



## News Release



# Premier, UBCM President Open Local Government House

*UBCM's new office building a model of sustainable design, BC Products*

For Immediate Release: 2:00 PM, July 14, 2009

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**(Victoria, BC)** Premier Gordon Campbell joined Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) President Robert Hobson to open Local Government House in Victoria earlier today. The province donated the land at 525 Government St. to recognize UBCM's service on behalf of B.C. communities for over a century.

"A new home for the Union of B.C. Municipalities that reflects the best of British Columbia's communities is a fitting tribute to more than 100 years of service to our province and its people," said Premier Campbell. "This building showcases the incredible diversity of our province, B.C.'s cutting-edge green design and the enormous range of uses for B.C.'s forest products."

The location of Local Government House close to the legislature emphasizes the priority given to close intergovernmental relations by both the province and UBCM. Through many years of working together, B.C. and UBCM have developed a collaborative relationship that includes statutory recognition of UBCM in the Community Charter.

"The opening of Local Government House is an important milestone in UBCM's history," said President Hobson. "For the first time, B.C. local governments have a permanent home near the Legislature to support our work on behalf of B.C. communities. UBCM is very appreciative of the gift of land at 525 Government which has made Local Government House a reality."

Local Government House has been designed for LEED Gold certification and is a model of sustainable small building construction. Extensive use of recycled materials and locally sourced B.C. products minimized the carbon footprint resulting from construction. The building and its furnishings highlight B.C. forest products, and features mountain pine beetle wood in the exposed beams and interior ceilings. Local Government House also incorporates an advanced storm water management system that includes a green roof, a 16,000-litre cistern and rain garden that will filter and reuse nearly 100% of the site's stormwater.

With offices in Richmond and Victoria, UBCM advocates on matters of legislative concern for local governments and provides a variety of services to its members, including the administration of funding programs. Every local government in British Columbia is a member of UBCM.

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