



From the Mayor's Chair

A monthly report from the Office of the Mayor

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UBCM CONVENTION

THE ELEVATOR MEETING

I was told the UBCM convention was a week long, sunrise to sunset affair, packed with meetings, forums, policy sessions, association gatherings, keynote speakers, clinics, workshops and more. I was warned that this was an intense, non-stop, barely a moment to breathe, kind of convention.

Even with this advance knowledge, I wasn't entirely prepared to have a meeting with the Premier riding down the elevator at Canada Place. There we were, Mayor and Council from Terrace and the Premier and his entourage of staffers and security, jammed into an elevator as we were all rushing from one meeting to another.

"So how are things in Hockeyville?" said the Premier as he officially opened the meeting just as we started our descent.

"Very good Premier Campbell," I replied. "Hockeyville was a great success for the Province and it certainly shone the spotlight on the Northwest," I continued proudly.

"You're not still calling it the Northwest are you?" was the Premier's immediate response. "You need to find a new name to identify where you're from," the Premier continued just as the elevator doors opened.

"Think about that and let me know" were his final words as the meeting adjourned and he sped off.

I didn't have time to tell him we were about to do just that at the upcoming Skeena Summit on October 21 - 23 being organized by the Terrace Economic Development Authority (TEDA).

Branding is an important component to the big picture of economic development and it will be one of the main topics at the Summit featuring Roger Brooks, a branding and marketing expert. He'll be speaking on October 22 at the Terrace Pentecostal Assembly starting at 7 p.m. This presentation is open to the public. Mr. Brooks will also be facilitating a workshop the next day for Summit delegates on branding the region.

I'm looking forward to participating in this branding exercise. As soon as we nail down a new way to identify ourselves, I'll be making arrangements for a follow up meeting with the Premier. This meeting won't likely take place in an elevator and it certainly will not be happening in "Northwest" B.C.



IT'S NYCE TO BE PRESIDENT OF UBCM

This story is not new. I'm sure you've seen our local media coverage highlighting Harry Nyce and showcasing his new role as President of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. It's been covered by media across the Province. While it's true you've all heard about Harry Nyce becoming the President of UBCM, I wanted to mention it again and personally congratulate Harry on behalf of Terrace Council and the City Administration for achieving this milestone.

It was Friday morning, October 2nd, the last day of our week long UBCM convention in Vancouver. The Installation of the President-Elect was to take place at 10:30 a.m. Council and our CAO arrived early to get front row seats for the event.

And it was a proud moment for Harry Nyce. His family was there

sitting along side of us in the front row. Harry came on stage in full ceremonial First Nations regalia. His speech was inspiring. President Nyce will bring a fresh perspective to the UBCM. His strong leadership will certainly be appreciated at the provincial level.

In the photo from left to right, Councillor Brian Downie, Regional District Director Ted Ramsay, Mayor Dave Pernarowski, UBCM President Harry Nyce, Councillor Bruce Martindale, Councillor Carol Leclerc, Regional District Director Alan Lanctot and Councillor Bruce Bidgood.



SO MANY UBCM RESOLUTIONS, SO LITTLE TIME

Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) members submitted over 226 resolutions to be reviewed and discussed at this year's convention, the same number of resolutions from last year. Going into the week long convention, I wondered how there would be time to debate this many issues. As it turns out, there was clearly not enough time to work through the 226 resolutions. While this was disappointing, the conference rules and procedures for handling resolutions states that resolutions not debated are submitted to the UBCM Executive for appropriate action.

Resolutions that made it to the UBCM convention this year fell under a number of categories including finance, community safety, community economic development, transportation, land use, the environment, health, and selected issues like Harmonized Sales Tax and industrial property tax.

The process to get a resolution to the floor of the UBCM is fairly straightforward. First, local governments would create

the resolution around an issue that they feel was important and could have implications at the provincial level. Once these resolutions were adopted at the local level, they would move to the area associations (Terrace is a member of the North Central Local Government Association, NCLGA) where they would need to be endorsed prior to moving to the provincial body of the UBCM.



The resolutions debate was the most interesting and important part of the convention. Hopefully next year, more time can be allotted to work through the many important issues that are brought forward for discussion.

Not all resolutions achieve immediate results, but they always bring important local government issues to the attention of the provincial and federal governments.

UBCM IN MOTION

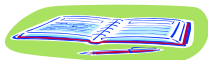


One of the resolutions that made it to the floor for debate during the UBCM convention was Resolution A8 - Disposal of School Properties. This resolution was asking UBCM delegates to endorse that local governments have an opportunity to purchase and/or approve the disposition of surplus school lands. Art Erasmus, a School District #82 Trustee, had recently urged Terrace City Council to vote against this resolution suggesting that the control

and decisions around the disposition of surplus lands should stay with the School District Boards. The majority of UBCM delegates agreed with this position as the motion was referred back to the Executive for further discussion with School Boards.

One other resolution that was on the books this year was Resolution B101 - Corporate Voting Powers. This resolution stated; "Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM encourage the Province of BC to

reinstate a corporate voting category so that non-resident business owners can vote and participate in the business of the community as full-fledged taxpayers. Unfortunately this motion did not make it to the floor for debate and moved back to the UBCM Executive to take "appropriate action" which follows conference rules and procedures. The UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation on this motion was to "Not Endorse". More work needs to be done on the issue of the corporate vote.



MAYOR'S SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2009

October 1,2 - UBCM Convention in Vancouver

October 2 - River Kings season opener, ceremonial puck drop

October 2 - Science World Reception at NWCC

October 3 - Community Science Celebration, NWCC - opening remarks

October 6 - Kermoder Tourism AGM - Best Western

October 7 - Ksan Greenhouse Project - ground breaking ceremony

October 7 - Order Of Terrace Awards Ceremony - Best Western

October 8 - Hockeyville Committee final meeting

October 8 - Skeena Nass Centre for Innovation & Resource Economics AGM

October 13 - Regular Council meeting City Hall Council Chambers

October 14 - Riverboat Days Committee Reception - Elephant's Ear Bistro - 7 p.m.

October 15 / 16 - UNBC President Installation at the Prince George campus for Dr. George Iwama

October 17 - B.C. 2010 Winter Games official office opening

October 20 - Fire Chief for a day event

October 20 - Heritage Park Blacksmith Shop - ribbon cutting ceremony

October 20 - Community Sports Hero Awards - opening comments

October 21/22/23 - Skeena Summit - Terrace

October 23 - Northwest Regional Advisory Committee meeting (Northern Development Initiative Trust)

October 26 - Regular Council meeting - City Hall Council Chambers

October 26 - Rotary/Chamber Luncheon with speaker Laurie Ringaert—Measuring Up the North

October 27 - Enbridge Community Advisory Board meeting - Kitimat

October 29 - Planning for Winter Communities Workshop - opening comments

October 31 - Halloween Haunt/Heritage Park