

TO: UBCM Members
FROM: UBCM Environment Committee
DATE: September 16, 1991
RE: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ACTION
PLAN

ITEM #4(c)

September 18, 1991

B.C. COMMUNITIES AGENDA

1. OBJECTIVE

Local government is a leader in undertaking initiatives to protect the environment and the quality of life that our citizens have come to expect. Local government holds the key to solving many of our environmental problems and the Committee's objective are actions that will provide local government with adequate and appropriate financing sources, a legislative framework to protect and enhance the environment and promote innovative local government action.

2. SITUATION - DISCUSSION

Over the past year the Committee has focused considerable efforts on the issues of liquid waste management and waste permit fees. The UBCM requested that the fees charged by the provincial government be delayed until a new fee structure is developed which reflects the extent of treatment undertaken and the environmental impact of the discharge.

We have continued a formal consultative process with the Minister of Environment and met with him and/or senior staff on a number of occasions in the past year. The Committee took the opportunity to outline local government concerns over such issues as solid waste management, logging in community watersheds and local government liability in the management of wastes.

The UBCM Environment Committee continues to represent local government on a number of stakeholder meetings established by the provincial government on waste oil, local roundtables and beverage containers and the Committee has dealt extensively with the Hazardous Waste Management Corporation over the past year.

In addition, the Committee has dealt with a number of the other issues:

- Recycling initiatives;
- Contaminated soils;
- Tipping fees;
- Airshed policy; and
- Biomedical Wastes.

PRINCIPLES

The Committee in its activities over the past year has been guided by the following basic principles of environmental protection:

- conservation of resources: four basic R's - reduce, reuse, recycle and residual management.
- environmental responsibility: cradle-to-grave responsibility (i.e. those companies who develop the product should be required to internalize all of the costs related to its final disposal).
- intergovernmental cooperation and consultation between the federal and provincial governments and local government.

The following UBCM General Policies are the basis for ongoing consultation and cooperation on environmental issues:

- Programs which are exclusively determined by the Province should be financed through its own revenue sources.
- Adequate notice and consultation should take place concerning any legislative or policy changes in the environmental field which affect local government.
- Financial assistance and/or access to additional revenue sources should be provided to local government if provincial policies override local priorities or impose additional responsibilities on it.

3. ACTION PLAN

To continue with the Committee's three functions of:

- Advocating changes in federal and provincial environmental policy to assist local government in solving environmental concerns at the local level.
- Representing local government in the development of environmental policy at the federal and provincial level.
- Promoting and sharing information on solutions to environmental problems which local governments have implemented as guided by the basic principles, general policies and past resolutions through actions in the following areas:
 - Solid waste management.
 - Biomedical waste.
 - Contaminated sites.
 - Hazardous waste.
 - Liquid waste - permit fees.
 - Airshed policy.
 - Water policy.
 - Pesticide policy.
 - Local roundtables.
 - Environmental financial policy - Fees and Charges.
 - National packaging protocol.
 - Federal Green Plan.

Reference: UBCM Environment Committee Action Plan available from the UBCM Convention Office for further detail on the status and action items.