

November 7, 2024

Trish Mandewo, President
UBCM
10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W8

Dear Trish:

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) Board is writing to formally request that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) initiate a comprehensive **governance review**. As you know, UBCM has long been a powerful voice for local government and First Nations in British Columbia, advocating for common interests, analyzing economic and social trends, and translating these insights into policies that benefit communities across the province.

Over the past decade, British Columbia has faced numerous significant challenges, including housing affordability, a strained healthcare system, a sluggish economy, labour market shortages, climate disruption, the toxic drug crisis, and growing concerns about food insecurity. These pressing issues require the collective effort of all regions of the province, and as we continue to address them, it is increasingly important that the UBCM Executive reflects the full scope and diversity of all British Columbia's local governments and First Nations.

In this regard, we believe it is an opportune time to revisit UBCM's governance structure. As you may recall, the last review of UBCM's organizational structure was completed in 2010 by a Structure Review Committee, resulting in changes to the Union's bylaws and modifications to the Executive's composition. While these changes were valuable at the time, the context within which we operate has evolved considerably. The growing complexity and variety of issues facing our communities today—particularly the diverse needs of rural and remote regions—underscores the need for an updated governance structure that more effectively represents all areas of the province.

We respectfully request that UBCM consider updating its bylaws and governance framework to ensure more balanced and equitable representation from all regions, bringing both rural and urban perspectives to the table on a regular and sustained basis. A renewed structure would better enable UBCM to advocate effectively for the interests of all British Columbians, ensuring that no region is left behind in policy development and decision-making processes.

The FVRD Board is committed to supporting this important process and would like to have the opportunity to participate in discussions or consultations related to the governance review. As a regional district with diverse rural and urban communities, we feel we could provide invaluable feedback to this process. A comprehensive governance review will strengthen UBCM's role in advancing the well-being of communities throughout British Columbia, and we look forward to working together to achieve this goal.

Thank you for considering this request. We appreciate your leadership and the ongoing work of UBCM, and we are hopeful that this review will contribute to the continued success of the Union in representing our diverse province.

Sincerely,



Jason Lum,
Chair

cc: 26 Regional District Chairs & CAOs