PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

REPORT

for the

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31

1967

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1968

To Major-General the Honourable GEORGE RANDOLPH PEARKES,
V.C., P.C., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., C.D.,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Municipal Affairs for the year ended December 31, 1967.

D. R. J. CAMPBELL,
Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Victoria, B.C.

Report of the Department of Municipal Affairs

VICTORIA, B.C., January 22, 1968.

The Honourable D. R. J. Campbell,
Minister of Municipal Affairs.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of this Department for the year ended December 31, 1967.

The programme of regional organization of local government is nearly complete. In co-operation with the British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service, all but two of the proposed 27 regional districts and all but four of the proposed regional hospital districts are now incorporated. This programme commenced in 1965 with five regional districts incorporated by the end of that year. During 1966 a further six were incorporated. Fourteen regional districts were incorporated in 1967, for a current total of 25. The accompanying table indicates the variety of functions which are being undertaken by regional districts. Statistical information relating to each regional district is given in the report of the Director of Finance and Statistics, included herein.

Each regional district incorporated this year has had incorporated with it at the same time a co-existing regional hospital district fulfilling the requirements of the *Regional Hospital Districts Act* in dividing and incorporating the whole of the Province into regional hospital districts.

While the regional district and the regional hospital district are separate corporations, the Board of Directors of the regional district is declared to be the Regional Hospital Board in the Letters Patent of the regional hospital district, the effect being a common Board of Directors.

Two previously incorporated regional districts were extended to coincide with the boundaries of the new regional hospital districts incorporated for the same areas. Two areas of the Province have yet to be established as regional districts. When incorporated they will be co-existing with regional hospital districts. Two further areas which have been declared as areas to be incorporated as regional hospital districts will not be incorporated as regional districts as they contain no municipal organization. Both areas are isolated and require little in the way of services.

A considerable number of local government activities are becoming oriented toward the regional districts. Already regional districts are showing their worth in the provision of a level of regional local government, in co-ordination of municipal services, activities, and enterprises, and in the development of services in unincorporated areas of the Province. It is anticipated they will play an increasingly important role in local government financing, both in regard to regional schemes and as the financing agency for member municipalities.

It was found necessary to hold a public inquiry into the affairs of the Regional District of Columbia-Shuswap. The inquiry was ordered at the request of the Directors of three of the electoral areas of the regional district. Complaints had been received from persons who deemed themselves aggrieved as a result of actions by the Board, largely in regard to bulding regulations. Mr. C. H. L. Woodward, Director of Administration, was appointed to conduct the inquiry. The recommendations made as a result of the inquiry were approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The powers of the regional district were restricted in specific

fields in order to allow the development of services to be initiated at the instance of the people. Amendments to the *Municipal Act* made at the 1967 Session of the Legislature now ensure this approach to the provision of services and the application of regulatory powers.

Under the provisions of 1967 amendments to the *Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act,* a Commission was established to study and report on the desirability of the amalgamation of the City of Trail and the District of Tadanac. The Commission comprised three members, two appointed respectively by the Councils of Trail and Tadanac and the Chairman, Mr. W. K. Smith, Director of Finance and Statistics, appointed by yourself. A majority report of the Commission recommended amalgamation. Implementation of the recommendation has not as yet been achieved.

Supplementary Letters Patent were issued to the District of Summerland to implement the petition of Council to increase Council membership from four to six, exclusive of the Reeve. As an incentive to Municipal Councils to increase the turnout at elections, an annual shield award, open to all municipalities, is given by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The recipients of the award in the three categories for the 1966 December elections were as follows:—

	Per Cent
Cities and towns: Fernie	74.1
District municipalities: Port Alice	80.6
Village municipalities: Port McNeill	81.0

The last-named two municipalities are both " instant municipalities "; this serves to indicate the interest shown by these new communities in local government. The municipalities taking second place in each category and also worthy of mention were Trail, 72.9 per cent; Gold River, 64.6 per cent; and Cumberland, 77.0 per cent. Gold River is also an " instant municipality."

The four-year correspondence course in municipal administration offered by the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration of the University of British Columbia under the sponsorship of the Department has a current enrolment as follows: First year, 59; second year, 32; third year, 31; and fourth year, 9. In addition, the course in property appraisal, open to Assessors, has a current enrolment of five students.

The Board of Examiners, on which the Department is represented, granted 10 certificates of proficiency during the year. The following table illustrates classifications of certificates issued during 1967 and the number and classification issued to date.

Certificates	1967	To Date
Junior	2	53
Senior Finance	2	74
Senior Administration	1	65
Property Appraisal	5	40
Totals	10	232

Commensurate with the increased involvement of the Department in housing and urban renewal, a new division has been established, headed by Mr. J. T. Williams. His report on these matters as Director of the division is included herein.

As in past years, senior members of the Department participated in the annual convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the annual conference of the Municipal Officers' Association. Many other conferences on local government and associated subjects were attended by myself and the senior staff.

In addition, the staff attended or participated in a large number of seminars and similar workshop conferences on various topics relating to our field of responsibility.

In the fall a special two-day conference of the regional district secretary-treasurers was convened jointly with the British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service; this allowed the Department to discuss at length matters pertaining to the regional districts and the regional hospital districts and afforded an opportunity to the secretary-treasurers to acquaint themselves with the policies of both this Department and the British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service in regard to regional government activities.

According to the 1966 Census, the population of the Province resident within municipalities was 1,530,985 of a total population of 1,823,674. This is an increase of 246,441 or 19.2 per cent in municipal population over the 1961 population. A part of the increase may be attributed to new incorporations and extensions of area of existing municipalities. The decrease in population of the village municipalities shown in the table below is due to a number of former villages changing status to either town or district municipalities between 1961 and 1966. The breakdown of population between the various classes of municipalities as compared with the 1961 populations is as follows:—

Population Percentage Increase, 1961 and 1966

	1961 Census	1966 Census	Population Increase or Decrease (—)	Percentage Increase or Decrease (—)
Cities	680,171	771,729	91,558	13.5
Districts	519,990	646,541	126,551	24.3
Towns	17,672	56,561	38,889	220.0
Villages	66,711	56,154	—10,557	—15.8
Totals	1,284,544	1,530,985	246,441	19.2

Implementation of the announced 1968 revision of the *Municipal Act* is continuing. In order to give as wide a scope as possible to the drafting of recommendations to be included in the revision, several special legislative conferences have taken place. The co-operation and assistance received from such groups as the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Municipal Officers' Association of British Columbia and other similarly interested organizations have been invaluable.

The most important changes and additions to legislation affecting local government organizations enacted by the 1967 Session of the Legislature are summarized briefly as follows:—

Municipal Councils were empowered to compensate persons for any loss or damage resulting from assisting municipal police officers or municipal officials in the exercise of their duties. The limitation on indemnities paid to members of Council was removed and references to British subjects were amended to read " Canadian citizen or other British subject." This change was made because many of our new Canadians when assuming Canadian citizenship feel strongly that they are Canadians and have no desire to be referred to as British subjects.

Amendments were made to the regional district provisions of the Act to stipulate, in effect, that a function may only be added to a regional district's powers at the request of the Regional Board and consented to by the Councils and the ratepayers involved in the electoral areas. The Act is now specific that the initiative rests with the area concerned.

The effect of the *Regional Hospital Districts Act* has been referred to earlier. Of significance is the provision to place the assessment and taxation for regional

hospital district purposes on the same basis as school purposes. Certain other amendments were made to relate the provisions of the *Regional Hospital Districts Act* with the *Municipal Act*. In addition, there were other amendments of a general and administrative nature.

An amendment to the *Municipalities Aid Act* provided that the *per capita* grant paid to municipalities must be first applied to the construction, repair, or improvement of streets and roads within the municipality and then to other services which do not qualify for other grants or are included in shared-cost programmes.

There were various specific additions and amendments to the *Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act* affecting a number of municipalities. Other amendments concerning municipalities were made to the *Health Act,* the *Public Schools Act,* the *Land Registry Act,* the *Provincial Home-owner Grant Act,* the *Pollution Control Act,* the *Sheep Protection Act,* and the *Motor-vehicle Act.*

The report of the Director of Finance, included herein, indicates that the very satisfactory situation recorded in previous years in respect of municipal finances generally in British Columbia is still evident. Municipal tax collections in British Columbia municipalities continue at a very high rate. Credit for this excellent performance is probably due to two or three factors. Certainly of prime importance is the determination of Councils and their staffs to achieve a good result, and this has in many municipalities become a matter of civic pride. There is no question, however, that achievement has been made easier by the home-owner grant and by the generally high level of economic activity. Capital investment in municipal plant amounted to $118,000,000 in the year under review and reflects the continued development of services in the municipalities, particularly in the areas of water and sewerage construction.

We have continued to maintain contact with investment and financial houses in Eastern Canada by personal visit as well as by correspondence and more specifically in conjunction with yourself in an effort to ensure an adequate dissemination of information respecting the development of regional districts in British Columbia. Considerable interest exists in these developments, particularly as they relate to further financing of capital works.

I wish to extend my gratitude and appreciation for your leadership and direction during the past year, and would take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the courtesies and assistance extended to myself and the staff by Municipal Council members and officers throughout the Province, and by the members of the executive and staff of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the executive of the Municipal Officers' Association, and department heads and staff of other departments of Government.

J. E. BROWN, F.C.I.S.,
Deputy Minister.

REGIONAL DISTRICTS AS AT JANUARY 19, 1968

Name	Incorporated as Regional District	Incorporated as Regional Hospital District	Regional Planning	Community Planning	Contract Services	Local Works and Services	Parks	Recreation Facilities	Recreation Programme	Study of Water Resources	Supply of Water	Study of Functions and Boundaries	Sewers	Fireworks	Refuse Disposal	Air Pollution	Urban Renewal	Ambulance	Home Nursing	Family and Children's Court	Pest Control	Elderly Citizens' Housing
Alberni-Clayoquot	×	×	×	×	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bulkley-Nechako	×	×	×	×	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Capital of British Columbia	×	×	—	—	—	—	P	P	—	—	—	—	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	P	—	—
Cariboo	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central Fraser Valley	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central Kootenay	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	P	—	—	—	—
Central Okanagan	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Columbia-Shuswap	×	×	P	P	×	×	P	P	P	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Comox-Strathcona	×	×	P	P	P	P	—	—	—	P	P	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	P
Cowichan Valley	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dewdney Alouette	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Kootenay	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	P	—	P	—	—	—
Fraser-Burrard	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fraser-Cheam	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fraser-Fort George	×	×	×	×	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	×	—	—	—	—
Kootenay Boundary	×	×	×	×	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	P	—	—	—	—
Malaspina	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mount Waddington	×	—	×	×	×	×	×	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nanaimo	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Okanagan	×	×	P	P	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Okanagan-Similkameen	×	×	×	×	×	×	—	P	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—
Peace River	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Skeena A	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Skeena B	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Squamish-Lillooet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sunshine Coast	×	—	×	×	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thompson-Nicola	×	×	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

" × " indicates function. " P " indicates partial function or area.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER AND DEPUTY INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES

VICTORIA, B.C., January 18, 1968.

J. E. Brown, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs.

SIR,—The need for services in municipalities has continued to be a major concern, particularly in conjunction with the increasing costs that have to be met when constructing projects. Increase in population in the municipalities and its relation to density have contributed substantially to the demands for services such as sewer and water. The relative growth of population within organized areas shown by the differences between 1961 and 1966 Census would indicate that the trend will continue to make urgent the need for many local services.

Commensurate with the rise in population and development of services has been the increase in the revenues of the municipalities to provide the services. In the five-year period from 1962 to 1966, municipal revenues, including those of waterworks and other utilities, increased by approximately $101,000,000 to $322,000,000. Debenture debt over the same period, however, only increased to $368,875,251 from $284,202,423. Continued expansion and development in the various areas of local government has added to the complexity of the problems to be solved and placed additional demands upon the staff. To keep abreast of the latest developments in the field of local government, members of the staff have, of their own volition, undertaken special course study from time to time.

With the advent of the passage of the *Regional Hospital Districts Act,* the incorporation of regional districts and their development took on a new concept as the Board of Directors of the regional districts also acts as the Board of Directors of the regional hospital districts when both of the corporations are established.

Members of the senior staff held meetings throughout the Province to provide an opportunity for those people interested in incorporation of regional districts to express their views and acquire knowledge on the intent of the legislation. The benefits that could be derived and the services that could be provided by incorporation were outlined, and as a result of the programme all but two of the areas described in the Order in Council delineating the boundaries of regional hospital districts that should also be regional districts have been incorporated. For the most part the Letters Patent of the regional districts incorporated this year did not provide for the assumption of functions or duties. As the people become aware of the advantages of the regional districts, we expect the issue of supplementary Letters Patent authorizing the provision of various services will increase. If the number of requests received in 1967 is any indication, the coming year will be an active one.

The role of the Regional Planning Division is changing with the incorporation of regional districts. For over 20 years the Division has been involved in giving planning advice to municipalities and administering land-use controls in unorganized communities evolving into urban areas. Now with regional government in operation throughout most of the Province, the Division has also to address itself to regional land-use problems, including those on the metropolitan scale.

Meetings of the Federal-Provincial Co-ordinating Committee on Indian Affairs were attended. A study of the feasibility of making provision for local government to be available to administer the affairs of Indians on Indian reserves was considered; at the last meeting local government on a village concept basis was recommended.

Two meetings on the proposed changes of the *Municipal Act,* attended by the executive of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and representatives of the Municipal Officers' Association, were informative and rewarding.

While the volume of correspondence in the form of inquiries of the Municipal Commercial Vehicle Licensing Programme, administered by the Department on behalf of the municipalities, has decreased from previous years, the interest of the participating municipalities has not diminished. In the 1966/67 licence-year the sum of $603,103 was received from the licence sales and distributed to the municipalities on a *per capita basis.* In all, 53,857 municipal commercial-vehicle plates and 36,336 exempt plates were issued.

A record of major activities of the Department during 1967 would include the following:—

(1) Three hundred and seventy-three visits were made to municipalities, improvement districts, and regional districts. The number of municipalities, improvement districts, and regional districts actually visited was 136, some receiving more than one visit.

(2) Three hundred and forty-six Minutes of Council were prepared and subsequently approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

(3) One hundred and thirty-eight certificates of approval for municipal loan by-laws were issued.

(4) Seventy-seven debenture issues were examined and subsequently certified by the Inspector of Municipalities, consisting of 14,985 debentures of a total par value of $18,204,255.

(5) Seven hundred and sixty-nine by-laws were examined and registered. Of these, 80 were district by-laws, 221 were town by-laws, 439 were village by-laws, 19 were regional district by-laws, 4 were local district by-laws, and 6 were improvement district by-laws. Many of the by-laws required advice and correspondence, resulting in resubmission in revised form.

(6) Many draft by-laws and similar documents were submitted for review and comment, involving a considerable amount of correspondence.

(7) Publication of the Annual Report of Municipal Statistics, which includes some 33 different schedules.

(8) Editing the financial and statistical returns of the municipalities to ensure conformity with statutory and other requirements. This phase of administration involves considerable correspondence with municipal officials and auditors.

(9) Administration of the Municipal Winter Works Incentive Programme.

(10) Administration of the Municipal Commercial Vehicle Licensing Programme.

(11) Administration of the *Municipal Development and Loan Act* was completed.

(12) By correspondence and by visits to the various municipalities, encouraging the adoption of good financial, accounting, and administrative procedures.

(13) The programme involving the incorporation of regional districts continued, and members of the staff attended innumerable meetings in all parts of the Province to advise various groups interested in such incorporation; as only two more incorporations will complete the programme, the next phase will be to advise officials and members of the Boards on procedural, financial, and administration matters and stress the need of establishing priorities to achieve orderly growth.

Every effort was made to ensure the annual edition of Municipal Statistics was available as early as possible. Most of the information in the publication is used by

the investment houses, financial institutions, and others. In view of the importance that is attached to this information, particularly when purchases of debenture issues and other municipal financing arrangements are being considered, accuracy and comparability on the basis of prior years is essential.

For the 10th consecutive year the Government of Canada has provided an incentive for municipalities to undertake capital works for the relief of unemployment. In past years this programme was operative in the period of November 1st to April 30th, but in 1967/68 the provisions only apply from November 1st to March 31st. One-half (60 per cent in specified high-unemployment areas) of the approved direct labour costs of accepted projects are paid by the Federal authority. Only minor changes were made in the regulations, which did not materially affect the type of project that may be undertaken. Only capital projects now qualify.

The Province has agreed to pay the municipalities 50 per cent of direct labour costs of any person employed on an accepted project who was receiving public assistance prior to employment; this provision is an added incentive to the one offered by the Government of Canada. In addition, when there are no welfare recipients available for hire, the Province will pay 25 per cent of the direct labour costs of persons no longer qualified for unemployment insurance. An indication of the extent of the programme may be gained from the following:—

	Cost of Projects	Man-days Work	Payroll
1960/61 as at January 15, 1961	$20,000,000	392,000	$7,000,000
1961/62 as at January 15, 1962	26,500,000	426,000	8,333,333
1962/63 as at January 15, 1963	25,000,000	413,000	7,500,000
1963/64 as at January 15, 1964	19,527,859	413,210	7,979,178
1964/65 as at January 15, 1965	24,786,739	429,192	8,892,222
1965/66 as at January 15, 1966	21,325,872	376,761	8,514,822
1966/67 as at January 15, 1967	15,997,807	277,897	6,523,076
1967/68 as at January 15, 1968	14,892,694	198,570	5,175,120

These are estimated figures of the municipalities for the programme period.

The following tabulation gives a summary of British Columbia municipalities participating in the Winter Works Programme as at January 15, 1968, according to the records of this office:—

Number of men	3,115
Man-days work	198,570
Total cost of projects	$14,892,694
Federal share (payroll cost)	$2,590,986
Provincial share (payroll cost)	$583,535
Municipal share (payroll cost)	$2,000,599
Total payroll under offer	$5,175,120

Nature and Total Cost of Projects

Waterworks	$2,831,921
Sewers	4,990,575
Drainage	550,519
Roads	1,096,148
Sidewalks	353,285
Buildings	1,534,834
Parks	2,624,743
Other	910,669

Municipalities Participating		*Number of Accepted Projects*	
Cities	18	Cities	105
Districts	20	Districts	88
Towns	6	Towns	17
Villages	16	Villages	29
Other	18	Other	22
Total	78	Total	261

Table 1 shows the summary of the Municipal Winter Works Incentive Programme for the year 1966/67 as issued by the Department of Labour of the Government of Canada, and Table 2 indicates the same information for the current programme as at January 5, 1968.

We have not been able to carry out the policy of having a senior member of the Department visit each municipality at least once during the year; senior officials were travelling extensively to attend public meetings on incorporation of regional districts and to attend meetings of the Regional Boards. We expect that the new incorporations will add substantially to the work load as new administrative procedures are inaugurated and new problems are met. The additional staff which joined the Department late in 1966 and in 1967 both in the administrative and planning fields will help us meet the more extensive work programme, and we hope that more time may be devoted to assisting smaller municipalities in the future.

In January the Department vacated the offices on the fourth floor of the Douglas Building and moved to new quarters on the second and third floors in the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority Building on Pandora Avenue, where the accommodation provides much-needed additional office space and facilities.

I would again express appreciation of the loyalty and devotion to duty which all members of the staff have shown during the past year. For senior members this has meant many week-ends of work in the field, curtailed holidays, or taking holidays in piecemeal fashion. All in all, it has been a job well done.

J. D. BAIRD, F.C.I.S.,
Assistant Deputy Minister and Deputy Inspector of Municipalities.

TABLE 1.—MUNICIPAL WINTER WORKS INCENTIVE PROGRAMME, 1966/67—REPORT WEEK ENDED APRIL 30, 1967

	Participating Local Authorities	Applications Received	Applications Accepted	Number of Men to Be Hired	Employment and Cost Estimates *re* Period of Programme			
					Number of Man-days Work to Be Provided	Cost of Projects	Direct Payroll Cost	Federal Government Share of Payroll Cost
Newfoundland	63	106	106	2,035	71,165	$1,611,000	$761,000	$457,000
Prince Edward Island	111	166	162	3,148	137,929	2,794,000	1,641,000	985,000
Nova Scotia	47	66	66	1,884	108,905	1,885,000	1,168,000	670,000
New Brunswick	32	105	105	1,605	55,746	2,975,000	987,000	539,000
Quebec	920	1,826	1,825	66,340	3,015,367	103,047,000	44,319,000	24,360,000
Ontario	343	961	960	16,972	1,075,823	87,130,000	24,765,000	12,199,000
Manitoba	47	162	162	2,903	194,967	7,430,000	3,247,000	1,696,000
Saskatchewan	375	804	804	10,555	270,258	11,557,000	4,107,000	2,179,000
Alberta	179	578	578	10,082	451,217	28,425,000	8,439,000	4,287,000
British Columbia	121	415	414	5,075	330,996	19,442,000	7,830,000	3,958,000
Yukon	1	1	1	5	165	5,000	5,000	2,000
Northwest Territories	26	66	66	582	11,120	192,000	174,000	87,000
Indian bands	38	44	43	878	28,551	429,000	339,000	171,000
Canada	2,304	5,300	5,292	122,064	5,752,209	267,175,000	97,834,000	51,615,000

Source: Employment Stabilization Branch.

TABLE 2.—MUNICIPAL WINTER WORKS INCENTIVE PROGRAMME, 1967/68—REPORT WEEK ENDED JANUARY 5, 1968

	Participating Local Authorities	Applications Accepted	Number of Men to Be Hired	Employment and Cost Estimates *re* Period of Programme			
				Number of Man-days Work to Be Provided	Cost of Projects	Direct Payroll Cost	Federal Government Share of Payroll Cost
Newfoundland	38	62	1,421	35,265	$771,000	$401,000	$240,000
Prince Edward Island	38	54	864	37,619	829,000	463,000	278,000
Nova Scotia	11	15	149	11,154	541,000	150,000	86,000
New Brunswick	6	9	86	5,692	189,000	74,000	44,000
Quebec	577	1,046	37,633	1,887,849	70,501,000	29,487,000	16,482,000
Ontario	180	443	9,553	603,884	62,542,000	16,490,000	8,190,000
Manitoba	23	112	2,346	140,192	6,720,000	2,436,000	1,278,000
Saskatchewan	155	383	4,021	116,009	5,752,000	1,967,000	1,051,000
Alberta	111	462	7,176	346,455	25,162,000	7,022,000	3,575,000
British Columbia	72	237	2,901	190,612	14,569,000	4,963,000	2,493,000
Yukon	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Northwest Territories	7	9	86	1,390	28,000	26,000	13,000
Indian bands	21	29	466	11,175	620,000	220,000	113,000
Canada	1,239	2,861	66,702	3,387,296	188,224,000	63,699,000	33,843,000

Source: Employment Stabilization Branch.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE FINANCE AND STATISTICS DIVISION

VICTORIA, B.C., January 18, 1968.

J. E. Brown, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs.

SIR,—The real-property tax continues to be the major source of revenue of municipalities in British Columbia. The growth in assessed values of real property and revenue from taxation of these properties over the past 10 years is portrayed in the following table:—

GROWTH IN COMBINED ASSESSED VALUES AND TAXES IN MUNICIPALITIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Year	Gross Assessed Values		Assessed Values Actually Taxed		Tax Revenues
	All Properties	Taxable Properties	School	Municipal	
1958	$3,047,766,854	$2,569,271,281	$2,053,934,444	$1,562,991,738	$92,429,190
1959	3,327,118,937	2,805,547,214	2,248,145,499	1,721,746,794	104,819,992
1960	3,569,240,135	3,015,844,390	2,417,467,198	1,843,967,404	116,857,478
1961	3,717,472,643	3,142,969,534	2,508,401,082	1,920,101,216	122,272,311
1962	4,032,288,772	3,407,538,034	2,770,194,168	2,182,411,559	128,865,831
1963	4,062,459,644	3,433,937,080	2,795,430,982	2,224,805,763	141,020,672
1964	4,188,389,878	3,534,097,291	2,878,206,746	2,294,697,747	154,074,236
1965	4,460,354,467	3,770,938,012	3,072,204,132	2,365,897,598	172,163,583
1966	4,808,126,631	4,070,798,825	3,315,334,666	2,549,447,799	192,056,108
1967	5,289,229,487	4,506,005,879	3,652,356,884	2,781,601,367	224,000,000[1]

[1] Estimated.

On the basis of the present rate of growth it is anticipated that revenue from real property and other sources of taxation for school and general municipal purposes in 1967 will reach $224,000,000. This would represent an increase of approximately 60 per cent over the revenue of five years ago. The total assessed values actually taxed for school purposes in the Province in 1967 amounted to $4,800,769,402. Of this amount, $3,652,356,884, or approximately 75 per cent, represented assessment values in city, district, town, and village municipalities.

During the year 1966, the last year for which audited financial statements of municipalities are available, municipal revenues, including those of waterworks and other utilities, were in excess of $322,000,000, an increase of $38,000,000 over the previous year. Revenue from taxation for school purposes, which forms part of the total revenue of municipalities, amounted to $86,000,000 but was offset in part by the application of the home-owner grant payments of approximately $30,000,000, leaving a net of $56,000,000 in school taxes as having been paid by the property-owners.

The value of capital projects undertaken by municipalities during 1966 amounted to $118,000,000, an increase of $15,000,000 over the previous year. Capital works amounting to $99,000,000 were completed during the fiscal year, leaving a balance of works in progress of $19,000,000 at the year-end. It is of interest to note that of the $118,000,000 expended on capital projects, municipalities were able to provide $21,000,000 out of general municipal and utility revenue funds, $5,000,000 from reserve funds, and approximately $8,000,000 was obtained from grants-in-aid from the Provincial and Federal Governments. The balance of

the amount expended was financed by debenture loans, temporary bank loans, and other methods of financing. Figures indicating the activity in this area over the past five years are as follows:—

Year	Projects Undertaken	Works Completed	Works in Progress	Provided by—		
				Revenue	Reserve Funds	Grants
1962	$73,000,000	$55,000,000	$18,000,000	$12,000,000	$3,000,000	$4,000,000
1963	80,000,000	62,000,000	18,000,000	12,000,000	3,000,000	5,000,000
1964	80,000,000	62,000,000	18,000,000	15,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
1965	103,000,000	87,000,000	16,000,000	16,000,000	5,000,000	7,000,000
1966	118,000,000	99,000,000	19,000,000	21,000,000	5,000,000	8,000,000

The following table illustrates authorized term borrowing trends over the past seven years. The marked increase in borrowing between the years 1963 and 1964 may be attributed to the municipal development and loan fund financing scheme. However, the current increase in term borrowings is considered to reflect the demand for services, principally sewerage and water, brought about by the continued development of the urban communities within municipalities.

Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1961	$15,030,152	1965	$27,499,789
1962	14,006,884	1966	24,663,388
1963	14,581,981	1967	30,756,706
1964	25,231,663		

Total debenture debt as at December 31, 1966, of all municipalities, including the City of Vancouver, is shown by the following table. The debenture debt of the metropolitan water and sewer boards is not included.

	Sold	Unissued and Unsold	Total
Cities	$61,227,163	$19,861,578	$81,088,741
Districts	76,275,088	20,119,151	96,394,239
Towns	7,232,066	2,636,818	9,868,884
Villages	6,744,091	2,350,728	9,094,819
Local districts	64,500	.....	64,500
Sub-totals	$151,478,408	$44,968,275	$196,511,183
Vancouver	171,528,568	900,000	172,428,568
Totals	$323,071,476	$45,868,275	$368,939,751

Interest rates on municipal debentures have continued to rise over the past year. The indications are that the current high rates will remain and may increase still further. The problems associated with the marketing of municipal debentures have been principally the availability of funds on the market, the timing of municipalities in going to the market, and the tailoring of an instrument that would be most favourably received by the prospective purchaser. Meetings and talks have been held with bond dealers, bankers, institutional buyers, and others in connection with these matters, and a number of changes in the style of debentures and statutory by-law procedures are contemplated as a result of these meetings. There are indications that a return to the sinking fund style of debenture for larger issues may be more attractive to the market than the present serial type of debenture. There is also a possibility that a combined serial and sinking fund issue might prove attractive. With the advent of regional districts which will be borrowing on their own behalf as well as on behalf of member municipalities, it is essential that instruments offered be tailored to meet the demands of today's market.

Table 1 shows the annual amounts of debentures sold in the years 1957 to 1966 inclusive, debentures retired during these years, and the net increase or decrease of debenture debt.

The percentage of current revenue required to service debenture debt excluding utilities in the various classes of municipalities in 1966 was as follows: Cities (excluding Vancouver), 8.98 per cent; districts, 7.88 per cent; towns, 7.96 per cent; villages, 5.64 per cent.

Debenture debt of utilities is serviced almost entirely by revenues derived from user charges paid by the consumer and by frontage taxes.

On the basis of an analysis of the financial and statistical information available, it would appear that the financial position of British Columbia municipalities is continuing to improve and that, generally, they all enjoy a favourable financial position. Table 2 and Chart 1 indicate the trends in various financial aspects of municipal government compared to population and income. The increase in total revenue as indicated by the table and chart resulted from an increase of $10,000,000 in the Provincial Government grants, raising the amount paid to municipalities to approximately $53,000,000 excluding capital and special-purpose grants and the increase in revenue derived from school tax levies, which increased to $86,000,000. The increase in school tax was offset to some extent, in so far as the residential home-owners were concerned, by an increase of $4,000,000 in the Provincial home-owner grants paid to municipalities on their behalf.

Reserve fund balances of the various municipalities have again shown a marked increase over the previous year. At the end of 1966 these balances, which are held for a variety of purposes, amounted to $30,000,000, an increase of $1,800,000 or 6.4 per cent over the previous year, after giving effect to the fact that for the third consecutive year approximately $5,000,000 from reserve funds was expended on capital works projects.

The total of reserves and surpluses held in all accounts of the municipalities was $81,050,893. This amounts to 35 per cent of the total annual revenue excluding school taxes of the municipalities. While the reserve funds are held in liquid form or in investments authorized by Statute, a portion of the surplus is represented in arrears of taxes and other receivables.

In the year under review, tax collections in municipalities continued to improve to the point where the collection of current taxes in cities and districts exceeds 96 per cent of the levy, villages collected in excess of 95 per cent, while towns was slightly less than 93 per cent. Following established policy, correspondence has been directed to any municipality where the arrears of taxes were in excess of 10 per cent of the current levy in an effort to determine the cause and what steps may be taken to correct the situation.

One of the primary indications of the ability of the taxpayer to meet the municipal tax levy promptly and also an indication of the efficiency of the administration of the municipality is the tax-collection picture. The collection of current taxes in British Columbia municipalities continues to be the highest among the Provinces in Canada publishing statistics on a comparable basis, while the percentage of arrears of taxes is the lowest, as a comparative study of 1965 statistics indicates.

	Per Cent
British Columbia—	
Collection of current taxes	95.83
Arrears on adjusted levy	5.82
Alberta—	
Collection of current taxes	87.03
Arrears on adjusted levy	22.63

Saskatchewan—	
Collection of current taxes	89.12
Arrears on adjusted levy	19.01
Ontario—	
Collection of current taxes	92.52
Arrears on adjusted levy	9.88
Nova Scotia—	
Collection of current taxes	85.80
Arrears on adjusted levy	26.00

Chart 2 shows the percentage of tax collections from the period 1956 to 1966, inclusive, and Table 3 shows the outstanding taxes as a percentage of current levy for selected years. The cities and districts continue to improve, with the villages and towns showing a slight decline in performance. However, the over-all average is still well within acceptable standards. Table 4 reveals further information relative to tax collections in British Columbia municipalities for the years shown.

Economic factors have, of course, contributed to the establishment of this favourable position in the property tax field. However, municipal treasurers and collectors are continuing to develop techniques which are proving to be successful in maintaining a high rate of tax collection, and they are to be congratulated for their efforts in this regard.

Some indication of the extent of the development of regional districts is contained in other sections of the Report of the Department. The tables which follow this section of the Report show the regions alphabetically by name, date of incorporation, member municipalities and electoral areas, population, and assessment. The responsibilities and functions of the Division have been extended considerably by the introduction of this concept of local government. New budgetary processes have been developed to satisfy statutory requirements and also to serve the administrative requirements of the regional districts. These include the provisional budget, annual budget, and the long-term capital budget. There will likely be some modification of these processes as the activities of the regional districts continue to expand and as further experience is gained in the field.

The last edition of the publication " Municipal Statistics " contained financial and other information of those regional districts which had been incorporated prior to December 31, 1966. No attempt was made at the time to report the financial activities of municipalities on a regional basis, and they were reported by class of municipality; that is, cities, districts, towns, and villages. It is proposed that future issues of the Municipal Statistics will reflect this information by municipalities on a regional basis with a suitable summary by region.

This change to financial reporting on a regional basis has received very careful study. While it will cause some inconvenience to those who have been accustomed to carrying out their analysis by class of municipality, we feel sure that the change will result in the production of much more meaningful financial and other statistics.

The functions of the Division also include a continual review of the financial position and administrative practices of the municipalities, regional districts, and other areas of local government. A close liaison is maintained with financial institutions, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and other departments of government in an effort to ensure that financial and other information required is available on a uniform and comparable basis. In this regard we have continued to receive the highest degree of co-operation from municipal officials.

W. K. SMITH,
Director, Finance and Statistics Division.

TABLE 1.—ANNUAL AMOUNTS OF DEBENTURES SOLD, DEBENTURES RETIRED, AND THE NET INCREASE OR DECREASE FOR THE YEARS 1957 TO 1966 (EXCLUDING VANCOUVER)

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Cities	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Issues	3,986,203	3,706,940	7,983,466	6,618,636	4,166,413	6,412,058	7,400,994	5,618,875	5,140,057	13,625,237
Retired	3,102,643	3,523,916	3,573,067	3,886,176	3,937,323	5,156,099	4,066,666	4,342,736	4,558,750	4,771,422
Net	883,560	183,024	4,410,399	2,732,460	229,090	1,255,959	3,334,328	1,276,139	581,307	8,853,815
Districts										
Issues	8,631,926	5,894,721	7,483,172	3,545,826	5,117,990	5,115,871	10,308,842	4,799,360	11,871,082	18,885,608
Retired	2,686,130	3,085,231	3,890,701	3,373,384	3,426,586	4,034,757	4,562,359	4,712,419	5,138,183	6,199,668
Net	5,945,796	2,809,490	3,592,471	172,442	1,691,404	1,081,114	5,746,483	86,941	6,732,899	12,685,940
Towns										
Issues	.....	84,882	539,310	230,284	76,461	522,429	783,882	823,115	231,794	2,625,421
Retired	.....	135,000	177,854	247,391	184,493	190,436	228,400	244,449	318,195	437,458
Net	.....	(50,118)	361,456	(17,107)	(108,032)	331,993	555,482	578,666	(86,401)	2,187,963
Villages										
Issues	3,151,280	609,359	2,679,327	550,135	293,743	484,667	975,006	977,164	1,391,531	432,806
Retired	399,870	420,409	483,631	330,599	318,157	370,664	437,689	461,573	466,371	458,980
Net	2,751,410	188,950	2,195,696	219,536	(24,414)	114,003	537,317	515,591	925,160	(26,174)

Parentheses indicate decrease.

TABLE 2.—TRENDS IN FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMPARED TO POPULATION AND INCOME EXPRESSED AS INDEXES

Year	Population	Total Revenue (Excluding Utilities)	Building Permits	Debenture Debt	Maximum Values Taxable	Total B.C. Personal Income
1956	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1957	107.47	116.34	99.81	107.36	113.99	108.36
1958	110.91	134.68	107.24	109.77	126.31	112.04
1959	115.24	152.68	103.49	121.81	138.13	119.29
1960	118.72	165.07	79.20	127.89	148.51	124.39
1961	118.24	176.25	84.00	129.67	154.66	126.37
1962	124.05	186.74	95.96	130.61	170.17	134.86
1963	126.75	199.73	109.60	139.67	171.72	142.23
1964	130.90	214.34	145.87	142.13	176.81	154.97
1965	135.53	244.39	170.99	148.23	188.72	174.95
1966	137.92	276.05	173.74	162.15	203.66	194.63

Census years: 1956, 1961, 1966.

TABLE 3.— OUTSTANDING TAXES AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE CURRENT LEVY OF CITIES, DISTRICTS, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES FOR THE YEARS SHOWN

	0–9.99	10–19.99	20–29.99	30–39.99	40–49.99	50–59.99	60–69.99	70–79.99	80–89.99	90–99.99	100 and Over	Number of Municipalities
1921—												
Cities	1	4	10	3	8	3	—	1	—	2	2	34
Districts	2	3	7	7	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	25
1929—												
Cities	2	16	8	3	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	34
Districts	4	6	6	7	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	27
1933—												
Cities	—	1	6	11	6	3	3	1	1	—	2	34
Districts	2	—	2	6	1	7	—	1	2	1	5	27
1939—												
Cities	—	4	13	10	2	3	—	—	—	—	2	34
Districts	3	1	10	4	5	1	1	1	—	—	1	27
1946—												
Cities	21	10	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	34
Districts	15	11	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27
1959—												
Cities	24	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Districts	27	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
Towns	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Villages	34	18	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	58
1963—												
Cities	26	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Districts	26	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
Towns	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Villages	47	12	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	62
1964—												
Cities	29	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Districts	29	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Towns	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Villages	49	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	62
1965—												
Cities	29	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Districts	31	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Towns	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Villages	49	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58
1966—												
Cities	29	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Districts	38	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39
Towns	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Villages	46	9	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58

TABLE 4.—PERCENTAGE TAX COLLECTIONS

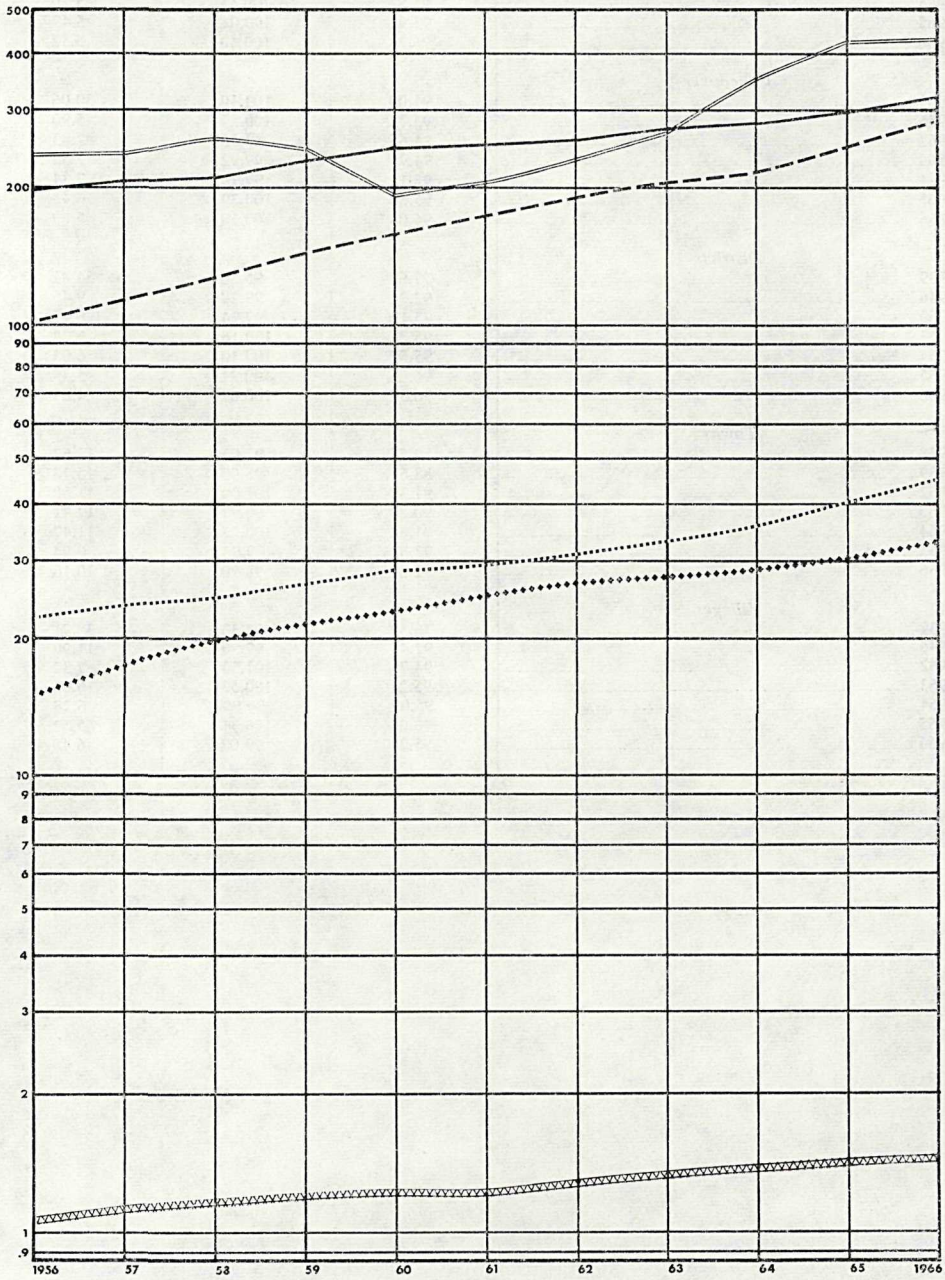
	Percentage of Current Levy Collected	Total Collections as a Percentage of Current Levy	Outstanding Taxes as a Percentage of Current Levy
Cities (Except Vancouver)			
1939	81.10	99.10	40.16
1946	94.13	100.46	7.85
1962	95.12	100.17	6.75
1963	95.42	100.32	6.30
1964	95.82	100.45	5.70
1965	95.92	100.01	5.49
1966	96.28	100.40	5.12
Vancouver			
1939	91.00	103.10	30.06
1946	95.74	100.57	5.90
1962	94.65	99.56	7.83
1963	94.95	99.92	7.50
1964	95.11	99.78	7.34
1965	95.66	100.39	6.45
1966	96.03	100.20	5.80
Districts			
1939	77.60	95.80	34.81
1946	92.32	99.28	9.45
1962	95.12	99.94	6.47
1963	95.27	100.16	6.28
1964	95.52	100.10	6.03
1965	96.05	100.31	5.33
1966	96.51	100.67	4.64
Towns			
1958	89.55	97.06	13.62
1959	88.69	98.00	15.18
1962	91.36	101.00	11.58
1963	90.80	97.87	12.71
1964	91.88	100.25	11.47
1965	92.87	99.93	9.94
1966	92.81	98.90	10.16
Villages			
1939	76.50	98.30	38.71
1946	92.45	99.90	11.90
1962	94.73	101.53	7.32
1963	95.21	100.53	6.66
1964	95.09	99.99	6.28
1965	96.04	100.31	5.52
1966	95.21	99.08	6.48

TRENDS IN FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMPARED TO POPULATION AND INCOME

CHART 1

LEGEND

- Population in millions
- Total revenue in millions of dollars
- Building permits in millions of dollars
- Debenture debt in millions of dollars
- Maximum values taxable in hundreds of millions of dollars
- Personal income in hundreds of millions of dollars



PERCENTAGE TAX COLLECTIONS

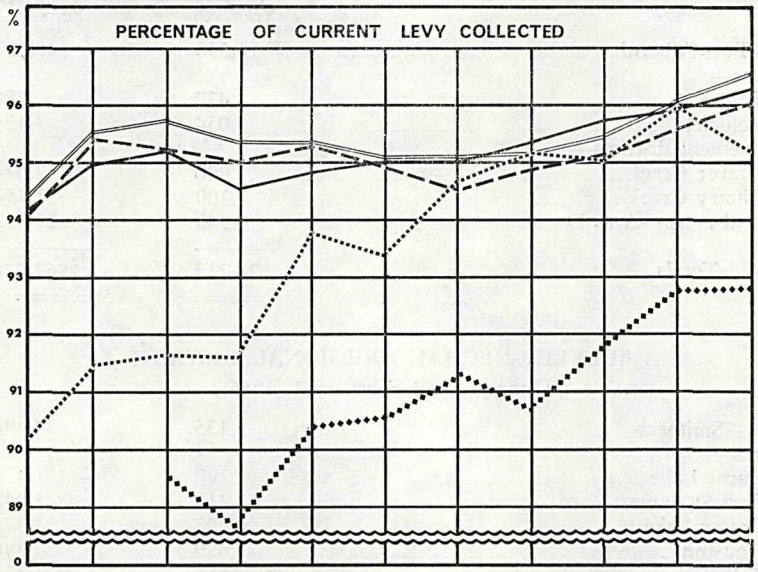
CHART 2

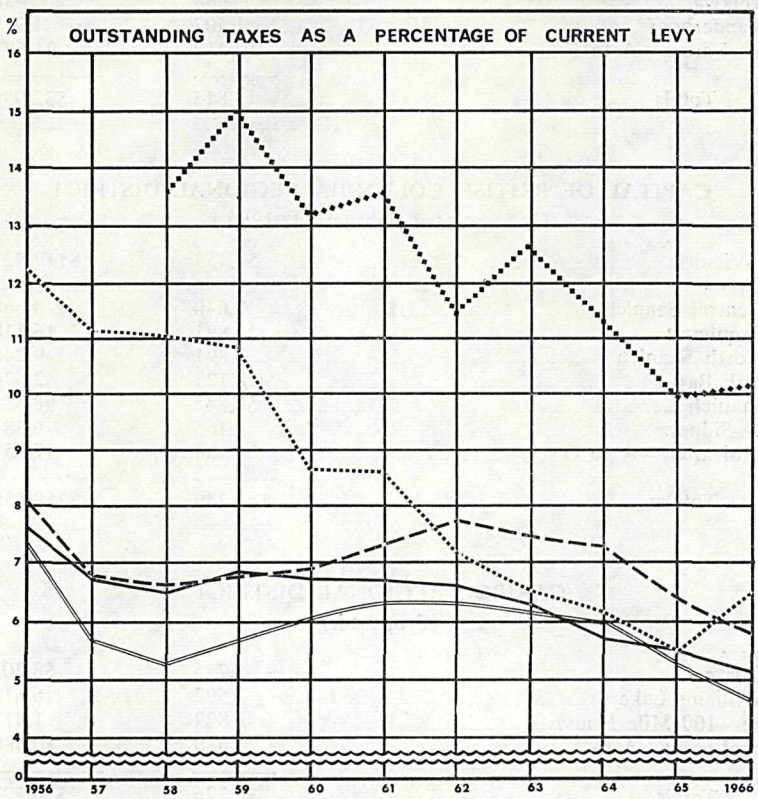
LEGEND

——— Cities ····· Villages

═══ Districts - - - - Vancouver

•••••••• Towns





Note: The classification of Towns was established in 1958

REGIONAL DISTRICTS

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated April 21, 1966.)

	Population, Census Year 1966	Assessments Taxable for Regional District Purposes, 1967
City—Port Alberni	18,538	$40,077,411
Villages—		
Tofino	477	588,518
Ucluelet	1,054	1,124,595
Improvement districts—		
Beaver Creek	1,900	2,074,438
Cherry Creek	1,300	1,754,021
Electoral areas—A to D	4,948	22,057,611
Totals	28,217	$67,676,594

BULKLEY-NECHAKO REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated February 1, 1966.)

Towns—Smithers	3,135	$4,496,968
Villages—		
Burns Lake	1,290	1,439,687
Fort St. James	1,213	1,048,076
Fraser Lake	1,093	1,375,650
Houston	699	590,453
Telkwa	668	430,766
Vanderhoof	1,507	1,917,376
Electoral areas—A to F	10,210	21,697,764
Totals	19,815	$32,996,740

CAPITAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated February 1, 1966.)

City—Victoria	57,453	$119,823,141
Districts—		
Central Saanich	3,640	8,668,030
Esquimalt	12,891	16,118,731
North Saanich	2,891	9,248,988
Oak Bay	18,123	42,676,475
Saanich	58,845	98,582,773
Town—Sidney	3,165	6,383,607
Electoral areas—A to G	24,338	57,057,330
Totals	181,346	$358,559,075

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Proposed.)

Towns—		
Quesnel	5,725	$8,205,998
Williams Lake	3,592	6,618,933
Village—100 Mile House	829	1,417,298
Electoral areas—A to J	20,630	40,480,077
Totals	30,776	$56,722,306

CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated October 17, 1967.)

	Population, Census Year 1966	Assessments Taxable for Regional District Purposes, 1967
City—Langley	2,800	$5,880,897
Districts—		
Langley	15,767	24,094,490
Matsqui	16,161	21,068,048
Sumas	5,445	10,695,998
Village—Abbotsford	792	3,116,187
Electoral area—A	202	394,227
Totals	41,167	$65,249,847

CENTRAL KOOTENAY REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated November 30, 1965.)

City—Nelson	9,504	$14,520,508
Towns—		
Castlegar	3,440	4,447,056
Creston	2,920	5,326,666
Kinnaird	2,869	4,063,885
Villages—		
Kaslo	940	705,899
Nakusp	1,282	1,472,805
New Denver	623	422,033
Salmo	925	876,530
Slocan	357	583,948
Silverton	247	188,151
Electoral areas—A to K	21,455	63,047,722
Totals	44,562	$95,655,203

CENTRAL OKANAGAN REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated August 24, 1967.)

City—Kelowna	17,006	$36,643,732
District—Peachland	709	1,309,520
Electoral areas—A to H	16,039	32,852,903
Totals	33,754	$70,806,155

COLUMBIA-SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated November 30, 1965.)

City—Revelstoke	4,791	$7,120,411
District—Salmon Arm	4,801	6,054,902
Villages—		
Golden	2,590	4,533,351
Salmon Arm	1,854	3,234,967
Electoral areas—A to D	12,427	17,928,363
Totals	26,463	$38,871,994

COMOX-STRATHCONA REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated August 19, 1965.)

	Population, Census Year 1966	Assessments Taxable for Regional District Purposes, 1967
City—Courtenay	4,913	$9,241,642
Districts—		
Campbell River	7,825	25,785,518
Gold River	878	6,837,106
Town—Comox	2,671	4,364,545
Villages—		
Cumberland	1,277	1,040,248
Zeballos	229	266,683
Electoral areas—A to J	20,460	46,939,832
Totals	38,253	$94,475,574

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated September 26, 1967.)

City—Duncan	4,299	$7,434,540
District—North Cowichan	10,384	23,707,344
Town—Ladysmith	3,410	4,029,578
Village—Lake Cowichan	2,353	2,320,232
Electoral areas—A to C	12,018	60,361,909
Totals	32,464	$97,853,603

DEWDNEY ALOUETTE REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated October 27, 1967.)

Districts—		
Maple Ridge	19,287	$28,348,577
Mission	5,351	6,038,962
Pitt Meadows	2,247	3,522,766
Town—Mission City	3,412	5,926,186
Electoral areas—A to E	2,215	5,315,338
Totals	32,512	$49,151,829

EAST KOOTENAY REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated November 30, 1965.)

Cities—		
Cranbrook	7,849	$9,491,686
Fernie	2,715	2,160,046
Kimberley	5,901	4,503,315
District—Sparwood	1,928	3,067,636
Villages—		
Chapman Camp	664	784,963
Invermere	1,022	1,541,389
Marysville	1,126	942,513
Electoral areas—A to G	8,965	42,602,798
Totals	30,170	$65,094,346

FRASER-BURRARD REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated June 29, 1967.)

	Population, Census Year 1966	Assessments Taxable for Regional District Purposes, 1967
Cities—		
New Westminster	38,013	$56,303,874
North Vancouver	26,851	37,686,952
Port Coquitlam	11,121	12,089,197
Port Moody	7,021	11,702,674
Vancouver	410,375	762,029,325
White Rock	7,787	15,021,482
Districts—		
Burnaby	112,036	236,071,344
Coquitlam	40,916	55,380,162
Delta	20,664	47,006,415
Fraser Mills	164	2,695,419
North Vancouver	48,124	70,641,939
Richmond	50,460	92,881,820
Surrey	81,826	121,878,422
West Vancouver	31,987	98,049,310
Electoral areas—A and B	3,788	21,197,514
Totals	891,133	$1,640,635,849

FRASER-CHEAM REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated September 29, 1967.)

City—Chilliwack	8,681	$14,126,818
Districts—		
Chilliwhack	20,070	25,694,101
Kent	2,642	4,104,333
Town—Hope	2,948	4,778,699
Village—Harrison Hot Springs	486	1,719,147
Electoral areas—A to F	4,429	12,474,847
Totals	39,256	$62,897,945

FRASER-FORT GEORGE REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated March 8, 1967.)

City—Prince George	24,471	$37,790,385
District—Mackenzie	111	1,563,324
Villages—		
McBride	652	629,357
Valemount	656	462,863
Electoral areas—A to H	25,230	87,030,251
Totals	51,120	$127,476,180

KOOTENAY BOUNDARY REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated February 22, 1966.)

	Population, Census Year 1966	Assessments Taxable for Regional District Purposes, 1967
Cities—		
Grand Forks	2,556	$3,311,904
Greenwood	911	765,818
Rossland	4,264	2,418,640
Trail	11,600	11,402,705
District—Tadanac	367	11,978,699
Villages—		
Fruitvale	1,203	1,273,140
Montrose	1,079	1,162,690
Warfield	2,255	2,584,893
Electoral areas—A to E	6,911	30,487,982
Totals	31,146	$65,386,471

MALASPINA REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated December 19, 1967.)

District—Powell River	12,578	$30,920,162
Electoral areas—A to D	3,500	13,593,061
Totals	16,078	$44,513,223

MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated June 13, 1966.)

Districts—		
Port Alice	1,383	$5,491,849
Port Hardy	1,262	1,316,169
Villages—		
Alert Bay	795	697,738
Port McNeill	437	791,193
Electoral areas—A to D	4,519	14,045,902
Totals	8,396	$22,342,851

NANAIMO REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated August 24, 1967.)

City—Nanaimo	15,188	$15,340,730
Villages—		
Parksville	1,426	2,814,528
Qualicum Beach	855	3,354,517
Electoral areas—A to I	21,535	103,303,219
Totals	39,004	$124,812,994

NORTH OKANAGAN REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated November 9, 1965.)

	Population, Census Year 1966	Assessments Taxable for Regional District Purposes, 1967
Cities—		
Armstrong	1,426	$1,556,872
Enderby	1,114	1,446,397
Vernon	11,423	22,234,665
Districts—		
Coldstream	2,660	4,817,650
Spallumcheen	2,076	2,960,149
Village—Lumby	879	1,065,456
Electoral areas—A to F	7,445	11,976,834
Totals	27,033	$46,058,023

OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated March 4, 1966.)

City—Penticton	15,330	$51,036,791
District—Summerland	4,585	8,457,791
Villages—		
Keremeos	525	785,384
Oliver	1,563	2,787,011
Osoyoos	1,166	2,682,158
Princeton	2,151	2,277,270
Electoral areas—A to H	9,975	22,857,538
Totals	35,295	$90,883,943

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated October 31, 1967.)

City—Dawson Creek	12,392	$17,626,916
District—Hudson's Hope	3,068	1,028,326
Villages—		
Aennofield	989	862,112
Chetwynd	1,368	1,588,267
Pouce Coupe	602	492,733
Taylor	595	658,675
Town—Fort St. John	6,749	9,780,250
Electoral areas—A to E	15,034	74,287,569
Totals	40,797	$106,324,848

SKEENA A REGIONAL DISTRICT

(Incorporated August 17, 1967.)

City—Prince Rupert	14,677	$36,779,455
Villages—		
Masset	541	309,532
Port Edward	1,006	1,386,995
Electoral areas—A to D	3,434	11,509,789
Totals	19,658	$49,985,771

SKEENA B REGIONAL DISTRICT
(Incorporated September 14, 1967.)

	Population, Census Year 1966	Assessments Taxable for Regional District Purposes, 1967
Districts—		
Kitimat	9,792	$38,758,960
Terrace	8,637	11,689,500
Villages—		
Hazelton	403	260,981
Stewart	522	941,299
Electoral areas—A to C	5,786	8,945,759
Totals	25,140	$60,596,499

SQUAMISH-LILLOOET REGIONAL DISTRICT
(Proposed.)

District—Squamish	4,240	$11,963,928
Villages—		
Pemberton	172	256,034
Lillooet	1,379	1,405,074
Electoral areas	4,474	7,737,532
Totals	10,265	$21,362,568

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
(Incorporated January 4, 1967.)

Villages—		
Gibsons Landing	1,450	$2,290,200
Sechelt	468	1,360,352
Electoral areas—A to F	6,072	34,381,476
Totals	8,090	$38,032,028

THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT
(Incorporated November 24, 1967.)

City—Kamloops	22,078	$45,928,787
Town—Merritt	4,500	5,440,757
Villages—		
Ashcroft	1,154	1,134,228
Cache Creek	674	1,370,938
Clinton	983	1,096,121
Lytton	414	439,248
Electoral areas—A to N	25,706	80,812,235
Totals	55,509	$136,222,314

OCEAN FALLS REGIONAL DISTRICT

Totals	4,723	$23,629,524

STIKINE REGIONAL DISTRICT

Totals	1,923	$3,880,288

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

VICTORIA, B.C., January 18, 1968.

J. E. Brown, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs.

SIR,—During the year, 121 term borrowing by-laws of municipalities and regional districts were recommended for the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities. Of this total, 107 were subsequently approved, when necessary, by the owner-electors, resulting upon adoption in new borrowing authority in the amount of $30,756,706 for the various categories shown in the table appearing below. The table summarizes 1967 term borrowing by issuing authorities and includes borrowing under the short-term provisions of the *Municipal Act.*

This is the first year of reporting for the regional districts. Prior to 1967 there were no significant borrowings by the regional districts.

BORROWING FOR THE YEAR 1967

Purpose	Regional Districts	Cities	Districts	Towns	Villages	Total
Sewer and drainage	.....	$1,647,000	$13,037,000	$83,830	$815,000	$15,582,830
Parks and recreation	$301,000	1,085,000	2,650,000	295,000	11,270	4,342,270
Civic buildings and projects	875,000	315,025	186,000	388,200	.....	1,764,225
Waterworks	1,145,000	649.500	779,500	75,000	673,000	3,322,000
Consolidated local improvements	.....	228,209	4,268,000	.....	12,125	4,508,334
Hospitals	.....	60,000	243,000	.....	.....	303,000
Paving, roads, and sidewalks	.....	433,180	.....	288,936	.....	722,116
Equipment	24,500	23,000	151,516	5,415	7,500	211,931
Totals	$2,345,500	$4,440,914	$21,315,016	$1,136,381	$1,518,895	$30,756,706

Borrowing by the City of Vancouver and by the metropolitan water and sewer boards is not subject to the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities, and therefore is not included in the table.

There was an increase of 26 approved borrowing by-laws and an increase of $6,093,318 over the totals of the previous year. Included in the increase are nine regional district by-laws in the total amount of $2,345,500. A number of very large sewer projects initiated by several district municipalities contributed to the substantial increase in borrowing compared with 1966. In addition to the new borrowing proposals, 46 debenture issue by-laws were approved; these by-laws specified the details of borrowing which had previously been approved in principle only.

Short-term capital borrowings included in the above table, all of which were bank loans rather than debenture issues, amounted to $440,106. Many preliminary borrowing approvals were granted for a variety of new local improvement projects. The financing arrangements for these undertakings have yet to made and are awaiting by-law preparation and completion of construction.

Compared with other years, there was a decrease in the number of by-laws presented for the assent of the owner-electors at the December, 1967, elections; this would indicate that the municipalities are feeling the effect of the difficult money situation, and projects which might otherwise have been advanced for the approval of the owner-electors have been postponed. In an effort to keep borrowing to a minimum, the Department has discouraged borrowing other than for priority projects considered to be essential.

Trends in borrowing approvals during the last five years are indicated by the following table:—

TRENDS IN BORROWING APPROVALS, 1963–67

Year	Regional Districts	Cities	Districts	Towns	Villages	Total
1963	.....	$4,479,226	$7,417,135	$601,000	$2,066,554	$14,563,915
1964	.....	10,590,529	11,064,131	1,250,540	2,326,463	25,231,663
1965	.....	10,122,759	13,532,776	2,010,500	1,833,754	27,499,789
1966	.....	12,601,600	10,206,513	771,500	1,083,775	24,663,388
1967	$2,345,500	4,440,914	21,315,016	1,136,381	1,518,895	30,756,706

A number of municipalities have shown interest in the regional districts as a means of financing current borrowing projects; this involves borrowing by the regional district on behalf of the municipality and at its sole cost. It is anticipated that the municipalities will likely be turning more and more to the regional districts for borrowing assistance. This enables borrowing to be undertaken on a wider credit base and should result in more readily saleable issues of " package offerings " of several municipalities as a single issue of the regional district. A greater degree of flexibility in the types of security offered is anticipated.

Experience in the past year has revealed that one of the important roles played by regional districts is providing the means by which small unincorporated communities may gain needed services. By making use of the administrative and financial organization available through the regional districts, a small community may receive at is sole cost such basic services as fire protection and garbage collection or the provision of other amenities, such as community recreation facilities.

Several regional districts have been empowered to undertake local works and services in this manner, and a number of designated service areas have been established. Term borrowing has been undertaken to finance a variety of services or projects, with many more in the preliminary planning stage. The establishment of the benefiting service area is dependent upon a favourable vote of the property-owners in the area.

The primary advantage of the service area concept of regional districts is that it provides a means by which the smaller unincorporated community, whether urban or rural, may avail itself of any number of needed services without the necessity of incorporating as either a municipality or an improvement district. The provision of services through the administrative organization of the regional district should not be considered to be an alternative to municipal incorporation if the scale of services needed can best be provided through incorporation as a municipality. All costs attributable to the service, whether for debt or operation, are met by the benefiting properties either through taxation or service charges.

During the past year several municipalities exercised their privilege under the provisions of the *Municipalities Assistance Act* of applying to the Province for a guarantee of the payments of principal and interest on debenture issues. Guarantees in the total amount of $2,797,484 were extended to debenture issues last year, as follows:—

Delta	$99,483
Enderby	55,000
Fruitvale	30,000
Gold River	1,015,000
Houston	130,000
Invermere	135,000

Lillooet	$77,000
Mackenzie	570,000
Montrose	20,000
Oliver	253,000
Qualicum Beach	78,000
Terrace	267,000
Vanderhoof	68,000
Total	$2,797,484

A summary of the amount of debentures guaranteed by the Province under the *Municipalities Assistance Act* and the *Village Municipalities Assistance Act* outstanding as at December 31, 1967, is indicated below:—

OUTSTANDING DEBENTURES GUARANTEED

	Village Municipalities Assistance Act	Municipalities Assistance Act	Total
Cities (excluding Vancouver)	$730,700	$14,436,500	$15,167,200
Districts	576,500	12,229,430	12,805,930
Towns	1,708,000	1,909,200	3,617,200
Villages	820,700	3,708,500	4,529,200
Local districts	.....	.....	.....
Totals	$3,835,900	$32,283,630	$36,119,530
Vancouver	.....	12,730,000	12,730,000
Greater Victoria Water District	.....	733,000	733,000
Greater Nanaimo Sewer and Drainage District	.....	1,840,000	1,840,000
Greater Nanaimo Water District	.....	96,000	96,000
Greater Vancouver Water District	.....	19,813,000	19,813,000
Grand totals	$3,835,900	$67,495,630	$71,331,530

In addition to the guaranteed debt recorded above, there is also outstanding under the *Vancouver and Districts Joint Sewerage and District Act* debenture debt totalling $24,612,000.

The guarantee of the Province under the *Municipalities Assistance Act* is available in respect of the payments of principal and interest on debentures issued for self-liquidating water and sewer systems only. Proof of self- liquidation is the granting or substantiating of a certificate of self-liquidation under the *Municipal Act*. During 1967 the Inspector of Municipalities granted 10 subsisting or provisional certificates to 10 municipalities. Six of these certificates were for waterworks systems and four for sewer systems. To date 104 waterworks systems have been certified as self-liquidating, with 75 subsisting and 29 provisional certificates issued. Eighty-two sewer systems have been certified, of which 27 have been granted subsisting certificates and 55 provisional certificates. Only a few municipal waterworks and sewer systems are not certified as self-liquidating. This, therefore, relieves in most cases the general mill rate of the provision of debt charges, operating, maintenance, and replacement costs.

An active interest in municipal incorporation was shown by a number of communities. Seven incorporation plebiscites were held, three at the direction of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council following petitions by local incorporation committees and four initiated by the Boards of Trustees of improvement districts. The Village of Midway was incorporated on May 25, 1967, after a successful poll, and the Village of South Fort George was incorporated just after the end of the year. Incorporation was the subject of two plebiscites at Bella Coola and also of plebiscites

held at Chase, Ganges, and Sooke, but the three-fifths majority of votes was not attained and the proposals did not succeed.

At least five other communities are in the process of studying the advantages of incorporation and have requested relevant information, which indicates there will be continued interest in municipal incorporation in 1968.

Three improvement districts have been incorporated under the *Municipal Act* —Atlin for street-lighting, Cortes Island for electric power, and Cowichan Bay for fire protection. Both Cortes Island and Cowichan Bay Improvement Districts were incorporated following a successful poll; a poll was not necessary at Atlin. As progress is made by the regional districts in providing services on a benefiting area basis, the requests for incorporation of improvement districts are expected to diminish.

Fire protection provided by the Princeton Fire Protection District has been assumed by the Village of Princeton, which resulted in the dissolution of the improvement district incorporated under the *Water Act*.

A number of municipalities changed status after the 1966 Census figures were released as substantial increases in population of some of the municipalities were recorded. Until the 1966 Census figures were available, the population of the municipalities was based on those reported by the 1961 Census, unless the area had been incorporated since that date or the municipality extended in area.

The former Villages of Sidney and Smithers were placed in the status of town municipalities, effective January 1, 1967.

The Village of Comox changed status to a town muncipality, effective April 1, 1967, and the Village of Kinnaird changed status to a town, effective August 5, 1967. In the latter part of the year the Local District of Cache Creek was raised in status to a village, effective November 28, 1967.

A number of municipalities with conterminous boundaries dealt with the issue of amalgamation, and the owners of land within six municipalities and one improvement district voted on the issue. The owner-electors of the City of Kamloops and the Town of North Kamloops voted in the affirmative, and the effective date of the amalgamation was November 4, 1967. The amalgamation of the Cities of Alberni and Port Alberni authorized by Letters Patent issued in 1965 became effective October 28, 1967. Plebiscites on amalgamation of the District of Salmon Arm and the Village of Salmon Arm and also on amalgamation of the Town of Sidney and District of North Saanich were unsuccessful. The owners of land in the Quinsam Heights Waterworks District voted against amalgamation with the District of Campbell River.

Eighteen extensions of boundaries by supplementary Letters Patent were authorized for the following municipalities:—

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY EXTENSIONS, 1967

Municipality	Area (Acres)			Population		
	Before	Change	After	Before	Change	After
Cities						
Courtenay	840.00	445.60	1,285.60	4,913	310	5,223
Courtenay	1,285.60	267.40	1,553.00	5,223	.....	.....
Dawson Creek	4,297.00	7.98	4,304.98	12,392	.....	12,392
Grand Forks	2,054.00	318.42	2,372.42	2,556	78	2,634
Prince George	6,008.15	114.90	6,123.05	24,471	65	24,536
Vernon	2,075.00	57.50	2,132.50	11,423	109	11,532
Districts						
Port Hardy	8,070.00	480.00	8,550.00	1,262	.....	1,262
Towns						
Castlegar	581.68	1,298.78	1,880.46	.....	.....	.....
Comox	1,043.00	106.00	1,149.00	2,671	8	2,679
Creston	952.35	3.63	955.93	2,920	41	2,961
North Kamloops	3,856.22	11.58	3,867.80	11,405	13	11,418
Quesnel	2,207.00	512.00	2,719.00	5,725	.....	5,725
Williams Lake	1,187.00	162.00	1,349.00	3,167	425	3,592
Villages						
Alert Bay	556.00	7.23	563.23	795	.....	795
Burns Lake	602.50	4.95	607.45	1,290	.....	1,290
Lumby	882.20	23.62	905.82	.....	.....	.....
100 Mile House	165.663	55.00	220.663	829	.....	829
Vanderhoof	663.00	281.20	944.20	1,507	51	1,558

The table above shows the adjustment in areas as well as the alteration in population. Primary populations are those established by the 1966 Census, and the additional populations are those of the extension areas only, determined by local count.

Seven extension proposals were submitted at the direction of the Minister for the assent of the owners of land within the extension areas; three of these received the required three-fifths majority, and supplementary Letters Patent were issued extending the areas of the municipalities concerned.

Under the provisions of the *Local Services Act,* a local area for fire protection was established adjacent to the Village of Parksville pending formation of the regional district.

Thirty-eight Minutes of Council were prepared appointing members to various Zoning Boards of Appeal and Boards of Commissioners of Police.

The activities of the Division have become wider in scope with the advent of regional districts. With nearly the whole of the Province being included within regional districts, much time was and will be spent dealing with matters pertaining to them. The review of all types of by-laws, both of the municipalities and the regional districts, and the analysis of new borrowing proposals, continue to absorb much of our time. We endeavour to give special attention to the needs and problems of the smaller municipalities, including assistance in the preparation of by-laws and suggestions on various means of dealing with specific problems. Because of the need to devote so much time to the establishment and development of regional districts during the past three years, we have to some extent not kept up with this part of our work. Now that nearly all the regional districts are incorporated, it is hoped that in the year ahead more time can be spent in broadening and developing services for the smaller municipalities as a part of an over-all programme of further improving the standards of local government.

C. H. L. WOODWARD,
Director, Administration Division.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, REGIONAL PLANNING DIVISION

VICTORIA, B.C., January 16, 1968.

J. E. Brown, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs.

SIR,—Twenty-five regional districts have now been formed in the Province, and 12 of these have planning as one of their functions. Of these 12, five have operating planning offices with a planning staff. Three are using the services of planning consultants, and the remainder are carrying on a planning programme with the guidance of the staff of the Division. In some instances we are doing preliminary planning work in conjunction with the staff and members of the Board. There is still a shortage of qualified planners in Canada, but, in spite of this, most of the regional districts are managing to attract planners.

There are still four Regional Planning Boards in operation in the Province—namely, the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board, the Capital Region Planning Board, the Central Okanagan Regional Planning Board, and the Thompson Valley Regional Planning Board. Each of these has a planning staff and continues to operate under the terms of Part XXI of the *Municipal Act*.

In all, communities containing about 80 per cent of the population of the Province now have means and access to direct planning advice from local and regional sources.

It is a requirement of the *Municipal Act* that as each regional district takes on planning as a function, a Technical Planning Committee is formed. It is the duty of this Committee to advise the Regional Board on planning matters and to act as liaison between the administration of the Board and respective departments of government and the member muncipalities. The *Municipal Act* was amended to provide for additional members to the Committee this year, including a representative from the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Branch, the Parks Branch of the Department of Recreation and Conservation, and those Provincial Crown agencies as may be designated by the Minister. These amendments also allow the Minister to designate employees of such departments and Crown agencies of the Government of Canada to the Technical Planning Committee. Planning officers of the Division sit on the Technical Planning Committees and also are advising Boards on planning problems and the institution of planning programmes.

We have drafted interim zoning by-laws and other regulatory controls as a stopgap to provide a minimum standard until such time as regional districts can prepare and adopt the most important function, which is the overview of land use in their areas in the form of regional plans. To this end, we are also drafting subdivision by-laws in conjunction with all the other departments of the Provincial Government dealing with the subdivision of land and a model zoning by-law which can be adapted to the needs of the electoral areas of the regional districts. The Division now has had 20 years' experience in land-use planning of communities which are evolving into urban areas, and this advice can be used and save the regional district the time and expense of duplicating this work and allow them to get on with the preparation of the regional plans.

A great deal of work has been done in the preparation of necessary maps which legally define the boundaries of the regional districts and the boundaries of the electoral areas which make up the component parts of the regional district, aside

from municipalities. The forest inventory base map was used and proved to be an effective means on which the necessary overlay of boundaries could be drawn. A calculation of the areas of the regional districts and their population has also been made. In some of the smaller regional districts we were able to give further aid by helping to prepare necessary base maps and give assistance to their staff in getting land-use planning on the way.

The Division continued to give advice to small municipalities that are unable to secure assistance of other professional planners, and a land-use plan and necessary development control by-laws were prepared for the Village of Clinton. The necessary by-laws have now been adopted by the Council. We have been able to assist the Village of Masset on the Queen Charlotte Islands in representing the Provincial and municipal interest and, in co-operation with the Department of National Defence, to help create an integrated military-civilian complex within the village. The Village Council, Provincial departments, the School Board, and the various Federal departments dealing with housing now have all agreed on a general layout for the village. Our usual assistance in vetting and drafting of land-use by-laws for villages has continued throughout the year.

At the request of the Housing Commissioner, the staff from time to time have helped in preliminary studies of urban renewal projects for smaller communities and have occasionally given an opinion on public housing building plans.

A number of municipalities in the Fraser Valley are now considering the adoption of official community plans. This is following the lead of the District Municipality of Surrey, which passed an official community plan covering the entire municipality last year. There also have been negotiations with four resource-development groups studying the feasibility of incorporating communities under section 10A of the *Municipal Act*.

The Division hosted a one-day meeting of all the regional planning officers in the Province at Parksville prior to the annual meeting of the Planning Institute of British Columbia, and the Division was active wherever possible to talk to all groups who are interested in planning.

Zoning regulations for Community Planning Area Number 4, a community of 15,000 people on the western part of the metropolitan area of Victoria, were prepared in conjunction with the staff of the Capital Region Planning Board and adopted after a number of public meetings and hearings.

One hundred and forty-seven applications for change of zoning were received by the Division last year, making an increase of 27 from the year before. These applications varied from fairly simple routine land-use changes to complex developments involving a variety of land uses over a large area. Accordingly, a great deal of time was taken to study these applications fully so that full technical advice could be given to the Minister. In some cases special field trips were necessary.

The Division is continuing preparing subdivision layouts of difficult areas in community planning areas where large parcels of land have been broken down without thought of the ultimate urban pattern.

The Division, in co-operation with the National Research Council, provided a course for building inspectors at Parksville in January. Subjects covered included the National Building Code, By-laws and Administration, Performance Technique of Buildings, Foundations and Loads, Wood and Plywood Design Techniques, and Plastic Pipes and Plumbing Systems. Sixty-three municipal and Provincial inspectors attended the course. Continuing assistance is provided to regional districts and municipalities with building by-laws and building codes. This year the Department introduced the new short form of the National Building Code. This simpli-

fied and compact code is designed to provide minimum building standards for smaller centres and low-density areas, and is being well received by municipal building inspection staffs and the building public.

In some of the community planning areas, notably around Kelowna, Vernon, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Campbell River, Courtenay, and the Langford-Metchosin community, there was a sharp increase in the number of dwelling units built. There was a decrease in the community planning area around the City of Prince George, but the building activity still remains above average. The number of dwelling units built in the community planning areas represented over 8 per cent of the housing stock built in British Columbia in 1967, and the total value of all construction increased 7 per cent from the previous year. Details are shown on the following table:—

Community Planning Areas	Dwelling Units Built, 1967	Dwelling Units Built since Areas Established	Total Value of All Construction, 1967
Community Planning Area Number 1 (around Kelowna)	460	2,676	$7,458,752
Community Planning Area Number 2 (around Vernon)	60	765	1,529,891
Community Planning Area Number 3 (View Royal)	10	585	1,216,984
Community Planning Area Number 4 (Langford-Metchosin)	173	788	4,136,706
Community Planning Area Number 6 (Nanaimo)	484	3,414	10,540,748
Community Planning Area Number 7 (Prince George)	153	1,883	4,881,258
Community Planning Area Number 8 (around Kamloops)	255	2,055	5,047,806
Community Planning Area Number 9 (around Quesnel)	17	275	299,250
Community Planning Area Number 11 (around Alberni)	6	39	86,720
Community Planning Area Number 12 (around Dawson Creek)	6	258	145,698
Community Planning Area Number 13 (Woodhaven, near Ioco)	16	72	329,805
Community Planning Area Number 14 (north of Campbell River to south of Courtenay)	226	973	4,452,503
Community Planning Area Number 15 (around Fort St. John)	38	302	868,327
Community Planning Area Number 16 (Sicamous)	7	47	95,872
Community Planning Area Number 17 (Fort Nelson)	46	105	750,983
Community Planning Area Number 20 (Crooked River, 60 miles north of Prince George)	1	14	11,000
Community Planning Area Number 22 (Chase)	8	39	85,170
Community Planning Area Number 23 (Shawnigan)	11	26	155,870
Community planning areas now part of a municipality or a regional district	16	953	651,690
Totals	1,993	15,269	$42,745,033

DON SOUTH, M.T.P.I.C.,
Director, Regional Planning Division.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL DIVISION

VICTORIA, B.C., January 18, 1968.

J. E. Brown, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs.

SIR,—The Division of Housing and Urban Renewal came into being during 1967 to assist in the general administration of the *Housing Act* in the provision of low-cost housing, development of land for housing purposes, and urban modernization and redevelopment.

Through the past years, the Department has taken firm action in recognition and definition of the municipal problems, aided in determination of the best solutions, and procured co-operative action in relief or eradication wherever the proven need arose and within the possibilities of sensible financing.

During 1967 three innovations have been introduced in the interests of improving the effective and economic provision of public housing and its management. One approach was the development of housing for senior citizens in Vancouver by calling for proposals from developers. The result has been a saving of time in preparation and anticipated saving of money in the resulting co-operative action. The second innovation was to accelerate the provision of housing for families receiving social assistance by direct purchase of existing homes scattered throughout the community. It is believed that this dispersal concept will aid more rapidly the development and rehabilitation of families by being assimilated within a normal community atmosphere.

The third departure from past practice has been the creation of the British Columbia Housing Management Commission. This body will supplant the system of local housing authorities, which were comprised of private citizens serving voluntarily. The newly established Commission will manage all public housing provided under government auspices in British Columbia. Federal, Provincial, and municipal partnership interests will be served by employees, the relationship to the owners will be direct, and a multiplicity of authorities will be avoided.

The table shows the consolidated position of activity to date of the three major activities—urban renewal, provision of public housing, and development of land.

PROJECTS COMPLETED OR APPROVED TO DECEMBER 31, 1967

Municipality	Urban Renewal	Housing Units	Land Assembly
Burnaby	Project No. 1		
Courtenay			135 lots
Duncan			157 lots[1]
Kimberley			50 lots[1]
Natal	Project No. 1		
Prince George			177 lots[1]
Prince Rupert		50[1] 100	185 lots[1]
Saanich		50 30	132 lots[1]
Trail	Project No. 1		No. 1—272 lots[1] No. 2—208 lots
Vancouver	Project No. 1[2] Project No. 2 Project No. 3	F.P. No. 1—224[2] F.P. No. 2—169[2] F.P. No. 3—159[2] F.P. No. 4—234[2] F.P. No. 5—188[2] F.P. No. 6—376[2] F.P. No. 7—154 F.P. No. 8—132 F.P. No. 9—304 F.P. No. 10—210	
Victoria	Project No. 1[2] Project No. 2	180	
Totals	8 projects	2,560 units	1,316 lots

[1] Sold. [2] Completed.

J. T. WILLIAMS,
Director, Housing and Urban Renewal.

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1968

1,530-268-1208