



MEMBER NOTICE

TO: Mayor and Council / Chair and Board

FROM: Chair Harry Nyce, President

DATE: February 10, 2010

**RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS TASK FORCE – UBCM
MEMBER CONSULTATION MEETING**

On October 2, 2009, Premier Gordon Campbell announced a joint Task Force to make recommendations for legislative changes to improve the electoral process for local government elections across B.C. The Task Force has been asked to report out by May 30, 2010.

A six-member Task Force has been established, co-chaired by Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development, and Harry Nyce, UBCM President. Other Task Force members include: Councillor Barbara Steele, Surrey, UBCM First VP and Mayor Mary Sjostrom, UBCM Third VP. The two provincial appointees are MLAs Donna Barnett and Douglas Horne.

The Task Force is reviewing specific issues related to local government elections including:

- Campaign finance, including contribution/spending disclosure and limits, and tax credits
- Enforcement processes and outcomes
- Role of the chief electoral officer (B.C.) in local government elections
- Election cycle (term of office)
- Corporate vote
- Other agreed upon matters, (e.g. matters raised in UBCM resolutions such as eligibility of local government volunteers to be candidates)

Recognizing the tight timeline, the UBCM Executive wanted to ensure that members had an opportunity early on in the process to provide their input, beyond website feedback. As a result, we are inviting members to attend a one-day session on **Friday March 12th**. Members of the Task Force will be present to discuss the issues under consideration and listen to your comments. This one-day event is in addition to the sessions that are being offered to the Area Associations as part of their spring conferences.

This is an important opportunity for local governments to provide their input at this early stage in the Task Force's deliberations. The session is open to elected officials and senior staff (as designated by their council/board). A registration form for the session is attached. Fees for this session are purely cost-recovery (ie. catering, room rental) in recognition of the tight fiscal climate.

Members are encouraged to go to the following website in advance of the session to learn more about the Task Force, topics under consideration and review discussion papers:

www.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca

For those not able to attend the March 12th session, we would encourage you to submit your feedback and input through the on-line system that has been established on the Task Force website.

Your registration should be submitted as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact Marie Crawford, Associate Executive Director at 604.270.8226 Ext. 104, or mrcrawford@ubcm.ca.