BC hard.

More than 100,000 jobs have been lost.

EI recipients have more than doubled.

And BC exports have fallen by more than 25 per cent.

On Vancouver Island and our Coastal communities, the crisis in our forest sector continues to create hardship for families, businesses and communities.

That crisis has deepened in the wake of the downturn, resulting in significant job losses in the goods-producing sector.

Tourism... another economic driver and a sustainable source of long-term economic activity... is in decline.

And it's estimated that the HST, if passed, will kill 10,000 tourism jobs alone in BC.

Add to this list a growing number of social concerns:

The latest Progress Board report ranked BC 8th out of 10 provinces for social condition.

We have the highest child poverty rate, the lowest minimum wage, and the highest cost of living in the country.

These forces have created tremendous hardship in our communities.

During these difficult times, I believe the opposition has two roles to play...

The first is to hold the government to account. For its actions and its choices.

And the second... is to provide a positive alternative.

To offer solutions to the challenges we face...

...solutions that move our province forward.

Let me give you a few examples.

We've proposed solutions to enhance BC's position in the new economy...

...including support for emerging industries like digital media...

...to protect jobs and put BC back on the leading edge.

We've committed to address BC's social conditions...

...starting with a plan to reduce child poverty in the province of British Columbia.

And we've proposed a BC Green Fund...

...that would redirect \$150 million in carbon taxes into transportation alternatives, building retrofits, and other solutions to fight climate change.

We're also reaching out to economic leaders and innovators, local governments, small business owners, First Nations, labour and community groups...

And we're bringing those groups together...

...to find solutions that work for BC and maximize the opportunities ahead.

I want to speak to you briefly about an initiative I'm leading called **Our Province, Our Future**.

Its aim is to bring together British Columbians from all aspects of our economy.

To dialogue about how we harness the ideas and talent of our people...

...to build a sustainable, green economy and a more equitable society.

Our Province Our Future will kick off with a day-long Leader's Summit on April 30 in Vancouver...

... followed by regional forums in different parts of the province.

We'll be inviting you to participate in those forums.

And I hope you will join us.

Because everyone has a role to play in making British Columbia the best it can be.

And it's critical that everyone is at the table, regardless of their politics.

I know everyone in this room... every community leader... understands why that's so important.

When you sit down to develop next year's budget, to build a community plan, to consider a zoning application...

You don't pick and choose who should be involved in making those decisions.

You give everyone in the community a chance to have their say. You listen to their input. And then you set a direction.

That's how you get things done.

Those are the lessons I learned... working at the grassroots level in my community, as a school trustee.

I've carried them with me my whole public life.

I've made it a hallmark of my political leadership... that what unites us is stronger than what divides us.

We won't always agree.

And there's no question there will be tough decisions ahead.

But we'll be better off because we listened and learned from each other along the way.

And it's by working together to find solutions – to find our common ground – that we will come out this recession a stronger province.

Ready to compete and win in the new economy.

Because it's clear that in these challenging times... no one person has all the answers.

But what it's important is that we have a government with the energy, the creativity and the drive to ask the right questions.

That makes the necessary investments — smart investments – in people.

And focuses on the fundamentals we need to build the new economy.

The current government hasn't met that challenge.

They don't listen and they're out of ideas.

They have no post-Olympic strategy for our province.

Their plan is a Budget that cuts vital public services and brings in the HST.

Not only is that the wrong approach for families, it threatens the economic recovery we've seen to date.

And let me say that we will fight the HST every step of the way.

It will only take seven government MLAs to stand with the Opposition to defeat it in the Legislature.

I say to those government MLAs today: It's not too late.

You have the opportunity to stand with the Opposition... stand with your constituents... stand with British Columbians and say No to the HST.

Because this fight is about more than just a regressive tax.

It's about the basic principle that British Columbians need to be included in the decisions that affect their lives.

The HST epitomizes a style of decision-making that frustrates British Columbians.

They're told one thing... and then they get another.

That approach to decision-making... that approach to governing is the wrong approach...

...because it affects our ability to address the challenges that lie ahead.

British Columbians expect better.

And I know we can do better.

The government's approach is to shut people out.

My approach is to deal people in.

Together, we can tackle the challenges.

Together, we can seize the opportunities.

I know British Columbians are up to the task.

Because this is an amazing province.

We have tremendous natural advantages.

A spectacular environment. Abundant natural capital.

And strong, vibrant communities filled with talented and diverse people.

We have everything we need to move through today's economic uncertainty... toward a new economic reality.

But if we want to succeed, we must be willing to provide the opportunity.

The opportunity for British Columbians to be involved in the decisions that affect their lives.

The opportunity for our children... to get the best possible start in life, to get a quality education, to be supported as they learn and grow.

The opportunity for students ... to get the training they need to succeed.

We must be willing to provide opportunities for hard-working British Columbians... so they can support their families.

For entrepreneurs and small business people... to take an idea and bring it to market.

We have to provide the opportunities for the vulnerable to have a home, a safe place and the supports that they need.

And for our seniors, who have given so much to this province, who deserve dignity and respect in their golden years, support and a helping hand.

I believe in a British Columbia where these opportunities are open to everyone.

A future built on the values of fairness and opportunity for all, not just the few.

Together we can build that future.

And I look forward to working with you ... to make that vision a reality.

Thank you.

Financial Statements of

**ASSOCIATION OF
VANCOUVER ISLAND AND
COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

Year ended December 31, 2009



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AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

We have audited the statement of financial position of Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities as at December 31, 2009 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at December 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Society Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a single horizontal line that starts under the 'K' and ends under the 'P'.

Chartered Accountants

Victoria, Canada

February 9, 2010

KPMG LLP, is a Canadian limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International, a Swiss cooperative. KPMG Canada provides services to KPMG LLP.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

	2009	2008
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 20,399	\$ 14,795
Short term investments (note 2)	103,556	107,505
Accounts receivable	897	-
	\$ 124,852	\$ 122,300

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 6,602	\$ 7,356
Deferred contributions (note 3)	49,665	44,665
	56,267	52,021
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	68,585	70,279
Contractual commitments (note 4)		
	\$ 124,852	\$ 122,300

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

_____ Director

_____ Director

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

	2009	2008
Revenue:		
Annual meeting - sponsorships	\$ 28,500	\$ 26,000
Annual meeting - registration	34,331	37,035
Association dues	71,376	72,429
Grants from Province of British Columbia	-	671
Interest	1,168	4,627
	<u>135,375</u>	<u>140,762</u>
Expenses:		
Annual meeting	61,830	65,265
Communication and staff travel	2,022	3,084
Executive meetings	9,592	8,020
Other meetings	1,167	2,016
Postage, office and miscellaneous	6,278	2,192
Professional fees	6,180	9,555
Treaty advisory committee	-	671
Union of BC Municipalities contract fees	50,000	50,000
	<u>137,069</u>	<u>140,803</u>
Excess of expenses over revenue	\$ (1,694)	\$ (41)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES
Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

	2009	2008
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 70,279	\$ 70,320
Excess of expenses over revenue	(1,694)	(41)
Balance, end of year	\$ 68,585	\$ 70,279

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

	2009	2008
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of expenses over revenue	\$ (1,694)	\$ (41)
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	(897)	4,442
Decrease in prepaid expenses	-	9,400
Decrease in accounts payable	(754)	(16,961)
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	5,000	(670)
	1,655	(3,830)
Investments:		
Increase (decrease) in investments	3,949	(8,604)
Increase (decrease) in cash position	5,604	(12,434)
Cash position, beginning of year	14,795	27,229
Cash position, end of year	\$ 20,399	\$ 14,795

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2009

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (the "Association") was incorporated under the Society Act (British Columbia) on January 2, 2007 and is exempt from the requirement to pay income taxes. Its purpose is to promote autonomy within local government and to advance the principles of local government. The Association represents the various municipalities and regional districts of Vancouver Island, Powell River and the Sunshine and Central Coasts.

1. Significant accounting policies:

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations, incorporating the following significant accounting principles:

(a) Basis of presentation:

These financial statements present the financial position, results of operations and changes in net assets of the Association and, as such, do not include all the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of the members of the Association.

There is no provision in the accounts for income taxes as the activities of the Association are considered to be carried on a not-for-profit basis.

(b) Revenue recognition:

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2009

1. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(c) Financial instruments:

All financial instruments are included on the statement of financial position and are initially measured at fair market value. Loans and receivables, investments held-to-maturity and other financial liabilities, are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

The Association classifies its cash and short term investments as held for trading which are measured at fair market value. All changes in fair value are recognized in earnings

The Association complies with CICA Handbook 3861, "Financial Instruments - Disclosure and Presentation", for the presentation and disclosure of financial instruments.

(d) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Short term investments:

Investments consist of amounts on deposit in the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia's money market fund. These investments are carried at their fair market value.

3. Deferred contributions:

Deferred contributions consist of provincial grants restricted for the facilitation of the activities of the treaty advisory committee.

4. Contractual commitments:

The Association has a contract with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for secretarial and office services which commenced January 1, 2002. Payments under this contract are currently \$12,500 quarterly subject to adjustment each January.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2009

5. Financial instruments:

The carrying value of the Association's cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximate their fair value due to the relatively short periods to maturity of these items or because they are receivable or payable on demand. The Association's cash and short term investments are carried at fair value.

It is management's opinion that the Association is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risk arising from these financial instruments.

6. Capital management:

The Association receives its principal source of capital through fees from members. The Association defines capital to be its fund balance and the Association's objective is to monitor expenses in order to preserve capital. The Association has complied with all external capital restrictions with respect to operating funding.

AVAILABLE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION HANDOUTS

A number of session presenters used Powerpoint. The handouts for these presentations are available for download from <http://avicc.ca/2010-minutes/>

- Elections Task Force Update
- BC Hydro New Energy Technologies
- BC Ferries Update
- Municipal Insurance Association Claims Trends
- UBCM Resolutions Process Review Update
- HST and the Impact on Local Governments and Their Communities
- Carbon Neutral Local Government
- Conserving Natural Areas for Climate and Community Health

2010-11 AVICC EXECUTIVE

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