



SILGA 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, SILGA members were involved in the formation of the UBCM: Mayor Stevens of Kamloops was the mover behind the formation of the organization and its first president; Mayor Bell of Enderby was also on the first Executive and was the third UBCM president. In addition, seven SILGA communities were among the original UBCM members. SILGA members continue to be actively involved in the direction and operation of UBCM.

Original Members:

- Enderby, Kamloops, Kelowna, Revelstoke, Salmon Arm, Spallumcheen and Vernon were seven of the original 36 members

Presidents: 13 of 100

- 1 from Cache Creek (Mayor Ranta, 1998-9)
- 1 from Central Okanagan RD (Director Dinwoodie, 2004-5)
- 1 from Enderby (Mayor Bell, 1909-10)
- 6 from Kamloops (Mayor Stevens, 1905; Mayor Robinson, 1913-4; Alderman Scanlan, 1942-3; Mayor Fitzwater, 1956-7; Mayor Wing, 1968; Councillor Wallace 2002-3)
- 1 from Kelowna (Mayor Jones, 1939-40)
- 1 from Lumby (Mayor Duke, 1977)
- 2 from Vernon (Mayor Smith, 1916-7; Mayor Clarke, 1990)

- Kamloops is one of only three communities to have provided six UBCM presidents.
- This year, with Director Dinwoodie at the helm, the UBCM has signed an Agreement in Principle with the federal and provincial governments regarding the return of gas taxes to municipalities under the New Deal for Cities and Communities. Director Dinwoodie has served on the Executive for seven years.
- As President, Councillor Wallace presided over the finalization of the *Community Charter*, which came into effect January 1, 2004. She served nine years on the Executive.
- Mayor Ranta worked on reforming the *Municipal Act*, and was involved in significant changes to gaming policy. He served eight years on the Executive.
- Mayor Wing was the first Mayor of Chinese descent in North America and Kamloops' first native-born mayor.
- Chair Hobson of the Central Okanagan RD/Kelowna is currently a Director at Large.
- Officials from throughout the SILGA area have served on the UBCM Executive, as follows:

Kamloops	19	Summerland	4	Osoyoos	2	Logan Lake	1
Vernon	9	Enderby	3	Peachland	2	Lumby	1
Penticton	8	Okanagan-Similkameen RD	3	Armstrong	1	Merritt	1
Kelowna	7	Salmon Arm	3	Ashcroft	1		
Revelstoke	5	Cache Creek	2	Columbia-Shuswap RD	1		

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

- 1 from Enderby (Councillor Shipmaker, 2004)
- 2 from Kelowna (Mayor Parkinson, 1969; Mayor Stuart, 1992)
- 1 from Lumby (Mayor Duke, 1978)
- 1 from Princeton (Councillor Sulentich)
- 1 from Revelstoke (Mayor Hardman)
- 2 from Salmon Arm (Mayor Nancollas, 1969, Reeve Ritchie, 1970)
- 1 from Spallumcheen (Alderman Whittaker, 1986)
- 1 from Thompson-Nicola RD (Director Walch, 1998)

UBCM Conventions: 32/101

- Kamloops (1906, 1914, 1922, 1942, 1962, 1969)
- Kelowna (1930, 1959, 2004)
- Penticton (1918, 1924, 1956, 1966, 1970, 1975, 1978, 1983, 1989, 1996, 1998)
- Revelstoke (1912, 1940)
- Salmon Arm (1910)
- Vernon (1909, 1916, 1926, 1952, 1961, 1974, 1977, 1986, 1992)

Historical Info

- 1906 Convention in Kamloops agrees that all requests for municipal legislation should first be presented to UBCM Conventions.
- 1908 Mayor Bell of Enderby condemns alcohol and spitting: “Look also at the bold and constant way in which our liquor regulations are violated... Again, nearly all of our cities have, by by-laws, prohibited spitting on side-walks and in public places; and still in these same cities ladies skirts are mopping up tobacco juice and microbes everywhere.”
- 1910 UBCM president Mayor Bell of Enderby urges a resolution to the federal government stating that “Any person convicted of entrapping and selling into bondage for immoral purposes any girl or woman shall be punished by life imprisonment... And after considering the heartless nature of this crime, I would favour adding the lash.”
- 1916 Convention held in Vernon, site of a thriving military camp. Delegates collect \$42 for the soldier’s tobacco fund. During the Convention, prisoners of war try to escape by tunneling out of the Vernon Alien Internment Camp, only to be discovered at the last minute. A resolution to permit women to run for municipal office is greeted by a chorus of ‘No’s’ and referred to the Executive.
- 1924 Convention in Penticton discusses Putnam-Weir Commission on education and resolves unanimously that Province take over whole cost of education, or, if not that, implement a 1% rise in income tax to finance it.

- 1954 Theo Adams hired as first Executive Director of the UBCM. He was a former mayor of Vernon (1948-51) and had been the First Vice President of the UBCM in 1950.
- 1962 Convention in Kamloops unanimously condemns Homeowner Grant on principal. Executive wrote to Premier but received no response.
- 1986 Premier VanderZalm received standing ovation at Convention in Vernon for speech on increasing local autonomy, "I'm saying you can't make rules in Victoria or Vancouver that are fair, workable or applicable in all parts of British Columbia"

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.