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THE CHANGING ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN BC

The role and responsibilities of local government in British Columbia have changed significantly over time. This paper examines the evolution of local government in BC and recent developments in provincial-municipal relations.

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INTRODUCTION

The role and responsibilities of local government in British Columbia have changed significantly over the past century. Initially treated as an extension of the provincial government, local governments have grown in scope and complexity. Today, local governments in BC are recognized as an important third order of governance. This paper examines the evolution of local government and recent developments in provincial-municipal relations.

WHAT IS LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

Often used to describe municipalities and regional districts, the concept of local government can be generally applied to non-provincial or non-federal bodies composed of locally-elected public officials with defined jurisdictions and powers of property taxation. In 2008, Robert L. Bish and Eric G. Clemens identified nine types of local government in BC including municipalities, regional districts, school districts, regional hospital districts, improvement districts, regional library districts, the Islands Trust, the Sechelt Indian Government District,¹ and the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (Translink).²

Local governments are an important part of the public sector in BC. As democratic institutions, local governments enable local citizens to participate in community endeavours. Local governments also provide numerous administrative functions that affect citizens on a day-to-day basis. The provision of streets, water and sewers, public works, airports, fire and public safety, parks, and recreation facilities fall under local government jurisdiction. Local governments also have powers of bylaw creation and property taxation, and the ability to regulate planning and zoning, business licensing, parking, public transportation, and emergency planning. In addition to providing important services, local governments tend to act in responsive and efficient ways.³

Type	Number
Municipalities/Villages/Towns	159
Regional Districts	28
School Districts	59
Regional Hospital Districts	23
Improvement Districts	233
Regional Library District	3
Islands Trust	1
Sechelt Indian Government District	1
Translink	1
Total	508

Local Governments in BC

Source: Bish and Clemens, *Local Government in British Columbia*, 6.

PROVINCIAL STATUTES AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local governments are constitutionally subject to provincial statute. Passed at the time of Confederation, the *British North America Act* grants the provinces exclusive

power over “Municipal institutions in the province.”¹ Early types of local government, however, existed prior to BC’s entry to Confederation in 1871. The cities of New Westminster (1860) and Victoria (1862) were incorporated during the colonial period.

The first provincial law concerning municipalities was passed one year after BC entered Confederation. *An Act Respecting Municipalities* laid out basic criteria for the creation of city municipalities, the election of councils, and municipal taxation.⁴ A more extensive set of provincial laws pertaining to local government were passed in 1896. The *Municipal Clauses Act* of that year specified areas of municipal responsibility; the *Municipal Elections Act* and *Municipal Incorporation Act* outlined terms for municipal elections and incorporations.⁵

Provincial laws affecting local governments were revised in 1914 under the *Municipal Act*, which replaced existing laws with a consolidated statute specifying the main rules under which local governments operate. Additional legislation was passed in 1920 with the *Village Municipalities Act*, which allowed smaller urban areas to incorporate as villages. The *Municipal Act* was later significantly revised in the mid-1950s. Amendments in 1955 and 1957 further consolidated municipal laws and allowed for the creation of local districts and towns.

The *Municipal Act* was changed to the *Local Government Act* in 2000 and is still in force today. The *Local Government Act* comprises over a thousand sections and has been the most important law affecting local government in BC. Only the City of Vancouver, incorporated in 1886, is exempt from the provincial statutory provisions affecting local government. The passing of the *Vancouver Charter* in 1953 established a separate governing model for the city. The Resort Municipality of Whistler has also had its own enabling statute since 1975, although the municipality remains subject to most provisions of the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter*.

Currently, interactions between provincial and local governments are extensive and articulated through numerous provincial laws. Discussed below, recent legislative developments such as the passing of the *Community Charter* in 2003 reflect the growing authority and independence of local government in BC.

EVOLUTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN BC

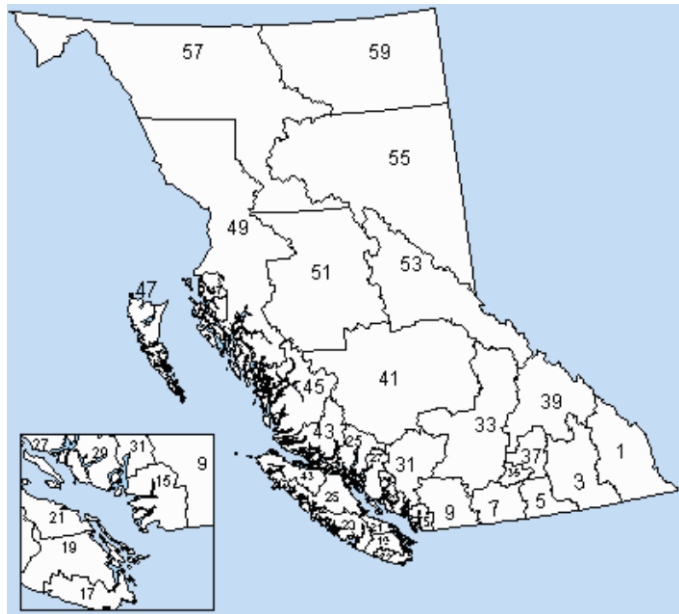
Initially limited to providing basic services for maintaining law and order, local government responsibilities have grown since the late-nineteenth century to include a wide array of functions such as welfare,⁶ public transportation, fire protection, and medical services. Modern local governments deal with economic issues such as forests, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, trade policy, social issues such as healthcare, youth and seniors, and environmental issues such as climate change, air quality, drinking water protection, contaminated sites, and fish protection. Changes to the structure and administration of local governance since the 1960s reflect the expanding size and scope of local government. Neil A. Swainson describes how local government in BC has

¹ Canada, Department of Justice, “Constitution Acts 1867-1982: The Constitution Act [British North America Act], 1867,” 30 & 31 Victoria, c. 3 (U.K.) s. 92 (8), http://lois.justice.gc.ca/en/const/c1867_e.html (Accessed 12 June 2009).

undergone “incremental organizational evolution” reflecting an expansion of the municipal framework itself.⁷

One such development was the creation of regional districts in 1965. Regional districts are boards composed of individuals either from municipal councils or directly elected from “constituencies” based on designated “electoral areas.”⁸ At the time regional districts were created, approximately 99% of provincial lands existed as non-municipal “unorganized territory.” Although specialized regional boards existed in some rural areas as early as 1911, residents living outside municipal boundaries tended to receive services directly from the provincial government.⁹ Following their creation, regional district incorporations quickly grew in number and have become an important part of the province’s local government infrastructure. Geographically, regional districts constitute the main form of local government in BC although the majority of British Columbians reside in municipalities. As of 2008, over 87% of the BC population resided in municipalities even though the area encompassed by them comprises less than 2% of provincial lands.¹⁰

The emergence of other organizations in the latter twentieth century further reflects the evolution and growing scope of local government in BC. Area associations, for example, became formalized in the 1950s as groups of municipalities working collectively to develop planning, deal with regional issues, and lobby higher government. BC’s five area associations represent the major geographical regions of the province.¹¹ Development regions are similar aggregates of regional districts banded together for common purposes. Created in 1970 by the *Municipal Finance Authority Act*, the Municipal Finance Authority allows municipal governments the ability to pool their credit and gain increased borrowing and spending capacity.¹² Also created to serve the corporate needs of local governments, the Municipal Insurance Association is a self-insurance pooling program providing insurance services for municipalities and regional districts since 1987.¹³ More recently, the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (now known as Translink) was created in 1998 to extend local government control over



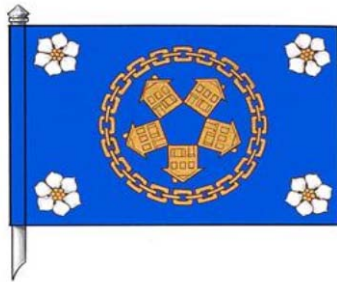
Map showing BC’s current 28 regional districts.

Regional districts vary widely in size and function. The Greater Vancouver Regional District, for example, comprises seven cities, eight urban municipalities, three villages, and three electoral areas. The Central Coast Regional District encompasses five electoral areas containing 3000 people.

Source: BC Stats, “Regional Districts,” <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Regions/regDist.asp> (Accessed 22 May 2009).

transit, major roads, air care, and transportation demand management. Since 2007, TransLink's governance is provided through a Board of Directors, Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, and Regional Transportation Commissioner.¹⁴

The largest and most important provincial local government association is the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Founded in 1905 and incorporated by statute in 1959, the UBCM was created to represent and serve all local governments in the province.¹⁵ Prior to the establishment of the UBCM, separate and often isolated communities dealt with the provincial government in Victoria on an individual basis. As



The UBCM Flag

The flag was officially granted to UBCM by the Chief Herald of Canada on September 29, 2005.

Source: Civicnet, "Officials UBCM Flag and Badge,"

<http://www.civicnet.bc.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?PageID=289> (Accessed 22 April 2009).

a result, municipal governments were divided and unable to effectively lobby the province with regional concerns.¹⁶

Today, the UBCM represents all municipalities and regional districts in the province (as well as the Islands Trust) in interactions with the province.

Conventions provide the main forum for policy making and the annual UBCM meeting brings together over one thousand local officials from across the province.

The UBCM also plays a significant policy and administrative role in managing grants and programs for local governments. It has been particularly active since 1996, when steps were taken to clarify and expand local government roles and responsibilities.¹⁷

RELATIONS WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

As noted, provinces have overarching constitutional jurisdiction over lower government in Canada. Virtually no forms of provincial supervision of municipalities, however, existed until 1912, when formal audits were first made required.¹⁸ Although a Royal Commission on Municipal Government recommended the creation of a dedicated provincial department for local government administration that year, a Department of Municipal Affairs was not created until 1934.¹⁹ Only in 1965 did the ministry acquire a dedicated minister with the single portfolio.²⁰ Since then, the provincial department responsible for municipal affairs has changed several times. The Ministry of Community and Rural Development currently oversees municipal affairs and the administration of the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter*. See the appendix for a chronological list of ministers and ministries responsible for municipal affairs in BC.

Throughout much of the twentieth century, provincial governments tended to act unilaterally when dealing with lower government. Local governments were seen as subordinates of the provincial government and decisions affecting communities were made with little local consultation. As a result, relations between these levels of

government were often strained and characterized by conflict. In 1969, for instance, municipal representatives clashed with the Social Credit government over the issue of allowing public sports events on Sundays. The passage of the *Land Commission Act* in 1973 was another source of friction with municipalities, who saw land use as a municipal issue affecting property tax and economic development planning.²¹

In addition to jurisdictional conflicts, financing arrangements have also contributed to intergovernmental strife at the local level. Since they have limited independent ability to raise funds outside of property taxation, local governments have had to turn to the province for financial relief and assistance. Tax and revenue sharing, property taxation arrangements, and grants constitute the main means by which the province allocates financial assistance to local governments.²² Such funding arrangements have been a source of friction between levels of government since the 1950s.²³ In the 1980s, for example, the provincial government cut unconditional grants to municipalities, provoking local calls for reform to the distribution system and greater consultation with local government through the UBCM.²⁴ By that decade's end, local government demands for a Local Bill of Rights to guarantee municipal recognition, responsibility, rights, and revenue began to mount.²⁵

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Often antagonistic during the last century, relations between provincial and local governments have become more cooperative in recent years. Developments since the 1990s reflect a growing recognition of local governments as a distinct order of governance in Canadian federalism. As part of this shift, provincial governments have increasingly involved local governments in the planning and consultation process. On 22 March 1993, for example, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and the UBCM reached an agreement affirming the province's commitment to municipal consultation during treaty negotiations.²⁶ Around this time, the government also began examining new approaches to interactive planning with local governments.²⁷ In 1995, the province revised its growth strategies legislation to reflect a new series of principles such as "no new institutions," "voluntary participation," "compatibility," and "dispute resolution."²⁸

In 1996, the government of British Columbia committed to Municipal Act Reform (MAR), a multi-year process to overhaul the *Municipal Act*. That year, the province and the UBCM signed the Protocol of Recognition, entrenching a series of principles including partnership, notification and consultation, information sharing, and dispute resolution. Perhaps most importantly, the protocol establishes local government as "an independent, responsible and accountable order of government."²⁹ One year later, both orders of government signed an appending "Protocol of Recognition Sub-Agreement on a New Legislative Foundation for Local Government." The sub-agreement affirmed a commitment to modern legislation to keep pace with changing conditions, local objectives, and public and political expectations. It further entrenched nine principles such as legislative flexibility, appropriate provincial government involvement, consultation, and resolution of inter-local governmental issues.³⁰

Major revisions of the *Local Government Act* followed in 1998, 1999, and 2000.³¹ In 1998, local governments received new corporate powers of property acquisition as well as the ability to enter into public-private partnerships for public works and services. More than fifty requirements for provincial approval were removed thereby increasing local government authority. Moreover, the preamble to the 1998 revision defines local government as “an independent, responsible and accountable order of government within its jurisdiction.” With the amendment, BC became the first province in Canada to formally recognize local government as an independent order of government.³² Subsequent revisions to the *Local Government Act* in 1999 and 2000 continued the trend by furthering local government powers of administration and management. Around this time, the provincial government also began undertaking new consultative research initiatives as part of the MAR process. In March 1999, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs released “Tools of the Trade: Part of the *Municipal Act* Reform Initiative of British Columbia.” The report documents the use and effectiveness of local government planning tools in the province through the use of questionnaire data solicited from municipal and regional district governments.³³

Another notable development reflecting the growing importance of local government was the 2000 signing of the Vancouver Agreement. This tripartite urban development agreement between the City of Vancouver, Province of BC, and federal government entrenches principles such as strategic planning, sustainable local economic development, heritage site preservation, and community and shareholder consultations.³⁴ First signed in March 2000 for a five year term, the Vancouver Agreement has been renewed until March 2010.

Consultations between provincial and municipal authorities over municipal reform continued following the election of the Liberal government in 2001. That year, a Minister of State for the Community Charter was appointed and the Community Charter Council, a group established by statute composed of UBCM and provincial representatives, was created to consider legislative reform. The Community Charter Council’s work culminated with the 2003 passage of the *Community Charter*.

THE COMMUNITY CHARTER

In addition to recognizing municipal autonomy, responsibility, and accountability, the *Community Charter* establishes a legal framework for local government operations and relations with the province. The charter enshrines in legislation the principle of “no forced amalgamations” and guarantees that municipalities cannot be forcibly amalgamated in hopes of improving administrative efficiency and cost savings. The *Community Charter* also promises “no downloading” by recognizing areas of concurrent regulatory authority and the need for consultation and dispute resolution. More generally, Bish and Clemens note how the *Community Charter* accords municipalities the legal status of a natural person (corporate powers) whereas previous legislation tended to prescribe roles to local governments.³⁵ According to the UBCM, the charter marks the final step in legitimizing local government as an order of government. The *Community Charter* came into effect 1 January 2004.³⁶

Since the passing of the *Community Charter*, local governments have seen increases in their funding sources from both the provincial and federal government. In 2004, for example, the province began giving 100% of the revenue generated from traffic fines incurred within municipal boundaries to municipalities with policing responsibilities. Also that year, the federal government moved to share gas tax revenues with municipalities and to increase funds by up to \$2 billion a year for local governments to develop environmental sustainability infrastructure. The UBCM notes how the measure makes new federal funds for local government available, predictable, and reliable.³⁷ The *Building Canada* plan announced in 2007 also increases federal money for municipal development initiatives through revenues from the Gas Tax Fund, General Sales Tax rebates, and other funding sources.³⁸ Furthermore, in January 2009, the federal government announced a two-year multi-billion infrastructure plan whereby provincial, federal, and municipal governments each pay one-third of the cost of approved infrastructure projects.³⁹

The Community Charter
Statutes of BC (2003) ch. 26

The passing of the Community Charter in 2003 marked the culmination of a municipal reform process begun in the early 1990s. Divided into sections on administration, finance, governance, and service and regulatory powers, the Charter provides a full set of principles for municipal-provincial relations in BC.

[Click here](#) for an index and complete copy of the Community Charter.

Although the roles and responsibilities of local government have increased significantly in recent years, limiting controls remain in several areas of provincial interest. As a result, conflicts between provincial and municipal authorities continue to arise despite recent reforms. The 2003 *Significant Projects Streamlining Act*, for example, drew widespread criticisms from local government representatives by allowing the province to override local government bylaws in cases where provincial interests are paramount.⁴⁰ A 2006 amendment to the *Utilities Commission Act* drew similar protests from local governments for allowing the provincial government to override local government zoning requirements on Crown land when developing new independent power projects.⁴¹ Others have questioned whether the Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement signed between BC and Alberta will leave municipalities susceptible to bylaw challenges or financial penalties from Alberta businesses demanding equal treatment.⁴² These disputes reflect ongoing tensions over jurisdiction and cost moving between local and provincial governments into the twenty-first century.

CONCLUSION

The UBCM describes local governments over the last century as having moved from their status as “children” of the province to their position today as a recognized third order of government.⁴³ The developments of the latter decades of the twentieth century particularly reflect this shift in the status and importance accorded to local government in Canadian federalism.

**APPENDIX:
LIST OF PROVINCIAL MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MUNICIPAL
AFFAIRS IN BC**

Date		Minister Responsible	Ministry	
31-Mar	1934	Arthur W. Gray	Department of Municipal Affairs created	
10-Dec	1941	Arthur W. Gray		
11-May	1944	Herbert Anscomb		
12-Apr	1946	R. C. MacDonald		
29-Dec	1947	R. C. MacDonald		
19-Jan	1952	A. D. Turnbull		
1-Aug	1952	W. D. Black		
20-Mar	1964	D. R. Campbell		
15-Sep	1972	J. G. Lorimer		
22-Dec	1975	H. A. Curtis		
29-Oct	1976	H. A. Curtis		
4-Dec	1978			Department changed to Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
				Housing moved to Lands, Parks and Housing, q.v. as Ministry of Municipal Affairs.
5-Dec	1978	William Vander Zalm		
5-Jun	1979	William Vander Zalm		
23-Nov	1979	William Vander Zalm		
10-Aug	1982	Jack Heinrich		
26-May	1983	Bill Ritchie		
27-Feb	1985	Bill Ritchie		
11-Feb	1986	Bill Ritchie		
5-Aug	1986		Ritchie resigned as Minister. Heinrich appointed acting Minister.	
7-Aug	1986	J. Heinrich	Heinrich resigned effective Monday August 11, 1986.	
14-Aug	1986	Rita Johnson	Ministry changed to Municipal Affairs and Transit, q.v.	
6-Nov	1986	Rita Johnson	Ministry title reverts to Municipal Affairs.	
6-Jul	1988	Rita Johnson	Ministry title changed to Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture, q.v.	
1-Nov	1989	Lyall Hanson		
2-Apr	1991	Lyall Hanson		
15-Apr	1991	Graham Bruce		
5-Nov	1991	Robin Blencoe	Ministry renamed Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Housing, q.v. and Minister Responsible for Culture, q.v.	
15-Sep	1993		Ministry renamed Ministry of Municipal Affairs.	
15-Sep	1993	Darlene Marzari		
28-Feb	1996	Lois Boone	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing established, q.v.	
17-Jun	1996	Dan Miller		

Date		Minister Responsible	Ministry
23 Sep	1996	Dan Miller	
6-Jan	1997	Michael Farnworth	
18-Feb	1998	Jenny Kwan	Municipal Affairs and Housing renamed Municipal Affairs.
21-Jul	1999	Jim Doyle	
Feb-29	2000	Cathy McGregor	
1-Nov	2000	Jim Doyle	
5-Jun	2001	George Abbott	Renamed Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, q.v.
5-Jun	2001	Ted Nebbeling	Minister of State for the Community Charter appointed from June 5, 2001 to January 26, 2004.
1-Jan	2004	Murray Coell	Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.
16-Jun	2005	Ida Chong	Renamed Ministry of Community Services.
23-Jun	2008	Blair Lekstrom	Renamed Ministry of Community Development.
19-Jan	2009	Kevin Kreuger	
10-Jun	2009	Bill Bennett	Renamed Ministry of Community and Rural Development

ENDNOTES

¹ Passed in 1987, the *Sechelt Indian Government District Enabling Act* established the Sechelt Indian Government District as a self-governing entity within the province. The 1998 Nisga'a Final Agreement provides for another form of local Indian self-government through the Nisga'a Lisims Government and Nisga'a Village Governments. The Nisga'a Lisims Government interacts directly with both the provincial and federal governments. <http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/firstnation/nisgaa/chapters/government.html#legal> (Accessed 8 June 2009).

² For a discussion of types of local governments see Robert L. Bish and Eric G. Clemens, *Local Government in British Columbia* [Fourth Edition] (Richmond: Union of British Columbia Municipalities, 2008), 5-7, 209-222.

³ *Ibid.*, 1, 4, 30.

⁴ *Statutes of BC [SBC]* (1872) no. 35.

⁵ *SBC* (1896) ch. 37-39.

⁶ Municipal governments provided local welfare services prior to the creation of a national unemployment insurance service in 1940. See James Struthers, *No Fault of Their Own* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1983).

⁷ Neil A. Swainson, "The Provincial-Municipal Relationship," in *The Reins of Power: Governing British Columbia*, J. Terence Morley et al, eds. (Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre 1983), 255.

⁸ See *SBC* (1965) ch. 28; Swainson, "The Provincial-Municipal Relationship," 241.

⁹ See Rihsard C. Tindal and Susan Nobes Tindal, *Local Government in Canada* (Scarborough: Nelson Thompson Learning, 2000), 140. Some improvement districts and regional area planning boards existed in unorganized territory prior to the creation of regional districts. See Swainson, "The Provincial-Municipal Relationship," 240; Union of British Columbia Municipalities, *UBCM: The First Century* (Richmond: Granville Island Publishing, 2006), 135.

¹⁰ Bish and Clemens, *Local Government in British Columbia*, 5.

¹¹ Union of British Columbia Municipalities, *UBCM: The First Century*, 120-121.

¹² *Ibid.*, 138-9.

¹³ Municipal Insurance Association, "Description of MIA,"

http://www.miabc.org/Library/Administration/Introduction/dcd389_description.aspx (Accessed 21 May 2009).

¹⁴ Translink, "Board Governance Model," <http://www.translink.ca/en/About-TransLink/TransLink-Governance-and-Board/Board-Governance-Model.aspx> (Accessed 9 June 2009). For a detailed list of local government developments over time see Frances Christopherson, "Bibliography and Chronology of Regional Planning in British Columbia," ([Vancouver]: Ministry of Municipal Affairs, 2000, 57-69.

¹⁵ The incorporation allowed the UBCM to hold property in its own name as well as borrow, raise, or secure funds. Union of British Columbia Municipalities, *UBCM: The First Century*, 119-120.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, ix.

¹⁷ Bish and Clemens, *Local Government in British Columbia*, 13.

¹⁸ Two years later, the Office of the Inspector of Municipalities was created in the Department of the Attorney General. *Ibid.*, 22.

¹⁹ See British Columbia, *Report of the Royal Commission on Municipal Government, 1912* (Victoria: King's Printer, 1913), L9; *SBC* (1943) ch. 52.

²⁰ Swainson, "The Provincial-Municipal Relationship," 241.

²¹ Union of British Columbia Municipalities, *UBCM: The First Century*, 110-111, 160.

²² Swainson, "The Provincial-Municipal Relationship," 258.

²³ See Union of British Columbia Municipalities, *UBCM: The First Century*, 126-134.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 169.

²⁵ Patrick Smith and Kennedy Stewart, "Up the Policy Stream without a Champion: Local Democratic Legislative Reform in British Columbia – 1991-1996 and 1996-2001," in Michael Howlett et al., eds. *Integration in the New Millennium* (Proceedings of the British Columbia Political Science Association, 2000), 68.

²⁶ British Columbia, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, "Memorandum of Understanding between the Province of British Columbia and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities," [22 March 1993].

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- ²⁷ See British Columbia, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, “An Explanatory Guide to B.C.’s Growth Strategies,” (Victoria: Ministry of Municipal Affairs, 1995), 2.
- ²⁸ *Ibid.*, 5; *SBC* (1995) ch. 9.
- ²⁹ “Protocol of Recognition [1996],” <http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/public/PubDocs/bcdocs/263943/index.htm> (Accessed 15 April 2009).
- ³⁰ “Protocol of Recognition Sub-Agreement on a New Legislative Foundation for Local Government Between the Government of British Columbia and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities [1997],” <http://www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/public/PubDocs/bcdocs/314050/SUBAGREEMENT.htm> (Accessed 17 March 2009).
- ³¹ See *SBC* (1998) ch. 34; *SBC* (1999) ch. 37; *SBC* (2000) ch. 7.
- ³² *Vancouver Sun*, 5 June 1998, “Province Plans to Give Municipalities Broader Powers: Municipal Affairs Minister Jenny Kwan Says the Move Will Help Cut Red Tape,” B3; Bish and Clemens, *Local Government in British Columbia*, 22-23.
- ³³ British Columbia, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, “Tools of the Trade: Local Government Planning in British Columbia [A report prepared by Christopher Gawronski for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs]” ([Victoria]: Ministry of Municipal Affairs, 1999).
- ³⁴ See “The Vancouver Agreement: An Urban Development Agreement between Canada – British Columbia – Vancouver regarding Economic and Social and Community Development in the City of Vancouver [signed 9 March 2000],” <http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/planning/dtes/pdf/va.pdf> (Accessed 22 October 2008), 2-3.
- ³⁵ Union of British Columbia Municipalities, *UBCM: The First Century*, 221; Bish and Clemens, *Local Government in British Columbia*, 23-24.
- ³⁶ Union of British Columbia Municipalities, *UBCM: The First Century*, 219, 220.
- ³⁷ *Ibid.*, 225, 226.
- ³⁸ Canada, Infrastructure Canada, “Building Canada – Modern Infrastructure for a Modern Canada,” <http://www.buildingcanada-chantierscanada.gc.ca/plandocs/booklet-livret/booklet-livret09-eng.html> (Accessed 25 May 2009).
- ³⁹ *Vancouver Sun*, 27 January, 2009, “Cities Seek Payment Flexibility; Gas-tax Transfer Touted as Best Way to Share Funding of Multibillion-Dollar Infrastructure Plan,” B3.
- ⁴⁰ Union of British Columbia Municipalities, *UBCM: The First Century*, 221; *Province*, 4 December 2003, “69 Towns Slam Law Allowing Victoria to Overrule Local Gov’ts,” A7; *Times Colonist*, 21 November 2003, “Province Moves Balance of Power Its Way as Municipalities Howl,” A3.
- ⁴¹ *Interior News*, 12 October 2006, “Fight on to Beat Bill 30,” A10; *Times Colonist*, 13 May 2006, “NDP Critic Condemns Power-Project Legislation,” A5.
- ⁴² *Burnaby News Leader*, 12 July 2007, “Grey Areas Remain in Trade Deal Between Alberta, B.C.,” 7.
- ⁴³ Union of British Columbia Municipalities, *UBCM: The First Century*, 231.