



AKBLG Historical Backgrounder

For UBCM's first half-century the area associations as we know them today did not exist, although there were groups of members from different areas who worked together on regional issues. However, AKBLG members were involved in the formation of the UBCM: eight AKBLG communities were among the original UBCM members. AKBLG members continue to be actively involved in the direction and operation of UBCM.

Original Members:

- Fernie, Grand Forks, Greenwood, Kaslo, Rossland, Sandon, Slokan and Trail were eight of the original 36 members

Presidents: 12 of 100

- 1 from Castlegar (Mayor Moore, 1983-4)
- 1 from Central Kootenay RD (Chair Cunningham, 2001-2)
- 1 from Cranbrook (Mayor Sang, 1952-3)
- 1 from Grand Forks (Mayor Love, 1934-5)
- 1 from Kimberley (Mayor Ogilvie, 1980-1)
- 3 from Nelson (Mayor McHardy, 1922-3; Mayor Stibbs, 1945-6; Mayor Shorthouse, 1961-2)
- 3 from Trail (Mayor Fletcher, 1955; Mayor Palyga, 1967; Mayor Lakes, 1979-80)
- 1 from Warfield (Mayor Trewhella, 1993-4)
- Chair Cunningham served on the Executive for 11 years, beginning in 1991 as Electoral Area Representative before becoming a table officer in 1996. As President he was an integral part of the Community Charter Council and was involved in the move to defer small community and rural area police costs.
- As President, Mayor Moore was behind the UBCM moving into new areas of membership services such as central purchasing and seminars on a variety of topics; she was also President during very tough economic times and worked hard with the Province to minimize the effects of the economic downturn on communities by maintaining the unconditional nature of revenue sharing grants and working to block downloading onto local governments. She was on the Executive for seven years.
- Mayor Trewhella served on the UBCM Executive for eight years, the first four as Village Representative. During his tenure, he was behind the "Small Talk" forum on the Tuesday of Convention, which prompted the provision of the other Tuesday forums. As President, Mayor Trewhella presided over the move from revenue sharing to the *Local Government Grants Act* and helped ensure that it largely conformed to UBCM's preferred option.
- During his time as President, Mayor Ogilvie studied and recommended the provision of a group benefit plan for UBCM members. He also negotiated a 10-year contract with the RCMP with favourable terms and worked with the Province on the reworking of the *Planning Act*. He spent six years on the Executive.
- As President, Mayor Lakes headed several changes to UBCM, including splitting the seminars for newly elected officials into different locations, rotating member visits, developing and distributing a variety of publications and establishing a more important

and visible role for the UBCM. He also went to Europe as part of a mayors' study trip. He was on the Executive for seven years.

- The current Third Vice President of the UBCM, Councillor Brenda Binnie, is from Castlegar.
- Officials from throughout the AKBLG have served on the UBCM Executive, as follows:

Nelson	9	Fernie	3	Cranbrook	2	Invermere	1
Trail	8	Kootenay- Boundary RD	3	East Kootenay RD	2	Montrose	1
Creston	6	Rossland	3	Grand Forks	2	Salmo	1
Kimberley	5	Warfield	3	Golden	1	Slocan	1
Central Kootenay RD	3	Castlegar	2	Greenwood	1	Sparwood	1

Long Service Recipients: 10/73 (starting in 1969 – year is year awarded)

- 1 from Cranbrook (Mayor Balment, 1969)
- 1 from Creston (Councillor Gatzke, 1998)
- 1 from Fruitvale (Mayor Lewis, 1984)
- 1 from Kimberley (Mayor Ogilvie, 1990)
- 2 from Midway (Mayor McMynn, 1992; Councillor Demchuk, 1999)
- 1 from Rossland (Mayor Elmes, 1978)
- 2 from Salmo (Mayor Hearn, 1978; Mayor Hanson, 1990)
- 1 from Silvertown (Mayor Harding, 1989)

Conventions: 7/101

- Nelson (1920, 1932, 1938, 1944, 1950, 1957)
- Trail (1928)

Historical Info

- 1905 Mayor W.E. Hodder of Kaslo made the long journey to attend the first Convention in New Westminster
- 1906 Mayor Gillette of Nelson, Alderman Grigas of Rossland, Mayer Naden of Greenwood and Alderman Kane of Phoenix were among the 34 delegates at the Convention in Kamloops – Mayor Gillette was voted a member of the Executive and served for two years.
- 1920 At the Convention in Nelson, the proliferation of automobiles was a pressing issue – they were accused of damaging macadamized roads and were considered a prime factor in municipal expenditures. Also, it was “Resolved that the Government be urged to change the *Motor Vehicle Act*, exempting fire department apparatus from the limitation of the fifteen mile per hour maximum speed permitted... It may be stipulated that raising of the fifteen mile speed law be applied only where apparatus is responding to alarm of fire.”
- 1928 At the Convention in Trail, the UBCM passed a resolution urging the provincial government to initiate a program of health insurance.
- 1932 At the Convention in Nelson, the *Nelson Daily News* reported that “Excellent weather aided greatly in the entertaining of over 100 visitors who were driven to Bonnington by local citizens. The pretty plant lawn made a fitting site for the luncheon served by wives and daughters of members of the council. Another novel feature Sunday was a visit by several delegates to the Nelson provincial jail where they saw the 133 Doukhobor

women who were awaiting shipment to the coast. The Doukhobor women exhibited dressmaking and sang several Russian songs.”

1969 Mayor Palyga of Trail lobbied for provincial assistance in building sewage treatment plants – a new environmental concern.

For More Information

For more information on the history of the UBCM, visit the *History* pages under the *About UBCM* section of the CivicNet website.