

**Association of
Vancouver Island and
Coastal Communities**



**MINUTES OF THE
63rd ANNUAL
CONVENTION**

**Ucluelet, BC
April 13 - 15, 2012**

2011-12 AVICC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Chair Joe Stanhope Regional District of Nanaimo
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Mayor Larry Cross Town of Sidney
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Vacant
ELECTORAL AREA REPRESENTATIVE	Director Mary Marcotte Cowichan Valley Regional District
DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE	Mayor Graham Hill (Acting) Town of View Royal Councillor Claire Moglove City of Campbell River Chair Colin Palmer (Acting) Powell River Regional District Councillor Barbara Price (Acting) Town of Comox Councillor Cindy Solda City of Port Alberni
PAST PRESIDENT	Vacant

Thank you to the following members who completed their term November 30, 2011:

- Mayor Christopher Causton, District of Oak Bay (Past President)
- Councillor Barry Avis, Town of Qualicum Beach (First Vice-President)
- Mayor Darren Inkster, District of Sechelt (Director-At-Large)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUBJECT	PAGE
PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAM.....	1
CONVENTION OPENING	1
FIRST REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE	2
KEYNOTE ADDRESS	2
ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE IDA CHONG, MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT	2
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	2
SECOND REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR TABLE OFFICERS	4
SPONSORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNER RECOGNITION.....	4
ISLAND CORRIDOR FOUNDATION UPDATE	4
WELCOME RECEPTION	4
ICF RAIL CORRIDOR LAND-USE PLANNING INITIATIVE CLINIC	5
GREEN JOBS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AND ENERGY CONSERVATION (BC HYDRO).....	5
ADDRESS BY DIRECTOR HEATH SLEE, UBCM PRESIDENT	5
RESOLUTIONS SESSION	5
THIRD REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR DIRECTORS AT LARGE	14
FORTIS BC PRESENTATION	14
DELEGATES LUNCHEON	15
CONCURRENT SESSIONS	15
ANNUAL BANQUET	15
FOURTH REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR..	16
MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.....	16
FINAL RESOLUTIONS AND LATE RESOLUTIONS SESSION	16
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAA-NULTH TREATY WITHIN THE ACRD.....	18
AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION	18
FIFTH REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND INSTALLATION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE.....	18
2013 HOST COMMUNITY REMARKS	19
PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.....	19
CONVENTION CLOSING	19

APPENDICES

A ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY, SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT	20
B ADDRESS BY UBCM PRESIDENT	27
C AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2011	31
D AVAILABLE POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS ON WWW.AVICC.CA	39

INDEX TO RESOLUTIONS

NO.	TITLE	PAGE
ENDORSED RESOLUTIONS		
RR1	Equity In Funding For Municipal Police Services (Victoria).....	6
RR2	Stormwater Management In Electoral Areas (Comox Valley Rd)	6
R1	Declared Nuisances (Cowichan Valley RD)	6
R2	Reductions To Coast Guard Marine Radio/Traffic Control Centres (Gold River, Sayward, Strathcona RD).....	7
R3	Decriminalization Of Marijuana (Metchosin)	7
R4	Bamfield Road Safety Issues (Alberni-Clayoquot RD)	7
R4A	British Columbia Transit Act.....	7
R6	Taxable Occupiers Of Hospitals (View Royal)	8
R8	Qualified Environmental Professionals (Cowichan Valley RD)	9
R9	Exterior Full Cut-Off Lighting (Sunshine Coast RD)	9
R10	Removal Of Derelict & Abandoned Vessels From Coastal Waters (Ladysmith).....	10
R11	Tsunami Debris To Hit West Coast In 2014 (Alberni-Clayoquot RD).....	10
R12	Blue Carbon Credits (Comox Valley RD)	10
R13	Vancouver Island Spine Trail (AVICC Executive)	10
R14	Reinstatement Of Farm Funding For Deer Fencing (Central Saanich)	11
R15	Farm Mentorship Programs (AVICC Executive).....	11
R18	Development Cost Charges For Fire Suppression (Sunshine Coast RD).....	12
R19	Generating Sustainable Funding For Rural Fire Departments (Cowichan Valley RD).....	12
R20	Funding For BC Conservation Service (Sunshine Coast RD).....	12
R21	School Based Youth Mental Health Services (Colwood)	13
R22	Housing For Adults With Development Disabilities (Duncan, Nanaimo City).....	13
OF1	Support for Catalyst Paper (Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District)	13
LR3	Oil Tanker Traffic in Coastal Waters (Metchosin).....	17
LR5	Support to Retain Section 35(A) Habitat Protection Provincials of the <i>Canada Fisheries Act</i> (Qualicum Beach).....	17
NON-ENDORSED RESOLUTIONS		
R7	Creation Of Participatory Budgeting Software (Victoria)	9
R17	BC Hydro Rate Increases (Parksville).....	12
WITHDRAWN		
RR3	Hydro Smart Meters (Gibsons)	6
R16	Increased Quota Levels To Support Regional Food Self-Sufficiency (Alberni-Clayoquot RD)	11
REFERRED		
R5	Permissive Taxation Exemption (Parksville)	8
NOT DEBATED		
LR1	Disposal of Gypsum Containing Asbestos (Sunshine Coast RD)	18
LR2	Funding for Airstrips in Small Communities (Alert Bay)	18
LR4	Provincial Funding for Rural Cycling Infrastructure (Metchosin)	18

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION UCLUELET, BC APRIL 13, 14 AND 15, 2012

PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAM

On Friday morning, two one-hour pre-conference tours were held beginning at 10:30 a.m.:

- Study Tour of the Wild Pacific Trail – Jim Martin, Tour Guide
- Study Tour of the Ucluelet Aquarium – Dave Hurwitz, Tour Guide

CONVENTION OPENING SESSION – FRIDAY, 2:00 P.M.

Four members of the high school band accompanied the parade of Executive and honoured guests onto the stage of the Ucluelet Community Centre Main Hall. The President, Chair Joe Stanhope, then called the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities to order and welcomed delegates.

Ms. Megan Fortune, accompanied by pianist Patrice Hansen, led the assembly in the singing of the National Anthem followed by Chair Stanhope introducing the members of the AVICC Executive and expressing regret that View Royal Mayor Graham Hill was unable to attend due to a family emergency. Ucluelet Mayor Bill Irving then welcomed delegates on behalf of the host community, thanked AVICC Executive and staff member Iris Hesketh-Boles for their part in enabling a small community like Ucluelet to be successful in hosting the Convention, invited delegates and guests to attend a bonfire sponsored by the Volunteer Fire Department being held at Big Beach following the evening Welcome Reception at 7:30 p.m. and participate in a fun Scavenger Hunt with two significant prizes to be awarded Sunday morning. As this Convention provided the opportunity to showcase the communities on the west coast, Mayor Irving then invited Tofino Mayor Perry Schmunk to say a few words. Mayor Schmunk took a moment to acknowledge that the Convention was being held on the traditional territory of the Ucluelet First Nation, thanked and congratulated the host community and then encouraged delegates that if they had time to come north and visit the community of Tofino.

Chair Stanhope welcomed Minister Chong, noting that she would be speaking later in the afternoon and expressed appreciation for her commitment to attend the Convention. Chair Stanhope also recognized the MLA's who planned to be available during the weekend: Agricultural Minister and MLA for Comox Valley, the Honourable Don McRae; Alberni-Pacific Rim MLA Scott Fraser; Parksville-Qualicum MLA Ron Cantelon; and Juan de Fuca MLA John Horgan. Chair Stanhope then acknowledged MP Dr. James Lunney who was in attendance thanking him for his assistance in garnering the \$7.5 million recently announced for the Island Corridor Foundation. UBCM President Heath Slee, Director with the East Kootenay Regional District was also welcomed and thanked for participating in the Convention noting that he would be addressing delegates on Saturday morning with delegates being encouraged to take the opportunity to engage him as he planned to be available for most of the Convention.

Chair Stanhope drew delegates' attention to the *Supplementary Materials Package* they received at registration, noting that a full and thought provoking program has been planned, announced that it was time to get started on the business of the Convention and asked Executive and distinguished guests to move to the reserved seats. Nominating Committee Chair, Courtenay Councillor Ronna-Rae Leonard was then invited to provide the First Nominating Committee Report.

FIRST REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At 2:13 p.m., the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Courtenay Councillor Ronna-Rae Leonard presented the first report from the Nominating Committee bringing delegates' attention to the Nominating Committee Report included in their *Supplementary Materials Package* reporting that nominations received in advance of the February 24, 2012 deadline were as follows:

For President:	Chair Joe Stanhope, Regional District of Nanaimo
For First Vice-President:	Mayor Larry Cross, Town of Sidney
For Second Vice-President:	Councillor Cindy Solda, City of Port Alberni
For Director at Large:	Councillor Marianne Alto, City of Victoria Councillor Meagan Brame, Township of Esquimalt Mayor Graham Hill, Town of View Royal Councillor Claire Moglove, City of Campbell River Chair Colin Palmer, Powell River Regional District Councillor Barbara Price, Town of Comox Trustee Gary Steeves, Islands Trust
For Electoral Area Representative:	Director Mary Marcotte, Cowichan Valley Regional District

Delegates were directed to the Convention program for times of nominations and elections, that elections if required would take place in the Community Centre foyer, and advised that there would be a call for nominations from the floor for the Table Officer positions at 4:10 p.m. Chair Stanhope acknowledged Councillor Leonard's past contribution to Executive and thanked her for taking on the role of Nominating Committee Chair this year.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

At 2:20 pm, Chair Stanhope acknowledged the University of Victoria for sponsoring this year's keynote speaker and introduced Dr. Michael Miller, Associate Vice-President Research with the University of Victoria, who subsequently introduced his colleague, Dr. Kate Moran, Director of NEPTUNE Canada. Dr. Moran spoke for approximately 40 minutes on the importance of ocean research in light of the impacts of climate change and the increased density of the human population along the coastal areas with particular emphasis on the leading edge technology comprising the Neptune regional cabled ocean network. Chair Stanhope thanked Dr. Moran with a gift.

The Convention adjourned at 2:55 p.m. for a refreshment break sponsored by the Private Forest Landowners, TimberWest and Island Timberlands and reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

Chair Stanhope introduced Director Al McCarthy, representative of the Yuułu?it?atḥ First Nation, who welcomed delegates to their traditional territory and commented positively on last week becoming a member of the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District as representative of the Yuułu?it?atḥ First Nation.

ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE IDA CHONG, MINISTER OF COMMUNITY, SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Larry Cross introduced the Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development who then addressed delegates. Minister Chong's speech is annexed to these minutes as Appendix A. Chair Colin Palmer thanked Minister Chong with a gift.

ANNUAL MEETING

At 4:05 p.m., the President, Chair Joe Stanhope opened the Annual Meeting.

ADOPTION OF CONFERENCE RULES AND PROCEDURES

Chair Stanhope noted that revisions had been made in response to delegate feedback and had been communicated to all members at the time of distributing the Annual Report and Resolutions book. 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 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities held in Sidney, April 8-10, 2011 were adopted as printed and distributed.

ANNUAL REPORT

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

First Vice-President, Mayor Larry Cross, presented the Audited Financial Statements of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities for the year ending December 31, 2011 (Appendix C).

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the statements were adopted.

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that the 2% increase across the membership dues structure was adopted.

The budget, as approved by the Executive, was distributed 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, 2012, was adopted.

The President, Chair Stanhope, then resumed the chair.

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that the following be appointed as Scrutineers:

- Ms. Linda Adams, CAO, Islands Trust
- Mr. Warren Jones, CAO, Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Ms. Ruth Malli, CAO, Town of Ladysmith
- Mr. Gary MacIsaac, UBCM Executive Director

was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that Lorena Staples be appointed as parliamentarian, was adopted.

2013 AGM & CONVENTION LOCATION

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that the District of Sooke be awarded host community for the 2013 AGM & Convention, was adopted.

SECOND REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR TABLE OFFICERS

At 4:14 p.m., Councillor Ronna-Rae Leonard, Chair of the Nominating Committee 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:

For President:	Chair Joe Stanhope, Nanaimo Regional District
For First Vice-President:	Mayor Larry Cross, Town of Sidney
For Second Vice-President:	Councillor Cindy Solda, City of Port Alberni

Councillor Leonard declared the positions of President, First Vice President and Second Vice President were elected by acclamation.

As a result of Chair Stanhope being re-elected President and the Past President position currently being vacant and in response to the AVICC's Constitution's requirement for 8 directors, on regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that the number of directors-at-large be increased to four for the 2012-13 term was adopted.

SPONSOR AND COMMUNITY PARTNER RECOGNITION

Mayor Larry Cross acknowledged the value that sponsors play in both the UBCM Convention and the regional conferences providing information for delegates and revenue to the conference. Each sponsor as an organization was acknowledged for its contribution and their delegates introduced. The Mini Marketplace and Tradeshow was also highlighted noting that it would be open until 4:00 p.m. Friday and from 8:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Saturday. Mayor Cross also drew delegates' attention to the long list of community partners and contributors who through their participation contribute significantly to creating an exceptional delegate convention experience.

ISLAND CORRIDOR FOUNDATION UPDATE

Councillor Claire Moglove, welcomed the former mayor of Campbell River and AVICC Life Member Mary Ashley, now Island Corridor Foundation Co-chair and Graham Bruce, Chief Operating Officer who highlighted the recent \$7.5 million federal announcement and provided an update on the next steps to be taken by the Foundation. Director Marcotte thanked the speakers and reconfirmed that the Rail Corridor Land-use Planning Initiative Clinic would be held in the Black Rock Resort Hemlock Room starting at 7:15 a.m. Saturday morning.

Chair Stanhope wrapped up the afternoon with details about the evening Welcome Reception, the Saturday morning breakfast and the shuttle service available between the Black Rock Resort and the Ucluelet Community Centre, and advised that the Saturday morning plenary would begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. with Robyn Wark of BC Hydro presenting.

WELCOME RECEPTION

The Welcome Reception sponsored by Vancouver Island University was held at the Black Rock Oceanfront Resort. The event attracted over 320 delegates and guests. The extraordinary venue along with Tofino based acoustic duo Small Town Empire and a number of local community displays and artisans created a unique and conducive environment for delegates, sponsors and their guests to network and relax.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2012

A Continental Breakfast sponsored by ICBC was served from 7:00 - 8:15 a.m. at the Black Rock Oceanfront Resort.

ISLAND CORRIDOR FOUNDATION RAIL CORRIDOR LAND-USE PLANNING INITIATIVE CLINIC

Director Mary Marcotte welcomed delegates to the clinic being held in the Hemlock Room of the Black Rock Oceanfront Resort noting that it was a first time of offering a clinic as part of the AVICC Convention program, introduced Island Corridor Foundation's consultant Chris Hall and reintroduced Chief Operating Officer Graham Bruce. Mr. Hall and Mr. Bruce then presented to a capacity group of more than 50 delegates. Councillor Moglove thanked both presenters with a gift.

The Convention re-convened at 8:30 a.m. in the Main Hall of the Ucluelet Community Centre with Councillor Moglove welcoming delegates to a new day.

GREEN JOBS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND ENERGY CONSERVATION (BC HYDRO) PRESENTATION

Councillor Moglove then introduced Ted Olynyk, BC Hydro's Community Relations Officer for Vancouver Island thanking BC Hydro for its continued sponsorship of the delegate gift. Mr. Olynyk then introduced Robyn Wark, Team Lead for BC Hydro's Sustainable Communities Group who apprised delegates on partnership projects being undertaken and funding offers available in 2012. Councillor Moglove thanked Ms. Wark with a gift.

The handouts from the Powerpoint presentations can be downloaded from <http://avicc.ca/2012-minutes/>.

ADDRESS BY EAST KOOTENAY REGIONAL DISTRICT DIRECTOR HEATH SLEE, PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES

Councillor Cindy Solda introduced UBCM President, Director Heath Slee. President Slee's remarks are annexed to these minutes as Appendix B. Councillor Barbara Price thanked President Slee for his update on UBCM activities with a gift.

PRINCIPAL POLICY SESSION - RESOLUTIONS

The first Resolutions session began at 9:15 a.m. with Chair Joe Stanhope introducing the teams who would be managing the resolutions sessions.

Team #1 Chair Joe Stanhope
 Director Mary Marcotte
 Councillor Cindy Solda
 Chair Colin Palmer

Team #2 Mayor Larry Cross
 Councillor Moglove
 Councillor Price

Drawing delegates' attention to Page 38-41 of the *Annual Report and Resolutions Book* for the complete copy of the conference rules and procedures for handling resolutions, Chair Stanhope then very briefly reviewed the rules for the order of business, the resolutions process and the timing of the sessions.

RESOLUTION SESSION COMMENCED

Chair Joe Stanhope assumed the Chair and was joined at the head table by Resolutions Committee members Director Mary Marcotte, Councillor Cindy Solda and Chair Colin Palmer, parliamentarian Lorena Staples and AVICC staff member Iris Hesketh-Boles. The Convention then commenced consideration of the resolutions.

PART 1 – REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

RR1 EQUITY IN FUNDING FOR MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICES

Victoria

WHEREAS municipalities in British Columbia who choose to establish their own municipal forces pay 100% of the costs of policing;

AND WHEREAS municipalities in British Columbia who obtain policing services from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) through agreements between the federal and provincial governments pay either 70% (for municipalities with a population of between 5,000 and 15,000) or 90% (for municipalities with a population in excess of 15,000) of the total expenditures for policing, excluding overtime:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Province of British Columbia to change the process for funding municipal police services so that municipalities with their own police forces receive the same subsidies as those who contract with the RCMP.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution be amended to add “to increase provincial funding for municipal police services” was endorsed. The motion, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Province of British Columbia to change the process for funding municipal police services to increase provincial funding for municipal police services so that municipalities with their own police forces receive the same subsidies as those who contract with the RCMP.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

RR2 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN ELECTORAL AREAS

Comox Valley RD

WHEREAS there are numerous and significant problems with drainage and stormwater management throughout the electoral areas;

AND WHEREAS the authority for managing stormwater and drainage in electoral areas is the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as well as the development of legislation, policies and programs, and for providing resources to plan, construct and maintain drainage systems and enforce drainage standards:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of BC, through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to improve their approach for the effective management of stormwater and drainage in electoral areas within the province of BC.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

RR3 HYDRO SMART METERS

Gibsons

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the provincial government to monitor the effects of the installation of Hydro smart meters and to assess the impacts on public health.

WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR

PART 2 – RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE

Part 2 – Section “A”

R1 DECLARED NUISANCES

Cowichan Valley RD

WHEREAS there is no legislation in place that allows regional districts to take measures to address ‘declared nuisances’;

AND WHEREAS many residents have expressed grave concerns regarding impacts from odours that are produced from composting facilities in the Cowichan Valley Regional District:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to introduce legislation that would allow a regional district to take measures to address 'declared nuisances'.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R2 REDUCTIONS TO COAST GUARD MARINE RADIO/TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRES

**Gold River, Sayward
Strathcona RD**

WHEREAS the Canadian Coast Guard has announced its intention to reduce the number of Canadian Coast Guard Marine Communication and Traffic Services (MCTS) Officers on watch at five strategically located centres in British Columbia, three of which are on Vancouver Island, possibly posing a serious threat to the safety of coastal communities, boaters, fishers, mariners, aviators and the environment;

AND WHEREAS the lives of many residents and visitors in these communities could be put at risk by the reduction of officers at MCTS centres:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities petition the federal government to maintain the current levels of staff on watch year round at all five MCTS centres on our coast.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R3 DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

Metchosin

WHEREAS marijuana prohibition is a failed policy which has cost millions of dollars in police, court, jail and social costs;

AND WHEREAS the decriminalization and regulation of marijuana would provide tax revenues:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the appropriate government to decriminalize marijuana and research the regulation and taxation of marijuana.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R4 BAMFIELD ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS the Bamfield Road is the only road access to and from the communities of Bamfield and HUU-ay-aht First Nation and their livelihoods depend on this road;

AND WHEREAS the condition and safety of the Bamfield Road has been a long-standing issue for residents, visitors and industrial users of the road:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure be encouraged to work collaboratively with the logging companies, private road owners, Bamfield Road Safety Association, First Nations, local government and other local groups to address safety issues and ensure regular, consistent maintenance of the Bamfield Road.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R4A BRITISH COLUMBIA TRANSIT ACT

View Royal

WHEREAS the British Columbia Transit Act subsection 25 (7) provides specifically the persons who must be appointed as members of the regional transit commission for the greater Victoria metropolitan area and;

WHEREAS the British Columbia Transit Act appointments under subsection 25 (7) results in a disproportionate representation by population on the board.

THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that legislation amending the British Columbia Transit Act subsection 25 (7) to correct the representation on the board to affect representation on the board by population.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R5 PERMISSIVE TAXATION EXEMPTION

Parksville

WHEREAS Section 15 (1) of the *Health Authorities Act* provides an exemption from property taxation if the property is being used for the “purposes” of the *Health Authorities Act*;

AND WHEREAS the “purposes” of the *Health Authorities Act* have been broadly determined to include:

- The establishment and maintenance of minimum provincial healthcare standards through provincial government mandate,
- The co-ordination of regional healthcare service planning and delivery (including providing housing for low-income citizens, seniors, and mentally and physically handicapped persons) through regional health authorities, and
- Providing a municipal tax exemption for property owned by regional health authorities that is being used for, or to support, the delivery of regional healthcare services;

AND WHEREAS the Property Assessment Appeal Board and the Supreme Court of British Columbia have determined that privately operated congregate care facilities located on health authority land and privately held doctor offices located in hospitals are exempt from property taxation as those properties were determined to be being used for the “purposes” of the *Health Authorities Act*;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has since amended the *Health Authorities Act* to further require that before an exemption is granted the health authority property is also being used “by or on behalf of the health authority” for the purposes of the *Health Authorities Act*;

AND WHEREAS this amendment does not take effect to limit existing exemptions until the 2016 taxation year:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities lobby the provincial government to further amend the *Health Authorities Act* to immediately exclude from property tax exemption any for profit congregate care facilities located on health authority properties.

ON MOTION, to Refer To Resolution R6, was ENDORSED

R6 TAXABLE OCCUPIERS OF HOSPITALS

View Royal

WHEREAS for profit businesses located within hospital premises who enjoyed benefit from the hospital exempt status in 2010 continue to do so until 2015 as established by the transition provisions described in the *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2011*;

AND WHEREAS the for profit businesses at these locations consume the services provided by host municipalities without making a contribution to local government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request legislation requiring amendment to the transition provisions created by the *Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2011*, making land and improvements in the name of hospitals but held or occupied by profit businesses that would ordinarily be taxable occupiers be taxable in the name of the taxable occupiers effective in 2012.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution be amended to read “**provincial government amend the transition provisions from the Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2011, to render taxable any for-profit**”

business located on land or within properties held by a health authority, effective as of 2012” was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the amended resolution be further amended to add “**non-medical, for-profit business**”, was not endorsed.

The motion, as originally amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the transition provisions from the Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2011, to render taxable any for-profit business located on land or within properties held by a health authority, effective as of 2012.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

R7 CREATION OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING SOFTWARE

Victoria

WHEREAS many municipalities in British Columbia face severe infrastructure deficits and other competing demands for limited tax dollars as they struggle to fill the gaps left by the retreat of senior levels of government;

AND WHEREAS taxpayers are continually asked to bear the burden of capital and operating costs of municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities create or secure a licence for software that can be used by all British Columbia municipalities in participatory municipal budgeting processes in order to deepen citizens’ understanding of how tax dollars are spent and to seek input on spending priorities.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

The Convention adjourned at 10:02 a.m. for a refreshment break and reconvened at 10:20 a.m. with Mayor Larry Cross in the Chair and joined at the head table by Resolutions Committee members: Councillor Claire Moglove and Councillor Barbara Price, Parliamentarian Lorena Staples and AVICC Executive Coordinator Iris Hesketh-Boles.

R8 QUALIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS

Cowichan Valley RD

WHEREAS the provincial government implemented the Riparian Areas Regulation to protect fish habitat for future generations, and the implementation of this regulation requires a partnership between the provincial Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and local governments to be successful;

AND WHEREAS the provincial Ministry of Environment appears to be lacking the dedicated resources to review the reports forwarded by Qualified Environmental Professionals (QEPs), which is necessary in order to ensure that the standards set under these regulations are adhered to:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial Ministry of Environment take immediate steps to provide the necessary staff resources to review the reports forwarded by QEP’s so that the provincial Riparian Areas Regulation fully achieves its goal of protecting our fish habitat.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R9 EXTERIOR FULL CUT-OFF LIGHTING

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS full cut-off lighting reduces light pollution and glare;

AND WHEREAS light pollution may have a negative impact on quality of life, contribute to adverse health effects and pose potentially harmful consequences to the natural environment by disrupting ecosystems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Building and Safety Standards Branch of the Ministry of Energy and Mines be requested to amend the BC Building Code to allow, facilitate and empower local governments to require exterior full cut-off light fixtures as part of their permitting and inspection process for all new construction and major renovations.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R10 REMOVAL OF DERELICT & ABANDONED VESSELS FROM COASTAL WATERS Ladysmith

WHEREAS derelict and abandoned vessels in the waters of coastal British Columbia can pose a threat to the aesthetics, environment, health and safety of coastal communities;

AND WHEREAS the current regulatory regime for the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels from the waters of coastal British Columbia is not serving our communities with effective and timely removal of such vessels:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities call upon the federal and provincial governments to implement a Derelict Vessel Removal Program modelled after the Washington State program, and to designate the Canadian Coast Guard as the receiver of wreck in the case of every abandoned or derelict vessel in the waters of coastal British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R11 TSUNAMI DEBRIS TO HIT WEST COAST IN 2014 Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS it is reported that a giant mass of floating debris the size of California has been swept out into the ocean by the Japanese tsunami, and this debris could reach the shores of the West Coast by 2014;

AND WHEREAS coastal communities on the West Coast of Vancouver Island do not have the resources or capacity to deal with a clean-up of this magnitude:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that coastal communities on Vancouver Island which may be impacted by the tsunami debris from Japan be involved in any federal/provincial planning processes, including representation on the Provincial Tsunami Debris Working Group that has been developed by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R12 BLUE CARBON CREDITS Comox Valley RD

WHEREAS local governments across British Columbia may prefer to have the opportunity to invest in local projects in order to reach their carbon neutral commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter;

AND WHEREAS blue carbon offsets, which are estuary restoration projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve estuary environments, may offer an excellent opportunity for local carbon neutral investments throughout the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities urge the provincial climate action secretariat to enable local governments to invest in blue carbon projects in their communities in order to meet their carbon neutral commitments under the BC Climate Action Charter.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R13 VANCOUVER ISLAND SPINE TRAIL AVICC Executive

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia wishes to enhance tourism and citizen use of our unique wilderness areas, and to provide new trails throughout British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Vancouver Island Spine Trail is a proposed non-motorized multi-use wilderness trail the length of Vancouver Island, that links 150 km of existing regional trails into a continuous long-distance route of about 700 km;

AND WHEREAS this trail traverses land over which First Nations, regional districts and municipalities have jurisdiction and the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities is the body representing these regional districts and municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities endorses in principle the concept of the Vancouver Island Spine Trail.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R14 REINSTATEMENT OF FARM FUNDING FOR DEER FENCING

Central Saanich

WHEREAS the excessive deer population has a detrimental impact on an already economically challenged farming industry and poses a serious deer management problem;

AND WHEREAS the Province previously allocated funding for farmers through the Environmental Farm Plan for perimeter fencing, but has since withdrawn this avenue of funding:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be urged to reinstate funding to farms for perimeter deer fencing as part of the Environmental Farm Plan.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R15 FARM MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

AVICC Executive

WHEREAS it is important to ensure that information about local farming practices is shared in the farming community;

AND WHEREAS local expertise on soils, crops and land improvements is being lost as farmers and provincial government staff retire:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities request that the Ministry of Agriculture develop agricultural advisory services to promote mentorship programs and peer to peer networking programs that will encourage local farmers to share their expertise with new farmers coming into the industry.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R16 INCREASED QUOTA LEVELS TO SUPPORT REGIONAL FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS agricultural producers within the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District currently produce between 5-11% of all food consumed in the region, which is not dissimilar to the rest of Vancouver Island, and partial food self-sufficiency would require an increase in regional production to 40-48%;

AND WHEREAS the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* provides a system to allow individual commodities to promote, control and regulate production, transportation, packing, storage and marketing of natural products in the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be petitioned to amend the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* and any other piece of pertinent legislation or provincial policy to increase quota and production levels in all agricultural sectors on Vancouver Island to support regional food self-sufficiency.

WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR

R17 BC HYDRO RATE INCREASES

Parksville

WHEREAS the BC Auditor General has expressed concerns about BC Hydro accounting methods, particularly the decision to record major expenditures as deferrals, resulting in a reported \$2.2 billion dollar debt;

AND WHEREAS this may result in significantly increased hydro rates to cover deferred amounts, negatively affecting hydro customers on Vancouver Island and across the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities request that the Union of BC Municipalities and its local government members request the provincial government establish limits on hydro rate increases in order to ensure electrical power remains affordable for citizens and local governments across British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

Part 2 – Section “B”

Mayor Larry Cross reviewed the procedures for handling Part 2 – Section “B” resolutions.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that all the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for Part 2, Section “B” Resolutions be adopted, was endorsed.

R18 DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS development can result in capital funding burdens for local governments for purposes other than sewage, water, drainage, highway facilities and parkland;

AND WHEREAS a number of resolutions have been previously endorsed by UBCM members requesting that the use of development cost charges be expanded to include costs related to increased demand on protective, cultural and recreation services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development be urged to reconsider their position and amend section 933 of the *Local Government Act* to allow development cost charges to be imposed to assist local governments in funding the capital costs of fire halls and fire suppression equipment and other purposes deemed appropriate by the local government that are required as a result of increased development.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R19 GENERATING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS Cowichan Valley RD

WHEREAS regional district fire departments provide essential lifesaving and emergency response services to communities throughout British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the funding of essential capital infrastructure and equipment such as fire halls and emergency vehicles is very challenging for small fire departments and communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia work with the Union of BC Municipalities to identify mechanisms and strategies to assist in generating sustainable funding for rural fire departments.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R20 FUNDING FOR BC CONSERVATION SERVICE

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS underfunding is having a negative impact on the ability of the BC Conservation Officer Service to meet the needs of the communities served;

AND WHEREAS the ability to respond to environmental concerns is hampered by the lack of human and financial resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment be urged to provide appropriate budgets and staffing to fully support the continued and sustained operation of the conservation service.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R21 SCHOOL BASED YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Colwood

WHEREAS youth mental health services need to be conveniently located for vulnerable youth and their families;

AND WHEREAS the number of youth who are supported by youth agreements increased by more than 152% between 2007 and 2010, demonstrating the increasing numbers of youth for whom school may be the most consistent point of accessible community contact:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province support integrated services and work with school districts and local governments to provide and evaluate youth mental health services in a school setting.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R22 HOUSING FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENT DISABILITIES

**Duncan, Nanaimo City
Gold River**

WHEREAS:

1. The provincial government is cutting funding and supports for adults with developmental disabilities, resulting in the closure of group homes and mounting waiting lists for services;
2. These group homes form a vital and necessary part of the housing continuum that has won broad support from members of the public at large, families of adults with developmental disabilities and the communities in which they are located;
3. We support the creation of new supportive housing options to provide appropriate options for parents and their adult children with developmental disabilities; and
4. The BC Community Living Action Group, which represents more than 65 affected agencies and organizations, thousands of families, and adults with developmental disabilities, has called for an end to service cuts and closure of group homes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to end funding cuts, implement a moratorium on the closure of group homes and provide sufficient financial resources both to maintain this vital housing resource and address growing waiting lists.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

RESOLUTION OFF THE FLOOR

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the following resolution from off the floor be admitted for debate, was endorsed.

OF1 SUPPORT FOR CATALYST PAPER

Port Alberni, Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS Catalyst Paper has mills in three Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast municipalities which create thousands of jobs and a strong economic base in the Region which has a \$2 billion overall impact on the B.C. Economy;

WHEREAS Catalyst Paper is currently in bankruptcy protection and its future is uncertain;

WHEREAS on April 23rd, 2012 decisions will be made by the bond holders of Catalyst regarding restructuring or sale of the company; and

WHEREAS Catalyst Paper's CEO, Kevin Clarke, has made several requests to Federal and Provincial Ministries for assistance that would help them to survive;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AVICC requests that the Province with support as required from the Government of Canada take action to assist Catalyst Paper's survival in the following ways:

1. Make available \$30 million over five years to support new hiring and high-tech training programs at Catalyst Mills.
2. Provide certainty in BC Hydro rates and take action to eliminate financial risks to Catalyst due to a switch from HST to PST on electrical purchases.
3. Release Catalyst HST credits of approximately \$5million per month which are currently frozen under the CCAA process and in the interim the Province "backstop" these funds with approximately \$30 million until released by the Government of Canada.
4. Provide pension regulation modifications allowing Catalyst's pension plan members an option of surrender of their lifetime pensions in exchange for a lump sum transfer from the plan in the approximate present value of their pension.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

The Resolutions session concluded at 11:13 a.m.

THIRD REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Councillor Ronna-Rae Leonard, Chair of the Nominating Committee 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:

Councillor Marianne Alto, City of Victoria
Councillor Meagan Brame, Township of Esquimalt
Councillor Bob K. Day, Lake Cowichan
Mayor Graham Hill, Town of View Royal
Councillor Claire Moglove, City of Campbell River
Chair Colin Palmer, Powell River Regional District
Councillor Barbara Price, Town of Comox
Trustee Gary Steeves, Islands Trust

Councillor Leonard declared that there would be an election and invited candidates to come forward to briefly address delegates. Each candidate then spoke for approximately two minutes. Councillor Leonard then advised that the polls would be available and balloting would occur from 12:45-1:30 p.m. in the Community Centre foyer noting that results will be communicated at 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning.

PRESENTATION BY FORTIS BC

Director Marcotte introduced Gord Schoberg, Senior Manager, Municipal Relations Department and thanked FortisBC for their continued sponsorship of the Delegates' Luncheon. Mr. Schoberg highlighted the three inter-related issues that would be covered in the presentation: operating agreements and the accompanying revenue generating opportunity, the introduction of common rates across British Columbia and the improved ongoing relationship between AVICC members and FortisBC. Then Mr. Schoberg asked Chair Joe Stanhope to address delegates on these issues. Councillor Price thanked Mr. Schoberg with a gift and advised delegates of the lunch arrangements.

A copy of Chair Stanhope's speaking notes can be downloaded from <http://avicc.ca/2012-minutes/>.

The Convention adjourned at 12:00 noon.

DELEGATES LUNCHEON

The Delegates Luncheon, sponsored by FortisBC, was served by Chef Tim May of Tofino's RedCan Gourmet from the Ucluelet Community Centre Fitness Studio with seating in the Main Hall and Activity Rooms 1, 2 and 3.

The polling station for election of the positions of Directors-at-Large opened from 12:45–1:30 p.m. in the Ucluelet Community Centre main foyer.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Five concurrent workshops were held between 1:15-4:15 p.m. with one session repeating:

- 1:15-2:30 pm Role of Local Governments During Oil Spill Response (*Black Rock Resort Rainforest Ballroom*)
- 1:30-2:30 pm BC Aquaculture Regulatory Program (*UCC Community Room*)
- 1:30-2:30 pm BC Jobs Plan Update (*UCC Activity Rooms 1 & 2*)

A refreshment break was held from 2:30-3:00 p.m. in both the Tradeshow Tent and outside the Black Rock Rainforest Ballroom.

- 3:00-4:15 pm Role of Local Governments During Oil Spill Response (*Black Rock Resort Rainforest Ballroom*)
- 3:00-4:00 pm Shared Jurisdictional Roles for Managing Aquaculture (*UCC Community Room*)
- 3:00-4:00 pm Coastal Community Network (*UCC Activity Rooms 1 & 2*)

The handouts from the Powerpoint presentations can be downloaded from <http://avicc.ca/2012-minutes/>.

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

ANNUAL BANQUET

The Annual Banquet for delegates and guests was held at the Ucluelet Community Centre. Delegates and their guests, gathered from 6:00-7:15 p.m. in the Activity Rooms 1, 2 and 3 for the pre-banquet reception sponsored by the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. Representatives from Chase & Warren Estate and Mission Hill wineries and the Tofino and Phillips Brewing Companies were on hand to provide the opportunity to sample different local beers and wines. Campbell River musician Rodrigo Figueroa entertained guests.

Shortly after 7:00 p.m., approximately 280 delegates and guests moved to the Main Hall where they were treated to an extraordinary west coast themed dinner prepared and served by Chef Richard Norwood and staff of Norwood's Restaurant and other Ucluelet restaurants with dinner music being provided by Campbell River musician Rodrigo Figueroa and Ucluelet's own Left of the Junction. Delegates and guests thanked Chef Norwood and staff for the outstanding meal with a standing ovation.

Following dinner, Chair Stanhope recognized Ucluelet Mayor and Council and specifically Council host community liaison Councillor Dario Corlazzoli. Special recognition was extended to the host community staff: Abigail Fortune, Katherine Loiselle, Nicole Laderoute, Barb Gudbranson, KK Hodder and Wanda McAvoy who were each presented with a delegate bag and as a group with a gift certificate for lunch at the Matterson Tea House.

Life members in attendance were also honored: Barry Janyk, Gibsons and Christopher Causton, Oak Bay, noting that Mayor Frank Leonard had been in attendance earlier in the weekend. Although registered, it was with regret that Mayor Gerry Furney (Port Hardy) and Chair Al Huddleston (Mount Waddington RD) were unable to attend.

Chair Stanhope then thanked the Association of Mineral Exploration BC and the Mining Association of BC for their continued sponsorship of the Annual Banquet Dinner and invited representatives Jonathan Buchanan and Claire Thomson to say a few words. Chair Stanhope then thanked BC Lottery Corporation for their continued sponsorship of the evening's entertainment and invited Catherine Matheson, BCLC Public Affairs Manager to introduce the after dinner entertainment. The performance of a very energetic and well choreographed local young jazz dance group managed by Sarah Hogan and a second set by musicians Left of the Junction was well received. The evening program wrapped up at approximately 10:15 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2012

A hot breakfast sponsored by the Municipal Insurance Association was served from 7:00 - 8:15 a.m. at the Black Rock Oceanfront Resort. The Convention reconvened at 8:30 a.m. with Chair Joe Stanhope noting that evaluation forms had been placed on the seats asking for delegates' feedback on the Convention and that the completed evaluation forms would be used for the Grand Prize Award draws just prior to adjournment.

FOURTH REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR

Councillor Ronna-Rae Leonard, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the elections results for Director at Large:

Councillor Meagan Brame, Township of Esquimalt
Councillor Claire Moglove, City of Campbell River
Chair Colin Palmer, Powell River Regional District
Trustee Gary Steeves, Islands Trust

Councillor Leonard then called for nominations from the floor for the position of Electoral Area Representative in addition to the one already placed in nomination. Nominated at the close of nominations for Electoral Area Representative was:

Director Mary Marcotte, Cowichan Valley Regional District

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

MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Councillor Moglove introduced Qualicum Beach Mayor Teunis Westbroek, Chair of the Municipal Insurance Association and thanked him for MIA's continued sponsorship of the Sunday morning hot breakfast. Mayor Westbroek briefly highlighted the role, structure and services of the Municipal Insurance Association. Chair Palmer thanked Mayor Westbroek with a gift.

The handouts from the Powerpoint presentation can be downloaded from <http://avicc.ca/2012-minutes/>.

FINAL RESOLUTIONS AND LATE RESOLUTIONS SESSION

Resolutions resumed at 8:55 a.m., with Chair Joe Stanhope in the Chair. He was joined at the head table by Resolutions Committee members: Director Mary Marcotte, Councillor Cindy Solda and Chair Colin Palmer, Parliamentarian Lorena Staples and AVICC Executive Coordinator Iris Hesketh-Boles.

Chair Stanhope reviewed the procedures for the handling of late resolutions and presented the Resolutions Committee Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline noting that it would be addressed in two parts.

AVICC RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE

A. LATE RESOLUTIONS: ADMIT FOR PLENARY DEBATE

LR5 SUPPORT TO RETAIN SECTION 35(1) HABITAT PROTECTION PROVISIONS OF
CANADA FISHERIES ACT (Qualicum Beach)

B. LATE RESOLUTIONS: NOT APPROPRIATE FOR DEBATE

LR1 DISPOSAL OF GYPSUM CONTAINING ASBESTOS (Sunshine Coast RD)
LR2 FUNDING FOR AIRSTRIPS IN SMALL COMMUNITIES (Alert Bay)
LR3 OIL TANKER TRAFFIC IN COASTAL WATERS (Metchosin)
LR4 PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR RURAL CYCLNG INFRASTRUCTURE (Metchosin)

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the first part (A above) of the Resolutions Committee Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline recommending that LR5 be admitted for debate was endorsed.

Resolution LR5 was then considered.

**LR5 SUPPORT TO RETAIN SECTION 35(A) HABITAT PROTECTION
PROVISIONS OF THE *CANADA FISHERIES ACT***

Qualicum Beach

WHEREAS habitat is the life support of any species;

AND WHEREAS the alteration or destruction of habitat is a common cause of the decline of many species, including fish;

AND WHEREAS the protection of habitat is the most effective means of preventing species decline;

AND WHEREAS the current Section 35(1) provisions were developed to provide a science-based approach to the protection of fish whereby qualified professionals can successfully argue against deleterious impacts;

AND WHEREAS the current Section 35(1) provisions form the basis of most other legislation to protect aquatic ecosystems, including local government provisions such as Riparian Areas Protection regulations, and represent the only tool left to help local governments carry out environmental protection in light of the progressive withdrawal of federal government (including DFO) involvement in habitat assessment, planning, monitoring and enforcement;

AND WHEREAS the current Section 35(1) provisions effectively protect a host of environmental goods and services other than fish for Canadians;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities support the retention of Section 35(1) Habitat Protection provisions of the *Canada Fisheries Act*.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the second part (B above) of the Resolutions Committee Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline be amended to admit resolution LR3 for debate was endorsed.

Resolution LR3 was then considered.

LR3 OIL TANKER TRAFFIC IN COASTAL WATER

Metchosin

WHEREAS a crude oil spill could have devastating and long lasting effects on British Columbia's unique and diverse coast, which provides critical marine habitat and marine resources that sustain the social, cultural, environmental and economic wealth of coastal communities, including First Nations communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities oppose projects furthering the expansion of tanker traffic through coastal waters without additional safeguards in place.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the resolution be amended to remove “without additional safeguards in place” was ruled to be not in order by the Chair as it was considered to be a different resolution than provided by in the context of the original resolution.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the resolution be amended to replace “additional safeguards” with “substantive increases of safeguards” was endorsed.

The resolution then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities oppose projects furthering the expansion of tanker traffic through coastal waters without substantive increases of safeguards in place.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the second part (B above) of the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline be amended was endorsed.

The second part of the report, as amended, then read:

B. LATE RESOLUTIONS: NOT APPROPRIATE FOR DEBATE

- LR1 DISPOSAL OF GYPSUM CONTAINING ASBESTOS (Sunshine Coast RD)
- LR2 FUNDING FOR AIRSTRIPS IN SMALL COMMUNITIES (Alert Bay)
- LR4 PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR RURAL CYCLNG INFRASTRUCTURE (Metchosin)

ON MOTION, as amended, was ADOPTED

The final Resolutions and Late Resolutions Session was concluded at 9:30 a.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAA-NULTH TREATY WITHIN THE ALBERNI CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

Councillor Solda introduced Chair Glen Wong, Director Al McCarthy representing Yuulu?if?ath First Nation, Director John Jack representing the Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Russell Dyson, CAO. Chair Wong, Director McCarthy and Director Jack each provided their perspective. Councillor Moglove thanked the presenters with a gift.

The handouts from the Powerpoint presentations can be downloaded from <http://avicc.ca/2012-minutes/>.

The Convention adjourned at 10:05 a.m. for a refreshment break and reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION PRESENTATION

Councillor Barbara Price introduced Jennifer Dyson, Agricultural Land Commissioner for Vancouver Island who then introduced the Agricultural Land Commission’s Chair Richard Bullock. Mr. Bullock spoke for approximately 50 minutes and then opened the floor to questions from delegates. Councillor Price then thanked Chair Bullock with a gift.

FIFTH AND FINAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the ballots for Director-at-Large be destroyed, was endorsed.

Councillor Leonard, Chair of the Nominating Committee, then introduced the 2012-13 Executive and extended congratulations to them:

President	Chair Joe Stanhope, Nanaimo RD
First Vice President	Mayor Larry Cross, Town of Sidney
Second Vice President	Councillor Cindy Solda, City of Port Alberni
Electoral Area Representative	Director Mary Marcotte, Cowichan Valley RD
Directors at Large	Councillor Meagan Brame, Township of Esquimalt
	Councillor Claire Moglive, City of Campbell River
	Chair Colin Palmer, Powell River Regional District
	Trustee Gary Steeves, Islands Trust

FINAL BUSINESS SESSION

Penny Cote, Port Alberni Centennial Committee invited delegates to help celebrate the Port Alberni Centennial on the August long weekend and extended congratulations to Esquimalt, Duncan and Coombs on their centennials.

2013 HOST COMMUNITY REMARKS

Mayor Wendal Milne thanked District of Uclulet for a hosting this year's Convention and on behalf of the Community of Sooke, welcomed delegates to plan now to join them next April in Sooke for the 2013 Convention to be held at the beautiful Prestige Waterfront Resort.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Chair Joe Stanhope presented AVICC Executive Coordinator Iris Hesketh-Boles with a bouquet of flowers thanking her for the work on this Convention. He expressed hope that delegates had a good time and valued the networking, the seminars and the resolutions debate; stressed the value of the organization; and recognized the members of the new Executive who would take on the work of the Association over the next year. He further expressed appreciation to Gary MacIsaac, UBCM's Executive Director for his support and assistance.

While the last of the delegates entered their Convention feedback forms into the grand prize draw box, Director Noba Anderson announced the winner of the charity auction of the gift certificate offered by the Oak Bay Marine Group for 2 nights stay at the April Pointe Resort.

Chair Stanhope then called on Mayor Milne to make the draws for the two grand prize awards. Mayor John MacDonald, Village of Sayward was awarded the 2 nights Accommodation at Black Rock Oceanfront Resort and Director Noba Anderson, Strathcona Regional District the trip for two for the Northern Passage donated by BC Ferries.

Mayor Irving then presented the gifts to the two winners of the Scavenger Hunt.

CONVENTION CLOSING

Chair Joe Stanhope then closed the 63rd Annual Convention. The Convention adjourned at approximately 11:58 a.m.

Certified Correct

Iris Hesketh-Boles
AVICC Executive Coordinator

**Address by the Honourable Ida Chong
Friday, April 13, 2012, Ucluelet Community Centre**

Good afternoon everyone and thank you Larry for your kind introduction. I get nervous every time I am introduced to people and acknowledge the portfolios that I have held. It sounds as if I can't hold on to a job, but I assure you I can and change is sometimes good. I was just thinking first and foremost about the very first AVICC I attended. Back then we called it AVIM and it was 1994. I had been elected as a Saanich councilor and I see my Mayor Frank Leonard down there. So my very first AVIM, now AVICC, was in 1994, so this would make this my 19th annual general meeting so I started when I was 12.

I always appreciate the invitation to attend the AGM because I think it is important and I do want to thank Allan for your welcome to us here on these traditional territory lands. It is important that when we meet on those traditional territories that we acknowledge that, so thank you for welcoming us here today. I want, as well, to mention that I know that this weekend you will see a number of members of the legislature here. I know that my colleagues Ron Cantelon and the Honourable Don McRae are on their way up and will meet you at the reception tonight. Unfortunately I am not able to stay for the entire weekend so I won't be able to be with them while they are meeting with you. I also understand that Scott Fraser, your MLA for this area will be here too. It is a busy weekend, but I know every effort is being made by my colleagues from the legislature to be here to join you.

So, it was about a year ago, I was in Sidney, Larry at AVICC. You put on a great AGM and we saw the Shaw Discovery Centre and everyone had a great time. What's important is to acknowledge as AVICC travels around the island and the coastal communities that we do get an opportunity to see what is the best of each community, to acknowledge how some communities have come as far as they have, to not always suggest that if you are a long-established community that there isn't an opportunity to grow and build and change, to diversify whether its economically or another means. It is so great to be able to join with you to see so familiar faces and to see some new faces, in particular, because of the most recent election in November. So my role as the Minister responsible for local government is to be able to get that chance to go out and meet with you and just share with you some of the things that Government has been doing and along the way, you are going to share with me what you've been doing and what some of your challenges are. I say that in a very welcoming way in that when you have those challenges, I've said this before and I will say it again, my door is always open and I will make every effort to meet with you to deal with some of the challenges that you face because we all have some shared concerns about our fiscal pressures and if you are not able to meet with me in Victoria, I will make every effort to meet with you in your communities. Just contact me office, and as I say, the door is always open.

It has been a busy year to say the very least. During the 2011 year after I was returned to this portfolio of local governments, I immediately started attending the area association meetings—five of them, and met with other organizations that you hold near and dear to your heart, MFA—Municipal Finance Authority, a very important organization for you, the Municipal Insurance Association, the Local Government Management Association, the Government Finance Officers Association—all of whom do so much to make sure your communities run in a sound, safe and fiscal manner.

Of course, there was the UBCM in 2011 in September in Vancouver where I saw many of you as well, wished you luck as you returned to the polls and bid farewell to those who would not be seeking re-election. There was quite a change in November in many communities, including here on Vancouver Island. I want to say it was important that those of you that put your name forward and were returned, I think shows the confidence of your citizens have in you and for those that decided not to seek office again, to know that you had put in your time and a job well done, and the work that you'd done certainly was appreciated.

So much, as I say, has happened. When I was at UBCM in 2011, I talked about a number of things that Government was embarking on. I indicated that we would be introducing legislation very shortly as we returned to the legislature with respect to an Auditor General. I'll get in to that a little bit later, but you will know that we have moved further along that way and we've also indicated that the choice location where the Auditor General will likely be Surrey--not in Victoria. I know those from Victoria might be a little disappointed, but because that office will require some travel around the province, a location in the Lower Mainland seemed to make some sense.

Along the way this past year, our Ministry has had the good fortune to be able distribute approximately \$90 million throughout the local government communities in arts, culture and sports. The importance of tying in arts, culture and sports to this Ministry, I cannot speak more passionately about, because we all know how arts, culture, sports is very much the fabric of our communities. Because so many of those organizations are run by our volunteers and for that reason it makes sense that local governments will be hearing from them, will be encouraging them, that they have an opportunity to work collaboratively so that the Ministry that is now in this shape has a very good opportunity to ensure that as we grow, as we find ways to find economies of scale especially with our volunteer groups, arts, culture and sport are included.

The other area that I wanted to talk about very briefly is about the partnerships we have had in the past and that we will continue to maintain. For that reason, I want to acknowledge Dr. James Lunney who represents this area as an MP. I have had the good fortune of being with Dr. Lunney on many occasions on Vancouver Island as we have made announcements which are tri-partied announcements with the local governments and at the same time with a number of gas tax agreements that taken place. I want to say that the relationship that we have had working with the federal government has been a very effective one, has been a very encouraging one, but most importantly a very successful one. And that will continue as we go forward because you have representation from people like Dr. Lunney and from the Honorable John Duncan which I have also shared some time with, who clearly knows what the interests of Vancouver Island are. So it is about, as you heard from the Premier at UBCM, focusing on some key things.

Strong communities. Strong communities do not just require sound leadership at your level, but also good working relationships and partnerships that we have. It also requires us to focus in on what builds those strong communities, what foundations we need in our communities and it is in fact families that are very much a part of that. Families can only be as strong as the communities that surround them and that create the environment to make them strong. The financial challenges that have taken shape has made it difficult for some of our communities to thrive and for that reason governments will step in from time to time to offer programs that help you build those communities, help you have those families feel safe and secure in those communities, and find jobs in those communities to enable families to stay in those communities and for your municipalities, incorporated areas and unincorporated areas to continue to look forward to better times as we are all doing.

And our Government is very supportive of your communities. To that end, I want to assure you that the programs we have had in place, we will very much continue to look at. There have been some programs, as you know, that we introduced over the course of the last number of years that are no longer with us, but it is because they were there for a purpose, but no longer need to be there. We need to take a look at other things. What I speak about in particular are the programs like LocalMotion Program, the Towns for Tomorrow Program and the Spirit Squares Program. They were there to meet a certain purpose, but after those were concluded, it means we need to take a look at other things. One of the things that we looked at most recently and the Premier talked about last September was the Community Recreation Program. And again, I'll speak a little more about that, but I want to assure that if it is determined that there is a program that will be particularly useful to communities, the best and most effective way of how we shape that is to hear from you. I know I have said this before as I've gone around the province and I have come to your meetings, the difficulty with some programs starting up and being discontinued, is because we have not in the past always heard from you about how effective they are and for them to continue we need to hear from you.

LocalMotion and Spirit Squares were more specific. Towns for Tomorrow was more general and more useful and when that concluded last year I heard a lot of deep sighs because it was really designed to help the smaller communities with the 20/80 split and the 25/75 split, but I remembered I shared with so many of you that I couldn't tell the Premier how well it was received because I didn't receive a lot of feedback. So today I want to say thank you to all those communities who recently were awarded a Community Recreation Programs. I have been receiving letters from all of you. It's not about receiving a letter because I am planning to collect all these letters and say what a great job we've all done together, but to be able to say that this is a good program and that I have an arsenal of information that I can take to my Premier and say "this was a really great program; this is something that the communities really welcomed and applied for; and if there is a way we can look another phase of it, can we do that?" I want to say for those of you who have sent me an acknowledgement of the program and how its already going to make a difference in your community, I want to say thank you for that.

You will also know that as I've gone around the province, I've talked about some other programs that we have. The Strategic Community Investment Fund, which primarily is the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing and Small Community Grants, has worked very well. I believe in your favour we have, in the past, advanced some of the dollars to you and I want to say, most recently, in fact last month or perhaps two weeks ago, the \$60 million of that has now been distributed out. It is an advance in the sense that with your calendar years, it make a difference when it is received, whether it in February, March, April, May or June, can have a real impact on your cash flow. For us as a Government, you know we can decide to distribute it later, we can decide to distribute it earlier, depending on our fiscal challenges. At the end of the day, as long as you get the amount we made a commitment to you over a number of years, that's clearly what's most important, so I what I want to say to you is that we advanced some dollars to you this March; if you see in our Provincial budget that the money is not there in the next fiscal, it is not that you haven't received it, but we advanced it to you. Over the course of three years, the dollars that you would have ordinarily have received will still come in to your coffers, it is a just a matter of timing so I trust that you will not fret when you see the budget that it may not show the allocation because we had advanced it to you, but the dollars are still there.

As many of you well know the Gas Tax Agreement, which I mentioned briefly earlier, is a very successful agreement that we have had with the federal government. It is possible and successful because of the structure that we have with the federal government. The fact that the Union of Municipalities gets to administer this program with the involvement of the federal government and the provincial government in terms of a committee is one that is different and unique from other provinces. I know that it will continue in this way, I know that Dr. Lunney will support me in this, because it is important that so much of the decision-making can take place at the local government level. We will continue to work with you to ensure that those priorities that you have, can be accommodated. The Gas Tax Agreement will deliver just over \$1.6 billion to BC communities up to 2015—a substantial amount of money. So for those of you that have received the benefit of that, I want to applaud you for great applications. And for those of you who are still applying, continue to do so and make sure that your representatives know, make sure that UBCM is aware, make sure Gary MacIsaac, who is quietly at the back of the room, hears from you often. UBCM are the primary individuals that make up that decision.

I want to again talk about some of the relationships that we have with local government. I am particularly proud of the fact that since 2001 when we formed Government, this was astounding to me and I want to share with you, that our Government has provided close to \$3 billion to BC local governments over and above previously existing funding streams and that I believe is an unprecedented level of provincial support. \$3 billion over the last 10 year, \$3 billion more than what has been projected and it's because of things like the Traffic Fund Revenue Sharing, it's because of the various programs that I have mentioned, it is because of the dollars that we have provided to UBCM, \$25 million a few years ago for the Tourism Program, it's because of some of the infrastructure dollars that we have provided; it is because of the doubling of the Small Community Grants. These things have taken place over the last number of years because we have seen that especially small communities have struggled in the past and I know that those struggles aren't over with the global financial recession, it means that we still are going to need to work together to come out of that and the fact that we have been able to make those investments in your communities around the province means that we have a partnership that can work, has worked and will continue to work as long as we are willing to discuss and be open about some of the challenges that we've had. Specifically though, I think it is important that the members of AVICC know how the Provincial Government programs have actually been implemented in the spirit of partnerships.

I just want to share with you what has taken place since 2001 in some of the AVICC communities. For the last 10 years, some \$16.3 million has been distributed to Campbell River. Courtenay--\$7.3 million. Parksville—over \$5 million. Ucluelet--\$6.2 million. Sechelt--\$7.8 million. Zeballos--\$2.8 million. Gold River--\$3.9 million. The Comox Valley Regional District—almost \$6.3 million. Powell River Regional District—some \$5 million. And close by here—Port Alberni—over \$10.4 million. And I share that not with you to suggest that these are dollars have a time limit on them, but to share them with you to let you know that even in these difficult times, we have known that some of these communities—small and large—and some of them in particular like Zeballos and Gold River being smaller communities—have received some substantial dollars, but also to let you know that some of these dollars is what makes up the municipal tax budget.

As I indicated last year, but for those who may be new, our Ministry is currently going through a review of the municipal tax formula. We are currently trying to determine how local governments develop their municipal budgets, and some of them, I will tell you a large chunk of their municipal budget is not from residential property taxes, but actually comes from the Provincial Government, so we need to understand what would happen if that partnership or if that relationship changed, if those dollars that we had previously been able to provide were to be restructured or changed in a way that could be detrimental or beneficial to community. So my Ministry staff is working on that. They are looking at what comprises your budgets and if we need to make some changes, I assure you we will come out and consult with you and ask you. The Small Community Grants have been developed at a time when we took a look at your population and your assessments—is that the formula that still works for you and if it doesn't, what is the formula that we should be looking at. So again, I just want to let you know that these are important programs, but we need to make sure that they are still effective in the way they are reaching all of you.

The Community Recreation Program, as I mentioned to you, has been distributed. A number of communities around Vancouver Island have received those and it was really great to see that some 219 applications came in. We were able to distribute grants to 98 communities—that is pretty remarkable success rate. Usually we see applications come in and we're only able to accommodate 25-30% of them, so 98 of 219 is almost half so kudos to all of you who put in great applications and I look forward to those projects coming to fruition.

This particular year we will see some communities celebrating some milestone anniversaries. Port Alberni is one celebrating 100 years and I was just in Port Alberni on April 1 to launch their celebrations. I see some hats here and some costumes there at the back so if you're in the valley again over the summer, please do stop by Port Alberni. I don't want to skip over Duncan—Mayor Kent, I know you are here; you will also be celebrating 100 years. And what I've been able to do through the composition of the Ministry is find ways to support your celebrations and I know both the Cities of Duncan and Port Alberni will be receiving some \$75,000 to help them in their celebrations and to encourage the celebrations to include arts and culture in your communities. I know the City of Victoria is represented here. They will be celebrating their 150th and they are the beneficiaries of those dollars as well. Also Esquimalt, I see you here, you will also be receiving \$75,000 for your anniversary. So what I want to say to those cities that are celebrating anniversaries, I will be watching and seeing how well you do in spending those dollars before I can consider what takes place in the following year.

And that's what I wanted to share with you—what's important when Government takes a look at launching new programs, it is dependent and incumbent on those who are the beneficiaries of those programs to share with us how successful they are, because if they are not, there is every reason for Government to not continue on with them. If they are successful, then how do we expand them or how do we find ways to include more people in that. I was asked earlier about Community Recreation Program intent and whether there was going to be a phase 2, and I again I want to get back to that. I don't know if there will be a phase 2 because it will be dependent upon how fast some of these projects are developed, how much they do matter to communities, and if they do, again, I want to hear back from you so that I can share that with my Cabinet colleagues and with the Premier.

Here on the Island, I just want to share who received those and these are the people I am expecting to hear back from: Alert Bay who received \$388,000, a small community for their Jubilee Park restoration initiative; the Comox Valley for their Royston waterfront trail--\$325,000; Cowichan Valley for their Bright Angel Park recreation rejuvenation program--\$400,000; Sooke for their Grant Road multi-use trail--\$250,000; Nanaimo Regional District Cedar Skateboard/Bike Park--\$439,000; Port Hardy for their connectivity and trail enhancement--\$365,000; and Zeballos for their Community Hall Upgrade--\$348,000; and not forgetting to mention the seven communities in Greater Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, the Highlands. For those communities here on Vancouver Island I want to know from all of you, and I will be saying this to the other AGM's that I go to, how these programs have helped in your areas so I have information to share with as I say my Cabinet colleagues before we embark perhaps on a phase 2 if that is in fact possible.

I want to wrap up with a subject that I know some of you are still keenly interested in and I realize has some controversy, but I am optimistic about this going forward—that is the Auditor General for Local Government. You will know on the last day of session in November, I introduced the bill, the debate was vigorous in February, we concluded the debate, we have passed the bill and we are now on our way to establishing the Audit Council

for the Auditor General. Once the Audit Council is established, they will in fact be in a position to interview for an Auditor General. I want to make it very clear, I will not be the one deciding who the Auditor General is and that this is where we have delegated this authority over. Only in the event of a tie, you know where they have 3 or 4 names that Audit Council can not decide upon, will I be asked to take a look at the credentials. But by and large, I expect this Audit Council to do the interviewing and make a decision on who the Auditor General should be and he or she then will go out and hire their team of auditors to provide the audits that are necessary. I will tell you that the Auditor General is not there to question, to overturn your decisions. If you were to check the Hansard for the debate that happened in March, I was asked on a number of occasions and I reiterated that the Auditor General is there to provide value for money performance audits, to make recommendations that he or she sees fit; they are non-binding recommendations, but they cannot question the decisions that the local government makes. So I want to assure you that was what the legislation brought in and that I have affirmed is the case during the debate. So when that gets underway and I know some people have put their hands up wanting to be a part of the first communities to be audited—thank you for that. Again I can say that I am not the individual who will be deciding which audits take place in which communities—that will be up to Auditor General. So, as I say, there was some controversy on that at UBCM and I trust that as we move forward that we can work with you on that and if there are some changes that need to be made, I know I will expect to hear from you, but I am looking forward to some of these audits that take place to, as I say, be of great value to your local communities so that you can find ways to save dollars because even if it means saving as much as \$100,000 in your small community, that could be the difference between a 1, 2, 3% tax lift and if it means that helps you, then the all the better for that.

You will know that Budget 2012 was introduced by Minister Kevin Falcon and you will know that he presented a budget that I think has been touted as the most fiscally conservative budget that has been introduced across Canada. Now we didn't provide that label, but I think it was the Globe and Mail who indicated that and they did so because they know that while we were still increasing spending in some areas, we were trying very hard to maintain a fiscal discipline that I think you will appreciate going forward. The global recession that hit us in 2008 has not diminished our challenges, has not diminished your challenges. Taxpayers are looking for leadership. They're looking for it at the federal level, at the provincial level and certainly at the local government level and while you struggle to provide more services, your tax payers still want to see fiscal discipline so it is critically important that if you are increasing spending through a bit of a tax lift, you are doing so in a way that is responsible. We have felt the sharp impact of the provincial revenues decline—we're not out of danger yet, but we are still going to weather this storm with your help. We are going to monitor very closely the dollars that we provide. Minister Kevin Falcon has got an Expert Panel on Tax commissioned who will report out in August 2012 with a view of giving him recommendations on how he can make our province more attractive to investment and more attractive to investment in your communities where dollars can come in to your communities. I know some of you are looking to diversify and do much more so we want to build the confidence that investors need. A large part of that means we need to make sure that we do not hinder their ability to move forward. I think one of the strongest signals is when an investor says we are going to put dollars in your community. With the some \$200 million Western Forest Products recently said they are going to invest in mills here is important; \$40 million going to the Saltair mill—that's a strong signal. With the recent decision with Bamberton moving ahead—that's another strong signal that investors do feel that British Columbia is a place to invest in—that Vancouver Island is a good place to invest in. And if you have ideas or thoughts on how you can be a part of that solution to bring more dollars to your areas, to create an economic activity, jobs for your community—not necessarily asking for dollars, but because of a government partnership, we want to hear from you. Whether it is Pat Bell or Blair Lekstrom or our Ministry, myself, we want to hear from you because investors will know whether they have a welcome here or not. We need to make sure you in your area can provide that welcoming experience. The BC business community as well knows that I have been meeting with some of the Chambers around the province as well, and they are looking at ways of diversifying.

I want to thank all of you as well for the fact that through MFA you have maintained your Triple A credit rating and particular kudos to you Frank Leonard for being on MFA. Someone told me they think you are the most powerful person in the province because you hold the financial wand that allows local governments to borrow and do more, so thank you Frank Leonard for the work that you do on MFA on behalf of all the municipalities. And I say that because we cannot diminish the value of Triple A credit rating. It is so important—you know that when you were buying your first home, you know that when your children or grandchildren are buying their first home, what makes the difference is not only the down payment, but the interest rate and then they lock those

interest rates in and they worry when they hear interest rates are going up because all it means is their disposable income will go to pay interest--so at your level of government you are necessarily interested in what interest rates you're needing to pay.

At the provincial level, where we have billions of dollars of debt, we too are concerned. A small point change could mean \$30, \$40, \$50 million—that could wipe out an entire Ministry. It is significant so we work very hard to maintain our Triple A credit rating as you have and yesterday or two days ago I heard that the bond rating agencies had maintained it for British Columbia, so going ahead, for at least the next year, we have that security and that's important.

With that today, I just wanted to share with you how important it was that we have built this relationship over the past year; we're going to continue to take a look at a number of areas that we can work with you. You will know that the Premier's three key areas of priorities for focus has been jobs, has been on families and has been on open government. We will be focusing on jobs and families because we think it is important as we move forward and create those key critical jobs for those communities that have lost some major employment opportunities and make sure we do not leave the communities void of opportunities for families that can settle in. We do not want to see a migration out to Alberta as we saw a decade ago where we did see a lot of moving trucks going to Alberta full, coming back empty to British Columbia. That is not the position that we want to be in. I am pleased to be able to say that over the past year though, while it may not be as significant amount, we have been able to create almost 40,000 new jobs here in British Columbia. We know the Seaspan contract, the \$8 billion contract that the federal government has provided will create many jobs in the Lower Mainland and in Victoria, but I hear Port Alberni is looking to be a part of that, and if there are opportunities or ideas there, then we need to be able to talk about that in an open and transparent way and find a way to see how that can take shape.

The final area that I want to share with you that this Ministry is involved was just added last March and that is the Community Gaming Grants. \$135 million is now the permanent amount that has been provided to our Ministry to assist with the distribution. So all of you have non-profits, charities in your communities and I know they were concerned when we had a reduction where there was only \$120 million in the budget, the Premier did announce in January that we will restore that amount to a permanent \$135 million. We have returned eligibility to a number of groups and there is a branch within our Ministry that looks at that. I do not take direct involvement in the distribution; there are some 7,000 organizations that apply for those dollars. The concern that I have been hearing is that there have been some organizations that do not appear to qualify; I want to tell you that if that happens, you can tell those organizations that they have an opportunity to write in to the Ministry and ask for a reconsideration because sometimes it is a misunderstanding. There is \$135 million on the table that will continue to be distributed to some of the local charities that do great work in your communities and that are involved in helping shape your communities.

You are going to hear a little bit more in the coming months about our BC Jobs Plan. As you know it was launched last September and I know that Pat Bell has been around the province. The plan calls for expanding markets for our BC products, particularly in Asia. It calls for strengthening our infrastructure to get our goods to market. Infrastructure means your infrastructure in your communities, it means working with employers in communities to enable job creation, so I am interested in hearing what you can do to enable job creation in your communities. Those very key areas of priorities, as I say, we will be looking at and evaluating how successful we have been. When I met with a number of communities at UBCM, I remember challenging those mayors and councilors I met with—if you have a job creation idea, you really should let us know if Government is in the way and how it is that we can help because we are not able to succeed without your involvement. The last thing we want to do is bring investment in to this province and those investors want to be in your community, but find they are finding that they are coming up against a wall because of some misunderstanding. So we need to work together to make that work a little better. We have had success with the forest industry with the exports to China and we have seen success in agriculture industry with more interest in our agriculture products in some of our seafood area in particular. That is really good news for our economy, but success on that scale means we need to keep up as competition is fierce with other provinces. We will need to make sure that if there are opportunities for you to showcase products that you want us to showcase in these jurisdictions, ensure that we know about it. The Premier will not be going back to China this spring, but there is a trade mission to Korea and to Japan and some other Asian countries. We will continue to move towards tax competitiveness, we will look at

administrative improvements to streamline the provincial sales tax when it comes back next March, and we will ask you for your input on how that can work.

So, in closing, I want to recognize again how important your communities are for all of us and the important contribution you make to the culture, identity and the lifestyle of our province. I see in the audience a number of people I have worked with over the past. I want to thank them for their involvement: Mayor of Oak Bay and former executive member and president of AVICC, Christopher Causton—hi Christopher, thank you for being here. I see as well a former colleague of mine from the legislature who is now with the Island Corridor Foundation, Mr. Graham Bruce and we have recently seen the wonderful announcement that federal government has committed \$7.5 million that I know Dr. Lunney worked particularly hard to secure along with the provincial \$7.5 million. This was a resolution that was endorsed whole heartedly by AVICC that was one of the most significant resolutions that you put forward that every coastal community wanted the two governments to work together to find the dollars and I am happy to say that has happened. At this time last year, we were talking about it and this time this year, it is done. So congratulations Graham for your work on that!

So thank you for the opportunity to join with you. I know you have many resolutions and workshops planned. It's been a long afternoon—I am still going to be around for another couple of hours if you want to speak with me one on one or make some arrangements to meet with me in Victoria. As I say, if I make it up to your communities, I will do so, but more importantly I want to wish you a productive AVICC. I know they have been in the past and I know they will continue to be so if we keep an open mind, that we accept some of the things that we can work together on, but also know that there are some areas that we may not be successful on, but more importantly are doors are always open to each other. Thanks so much for inviting me to be here today!

APPENDIX B – ADDRESS BY UBCM PRESIDENT

Address by UBCM President Heath Slee Saturday, April 14, 2012, Ucluelet Community Centre

Introduction

Thank you Joe and good morning delegates.

To start, I want to thank Mayor Irving, the Ucluelet Council and the many others who have worked to make this year's meeting a success. The new community centre is a great facility, and I think you we can all agree that Ucluelet is a special place.

As you know, Joe Stanhope and Claire Moglove are your representatives on UBCM's Executive. Joe has been a big contributor this year, serving on the resolutions and environment committees and attending several Gas Tax announcements on my behalf. Claire is a recent appointment and is a welcome addition to our team. It is also good to see Jim Abram and Frank Leonard, UBCM Past Presidents and Life Members.

I enjoyed meeting with many of you last night at the reception, and look forward to further connections throughout the meeting. The area meetings provide a great opportunity to hear what is happening in other regions, so if you have something to share, please speak with me.

My goal this morning is to provide some comments on UBCM's successes and challenges during the past year. UBCM has adopted a collaborative approach to advocacy and one of our main objectives is to get in the room as provincial policy is being developed. As you will hear, UBCM has been able to shape policy by working directly with the province on a number of files. There also have been some notable exceptions, and I want to tell you about both.

BC Transit Review

In recent months, the province has taken action in direct response to local government concerns, and one of those was the review of BC Transit announced by Minister Lekstrom.

AVICC communities like Saanich and the Regional District of Nanaimo took the lead in calling for the review, and were joined by local governments from around the province. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure invited UBCM staff along with Carol Mason from RDN to consult on the terms of reference and provide input on possible candidates. The feedback from our representatives was that the Ministry was listening and engaged. Like Chair Stanhope, Mayor Leonard and others, we are hopeful that the review will improve the governance and operations of BC Transit.

Poverty Reduction Working Groups

Another bright spot has been the way UBCM's Healthy Communities Committee is working with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to address child poverty.

For many years now, BC has led the country in statistics for child poverty. At the 2010 UBCM Convention, the membership endorsed a special resolution calling for a provincial poverty reduction strategy. In 2011, UBCM held a session at convention that included Minister Mary McNeill and BC's Representative for Children and Youth. As a result of this session, the Premier announced the province would work with UBCM to test strategies to reduce child poverty in seven BC communities. Port Hardy is one of those communities. One of the strengths of the pilot program is that there will be a different strategy in each community, based on local circumstances. We all know that one size fits all usually doesn't work, so the province is on the right track here.

From UBCM's perspective, the process that the government has adopted has been consultative and well thought out. UBCM will be involved throughout, and I look forward to updating you further at Convention in September.

Indoor Tanning Ban for Youth

Another area where UBCM worked closely with the province is the Indoor Tanning Working Group. Esquimalt brought forward a resolution at last year's convention calling for a ban on indoor tanning for youth under the age

of 18. That resolution was endorsed, and Minister de Jong took the unusual step of announcing the working group while Convention was still underway. UBCM was invited by the province to participate on this committee, and we dedicated staff time and resources to this effort. Last month the Minister introduced a tanning bed ban for youth under the age of 18. This project is a good example of how the resolutions process can impact provincial policies in areas outside of typical local government concern.

Tsunami Debris

One of the resolutions to be considered later in your meeting concerns the issue of tsunami debris. There have been a number of media reports on debris and its potential to wash up on BC shores, and I suspect that many of you are concerned about the potential impacts to your communities. Those of you who were involved in discussions related to derelict vessels are well aware of the inter-jurisdictional challenges for an event of this kind. There is a broad range of issues that need to be considered: roles and responsibilities, costs, third party liabilities, available landfill space and likely a host of other matters.

The provincial and federal governments recently launched a joint Tsunami Debris Coordinating Committee. Given the potential impacts on coastal local governments, UBCM has made inquiries to secure local government representation in the process.

It is our understanding that there will be four working groups: science, planning, communications and intergovernmental relations. I hope to be writing to you shortly to share more information about how local government will participate in the Coordination Committee and sub-committees.

RCMP Contract

One of the biggest files that UBCM has dealt with in recent years is the RCMP contract.

After the provincial and federal governments signed the agreement last month, each community with RCMP policing began studying the details of the contract.

For a negotiated agreement as complex as this one that there will range of opinion among local governments. When Mayor Fassbender, UBCM's observer to the negotiations, reported out to Executive earlier this year, the general feeling around the table was that there were gains in areas of transparency and accountability, two areas that the membership identified as being important. The creation of the Contract Management Committee also provides local government a voice to make proposals as well as respond to proposals from other levels of government. Councillor Solda from Port Alberni is one of the 10 members of the Committee, and I look forward to the Committee's first meeting in the coming weeks.

Within the past week UBCM was very surprised to hear news of a wage increase approved for the RCMP each year over the next three years. The Province of BC who led the negotiations with the Federal Government was equally surprised to learn this information, and has said so publicly.

UBCM has responded to this announcement by writing to the Honourable Vic Toews, Federal Minister of Public Safety expressing our displeasure with the lack of communication around this wage increase. We have also highlighted the financial uncertainty this will cause for local governments with RCMP policing, particularly as they are being asked to consider a new long-term agreement.

What we need in the very short term is information on the impacts of this wage increase on local government budgets. UBCM is working diligently with the Province of BC to obtain this information from the Government of Canada and when we receive this information we will update our membership immediately.

What we really need in the long term is improved communication around RCMP policing matters. The Contract Management Committee is one avenue intended to improve communications in the new contract. We need to make certain that the dialogue amongst policing partners is not over once the contract is signed- it has only just begun.

Auditor General for Local Government

Another file that has received wide attention is the province's drive to implement an office of an auditor general for local government.

As you know, the Ministry of Community Sport and Cultural Development did not engage UBCM in substantive discussions on this file as it got underway. This was a dramatic departure for the Ministry from previous projects, such as the Elections Task Force. Naturally our Executive raised questions. Our concern was the lack of a clear problem definition and the fact that the consultation with local government was late and ad hoc. Accountability is a core value for local government, and we expected a much closer working relationship as the initiative rolled out.

Following a meeting with Premier Clark and Minister Chong prior to convention and a special session at convention, UBCM staff were finally able to sit down with provincial counterparts to work together. The result of that work was a scope appropriate for the office of an auditor general, including a specific restriction from commenting on matters of local policy.

As you will know, the legislation has received royal assent, and has now become law. The province continues to move forward on this file, and we can expect the naming of the audit council and the new auditor general in the short term.

Expert Panel Review of Business Taxation

So far I have touched on areas where UBCM has been engaged and contributed to shaping provincial policy. I want to turn now to two final topics: the Expert Panel Review of Business Taxation and the Local Government Revenue Sources Review.

UBCM was first informed about the Expert Panel the day it was announced. Minister Chong gave me a call shortly before the announcement was due to begin. [Pause; smile, look at crowd] Now think for a moment about how much time the province puts into planning this kind of announcement. It speaks volumes when first notice is given the day an initiative is being launched.

The guidelines for the review include an examination of municipal property taxation and its impact on business competitiveness and investment. What is most striking about the announcement is the lack of any local government representation on the panel.

Executive met with Minister Chong and raised this issue. Following the meeting, I wrote to the Minister to emphasize again the importance of adding local government representation on the panel. The Minister's response was that the panel was already underway, and given the tight timelines, it was preferable not to change its composition.

UBCM has been copied on letters to the Premier and Minister from 27 local governments expressing concern about the lack of local government involvement. It is an unfortunate start to the review, and indicates that the composition of the committee will likely lead to questioning of the panel's recommendations.

UBCM has been invited to appear before the Expert Panel, and we will take full advantage of that opportunity.

Revenue Sources Review

At the same time as the Expert Panel was getting underway, the Ministry informed us of an internal review for local government revenue sources. This project has flown under the radar, and was launched without a news release. In addition to reporting out to the Minister, this review will provide information to the Expert Panel.

The terms of reference indicate the review will:

- compile and analyze data on all local government revenues
- highlight changes over last ten years and analyze taxes by class;
- determine whether the formula for small community grants is meeting the goals of the government;
- undertake an analysis of the assessment system; and
- consider tax policy objectives outlined in municipal financial plans and examine best practice resources.

When UBCM first heard about the internal review, we offered to work jointly with the Ministry, as we did for the Elections Taskforce. Again the Minister responded that due to tight timelines, it would not be possible to work together.

UBCM was told by the Minister that the impetus for the internal review was a commitment made by the Premier during her leadership campaign. The internal review, though, neglects one of the Premier's other commitments, namely to ensure local governments are properly funded. Executive is also concerned that the funding formula for small community grants are being considered from the perspective of provincial "needs and goals", without reference to local government needs and goals.

After last year's experience on the auditor general file, I hoped that the Ministry would return to the kind of working relationship that had been standard practice for well over a decade. UBCM continues to believe that our membership and communities are better served when policy is developed together rather than in isolation. UBCM will keep careful watch as the internal review develops, and will communicate with you once further information comes available

Membership and Convention

That concludes my update, and I think gives you a clear indication of where we have been getting traction, and where we have faced challenges.

I want to conclude with a word of appreciation. One of the reasons UBCM is able to achieve what we do is the strong support of our membership. For well over three decades, 100% of the local governments in BC have been members of UBCM.

I want to extend my thanks to everyone here today for the renewal of membership by your Council and Board. Once again we are on our way to attaining 100% support, and I promise that we will do everything we can to retain your support in the coming year.

Strong membership gives UBCM its credibility, and convention gives us a platform to hold other levels of government accountable. I hope that each of you will make it a priority to attend this Convention this year in Victoria to contribute to policy discussions that will direct our work in the coming year.

Thank you for your attention this morning, and I wish you a good remainder to your meeting.

Financial Statements of

**ASSOCIATION OF
VANCOUVER ISLAND AND
COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

Year ended December 31, 2011



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2011, the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

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 comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence that we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities as at December 31, 2011 and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Society Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting the financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Chartered Accountants
March 16, 2012
Victoria, Canada

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ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2011, with comparative information for 2010

	2011	2010
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 13,965	\$ 34,095
Short term investments (note 2)	150,684	94,302
Accounts receivable	-	1,469
Prepaid expenses	849	8,468
	<u>\$ 165,498</u>	<u>\$ 138,334</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 11,132	\$ 7,364
Deferred contributions (note 3)	51,665	44,665
	<u>62,797</u>	<u>52,029</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	102,701	86,305
Contractual commitments (note 4)		
	<u>\$ 165,498</u>	<u>\$ 138,334</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

_____ Director

_____ Director

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2011, with comparative information for 2010

	2011	2010
Revenue:		
Annual meeting - sponsorships	\$ 26,000	\$ 35,000
Annual meeting - registration	43,675	33,919
Association dues	74,271	71,562
Interest	1,777	911
	<u>145,723</u>	<u>141,392</u>
Expenses:		
Annual meeting	51,807	51,873
Communication and staff travel	1,441	874
Executive meetings	8,143	9,521
Other meetings	2,278	2,634
Postage, office and miscellaneous	8,118	2,360
Professional fees	6,040	6,410
Union of BC Municipalities contract fees	51,500	50,000
	<u>129,327</u>	<u>123,672</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses	16,396	17,720
Net assets, beginning of year	86,305	68,585
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 102,701</u>	<u>\$ 86,305</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2011, with comparative information for 2010

	2011	2010
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 16,396	\$ 17,720
Net change in non-cash working capital:		
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	1,469	(572)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	7,619	(8,468)
Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	3,768	762
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	7,000	(5,000)
	36,252	4,442
Investments:		
Decrease (increase) in investments	(56,382)	9,254
Increase (decrease) in cash position	(20,130)	13,696
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	34,095	20,399
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 13,965	\$ 34,095

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2011

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (the "Association") is incorporated under the Society Act (British Columbia) 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) Cash and cash equivalents:

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash and highly liquid investments consisting of term deposits with original maturities at the date of purchase of three months or less.

(c) 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.

Annual meeting sponsorships, registration and exhibit revenues are recognized as revenue when the conference takes place.

Association dues are recognized as revenue in the year they are earned and collection is reasonably assured.

(d) Contributed materials and services:

Due to the difficulty in determining fair value, contributed materials and services are not recognized in the financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2011

1. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(e) 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.

(f) Capital assets:

In accordance with CICA Handbook 4430, "Capital Assets held by not-for-profit organizations" the Association has not capitalized expenditures during the year of \$3,276 (2010: nil). Capital assets owned by the Association are categorized as furniture, computer software and computer hardware.

(g) 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.

(h) Adoption of new accounting standards:

The Association will be transitioning to the Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations contained in Part III of the CICA Handbook-Accounting beginning January 1, 2012. While the financial statement presentation and the accounting treatment of most items will not change from current practice, there are certain transitional provisions that the Association will apply when preparing the first financial statements under the new accounting standards. The impact of these transitional provisions on the financial statements of the Association has not yet been fully determined.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2011

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 \$44,664 (2010 - \$44,664) of provincial grants restricted for the facilitation of the activities of the treaty advisory committee in addition to \$7,000 (2010 - nil) of sponsorship revenues received in advance for the 2012 conference.

4. Contractual commitments:

The Association has a contract with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for secretarial and office services. Payments under this contract in 2011 were \$12,875 quarterly. The amounts are subject to adjustment each January.

5. Financial instruments:

The carrying value of the Association's 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.

APPENDIX D

AVAILABLE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION HANDOUTS

A number of session presenters used Power Points. The handouts for these presentations are available for download from <http://avicc.ca/2012-minutes/>

- Island Corridor Foundation Rail Corridor Land-use Planning Initiative Clinic – COO Graham Bruce and Planning Consultant Chris Hall
- Role of Local Governments During Oil Spill Response – Chair Sheila Malcolmson, Islands Trust
- Role of Local Governments During Oil Spill Response – Graham Knox, Ministry of Environment
- BC Aquaculture Regulatory Program – Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada
- Jobs Plan Update – Greg Goodwin, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Innovation
- Role of BC for Aquaculture – S Herbert & K Evans, Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations
- Municipal Insurance Association – Chair Teunis Westbroek
- Implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty Within the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District – Ucluel First Nations
- Implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty Within the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District – Huu-ay-aht First Nations

2012-13 AVICC EXECUTIVE

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