

## LGLA Launch Event a Resounding Success

The Local Government Leadership Academy's inaugural event, the BC Local Government Leadership Forum, was held June 13-15 at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond. Over 140 people took part in the Forum, which was intended to showcase the mission and purpose of the Academy, as well as the types of programs it will look to offer in the coming years. Delegates gave the Forum an overall rating of 4.6 out of 5 and offered many positive comments on the event:

*"It was an excellent Academy. A perfect mix of learning new skills, increasing knowledge, networking and relaxing. I enjoyed the camaraderie and the scheduling."*

*"I hope you can do these two or three times a year – inspiring!"*

*"One of the best UBCM officiated events I have ever attended."*

Highlights of the agenda were Premier Gordon Campbell's address on leadership and Rex Murphy's inspiring keynote speech on the meaning and importance of community. Panel sessions were held on Provincial/Local Government/First Nations Relationship Building and Community/Business/Culture Relationship Building; and delegates were also given the choice of attending one of the sessions offered in each of the following Leadership Strategy programming streams:

### Topics of Current Interest

- + Affordable Housing,
- + Age Friendly Communities,

- + Regional Economic Development & Regional Services, or
- + Sustainability.

### Focus on Skills Building

- + Effective Communication,
- + Effective CAO-CEO relations,
- + Community Engagement, or
- + Conflict Resolution.

Networking opportunities were also a key focus of the event, with a welcome reception, a lunch event and a leadership networking reception providing ample opportunity for delegates to meet and discuss common interests and issues and reflect on Forum sessions and presentations.

Allison Habkirk did an excellent job of organizing the Leadership Forum and the members of the LGLA Board extend their sincere thanks to her for all the hard work and effort that went into making this such a successful launch event.

In addition, the Board would like to express its gratitude to BC Lottery Corporation and BC Hydro for their generous support of the BC Local Government Leadership Forum.

Materials from the Forum are gradually being collected and will soon be made available on the new LGLA website at [www.lgla.ca](http://www.lgla.ca). The website will be your LGLA touchpoint as we move into the next phase of Academy activities – beginning with the development of an ongoing, three-year curriculum, which will be presented at the 2007 UBCM Convention.

Please stay tuned as the LGLA launches into the next phase of its development...



UBCM President and LGLA Chair, Brenda Binnie

## *LGLA Program Manager Hired*

The Board of the LGLA is pleased to announce that Allison Habkirk has been contracted to develop the ongoing, three-year curriculum for the Local Government Leadership Academy. Ms. Habkirk brings with her a wealth of experience from her own involvement in local government and has the special distinction of having worked at both the staff and elected level. She has also thrice coordinated UBCM's highly successful Newly Elected Official seminars and was of course most recently responsible for organizing the BC Local Government Leadership Forum. The Board welcomes Ms. Habkirk to her new role as LGLA Program Manager and looks forward to working with her to develop the Academy curriculum over the coming months.

## *Activities Summary January to June 2007*

- ✦ LGLA Board established;
- ✦ Academy officially launched with Local Government Leadership Forum;
- ✦ Corporate identity developed – LGLA logo;
- ✦ Online presence developed – [www.lgla.ca](http://www.lgla.ca);
- ✦ Program Manager hired to begin curriculum development.



Premier Gordon Campbell spoke to delegates about the importance of leadership in their communities.



Delegates took a variety of courses and also attended networking events.

[www.lgla.ca](http://www.lgla.ca)