



AVICC 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. AVICC lays claim to being the first area association and was formed in 1950. However, AVICC members were involved in the formation of the UBCM: the first Vice President, Mayor G.H. Barnard hailed from Victoria and six AVICC communities were among the original UBCM members. AVICC members continue to be actively involved in the direction and operation of UBCM.

Original Members:

- Cowichan, Cumberland, Duncan, Ladysmith, Nanaimo and Victoria were six of the original 36 members

Presidents: 18 of 100

- 1 from Comox-Strathcona RD (Chair Abram, 2000-1)
- 1 from Esquimalt (Reeve Lockley, 1923-5)
- 1 from Ladysmith (Mayor Grouhel, 1974-5)
- 2 from Nanaimo (Mayor Planta, 1910-2; Mayor Harrison, 1943-4)
- 1 from Nanaimo RD (Chairman Terry, 1990)
- 2 from North Cowichan (Reeve Murison, 1957-9; Mayor Morton, 1968-9)
- 3 from Port Alberni (Mayor Hamilton, 1946-7; Mayor Jordan, 1962-3; Mayor Trumper, 1996-7)
- 4 from Saanich (Reeve Crouch, 1933-4; Mayor Curtis, 1969-70; Mayor Couvelier, 1984-5; Leonard, 2003-4)
- 3 from Victoria (Mayor Stewart, 1915-6; Mayor Leeming, 35-6; Mayor George, 1948-9 and 1950-1)
- Murison was a retired Brigadier General who had helped plan the land invasion of Europe. "He took over North Cowichan. He said there's no instituted planning bylaws, subdivision bylaws, building bylaws. There weren't any. He put them all in. He didn't ask. He told." (Don Morton) He was responsible for the Murison Report of 1958, which proposed a restructuring of provincial/municipal financial relations; he wanted each level of government to bear the costs of its own programs without the support of others. The report was unanimously endorsed by delegates and Murison was re-elected, an action described by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee as "a departure from precedent which the convention apparently feels very strongly about."
However, government didn't like the report at all. The Minister, speaking hours before Murison's report was approved, warned UBCM against partisanship and ridiculed the proposals as impractical and simplistic. The *Victoria Colonist* described Murison as "sitting with his forehead in his fists" while the Minister "issued a veiled warning against his proposals."
Murison ran for MLA in Victoria in 1960 on primarily these issues but was not elected.
- Hugh Curtis also served as the first chair of the Municipal Finance Authority and then went on to a long career in provincial government, including as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of Finance.

- Mayor George was the only person to serve two non-consecutive terms as President while representing the same local government; Reeve Lockley, Mayor Planta, and Reeve Murison all served two consecutive terms; they are four of only 13 Presidents who served multiple terms.

Long Service Recipients: 14/73 (starting in 1969 – year is year awarded)

- 1 from Alberni-Clayoquot RD (Director Kokura, 2003)
- 1 from Alert Bay (Mayor Popovich, 1996)
- 1 from Courtenay (Mayor Webber, 1997)
- 3 from Cumberland (Mayor Henderson, 1969; Alderman Cameron, 1980; Mayor Moncrief, 1991)
- 1 from District of Ucluelet (Councillor Larsen, 2004)
- 3 from Duncan (Councillor Lukaitis, 1992; Councillor Caljouw, 1999; Mayor Coleman, 2002)
- 1 from Oak Bay (Mayor Watts, 1985)
- 1 from Port McNeill (Mayor Furney, 1993)
- 1 from Powell River (Mayor Court, 1978)
- 1 from Saanich (Alderman Passmore, 1969)

Conventions: 18/101

- Nanaimo (1908, 1927, 1937, 1958)
- Port Alberni (1921, 1943)
- Qualicum Beach (1945)
- Victoria (1911, 1925, 1933, 1934, 1939, 1949, 1954, 1965, 1971, 1991, 2000)

Historical Info

- 1911 President recommends Victoria as a permanent location for UBCM Conventions. (rejected)
- 1921 Special Convention held in Victoria to press for emergency assistance to municipalities as they "cannot carry out their functions within the available revenues."
- 1933 Resolved that Province control earwig plague in the city of Victoria.
- 1934 At UBCM Convention in Victoria in January, President reported grimly that "We as municipalities are standing today at the parting of the ways, and unless some relief is given us the result is inevitable. We cannot carry on." He was hopeful re proposed provincial changes.
- 1937 Provincial economy improving and number on relief down. Convention in Nanaimo is "the largest convention, the most enjoyable, and the most satisfactory ever held by the UBCM." President praised Government for consulting Union on important issues.
- 1942 Resolution endorsed at Convention to preserve Cathedral Grove, citing importance of forests for tourism – J.M. Leyland appeared before the Resolutions Committee to speak about the campaign to save "natural beauty spots in B.C. from destruction at the hands of commercial interests."
- 1965 President Jenewein leads 150 municipal representatives to visit Quebec, reciprocating a visit from Quebecers the previous year – in aid of national unity.

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.