



NCMA 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, NCMA members were involved in the early history of the UBCM and they continue to be actively involved in the direction and operation of UBCM.

Presidents: 11 of 100

- 1 from 100 Mile House (Mayor Marks, 1972-4)
- 1 from Dawson Creek (Mayor Benson, 1976)
- 1 from Fort St. John (Mayor Thorlakson, 1999-2000)
- 2 from Kitimat (Mayor Thom, 1982-3; Councillor Monaghan 1994-6)
- 1 from Mackenzie (Mayor Whalley, 1987-8)
- 1 from Prince Rupert (Mayor Hills, 1956)
- 2 from Quesnel (Mayor Fraser, 1963-4; Mayor Wallace 1997-8)
- 2 from Williams Lake (Mayor Gardner, 1966-7; Mayor Fraser, 1977)

- Accomplishments during Mayor Thorlakson’s presidency included a new infrastructure program and the passage of the new *Local Government Act*. He served on the Executive for eight years.
- As President, Mayor Wallace presided over the passage of Bill 31, which recognized local government as an order of government. He also worked on the sharing of traffic fine revenues. He served on the Executive for seven years.
- Councillor Monaghan was one of only 14 presidents to serve more than one term. She worked on getting local government recognized, setting up the Protocol of Recognition that led to Bill 31. She also signed MOUs on culture, energy and accessibility with the provincial government. She served on the Executive for nine years.
- Mayor Whalley was president when the Municipal Insurance Association was launched and when the first UBCM seminars for “experienced” elected officials were launched. He served on the Executive for seven years.
- Mayor Thom came into the presidency during one of the toughest economic times in recent history. He worked successfully to limit the Province’s reduction of funding to local governments. He served on the Executive for eight years.
- The current second vice president is Mayor Dahlen of Dawson Creek, the small communities representative is Mayor Hartwell of Telkwa and three of the five directors at large are from NCMA members: Chair Armstrong of the Cariboo RD, Mayor Pond of Prince Rupert and Councillor Rogers of Prince George.
- Officials from throughout the NCMA area have served on the UBCM Executive, as follows:

Prince George	10	Fort St. John	3	100 Mile House	1	Telkwa	1
Dawson Creek	7	Smithers	3	Fort St. James	1	Terrace	1
Prince Rupert	6	Cariboo RD	2	Hazelton	1	Valemount	1
Kitimat	5	Houston	2	Masset	1		
Quesnel	5	Vanderhoof	2	McBride	1		
Mackenzie	4	Williams Lake	2	Pouce Coupe	1		

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

- 1 from Cariboo RD (Chair Armstrong, 2003)
- 1 from Chetwynd (Mayor Lasser, 1991)
- 1 from Dawson Creek (Mayor Trail, 1992)
- 1 from Taylor (Mayor Jarvis, 2004)
- 2 from Hazelton (Mayor Maitland, 1996; Councillor Janzé, 1998)
- 1 from Houston (Mayor Euverman, 2002)
- 1 from Kitimat (Mayor Johnson, 1996)
- 1 from McBride (Councillor Kolida, 2000)
- 1 from Prince Rupert (Mayor Lester, 1981)

UBCM Conventions: 6/101

- Dawson Creek (1963)
- Prince George (1955, 1967, 1973, 1980)
- On a steamer *en route* to Prince Rupert (1923)

Historical Info

- 1923 Convention held on steamer to Prince Rupert. Convention protested that “the present disgraceful situation throughout the Province in regard to formation of clubs and the sale of liquor therein. ...the situation is worse than in the days of open bars and is not only destructive to morals, but is resulting in bringing about disregard for law and order.”
- 1955 At Convention in Prince George, Minister Black proposed a union of adjoining municipalities to deal with urban spread, proposed amalgamation of local boards and commissions and advocated more community planning. He also included this notice in the Convention program: “The Honourable W.D. Black, Minister of Municipal Affairs, has kindly offered to interview, during the Conference, representatives of any municipality on individual municipal problems.” This began the procedure of appointments with Cabinet and government departments at Convention.
- 1956 NCMA formed. Executive Director Theo Adams lauded its formation, saying “I feel confident that with the tremendous growth in all parts of the central areas of this Province, this organization will serve an effective purpose in inter-municipal relations, and will prove very valuable to individual municipalities.”
- 1963 Convention in Dawson Creek urged that the Province create regional planning boards as well as greater financial assistance on a per capita or assessment basis. According to *The Province*, delegates also supported “two of BC’s most controversial issues, the introduction of government operated lotteries and fluoridation of water systems.” At Convention, delegates had to stay wherever they could, including neighbouring communities and even train cars.

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.